



## BULLETIN 94 – January 2019

Dear Members and Friends,

Happy New Year!

Our 2018 Awards Lunch took place on Sunday 25th November at the very welcoming and dog friendly Marriott Hotel in Edinburgh. In addition to the awards, we were celebrating CCST's 30th anniversary. It was in 1988 when Marjorie Henley Price, along with four other Trustees, established the Trust, and with a small band of dedicated volunteers started the Therapet Service and the educational programme on responsible dog ownership.



A special cake for the occasion was baked by Mick Stead and was cut by our Patron Rosemary Long, watched over by yours truly. At the start of the lunch Chairman of Trustees Allan Sim welcomed everyone, gave an update on the work of the Trust, and outlined future developments, some of which are summarised later in this Bulletin.

The **SPENCER AWARD for THERAPET OF THE YEAR** was donated by **Tom and Dorothy Wilkins**, whose Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, **SPENCER**, was the very first dog to be registered in the Therapet service, way back in 1988. As always, the voting was very close but, the award for 2018 was won by **CORRIB**, a

Golden Retriever, owned and nominated by **Catherine Kenny** of Johnstone in Renfrewshire, who are pictured with Rosemary Long and Mark Oszczypala of Burns Pet Nutrition Ltd who kindly donated bags of food for all the award winners and goody bags for everyone to take home. In her nomination Catherine wrote:

“Corrib and I enjoy the experiences we have operating for the Therapet Service for Canine Concern Scotland Trust in various roles. We spend wone morning every fortnight in Ward 36 (older adult acute mental health) at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley spending time with patients who have dementia.



### Trustees:

I Allan Sim BSc CA (Chairman) George Leslie BVMS, James Macdonald,  
Dr Valerie J Marrian MBChB FRCP FRCPE DCH, A Douglas Ruthven BEM FRSC,  
Lynsey G Thomson BSc(Hons) OT, Diane Wood Dip RMS, Simon W Young BA(Hons) MBA  
**CEO/Secretary/Treasurer:** Nicholas P Henley Price

“We also visit Dykebar Hospital in Paisley, again for a morning, this is a non-acute older mental health ward with occasional visits to the young adult mental health ward as required. We spend some time every fortnight with a non-verbal adult with learning difficulties from the Richmond Fellowship.



“Every week during term time we spend a morning with children involved with the Reading With Dogs programme at Arkleston Primary School in Renfrew. We participate when required in the Paws Against Stress events at various universities. There are varied demands placed on Corrib in these roles but he copes very well and adapts to the demand with both the younger and older clients. At home he is a playful dog who enjoys long walks, swimming and a good game of tug!! He is a strong dog but when he puts on his Therapet jacket it is as if he knows that he has to be calm, gentle and responsible.

“Corrib and I have had many memorable experiences from these various roles. The role we play is always very rewarding and our experiences always leave me uplifted. As he is still a young dog Corrib’s reward is a good long walk at the end of sessions with a good swim! Various patients have formed strong attachments to Corrib – one discharged patient was so attached that I felt we should visit him in his nursing home. The primary school has claimed him as an “Arkie” dog and has invited him to Christmas and end of term shows, which he thoroughly enjoys as he is treated like a VIP guest! Corrib was invited to attend the Volunteer Thank You party at the RAH recently celebrating 70 years of the NHS and 80 years of the RVS volunteers. Some of the Arkleston pupils have now left but have enjoyed Corrib’s visits so much that they have requested that he continues working with them in high school.”

***Nominations forms with glowing commendations were received from Ward 36 Royal Alexandra Hospital, Richmond Fellowship, Dykebar Hospital and Arkleston Primary School.***

**The Runner-up for Therapet of the Year was Noodle, a Beagle, owned and nominated by Amy McKenzie, also of Aberdeen.** In her submission Amy wrote:

“I am so incredibly proud of the wonderful work Noodle has done over the last year.. Not only is she visiting a care home fortnightly and primary and academy weekly, but she also does a lot of work with the Paws Against Stress Scheme. Noodle visits Pitmedden Primary School, Auchtercrag Care Home, Inverurie Academy, Scotland’s Rural College, Robert Gordon University, Causeway View and Shared Lives.”

