

EPSOM CANINE RESCUE NEWSLETTER

Charity no 1053092 www.epsomcaninerescue.co.uk 01883-334515

CAN IT GET ANY WORSE?

Another year, another newsletter. With ourselves and other small rescues really feeling the squeeze of the depressed economy and subsequent increased number of dogs finding themselves homeless, with rescue places few and far between . We, like all the other small rescues have had to tighten our purse strings, and reduce the number of dogs we can afford to keep in kennels and instead have utilised more foster homes. This is better for both the dog and prospective home to see the dogs in a more familiar environment. Sadly, bull breeds

looking for places have increased, and we have had to limit it to 3 in our care at any one time as homes are thin on the ground for them and they take longer to place. Not something we like to do but in this harsh

- a heartbreaking decision for all involved.

climate, it is the only way forward

if we wish to continue as a rescue

On a more positive note, readers will remember our deaf Dotty, and will be pleased to know that she has found her forever home with Lenka and Chris, full story and photos on page 10!!

17TH JULY OUR BIG SUMMER FUNDRAISER....

On Sunday 17th July 2011, we are taking over Priory Park in Reigate for a spectacular FAMILY FUN DAY AND DOG SHOW. A fun packed day for all the family with dog shows, agility, children's corner, stocks, lots of stalls including cakes, preserves, plants, tombola, bric-a-brac, dog merchandise, crafts, jewellery and lots more. Scooby Doo will also be there sporting an Epsom Canine Rescue t-shirt and having his picture taken with any willing supporters!!

NEWSBAG

VAT

We are paying out on average £400 per month in vat with vet and kennel bills and as such we are now in the process of registering for **VAT.** There have been some recent changes at the revenue to assist small non-profit making charities such as ourselves.

WELCOME PACK

We are currently putting together a welcome pack for all new adoptees, to include advice on feeding and training, together with other useful information. We are also hoping to be able to include a free insurance period for the first month.

Forthcoming Fundraising Events

June

25th Reigate Community Festival, Priory Park, Reigate—we have a stall selling doggie bits and our Hook-a –Duck!!

25th Hook Dog Show, Chessington—Paula will be running a Tombola!!

26th Bletchingley Fete, Cricket Green, Bletchingley. Another great family day out, we will be selling all our normal craft items, cakes, doggie bits, plants and Hook-a-Duck!!

July

SUNDAY 17TH JULY

COMPANION DOG SHOW AND FAMILY FUN DAY!!!

Our biggest fundraiser of the year—with two dog rings, an agility ring, and lots of stalls—a great day our for the whole family please come and support us to make the event a HOWLING SUCCESS!! 30th Scruffs Show at The Sportsman in Mogador. Fun dog show, BBQ and stalls and 50% of the proceeds come to us!!

Augt

6th No Choice No Voice Fun Day at the The Company of Animals in Chertsey. We have a stall there and will be selling our normal range of goodies and also our Hook a Duck!!

27th Flag day in Dorking Volunteers needed to tin rattle please!! 10—2 pm

29th Godstone Fete, The Green, Godstone. A big fete with Donkey Derby etc— a great way to spend a summers day with a glass of Pimms and some penny spending on our stall!!

Sept

11th Banstead Woods Country Day—Banstead Woods, Banstead. This is our last

outdoor stall event and we will be having all our normal items for sale including Theresa's yummy cup cakes!! Please come and see us!!

Oct

1st Flag Day at Bentalls Centre, Kingston. Please come and help us rattle a tin to support our dogs.

22nd Flag Day Epsom. Please come and rattle a tin for us!!

Nov

To be advised—check our website for details!!

Can You Help Fundraise...????

We are desperate for help on the fundraising front, as most of us work full time and trying to juggle this with walking the kennel dogs, home visits, adoptions and answering all enquiries plus our own family life and pets, is a constant struggle!!

