

Summer 2022



New!

Superpower

Autism Dogs Charity Official Magazine



“ Working together makes my **TAIL WAG!** ”

CELEBRATING THE CREATIVITY OF AUTISTIC PEOPLE

**SUPPORT
AUTISM DOGS
CHARITY**

**HOW YOU CAN
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!**

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Superpower

Autism Dogs CIC Official Magazine

IN THIS ISSUE



25 SUPERDOG
SHOWCASE



30
CHUTNEY'S CHATS
NEW!



17
TRAINER'S DIARY

INSIDE AUTISM DOGS CHARITY

03 EDITOR'S NOTE

An introduction from our Editor Ruth King.

04 SUPPORTING AUTISM DOGS **NEW!**

Find out how you can help us to make a difference in the lives of autistic people.

10 WORKING AT AUTISM DOGS CHARITY

We interview Animal Care Assistant and Trainee Trainer Adam Hall.

12 WHAT'S NEW AT AUTISM DOGS?

Updates from our Operations Manager Abigail Short.

29 AMBASSADOR INSIGHTS

"What activities do you plan to do with your dog this summer?"

39 THANK YOU FROM AUTISM DOGS **NEW!**

Thanking some of our amazing supporters!





Superpower

Autism Dogs CIC Official Magazine

IN THIS ISSUE

INSIDE AUTISM DOGS CHARITY

20 NOODLE NEWS

Summer adventures with Kiera Boyce and her Assistance Dog "Noodle".

27 MILO & MOO

How Autism Assistance Dog "Milo" helps his handler to access education.

34 HARRY'S HAPPENINGS

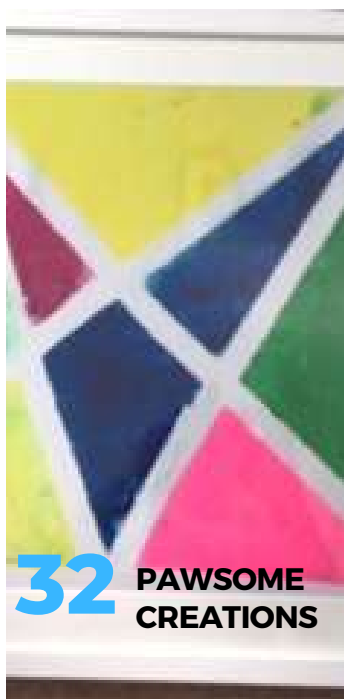
Updates from Max Smith and his adorable Assistance Dog "Harry".

38 THE SMITH FAMILY ADVENTURES

The Smith Family thank fundraisers at Lincoln College.



22 PAWSOME PICTURES



32 PAWSOME CREATIONS



36 LOVED BY HARRY

FEATURE WRITERS

Abigail Short
Adam Hall
Cesca Huff
Charlotte Smeed
Emma Smith
Jac Boyce
Kiera Boyce
Max Smith
Ruth King

EDITOR'S NOTE



Welcome to the Summer edition of *Superpower* - The official magazine of Autism Dogs Charity!

The sun is out and we're all set for a season of Summer fun! The dogs at the farm are enjoying plenty of dips in the pool when temperatures soar!

The warm weather also brings even more opportunities to go outside, meet up with friends, and take part in activities. From train rides to picnics - our autistic clients and their families from across the UK are enjoying the freedom that a trained Autism Assistance Dog can bring!

This Summer, we are also celebrating one year of accreditation with Assistance Dogs International! We are so proud to be recognised for our continued adherence to the ADI Standards of Practice, which promote excellence in all areas relating to the acquisition, training and placement of Assistance Dogs.

In the following pages, you will hear about how superdog Kaya has helped her handler Theo to enjoy trips outside, and be updated on the latest news from our ambassadors as they plan holidays, events and fun activities. As always, our Pawsome Creations feature is filled with inspiring and inventive creative content from our autistic families and readers!

I am also delighted to introduce a brand new feature dedicated to fundraising efforts. We are so thankful for every single donation, big or small. Every single penny is used to help us to continue to provide life-changing Assistance Dogs to autistic children and adults throughout mainland England, Scotland and Wales.

I hope that you enjoy reading about some of the incredible achievements, activities and milestones that our teams embark on together. With the help of supporters like you, we are all set to make an even bigger difference in the months to come!

Have a tail-wagging Summer!

Ruth King

SUPPORTING AUTISM DOGS



HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

FOSTERING

Could you foster a dog that could help to change the life of an autistic person? We are looking for genuine dog lovers to join our Canine Foster Team!

We have various fostering placements available, depending on what would be best for your family!

You would need to live close by to us (we are based in Congleton, CW12 3LN)

We supply the dog/puppy, food, bedding, toys, and cover veterinary and insurance costs. You'd need to supply kindness and love to allow the dog to have fun and enjoy the world through socialisation and enrichment!



If you or somebody you know would like more information about fostering for us, please email us for a fostering application form at Foster@AssistanceDogs.co.uk



SUPPORTING AUTISM DOGS



HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

The graphic is set against a bright pink background. At the top left, the Easyfundraising logo is displayed, consisting of a stylized 'e' in a circle followed by the text 'easyfundraising' and 'feel good shopping' below it. To the right of the logo, the text '£34M Raised' is shown. The central text, in large white font, reads 'Sign up & we will get a £5 donation'. Below this text, there is an illustration of a person in a yellow shirt and blue pants standing next to a large computer monitor. The monitor displays a user profile page with a circular profile picture, a red progress bar, and a row of five red dots. To the left of the person is a £5 banknote. To the right of the monitor is a megaphone with a red handle and a blue body, emitting several red hearts. The overall scene is vibrant and celebratory.

We're raising FREE donations for Autism Dogs Charity by using easyfundraising and you could too!

Over 6,000 online retailers including John Lewis & Partners, Argos, Uswitch, eBay and M&S are ready to give a free donation every time you shop online. Plus, once you've signed up and raised £5 in donations, easyfundraising will give us an extra £5 bonus donation.

