

MERLIN'S

WAG MAG!

PICKLE PICKLE
FROM BULKY CHAINS
TO BEACH WAVES



**REMEMBERING
ALAN**
MERLIN'S OFFICIAL
CHIEF SCRUBBER!

www.merlinshaven.com
SEPTEMBER, 2026

**BECOME A
MERLIN'S
HERO**



MERLIN'S HAVEN 2027 CHARITY CALENDAR

Send us your dog photos! ♥



We want your dogs to be part of our 2027 charity calendar.



Send a clear photo, your dog's name, and a short story.



Message us or comment below to enter.

2027 ♥



**DON'T
MISS
OUT!**

*Big dogs, small dogs, scruffy dogs, glamorous dogs...
we want to see them all! ♥*

SEND US PICTURES OF YOUR MERLIN'S PUPS FOR THE 2027 CALENDAR

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RIP ALAN

Remembering Merlin's Chief Scrubber and a man every dog loved.

A Message From **Lynn**



**Welcome to the September edition
of Merlin's Wag Mag!**

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the third issue of Merlin's Wag Mag! As we step into September, we are all holding our breath and hoping that we are finally moving away from the intense summer heat and towards some cooler, kinder temperatures for both our two-legged and four-legged crew!

August was a whirlwind of arrivals and happy goodbyes here at the shelter. We welcomed 5 wonderful new four-legged residents to Merlin's Haven in August and even better, 6 of our rescue dogs packed their bags and headed off to start their new lives in their forever homes. We'll be sharing a full-page feature with all their photos and adoption stories later in this issue, so keep reading.

As always, we are utterly humbled by the amazing generosity of our community. A huge thank you goes to Luke McLaughlin, who completed a fantastic fundraiser raising an incredible £760 for the shelter (you can read all the details on this further in the mag!). We also want to send our deepest gratitude for the incredible donations that flooded in throughout August, from a huge double kennel and baby baths to food, treats and the valuable time of Josephine Laurence who took time out of her holiday to come down every single afternoon to help us at the rescue. Check out page 16 for the full list and pictures.

On a very heartbreaking note, this month we also say a painful goodbye. We were deeply saddened by the passing of Alan, one of our cherished volunteers. His funeral took place last week, and our thoughts and love are with his family and friends. Alan brought so much dedication, kindness, and warmth to our shelter, and he will be terribly missed by all of us—and all the dogs—here at Merlin's Haven.

Thank you all for continuing to stand by us, rain or shine, heatwave or cool breeze. Enjoy the issue!

Lynn Morris
FOUNDER
MERLIN'S HAVEN DOG SHELTER

MERLIN'S NEW ARRIVALS

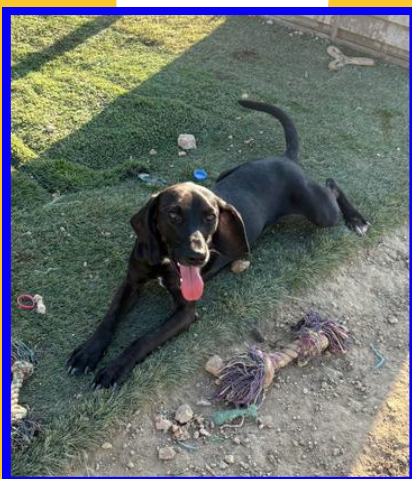
Autumn is officially here, and while the peak summer madness is winding down, things remain particularly busy for us at Merlin's Dog Shelter. September often brings a dip in adoptions as everyone settles back into routines after the holidays, leaving our hands full as warm autumn temperatures keep the pressure on 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:

Levi & Lucy: These two adorable pups were found wandering the streets after being dumped. A kind man started to feed them and took them in until they were offered a safe space at Merlin's.



Avi: Poor Avi was another dog found in a dangerous location trying to find food and water on a busy main road. Fortunately now at Merlin's, Avi is settling in well and is enjoying the safety and care.



