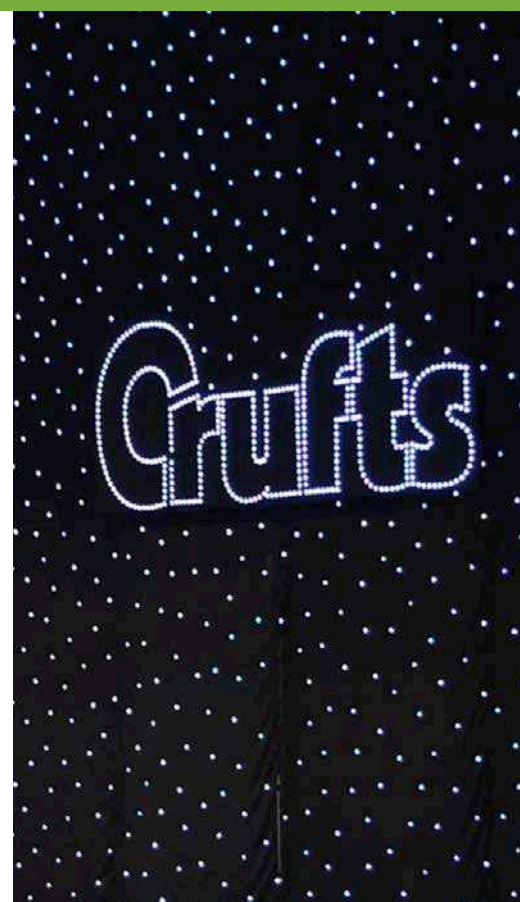
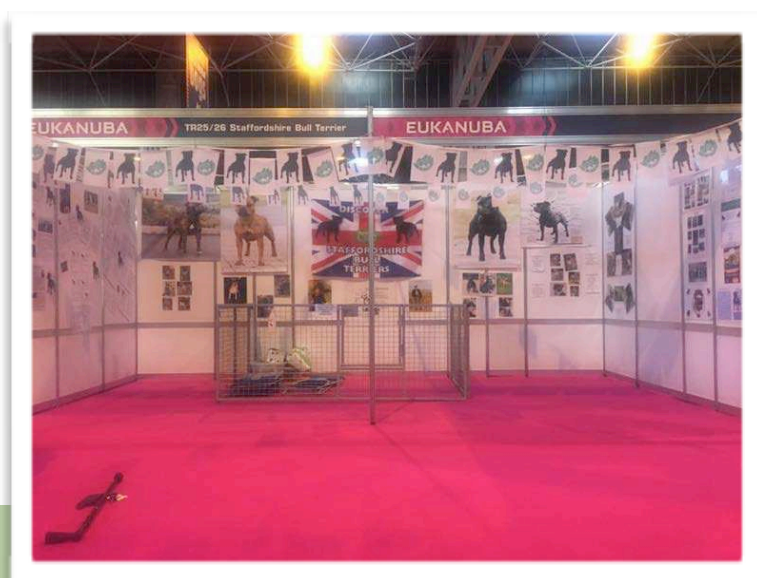




Discover Dogs – Crufts 2017 By Clare Robinson-Cox

So, for any of you regular readers, you may remember the article in last year's TSK about Discover Dogs. If you have not seen it, please take a look as it provides an overview of what the whole Discover Dogs booths are about – JUNE 2016 Issue #2, Vol #5.

This year, I will be bringing you a few of the stories behind the people who so kindly give up their time to come along and support the breed and promote our wonderful dogs.





Discover Dogs – Crufts 2017

By Clare Robinson-Cox

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And so it begins.....

The first couple we will hear from is Lynne and Trevor Bowler of the Trelynbow affix. Lynne and Trevor have done so much for the breed over the years, having been committee members of the SBTC for many years and are now committee members of the Heritage Museum. Lynne has shared a few memories of their time supporting Discover Dogs.

“We have been fortunate to be involved with Discover Dogs for 15 years or more and we really love to do it - talking about our breed and showing them off. We have met some lovely people and beautiful dogs.

