



## Dear friends,

With Easter and the Royal Wedding on the horizon, we've got some fantastic ways in which you can join in with the celebrations. We announce the launch of Walk the Dog The Brit Collection™ plus have some inspirational Easter gift ideas for your four-legged friends. We meet Esther Matthews from Barking Mad and have all our usual news, review and another delightful illustration from Ellen too.

Happy reading!

Hanne x



## Patriotic pets unite!

As we gear up for the biggest event this year, the Royal Wedding between HRH Prince William and Kate Middleton on 29<sup>th</sup> April, pet owners and their four-legged friends can now join in with the celebrations thanks to Walk the Dog. We're launching a new product range **Walk the Dog The Brit Collection™**. The new collection features our own canine version of the Royal Wedding and includes commemorative crockery to Cool Britannia waistcoats for your furies, guaranteed to make you smile!

The bespoke collection is made in England and will include pet clothing, crockery and stationary. We will be adding products to the collection over the coming months. However, our first product in the collection includes our Cool Britannia waistcoat. Made with Union Jack satin, lined and finished off with a natty white satin bow tie, as modelled by Howard (left). The waistcoats are available in various sizes from small (e.g. Chihuahua), medium (e.g. Jack Russell), large (e.g. Springer Spaniel) to x-large (e.g. Basset Hound) priced £28.99.



The first item showcasing in our crockery range is our doggie tribute to 'Wills & Kate' with a commemorative mug. We will be adding further tributes with mugs of our canine Queen and Prince Phillip soon! You can find out more and pre order from our site [www.wtdbritcollection.co.uk](http://www.wtdbritcollection.co.uk)



We're delighted that our new collection together with photographs from our Royal Wedding tribute shoot (see below) will be featured in Pick Me Up and Take A Break magazines. So, don't miss out on being part of the cool Britannia gang with our bespoke waistcoat and mug collection! Call us on **01442 878628** or email: [info@walk-the-dog.net](mailto:info@walk-the-dog.net)

## Royal Wedding preview...

Below is a sneaky peek at our tribute to the Royal Wedding. The shoot was to help raise awareness in the press of our charity dog fancy dress competition Dressed to the K9s™. The shoot took place on location at WTD client and dog rescue supporter Christiane Kubrick's Childwickbury estate, and featured fifteen of our WTD clients as the Royal Family! Log onto our Facebook fan page to see more images from our Royal Wedding.



Lottie as 'The Queen'



Bob and Norman as 'Camilla & Charles'



Marley as the Guardsman

## New faces to Walk the Dog...

This month we give a warm welcome to; **Harris, Biscuit, Ziggy, Poppy, Ava, Wilma, Maggie, Bumble, Jackpot, Spider, Pebbles and Merlin, Cameron, Danny, Archie, Zoe, Tottie T and Sid**. If your pet isn't on our picture gallery yet, please send us their picture, so they can join our animal hall of fame. Email us at [info@walk-the-dog.net](mailto:info@walk-the-dog.net)

## And sad farewells...

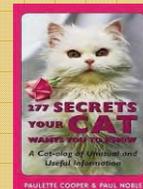
We are very sad to say goodbye to lovely Walk the Dog pets **Chicory** and **Olive** who both passed away recently.



## Book review 277 Secrets Your Cat

**Wants You to Know** by Paulette Cooper and Paul Noble

Jam packed full of information from health and pet care to understanding cat behaviour and dealing with problems. A 'cat-alog' of unusual and useful facts! RRP £11.25



## Win nearly £2k worth of prizes!

Walk the Dog's **Dressed to the K9s™** is currently underway with some great photo entries coming in, including Piran as a cow boy (right).



Now in its third year, our charity pet fancy dress photo competition has a prize fund of **nearly £2k** in goodies for the winning entry! Plus there's prizes for the runner up and Top Ten entries.

Our judges for this year's competition are **Radio 1's 'Comedy' Dave Vitty** and **Dominic Byrne** from the Chris Moyles Breakfast Show. Dave, who was booted out of Dancing On Ice recently says: "Both Dominic & I are delighted to be a part of the Dressed to the K9s™ competition. We can't wait to see what people come up with as outfits for their dogs. We've seen some of last years and there are some comedy dog costumes out there...Here's hoping dog lovers up and down the country get involved and help the worthy cause that is Every Chance Rescue."

So, why not have some fun with your pet by entering our competition for a chance to win and raise the badly needed funds for Every Chance Rescue. Enter via our competition site at [www.dressedtothek9s.com](http://www.dressedtothek9s.com) Our competition closes to entries on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April. Winner and runner up announced on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

## Special appeal – Peanut



Peanut is a 9 year old ginger tom. He is a gorgeous gentle fellow, who likes to spend his days outside roaming and evenings asleep on the sofa. As Peanut is a timid chap, he would be best suited with a couple, old or family with older children.