There are many ways you can help, some without leaving the house,

www.easyfundraising.org.uk
—for all you online shoppers
this is a great site and we get

a % from all that you spend!!
www.justgiving.co.uk—could
you organise your own
sponsored event, or raise
money for our charity on one
of the bigger organised events
like the Bupa Fun Runs—
create your own page and get
friends and family to sponsor
you—it's easy and it helps our
orphan hounds!

Can you make things?? If so, how about selling them and donating the proceeds to us! Have you got loads of things

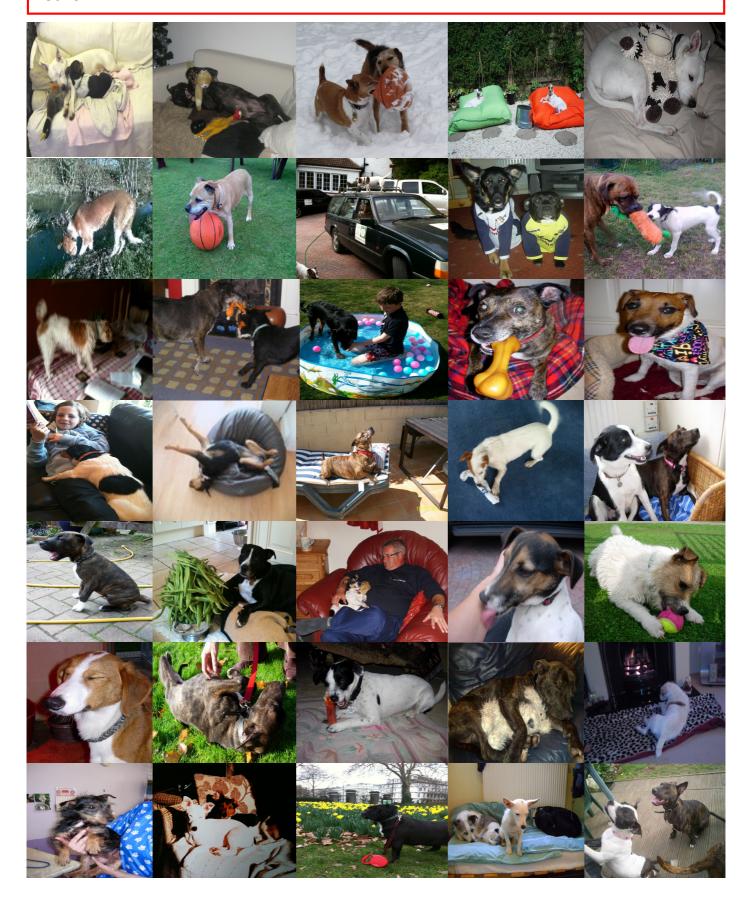
you don't use? How about doing a carboot for us or if they are new items never used—why not sell them on EBAY and donate the proceeds to us?

Kids, how about getting your school involved in a sponsored swim or silence?

Please put your thinking caps on, as we need to raise approx £1500 per month and there is never enough time or hands to get everything done!!

SOME OF OUR RESCUE DOGS UP TO CANINE CAPERS

Sadly, some of these dogs are no longer with us, but their antics remain in our hearts, and others are still looking for new homes and a place in someone's heart......



More Canine Capers.....



FOSTERING—COULD YOU DO IT?

We now hear from two separate foster homes— Theresa and family who have fostered for 6 months, and Audrey a fosterer of 16 years, in their own words:-