Many years ago we took our dog, Butch, who was exceptionally fussy and wouldn't let anyone pass the stand without stroking him. Fred Gadd wrote an article in a magazine and mentioned Butch and his antics and called him the fastest licker in the west.

We also took our girl, Annie, as a puppy and had an elderly lady in a wheelchair come to look. This lady fell in love with Annie - she said she has had Staffords all her life but didn't have any now. I asked her if she would like to hold her so I put her on her lap and she actually cried.

We had our other boy, Spike, there one year and a man asked me if he liked kids I said yes he has had two for his breakfast, he asked if his son could come in the pen which he did and stayed for ages.

You hear all sorts of comments - long legged Staffords, Irish Staffords and we have been asked if ours are miniature Staffordshire Bull Terriers.

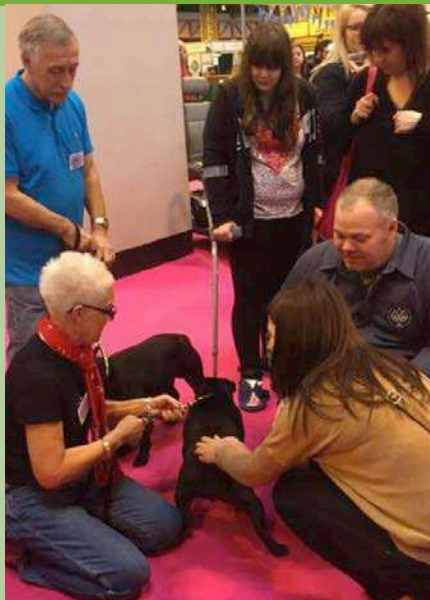
Roll on next Crufts hope we will be asked to do it again.”



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This is Lynne (kneeling)
with Peggy
& Trevor with Sam.

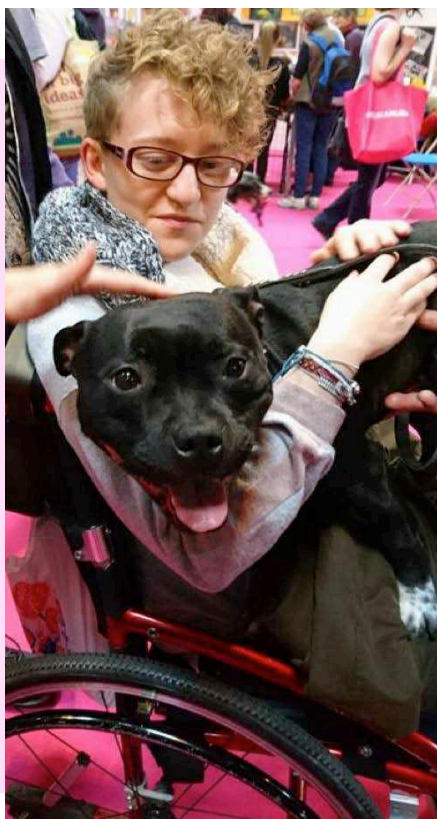


Trevor with Sam (on his lap) and
Peggy



This lady is meeting
Buddy The Rescue Stafford.

It's amazing to hear Lynne's memories of the lady in the wheelchair and how she cried when she held Annie. We had some wheelchair visitors this year to the booth too.



This lady is having a cuddle with Roxy.



