

THE HARTBEAT



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Well folks it's News Letter time again, and I'm sat in my van with Horse Box on tow.

I've just set Wendy up (Eldest Daughter) to go with her horse Gypsy and several of her friends and their horses on a Fun Ride at a place called Bissell Wood, which is near to Kidderminster over acres and acres of country hardly touching roads and traffic it is so safe. And where I can get 100% peace and quiet to carry on writing the News Letter. Mind you we have just helped a friend of ours who's horse slipped in it's Horsebox and managed to rip off one his own horseshoes, and wedge itself in a sitting position. There were 2 horses in the horsebox, we had to struggle to get the other horse off the box backwards, then we were able to right the down horse and get it out. After a good check over and a hosing down with only minor scratches to the horse everyone set off on the ride.

Back to Hollytrees. First of all can I thank everyone who looked after our Charity at Christmas. I was yet again over whelmed with your support, both financial and food as well as just kind understanding and encouraging words.

It means a lot to us all and I genuinely mean that.

If I have not got back to you yet, I will do so.

In this day and age I do realize how short money is, and with all the aspects of life the costs keep on increasing. The main thing that really worries us here at Hollytrees is **Veterinary Costs**. Not only for us but for the general person in the street, who has probably got a rescued dog or cat and can afford to feed and vaccinate.

But anything can happen and you can soon find yourself in big emotional trouble especially after _____ **7PM and at weekends**. And sadly Insurance Premiums are on the increase!! It is really worrying and also take a good look at the Internet, websites such as: Pre-Loved and see the amount of animals on there, and guess what they are nearly all **Staffies or Bull Breeds**. I can't understand why the **Authorities do not get involved????** and take some sort of action to outlaw the breeding of such breeds. No One, I repeat No One wants a second hand Bull Breed.

And more important that the breed does not take to swapping and changing hands. It is down right cruel to bring them into the World.

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Nearly all the Rescue Centres are full to overflowing with them. It stops the wheels turning because no one wants them, and it is not going to get any better!!!!!!!
People charge £300 to £400 per cute puppy. We have a job to get £50 or above for a little dog that is healthy, vaccinated and if old enough spayed or neutered.

But With your help we get it sorted.

I have just spent 2½ hours with Tracy trying to clean up a beautiful German Shepard bitch about 9 to10 years old.

It is very, very thin indeed that has got a very bad Mamoury Tumour which has burst, and been burst for some weeks, but what a cracking temperament She's got. Oh! how she has suffered. Obviously she has been shut in somewhere. Her nails are about 1½" long and the junk from the tumour caked all over her tail is one

Big Matted Mess, her ears are ½ filled with debris.

She has let us trim all the rubbish off her.

She has a long coat very similar to **Portra** which is another story, but one thing tells me she should not be messed about and let her be put to sleep to prevent further discomfort and suffering. But on the other hand I feel with such a superb temperament she deserves a second chance. I can't fault her temperament, it will depend on the Vet's tomorrow. The Tumour is a bit bigger than a tennis ball, and I do believe they are fairly easy to remove, I hope they are as I say she is so happy now. She was found on a Saturday (Weekend Again)!!!! by the new Kings Norton Cemetery by Primrose Hill. She has had pain relief and is so outgoing. I have had some sad cases come through here but this one has got to me.

On a lighter note I hope some of you good people look at our new web page, which thanks to Adam and Dave is being up dated more often, as the animals are taken in and put right, and assessed for Re-Homing. We put them through all sorts of tests including food being taken from them, there response to cats, Children, birds etc.

It is so important to get it right and sadly we have found That the old owners do not always come clean, or should I say, They sometimes are a little tight with the truth.

I say it so often that anyone can rescue animals but the looking after, the correcting and finding that Good Home is far from easy, but we get there eventually.

Thanks to our supporters and our lovely facilities we do not have to rush things and hopefully make the right decision for the animal.

Even I am becoming good with computers! I can send e-mails to other people, and my word how quick it is!!

We have had several requests that we send out the News Letters via the Internet.

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David (Editor) has come up with this idea.

