



Charity 1121598

Border Collie Rescue FOS Mini Mag

Heart and Home of the Border Collie

March 2026

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Border Collie Rescue FOSTBC Newsletter

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Heart and Home of the Border Collie

FOSTBC—Heart and home of the Border Collie

New Beginnings



We are moving forward at our new premises. The road was very steep and almost inaccessible but as you can see from this photo we now have a proper lane! It's wide, its concreted and we can get up and down with ease. We still have a long way to go and appreciate all the fund raising etc that people are doing for the Trust. The link below to copy and paste is for our

Gofundme page which has helped us to get our lane up and running.

Great oaks grow from little acorns and much can be raised by a lot of small amounts

<https://gofund.me/8F6F64540>

National and International Sheep Dog Trials

English National, Macclesfield, August 6th—9th

Welsh National, Brecon, August 13th—15th

Scottish National Perth August 19th 22nd

Irish National, Co Tyrone August 26th—29th

International Moreton-in-Marsh Sept 11th—13th

World Trials, Huntington Farm, Scottish Borders, Sept 16th—20th

More info can be found on the International Sheepdog Society website www.isds.org.uk

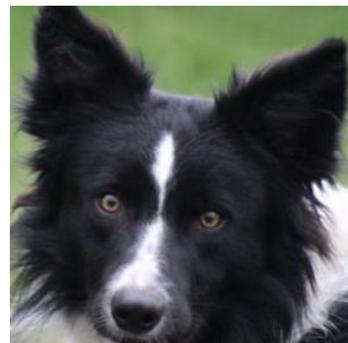


Fun Photo

Skye and Glen crossing paths. They soon got back on track and rounded up the unruly woolly

Rehoming Celebration

We are rehoming dogs all the time and rarely make a fuss about it or feel the need to celebrate, but when we have one in our care for three years we feel we need to take a huge sigh of relief and have at least one tippie in his honour.



Bob came in February 2023 at nine months old. He was wired, nipping, a complete crazy boy with a lot of issues. Ball crazy, tuggy crazy, and jumping in nip mode for attention. Keeping on the ground was a work of art. Yet he was not a bad lad and was young enough to turn round. We've worked with him and then we've let him have time out, then worked with him again. It was a question of the right person turning up at the right time and him being the right dog for them. Then of course, they had to like each other.

When they turned up to see him it was all fingers crossed that the boy behaved himself. We sat in the meeting room fidgeting and he went straight to them like they were old buddies.

Three years is a long time and its not always possible to do, as they have to settle and the people working with them have to be safe. But for Bob it worked so please feel free do the same and have a tippie and celebrate Bob's new start in life.

A Little Puzzle

Do you know which medal by the PDSA (People's Dispensary for Sick Animals) is the equivalent of the VC (Victoria Cross) for animals?

You will find the answer on the last page

"Dogs come into our lives to teach us about love, they depart to teach us about loss. A new dog never replaces an old dog. It merely expands the heart."—Author Unknown

"Every dog gives to us, we only have to look for the gift".

Barbara Sykes



A Blank Canvas



Have you ever wondered why some dogs just can't get on with children? Or why a dog can be suspicious of one child and more accepting of another, even though neither of them have had previous contact with the dog?

Could it be because they smell different to adults? They are noisy? They are smaller and at eye level with the dog? These should be taken into consideration as they can greatly influence a dog's attitude to a child. But there is something else that influences a dog, something we often fail to take into consideration when our dogs meet anyone for the first time. A dog 'sees' with its senses and to do this it needs a canvas to work from. We know that dogs are capable of detecting illnesses such as diabetes and epilepsy, so picking up on a person's mood or personality is very easy for them. They soon know if they are confronted by someone who doesn't like dogs. They will be drawn to, and less suspicious of, a true dog lover. But they can also be wary of a dog lover who is too gushing in their approach, none tactile dogs can find this very overpowering. But in each case they can sense from the person's character how any advances could be made and received.

As we grow older we may develop a few wrinkles, have a few grey hairs and put on a few pounds, but how many times do we hear people tell us that it's 'who we are'. Those changes in our appearance, especially in our faces tell the world of hardships, joys, and our lives well lived. More importantly it does tell who we are. Children are blank canvases, they don't have wrinkles and life's sad and joyous moments etched into their faces, in fact there is very little for a dog to detect with its senses. How can it detect the character and intentions of an approaching child when neither the child nor its parents know that character yet? A parent may be puzzled that their dog was suspicious of a gentle quiet child yet showed no animosity to another child known for being a 'tough guy'. Life may have made the second child tough, grown him up a bit before his time and given him a character that we may not always find acceptable, but to the dog it's recognisable. The dog may, or may not like the child and vice versa but it can sense the character — the driving force that will make the child react in a given way and it will know to either accept or stay out of the way. The dog has a canvas to work with.