Part of the pleasure in helping ECR is the working, meeting and making new friends and for me fostering is so essential to the work we do. Some of the dogs that come our way react badly to life in kennels, but are so different when entering a foster home, where love abounds but so does discipline. A dog needs to respect boundaries. In my position, I am now retired and just so thankful for the love my foster dogs show me daily. At the moment I have Lou a Great Dane X of the famous pair of last year—Thelma and Louise!! Poor Louise ended up having her right front leg removed after it had been squashed as a puppy, at 10 mths she is coping well but finds life tiring and can only do short walks, but she is very loving and enjoys cuddles. I also have Sammy, a young and active dog of 1 year who would love to do agility and is good with children and other animals. Recently, an elderly Labrador came to live with me, he is naughty but very sweet and suffers from separation anxiety but could play all day!! My own dogs consist of an elderly Staffie Cross bitch which came through Nikki at 6 wks old and Billy a Patterdale X terrier also from ECR. Both of my dogs help the new dogs, Billy encouraging them to play and cleaning everyone's ears and Amber laying down the ground rules. Life is never dull but is so rewarding and fulfilling daily: it is hard work and now with back trouble I should stop but I cannot.... Please consider helping by being a fosterer—Audrey Royal.

Taking the plunge......Fostering!

In January this year with Reilly now 8 months old and life becoming a bit more settled we decided to take the plunge and have a go at fostering one of the rescue dogs. So Danny the Whippet came home with me for the day to see how he got on. I had already walked him at the kennels with Reilly a few times and that had gone well, plus Danny was a very laid back kind of dog, so we were hopeful it would all turn out okay. Danny was fantastic - he loves people and has a very placid nature, but with a streak of fun thrown in! He was the perfect houseguest and Reilly was in his element having somebody to play with. Danny was 6 and had been an only dog, so whilst I expected him to tolerate or possibly tell Reilly to back-off a bit, we were pleasantly surprised when (with some persistent persuasion from Reilly) they were soon rolling around with the raggas & balls. I introduced him to my old Dachshunds through the stairgate first. They did their usual "ra ra ra's" we're in charge routine and he just ignored them & wondered off to find something more interesting! This was exactly what I had hoped for, and thought we should definitely give fostering him a go. So the next day, armed with a huge crate, so he could have somewhere quiet to retire to, we brought him home. The Dachshunds gradually quietened down, Bertie just occasionally getting uppity with both Reilly & Danny when they disturbed his peace!! Danny quickly made himself at home on the sofas - availing himself of the nearest lap as soon as anyone sat down. And Reilly couldn't believe his luck. Although he meets a lot of dogs out walking, I think he had missed having one in the house that would play with him. He soon learnt that a quick squeak of a soft toy, or dangling some plastic sausages in Danny's face elicited the desired play response. Soon Danny began to initiate play too, and they like nothing better to roll lazily around on the floor chewing each others gangly legs or chasing each other around. Outside they are hilarious, taking it in turns to chase each other round the garden. They are really fast too, as Reilly has whippet in him as well, leaping the flowerbeds as they go. Danny really is a fabulous boy, and it has been great to get a real insight into his character in a home environment, that we can then pass on to potential adopters. Its difficult to truly assess a dog in

a kennel environment, so hopefully it will help to find him the perfect home. It's hard to think of any negatives to fostering really - which is obviously a credit to Danny's personality! If I had to pick one, it would be that Reilly's training has probably suffered a bit - he finds Danny much more exciting than my efforts to make him sit/stay. But then again who can really blame him!!The hard part will of course be when he leaves - everybody has become very fond of him. He is such a 'people' dog, undemanding but never far away from you. And Reilly will of course miss him dreadfully. Most of all I really hope that we have helped to make his weeks of waiting for a permanent home more comfortable and fun. And that seeing him in a home environment will help him to find the best new home possible. Theresa and the White family.

HOPE SANCTUARY—BARBADOS

Earlier in the year, Paula and I visited Cornelia, Karen and all the dogs—69 in total!! The girls do a great job and it is a constant struggle to educate people into caring for their pets, they showed us pictures of some of the heartbreaking cases of neglect and others of pure torture. Despite what some of these dogs have been through, they are all happy to see you and we got a lovely greeting from them!! If you can help, please check out their website www.thehopesanctuary.com. Karen gives a brief outline below of their work:-

The Hope Sanctuary was started 8 years ago and has grown steadily each year. We now own our premises thanks to a generous donor, and have 4 acres on which to build more kennels.

