

FROM
ALL
ANGLES

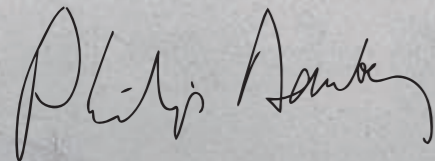


Annual
Report
2010

From the top... The Chairman's Highlights

In last year's report I outlined the charity's plans for the coming year, and I'm pleased to say that while many of our goals have been achieved, others are still very much works in progress.

One of my personal highlights was seeing so many beautiful dogs, newly arrived at the Dublin centre, capturing the hearts of the first visitors, only to be booked and rehomed just days later. I couldn't have been prouder of our brand new staff, who demonstrated great empathy and enthusiasm with both humans and canines alike. The early signs are very positive.



Philip Daubeny,
Chairman



Goals achieved

- 1. Open a Rehoming Centre in Dublin**
Dogs Trust Dublin opened in October 2009, and our staff had already found homes for 107 dogs by the end of 2009.
- 2. Instigate a neutering project in Malta.**
Dogs Trust Malta opened in June 09, and by end of the year we'd neutered 800 latchkey and owned dogs on the island. We'd also run 400 education workshops involving 7,000 children. (See page 16)
- 3. Start the process towards making microchipping compulsory for all dogs.**
We lobbied MPs, AMs, MSPs and MLAs for a change in the law. The Welsh Assembly is seriously considering making microchips compulsory for all dogs in Wales (see page 13 for the reasons why.)
- 4. Present our guide to youth education about responsible dog ownership in Athens.**
We spoke with 20 delegates in May, with overwhelmingly positive feedback from delegates.
- 5. Celebrate the sheer joy of dog ownership through the second Dogs Trust Honours awards evening.**
Maisy, owned by Yvonne and John Lofthouse, was named our Top Dog for her unstinting emotional support during her owner's treatment for cancer.
- 6. Improve kennelling facilities.**
Last year we increased kennel capacity at our Canterbury centre, added all-weather canopies at West Calder, and built themed exercise compounds at our Snetterton centre.

Works in progress

- 1. Rebuild our Roden centre.**
We've secured planning permission, so work can go ahead in 2010.
- 2. Find a site for a new centre in Essex.**
We're still looking for a suitable site with planning permission.
- 3. Build another Sanctuary.**
Not yet, but we're submitting a planning application this spring. The Sanctuary houses those dogs who may never be rehomed and who prefer canine company.
- 4. Fund a 3 year research project examining the impact of environment on quality of life, measured using physiology and behaviour at a rescue centre.**
PhD student Jenna Kidde is expected to complete her report by the end of 2011.
- 5. Work with the publishing industry to ensure welfare information is added alongside all pet sales adverts.**
We helped launch the Pet Advertising Advisory Group's website, www.paag.org.uk, to encourage responsible pet advertising and help consumers make informed choices when buying a pet.
- 6. Address the issue of dogs used as weapons and status symbols.**
One of the benefits of compulsory "chipping" is that it will help councils and police identify the owners of dogs which are behaving antisocially.
- 7. Secure enough donations in order to continue our vital work through the recession, without compromising our exceptional quality of care.**
We're always working on this one, but we're exceedingly appreciative of all your support, especially during these lean times.

Areas for improvement

Ensure secondary regulations on Greyhound racing and dog breeding/sales match our requirements of improved 'cradle to grave' welfare.

We were disappointed with the regulations, which fall far short of what we've been fighting for. On the positive side, the regulations stipulate, amongst other things, that a vet be on the track at every race and trial. (See page 18 for more details.)

From the big desk - Chief Executive's Report

“Working towards the day when all dogs can enjoy a happy life, free from the threat of unnecessary destruction”



Here, at Dogs Trust, we view safeguarding the welfare of all dogs as an enormous mountain to climb. I feel like the summit is in sight but there's some strenuous hiking to be done.