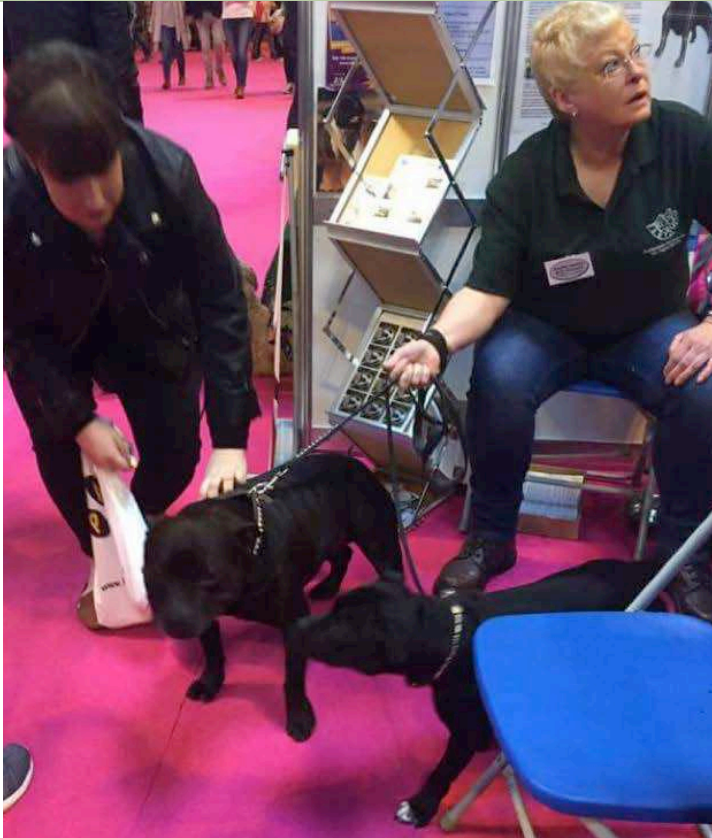
Discover Dogs – Crufts 2017

By Clare Robinson-Cox

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The next regular supporter of Discover Dogs that will share some thoughts is Diane Rogers.

Diane has the Ynysstaff affix and has had dogs since she was first married in 1978. Here's a picture of Diane at Discover Dogs this year. She goes on to say:



I then decided to join the SBT Club and then started showing - the bug had bitten me well and truly. At that time I still had a horse but couldn't spend enough time with her with working full time as a conveyancing lawyer and showing my dog. I very soon realised that just buying a puppy of a certain breed isn't enough to be successful in the showing so I bought a puppy who did very well and qualified for Crufts as a puppy.

Unfortunately, Bentley had to be PTS at the age of just 20 months as he had severely bitten me and the vet was of the opinion that he had a brain tumour as he suffered mini fits as well. I still have the second puppy I bought who is Button and now 11 and a half years old !

"In 2005 I had just had to rehome my 3 dogs a German Shepherd X Rottweiler, a collie cross and an Irish Wolfhound due to my second marriage breakup and having to sell the house and move to rented accommodation. My landlords were 'animal' people and agreed that I could have a dog. I decided to choose between a Staffordshire Bull Terrier and a Whippet ! Not a great deal of difference. Anyway there was an advert for Stafford puppies not far from me and I ended up with Bentley a pied chunky puppy.

I have had quite a few dogs over the years and have met some wonderful people and some not so wonderful. I really enjoy the dog world and especially meeting all the members of the public who attend Crufts and come to the Discover Dogs stand. It is very tiring but oh so worth it.

I always remember that nobody knows everything and also no matter how much you read about dogs - the dogs haven't read the books !"

Well, they may not have read the books but they do think they are more human than dog at times, judging by some of these pictures:



Discover Dogs – Crufts 2017

By Clare Robinson-Cox

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This year, we were also very fortunate to have been visited by one of the Chelsea Pensioners

This gentleman is with Ronnie who belongs to Natalie and Richard. As you can see, Ronnie is a blue and Richard and Natalie have had some serious skin issues to deal with on Ronnie. But they have persevered and he is now a lovely boy. He has taken a few turns in the show ring and is a regular supporter of any events promoting the health and well-being of the breed.