SUPPORTING AUTISM DOGS



HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEERING

We have had the pleasure of welcoming multiple volunteers recently – many of whom have completed work experience placements with us! We are ever so grateful for the help our volunteers provide, helping us to look after our dogs with care and affection. It's also a pleasure to impart knowledge and practical experience about animal care to young people starting their career in the industry!

If you would be interested in volunteering with us, you would need to be in reasonable travelling distance of Congleton, and have some experience with dogs. Through this fantastic volunteering opportunity, you would gain practical experience working with dogs and learning about animal welfare, as well as gaining understanding about autism and how our Assistance Dogs help their handlers!

It's a perfect opportunity for those interested in animal care to gain some invaluable experience in the sector!

If you are interested in volunteering with us, please email us at volunteers@autismdogs.co.uk for an application form!

Photo descriptions: Cian the work experience student helps Animal Care Assistants Karen and Grace with dog walking and ear cleaning.



UPCOMING EVENT

DOGGY FUN DAY



ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

DOG SHOW

Best puppy, Loveliest lady, Fabulous fella, Dog with the waggiest tail, Golden oldie, Best cross breed, Prettiest eyes, Dog most like its owner.

MUSICAL SITS

How quickly can your dog sit when the music stops?

FASTEST RECALL

Will your dog be the fastest of the day?

TEMPTATION ALLEY

Will your dog be able to resist temptation and make it to the end?

EGG AND SPOON RACE

How nicely does your dog walk on their lead?
Will they make you drop your egg?

BAKE SALE

STALLS

TOMBOLA

RAFFLE

ASSISTANCE DOG DEMONSTRATION

See some of our dogs in action!

[CLICK TO BUY TICKETS](#)

Doggy Fun Day

Temptation
Alley

Sunday 31st July 9am-12pm

Raffle

The Queen's Head, Congleton

Tombola

Dog Show

Musical Sits

Bake Sale

Egg and Spoon
Race

Entry:
£2 per Adult
Kids free!

Stalls

Assistance Dog
Demonstration

Fastest
Recall



In aid of



**Autism Dogs
Charity**



PET PORTRAITS

HAND-PAINTED IN PASTEL BY AUTISTIC ARTIST

Ruth Victoria King

Based in Plymouth, Devon. Paintings can be shipped anywhere in the UK. Various sizes available. Contact me now for a non-obligational quote!



@rvictorkingart



rvictorkingart@gmail.com

20% of profits from dog portraits* donated to



**Autism Dogs
Charity**

*Applies to all bookings taken in 2022

WORKING AT AUTISM DOGS CHARITY

We interviewed Animal Care Assistant and Trainee Trainer Adam Hall

How long have you been part of the Autism Dogs team?

I've worked at Autism Dogs for 2 and a half years.

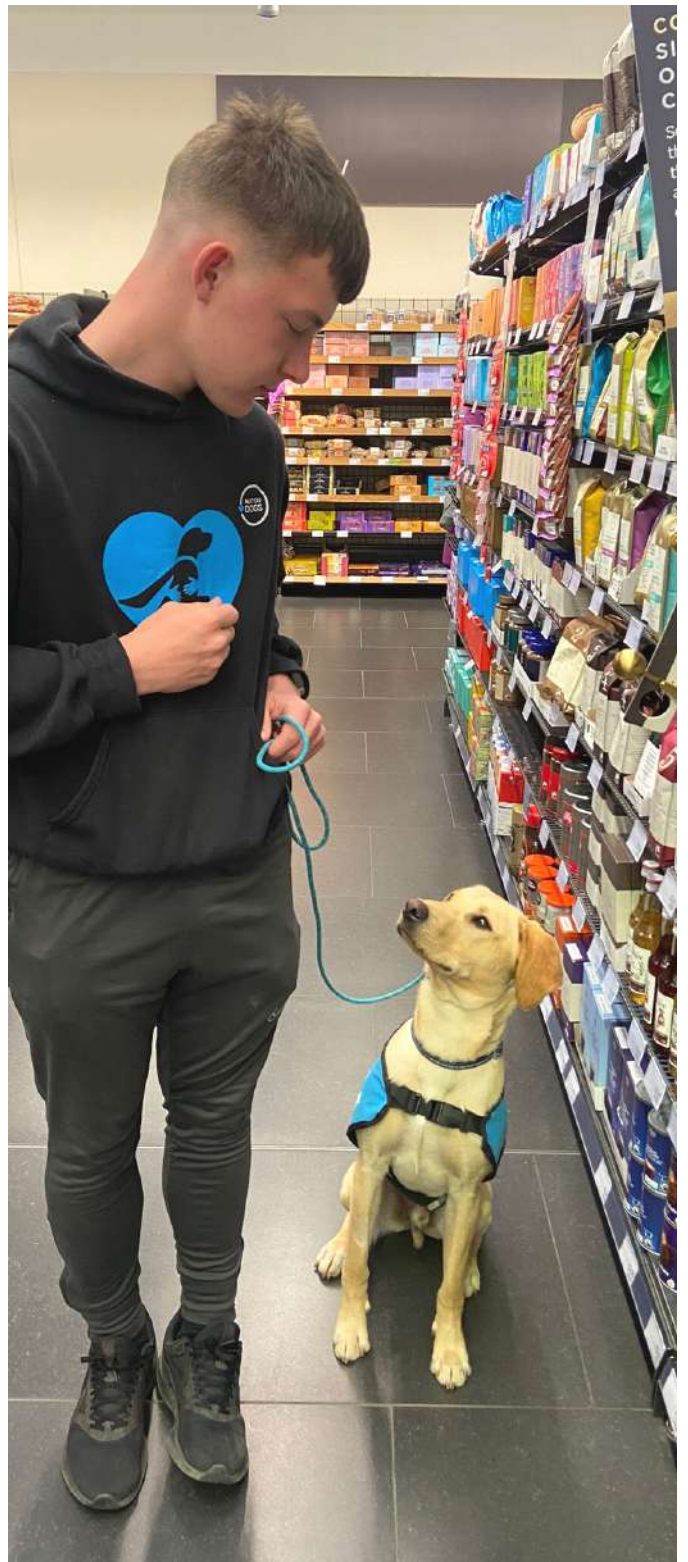
What does your daily routine look like?