If we are to achieve our mission we know that we have to deal with the problem from every angle. Rescuing, rehoming, neutering, microchipping, youth education, government lobbying - whatever it takes to give all dogs a happy and healthy life.

2009 was an eventful year for Dogs Trust. My personal highlights include the launch of our campaign to change the law in order to make microchipping compulsory for all dogs in the UK. We've been lobbying government to make microchipping a fact of life for every dog. This, we believe, will be the vital component in ensuring strays are returned promptly to their owners.

All political parties appear to be in favour of the concept but are having difficulty with compulsion, but without the latter the very important welfare issues will be lost.

We've also focussed more attention this year on our public affairs campaigns, with compulsory "chipping", the Bateson Inquiry into Dog Breeding and Greyhound welfare all taking centre stage. For more detail on these see page 18.

We were excited to be setting down solid foundations for helping dogs in the Republic of Ireland, with the opening of Dogs Trust Dublin in October. When people ask me "why open in Ireland?" I point them to the facts: In 2007 there were over 23,310 stray dogs collected in the Republic of Ireland, and of these 12,649 were destroyed*. How could Dogs Trust stand by and watch? See page 7 for more Dublin news.

Back in the UK, however, not everything ran without a hitch. In terms of rehoming, our best efforts were undoubtedly hampered by the economic crisis. Most centres received an ever increasing number of distressed calls from people who could no longer keep their dogs, either through a change in circumstances, job loss, or no longer being able to afford veterinary fees.

So-called "status" dogs and their welfare gave us great cause for concern in 2009, but finding a solution is proving even more elusive. Our urban rehoming centres saw a marked increase in the number of bull breeds and their crosses being handed in, who subsequently had a longer-than-average stay in kennels. Our staff work so hard at finding wonderful new owners for these dogs, but, sadly, their negative portrayal in the media has thrown huge hurdles on the road to rehoming.

For the first time since we began our survey in 1997, the number of stray dogs in the UK increased by 11 per cent to 107,000 strays. Of these, 9,000 unclaimed dogs were destroyed. We were greatly disappointed by this sudden change of direction, and vowed to do everything that resource allows to reverse this. We believe that the change of responsibility for strays moving totally to local authorities might have had some bearing.

Despite this, I remain optimistic for the future welfare of dogs. I of course recognise that we can't achieve this without your help, so thank you for your wonderful support - without which we would be unable to address canine welfare from every angle.

Clarissa Baldwin OBE
Chief Executive



* Source: Dept of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government - www.environ.ie

Photo: Bubble, Smithy and Toby, by Andy Catterall. With thanks to the Whiteleaf Cross in Princes Risborough. **Inset:** by Martin Phelps

On the ground

We started the year with 17 rehoming centres in the UK and ended it with another one in the Republic of Ireland.

Welcome on board, Dogs Trust Dublin!

Dogs cared for

2009 **15,886**
2008 16,238



Dogs rehomed

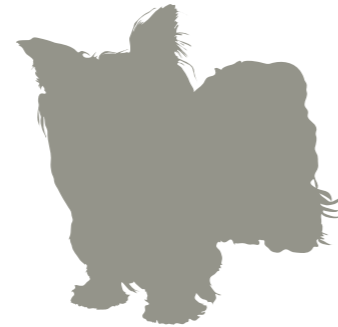
2009 **13,909**
2008 14,169



* We never destroy a healthy dog.