The News Letters as from now, are being put on the new Web Site. Those wishing to receive it via e-mail will be able to download it from the Web Site if required. As the News Letter is printed from home it would be a massive job to keep a mailing list as we have over 700 members.

David's idea is, if you send an e-mail to him with just the heading:

Hollytrees News Letter yes please and your Membership Number or address.

The membership Number or address is important as some people have the same surname for i.e. Smith, Jones etc. He then can take you off the mailing list which will save money on stamps, envelopes and paper and will give more money to help the animals.

Those who use the Internet will realise any new message goes to your junk folder first that is why David requires a Membership Number or Address.

Those interested please e-mail David at the address below david_butler230948@hotmail.com.

Hollytrees Web Site can be found by typing in <http://www.raydedicoat.com/>



We went to Crufts this year and decided to invest in some of the Designer Kennel Systems. They will replace the kennels which we call Far Side. The kennels at present are truly pleasant and very sensible in the Summer but very cold and a bit open to the elements in Winter months.

Our intention is to demolish the brick sleeping areas, keeping the 8ft x 6ft mesh runs and replacing the brick areas with nice new Insulated kennels with proper sliding Trap Doors and full size doors where we can get in and out to clean. And as important we can shut the dogs in should the weather turn bad, or we get a noisy one.

Each one will have it's own Heater and Light virtually impossible to chew. We need 20 in total and as mentioned previously with our other new units they will be maintenance free and comfortable.

The main problem I will have is to find someone who can help us with

(a) Demolishing the brick built sleeping areas

(b) Getting hold of some good reliable contractors who can shutter up the old bases so we can put on a new skimming of concrete to site the New Kennels, each base will measure approx; 16ft x 30ft and there are 5 of them. After that has been completed I do intend to get our main drive re-surfaced which is well overdue.

If anyone can remember when the M42 between junction 2 and 1 was being laid, That was concrete and I was offered what was termed as the surplus mix.

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If they had ordered too much or the weather was unfit for the machines to lay we were offered it @ £15 per meter.

We never knew when it was coming sometimes

1,2 or 3 o'clock in the morning. We always had an area shuttered up ready to take it. And it had to be levelled and tamped down to get the air bubbles out of it, then it had to be floated over so that the surface was smooth without too much detail. The pooh could be shovelled off it easily. I did cheat a little, I loaned a Honda Power Float, that was fun. Those bases have done us proud over the years.

The Interesting story about Hollytrees is some how or other we had some superb help that we shouldn't have had! Our great saviour Frank Hinsull bless him had contacts all over the place. One contact he had was a gentleman called by the name of Derek. I'm not saying anymore for fear of embarrassment. Frank organised a meeting up here at Hollytrees with Derek who was a big noise over in Solihull. Those days Work Experience, Practical Hands on Experience was all the rage. A scheme was set up where we provided the Insurance. Hollytrees provided the materials and Solihull Council provided the labour. The ration was 2 trainee Brick Layers to 1 qualified Bricky. We had as many as 15 people up here working from Monday to Friday. They had a rough idea what we wanted and they built it, and what a fantastic job they did for us. They build for those who know the place.

They built my 40ft x 25ft Tool shed, Our office, Ann's Tack Shed Jose's Grooming Room. After that we had the Big Wendy House built as well as the New, New Cattery at the time which are staying. Then the 5 lots off Kennels attached, They are really well built. The work went really well and lasted some 14 months from start to finish. We even had a base and 18" brick wall built for a Hexagonal Aviary for hand reared bay birds to learn to fly. But then something happened, I am not sure exactly what but it ended up as a mad exodus, all men, tools and cups were gone!! Within 2 hours the place was deserted. I can laugh about it now but it could have been quiet serious. I found out a week later that the Head of — Solihull's Training Schemes thought Hollytrees was in the boundary of Solihull and of course we are not. There is no way the work should have been done by the lads. Outside The Borough of Solihull, obviously the work done was of a charitable nature. The facilities that we provided was 100% in both quality of materials everything including Health and Safety was adhered to. What a state we found ourselves in!! We did not know what to expect, were they going to demolish what they had built? Were we going to be sued? It was an oversight by someone But Who! remains a mystery.