I usually arrive last to the farm which means the dogs are ready to go out when I get in, so I start my days off by running the dogs on the paddock.

After that, I get my animal care jobs done, which could be jet washing, or cleaning some of the accommodation like the kitchen area or front of house.

Once I've done this, there's an array of stuff to do. This may include extra jobs like ear cleaning, teeth brushing and health checks. In between some of this, I might put a wash on if it's my day to do it. Obviously, there's a couple of coffees between this!

Once all of my animal care jobs are done, I move on to some training. This could be training some of the pet dogs to make sure they're getting enough mental stimulation or taking some of the assistance dogs in training on public access trips with Charlie. I enjoy having the variety in my days with each day being different!



What's your favourite thing about your role with Autism Dogs Charity?

My favourite thing about my role is definitely the variation of stuff I do. It keeps me motivated because every day there's a new challenge.

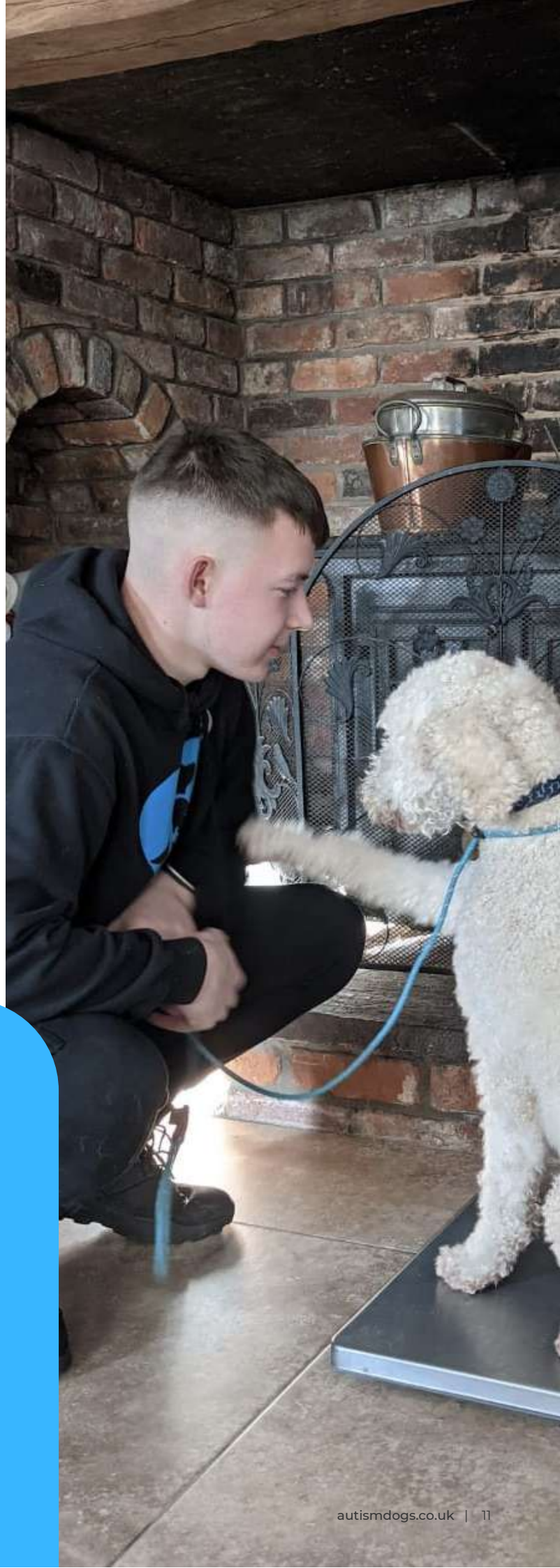
I also love all the dogs, and being able to just spend a couple minutes with them having a cuddle and a few kisses. My colleagues are also amazing which keeps me motivated!

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I've got 2 dogs at home who I love spending time with. I'm also a football referee and a coach so my weekends and weeknights can be consumed by football!

Tell us about a time a dog made you smile

They make me smile all the time, but if I had to pick just once then it'd have to be when I was having a pretty tough time and I sat on the kitchen floor with all the dogs and they piled on me, it instantly cheered me up! 🐾



Are you interested in working for Autism Dogs Charity?

Visit www.autismdogs.co.uk and sign up for our mailing list to be the first to hear about our latest vacancies!

WHAT'S NEW AT AUTISM DOGS?



Abigail Short, Operations Manager

CELEBRATING ONE YEAR OF ADI ACCREDITATION

This July, we are celebrating our first year of ADI accreditation!

ADI (Assistance Dogs International) establishes and promotes standards of excellence in all areas of Assistance Dog acquisition, training, and partnership, and is the leading global authority in the Assistance Dog industry. Gaining ADI accreditation was a huge achievement for the whole team, with the accreditation process including a 24-month assessment period!



WHAT IS ADI?

Assistance Dogs International (ADI) is a worldwide coalition of non-profit organisations that raise, train, and place assistance dogs. The objectives of Assistance Dogs International are to:

- Establish and promotes standards of excellence in all areas of assistance dog acquisition, training, and partnership
- Facilitate communication and learning among member programmes
- Educate the public to the benefits of Assistance Dogs and ADI membership

Over the past year, we have continued to comply with ADI's Standards of Practice, continually striving to provide both our dogs and our clients the highest standards of care and training. Not only is the accreditation proof of the quality service that we provide but it is also helping us to develop and grow our programme, with the ADI facilitating communication and learning among member programmes.

We are very proud of our ADI accreditation, and we can't wait to see what we achieve in our second year of accreditation!

OUR COMPANY VALUES

We have created some company values to help the team to know how to operate, behave, and interact on a day-to-day basis. These values will help the team to work towards the organisation's visions and goals, showing our drive and motivation for both caring for our dogs and transforming autistic people's lives!

HARDWORKING

We work hard through responsible actions, always striving to be the best we can be.

RESPECT

We value all of our clients and team members, ensuring everyone is treated with dignity and compassion.

TIMELINESS

We work hard to show up on time and provide timely support to our clients, team members, and dogs.

LOYALTY

We are proud to represent an organisation that does such life-changing work for autistic people and their families.