Dogs reunited with owners

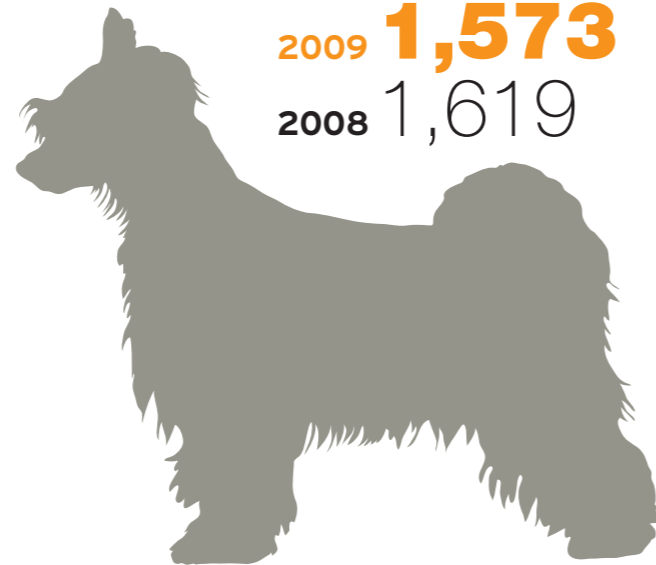
2009 **178**
2008 190



2009 **226**
2008 260

Dogs put to sleep*/died in our care

2009 **1,573**
2008 1,619



Dogs in our care at year's end

Dogs Trust Dublin (opened October 09)



253 Dogs cared for
107 Dogs rehomed
4 Dogs reunited with owners
9 Dogs put to sleep/died in our care
133 Dogs in our care at year's end

Why did we rehome fewer dogs than last year?

We were disappointed that we were slightly down on our target in 2008, but we're working hard to ensure that we have greater success this year. We believe the recession meant that fewer people were looking for dogs.

The current debate about "status dogs" is significant. We are seeing an increase in the numbers of dogs acquired on a whim for their "tough" looks and then being abandoned in a short space of time. Many of these dogs are not properly trained and need extra care at our centres before being rehomed.



Paws to the floor

Most popular crossbreeds cared for:

Generic crossbreed
Collie cross
Labrador cross
Terrier cross
Staffordshire bull terrier cross
Jack Russell terrier cross
Lurcher
German Shepherd dog cross
Spaniel cross
Border collie cross
Rottweiler cross

Most popular breeds cared for:

Labrador
Jack Russell terrier
Staffordshire bull terrier cross
Border Collie
German Shepherd dog
Greyhound
English Springer spaniel
Yorkshire terrier
West Highland terrier
Rottweiler
Boxer

Most unusual types cared for:

Shiba Inu
Spinone
Portugese Water Spaniel
Poshie (Pomeranian/Sheltie)
Northern Inuit
Keeshond
Munsterlander
Cockerpoo (Cocker Spaniel/Poodle)
Schipperke

Many of our members will already be aware of the rehoming process, but if you're new to Dogs Trust here's what you can expect to find at any of our centres.

Our receptionist will give you a warm welcome and ask you to complete a homefinding questionnaire which asks you not only about what kind of dog you are looking for, but also what kind of lifestyle you have.

You'll be introduced to the dogs and if you see one that you like we'll suggest you get to know him by walking him in the centre grounds. If you've selected a pup there'll be an opportunity to spend time together in the puppy playground.

Our dogs: We've got small ones, tall ones, scruffy ones, cheeky ones, bouncy ones, spotty ones, patient ones, loving ones and gentle ones.



If you decide to rehome the dog we'll ask you to attend a pre-adoption talk at the centre, which gives you helpful hints on what to expect and how best to settle your dog into his new home. We'll ask to visit you at home to check that your lifestyle and facilities match the dog you've chosen. In fact, we'll do everything possible to make sure that you and your chosen dog will have a long and successful life together.

Your selected dog will be neutered, vaccinated, microchipped and given flea and worm treatments, plus a final veterinary check. We'll give him a behavioural assessment so that we can advise you on his likes and dislikes or worries, and if you own a cat we'll give him a cat test to check if they'll get along.

In the meantime, our staff will give your chosen dog the love, care, exercise, training and cuddles he needs until the moment he leaves with you. When you come back to the centre to collect your new dog, your dog's own Canine Carer will tell you everything you need to know about caring for him, including his diet, exercise and play needs - plus his favourite toys.