We have already started this process but need to build about 10 more large kennels.

They are all built of brick to minimise escapes, and are laid out like a back garden with some grass and some concrete.

We believe in housing dogs in packs, as this aids their rehabilitation. We also have a cattery which houses 30 cats and kittens.

We have a mobile operating theatre which travels around the Island neutering dogs.

We have recently lost our funding for this so hope to raise more money in the future for this worthwhile project.

We have a vet who goes in to the community and educates people about animal care and also investigates reports of neglect and cruelty.

Ticks are a big problem here so we always need medication for that.

We do usually manage to re-home a lot of our dogs, but like most shelters, we have animals that no-one seems to want that have been with us for years. We do not put our animals to sleep unless they are too sick to recover or suffering a terminal illness and are in a lot of pain.

We are currently looking for more sponsors so we can move up a level and really start to impact on the lives of dogs in Barbados.



Sometimes our dogs develop bad traits which really need professional help at the onset to curb them and get them back on track, but often these can get brushed under the carpet and what started off as a small problem, soon escalates into an unacceptable situation for both the dog and its owners and visitors. Please for your dog's sake, get a recommended trainer/behaviourist in to sort it out before it is too late.....

Do you need the professionals?

Owning a dog is usually a wonderful experience. We love them as one of the family, and in return they humour us, delight us, comfort and protect us. However, occasionally a dog's behaviour may be undesirable to the owner. Perhaps the dog has not learnt to be clean in the house, or doesn't recall to the owner on request, or growls and barks at visitors or other dogs. Before labelling the dog as 'disobedient' or 'dominant', has the owner truly effectively communicated to the dog, in terms that the dog can understand, what the dog needs to do? Does the owner understand their dog's communication signals and why they are behaving as they are? Too often the answer is 'no' but for some reason they don't seek professional help, or when they finally do, the situation may be un-resolvable. Perhaps this is because the owner has previously owned many different wonderful dogs without any problems, or the few problems that have occurred, they have managed to overcome. They may therefore feel they are experienced dog owners and have done everything possible to resolve the issue. Another possibility is the huge variety of information available about dog behaviour on the internet, in books and from other well-meaning dog owners. Sadly there is so much poor dog training and behaviour information available (often cunningly disguised as credible) that following this advice often makes the situation worse.

If as an owner you have any concerns over your dog's behaviour, the best advice is to seek professional help sooner rather than later. Don't hope an unwanted behaviour will diminish or resolve itself, or keep repeating the things you have already tried and that to date have not worked. This delay in seeking help can mean the difference between life and death for your dog, if for instance, your dog's nervousness towards people isn't addressed properly, and your dog bites someone resulting in euthanasia for the dog.

Dog training and behaviour techniques have progressed immensely over the last 20 years or so and there are many techniques available to improve the dog's behaviour with the right guidance. A dog trainer or behaviourist will be far more likely to help you resolve your dog's unwanted behaviour if your dog has not been practicing the behaviour for long, and has not had the opportunity to repeat the behaviour thus becoming a habit.

Written by Sandra Pearson—Dog Trainer/Behaviourist www.dogsandownersguidanceschool.co.uk

More dog training information can be found at:

www.dogstardaily.com http://www.youtube.com/user/DogsTrust

Kennel Sponsorship

Could you help us by sponsoring a kennel? Each kennel costs us approximately £8.00 per day per dog. So if you would like to help us in this way, please go to our Just Giving charity page and select the Sponsor a Kennel option—it can be a single, monthly or quarterly donation.



There is currently a lot of press and concern about lungworm, so we though it would be useful to include this article and information provided by Bayer (Copyright ©2009 Bayer plc)

What is this lungworm?