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The buildings are still standing. They have helped Literally hundreds of animals and birds and with the Wendy House, Tool Shed and offices etc. you can not measure what **HELP** they have provided. So after 23 years I Thank You Solihull Council as it was called then. I seem to recall the Council Leader at that time was a Mr. Jim Eames.

Getting back to the job in hand. We still need a team that is skilled in Concrete Levelling and laying. I have a home for the bricks etc. that need to be demolished and removed. The new concrete needs to be such that won't react to animal urine or feces (Excretion) and apparently by now with the fact that we are covering another concrete base and not breaking it up. Apparently they mix Fibreglass strands in with the concrete, and is doesn't crack. So instead of me going like a Bull in a China shop, I am throwing it out to you good people to all. If you know a person or contractor that might be able to help us!! Finally on the improvement side of things, we have our field that we use for horses, Ponies, Goats stray sheep etc. This lovely field has a brook running through it. This brook is a flaming nuisance. It has to be fenced off from the animals. By all accounts some years ago a horse died from stomach poisoning. This we presume is due to the fact that this brook takes all the water off the main Hollywood bypass. With Oil, Rubber etc. and more important this time of the year it's full of the Road Salt, which is deadly because obviously when you have a drink with salt it makes you thirstier. In return the body organs can't cope with it and burn up. In other words it is a **Danger!** To overcome this we need to get *Severn Trent* to get us a water supply from Baccabox Lane where we can connect a hosepipe to reach our stables. So if anyone out there has any contacts with *Severn Trent*, get in touch with us.

Thinking about it, It has got to be done. I am getting too old to keep dragging Five Gallon containers of water.

Talking of horses etc. I mentioned the two foals that were in *Our Local Park*, well they are now ready for New Homes. I must admit we caught them in time, and it has proved to be a worthwhile Rescue. They are wormed. De Loused and socializing. So if there is anyone out there that wants a companion that is steady and very good natured and can be a companion or life. I must admit they are truly grateful. They are approximately 8 months old and are really trusting. One filly foal and one colt foal, typical black and white, Vanner cob type.

We also have a lovely collection of dogs that need understanding homes.

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Please look at our Web Site if you get the time, or get someone who is computer friendly to show you our site.

Over the Winter we have required a few what I call **Golden Oldies**, where elderly people may of passed away, or in a Warden Controlled Accommodation.

They really deserve a good last few months. We will always help with the Vet fees etc. All that is needed is an open mind knowing they are not going to live as long as a puppy or young adult might. I can guarantee they will give you as much if not more than a dog that has been with you for years. They will certainly repay you. Also I say to people who say Oh! I can't replace my old dog, well I'm not asking you to replace your old dog (Nothing will do that) but as a tribute to your old dog, come and better the life of one of ours and with all our rescues, if it doesn't work out, you are free to return him or her to us.



We have been out on Dog Catching Expeditions again. We have been out to a Cross English Bull Terrier that has been living rough in a park in Stetchford ————— Glebe Farm Recreation Ground in Birmingham. She has lived in a derelict house for 3½ months. I could not find out if she had ever lived at the address.

The garden was all overgrown with years of growth, but local folks were feeding her including one gentleman who happens to take his dog in the same park. He and I kept on crossing paths, it amazes me how he is a driver for the Co-Op (I think it's the Co-Op) Funeral Service.

We first met at the funeral of a good friend of ours her name was Shelia Turner over in Perry Barr.

I keep bumping into him, he brings us Bedding etc and he comes across animals needing help. He is the owner of a Magnificent Rottweiler male.

Another rescue was a call via Dogs Lost U.K. which is a web site worth looking at. It is about dogs that people have lost or found. You should see some of the cases on that Site where animals have been stolen, especially small breeds. Some have been stolen at knife point! So be careful. Then they also have dogs that have been found in all sorts of circumstances, dumped, genuinely lost or the original owners are not interested in having them back.

I am sure I have mentioned Dogs Lost U.K. before. It is a team of volunteers that all work together to help the lost and found creatures. Some are worth helping. They called us in reference about a German Shepard bitch living rough in a small village called Fleet Hargate, which is way over in Lincolnshire.