It takes many people to get a dog back on his paws and into a loving home - from receptionists to vets to behaviourists to carers - but it takes just one person to give that dog a wonderful new life. Do come and visit us soon.



Our people:

We've got small ones, tall ones, cheeky ones, bouncy ones, patient ones, loving ones and gentle ones.

And a very LARGE thanks to our dedicated army of volunteer dog walkers, puppy socialisers, pre-adoption home visitors and foster carers.

Thank you so much, we can't do it without you:

- 306** canine carers/welfare staff
- 31** receptionists
- 20** training and behaviour advisors/managers
- 3** animal ambulance drivers
- 18** centre managers
- 4** Dogmobile staff
- 8** veterinary nurses
- 1** events unit driver
- 25** maintenance workers
- 10** rehoming staff (based at head office or on the road)
- 18** admin staff



Photo: Andy Catterall

Through the accountant's eyes

Caring for a dog each week (2009)

The average length of stay in our care is **38** days.

It costs **£2.45** to feed a dog per week

It costs on average **£30** for vet treatment, including neutering and vaccinations, per dog per week

Vaccinations cost **£20** per dog

A course of antibiotics costs **£15** per dog

Summary Financial Information

	2009 £000	2008 £000
Donations	36,735	31,911
Legacies	20,121	16,172
Adoption fees	989	1,165
Investment income	2,334	2,149
Other income	523	513
Incoming resources	60,702	51,910
Costs of generating income	(21,093)	(14,685)
Costs of running rehoming centres	(20,078)	(18,037)
Publicity, education and information	(2,921)	(2,692)
Give a Dog A Life campaign	(5,207)	(6,384)
Governance costs	(283)	(274)
Resources expended	(49,582)	(42,072)
Net incoming resources	11,120	9,838

This summary financial information is extracted from our unaudited draft accounts for 2009 to provide information on our net incoming resources for the year.

For a copy of our full audited accounts please fill in and return the form at the back of the report.



Photo: Andy Catterall

From the side – helping dog owners

Our practical and financial assistance for owners who receive benefits never stops. We helped those who want to be responsible dog owners by providing:

Free and subsidised neutering operations - for 47,990 dogs.

Free or low cost microchips - to over 100 local authorities and their stray dog pounds, across our targeted campaign regions. We have pledged to invest £240,000 into promoting and providing microchips in 2010.

Free HealthChecks (which includes neutering, chipping, vaccinations, flea and worm treatments) - for over 1000 dogs in areas of greatest need.

We organised over 500 "Dog Ownership in the Community Days", working together with local authorities in areas with a high number of strays.

We ran over 50 'Dogs in the Community' training courses (which included dog behaviour and handling) for local authority staff who are involved in the stray collection process.

Our lowest point

Low point of the year was discovering that the number of stray dogs in the UK had increased – for the first time since our records began in 1997. The stray population in this country shot up from 96,892 to 107,228.* The number of unclaimed strays put to sleep rocketed from 6,710 to 9,310.

* source: GfK NOP 2009

Why?

We believe the key reason is the change in law regarding stray dogs, which may have skewed the figures somewhat. In 2008, the law changed so that local authorities had sole responsibility for dealing with strays, but prior to that, responsibility was shared between local authorities and the police. The extra burden given to local authorities, with little extra funding, may well have been responsible for more dogs being put to sleep.

What can be done?

We think it's time that microchipping was made compulsory for all dogs in the UK, and in 2009 we launched our campaign to urge MPs, AMs and MSPs to vote for a change in the law.

In the summer we embarked on a tour around the country in a specially converted "chip van", allowing our staff to speak face to face with politicians about the benefits of "chips."