The lungworm Angiostrongylus vasorum (also known as French Heartworm) is a parasite that infects dogs. The adult of this particular lungworm lives in the heart and major blood vessels supplying the lungs, where it can cause a host of problems. Left untreated, the infection can often be fatal. The lungworm parasite is carried by slugs and snails. The problem arises when dogs purposefully or accidentally eat these common garden pests when rummaging through undergrowth, eating grass, drinking from puddles or outdoor water bowls, or pick them up from their toys. There are two main problems caused by dogs becoming infected with lungworm: Infection with lungworm can cause serious health problems in dogs, and is often fatal if not diagnosed and treated. Dogs infected with lungworm spread the parasite into the environment, as the larvae of the parasite are expelled in the dog's faeces. This increases the chances of other dogs becoming infected.

What are the signs my dog has lungworm?

Dogs of all ages and breeds can become infected with lungworm. However, younger dogs seem to be more prone to picking up the parasite. Dogs known to eat slugs and snails should also be considered high risk. Lungworm infections can result in a number of different signs which may easily be confused with other illnesses. If your dog is displaying any of the signs below, consult your veterinary surgeon immediately. Breathing problems Coughing Tiring easily Poor blood clotting Excessive bleeding from even minor wounds/cuts Nose bleeds Bleeding into the eye Anaemia (paleness around the eyes gums) General sickness Weight loss Poor appetite Vomiting Diarrhoea Changes in behaviour Depression Tiring easily Seizures (fits) There are some dogs which don't nitially show outward signs of lungworm infection. Your veterinary surgeon can perform tests which may help detect if your dog is infected with the lungworm parasite, if you are concerned.

Prevention and Treatment

It is important to recognise that lungworm is not prevented or treated by the conventional use of worming tablets when given every three months, or even every month. Thankfully, treatment of lungworm infection in dogs is widely available and easy to administer. Once diagnosed and treated, most dogs make a full recovery. The key to successful treatment is taking action early. If you are concerned your dog has picked up, or is at risk from, picking up a lungworm infection, speak to your veterinary surgeon without delay. Prevention and Treatment of Angiostrongylus vasorum Your vet can prescribe a specific spot-on solution to treat this parasite, which is applied to the back of the neck. Applied monthly this product can also prevent the establishment of infection with Angiostrongylus vasorum. Speak to your veterinary surgeon for further advice.

What else can I do?

- Your veterinary surgeon can recommend a parasite control programme that takes into account the risk of your dog becoming infected with lungworm.
- If your dog eats slugs or snails, but is not showing any symptoms, arrange a check up with your veterinary surgeon as a precaution.
- If your dog has had lungworm your vet may recommend regular check ups to allow early detection if your dog becomes re infected.
- If you own a number of dogs and one becomes infected, make your veterinary surgeon aware as he or she may want to examine other dogs which share its environment.

In line with preventing worm infestations in your pets and family (the lungworm Angiostrongylus vasorum does not infect humans), keep your garden and surrounding areas as free as possible from dog mess.

UPDATE ON OUR LOU....

Most of you will remember us taking in two large crossbreed pups that had been abandoned—we called the two girls, Thelma and Louise!! It was evident when she first arrived that little Lou had suffered an injury to her right front leg which was so severe that it has stunted the bone growth. As she grew, the leg remained the same size and her posture was badly affected as the limb was causing a lot of pain and she used to sit and watch the other dogs playing but was unable to participate—heartbreaking for such a young dog. After much soul searching and veterinary advice, it was decided that the



limb was more a hindrance and it would be better to remove it totally. Martin Nel at Bridge Vets once again stepped in and undertook to do the operation for little more than cost. Brave Lou was the perfect patient and is pictured here 72 hours after the op in her t-shirt!! Amazingly our little tripod was mobile within days and although it has taken a while for her to build up enough muscles on the remaining limbs, she now plays happily as you can see from the below picture!!! Her foster home that nursed her through all of this became so attached that she is now one of the resident dogs!!!!

