



Dear friends,

In this issue we celebrate the launch of our annual Dressed to the K9s competition with Radio 1's Comedy Dave Vitty and Dominic Byrne. We meet artist Ellen Tozer who illustrates for a number of publications including our newsletter. We showcase our Cool Britannia waistcoat from the WTD Couture collection. Plus, there's our usual news, review and a little WTD trivia quiz too!

Hanne & the WTD team x

New faces to Walk the Dog...

This month we give a warm welcome to; **Geena, Tilly F, Simmie, Scout, Charlie, Layla and Jessie**. If your pet isn't on our picture gallery yet, please send us their picture, so they can join our animal hall of fame. Email us at info@walk-the-dog.net

Radio 1 presenters judge our Dressed to the K9s'11 competition

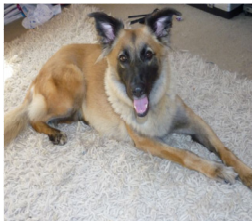


Our third annual dog fancy dress photo competition launched 1st February, with over £1600 worth of first prizes to be won! We're inviting dog lovers everywhere to join in the fun, all in the name of charity. The benefactors of our third annual photo competition is dog rescue and rehoming organisation Every Chance Rescue.



This year **Radio 1's Comedy Dave Vitty and Dominic Byrne** are our judges for this event. Comedy Dave is currently on ITV's hit show Dancing On Ice, so he's all too familiar with coming under the scrutiny of the judging panel. However, this time he and fellow judge - Chris Moyles Show newsreader Dominic Byrne, will have a tough challenge on their hands if the standard of our previous years entries are anything to go by. Last year, Rosie the Bischon Frise dressed as Barbara Cartland, was chosen by renowned artist Christiane Kubrick as the winner.

While our competition is lighthearted, there is a serious message behind it - raising awareness and the badly needed funds to help save the lives of mistreated and unwanted dogs like Candy and Jack.



Candy was found starving, tethered with a chain and padlock around her neck. Jack was found just hours away from death having been dumped on the side of a road like a bag of rubbish. Thanks to Every Chance Rescue, both Candy and Jack are in loving foster homes receiving the care and attention they deserve, waiting for their 'forever home'.



So, why not enter Walk the Dog's Dressed to the K9s competition in aid of Every Chance Rescue and you could **win some amazing prizes** generously donated by local companies. To enter, and or to make a donation, simply visit our competition website www.dressedtothek9s.com or post your photo entry and donation to Walk the Dog.

First Prize includes:

- The Bill Barrowcliff Dressed to the K9s winner's trophy.
- Year's supply of pet food from Oscar Pet Foods worth £567.
- GPS Tracking collar package from Retrieva £400. Includes: collar, 1 year subscription, Sim free smart phone with mapping software.
- A Professional Pet Photographic Portrait from award winning pet photographer Ian Waldron Photography worth £250.
- An original Olivia Brown ceramic dog sculpture from The Berkeley Gallery worth £180.
- Original drawing by artist and illustrator Ellen Tozer, worth £80.
- A luxury hamper full of pet and owner goodies courtesy of Walk the Dog worth £100.
- A copy of the new book by dog expert Hanne Grice "Playing With Your Dog".

Our other supporters include: Rickaby & Co, Virtual Law, Barking Mad, U Print, Edge NLP, Nvest, Kath Griffin, Furnivall Finecrafts, Pod 3AV, Car Magic and Yellow Yoyo.

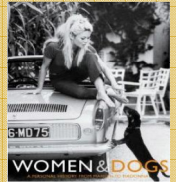
The competition **starts on Tuesday 1st February, closes to entries on Sunday 24th April** and the winner and runner up is announced Friday 6th May. Become a fan on our Dressed to the K9s' facebook page.

We look forward to seeing your entries and GOOD LUCK!

