



March 2020 Newsletter

About & Volunteering with Us

Dogs2fosteruk is managed by Jo Brewer who founded Dogs2FosterUK in 2018 to help dogs in need. The organisation was supported by football legend and dog lover Harry Redknapp who made a special video to encourage people to foster dogs in need when it started, they remain in regular contact. Please see video at www.dogs2fosteruk.org.

Jo is supported by a small team of dedicated volunteers and foster carers who look after dogs in their own homes until a permanent home can be found. The dogs receive care, kindness and training until they are adopted.

Jo runs the organisation from her home in Marchwood. Everyone is a volunteer at the organisation. Jo founded and funded the organisation during its first year with a significant amount of her own personal funds as part of her life-long commitment to animals in need, it is the intention of the organisation to open an animal sanctuary here in the beautiful New Forest one day.

To help finance dogs2fosteruk and the sanctuary project, Jo had secured premises to open a second-hand shop in Marchwood following the support of the local community with her "Don't Dump It, Donate It" scheme whereby local people donated things they were going to dump at the HWRC that were in good condition. The scheme's intention was to provide a steady source of income to raise much needed funds for dogs in need and fund foster placements whilst helping the environment too. Due to the Coronavirus, the schemes initial success and move to premises has now been curtailed. This has been devastating financially and the future of the organisation remains uncertain at present due to fundraising being suspended.

In 2019, 23 dogs found wonderful homes through Dogs2FosterUK. The organisation also offers advice and a voluntary dog walking service for owners who cannot exercise their dogs due to illness, hospitalisation etc. Where possible, Dogs2fosteruk try to keep owners and their beloved dogs together with advice, support and practical help including help for the homeless.

Dogs2fosteruk also works with an English dog rescue in Southern Spain who Jo adopted two dogs herself from and has fostered countless others all of which have found wonderful homes locally with their delighted owners. This is Dogs2fosterUK, we thank you for your much needed support!

Coronavirus Update

Due to the effect of Covid-19, the organisation has been overwhelmed in recent weeks by concerned dog owners and offers of practical help from volunteers in the local community. The amount of people who have volunteered has been incredible and very much appreciated! However, returning everyone's communications has been somewhat of a challenge so the fastest way to keep owners and volunteers informed is by newsletter which will be sent out more regularly than usual.

The organisation is also conscious of other pets that may need help and so have extended their help to all pets in the local area whose owners have severe symptoms of COVID-19 or who need to be admitted to hospital for treatment. There is an owner's form on the Coronavirus Help Page at www.dogs2fosteruk.org for any concerned pet owner to download and complete.

Dog Walking Volunteers

Many of our volunteers have kindly offered to help walk dogs, but due to the "lock down" this is no longer permissible.

Therefore, for owners who are seriously unwell or in hospital, we are offering to care for pets in local foster homes until owners are fit and able to care for their pets themselves. This also reduces the likelihood of cross-contamination which is far safer to manage. The organisation has robust safety procedures in place to manage this so that any risk of cross-contamination to volunteers is absolutely minimal. We can also offer pet food drop-offs to people's door if they are self-isolating and in the vulnerable category i.e. over 70 years of age, pregnant etc.

The organisation has composed a register of volunteers willing to help or foster animals in need, these have been organised into specific areas as follows: Waterside, Marchwood, Totton, Romsey and Southampton

The organisation also anticipates a significant increase in pets being abandoned or given up due to financial hardship, in essence, this will be the biggest challenge over the coming months as most shelters and rescues are already full

Can you can help

Please make neighbours, people in our community aware of our help should they need it now or over the coming months, particularly older people who may not have internet access. Share on social media to ensure people know help is at hand for their beloved pet(s) if necessary, this will prevent pets going into shelters in an emergency!

For all the volunteers that have kindly offered to foster, we will be contacting you individually as soon as the "lock down" has been lifted so that we can complete a home safety check so please bear with us until this time. For insurance purposes we have to complete these for every foster home. If "lock down" continues indefinitely we will use video home checking instead.

Any requests of help from owners that we presently cannot manage will be circulated to the relevant volunteers in your area, if you receive one of these notifications from us please respond asap if you can help.

All equipment and food will be supplied for the duration of the foster care you are providing.

There are only very limited spaces in shelters and rescues so fostering domestic pets will help save many from an uncertain future. We can really make a difference together.

It may be weeks or even months before this affects domestic pets due to owners experiencing financial hardship, illness or even death, none of us know how this will resolve its self at present, but to know we can ask for your help is of great reassurance.

If you are considering owning a pet, please consider adopting a rescue pet in the future , over the coming months MANY pets will be abandoned and their future uncertain through no fault of their own.

If you can make a donation, we are in desperate need of financial help, whatever you can afford whether it is £2 (less than a Costa Coffee...remember those days!) or more, it all helps! Please go to our "Help Us" page at www.dogs2fosteruk.org to give your support if your able.

Fundraising and Future Working

If you would like to put forward any ideas to help the organisation whether this be fundraising on social media or using your skills in computer literacy and/or marketing to help us perform more efficiently, any ideas to help us would be amazing. It is clear that we need to rethink the way we do things if we are to have a future, so suggestions are very much appreciated always! Just ping us an email at dogs2fosteruk@gmail.com and Jo will get in touch!

Adopting a dog

Finally, if you are considering adopting a dog in the future, please look at the dogs we have at the moment. We cannot say when they will be available for introductions at this point but we can provide videos of them for anyone who wants to adopt.

Thank you again for your tremendous support. We hope that many of you will become long-term friends of Dogs2FosterUK.

Dogs2FosterUK x

The Boys and Girls We Rehomed!









These marvellous boys and girls have overcome fear, abuse, starvation, incarceration, neglect and abandonment to find their "Forever Homes" so we hope this inspires you to help more of them in whatever way you can.



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