Miles better With a Rescue Dog! By Malinda Griffin (owner of 2 rescue dogs)

It is not true that buying a puppy from a breeder guarantees trouble-free dog ownership – rescue dogs have many advantages over pups, the most important being that they are very responsive to love and care. You will have a friend for life.

It might sound obvious but dogs looking for a 'Forever' home come in all shapes, sizes and ages, so as a first step choose a dog whose temperament, breed, size, age and needs suits you and your home best. Read a bit about breed characteristics, or discuss your previous dog owning experience (if any) and current situation with your local Dog Re-homing charity so they can match you with the right dog.

Nothing is sadder than to realise that your relationship with the dog you brought home is not working out. It **does** take time to build a loving bond so make sure you give yourself the best possible chance of succeeding.

A vital second step is preparation and timing: any dog you bring home will need lots of time and patience and guidance to be able to settle down and become a trusting and trusted companion.

Follow these 6 easy steps for a lasting friendship:
Make sure you have a bed ready for your new
dog in a quiet place where he'll feel safe.
Bring your dog home to a quiet house so he
can explore in peace. Introduce other
members of the family calmly, discourage
visitors for a few days at least, keep

stimulation and petting to a minimum while the dog learns your habits and what behaviour is expected of him.

Make you are clear about rules: like training your dog that jumping onto furniture is by invitation only. Set your ground rules early so everyone in the family can keep the dog from making mistakes (e.g. no titbits from plates, no rough playing, no nipping).

Don't take the dog outside your front gate until he seems comfortable and un-stressed, and have on-leads walks only until you are confident that the dog will come back when called and is not unpredictable or timid interacting with other dogs.

Have toys ready and play with your dog. Then he's more likely to find these when he wants something to chew!

Get your dog used to you going out gradually.

Start by going out for just 2 minutes, and ignore him as you leave and when you come back so he learns being alone may be boring, but not stressful.

If you want to re-name your dog give him time to learn what this new sound means. This is a good time to build basic recall skills with treats and praise. Try Hide & Seek games so coming back to you is fun and rewarding.

Our deaf Dotty!!!!



After we lost our beloved girl we did struggle to think to have another dog in our life. But as I work with dogs and study them as well I knew I would rescue a dog. I wanted to rescue an old dog as it's not fair that people get rid of them just for their age and vet bills. When searching I couldn't find a suitable old dog, they were all too big and too far away. Because we are renting at the moment I couldn't rescue a big dog. Our land lady is lovely and owns dog as well, so she was fine with the idea we adopt another dog. When looking on the site for old dogs there were links to dogs hard to re-home, like three legged dogs, deaf or blind dogs. And there she was a deaf staffie cross from Epsom Canine Rescue. We were not sure about staffie cross but I knew I want to help a dog which has got a very small chance to find a home. When we first met Dottie she was full of beans, I couldn't imagine that this girl will ever be calm and will respond to dog training. After visiting her many times we decided to foster her first. I needed to be sure she will be OK with other dogs, as a dog walker she will meet a lot of dogs and need to be fine with them. But after just two weeks we new we would keep her. It took a little time and a lot of walks before she got the message how to behave. Now she is very gentle and loving dog but if there is a chance of a little crazy rough game she loves that as well. The best she loves running and chasing game. In the dog training she is doing very well. At the moment she is on the lead most of walks. I just let her off when the other dog owner is fine with that and only if she will play nicely, most of time she does!! Now we have got a big challenge in front of us. I am about to train her with a vibrating collar and hope she will learn fast. It would be nice to let her off the lead and not worry about her running away. It's surprising after all she went through she still loves human company and human touch. She is very special girl and we cannot imagine to be without her. She wants to please you all the time and is very good in watching you. Dotty has now passed her Bronze Good Citizenship award!!! Lenka and Chris her proud owners.