Book review Women & Dogs by Judith Watt and Peter Dyer

Watt and Peter Dyer

Ideal for the female dog lovers. This book includes photographs, history and anecdotes from Marilyn Monroe to Madonna. With over eighty images, drawn from contemporary and archive sources, each has a story about the relationship between the woman and her dog[s]. RRP £9.99



Special appeal – Bixby



This adorable chap is Bixby, a four year old male, short-haired cat. Bixby is looking for a loving forever home ideally with an older family without other cats or dogs, where he can spend his afternoon dozing away and enjoy cuddles. If you can help Bixby, please contact The Cats Protection Hemel Hempstead Branch on 0845 3711851.

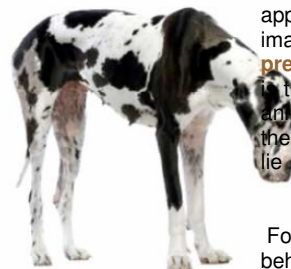
Dogs can determine another's size by the sound it makes

As a dog behaviour expert, I am always keeping abreast of all the latest findings from scientists in the field of animal behaviour. A new study has shown just how amazing our dog's communication skills are. Péter Pongrácz of the Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, has proven that dogs are able to tell how big another is just by listening to its growl.

His study saw 96 dogs of various breeds and ages split into three groups. The first group of 24 test dogs were shown two images projected onto a screen, one large dog and one small dog. The dogs were then played a recording of a 'food guarding' growl which was directed from between the images of the small and large dog. The dogs were filmed to monitor which of the images they would look at first and for the longest. The results showed 20 dogs of the 24 test dogs looked at the image of the appropriate-sized dog first and looked at it the longest. A final control group of 24 dogs was then shown large and small dog images while abstract sounds similar to white noise was played. The control dogs presented with images of geometric shapes showed little interest in these images, while those shown images of the cats spent more time looking at these. To avoid the dog owners unconsciously giving their pets cues during the experiment, they had to listen to music on headphones to ensure they were unable to hear the growls.

The dogs' ability to match the growl to the appropriate-sized dog in the projected image is a **"complex cognitive talent previously seen only in primates."** This

is the first time research has demonstrated animals can determine another's size by the sound it makes, and that dogs do not lie about their size!



For all the latest news and animal behaviour research log onto www.doglistener.tv

In the news...

WTD in the media



Hanne was back on BBC Three Counties this month joining the debate on "Do we treat our pets like humans". Hanne discussed the importance of responsible dog ownership and the benefits of employing the services of pet carers and walkers. Meanwhile, look out for Hanne's article in the forthcoming issue of Area Life Magazine about 'Choosing Your Family Pet'.

Kitty Quiz Night for Cats Protection – 12th March

Test your knowledge at the Kitty Quiz organised by the Cats Protection Hemel Hempstead on **Saturday 12th March** from 7.30pm at the Northchurch Social Centre HP4 3RD. Enjoy a ploughman's supper whilst helping raise funds for this great charity for just £10 a ticket. For more information, contact Colin on 07768 760714.



Hemel Hempstead & Berkhamsted
Caring for the UK's cats:
homaging, neutering, raising awareness

Book signing at Ideal Home Show – 26th & 27th March

Hanne will be signing copies of her book *Playing With Your Dog* at the Ideal Home Show on **Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th March**. See Hanne at the Oscar Pet Foods stand, where she'll be chatting about how you can have a smarter, fitter and happier dog. The book's RRP £6.99 and is available from WTD, Amazon, Waterstone's, WHSmiths, Borders and other online resellers.



Spring closure – 12th to 27th March

Remember, the WTD team will be taking a well earned rest after the harsh winter months in March. All services will stop operating from **Saturday 12th March to Sunday 27th March** inclusive. Please ensure you make alternative pet care arrangements during this time.

WTD sponsors the Lions Club K9 9K – 10th April



Walk the Dog together with Clarke & Marshall vets are the sponsors of this year's K9 9K sponsored dog walk, organised by The Lions Club of Berkhamsted in aid of the Hospice of St Francis. The event will kick off in the grounds of the Hospice off Shootersway in Berkhamsted HP4 3GW on Sunday 10th April. It is £5 to enter and walkers will get a hot dog and a well deserved cuppa at the end. There is also a prize for the walker who raises the most money, donated by WTD. For more information or to register log onto www.berkhamsted-lions.co.uk

WTD's quick trivia quiz

Test your knowledge about Walk the Dog!