Peanut & Marley: Marley originally came from Merlin's before finding what we thought was his forever home but things change and their adopter was only able to give four days notice that she was returning to the UK and unable to take them with her. Both are sweet dogs who only wish to be in a safe loving environment.



PRI VET CARE

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www.pri vetcare.com.cy

A man with a beard and sunglasses, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and a hat, stands on a blue paddleboard in the ocean. A small brown dog with large ears and a colorful collar is standing on the front of the board, looking directly at the camera. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright reflection on the water. The sky is clear blue.

From Bulky Chains to Beach Waves

The Search for a
"Daddy's Girl"

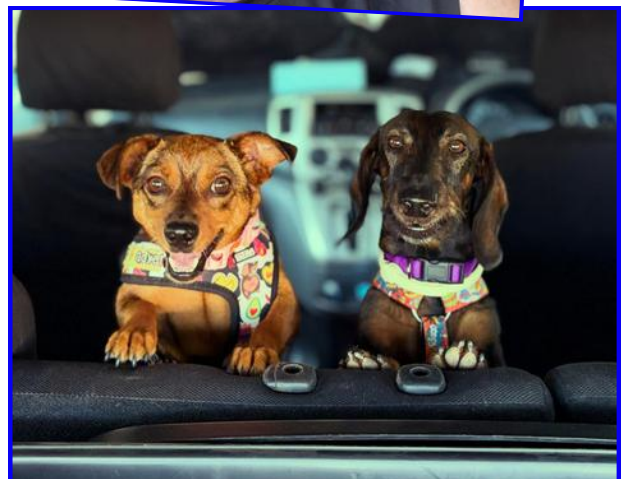
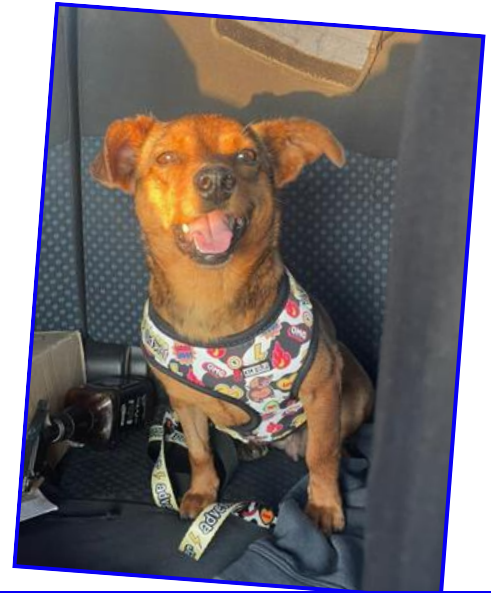
For years, life for a tiny pup named Cora was restricted to the length of a heavy chain outdoors in Cyprus. Fast forward to today, and the joyful little dog—affectionately dubbed Ickle Pickle due to her pint-sized frame—is living a life most humans would envy. From paddleboarding across crystal-clear Mediterranean waters to ruling as the official mascot of a local skate school, Pickle's journey is a shining tale of second chances and pure, unadulterated happiness.

The McVeigh household was already a bustling haven for rescue pets, though it was distinctly dominated by the boys. Between Flash, a lop-eared bunny, Mr. Thornchase, a handsome British Shorthair cat, and Houdini Skywalker McVeigh, a reactive dachshund with a soft spot for his mom, the home was full. However, every pet in the house was an unapologetic "mama's boy."

Desperate for a little furry friend who would actually give him the time of day, Scott (hubby to the family unit) decided it was time to find a girl dog. Beyond seeking a bit of fatherly affection, Scott and the family hoped a new companion would help ease Houdini's separation anxiety.

The family set off to Merlin's Haven Rescue Centre to meet a dog named Bailey. While Bailey was lovely, Houdini wasn't entirely convinced. That's when Lynn, Merlin's founder, brought out Cora. Matching Houdini in both height and width, the small pup instantly clicked with him. The McVeighs decided to take her home for a "test drive"—and the smile on Pickle's face during that very first car ride home said it all.