We believe compulsory microchipping would:

- Enable lost or straying dogs to be reunited promptly with their owners - meaning fewer dogs will be put to sleep at council pounds
- Permanently identify a dog in such a way that is virtually impossible to alter or remove - a clear advantage for dogs that are stolen
- Enable clear identification of the dog's owner when prosecution is being considered for dog thieves, cruelty and neglect, and antisocial behaviour
- Significantly decrease the workload of all those dealing with stray dogs
- Reduce kennelling costs for Local Authorities and save time
- Allow puppies bred illegally or inappropriately on battery farms to be traced to their source (see page 18)
- Discourage purchase for those who might ultimately abuse their dog.

We also launched our Dog Manifesto at the party political conferences in the autumn, outlining our position on issues affecting dogs in this country, from electric shock collars to Greyhound welfare and all points in between. Download the Dog Manifesto www.dogstrust.org.uk or call 020 7837 0006.



Photo: Andy Catterall

Alongside those very close to the ground

Youth Education continues to be a priority, with our nine Education Officers sharing the joy of responsible dog ownership through:

3,018 workshops run in schools
197 workshops run in youth clubs etc

The learning continues in the classroom after a workshop, with many teachers downloading free educational resource packs from www.learnwithdogs.co.uk. The resource packs promote responsible dog ownership whilst linking to curriculum subjects such as Drama, Citizenship, Maths, Literacy and Science.

We also linked up with Nintendo for a pilot scheme using games consoles as a fun and interactive way learning about responsible dog ownership.

With such a high demand for our workshops, 2009 saw us recruit another two Education Officers, enabling us to cover schools in East London and the West Midlands more comprehensively.

Finally, our education team helped scores of overseas charities through a series of practical training courses explaining best practice in promoting dog welfare through schools.

From a distance

Our outreach work continues to help dogs and their people all over the UK...

Lets With Pets

New for 2009, the Lets With Pets programme targets private landlords and letting agents to encourage them to allow pets to accompany owners into their properties.

We provide practical advice for both landlords and tenants to ensure that all can live in harmony when there are pets about the place. With the recession forcing many home owners to move into rental accommodation, the scheme's launch was certainly timely. To download a copy of "Renting to Pet Owners" or "Renting With Pets" go to www.letswithpets.org.uk

Hope Veterinary Card Scheme

We enabled free preventative veterinary treatment for dogs belonging to people who are homeless or in housing crisis.

Through the Hope Veterinary Entitlement Card scheme, in 2009:

- 1,058** veterinary treatments were carried out
- 549** Veterinary Entitlement Cards were issued
- 120** vets (including 46 PDSA clinics) accepted the cards
- 85** towns in the UK take part in the scheme

We also worked hand in hand with 242 homelessness organisations to secure greater distribution of these vet vouchers.

Freedom

The Freedom Project continues to provide a lifeline for dog owners (and cat owners in London via Cats Protection) wishing to flee domestic violence.

In many cases of abuse, the victim is too afraid to leave home in case their partner harms or kills their dog. We're able to empower the person to get out by organising foster care for their dog. The abused person can then focus on getting their life back together, safe in the knowledge that their dog is not at risk during their absence.

In 2009 we:

- Helped **57** (London) and **62** (Yorkshire) families to flee domestic violence
- Fostered **72** (London) and 98 (Yorkshire) dogs
- Reunited **37** (London and **71** (Yorkshire) dogs with their owners
- Rehomed **6** dogs (London) and **10** dogs (Yorkshire)
- 1** dog died (London)

At year's end we had **28** dogs in foster care in London and **17** in Yorkshire.

In London we work together with Cats Protection to help our feline friends too, and in 2009 we transported **56** cats to be boarded with them.

We are only able to run the Freedom Project with the aid of our excellent volunteer foster carers.

We have:

60 registered carers in London
41 in Yorkshire

We work very closely with other agencies who pass on referrals to us.

We have:

60 referral partners in London
35 in Yorkshire

Last year our staff took:

346 referrals for help in London
200 in Yorkshire



Photo: Andy Catterall

From over the water

ICAWC - the International Companion Animal Welfare Conference

Ideas, experiences and moral support were exchanged between over 200 delegates from 38 countries at the 11th ICAWC in Budapest last year.

