

MERLIN'S

WAG MAG!

ADOPTION ADVICE

BUILDING TRUST WITH
YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND

MEET JESSIE

THE STUNNING GIRL
WITH A KNACK FOR
FINDING OTHER
STRAY DOGS!

BECOME A
MERLIN'S
HERO

AUGUST, 2026

www.merlinshaven.com



MAKING MEMORIES WITH *Bea & Lou*

- ✓ Hand-made Arts & Crafts Tourist Gifts
- ✓ Using Recycled Bottles from the Beach 
- ✓ Personalized Pet Memorials 



Joker Square Bar,
Protaras, Cyprus

+357 95116395

makingmemoriesbeccielou@gmail.com



4

FROM THE EDITOR

Get the low-down on what's going on at Merlin's this month.

5

WELCOME TO THE PACK!

Check out our new arrivals and tell us who you'd love to sponsor.

6

THE RESCUE WHO WANTS TO RESCUE!

The journey of a Merlin's Alumni. Meet Jessie, Laura & Tom.



8

EDUCATION CORNER

Helping your new Cyprus rescue dog feel safe.

11

EVEN YOU CAN SAVE A LIFE

Are you ready to become a Merlin's Hero?

13

INFO CORNER

Let us help you and your new rescue adjust in the first 24 hours.



A Message From **Lynn**



Welcome to the second issue of Merlin's Wag Mag!

First off, I want to say a huge thank you for all the wonderful, positive feedback on our inaugural edition. Seeing your support means the world to us, and a special shoutout goes to our incredible sponsors and advertisers—your generosity goes such a long way in helping us care for our dogs.

It has been a scorching month, with temperatures climbing to a sizzling 36°C! Because of the heat, we've been extra thankful for the generous donations of shading, cooling fans, and small outdoor kennels to keep our pups comfortable and safe.

We've also been busy making some much-needed upgrades around the shelter. Work on our reception area is ongoing, meaning we can now stay nice and cool when greeting new visitors and potential adopters! We've also built brand-new shaded areas over the puppy enclosure and added extra insulation to several of our shelter containers to keep the heat out where it matters most.

Our community support has been nothing short of amazing this month. A huge thank you to Zopaz for their immensely kind donation of 100kg of dog food, and to May's Diner for hosting such a wonderful night for our July fundraiser!



Of course, shelter life never stops. We welcomed five new arrivals this month: May, who was found collapsed on the side of the road suffering from severe heat exhaustion (she's safe and recovering well now!), Freddy, who literally walked himself right through our front doors while following one of our volunteer dog walkers and three more who you'll meet on page 5!

It hasn't been all smooth sailing, though—we had a very scary few weeks recently when a few of our pups contracted the parvo virus. Thanks to the quick action of our team and vets, I am so relieved and happy to report that every single one of them survived and they are all now thriving!

Thank you all for being part of the Merlin's family. Enjoy the issue, stay cool out there, and keep wiggling those tails!

Please share this magazine with your friends, family, and fellow dog lovers to help us expand our reach. If you feel inspired, why not start your own fundraiser? Whether it's a sponsored walk, a bake sale, or a birthday fundraiser online, every single euro goes directly toward food, veterinary care, and shelter maintenance.

Lynn Morris
FOUNDER
MERLIN'S HAVEN DOG SHELTER

MERLIN'S NEW ARRIVALS

Summer is officially here, and while many people are heading off on holiday, things get particularly busy for us at Merlin's Dog Shelter. The holiday season usually means a drop in adoptions and fewer volunteers to lend a hand, all while high summer temperatures make life uncomfortable for both the dogs and our team. With the shelter back at full capacity and vet bills continuing to mount, we could really use a little extra support. If you're able, please consider becoming a Merlin's Hero with a small monthly donation, or perhaps sponsoring one of our fantastic new arrivals.

Here are the newest dogs who are looking for sponsors or their forever homes:

May (4 months old):

Expected to stay under 10 kg, May had a rough start—she was found collapsed from the heat and then fought off Parvo. She is now fully recovered, doing great, and ready for a fresh start.



Freddie (5 months old):

A med-large boy who actually checked himself in by following one of our morning dog walks! He's gentle, gets along with everyone, and absolutely loves playing in water.

Conker (2 years old):

A sweet-natured Hound saved just in time after a local farmer threatened to shoot him for hanging around the chicken coop. He loves people and gets along wonderfully with other dogs.



Jock (3 years old):

A sweet Yorkie cross who spent two months fending for himself in a local village after being left behind. He's great with other dogs and cats (provided the cats don't sprint directly past his nose!).