1. On average how many steps does a typical WTD walker walk a day?
2. On average, how many small animal feeds do we complete in the summer?
3. How many puppies have graduated from WTD school since January '10?
4. How many serious injuries have the team had since we started?
5. How many awards have Walk the Dog received?
6. Who judged our first ever Dressed to the K9s competition in 2009?
7. Which is the most common dog breed on our books?
8. Before Hanne retrained in canine behaviour and launched WTD, what was her previous job?
9. Who's the longest serving member of the WTD pet care team?
10. What is the name of the WTD's canine team member?

See right hand side for answers

Cool Britannia waistcoat to launch in time for the Royal Wedding!

What better way for your patriotic pets to join in the Royal Wedding celebrations by wearing the must-have item of the season, our **Cool Britannia** waistcoat. Our bespoke handmade clothing range **WTD Couture** launches this year, with our first item in the collection being the Cool Britannia waistcoat as modelled by WTD pet Howard. Our waistcoats are made in England with Union Jack satin, hand stitched, lined and finished off with a natty white satin bow tie. The waistcoat comes in various sizes from small (Chihuahua), medium (Cocker Spaniel), large (Labrador) to x-large (Basset Hound), priced £32.50.

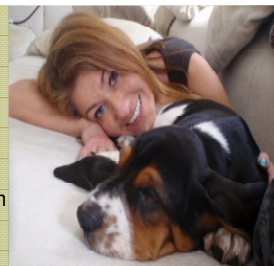


Our Cool Britannia website is currently under construction and will go live in a few weeks at www.coolbritannia.org

Don't let your dog miss out on being part of the cool Britannia gang with this designer waistcoat. All the new dogs on the block will want one so get your order in whilst stocks last! Call us on 01442 878628 or email: info@walk-the-dog.net

WTD meets Ellen Tozer – artist and dog lover

Name:	Ellen Tozer
Job:	Artist
Pets:	Bassets - Jefferson & Bumble and Thor the cat
Web:	ellentozzer.com
Lives:	Leciester



Ellen Tozer's a rising star in the world of illustration. Creating drawings for a number of publications, including the book *Playing With Your Dog*. Ellen creates comical sketches including the series of cartoons called 'Howard & Jefferson' exclusively for WTD, see below.

1. You're an artist and illustrator - how did it all start? From a child I always knew I wanted to do something creative but wasn't sure what. So, after 7 years at Art College I finally decided fashion was my passion. I became a footwear and handbag designer.

2. Many artists have a muse or favourite 'thing' to paint - what's yours? My favourite thing to paint would have to be shoes! Wildly un-wearable shoes!

3. What tips do you have for any budding illustrators out there? Don't be afraid to diversify. One minute you could be drawing shoes, the next minute it could be Basset Hounds. And always carry a pen and paper with you, as inspiration will usually hit at the most inappropriate moments!

4. What does the future hold for Ellen Tozer Art? 2011 sees the launch of my 'Jefferson' brand. This will include greetings cards, framed prints and lots of other really great fun things. I can't wait!

And finally, where can we currently see your artwork? Ellen Tozer artworks are currently on display at the Art in Earl Shilton art gallery in Earl Shilton, Leicestershire. They can also be purchased from the internet at www.ellentozzer.com and www.artinearshilton.co.uk

G1. 19,000 steps, G2. 418 feeds, G3. 72 puppies, G4. 1 broken ankle, 7 concussions, 1 broken arm, G5. 4 awards, G6. Barbara Broccoli OBE, G7. The Labrador, G8. TV Producer, G9. Louise – started in Jan '08, G10. Howard



Jefferson couldn't work out why Howard's Batman outfit had a big 'S' on the front.