



## CRUFTS 2016 – Discover Dogs

Clare Robinson-Cox (Hamason)

*Discover Dogs is a massive part of the whole CRUFTS spectacular.*

Discover Dogs is a massive part of the whole CRUFTS spectacular. It allows visitors to the World's Greatest Dog Show to get “up close and personal” with every breed of dog that will be exhibited over the 4-day extravaganza.

(And so it begins.....)

Every breed of dog has their own designated stand and the breeds are generally ordered alphabetically within the Group they are aligned with.

This gives prospective puppy-buyers the chance to meet the breed they are thinking of welcoming into their lives and really understand which is the right breed for them. It also enables existing dog owners the chance to meet breed experts and other breed enthusiasts who are able to offer advice and guidance on lots of topics, including general care, breed-specific information and health issues



## CRUFTS 2016 – Discover Dogs

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(Taking shape.....)

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club are proud to take responsibility for organising the stand to represent our wonderful breed at such a prestigious event. But this involves a lot of work behind the scenes – organising stand material and displays, putting these displays up before the Show opens & then taking everything down after the show closes, inviting owners and dogs to represent the breed to ensure the stand is adequately staffed throughout the 4 days. So for any of you that have had the pleasure of visiting us at CRUFTS, please give a thought to those who have worked very hard before and after the Show to make the event a success – a big “WELL DONE” to all concerned.





## CRUFTS 2016 – Discover Dogs

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(Ready to open.....)

This year we had the pleasure of welcoming Buddy Dog – The Rescue Staffy, who was a real hit with everyone he met. Buddy was found abandoned and locked in a cage. He was laying in his own excrement and was extremely underweight, he weighed just 3 kgs. Buddy had a serious skin condition called demodectic mange and due to him not being treated and also being left in his own mess he also had secondary infections in his skin. Buddy's paw pads were raw due to the amount of urine he had been left in. He was rescued by Nicola and Jon who just happened to spot Buddy, locked in his cage at the side of the road, as they were driving along. Thank goodness they stopped and picked him up. They drove him 86 miles to their vets checking that Buddy was alive constantly along the way as they weren't sure he was going to make it. Buddy now has his own FaceBook page so if you want to find out more or see what Buddy is up to, please visit his page – [www.facebook.com/buddydogtherescuestaffy](http://www.facebook.com/buddydogtherescuestaffy) . Buddy, along with Nicola and Jon, helped visitors to the stand to understand just how wonderful and forgiving Staffords can be – for Buddy to have had such a terrible start in life and yet still love us humans so unconditionally is amazing. They also helped educate our visitors about demodectic mange and that even the most terrible skin conditions can be helped dramatically with the right medical support, feeding and bathing regime. It was hard work with Buddy as he was in such an awful state when rescued, but anything is possible.

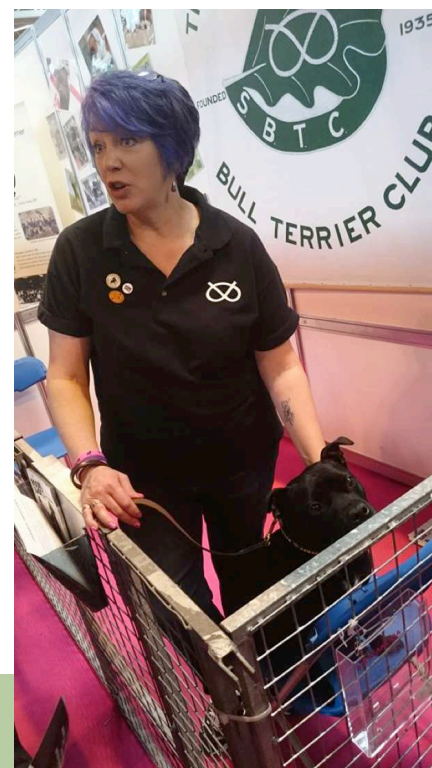


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("Buddy The Rescue Staffy")

It was also lovely to welcome Judith Morgan and Room For 1 More Stafford Rescue. Judith and the Team work tirelessly to rescue Staffords from all over the UK who would otherwise be put to sleep. They are a non-profit organisation who provide lifetime backup for every dog they rehome. You can find out more information via their website – [www.roomfor1morestaffordrescue.com](http://www.roomfor1morestaffordrescue.com) or follow them on FaceBook - [www.facebook.com/rf1m.staffierescue](http://www.facebook.com/rf1m.staffierescue) . They helped to educate our visitors that Staffords make excellent pets but, sadly, are the breed most frequently abandoned by irresponsible dog-owners. They helped our visitors to understand that taking on any dog is a big commitment and a decision that should not be taken lightly but, if any of our visitors were looking for a pet, then giving an abandoned Stafford may be the right thing for them to do.







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(Buddy & Roxy)

Another fantastic group of people to join the Discover Dogs Team this year were representatives from [The Staffordshire Bull Terrier Heritage Centre](http://www.thestaffordshirebullterrier.co.uk). There is more information about The Heritage Centre elsewhere in this issue, where the opening of the new Centre is covered. Alternatively, you can visit their website - [www.thestaffordshirebullterrier.co.uk](http://www.thestaffordshirebullterrier.co.uk) – or follow them via their FaceBook page - [www.facebook.com/SBTHeritage](http://www.facebook.com/SBTHeritage) .

(Friday’s Helpers) (right)

The stand was also well represented throughout the weekend by volunteers from The Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club and regular members of the SBTC Handling Club. I am sure many of you are already members of The SBTC, or “The Parent Club”, as it is affectionately known. If you are not currently a member and want to join or just want to find out more, please visit their website – [www.thesbtc.org.uk](http://www.thesbtc.org.uk) .







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(Members of the SBTC Committee)

Throughout the weekend we were inundated with visitors – people who already owned a Stafford or had owned one in the past, people who were thinking of owning a Stafford and were just looking for advice and people who had always been afraid of Staffords due to their reputation as a “fighting dog” but had been persuaded to take a closer look. It is a pleasure to welcome everyone but particularly those people who overcome their “fear” and leave Discover Dogs covered in doggy kisses and converted to loving Staffords and wanting one themselves.

(Saturday’s Helpers)  
Here are some more pictures of the public getting “up close and personal” with our Staffords.







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(That's a wrap!!!! See you next year)

Another fantastic weekend was had by everyone who helped on the Discover Dogs stand as well as by those who visited us. Look forward to seeing you all again next year or, if you have not yet visited us, make sure you do!!