Patch (7–8 months old): Resembling an adorable shaggy sheep, Patch was found wandering near the shelter looking for shade and food. He's very sweet-natured and gets along wonderfully with kids, cats, and other dogs..

Meet Jessie



A tail-Wagging Success story

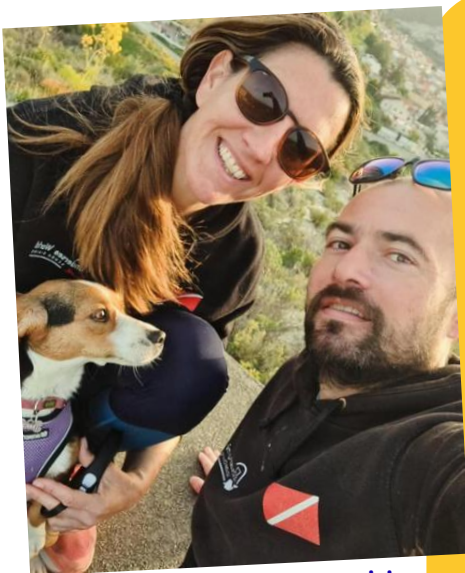
When a sweet little Beagle-Jack Russell cross named Jessie arrived at Merlin's Haven in early 2024, she had a pretty rough start to life. Poor Jessie had come from a home where she wasn't treated with the kindness every pup deserves, leaving her scared of sticks, loud voices, and children. But Lynn and the Merlin's team knew that under that timid exterior was a brave, beautiful girl just waiting for her chance to shine.

Enter Laura and Tom! After sadly losing their beloved 16-year-old JackChi, Pebbles, they visited Merlin's looking for a small, active dog who could get along with cats.

The second Laura laid eyes on Jessie, it was love at first sight. By March 2024, the paperwork was signed, and Jessie was officially heading to her forever home.

Fast forward to today, and Jessie's world has completely transformed!

Thanks to Laura and Tom's gentle patience, Jessie has learned that humans can be wonderful. The young kids in her new extended family have been taught to respect all animals, and Jessie has officially flipped the script—she now loves children!



My Mummy & Daddy



Mum & Nan, Poppy & Pebs



My Attentive Face!

According to Laura, the best things about Jessie are her ridiculously affectionate nature and her striking good looks. But, like any Jack-a-bee with a big personality, she's got a cheeky side too! Off-leash, Jessie's nose takes total control. If she catches a good scent, her ears suddenly stop working, completely ignoring Mum and Dad's recall calls. A bit of private training and a handy GPS tracker help keep this little detective safe on her adventures! And oh, what adventures they are! Jessie is a total cardio queen. In the cooler months, she goes for winter runs with Tom, tackles long weekend hikes, and insists on a brisk, one-hour walk every single morning. She's also a total social butterfly with a hilarious hobby: rescuing other dogs! While out walking, Jessie has a knack for spotting stray pups, calling them over, and leading them right back to Laura and Tom. Thanks to their furry tour guide, the couple has helped rescue at least five strays since adopting her!

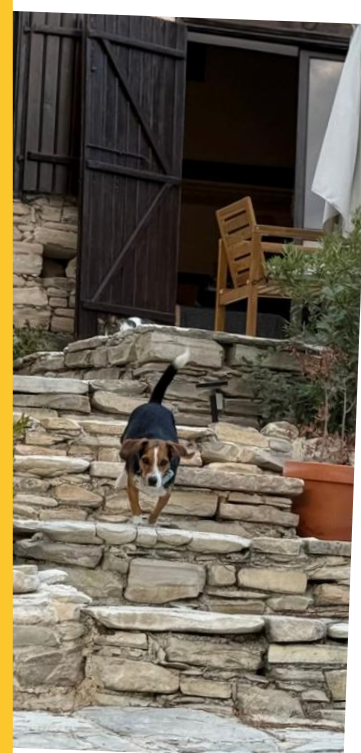
At home, Jessie lives peacefully alongside multiple cats. When Mum and Dad go away, she gets pampered at her "Grand-pawrents" house, whom she loves visiting regularly. Her daily routine is pure luxury: sleeping like an angel in her own bed at night, before hopping up into Mum and Dad's bed for mandatory morning snuggles.

Her top two favorite foods in the entire world? Doggy ice cream and squeezy cheese. And her absolute, no-contest favorite word? You guessed it—"WALKIES!"

Jessie's journey from a frightened rescue to a adored, tail-wagging family member is why we do what we do at Merlin's Haven. Thank you, Laura and Tom, for giving this special girl the extraordinary life she always deserved!