**Letters of commendation from Pitmedden School, Auchtercrag Care Home, and Inverurie accompanied the Noodle’s nomination.**

**The Second Runner-up for Therapet of the Year was Bruno**, a German Shepherd Dog, owned and nominated by **Fiona and Peter Watts** of Aberdeen. In his submission Peter wrote: "I am putting Bruno forward for the Spencer Award because of great good nature, ability to quickly switch from play to calm and general unflappability, backed by a busy visitation schedule, and that he has covered virtually all the types of work done by Therapets."

In the last year Bruno has:

- Attended 55 Reading With Dogs sessions covering 8 schools
- Attended 6 schools for Talks & Presentations
- Made 28 Therapet visits
- On 28 occasions assisted in phobia treatment

The following Therapets were also nominated for the Therapet of the Year Award and all have received a certificate of nomination.

**Carrie**, an Old English Sheepdog, owned by Christine Fairgrieve of Lanarkshire

**Coco**, a Curly Coated Retriever, owned by Barbara Cooney of Fife

**Dylan**, a Labradoodle, owned by Finlay McDonald of Angus

**Fudge**, a Labrador Retriever, owned by David Brown of Argyll

**Jamie**, a Whippet, owned by Jeanette Kean and Shadow, owned by and Bryan Robertson, both of Stirlingshire

**Maggi**, a Coton de Tulear, owned by Lise Tole of Edinburgh

**Max**, a West Highland White Terrier, owned by Avril Abbott of Angus

**Pepper**, a Working Cocker Spaniel, owned by Allison Aspinall of Edinburgh

**Robbie**, a Border Collie, owned by Marylin Killen of Ayrshire

## THERAPET ORGANISER OF THE YEAR

The winner this year was one of our Area Representatives for Aberdeen **Fiona Watts** who is shown here receiving her award from Patron Rosemary Long.



Fiona became a Therapet volunteer in 2014 and towards the end of 2016 agreed to join Linda Macdonald and Diane Wood as an additional Area Representative. Under Linda's guidance Fiona quickly became very effective in her new role and when Linda retired at the end of 2017 Fiona took on considerably more responsibility. In 2018 she has made significant progress with the organisation of all aspects of the Therapet service - core visiting, PAWS Against Stress and Reading with Dogs. The number of volunteers in her area continues to increase so that more and more people are benefiting.

Very importantly Fiona keeps the office fully informed about the work she is doing.

Co Area Representative for Aberdeen and Trustee Diane Wood said:

“Linda and I had been working as a team for the last couple of years, Fiona took over from Linda McDonald a year ago and since then we work very closely together on all aspects of looking after Aberdeen city and Aberdeenshire. Fiona is always out either assessing dogs, checking placements, going along with new volunteers to placements and volunteering at the many places she goes to herself. She is a force to be reckoned with in the most lovely way. And, she is super organised. Bruno, Peter and Fiona are a great team. Fiona will be the supervisor on some PAWS sessions while Peter and Bruno will either be there volunteering or in reserve to step in at a moment’s notice in case someone drops out. Teamwork! She so deserves this award for all her hard work and dedication to CCST and as a relatively new area rep she is amazing – taking over all the placements in ARI and coordinating with the team there to try and get the wards the dogs they ask for. Well done Fiona – you are a ROCK!”

We greatly appreciate everything that Fiona has done and is doing, and she is a very worthy winner of the **Therapet Organiser of the Year Award 2018**.

## IAIN WHYTE MEMORIAL AWARD

This award is made to a person or organisation whose work has been of special benefit to the Trust over the past year or over a period of years. Over the years some very special people and organisations have been given the award. This year the award went to someone who has given long and dedicated service to the Trust.



This year the award went to someone who has given long and dedicated service to the Trust as Therapet volunteer, Area Representative for Dundee & Angus and a Trustee – **Norma Murray**.

Norma became a Therapet Volunteer in 1998 with her beloved **Simba** who was a rescued Llasa Apso. In 2000 she became our Area Representative for Tayside, which included Perthshire as well as Dundee & Angus which is the area she now looks after. Norma has worked tirelessly over the last 18 years looking after her team of Therapet volunteers.

In most years she invited her volunteers, and their Therapets, to her home in Friockheim for a garden party – a great way for the volunteers to get to know each other. As well as the regular work of carrying out assessments of potential Therapets, and of arranging for them and their owners to visit, Norma was frequently giving talks to interested and diverse groups about responsible dog ownership and the benefits of the Therapet Service. In 2016 Norma was invited to join the Board of Trustees.