CARING

All of our work revolves around us providing the utmost care attention to our clients, team members, and dogs.



PROFESSIONAL

We work together to provide an outstanding experience, building upon our deep-rooted ethics and our desire to be as skilled as we can possibly be.

CONSIDERATE

We are adaptable, understanding others' needs and adjusting our way of working to accommodate them.

INCLUSION

We respect and value everyone's differences, creating an environment that both promotes respect and highlights the advantages diversity brings.

BUSINESS OWNERS COURSE

Advertisement

In June, we launched our new course 'Assistance Dogs: A Practical Guide for Business Owners' which is available as a **free resource!**

This course is perfect for business owners who are committed to improving accessibility for disabled people. The course consists of a comprehensive guide with detailed information about:

- The role and importance of Assistance Dogs.
- Your legal obligations as a business owner.
- How to interact with Assistance Dog teams.
- How reasonable adjustments can be applied to help Assistance Dog teams to access your services with confidence.

The material includes examples of real-life scenarios and thinking points, to help business owners and teams put what they've learned into practice.

ACCESS FOR FREE

[Click here to access our exclusive content for business owners](#)



BUILDING AWARENESS

As well as working with our clients, we also understand how important it is to build awareness about autism, and how autism assistance dogs can help autistic people.

Over the past few months, we have participated in multiple events to try and build awareness and understanding about these extremely important topics! We have visited a local high school – Congleton High School – a couple of times over the last few months! First, we went to a Careers Event to raise awareness about the various roles in our team, the positives of autism, and how Assistance Dogs can help autistic people!

Caroline then returned to Congleton High School for a talk about autism with their Sixth Form students!



BUILDING AWARENESS

Caroline, our CEO, also attended an Autism Awareness Event at the Cheshire Police Headquarters in Winsford. This event was hosted by the force's Disability and Carers Staff Network, and during the panel Caroline explained the work of our Autism Assistance Dogs – what they do, why they are important, and how to interact with an Assistance Dog team.

We were delighted to be invited to the event, which demonstrated the force's desire to learn more about how to support autistic people. The panel contained some great discussions, including how to support autistic people both within the general public and their own team of staff.

Recently, we also had the pleasure of attending DogFest in Tatton Park! We had a great day raising awareness to the general public about what an autism assistance dog is, their benefits, and how to access our services. We were delighted to have two of our teams joining us on our stand, giving first-hand experience of how their Assistance Dogs have helped them!





TRAINER'S DIARY

Ruth King

Here at Autism Dogs Charity, we love to celebrate the individual attributes, accomplishments, and adorable personalities of all of our amazing Autism Assistance Dogs.

Allow me to introduce you to one of these happy souls. Meet Bruce - a beautiful and bighearted 2 year old German Wirehaired Pointer, who encapsulates our values of care and loyalty all wrapped up in a gorgeous fuzzy body!

Bruce began his Assistance Dog journey by learning basic obedience commands, recall and walking to heel on a loose lead - all vital skills that help to prepare our dogs to be reliable, calm and obedient canine companions. However, each of our dogs progress to learn their own specially selected repertoire of skills that match the individual experiences of their autistic handlers.

We embrace individuals, both human and canine

In January 2022, the Autism Dogs team had the pleasure of meeting Charlie and his family. Through the assessment process, the team had learned about Charlie's requirements, including his strengths, challenges and his preferences. Bruce seemed like the perfect match!

Bruce happily snuggled up on the sofa next to a beaming Charlie while everyone discussed all of the excitement that lay ahead. The Advanced Training stage of the training programme would be the first chapter of their story together, and our team was committed to preparing Bruce for all of the exciting adventures that he was about to embark on with Charlie!



Whilst it was important for Bruce to learn how to support Charlie, it was equally important for Charlie to learn how to handle and care for Bruce. During the Family Training phase of the programme, Charlie and his family received lots of valuable information and guidance from our team of experts. The training covered everything from how to communicate with Bruce and meet his daily care and exercise needs to how to give canine CPR in an emergency!

Both dog and humans learn new skills

During the assessment process, we determine which bespoke skills would most benefit the client. In Bruce's case, some of these tasks included being able to fetch his own lead, stop and stand still when the lead is dropped, and pass the lead back to Charlie. The training team used positive reinforcement techniques to make these training sessions fun and engaging for Bruce - and he loved every minute!



The team also prepared Bruce for life as a working Assistance Dog by exposing him to lots of different environments. The socialisation process included visits to lots of different shopping centres, supermarkets, train stations, and other places that the autistic person is likely to visit regularly or want to visit in the future.



It's also important to recognise that each individual will have a unique routine and be surrounded by different amenities. Bruce would need to gain experience in the environments that he and Charlie would be visiting together.

Bruce visited hospitals during his advanced training

It's so exciting to see our dogs realise their potential. After many, many training hours, the team had the joy of watching a newly qualified Bruce being fitted for his new working Assistance Dog jacket- all ready to help his best friend Charlie to live life with more freedom, independence, and confidence! We are sure that this beautiful and happy dog will bring much smiles, fun and laughter to Charlie's life in the years to come! 🌍



NOODLE NEWS

Kiera Boyce

Summer means lots of adventures with my Autism Assistance Dog and best friend 'Noodle!' Summer has also brought some challenges but Noodle has helped me get through them!

Summer started with a trip to A&E where we discovered I'd fractured my wrist! Noodle was amazing as usual, as I had to cope with an 8 hour wait until 2.30 in the morning. Noodle applied pressure therapy throughout, focusing on my arm, my hand, and my body, when I was getting very anxious and annoyed with the delays. I now have a splint for the next 4 weeks, but Noodle made it so much easier for me to cope with.



I'm so excited about going to Dogfest this weekend. We are travelling up to Cheshire this Friday for the long weekend. Of course, Friday is going to be the hottest day of Summer so far this year, but thank goodness we have Aircon to keep us all cool for the journey. Noodle will probably sleep for the whole trip. I will be giving information about Autism Dogs at the Autism Dogs stall and meeting lots of lovely people and trying out all the dog activities at the Fest (have you seen the Dock Diving? - looks amazing).