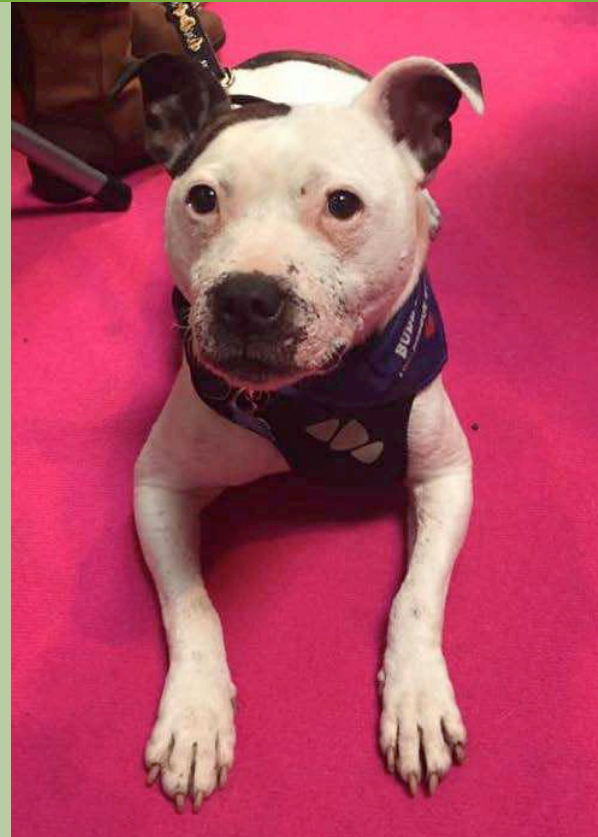


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Another regular at Discover Dogs is Buddy The Rescue Stafford. Buddy had a tough start in life and was found by his present owners, Nicola and Jon, as he had been abandoned – locked in a cage in his own excrement. He also had severe skin problems and had to have part of his tail removed as a result of the severity of the infection. But, despite this awful start in life, Buddy still loves people and really enjoys spending time at Discover Dogs.



Nicola sharing Buddy's story with a visitor to the booth.





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Another Discover Dogs long-standing supporter (I would say veteran, but she'll kill me!!) is

Gill McDermott. Gill has organised and helped with Discover Dogs for many years and this year she brought along her ever-faithful boy – Yan



Emma and Yan



As you have probably noticed, we didn't manage to get a snap of Gill with Yan as she is quite camera-shy, but Aid (Porter) and Emma (Makin) regularly handle Yan at the SBTC Ringcraft Club and, as they don't currently have a dog of their own, Yan adopts them whenever he can!! Hopefully next year Aid and Emma will have another Stafford of their own. But until then, they will try and "steal" anyone's!!



Aid and Yan



Here is Aid with Oscar

And here is Aid again, this time with Ellie. This time he is joined by Keith and Beau and John with Roxy





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Keith and Sue Price are another couple who always come along and support the breed whenever they can. They have previously had other breeds of dog but Beau, who is now 7, is their first Stafford. Keith and Sue have had some success with Beau in the showring, having been placed at Crufts a few years ago!! Ellie has also taken her turn in the ring and done some winning too. Keith and Sue are both members of the East Midlands SBTC but also support the SBTC Handling Club whenever possible.



Beau and Ellie

Roxy & Maria meeting a young lady in a wheelchair.



The other member of “The Three Amigo’s” in the picture above is John Hillman who, with his wife, Maria, are proud owners of Roxy. John and Maria have had Staffords for almost 30 years but have recently ventured into the showring with Roxy. They are also committee members of the Heritage Museum and regulars at the SBTC Handling Club where Roxy is put through her paces. Roxy was in an earlier photograph where she was meeting the lady in the wheelchair. In the below photographs, she is showing just how good Staffords are with children.



This is another lovely picture of Staffords meeting kids – this time its Oscar and Rosie kissing a little girl.