Sadly for all of us Norma has decided to retire. In fact she retired from the Board at the end of August and will retire as Area Representative at the end of December. It was very appropriate therefore to present her with the Iain Whyte Memorial Award as an expression of sincere thanks for all that she has contributed to Canine Concern Scotland Trust and the Therapet Service.

## 20 YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

A few years ago the Trustees introduced 20 year service awards for members who had given 20 or more years of active participation in the Trust's work. In 2018 three members qualified

**Margaret McVitie** Therapet volunteer from the Borders, **Norma Murray** and **Douglas Ruthven**, Trustee and retired Area Representative for Edinburgh and The Lothians.



From the left: Chairman Allan Sim, Marion Livingstone on behalf of Margaret McVitie, Rosemary Long, Norma Murray and Douglas Ruthven.

## SPECIAL AWARD

Occasionally the Trustees decide to make a special award in addition to the normal awards. This year they decided to honour a lady who has just retired from her role as Area Representative for West Dunbartonshire.



**Susan Ross** joined as a Therapet volunteer in 1989 with her Border Collies Glen, Spot and Meg who were joint Therapet of the Year in 2000. Susan became Area Representative and, also served on the Committee of Management for many years. She was an extremely hard worker at the very successful Companion Dog Shows that we used to organise in Queens Park, Glasgow every year.

We are sorry to lose Susan as an Area Representative and thank her for all her endeavours in that role, but we are delighted that she will continue to be a very active Therapet volunteer with Border Collie Jess.



The **Ki-Chu-Asha Stars of Hope Memorial Trophy**, which was donated by Jean Llamo, is for the organiser whose sponsored walk raised the most money. This year it was won again by our Area Representative for Badenoch & Strathspey, **Margaret Ewing**.

The **Miss Matty Award** is for the top individual fund raiser at sponsored events. This was won by Gaby Beresford who participated in Margaret's walk.

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership subscriptions for **2019** are now due and I attach a renewal form. We do hope that you will continue your membership, and, of course, it is very important from the insurance point of view that Therapet Volunteers keep their membership up to date. For new members who joined after 1 October 2018 the subscription you paid covers you until 31 December 2019. The form contains a **Gift Aid Declaration**. If you are a tax-payer and are willing to make use of the Gift Aid system, in respect of your membership and/or donation, please read the declaration carefully. If you are certain that you qualify please do sign the declaration as the Trust can then recover valuable tax from HM Revenue & Customs. Please complete the form and send it to the office along with a cheque made payable to Canine Concern Scotland Trust.

You will see from the form that it is possible to make payment directly to the Trust's bank account. If you decide to use this method, please ensure that you instruct your bank to give your **surname and initial** as a reference. Additionally, if you make direct payment please remember to send us the completed renewal form if you want Gift Aid to apply.

## RAW MEAT BASED DIETS

In the April 2018 Bulletin I advised members that the Trustees, after careful consideration, had decided on a new policy to the effect that with from 1st January 2019 Therapets should not be fed on raw meat based diets. This is in accordance with the protocol issued earlier in 2018 by the Royal College of Nursing "**Working with Dogs in Health Care Settings**" to support organisations considering working with dogs in health care settings and allied health environments. Needless to say the Trustees very much regret losing some Therapets because of this policy, and send their thanks to the volunteer owners, whose Therapets are affected, for their participation in the Therapet Service.

A copy of the current version of the Therapet Health protocol is included on the back of this bulletin.

## IN MEMORIAM

Sadly we have been informed that the following Therapets have died:

**AMBER** – Inez & James Wood’s Shetland Sheepdog

**BOWIE** – Yvonne Davies’ Collie/Greyhound Cross

**HARRY** – Sandra Conner’s Beagle

**KERRI** - Isabel Atkinson’s Shih Tzu

**MATILDA** – Maggie Gray’s Border Terrier

**MIA** – Liz Dobon’s Bernese Mountain Dog

**PEGGY** – Niall Campbell’s Jack Russell

**POPPY** – Liz O’Brien’s Working Cocker Spaniel

**STARAV** – Isabel Meadows’ Golden Labrador

**TWEED** – Margaret Addie’s Border Collie

**WHILLAN** – Kay & Josh Harman’s Working Cocker Spaniel

We send our sympathies to you all, along with our sincere thanks for sharing your pets with so many people by your participation in the Therapet Service. If I have not mentioned any Therapets that have died recently please let the office know.