I cannot wait and will not let my wrist stop me doing anything. I can't wait to meet all the other Autism Dogs ambassadors, especially Vic and Monty, my friends.

I went to the cinema for the first ever time with Noodle. He was amazing and knew how much help I needed from him. I even managed to cope through a family meal for the first time in 4 years! We got to go out and have dinner as a family thanks to Noodle!

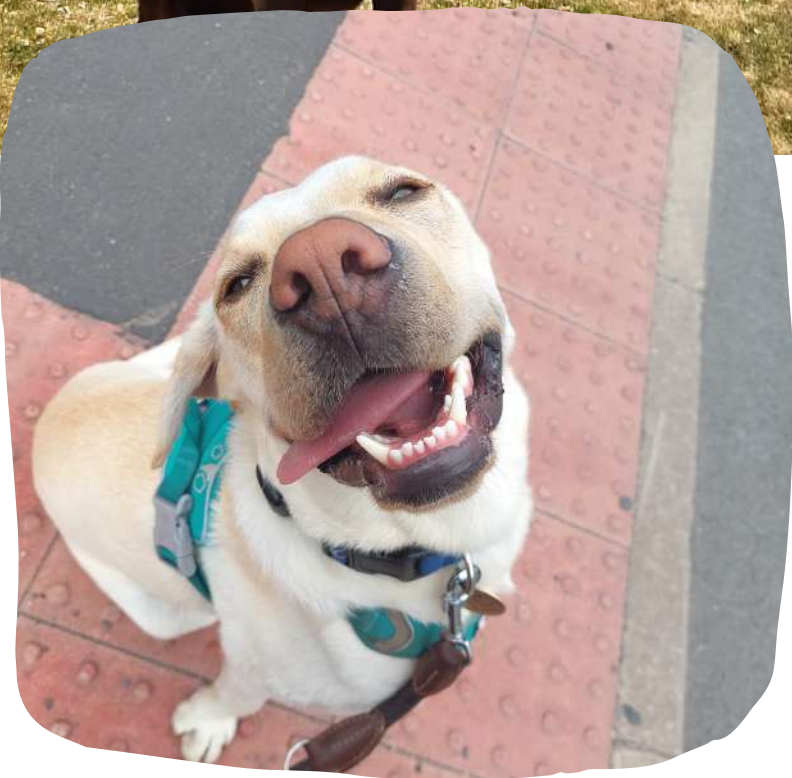
And to finish off the summer, we are off on holiday to Devon this year - our first holiday in 5 years. 2 weeks of beach, sea, swimming and long walks along the seafront with Noodle - he loves the water and especially chasing the seagulls. I will update you on how Noodle was on holiday, when I write again in Autumn. 🐾



Noodle has been having a lot of fun in his doggy pool full of tennis balls!



PAWSOME PICTURES



Chutney (Top left) and Monty (Left) have been having lots of fun exploring their local areas!

Noodle (Top right) has been chilling out in the garden!

PAWSOME PICTURES



Dave has such a special relationship with his boy! They have been enjoying lots of cuddles together!

PAWSOME PICTURES



Chutney (TOP) looked very dapper whilst joining in the Platinum Jubilee celebrations!

Aisha (LEFT) looked as beautiful as ever during a public access trip in a café!



SUPERDOG SHOWCASE

Ruth King



Even when the situation seems hopeless - there is always hope.

We are always inspired by stories of how our Autism Assistance Dogs can bring sunshine, laughter, freedom and joy into the life of an autistic person.

Theo is a young man who is on the autistic spectrum. A few years ago, Theo was living a chapter in his life which looked very different. Everyday life was incredibly stressful for him. He struggled with daily meltdowns which left him feeling exhausted, and his anxiety led to feelings of isolation as he was unable to venture outside of his home. Like many other autistic people, Theo did not have the opportunity to meet with his peers and develop friendships.

But in November 2018, a very special friend entered his story.

Kaya is a beautiful fox red Labrador who was trained by Autism Dogs Charity. With Kaya's support, Theos daily meltdowns have been replaced by daily walks in the open air.

His confidence continues to grow as Kaya helps him to meet new people and interact with his peers. Theo no longer feels restricted to familiar surroundings because Kaya is there to bring confidence and calmness when the pair are introduced to new environments.

By providing proprioceptive input, Kaya helps Theo to feel grounded in public places. She also provides sensory regulation and helps to alleviate anxiety through Deep Pressure Therapy. She is so in-tune with Theo that she is able to recognise when his anxiety is high and will respond by pawing at him to encourage him to take a break! Now Theo rarely experiences a meltdown, and he finds comfort in the knowledge that his best friend will be there to intervene and calm him down if a meltdown does occur.

It is clear that Theo is Kaya's whole world, and she is his greatest treasure. He says that his favourite things about her are her drive and desire to please him; her eagerness to learn, and her boundless energy. Kaya is always ready to spring into action no matter what!

Even the sky is no limit for this incredible team! They soared thousands of feet in the air as they embarked on a 14 hour flight to Chile- a feat that would have been impossible for Theo without the support of an Assistance Dog. She has also inspired Theo to develop a deep interest in dog training- especially in obedience.

Theo and Kaya's story illustrates the incredible freedom that can be found in the support of a trained Autism Assistance Dog. We can't wait to see all of the amazing things they'll achieve together as their story continues to unfold! 🐾



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MILO & MOO (AND THE REST OF US TOO!)

Charlotte Smeed

Hazzah! It's the summer – which for us up in the West of Scotland simply means the rain is a little warmer than it is all the other months!

In this issue, I'm keen to talk about Milo's role and the way he supports Molly in a school setting. Our picture, as a family, is fairly complex. Molly has a lot of health difficulties alongside being autistic, which has dramatically impacted her school attendance over the years. However, in truth, all our children struggle with school attendance - but maybe that is a can of worms to get in to in another issue!

Molly has always struggled with school-based anxiety. I think the school building can feel like a very scary place to be, especially if you are an autistic individual. The noises, the smells, other children bumping into you, the transitions, the lack of choice, the harsh lighting, the itchy school clothes. The feeling of being overwhelmed, unable to regulate.



