



# the scottie

Newsletter of the Scottish Terrier Emergency Care Scheme

Founded by Nellie Holland 1976 Registered charity 275666 & SC041298

Patron: Ben Parkinson MBE

## Spring 2021

When we printed the Spring 2020 Newsletter we never imagined that the Coronavirus pandemic would have such a massive impact and be with us for so long. STECS has however been able to continue its rescue work throughout the pandemic as animal welfare is one of the permitted reasons for leaving home during lockdown. Throughout 2020 we rescued 41 dogs, of which 40 found permanent new homes. One elderly dog was sadly too poorly to rehome and stayed with his foster carer for his final few weeks. Just one rescue was the direct result of the pandemic – his owner contracted Covid and became too ill to look after his Scottie. Although rehoming decreased in 2020, the surge in applications to adopt a Scottie was unprecedented. Our rehomingers have therefore been very busy processing adoption applications.

The pandemic meant that last year STECS had to cancel all of the social gatherings after 23rd March 2020, with a consequent loss of funds raised for the charity. Due to the current known restrictions the trustees have had to cancel the Scottish Gathering planned for May 2021 and have postponed the AGM until 5th Sep 2021. The Annual Summer Party is still tentatively scheduled to take place on Sunday 1st August but this will of course be subject to any Covid restrictions at the time. So before travelling, please check our website or Facebook page, or phone our secretary, to ensure the event is still being held.

On a positive note, we welcomed 171 new members last year (NB: a member is defined as a subscribing household). This is the highest number of new members in any single calendar year that we can remember. New members in 2020 greatly exceeded those who did not renew their membership, and our membership is now at the highest level since 2007.

Thank you to everyone who completed the member survey. We have summarised some of the results on pages 6 and 7. Your feedback has been invaluable and will help shape STECS as the charity moves forward. We had a very large number of responses and unfortunately we cannot realistically write and thank you all individually. However for those of you who offered your services as volunteers, either at an event or assisting with our rescue work, we will contact you directly if a potential need for your help in your area arises. We were delighted that 52 of you came forward and offered to help with our rescue work.

Crufts has been moved to July 2021 and Terrier day will be held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July. As usual STECS is planning to have their merchandise stall adjacent to the Scottie show ring. We are also on the short list for a rescue stand and are awaiting a decision from the Kennel Club.

Finally, the newsletter is only as good as it's content. So if you have a story you would like to share with us, please get in touch (see contacts on the back page). The closing date for articles for the next newsletter is 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021.

## From our President

Normally one would be looking at 2021 with anticipation of a new year, with possibly exciting events to unfold and look forward to. Instead we are all hoping and praying that this dreaded virus will somehow magically disappear. The year 2020 was a nightmare, but surely we have all had moments to lighten the darkness - for instance our little four legged scruffs that we haven't been able to get trimmed - looking like they did a century ago! How many of us had the scissors out in desperation? And weren't we so happy to have that wonderful companionship that comes with an animal, particularly a Scottie. One of the projects I set myself during lockdown was to sort out my Scottie library and ephemera - this includes critiques of my brood from my showing days. I need another two lockdowns to finish the job! Some of the articles were about Scotties past and present, photos of "old" Scots, with longer legs, full coats and the longer bodies.



Today's Scotties are much more compact and streamlined. They are beautiful but not without the occasional problem. One interesting article I came across featured Nellie Holland, the original founder of STECS. Nellie was in full anti-puppy farm mode and all set to go and rescue some bitches and puppies. I'm not sure if it was ever printed, or if she actually rescued the dogs, but she did this on a regular basis, her courage left no doubt. This was partly why she started STECS back in 1976 and has left us all its legacy which sadly over 40 years later is still needed today. Although there has been recent legislation passed in the UK to shut down puppy farms, they still manage to find ways around the law and continue to operate, or blatantly operate illegally. Indeed in 2020 we rescued two puppy farm bitches. Of course STECS today is all about helping all Scotties in need and as you will see from the Welfare Report opposite, our main charitable work is rehoming dogs where the owner has become too ill to look after them or who has sadly passed away. Notwithstanding, our welfare team continue to lobby the appropriate authorities and work tirelessly to shut down puppy farmers and expose those "back yard" breeders, who are driven purely by money and greed, and neglect the basic welfare needs of their Scotties.