We organise ICAWC so that best practice in animal welfare can be spread around the world, especially to those countries where it is considered an irrelevance. With 15 speakers from countries as diverse as the USA and Hungary, ICAWC is growing in influence every year.

Key topics included the importance of understanding the psychological as well as physical issues in animal welfare. Other subjects covered were breeding control, microchipping, health and nutrition as well as setting up education programmes and the importance of publicity and fundraising.

What's the use of having knowledge and experience if you can't share it? In the words of one ICAWC delegate, "There is no copyright on animal welfare."

International Training Programme (ITP) and Overseas Education Workshops (OEW)

Last year, 45 delegates attended our three residential ITP courses in London, arriving mainly from central Europe but also from as far afield as Peru, India, Lebanon and Iran. The training focussed on all subjects concerning stray dogs and cats, including fundraising, children and adult education programmes and shelter management.

We also trained 36 people within our OEW programme with courses in Greece, Lithuania and Austria, focusing on how to set up responsible dog ownership programmes within schools.

Oradea and the Trap/Neuter/Release Template

In 2009 we let the SOS Dogs Oradea project (which we began in Romania in 2003), stand on their own two feet as a self-governing organisation.

By the end of the year, SOS Oradea had neutered 1,947 dogs and rehomed 709 dogs in Romania's 3rd largest city, thus helping to reduce the stray population. Since we began working in Oradea, we've neutered 9,531 dogs and rehomed 3,355.

Based on our 7 years of experience in Oradea, we have created a template for a Trap Neuter Release programme which can be used in many corners of the world. This has been translated into Romanian and will be launched in 2010.

Dogs Trust Malta

We were excited to launch a combined dog neutering and youth education programme in Malta in June. So far, 800 dogs - latchkey and owned - have been neutered. We've also given 400 workshops to school children on the island.



Photo: Rene Rossignaud

Case Studies

All angles: tiptoeing on the scales - Portly Patch

Bonny Beagle cross, Patch, caused a stir when he arrived at our Glasgow rehoming centre as a handover in the summer. His immense weight - 4.5 stones - meant he was unable to walk, and needed a sling to be moved from place to place.

Our staff worked hard to help him gradually shed his extra pounds, as well as searching for an understanding new owner who'd see to it that Patch followed his strict exercise regime and calorie controlled diet. The vet set his target weight at 2.4 stones.

Happily, after appearing in the national press, Patch was rehomed by the Maclean family of Motherwell. Thanks to their hard work and commitment to their new family member, after a year Patch was able to get to within sniffing distance of his target weight, and is now a far healthier 2.9 stones.



All angles: down on the beach - Pebbles

Freezing and soaking wet, 10 week old pup, Pebbles, had been abandoned on a beach in Swansea straight after Christmas - during the coldest week of the year.

Fortunately, the shivering scrap was spotted by a passerby and taken straight to our Bridgend rehoming centre. She was dried off, warmed up and fattened up, before being given a bed of her own with plenty of blankets.

As she was so young and so underweight, Pebbles was given to a foster carer, who gave her plenty of love and affection at home until she felt better. Now, tiny Pebbles is all grown up, and living very happily with her new family in Cardiff - she's put her traumatic weeks on the beach far behind her.

Patch Photos: Centre Press
Pebbles photo: Daily Mail

Looking far ahead

The Bateson Inquiry into Dog Breeding

The health and happiness of dogs in the UK will be greatly affected by the findings of this inquiry. The report was launched in January 2010, and much of our public affairs work this year will be based on its recommendations.

In 2009 we co-funded (with the Kennel Club) Professor Sir Patrick Bateson's Independent Inquiry into Dog Breeding. This examines the physical and mental health problems caused by inbreeding and extreme breed standards, and makes recommendations to improve them.