As adults we understand that not everyone will want to have the same job – we see the nightshift worker, the office worker, the shop worker, the janitor, teacher, nurse, coffee shop owner. We are grateful for the diverse way people work. We do not expect there to be only one job, in one place, with one uniform, at one time. I always find it funny we do not extend this understanding of variation to our children. We expect them to be in the same building, at the same times, doing the same thing as each other. It always strikes me as a little odd. But maybe that too is another can of worms for another day!

When we got Milo, we were very keen for one of his main roles to be supporting Molly in to school - to help her to regulate in an environment that feels foreign and scary to her. And Molly would put her ability to get through the school doors straight down to Milo. He grounds her. He makes her feel safe, and in control. He gives her confidence. And yes, he can help retrieve things for her and support her reduced mobility but really, crucially, it is their bond that means Molly feels safe to enter into a building that, for her, is incredibly difficult to navigate.

We have a very welcoming school who support Molly and Milo in order to ensure they can work well as a team. Molly and Milo enter and leave the school when it is quiet to ensure neither of them are overwhelmed by large crowds. Milo has a special space next to Molly, there is always water there for him. There is a box of treats that Molly can give to pupils or staff if she would like them to come and introduce themselves to Milo. There is a place to toilet him outside the school. Molly works with staff who know how to support them both in the event of a fire and who are confident to support them if, say, Molly needs to use the bathroom. We are grateful that the school have worked so hard with us on this!

Does all of this mean Molly has full attendance now at school? Sadly not – I'd love to say Milo was the magic key but that would be disingenuous. Molly's health is, unfortunately, very variable and her anxiety is still very high. Milo is, however, the most critical support Molly has to enable her to do as much as she can, when she can. And that is a massive win for her. And I can't tell you how proud we feel watching her navigate the areas she has found so tricky in the past with a smile on her face and her very trusty sidekick beside her.

Until next time,

Charlotte 🐾





AMBASSADOR INSIGHTS

WHAT ACTIVITIES DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH YOUR DOG THIS SUMMER?



This Summer, me and Noodle are going on some awesome adventures, such as going to the beach and going on holiday for the first time in five years! We'll have lots of splishes and splashes in the sea and might even chase some seagulls! Noodle will also be going to Pride with me which is super exciting! It will be his first ever time at Pride and he's going to have a lot of fun!

This Summer, I'm hoping to do more exploring with Chutney! We have lots planned, including going to a new outdoor fresh water dog pool!





CHUTNEY'S CHATS

Cesca Huff

Hello everyone! My name is Chutney. I am nearly 5 years old. I have been with my mum for 3 years.

I am a fully trained Autism Assistance Dog but my mum needs help with her other conditions too. My Mum told me that before I came to live with her that she did not go outside because she has something called Agoraphobia and feels very anxious around people and the outside world.

I am a very clever boy but my mum says that sometimes I am a chocolate goof-ball!

Recently we have started to have some adventures together which I think is super fun! It makes my tail wag to know that we are working together and I'm helping my mum.

A few weeks ago we went on a very exciting adventure. We had a holiday and we had a great time together. I helped my mum lots and lots. On one of the days my mum took me out and we did something she hasn't done for 10 years and I've never done before. We went on a train and not an ordinary train - a STEAM TRAIN!





I was a very good boy and lay by her feet on my mat. There were lots of strange noises and a man blowing a loud whistle. My mum started to get anxious but I was there to remind her that she was ok. I used one of my special skills called DPT (Deep Pressure Therapy)

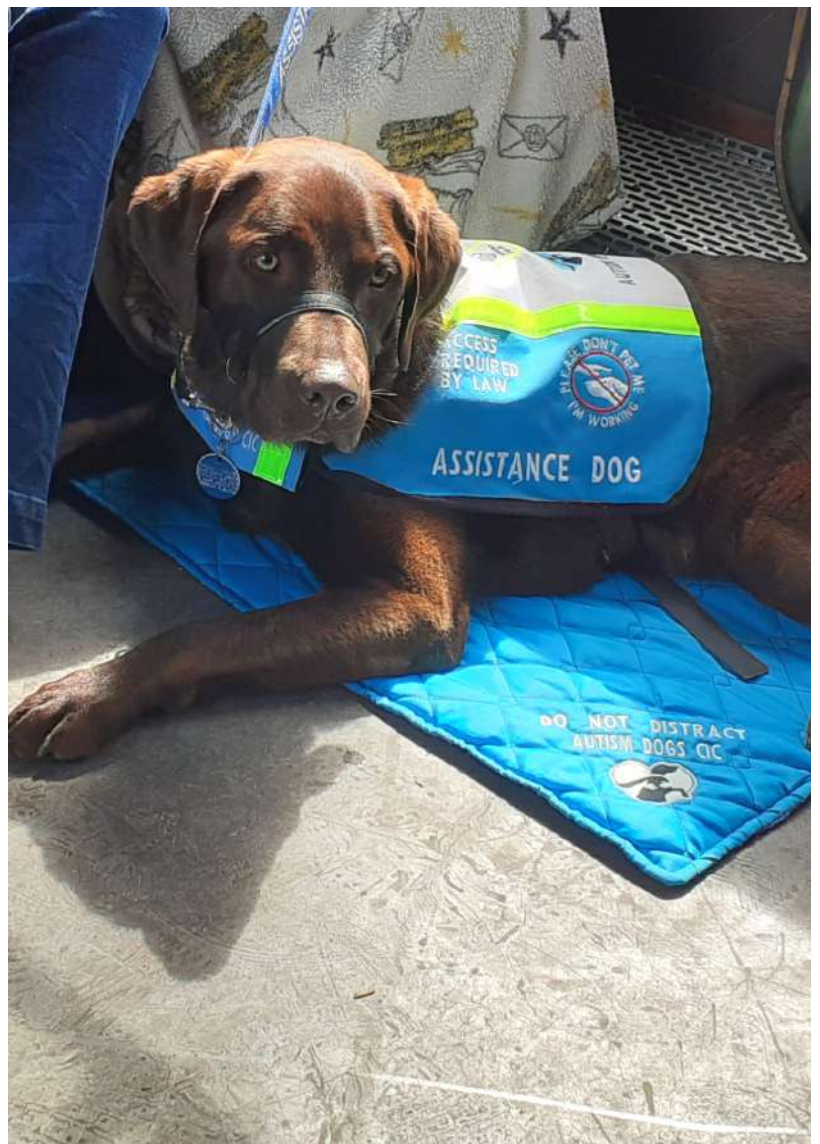
I am such a lucky boy and I think my mum is very brave and together we can do hard things

I wonder what our next adventure will be?