Rosie also loves the attention and here she is with Kaine



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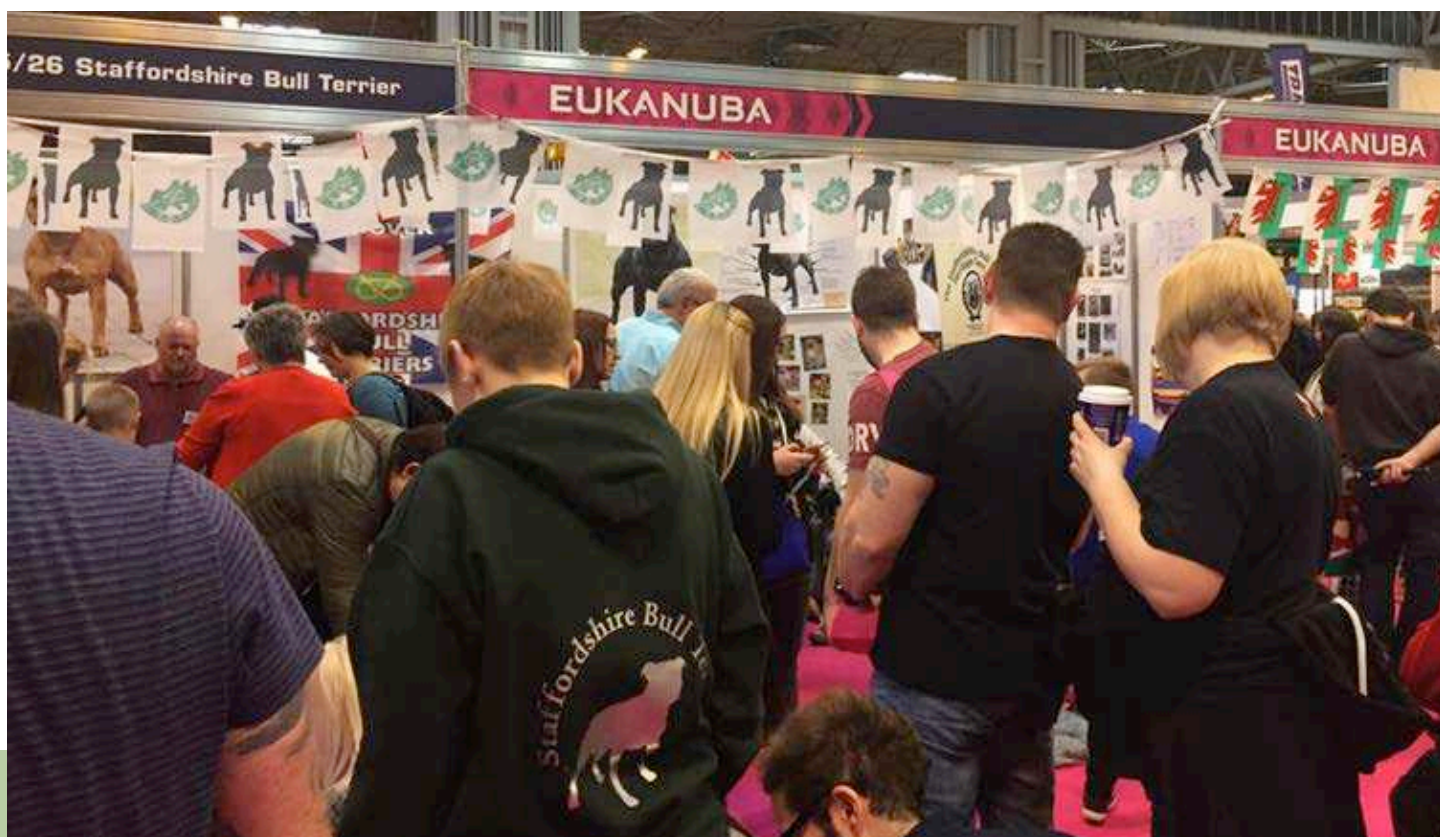
Finally, to end with a real success story from Discover Dogs. Last year in 2016, a couple came to chat with me about the breed while I was at Discover Dogs. This couple were thinking of getting a dog but had not decided which breed they wanted, though they had narrowed it to 3 breeds, Staffords being one of them. I chatted for a while with this couple, who introduced themselves as Steve and Baz Tomlinson. After asking me quite a few questions, as I would encourage anyone buying any dog to do, they thanked me for my time and went off to see the other breeds on their shortlist.

However, less than a week later, I had a telephone call from Steve, saying they had decided that a Stafford was the breed for them and the rest, they say, is history!!

During late summer 2016, Steve and Baz welcomed Chester to their home and, I think I'm right in saying, they are fairly smitten with him!! They regularly attend the SBTC Handling Club, Chester has progressed to Silver Good Citizen Dog Scheme and is now training for his gold and they kindly came along to Discover Dogs to show what a valuable role our time on the booth can be for those people searching for the right dog.



And just a few more general photo's from across the weekend, showing just how busy we were.





Discover Dogs – Crufts 2017

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