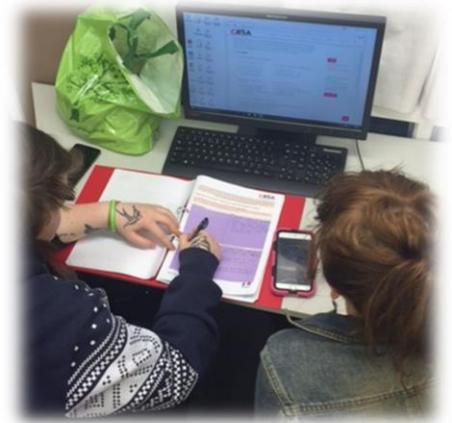


Welcome to our  
Newsletter  
April 2016



## Training dogs and people

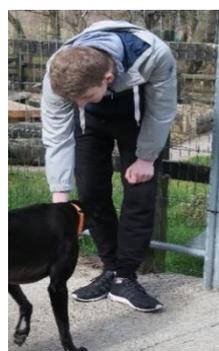
Best Friends participants recently visited our partners, Greyhound Rescue Wales at the Hillcrest Sanctuary in Garnant.



The visit to Hillcrest was to complete the young people's training and allow them to get hands on experience with the dogs. They got the chance to put their animal care theory into practice, approaching as well as handling the greyhounds and learning to recognise signs of stress in the animals. These skills which will be crucial for the future care home visits.

Our young participants helped the newly rescued Mick and Trinity adjust to sanctuary life, using their newly learned skills to read the dogs. The Best Friends team would especially like to thank Sandra, Kerry and the team at Hillcrest for their help, advice and patience with the young participants and staff.

The day was a huge success, enjoyed by both the enthusiastic young people and staff. However, it was Trinity and Mick who were the real stars of the day, as they lapped up both the attention and doggie treats handed out by our young people!



Contact us!

Flick: 07772 379416

Sian: 07496 793651

Geoff: 07496 793647



## Best Friends home visits are a success

The Best Friends visiting scheme is well underway, and our visits to local care homes have been incredibly positive. The team would especially like to thank our volunteer Janice Jones, who arranged our visit to the Clos Llanfihangel old age complex in Carmarthenshire.



We recently visited Swn y Gan residential care home in Penclawdd, and Alfie, one of our young people took his own dog on her first visit. This was a major step forward for Alfie, who battles with crippling shyness and would not even speak when he first started the project.



Chantelle is one of our young volunteers, and from being incredibly shy and nervous, came out of her shell during the visits, chatting non-stop to the care home residents. Chantelle said: “I love the care homes and all the old people, and can’t wait to go again!”



The residents at the homes adored both the dogs and the young people, and enjoyed themselves so much that they have asked the team to return and want to continue being a part of the ongoing project.

These are fantastic results for the team, and what Best Friends is all about – breaking down barriers and building bonds.

The Best Friends team are now in the process of contacting residential care and nursing homes, community and day centres, or any groups that support older residents who would like visits from the Pet Visiting Scheme. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please contact Felicity on 07779 379416 or Sian on 07496 793651



## MUGZ & MUTZ



**Bring your dog to our Coffee Morning & Friends and Pets Visiting Assessment**

**Wednesday 27th April at 10:30am**

CBSA, Stebonheath Terrace, Llanelli, SA15 1NE

- Meet young people on the project
- Learn more about our progress
- Meet our staff and volunteers
  - Share any ideas
- Bring your pet to be professionally assessed and become a fully-fledged Best Friend

**Call 01554 779910 or text 07772 379416 for more information and to confirm your place**



### Volunteers make the Best Friends Project work.

Without the many hours of time donated by our wonderful team we would not be able to offer the high level of support and training to our young people that we are known for at the CBSA.

From the team at Greyhound Rescue Wales, to our wonderful individual volunteers– each and every one of our volunteers plays a vital part in the project. Just an hour a month makes a huge difference to us.

**If you know anyone who would like to join the team as a volunteer, please ask them to contact Project Manager Flick, Project Officers Sian or Geoff, or administrator Helen on 01554 779910. We would love to hear from you!**