Until next time

Love and licks

Chutney 🐾



PAWSOME CREATIONS

Celebrating the creativity of autistic people



Matthew made a fabric painting (TOP) with colours that coordinate with a ruffle snuffle belonging to his Assistance Dog "Winston"!

Send your submissions to
magazine@autismdogs.co.uk



Top Left: Molly made this colourful artwork showing her and her Assistance Dog 'Milo'!

Left: Abigail made this beautiful cross-stitch artwork as a wedding gift!

Right: Aoife created this picture of Assistance Dog 'Cindy'!

HARRY'S HAPPENINGS

THE ADVENTURES OF HARRY AND MAX

Max Smith

Hello, my name is Max! I am 11 years old, I have ASD I think my autism is not a disability but a different ability (my teacher taught me that!)

I have different abilities but I still find things difficult, and that's why I have Harry to help me. He helps me get out and about and makes me feel safe.

We have been a team for almost 5 months now! Time certainly has flown by! We have established a lovely routine while we are at home, making sure Harry's needs are met during the week while I am at school and having lots of fun at the weekends!

What has been most exciting is getting out and about and even on holiday!

We took part in the Autism Dogs challenge of "30 things" to celebrate the National Autistic Society Accreditation Team's 30th birthday!



We chose to do 30 places in 30 days and it was sooooo hard but very worth it and I was proud to complete the challenge! Some of the highlights included:-

The hairdressers, Manchester Airport viewing park and The Keighley and Worth Valley railway, Shiben park (the home of Anne Lister) and our first trip out on a train to Bradford!

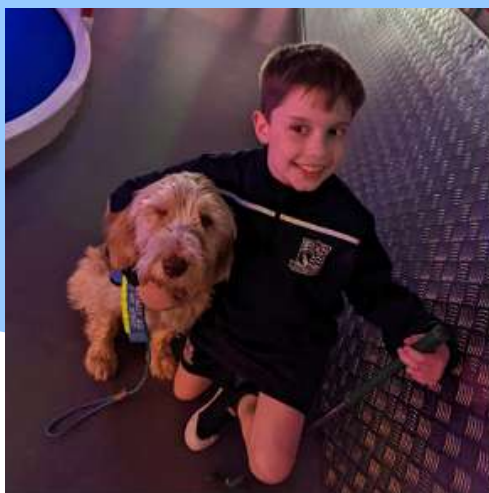


We went to Southend -On- Sea for a few days away and we had a fantastic time! Beach fun, amusements, flying kites and even a trip out to play crazy golf.

I would never have been able to do any of this without Harry by my side. At times it was hard and overwhelming and Harry worked his magic DPT (when Harry becomes like my big soft cuddly weighted blanket!) when needed - be it in a shop, on the sea front or in the hotel, he helped me stay calm and relaxed and I had the best time!

He had so much fun visiting new places. He worked so well and everyone loved him! He especially seemed to enjoy hotel beds! Ha ha ha!!

I cannot wait for the big school holidays! We have a Haven break booked in Sussex and more fun adventures planned! Bring on the sunshine!! 🌞



But the most exciting thing to happen was our trip away on Holiday!