The transition to family life wasn't without its hurdles. Settling into the pack dynamic took a bit of time, but Pickle overcame anxiety and health issues until her resilient spirit shone through. Once healed, she was ready to tackle her new, adventure-filled life head-on.



A Jet-Setting Cyprus Adventurer

Pickle has embraced her new Cyprus lifestyle with open paws. She quickly discovered a deep love for the water, blossoming from a hesitant paddler into an avid swimmer and stand-up paddleboard (SUP) enthusiast.

During one memorable outing at Kappari Doggy Beach, Scott decided to paddle out alone on his SUP board. Pickle, simply refusing to be left behind, plunged into the water and swam a brave 30 meters straight out to join him. Her daring rescue mission was featured on the beach's Facebook page, earning cheers from the entire shoreline.

When she isn't catching waves, Pickle works hard as the official mascot for Junction7 Skate School, owned by the McVeighs. Her grand debut into the local skate community took place on World Skate Day—just one day after she was adopted. Taken down to Larnaca Skate Park, she was thrown right into the middle of buzzing ramps, loud music, and skaters flying past doing tricks. Instead of being spooked, Pickle was completely captivated. She soaked in every second of the energy, winning over every skater in sight and officially cementing Scott's heart forever.

Today, students at Junction7 constantly ask for her when she's absent, eagerly showering her with treats and cuddles whenever she attends. The family's next big ambition? Teaching Pickle how to ride a skateboard herself—following in the pawsteps of her brother Houdini.

At home, Pickle's quirky personality shines just as bright. She has developed an adorable obsession with Scott's van—dubbed the Skatemobile. Whether parked in the garage or packed for a trip, she can often be found snoozing inside for hours, prompting the family to routinely leave the doors open so she can pop in whenever she pleases.

From being chained outside to embarking on boat trips, ruling skate parks, and lounging in her favorite van, Pickle's story is a heartwarming reminder of how much love a rescue pet can bring into a home. The McVeigh family went looking for a companion to keep Houdini company, but ended up with a happy-go-lucky, eternally smiling mascot who brought their entire household together.

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.

KEEPING YOUR DOG AMUSED WHEN YOU CAN'T GO OUTSIDE

1. INTERACTIVE PLAY

Hide toys or treats around the house for a fun nose work game!



2. TEACH NEW TRICKS

Spend time teaching 'spin', 'high-five', or brush up on 'stay'.



3. STUFFED KONG & PUZZLES

Provide food-dispensing toys to keep them occupied and mentally engaged.

4. INDOOR FETCH or TUG

Use soft toys for gentle games of fetch or tug-of-war.



5. BUILD AN OBSTACLE COURSE

Create simple jumps with pillows and tunnels with blankets.



6. HOMEMADE TREATS & SNACK HUNTS

Make frozen fruit pops or hide small treats under cups.

HAPPY DOGS MAKE HAPPY HOMES!
Stay Safe & Play Inside!

The Lifeline Across the Sea:



Why Adopting a Cyprus Rescue Dog is Still Worth Every Step

Across the sun-drenched landscapes of Cyprus, a deep animal welfare crisis persists. Thousands of gentle, intelligent dogs remain caged, chained, abandoned and in municipal pounds on death row. Yet, despite tighter regulations and rising travel costs, international adoption to the UK remains one of the most vital lifelines for these deserving animals.

The journey may require more effort today, but the reward of saving a life from the Mediterranean—and gaining an extraordinary companion—remains as powerful as ever.

To understand why international adoption is so critical, one must look at the local conditions. Unlike the UK, Germany and Holland, Cyprus lacks nationwide, government-funded Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs for stray dogs. Local municipal pounds operate as "kill pounds," where dogs face swift euthanasia and mostly dreadful conditions.