Whilst he was too lively to be a registered as a Therapet I must mention that my Boxer **ZAK** died in September. The last in a long line of Boxers! It all started in 1956 when my Father and Mother brought home a Boxer puppy called **PUNCH** from Dymchurch in Kent. Moving on a few years Marjorie and I agreed (or rather I insisted!) that when she was able to stop work we would have a dog and that it would have to be a Boxer dog puppy, red to replicate Punch.



Marjorie had never had a dog in her life before! Well, in 1970 a six month old brindle bitch called **HOLLY** came into our lives from Loch Lomondside. Little did we realise what would materialise in the coming years. It is all recounted in Marjorie’s book “Sprigs of Holly” but to summarise, without Holly, and what she meant to Marjorie, Canine Concern Scotland Trust would not have come into existence.

To cut a long story short, our last Boxer Zak came to live with us in Machrihanish in December 2006 and in the last years of her life he was Marjorie’s true Therapet and companion.

## AREA REPRESENTATIVES

We are delighted to welcome recently retired vet **Stewart Donald** as our Representative for Inverness and Nairn. In addition to his immediate area, Stewart has willingly agreed to cover East Sutherland and to look after Lochaber and Skye in the west.

In Dundee & Angus following the retirement of Norma Murray, after many years of service, I am pleased to report that **Margaret Pengelly and Kerry Roberts** have become joint Representatives for the area.

We are also delighted that in Aberdeen, Diane Wood and Fiona Watts are being joined by **Carole Ledingham**. Apart from being an enthusiastic Therapet volunteer, Carole brings with her bags of relevant experience gained in the NHS from which she recently retired.

In Edinburgh & The Lothians we welcome two new Representatives, **Janet Jones and Sarah Bond**. Janet is to take over part of Derek Muir's very busy area by taking on Edinburgh North East and Derek is continuing to serve Edinburgh North West. **Sarah Bond** is becoming responsible for Edinburgh South, succeeding Cynthia Jeffries, who is moving from the area she covers. Cynthia has done a great job in Edinburgh South and Midlothian and fortunately we will not be losing her completely as we hope that when she is settled in her new home she will assist Simon Young in East Lothian. Hopefully by the time you read this a Representative for Midlothian will be in place. Finally, Barry Williamson in Edinburgh West is extending the area he covers by taking more of Edinburgh South West. When everything has settled down, we will be writing to all members in Edinburgh & The Lothians to clarify which Representative is responsible for them.

## DEVELOPMENTS

During 2018 the Trustees have been carrying out a review of the Trust and how it operates. Whilst the review remains ongoing I can advise you of the following developments:

1. In the office, Carole Dryburgh will be moving to full-time employment with effect from 1 January 2019. This change will have two major beneficial effects:
  - a) It will increase our administration capacity
  - b) It will mean that the office will be "open" for more hours each day. The telephone will be "on" between the hours of 10.00am and 4.00pm except when Carole is on annual leave when we will revert to 10.00am to 1.00pm.
2. We intend to recruit a new full-time employee with the title of Support & Development Officer. The role will include more support, where it is required, for our Area Representatives than has been possible hitherto. The new employee will work closely with James Macdonald in his capacity of Chair of the Therapet Committee, and with me in respect of my CEO role.  
You will see that I have set out below more detailed information about the post. **If you, a member of your family or a friend would like to apply please let me know.**
3. We are about to embark on a major revamp of our IT arrangements. This will involve the replacement of the existing Microsoft Access database with a new cloud based management system which can be developed to meet Trust's administrative needs much more efficiently, thus improving the communications and service that we give to our members and volunteers
4. We are going ahead with a remake of our educational Children and Dogs video. It will be made by a media company in Aberdeen.