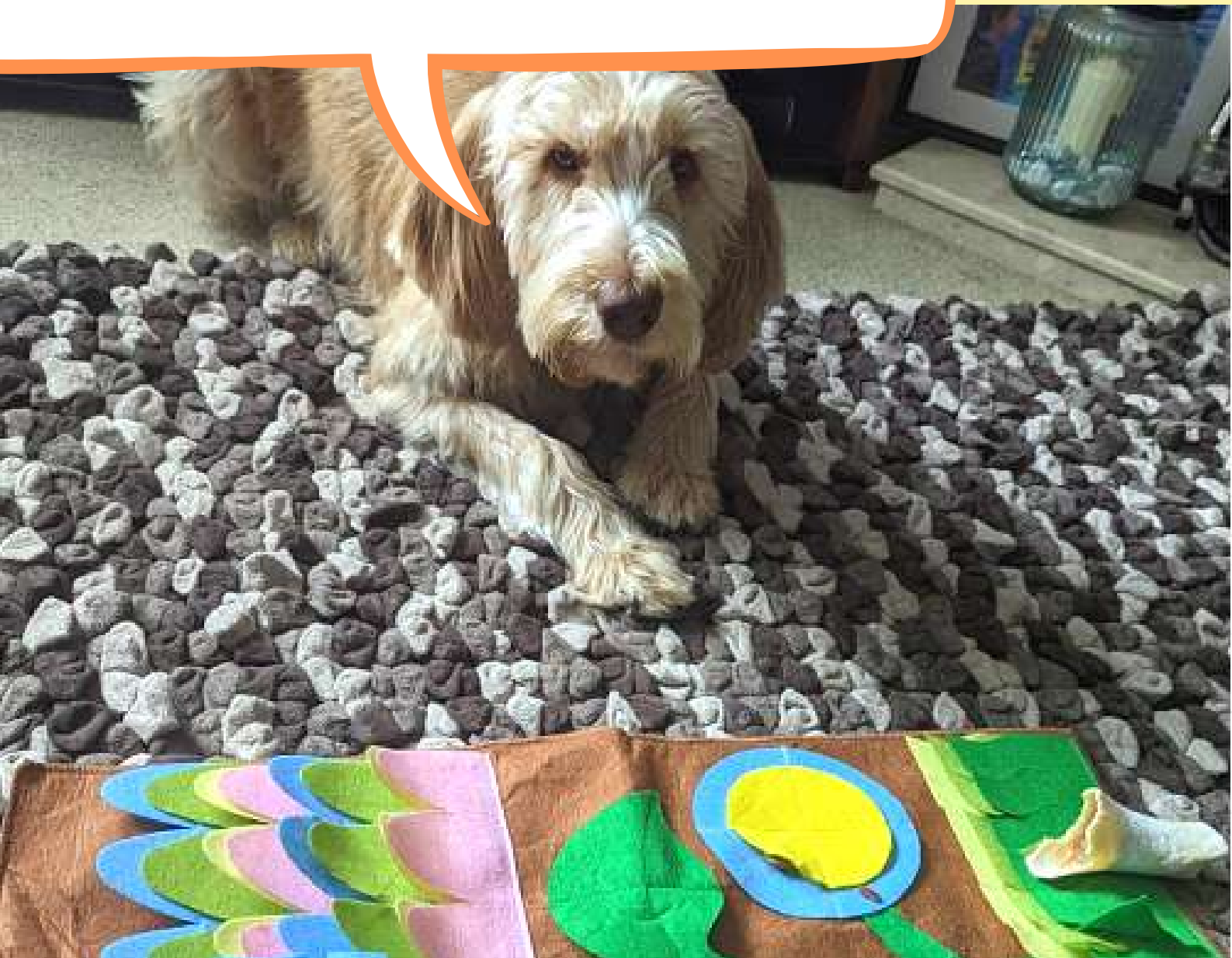


LOVED BY HARRY

Harry Smith

Snuffle mat!

I love to hunt for his hidden kibble in the mat! Max sets this up every other day for fun enrichment for me while he is at school.



Southend-on-Sea

Max and I absolutely loved exploring here!
Find out more at <https://www.visitsouthend.co.uk/>



THE SMITH FAMILY ADVENTURES

Emma Smith

Hello! We are the Smith family - Emma, Simon and our 3 boys Ethan (14), Luke (13) and Max (11). Both Ethan and Max are diagnosed with ASD. We love travelling, family adventures and mostly having fun!

Here we are, already 5 months down the line since Harry joined our family, and I cannot believe the progress they are both making as a team. Max finds it difficult sometimes. After all, he finds life difficult- so having to consider other people and/or doggo's routines did not come easy for him.

We have a set routine for Harry each day and Max is involved in every element he can be, from giving meals (we dish them out due to the smell!) to providing enrichment, fun and walks. He loves making life for Harry exciting and that has meant challenging himself in getting out and about.

We were so proud of the both for completing the "30 things" challenge! It was a huge undertaking for Max. Some days we did easy places like the local park and even the car wash! But he also pushed himself to some places he has never been!

We had a lovely few days away on holiday in Southend-On-Sea and on our return we paid a special visit to Lincoln College, and met Charlotte and Therapy Dog Freddie who works at the college!



Charlotte headed up a wonderful team who fostered Harry and his brothers as puppies and helped raise funds for us to get Harry. The fundraising included raffles and selling a calendar! We felt it was very important to offer our thanks to everybody - especially Charlotte for all her help and guidance and the lovely Dawn who was Harry's foster mummy! The kindness they all showed Max and ourselves was lovely and Harry was super excited to see everyone - especially Freddie! 🐾



THANK YOU FROM AUTISM DOGS!

Abigail Short, Operations Manager

AUTO TRADER'S DISABILITY AND NEURODIVERSITY NETWORK

We'd like to say a big 'thank' you to Auto Trader's Disability and Neurodiversity network, who have completed a number of fundraising efforts to support the organisation!

Auto Trader is an online car selling platform with multiple networks promoting diversity and inclusivity. They are a member of the DWP Disability Confident Scheme, achieving Disability Leader level, and have been awarded an 'Autism Friendly Award' by the National Autistic Society!

One of the network's fundraising activities was a 'At Pets 2022' calendar, in collaboration with Auto Trader's LGBT+ network. The calendar featured the furry friends of Auto Trader employees, and part of the funds raised from the sale of the calendar were donated to our organisation!



We'd also like to thank the following members of the Disability and Neurodiversity network for climbing Scafell Pike!

Lesley-Anne Holland
Dave Whyte
Simon Taylor
Amy Louise Dacre
Iwan Williamson

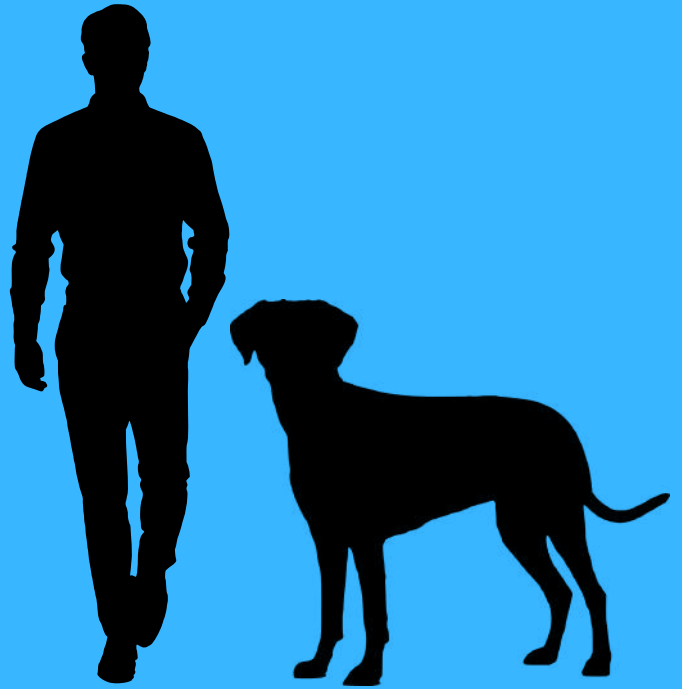
This was a massive achievement for all involved, and the organisation is very grateful for everyone's efforts!

All monies raised from the network's fundraising efforts have been used to benefit our autistic clients. You can follow the network at:

@autotrader_life on Instagram
@AutoTraderLife on Twitter
Auto Trader Life on Facebook

IN LOVING MEMORY

We'd like to thank the families of the following individuals. We are very honoured to have received donations in their memory that will go on to change the lives of autistic people.



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KARL GREGG

CLIFF DAVIS

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Founder of Autism Dogs Charity*