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The dog was once owned by a gentleman who was a Nuclear Physicist who really should not have had the dog.

A strange set up where he had no fencing at all and apparently he only had her for 2 or 3 days.

Anyway she escaped but what a different sort of place for a dog to live rough? I think they called the area The Ferns, no trees no hedges and Dykes. Large ditches full of water acting as a fence. There were no cattle or sheep. The dog was only coming out at the dead of night feeding on what people put out as waste food for the foxes, Hedgehogs etc.

As per usual she found several people, but one family in particular Sue and John who were religious in feeding **Kia** which was her name. Bearing in mind all the Winter and wet weather we have had, they did a superb job. Their home security light used to alert them that she was about. Believe it or not it went on for 11½ months. No one could catch her. In fact no one saw her never mind catch her because of the time she was coming out of hiding. It took me 2 journeys. Not an easy place to get to along the A14.

A Dual Carriageway full of lorries heading for Felixstowe. The first journey took me 2hrs 15 minutes. I arrived at 9.30 pm, Sue and John showed me where she was used to being fed. I set up my trap away from her usual spot so not to spoil a good set pattern, which was working well. I had to wait till 11.45 pm before she put in an appearance “Wow” was she frightened really skittish it took her 6 attempts to get where she usually got food. It was a really windy night, I had my trap set to go off. What I did not realize was the fact that, the drop down door which is made of welded mesh it was affected by the wind which made it dance along the bolt which held the door open. Sadly the trap door came down. I had a rough idea she did not see it happen. Either way with the door closing the noise made her disappear. It was the waiting game again. 1½ hours later whilst sat in the van John had looked after me with coffee etc. Sat quietly

I was joined by two friendly members of the — Lincolnshire Constabulary, asking what I was up to, just as **Kia** appeared again, I couldn't believe their timing. Oh! we keep seeing that dog all over the place, in fact we nearly ran her over about a month ago. Then they did a vehicle check. I showed them the trap that was set, and off they went. Sadly it did not do any good that night. I left the trap for John to bait on a daily basis, she would get used to going onto it. Food at the very far end and a trail of food towards the trap.

As usual Best Food Chicken, Tripe, Liver, sausages etc. (I do well considering I'm a Veggie). I left John for 10 days. With the trap door off, sure enough **Kia** was going in the cage well. I set off again 10 days later, I felt good about it this time.

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11.30 I arrived and reset the trap, no sign until 2.10am.

There was no hesitation at all straight in the cage and **Bingo! Got her.** John bless him was speechless so was **Kia!** I left her for a few minutes for her to realize she was stuck. She never growled or barked, the only thing she did was to pooh herself. There was no aggression at all. She looked at me as if to say, well done you've got me now, I'll come quietly. That is what she did.

John and myself lifted the cage into the van, and away I came at 2.30am. We have done a tremendous amount of work on her and have found a 200% home for her. They are friends of ours that had a rescued Lurcher they was feeding years ago, between Rugby and Coventry on a canal tow path, some of you may recall the story! A dog called **Brock**, he is nearly blind and has fell in love with **Kia** and most important of all **Brock's** owners are well experienced with nervous dog.

I thank all who both fed **Kia** and all who are now helping her settle into her New Home.

As I always say, anyone can catch and rescue these animals, it is finding the right home afterwards.

Back to Bull Dog Breeds

I have been very busy with the various Bull Breed Dogs in that people go into Panic Mode as soon as any bad publicity comes their way. It is so sad that no one in Authority can get a grip on the Out of Control situation. Prevention is much better than cure. Again we and most of the general public need an affordable Neutering price. As with cats. It is about time the Government stepped in and helped. The fact is there are too many unwanted animals in the country, it is not going to get any easier or sort itself out!!!

Once again can I thank you for your support it is so much appreciated, and it tells us we are doing it correctly. And you do certainly encourage us.

Next News Letter should give an update on our new development. All we need at present is to set up the people who are experts in concrete bases. We had an expert on our last Major development the New Blocks. Circumstances are such we can not use him again.

All the Best Ray, Ann and the Gang.

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