Cardio Queen



Home Sweet Home



Celebrating With Friends

And remember: For every single dog that is successfully adopted by our wonderful Merlin's extended family, a pen opens up back in Cyprus. It means we have the space to save one more dog waiting in line at the door.



From Scared to Secure:

Building Trust with Your New Best Friend

Bringing a rescue dog home is exhilarating—until your new companion pees indoors, lunges at the mailman, or hides for three days. Welcome to the reality of rescue dog adoption.

The truth? Your new dog isn't being difficult. They're scared and nervous.

Unlike puppies raised in stable homes, rescue dogs arrive with unknown histories and often deep emotional wounds. They've survived on street corners, endured neglect with bad owners, or experienced trauma that rewired their nervous systems. But here's the good news: with the right approach, virtually every rescue dog can learn to thrive. We'll show you how!

THE RESCUE DOG'S SECRET LANGUAGE

When a rescue dog misbehaves, their behavior is communication. Anxiety. Fear. Confusion. They're not being naughty—they're being honest about their emotional state. That dog hiding in the corner? Not stubborn. Terrified. That dog lunging at other dogs? Not aggressive. Defensive. There's a crucial difference.

Before you can train a rescue dog, you must first understand them. Your dog's behavioral challenges likely stem from one or more factors outlined in our guide to help you understand your new rescues language so that you will have your new best friend in no time.

Learning Their Language



Trauma & Abuse

Physical or emotional abuse creates deep fear responses. Dogs may flinch when you reach toward them, panic at sudden movements, or show aggression when approached during meals.

Lack of Socialization

Street dogs, puppy mill dogs, and kennel-raised dogs never learned that vacuums, doorbells, children, and cars are normal parts of life. These everyday occurrences can trigger overwhelming anxiety.

Learned Survival Behaviors

A dog who jumped fences to escape will still try. A dog who resource-guarded food in a shelter will still guard aggressively, even in abundance.

THE FOUNDATION: POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

The most effective tool for training rescue dogs isn't a shock collar or firm corrections. It's positive reinforcement—rewarding behavior you want to see more of. When your anxious rescue dog sits calmly as the doorbell rings, you give high-value treats and enthusiastic praise. Your dog's brain registers: *"Sitting = amazing things happen. I'll do this again."* This might sound gentle, but research proves it works faster and more reliably than punishment-based methods—especially for traumatized dogs. Why? Because punishment teaches fear, and your rescue dog already has plenty of that!

The Core Foundation Commands:

1. "Sit" – Interrupts unwanted behavior and provides structure
2. "Look at Me" – Redirects attention from triggers and rebuilds your bond
3. "Leave It" – Protects your dog from dangers
4. "Stay" – Builds impulse control

Master these four, and you have the tools to manage almost any behavioral challenge.

THE BIG THREE: ANXIETY, REACTIVITY & HOUSE TRAINING

Anxiety & Fearfulness

Your dog trembles at the vacuum. Panics during thunderstorms. Refuses to leave the house.

Solution: Gradual desensitization. Start by exposing your dog to the trigger at a distance where they remain calm. A terrified dog sees the vacuum from across the room—no sound, just presence. Reward calm behavior. Over weeks, gradually increase exposure and intensity.

This isn't quick. It takes 4-12 weeks to see noticeable improvement. But you're rewiring their nervous system, teaching them: "This scary thing = good things happen. I'm safe."

Reactivity & Aggression

Your dog lunges at other dogs. Snaps at visitors. Guards food aggressively.

First distinction: Most "aggressive" rescue dogs are actually fearful and reactive. They're defending themselves, not attacking.

Solution: Management + impulse control training. Keep your dog on-leash in unpredictable situations. Teach "Look at me" so when they spot a trigger, they look to you for direction instead of reacting. Use high-value rewards to reinforce calm behavior.

For severe cases, talk to your vet about anti-anxiety medication. This isn't "giving up"—it's creating a window where your dog can actually learn new responses.



House Training Accidents

Shelter dogs have no routine. They don't understand "outside = toilet, inside = no toilet."

Solution: Establish a rigid routine. Take your dog out first thing in the morning, after meals, after naps, after play, and before bed. Use a command: "Go potty!" Reward immediately when they go outside.

Supervise constantly indoors. Use a properly-sized crate when you can't watch—dogs naturally avoid soiling their sleeping space.

Timeline: 4–8 weeks for solid progress; some dogs need 3–6 months.