This issue is compounded by deeply rooted cultural norms:

- **Attitudes Toward Neutering:** Many traditional communities harbor strong religious or cultural objections to spaying and neutering, viewing the procedure as an unnatural interference with an animal's biological purpose.
- **Low-Cost Care, Unused Opportunities:** Surprisingly, veterinary costs for neutering in Cyprus are extremely affordable, meaning financial barriers rarely prevent the surgery—it is primarily driven by local mindset.
- **Basic Management Practices:** Dogs are rarely kept indoors as integrated family members. Instead, they are often kept as working or outdoor animals, frequently left without collars, microchips, or routine vaccinations.

When hunting seasons end or unwanted litters arrive, rescues are inundated with healthy, friendly dogs that local communities simply will not absorb.

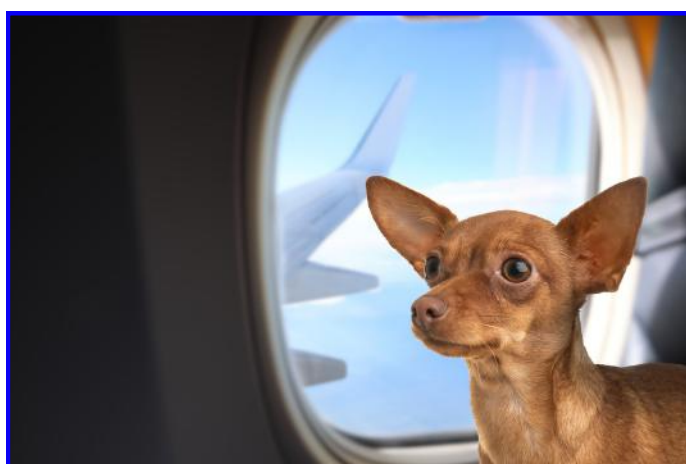
Navigating the UK Dilemma: Bureaucracy and Rising Vet Bills

Rehoming a dog to Great Britain has undeniably become more complex. Post-Brexit import regulations require non-EU certificates, extra blood tests, and mandatory logging on the UK's IPAFFS system. Reduced airline cargo options mean specialized ground transport or charter flights now cost more than before and people in the UK are also feeling the strain of rising costs of living.

Once in the UK, adopters face a second hurdle: soaring veterinary and insurance costs. Unlike human healthcare, UK veterinary services are privately operated and subject to 20% VAT, while advanced diagnostic tech and staffing shortages push bills upward. High veterinary bills drive up insurance premiums, leaving many prospective owners asking whether caring families are being priced out of pet ownership altogether. Fortunately adopting from Cyprus means we take care of the initial vaccinations, health checks, neutering, passport, microchip, paperwork and more, meaning it's still cheaper to adopt from Cyprus than to 'buy' a dog in the UK.