## Job Vacancy: Support and Development Officer

The core work of this post will be support and assistance to Area Representatives managing the Therapet Service of **Canine Concern Trust Scotland**. Key aspects of this work will be organisation and management, and liaison between volunteers, Area Representatives, the Board of Trustees, the C.E.O., and client organisations. This will include garnering suggestions for development and improving the service, and helping to implement changes as needed. Specific help is required with management and administration of the PAWS (Paws Against Stress) and Reading with Dogs programmes. The work also includes general PR work, compiling a short Bulletin for members three times a year, giving occasional talks to interested groups, and involvement in other promotional work. A full job description can be provided on request. The post is full-time for a period of two years which will include an initial probationary period six months. However, there is also potential for rapid promotion to a senior position for a successful and effective

## THERAPET NEWS

During 2018 another record number of new Therapets were registered. At the time of writing in mid December the total exceeded 250. A big welcome to them all and to their owners! We hope that you are enjoying participating in the Therapet Service and that you will keep in touch with your Area Representatives and with Lesley, Norma and Carole in the office. They are all there to give whatever assistance and advice you need.

## READING WITH DOGS & PAWS AGAINST STRESS PROGRAMMES

The demand for these programmes continues to grow and your Area Representatives will be very pleased to hear from you if you would like to consider participating in either or both.

Our **Reading With Dogs** programme is expanding all the time. The aim of this project is to try to encourage young readers who lack confidence with reading to come along to a library/school and, instead of reading to a person, read to a dog. The idea being that the dog will listen to them and not judge, allowing them to relax and gain confidence in reading out-loud. Our leaflet sets out the aims of the initiative, and the important guidelines for organising sessions. Of particular importance is the section dealing with those who must be present at sessions. If you would like copies of the leaflet please let the office know.



We point out when new Therapets are registered that they must have been visiting adults regularly for a year before they can be considered for visiting with children. A new assessment as regards their suitability must be carried out. Additionally we have to ensure that Members' PVG registrations include work with children for CCST.

To meet demand we do need more Therapets to be available in all areas of Scotland. If you are interested in participating in the programme with your Therapet please get in touch with your Area Representative or the office. Please bear in mind that there is an increased level of commitment in that typically a series of six sessions will be held at a school over a period of six weeks. Naturally individual schools will have their own requirements and these will be discussed at the outset. Sessions are for up to two hours as explained in the leaflet.

The **Paws Against Stress** programme is mainly aimed at students in universities and other institutions of further education at exam time to give them relaxation with interaction with our Therapets and our volunteers. Because of the number of students involved we have a team of Therapets at each session. In addition to being outgoing and friendly towards the students, the Therapets must also get along with each other!

The sessions are useful occasions for volunteers to get to know each other.

I am currently collating statistics from our Area Representatives regarding the activity in both programmes in 2018. If you are in an area where we do not have an Area Representative at present and you have participated in the PAWS Against Stress and Reading With Dogs programmes please let the office have the following information:

### **PAWS Against Stress**

- Name of University, college or school
- The number of sessions attended
- The number of Volunteers involved
- The number of Therapets involved
- An approximation of the number of students who attended each session

### **Reading With Dogs**

- Name of School
- The number of weeks each session lasted
- The breed of the Therapet
- The number of pupils supported

The information will be of great interest you all and also to the Trustees of other Charitable Trusts and Foundations who have kindly provided CCST with financial support.

### **THERAPET GOODS**

Please remember that we have the following goods available for purchase from the office:-

Therapet Coats	Replacement Lead Flashes
Therapet Bandanas	Sweat Shirts
Polo Shirts	T-Shirts
Therapet/Reading with Dogs Tote Bags	

### **FUNDRAISING**

Like all charities we rely on donations, legacies and grants to meet our operating costs. As in previous years, in 2018 we received many donations from a wide range of sources. All are acknowledged individually but I would like to make a public “thank you” to everyone who has contributed. Donations by UK tax-payers whose donations made under the **Gift Aid** system are particularly valuable in that the Trust is able to reclaim tax of 25p for every £1 donated. For higher rate tax-payers there is the added advantage that they can claim higher rate tax relief through their annual tax return.

Donations by cheque and sent to the office or direct to the Trust’s bank account details of which are shown on the membership renewal slip which also include a Gift Aid declaration. Donations can also be made via our account with JustGiving which can be accessed by clicking in the donate button on our website home page. If you are considering organising or participating in a sponsored event for the benefit of the Trust you can set up your own account for the event with JustGiving.

## WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

The website is regularly updated with current information about the Trust and future events, for which many thanks go to Trustee James Macdonald, our incredibly hard working Area Representative for Glasgow and Strathclyde. Many news stories are included and you can access this copy, and past copies, of the Bulletin along with the most recent Annual Report and Accounts. We have a **FACEBOOK** page and a **TWITTER** account that also give information about the Trust and direct the readers to our website for further information.

## MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AND THERAPY PETS

In November Amy Mercy sent in the following email:

“I am currently doing my Scottish baccalaureate on mental health issues and therapy pets. I was wondering if it would be possible for you to get as many Therapet owners as possible to answer the quiz below to aid with my research. Even just a couple answers would be very beneficial.

Kind regards,

Amy Mercy”

Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/J7GP3HY>

## CANINE FIRST AID COURSES

Also in November David at Fitzcharles Training Ltd sent the following:

“We run canine and pet first aid courses throughout Scotland, and have had a number of your members on our courses, who have made me aware of your charity, which I’m very interested in. We would like to offer free places on our canine first aid courses, which we run throughout the country, would this be of interest to your charity, and if so, how many members do you have in each area? We may be able to help promote your charity to others on courses, as you are a very local charity, helping other charities. The best thing, would be allow the members to contact me, and I will allocate them a course in their area, (4 free places per course). The only thing, anybody attending this course, the certificate should only be used for your charity, any member can’t use the certificate to support their own pet business, if they have one.

Kind Regards

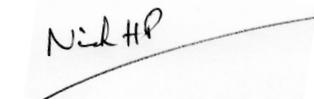
David, Pet First Aid Instructor Fitzcharles Training Ltd”

If you would like to attend a course please contact David, his email address is [david@fitzcharles.co.uk](mailto:david@fitzcharles.co.uk) and his website is [www.fitzcharlestraining.co.uk](http://www.fitzcharlestraining.co.uk)

Marjorie commenced writing the Bulletins in 1988 and I took over from her in 2010. If the plans for development and succession proceed as hoped a new scribe will be preparing forthcoming issues. Please keep sending us reports and stories about your Therapet Visiting.

With best wishes to you and your Therapets for a successful and fulfilling 2019.

Yours sincerely,



**Nick Henley Price**

PS Please remember to renew your membership!

## KEEPING YOUR THERAPET HEALTHY – DOGS

The Therapet is almost by definition going to meet and bring comfort and happiness to people who are not in the best of health, and whose immune systems may be weak either through disease or in some cases because of the treatments which they are receiving.

It is the duty of every Therapet owner to ensure that their Therapet is in the best of health, and not going to take germs into the environment of those we are visiting. We must be able to convince the authorities in charge of hospitals, homes or schools that we have taken every precaution to ensure that our Therapet is safe and can only bring benefits to those whom we visit.

CANINE CONCERN SCOTLAND TRUST ask all Therapet owners to take the following health precautions.

- Annual Health Check. All Therapets must have an annual health check-up by your own veterinary surgeon. You must inform your vet that your dog is a Therapet and will be visiting people who may be in poor health and whose immune system may be compromised either by disease or therapy. Ask your vet's advice as to what vaccinations your Therapet would require. If it is decided that no vaccine should be given then we would ask that your Therapet is tested every three years to assess your Therapet's level of immunity against the major dog infections. We would advise you to consider including a Kennel Cough Vaccination into the programme of vaccination.

You should in particular ask your vet to check for any signs of ear, eye, nose or mouth infections (including dental disease) and ensure that the coat is clear of any signs of skin disease. Remember these are the parts of your Therapet with which the people you are visiting will make direct contact.

- Deworming against both round and tape worms must be undertaken at least every three months, and monthly if your Therapet is visiting schools or youth groups.
- Skin Parasites. You must protect your dog against fleas and ticks..
- Passport Dogs. If your Therapet has been abroad in the past 12 months it may require a special treatment for ticks and worms – check with your vet.
- Regular dental checks to stop smelly breath and the risk of spreading infections through saliva.
- Regular ear checks. Ear infections can be painful if someone pats your dog's head and infection could be passed to a human
- All Therapets who are unwell should be withdrawn from duties until back to normal, or until professionally cleared if veterinary treatment was required. Therapet owners should not visit if they are unwell.
- Raw Meat Diets. In the light of recent scientific evidence that Raw Meat Based Diets may contain pathogenic bacteria and parasites which could infect dogs and possibly in rare circumstances pass to those in contact with the dog, Canine Concern Scotland have decided that Therapets should not be fed a raw meat based diet. We shall keep this matter under review and if scientific evidence states that RMBD are safe and free from risk of causing infection we shall reconsider our decision.

**June 2018**