THE TIMELINE: WHAT TO EXPECT

Month 1: The Crisis Phase

Everything is overwhelming. Your dog may not eat for 24–48 hours. House training accidents are normal. Some dogs shut down; others become hyperactive.

Your job: Create routine, establish a safe space, keep training sessions short (5–10 minutes), and get a vet check-up.

Month 3: The Adjustment Phase

Behavioral issues surface—this is when your dog feels comfortable enough to show their true challenges. But bonding is deepening.

Your job: Continue daily training, address emerging issues early, increase socialization gradually.

Month 6: The Progress Phase

Most rescue dogs show significant improvement. Anxiety decreases. Behavior becomes manageable and predictable.

Your job: Refine training, gradually expose your dog to new experiences, maintain consistency.

Month 12: The New Normal

Your dog has integrated into your life. They're reliably house-trained, bonded deeply with you, and their personality is fully emerged.

Your job: Maintain routine, continue training, enjoy your incredible rescue dog.

(Note: Severely traumatized dogs may take 18–24 months for full integration. That's okay. You're rewiring their entire sense of safety.)

YOUR RESCUE DOG'S SECOND CHANCE

Training a rescue dog requires patience. Consistency. Sometimes professional help. But adopters tell us the same thing again and again, "It was worth every moment. My dog is my best friend. I can't imagine life without them."

[Your rescue dog isn't broken. They've just had a harder start. With understanding, positive reinforcement, and time, they will blossom. The bond you build with a rescue dog who's learned to trust again is unlike anything else.](#)

You've given your dog a second chance. They'll give you unconditional love in return.

Merlin's Haven are always here to offer support through the lifetime of your adopted dog. Email us or visit our website.



Will you
become a...

Merlin's HERO!

Donate £10 per month and join our team of Merlin's Heroes who enable us to feed our amazing dogs every month. Without our heroes we wouldn't be able to care for all the dogs we take in.

As a thank you, you will receive a small welcome gift, a monthly newsletter, and 10% off all our merch!



July's Adoptions



"Thanks to our amazing community, these dogs found their perfect families over the last month."

MERLIN'S WAG MAG

GUIDE: HELPING YOUR NEW CYPRUS RESCUE DOG FEEL SAFE.

SIMPLE STEPS FOR A SMOOTH ADJUSTMENT AFTER TRAVEL & DECOMPRESSION

1 BEFORE ARRIVAL: PREPARE A SAFE SPACE.



Ensure no hazards, electrical cords, or toxic plants.

2 DECOMPRESSION: ALLOW TIME TO SETTLE.



Avoid rushing to meet everyone. The first few weeks are key for quiet rest, especially for a dog who lived outside.

3 BUILDING TRUST: GO AT THEIR PACE.



Don't force interactions. Rewarding curiosity builds trust, especially if they are new to a indoor environment.

4 ESTABLISHING ROUTINE: PREDICTABILITY IS COMFORT



A consistent schedule for meals, walks, and potty breaks builds confidence and security.

5 GENTLE GUIDANCE: LEARNING HOUSE RULES

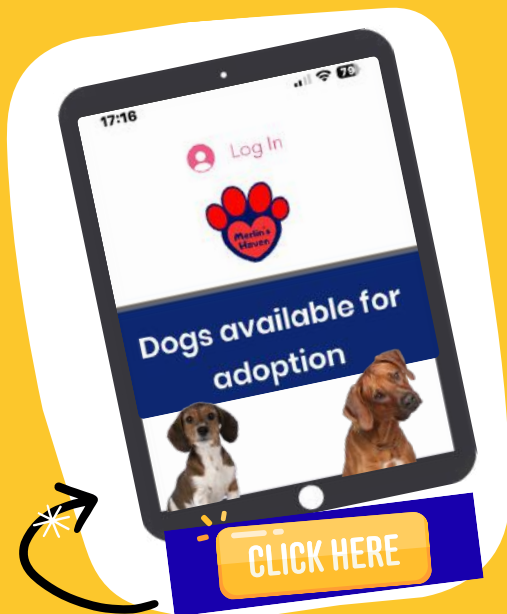


Show them where to go
positive reinforcement
only.

Positive reinforcement
only. Learning a new life
can take time. 13



MERLIN'S HAVEN EVERY LITTLE HELPS!



OR



CHECK OUT OUR DOGS FOR
ADOPTION!



BECOME A MERLIN'S HAVEN
SPONSOR AND SAVE A LIFE!