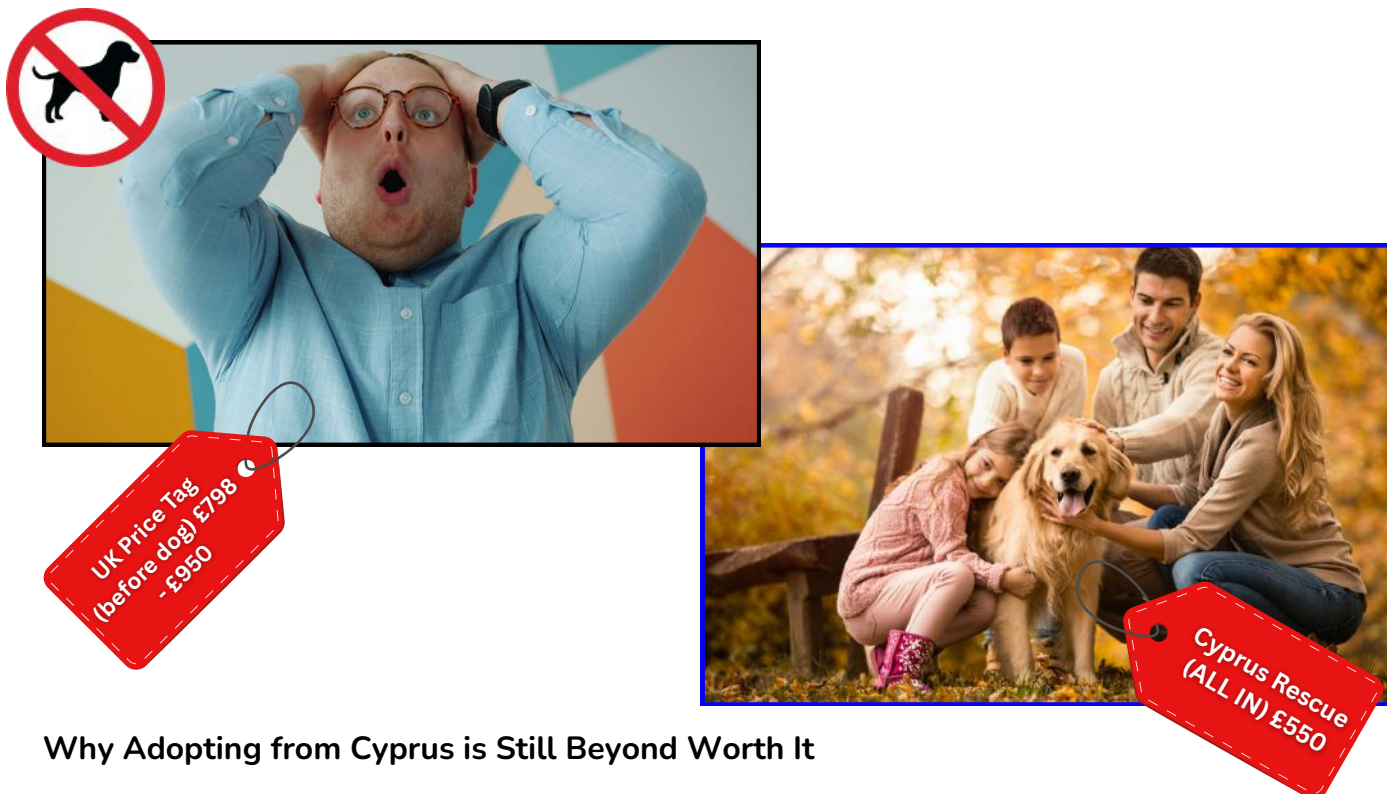
Standard veterinary costs in the UK for these services vary based on location (London and the South East tend to be higher) and the weight/size of the dog:

- Standard Vet Consultation / Appointment: £55 to £70 (average around £62)
- Dog Spay (Female): £350 to £500+ (spaying is a major abdominal surgery, with costs scaling up significantly for medium to large breeds)
- Dog Castration / Neuter (Male): £300 to £400 (average around £330–£360)
- Full Set of Primary Vaccinations (Puppy/Initial Course): £80 to £120 (usually covers 2 separate injections spaced weeks apart)
- Rabies Vaccination: £40 to £70 (not required for UK-resident dogs unless traveling abroad or importing under the pet travel scheme)
- Full Diagnostic Blood Panel: £100 to £200+ (covers standard biochemistry, hematology, and organ screens)
- Worming Treatment: £8 to £18 (per individual single dose, depending on body weight)
- Flea Treatment: £8 to £15 (per single monthly dose, tablet or spot-on)
- Microchip Insertion & Database Registration: £15 to £30 (often included for free or at a discount when bundled with initial vaccinations)



UK Average Price (NOT INCLUDING buying a medium sized dog) **£798 - £950**. Note: For large or giant dog breeds, higher anaesthetic requirements and medication dosages can push the total over £1,000.