Children can learn so much from a dog but just as they are too young to understand dogs and their instincts, so are they too young to offer a 'message of intention' to dogs. So dogs do what dogs can do, which is to protect themselves from the unknown. All they need is an adult standing between them and the child and the 'message' the dog receives with its senses will be from a responsible adult who the dog will rely on for protection.

Easter Treats

Treats that are great for us can cause serious problems for our dogs. Keeping an eye on them and our treats out of their reach is important. But I can remember a few years ago a friend's child decided to include the dog in her 'tea

Easter Caution

Easter bunnies and new born lambs

*Spring bulbs and a promise of sun
Excited children with Easter plans*

*So much to do and so much fun
Hot cross buns and lots of chocs
Easter food and lots of treats*

party' and gave it chocolate on a party plate. The dog loved it, and the child was ecstatic that her 'guest' had been so enthusiastic. The dog's owner spent a sleepless night and a lot of money before she knew her dog was going to be alright. The safest thing is to not have any chocolate but that's no fun, so let's all make sure that it can't be found or reached by a dog. Or an over generous child!

**"Some of our greatest historical and artistic treasures we place with curators in museums; others we take for walks."
Roger A. Caras**

A Gift for Collie Lovers

The dogs in our Sanctuary are sponsored monthly but sometimes people just want to buy a single payment gift for a friend, mother's day, Easter, birthdays etc.

You can give a gift of a Sponsored Kennel for three, six or twelve months, for £15, £25, or £40, and the recipient will receive a certificate with the information of the dog in the kennel. As you will be helping dogs that will be adopted, there may be more than one dog use the sponsored kennel, but we will update by email any new dogs plus a photograph of them throughout the time of the sponsorship.

Please email info@fostbc.org.uk for a kennel sponsor form



"It's just the most amazing thing to love a dog, isn't it? It makes our relationships with people seem as boring as a bowl of oatmeal."

John Grogan

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When a Year is a Lifetime!

Twenty five years ago February 2001 saw the start of one of the worst years in farming history. The start of the Foot and Mouth epidemic. While there have been other epidemics they have been more localised, but from February 2001 to January 2002 the disease spread across the UK. This meant an infected farm having all of its livestock killed and burned. By the time the last case was confirmed more than six million sheep, cattle and pigs had been slaughtered.

The culling policy saw not just the animals on the affected farms killed, but also all the animals in the surrounding area with exclusion zones making travel in some areas almost impossible. Despite these measures the epidemic continued strict movement bans and biosecurity measures meant that dogs could not be used for normal farm work, and they were seen as potential vectors for spreading the virus between farms. Sheepdogs often became "unemployed" overnight, living in sheds or barns with no livestock to manage. These dogs, accustomed to daily work routines, often struggled with the sudden lack of stimulation and employment.

This was one of the worst years in farming history many never fully recovered. and for some it was the end of an era.

Was it handled correctly? Who knows? We were 'farm bound' for a year to find out later that the instructions that it could 'be taken to a supermarket car park on tyres and then we could put our livestock in jeopardy' were false. Farmers, tourism, small businesses, they all suffered.

Then less than twenty years later the country was shut down again for Covid with a similar fear spreading throughout homes and families!

2026 Calendars

We still have some in our website shop. Lots of lovely photographs of rescued dogs, some in their forever homes, some in our Sanctuary and some waiting to be offered a home. You might see the lovely Ambassador Dog TJ there as well.



Calendars can be found in shop at www.fostbc.org.uk

My Dog Lives Here

My dog and I live in this house. You are welcome to come and visit me anytime but we have a few things that you must understand before you visit.

You must expect a few dog hairs to stick to your clothes. I vacuum and clean every day but a Dog lives in this house too. You may be licked and given a paw a few times but he does this because he loves people and wants to say hello, so if you feel that you are too good for his love then you are not welcome here because this is his home too. My dog is well mannered and very clean but if you are one of those people who think all animals are dirty and smell then go away. You are not the type of person that I care to associate with.

If you don't like the sound of barking, then my home is not going to be a comfortable place for you to visit. My dog protects me by letting me know I have a visitor. Whether it be a friend or uninvited stranger. If you are a friend, my dog will consider you his friend too but if you are an unwelcome guest, my dog will protect me with his life as I would his. Do not expect me to lock my dog in another room during your visit. I have trained my dog well so he will not do anything to you except maybe want a pat on the head. I will not subject him to feel as if he is being punished by locking him away for no reason. That would just be cruel.