Alex and Ella's Funnies

Dog Rules:

- 1. The dog is not allowed in the house.
- 2. Okay, the dog is allowed in the house, but only in certain rooms.
- 3. The dog is allowed in all rooms, but has to stay off the furniture.
- 4. The dog can get on the old furniture only.
- 5. Fine, the dog is allowed on all the furniture, but is not allowed to sleep with the humans on the bed.
- 6. Okay, the dog is allowed on the bed, but only by invitation.
- 7. The dog can sleep on the bed whenever he wants, but not under the covers.
- 8. The dog can sleep under the covers by invitation only.
- 9. The dog can sleep under the covers every night.
- 10. Humans must ask permission to sleep under the covers with the dog:)

Any old dog and bone



DASHMOUNT ARE WORKING ALONG SIDE EPSOM CANINE RESCUE (CHARITY NO 1053092) TO HELP DOGS IN NEED BY RECYCLING OLD MOBILE PHONES. DONATE YOUR OLD PHONE TO A WORTHY CAUSE AND HELP THE ENVIRONMENT AT THE SAME TIME. IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW OLD YOUR PHONE IS, IF IT WORKS, ALL PHONES CAN BE RECYCLED, SO ENCOURAGE FRIENDS, RELATIVES AND COLLEAGUES TO DO THE SAME.

To donate your old phone please post it in a well sealed package to:

ECR APPEAL, Connoisseur Products Limited, Unit 1 Friesian Building, Brewerstreet Dairy Bus Park, Brewer Street, Bletchingley, Surrey, RH1 4QP

Can you be a Golden Retriever??!!

Have you got any broken gold jewellery in a box or drawer somewhere? It can be earrings, chains, rings, cufflinks, anything that can be melted down, no matter what carat or colour. This can be turned into a pot of gold for the rescue and help us pay our ongoing bills. Please contact Nikki if you have anything on nikki@epsomcaninerescue.co.uk



Lily's Story

By Auntie Paula



At the end of April 2010 we had a call – don't suppose you know a rescue that would take in a pregnant terrier x?? She is being kept in a shed and looks thin...... Phone calls were made and on May Bank Holiday the transport run brought Lily from "up North" to us and to her new temporary home with Alyson & Morris.

She was thin and hungry and we weren't sure how long it would be until she produced her puppies, we didn't know how many would come or even if they would be alive. We didn't know what breed the puppies dad was either so we weren't sure of the size the puppies were likely to be. Lily very quickly melted everyone's hearts. Her temperament was amazing, she loved her cuddles and her tummy grew and grew.

CCTV was fitted to Lily's whelping room with the monitor with Alyson so she could watch her over night. She was given good food and checked by the vet and we all waited......

Two weeks after arriving Lily gave birth to 8 beautiful babies – 7 boys and 1 girl – helped all the way by Auntie Alyson and Uncle Morris.

Through Lily's rescue lots of new friends have been made. All Lily's babies are now settled in their new homes – the first to leave was Lily herself who was reserved before any of the littleuns. She now lives in doggy paradise with Jan and Norman where she is treated like royalty. From hell-hole to paradise in 10 weeks – lucky Lily is one special girl.

All this was made possible by the kind people involved in fundraising for Lily & her babies – help us carry on so we can be there when the next sorry story comes our way...



EPSOM CANINE RESCUE

Charity No 1053092

Epsom Canine Rescue formed in 1995 to offer a lifeline to local unwanted/neglected dogs. Our principle role is the rescue and re-homing of unwanted and stray canines, and undertaking any necessary veterinary treatment. As one volunteer said WE RESCUE THEM, WE CARE FOR THEM, WE LOVE THEM AND THEN WE FIND THEM A FOREVER HOME. All dogs are neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped before they go to their new homes. All activities are carried out by a handful of dedicated volunteers and financed by self generated funds. Last year was our 15th anniversary, and proudly we have helped over 600 dogs!!!

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www.epsomcaninerescue.co.uk
http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=431979330076
www.justgiving.com/epsomcaninerescue

FROM THIS
(pregnant and unwanted)

TO THIS (wanted and loved)