The report calls for microchipping to be made compulsory, which we believe will be vital in helping reduce the number of puppies which are poorly bred. We also strongly support the creation of an independent advisory board on dog breeding to produce evidence-based breeding strategies.

Battery farming of dogs and pet sales

The way in which puppies are bred and sold en masse in this country continues to be a major threat to their welfare; the compromise in mental and physical health caused by puppy farming and unsuitable sales environment cannot be overstated.

In 2009 we launched a series of undercover investigations at pet shops and garden centres. This year we are continuing our efforts to bring unscrupulous breeders to light, while pressing the government to tighten their criteria for issuing dog breeding and sales licences.

We will be continuing our anti battery farming campaign, aimed at increasing the general public's awareness of the problem through use of easy-to-understand terminology, and giving practical tips on puppy purchase.

We are grateful to all the people who sent in stories of their own experiences, many of which were quite harrowing.

Greyhounds

Throughout 2009 we provided detailed advice to DEFRA regarding better welfare provision for racing Greyhounds, as part of the secondary regulations for the Animal Welfare Act.

However, despite our best efforts, and those of our supporters who wrote to their MPs, the regulations were a disappointment in that they only give specific welfare provision for the time the dogs are physically on the track. 2010 sees us focussing our attention on improving this situation through work with the Greyhound industry.

Electric Shock Collars

We campaigned for government to introduce a ban on electric shock collars, and this has now been made law by the Welsh Assembly. We hope the England and Scotland will soon follow their good example.

Building Plans

We're always looking for ways to improve the rehoming centres, so this year we're planning to:

Find a site and secure planning permission for a new rehoming centre in Essex.

Find a site for a new rehoming centre in the East Midlands.

Secure a site for a new Sanctuary and Special Training and Rehabilitation unit.

Build a sensory garden for the dogs to enjoy at Dogs Trust West London



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Dogs Trust head office, 17 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7RQ

www.dogstrust.org.uk
info@dogstrust.org.uk

Registered charity numbers:
227523 in England and Wales
SC037843 in Scotland
Dogs Trust Ireland, registered charity no. CHY16218.

Rehoming Centres

To find opening times and directions for any of our Rehoming Centres please visit:
www.dogstrust.org.uk/rehoming/ourcentres/
insert name of centre here

Ballymena, Co Antrim

Tel 028 2565 2977

Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan

Tel 01656 725 219

Canterbury, Kent

Tel 01227 792 505

Darlington, Co Durham

Tel 01325 333114

Dublin, Ireland

Tel 00 353 1879 1000

Evesham, Worcs

Tel 01386 830 613

Glasgow, Scotland

Tel 0141 773 5130

Ifracombe, North Devon

Tel 01271 812 709

Kenilworth, Warks

Tel 01926 484 398

Leeds, West Yorks

Tel 0113 281 4920

Liverpool, Merseyside

Tel 0151 480 0660

Newbury, Berks

Tel 01488 658 391

Roden, Shrops

Tel 01952 770 225

Salisbury, Wilts

Tel 01480 629 634

Shoreham, West Sussex

Tel 01273 452 576

Snetterton, Norfolk

Tel 01953 498 377

West Calder, Edinburgh

Tel 01506 873 459

West London, Uxbridge

Tel 0845 076 3647



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- Becoming a member, including 24 hour access to Vefone's pet care advice line
- Remembering Dogs Trust in your will
- The Canine Care Card - the free service where we promise to care for your dog when you die
- Please send me a copy of your audited accounts
- Please add me to your supporter mailing list and send me a copy of your magazine, Wag!
- Please add my email address to your supporter database

By giving us your details you're agreeing to be contacted in the future about the work of Dogs Trust. If you do not wish to be contacted by carefully selected third parties, please tick here

Please return using the envelope provided. Alternatively, email us at: customerservices@dogstrust.org.uk or visit our website www.dogstrust.org.uk

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