Adoption from Cyprus to UK Average Price (INCLUDING your rescue dog, travel crate, boarding up to flight date, all medical and all vet trips, paperwork and transportation) **£550 - £700**.



Why Adopting from Cyprus is Still Beyond Worth It

Despite the administrative red tape and financial realities, choosing to adopt a Cyprus rescue dog is a uniquely transformative experience:

- 1. You Are Quite Literally Saving a Life:** Because municipal shelters in Cyprus operate as kill pounds, bringing a dog to the UK directly saves them from high-euthanasia environments.
- 2. Exceptional Temperaments:** Rescued "Cyprus Pointers," hounds, and street mixes are renowned for their gentle, resilient, and affectionate natures. Having navigated tough environments, they adapt to living in warm indoor homes with immense gratitude.
- 3. Comprehensive Health Checks:** Before traveling to the UK, rescue dogs undergo rigorous veterinary screening, microchipping, full vaccinations, and health passports arranged by dedicated charities, ensuring they arrive ready for their new start.
- 4. Comprehensive Rescue Support:** Experienced international rescue teams guide adopters through every step of the paperwork, transport, and settling-in process.

The extra administrative steps required today are small hurdles compared to the years of love, loyalty, and joy a rescued Cyprus dog brings into a household. By opening a home to one of these dogs, adopters aren't just taking in a pet—they are extending a hand across borders to save a life that had no other way out.



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, 10% off all our merch and... your name on our hero's wall!



August's Adoptions



Bonnie



Jock



Cricket



Summer



Humphrey



May



Claude



Saffi

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



A Heartwarming Roundup of Support for Merlin's Haven

It takes a dedicated network of compassionate supporters, hard-working volunteers, and extraordinary fundraisers to keep a sanctuary running. This month, the team and animals at Merlin's Haven have been overwhelmed by the sheer generosity of the community. From gruelling athletic feats to essential daily supplies, every single contribution helps provide a safe, loving environment for the animals in our care. Here is a round-up of the incredible kindness shown to Merlin's Haven recently.

Heroic Ultramarathon Effort Raises £760

A massive round of applause goes to Luke McLaughlan, who took on the formidable Run the Blades Ultramarathon—conquering a whopping 52 kilometres to raise vital funds for the shelter.

Luke was inspired to take on the challenge after adopting his beloved dog, Phred, from Merlin's Haven three years ago. Wanting to give back to the sanctuary that brought Phred into his life, Luke's incredible run raised an outstanding £760. The shelter expressed overwhelming gratitude for his incredible determination and support.

Financial Support & Essential Infrastructure

Keeping animals secure and comfortable requires ongoing facility upgrades and funding:

- Financial Gift: A big thank you to George and Su at Cyprus Insights for their generous financial donation of €200.
- Large Enclosures: Margarita Michalska Ioannou kindly gifted a huge double kennel, providing much-needed spacious accommodation.
- Specialised Housing: Peter Charalambous donated a cozy dog igloo to keep shelter residents comfortable.
- Gate Drop-Off: An anonymous supporter left a wonderful care package right at the shelter gate, including two dog crates, bedding, and food.

Supplies, Food, and Everyday Essentials

Providing daily meals, gear, and enrichment for the animals relies entirely on community donations. A big thank you to the following supporters:

- Karen and Ade Jenkinson: Contributed a generous assortment of food, along with essential walking gear—leads, collars, harnesses—and fun toys.
- Andri Petra Bazaar: Donated baby baths, which are fantastic multi-purpose items for cleaning and cooling down shelter animals.
- Sharon Hamner: Handed over a batch of soft towels and exciting toys for play sessions.
- Rose Pratt: Treated the shelter's residents to a selection of delicious treats that all the dogs ("woofs") enjoyed immensely.
- Sheila Orrell: Delivered fresh fruit and vegetables for the farm animals residing at the sanctuary, along with cozy bedding.
- Ange and Rush: Provided vital supplies of food and treats for both the resident cats and dogs.