Finally I would like to say that over the years, initially as a member, then a trustee, then Chairman, and eventually as President I have felt honoured to be a part of STECS. Over the past 40 years that I have volunteered for STECS, I have had the greatest pleasure and satisfaction in helping many Scottish Terriers find forever homes with lovely carers. As I now finally retire I know I leave the charity in many capable hands who have my gratitude and the love and trust of so very many lovable Scotties. Let us all hope 2021 will have a happier and safer end than the beginning, and perhaps, fingers crossed, we may manage to meet again before too long. My best wishes to you all and please stay safe.

Sheila Maw



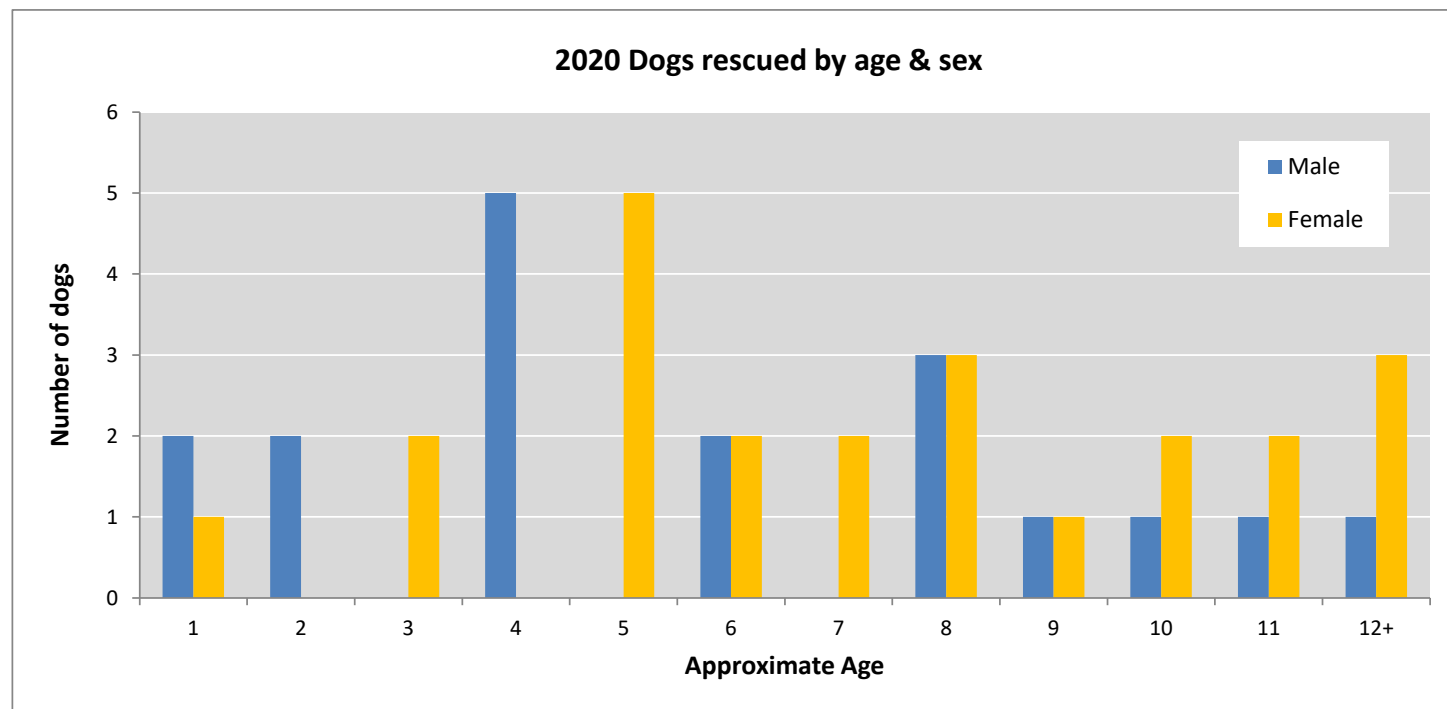
### Edition Dog

Edition Dog is a magazine dedicated to the health, nutrition and wellbeing of dogs. The magazine's mission statement is to provide the reader with in-depth information and guidance to make informed decisions regarding their dog's health and wellbeing.

Issue 26 of the magazine which was published in November 2020 included a breed focus on the Scottish Terrier. Our very own STECS members Cath Marchbank (STECS Welfare Officer) and Fiona Walton (dog trainer and behaviourist) contributed to the article in their capacity of Scottie owners. Edition Dog have very kindly allowed STECS to reprint the article in full and accordingly we have included a copy with our newsletter. We hope that you will find the article informative and we thank Cath and Fiona for helping to publicise STECS.