If you can give Peanut a loving home, contact Vanessa at Cats Protection on **0845 371 1851**.

## In the news...

### Book signing at Ideal Home Show

Hanne will be signing copies of her book *Playing With Your Dog* at the Ideal Home Show on **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>** and **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March**. See Hanne at the *Oscar Pet Foods stand* in the Ideal Gardens section. Hanne will be chatting about how you can have a smarter, fitter and happier dog.



The book's RRP £6.99 and is available from WTD, Amazon, Waterstone's, WHSmiths, Borders plus other online resellers.

### How to Speak Dog & Understand Nutrition workshop – 28<sup>th</sup> May

Ever wondered what your dog might say if he could speak? Are you interested in how your dog's behaviour can be affected by what it eats? Hanne from Walk the Dog™ and Jan Millington from Oscar Pet Foods will be holding a fun and interactive workshop aimed at dog owners. The workshop is being held on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May** in the Westwick Room, Leverstock Green Village Hall and starts at 11am. For further information, or to reserve your place contact Hanne on 01442 878628 or email us at [info@walk-the-dog.net](mailto:info@walk-the-dog.net). Ticket price approx £15.



### WTD's girl racer takes Bronze medal

Husky girl racer **Emma Cowell** completed her 2010/11 BSHRA championship winning the bronze medal in the 2-dog class and 14<sup>th</sup> in the 3-dog class. Walk the Dog™ have been Emma's sponsors for over three years and wish her well for the 2011 racing season.



### We meet Barking Mad - Esther Matthews



**Name:** Esther Matthews  
**Occupation:** Pet carer and franchisee of Barking Mad  
**Pets:** Jack, the 14yrs Jack Russell  
**Lives:** Tring

Esther runs the Barking Mad franchise for the Berkhamsted/Tring area. We caught up with Esther to find out more about the home from home pet care she offers.

Having recently re-homed him from a rescue centre I was reluctant to put my dog Jack back in a kennel when I went away, so started my search for an alternative. All roads kept leading back to Barking Mad. I investigated further and realised the franchise in this area was for sale. With no hesitation, I bought it there and then haven't looked back since! Barking Mad offers a unique alternative to traditional kennels, I work very hard to find families who want a dog to stay sometimes but don't want to or can't commit full time. They are happy to open their door and have your dog come and stay while you are away. Our hosts are very special people who are loving and generous with lots of dog care experience. Generally, they are newly retired and enjoying the freedom it brings but missing the busy family life, others may have lost a dog recently and this is a great way of getting over their loss, and some work from home and love the great outdoors.

I come and visit you and your dog to really get to know them so I can match them up with a suitable host family, then on the day of departure I collect him with all his favourite belongings and deliver him to the host family where I stay until he is nicely settled. You will be surprised how quickly your dog adjusts to another house, there is affection, fun and treats on hand and they soon feel quite at home. While you are away your dog could be enjoying a run through the woods, a trot around the park or a snooze in front of the fire. The host family enjoy your dog's company until you are home and I deliver him back to you, happy and healthy. Host families say it's a little like having grandchildren – you get all the best bits and then get to hand them back! For more information please call me, Esther Matthews, on 01442 827237 or email at [esther.matthews@barkingmad.uk.com](mailto:esther.matthews@barkingmad.uk.com). You can also make an enquiry through our website [www.barkingmad.uk.com](http://www.barkingmad.uk.com)

## Eggs-cellent Easter gifts for your pets

Easter is a time when most of us enjoy a good chomp on some chocolate eggs. However, your furry friends need not miss out, as we have some inspirational Easter gifts so they can join in the fun too!

We have edible delights from Reg & Ruby made with 100% natural rawhide and vegetable colourings to pampering shampoos and lotions from Forever Living. We stock a fab range of collars and leads made from hemp and fleeced lined by Planet Dog, as well as toys for cats and dogs. Log onto our 'Products' page on our website [www.walk-the-dog.net](http://www.walk-the-dog.net) Prices start from £3.25 upwards.



### Recipe corner – Bunny banana mash

We have a tasty treat for you to make that will bring a hop and skip from your bunnies and other rodents alike! See below for instructions on how to make this mouthwatering dish.

#### Ingredients

- 1/2 banana
- 1 stick of raw spaghetti
- small handful of sunflower seeds
- small handful of peas (frozen, cooked or raw)
- 1/2 avocado



#### Instructions...

Mash the banana and avocado in a clean pet bowl, add the seeds. Mix well. Add the peas on top and break up the spaghetti then place on top, sticking out of the mash.



Howard and Jefferson wish you an **EGG-CELLENT** Easter!