OR





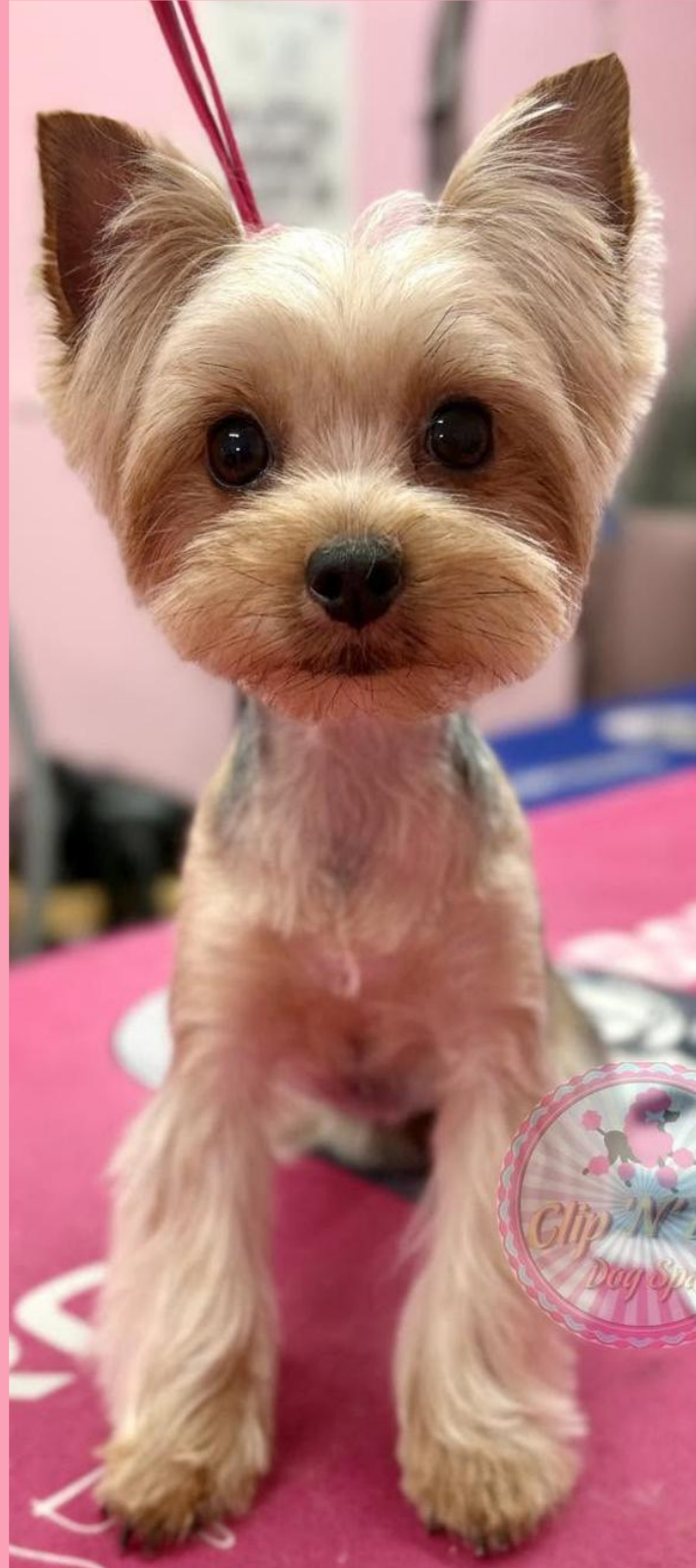
**Professional Dog Grooming
Ultrasonic Teeth Cleaning
Calm, Caring Groomer & Dog
Rescuer!**

 Oroklini - Larnaca

 Tues-Sat 9am-1pm (PM by request)

20% OFF

**WHEN YOU BOOK A
FULL GROOM AND
TEETH CLEANING**



99938318



clipdipdogspa@gmail.com



@clipndipcyprus



Where your pets come first!



August 16th

Lakehurst Park

MK196JY

12-5

husse.



All breed
dog show
in aid of



Chihuahua Health & Breeding Seminar

With Rachel Berrington
Pappersley Chihuahuas & Russian Toys
At ChihuahuaTown

Date: 16 August 2026
Times: 12:30pm and 3:30pm

Cost: £10 per person
Pay via PayPal to secure your place:
rachelberrington@gmail.com



Less than 4 weeks away!

Huge fun dog show seminar by Rachel Berrington
Fancy dress demos by Chasing Paws sausage race
agility and hoopers family fun photo ops

Shopping great food and drink splash zone
lots of shade free parking

Admission £2pp on the gate

**ORDER
NOW**



**TURNING YOUR PET
INTO YOUR HERO!**

**FROM JUST
£20**