## Welfare Interim Report 2021 – statistics for 2020

A detailed review of our welfare activities undertaken last year will be presented at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting and will then be summarised in the Autumn 2021 Newsletter. However we are able to report the statistics for 2020. The total number of dogs rescued in 2020 was 41. This is a reduction on the 2019 figure of 49 and is now the fourth consecutive annual decrease. An analysis of dogs rescued in 2020 by age and sex is shown in the graph below. The average age of our rescue dogs was 6.8 years (2019 5.2 years). The average age in 2019 was probably skewed due to rehoming two eight-week old puppies that were born to one of our STECS dogs. An average age of 6.8 years is nearer to the norm. Girls outnumbered boys for the third consecutive year. Prior to 2018 boys normally accounted for 60% of the rescues.



The reasons why dogs were handed over to STECS is as follows:

Reasons for rescuing:	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Owner ill	14	9	11	21	17
Owner died	5	7	5	7	14
Owner unable to cope (boisterous dog)	5	3	3	6	6
Does not get on with other dogs in the household	4	5	5	0	2
Owner unable to provide adequate care (out at work)	4	2	2	8	6
Via another rescue organisation	2	3	3	0	2
Ex puppy farm breeding bitch	2	2	4	1	0
Abandoned	2	1	0	0	3
Relationship breakup of owners	2	0	5	2	3
New baby in household	1	5	1	2	0
Owner (breeder) downsizing	0	7	3	7	14
Other	0	5	10	2	14
<b>Total dogs rescued</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>81</b>

Catherine Marchbank and Gillian Simms

## Tia Kennerley

In October 2009 a small and very pretty Scottie named Tia came into our lives. We have had her now for well over 11 years and to the best of our knowledge she currently has the honour of being the Scottie who has been in the care of STECS for the longest. Tia had been rescued by STECS along with five other Scotties from a farm in South Wales. She was only seven months old and suffered with deformed front legs and paws. When we adopted her back in 2009 it was also discovered that she had a heart condition and needed urgent surgery to save her life.

Thanks to STECS, this vital surgery to save her life was given. It was carried out by one of the country's leading veterinary heart specialists at a cost to STECS, back then, of over £3,000. Being such a young dog the surgery was very risky but the operation thankfully was a huge success.



**Tia when she was adopted in 2009**

We had Bob and Prince when Tia arrived and it was Bob who taught her to Arrrrooo! She loved Bob and followed him everywhere. Prince was a blind diabetic whom she would try to ambush in doorways if we didn't stop her in time. Prince's patience wore thin one day and he managed to make contact with Tia. Suffice it to say there were no more ambushes after that!!

After Bob and Prince passed on we adopted old Jack. He was the ultimate gentleman and Tia fully welcomed Jack into her home. They would come with us to the Churnnet Valley Railway where we helped out as volunteers, cleaning the heritage carriages. Tia and Jack would settle down and wait for us on a huge vet bed in the Guard's van until we had finished and were ready to go home.

As well as loving Scotties, one of our passions is heritage railways. Tia and Jack accompanied us on many steam railways and we compiled a large collection of photos entitled Jack and Tia's railway adventures. We visited almost every heritage railway in the UK with them and we have some wonderful memories.



**Tia and Jack on one of their railway adventures**

After Jack went to Rainbow Bridge we adopted the late Sandra Weir's dog, Alf. Sandra was a veterinary nurse and had been a trustee and very prominent member of STECS. She was the rehomer for most of the north west of England. Sandra sadly passed away at a young age from cancer. Alf came with a reputation as a biter, but he and Tia got along famously from the start. He was always relaxed in Tia's company and never attempted to bite in the years we had him.

We have had many Scotties over the years, all of them have been different in their own way. Tia was (and to a degree remains) somewhat nervous of people and dogs but nevertheless she has a very sweet nature. She has welcomed all dogs coming into our home. We recently bought a Scottie puppy, Dillon, and yet again she has welcomed him into her home and helped him to adjust to our way of life. For example, he was absolutely terrified of being bathed so we popped Tia in the bath alongside him and he immediately relaxed. She calmed him down and reassured him that it was OK. He then accepted that he was going to smell a whole lot better (well for us humans that is)!