Hands-On Helping Hands

Volunteers are the backbone of day-to-day operations at the rescue, and holidaymakers stepping in to lend a hand bring a uniquely uplifting spirit:

A heartfelt thank you goes to Josephine Laurence, who spent every afternoon this week helping out at the rescue while visiting on holiday. Her hands-on assistance made a huge difference to the staff and animals alike. Special thanks also go to Josephine and her mum, Janet Laurence, for their thoughtful donation of dog food and treats.



A Merlyn's Welcome!

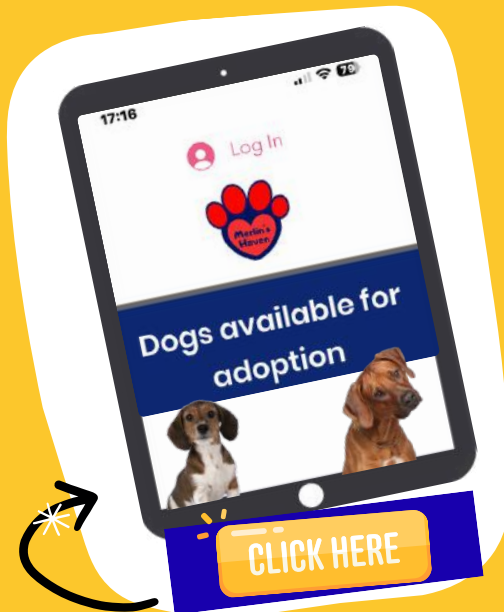


New Friends

To everyone who ran, donated, dropped off supplies, or spent their holiday afternoons cleaning and walking dogs: the entire team—and every four-legged resident at Merlin's Haven—thanks you from the bottom of their hearts!



MERLIN'S HAVEN EVERY LITTLE HELPS!



OR



CHECK OUT OUR DOGS FOR
ADOPTION!



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

OR



REMEMBERING ALAN, MERLIN'S CHIEF SCRUBBER!

Last week, friends, family, and animal lovers gathered to say a final farewell to one of Merlin's Haven Dog Shelter's brightest lights, Alan Peaker. Though we miss him dearly, our hearts are full of gratitude for the incredible mark Alan left on our shelter and everyone who walked through its doors.

Alan's journey with Merlin's Haven began in his late seventies after he rescued two puppies that had been heartlessly dumped. From that moment on, he became an unstoppable force of nature. Affectionately known and fiercely proud to be called "Merlin's chief scrubber," Alan was a complete whirlwind. Even with two knee replacements, he moved faster than volunteers a third his age, scrubbing and cleaning dog pens with an energy that made it seem as though he were twenty-one. Once the kennels sparkled, Alan didn't stop there—he would head over to muck out the horses, check on the cats, and even tend to our resident rescue pig.

Originally from Britain and having lived in Cyprus for many years, Alan brought boundless warmth to our community. He was an exceptional foster parent to countless dogs and ultimately opened his heart and home to adopt two small pups from the shelter. Alongside his devoted wife, who generously designed greeting cards to sell with all profits supporting Merlin's, Alan was a steadfast champion of our cause.



what many people did not know was that Alan led a fascinating secret life as a talented singer. He was both an opera singer and a country artist, having released his own country album under the name Alan Leyton. Alan brought this musical gift directly to the shelter, always singing to the dogs and delighting in when they would join in with their own howls and barks. Fittingly, his own country track was played as he was laid to rest last week, meaning Alan truly sang at his own funeral.

Alan faced cancer with the same incredible strength of body and mind that he brought to his daily chores, having beaten it years ago and fighting fiercely when it returned. He leaves behind a legacy of laughter, boundless hard work, and deep compassion. Thank you, Alan, for everything you gave to our dogs, our shelter, and our lives. You will always be a cherished part of the Merlin's Haven family.



MAKING MEMORIES WITH *Bea & Lou*

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



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