When you walk in my home, be careful not to trip on a squeaky toy or a bone. These are my dog's little treasures and I will not take them away from him just to show you that I keep a clean house. He knows where all his toys are. They may not look like much to you, but to him, they are worth more than gold.

You see, This is OUR home. We have been together since he was a small pup scampering around the house, a tiny bit of a thing only a few weeks old. I raised him into a well mannered, beautifully behaved dog. I am proud of him.

I consider him my personal gift from God. He has done nothing but give me his endless love and devotion for many years. I love him dearly and want to make his years happy ones. As happy as he makes mine. When you go home to your family, he stays here with me. A fine and loving companion. He is MY family and I wouldn't change that for the world. When times were hard, we both went hungry. When it was cold and there was no heat, we both kept each warm. When I was sick, he stayed right by my side as I did his when he was not having a good day.

A better friend I could not ask for. When no one else cared, my dog did. He has given me nothing but pure joy and I love him endlessly.

Puzzle Answer

The canine equivalent of the VC is
The Dickin Medal

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Fun Easter Facts

- 1) The UK's first chocolate egg was produced by J.S. Fry & Sons in Bristol in 1873, two years before Cadbury.
- 2) The world's largest chocolate egg was made in Italy in 2011, weighing 7,200 kg (over 15,000 lbs), heavier than an adult elephant.
- 3) The tallest Ukrainian *pysanka* egg in Canada weighs 5,000 lbs.
- 4) The word Easter is taken from Anglo-Saxon and from the Anglo-Saxon goddess of Spring and fertility.
- 5) Are you one of the 76% to eat bunnies ears first? Whether fact or fiction its all good fun.



HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE

March Sponsor Dog

Each month we give one of our Sponsor Dogs a little bit of fame. These dogs are in our Sanctuary because, for reasons of health or behaviour, it is very unlikely they will ever be able to be rehomed. Poppy is our Easter girl, she is beautiful but she earned the nickname 'fingers Poppy' as she is very partial to them!

Poppy's sponsorship comes with a certificate and her story, both with her photograph, and access to our private Sponsor Dog fb page.

Monthly sponsorship for any of our Sanctuary dogs really helps as it's not just food and worming that runs up the bills. It's food, worming, bedding, washing, drying, electricity, staff wages, disinfectant, mops, buckets, dish washing liquid, towels—it's a long list and while some of it is shared with all the dogs it's still a lot of money each month so every little bit that is donated helps us to keep these dogs warm, clean and happy.

You will find all the information plus our other Sponsor dog on our website www.fostbc.org.uk under 'giving'

Mother's Day

Wishing every Mum a fabulous Mother's day and if the nest is empty then spoil yourselves, we all deserve a little bit of something special now and then.



Peg - a work in progress

If you are a regular visitor to our website you may remember us taking in eleven dogs from a farmer who had serious health problems. They were of varying ages but there was a litter 3 collie x beardie pups. They were all rehomed, two into companion homes and one to a shepherd in Scotland. It's strange how stories unfold because Vicki has been training dogs for work for this shepherd for years and knew him well, whereas he knew the farmer who had the pups and had asked if he could have a beardie. He rang Vicki to ask about Peg, 'the beardie your mum's taken in'. It took a while to sort out any confusion and Peg went to Scotland to enjoy her puppy hood before being trained for work. So, have you guessed how this story is working out? Peg is now back in Yorkshire getting ready to start to learn how to be a sheepdog. Vicki calls her the 'mop'. She's had a great life, is full of fun and very much a girl who wants to do her own thing. So watch this space.



A Simple Beauty

The Border Collie is the epitome of all we may ever desire in a dog, a friend and a partner. Honesty, integrity and loyalty are second nature to a collie and they will work until they can go no further. Yet for all their willingness to give they are not submissive, they are proud of their heritage and they do not suffer fools gladly. Look beyond the colour of the coat and the cloak they wear labelled 'dog', search inside and reach its soul for once there you will be trapped in a world of unbelievable love and honesty. You will have found true beauty, for the wonderful qualities within this breed are always there waiting to be unlocked and are what make it truly beautiful. Drink in its grace, speed and stamina, for rarely has so much to come together so perfectly in so small a package.



Fun Facts

The Norwegian Lunde hund is the only dog breed created for the job of puffin hunting. Unlike other dog breeds, they have 6 toes on each foot to help them navigate the rocks and avoid slipping!



Dogs curl up in a ball when sleeping to protect their organs — a holdover from their days in the wild, when they were vulnerable to predator attacks.

The Basenji is not technically "barkless," as many people think. They can yodel.