Dillon looks to Tia for reassurance in any situation he's uncertain of and so our wonderful Tia continues her steadying influence on the next generation.

**Linda and David Kennerley**



## STECS Auction Page

A big thank you and very well done to Jayne Blincow and her team, Hayley Lewis, Kathy McCaffrey (USA), Anne Marie Canning, and Rebecca Louise Johnson, for organising their latest Facebook auction. The auction which was held in early October 2020 raised an impressive £3,600. Their efforts are very much appreciated.

The next auction is: **Start 9.00am 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021 – End 9.00pm 28th April 2021.**

For the auction to be successful we need both donations and bidders. If you have any items you would like to donate please contact Jayne direct on 07926 503669 or private message her on Facebook. To bid you need to be a member of the Facebook page. Membership now totals nearly 1,000. To become a member of the Facebook page please go to [www.facebook.com/groups/STECSAuctionPage](http://www.facebook.com/groups/STECSAuctionPage) and click on the "+ Join Group" button. There are helpful files on the page on how to bid, how to donate and how to pay on the Auction Page.

### Annual Summer Party - Sun 1st Aug 2021 12.30 pm to 4.30 pm



**Thompson House  
Pepper Lane  
Standish, Wigan  
WN6 0PP**

**Please check event is on before travelling.** Entry: pay on the door £5 adults, children under 16 £2.50.

In addition to our normal fun and activities, Paul and Gill Simms will be organising a Scottie agility competition. Entrance fee includes light refreshments. Hot food will be available to purchase from the café onsite. The venue is easily accessible from junction 27 of the M6.

### Feeling isolated? We're here to help

If you get ill, feel isolated with no family close by, and are worried about your Scotties, STECS is here to help. Be it Coronavirus or anything else that causes you to fall ill, you can reach out to any of the officers listed on the back page of the STECS Newsletter to care for your canine friends. While some of our officers and volunteers may themselves be self-isolating or struggling with the virus, there will be someone in the network who can help. All hygiene and social distancing protocols will be strictly adhered to.

In advance of the possibility of you becoming poorly we suggest that you document (in hard copy) your dogs' routine - especially if any dogs are on medication. Make sure you identify each dog if there are multiple dogs in the household. For example, Sally Brindle Bitch, red collar, age 10, 2 meals a day at 8 am 6 pm of mixer and wet food. List the medication for each dog and your vet's contact details. List the emergency numbers of your friends, family and of STECS - 07891 203212. Share this document now with family, friends, neighbours so they have the details they need if anything happens to you. We will do all that we can to take care of your Scotties, should you need us.

### The Welfare Committee.

### off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



Available to buy as a greeting card from the STECS shop

# Results of our Member Survey

## Newsletter








We were pleased that nearly all of you told us you were happy with the current format and content of the newsletter, and that you mostly read it from cover to cover. The format in recent years has focused on providing an update on the charity’s recent activities and events, together with a number of stories from our members about their rescue dogs. It is these rescue stories from fellow members that you seem to love most. But it is a bit of a struggle to find your stories. So please, if you have recently adopted a Scottie, do share your experiences and learning with us. And don't worry if you're not confident about writing your story, just get in touch with Fi Walton who has joined our editorial team (see contact details on the back page). We can interview you over the phone or via Zoom and write the story for you.

Most of the suggestions for improvement we received asked for articles on Scottie health, day to day care (such as diet), and coping with behavioural issues. Scottie-themed puzzles were also a popular suggestion. We have taken your feedback onboard and will endeavour to include more knowledge sharing articles. In this issue Louis tells us how his adoptive family helped him overcome separation anxiety (see page 11). Louis has, during the course of his short life, encountered most of the common behavioural challenges we know re-homed Scotties encounter, so he will be sharing how he and his family have tackled these issues in future editions. He is lucky in that Fi Walton is also a dog trainer and dog behaviourist, so has good insight into how to overcome these hurdles. In the next edition Louis will be talking about his fear and lead aggression issues.

## Summer and Christmas Raffles

For a very long time it was tradition to include a Summer raffle for a Radley bag with the Spring Newsletter, with the winning ticket being drawn at the Annual Garden Party. No one can remember exactly how far back this started. In circa 2010 we upgraded the prize to the latest limited-edition Radley picture bag, and added a Christmas raffle with the Autumn Newsletter. The Christmas raffle was drawn at the STECS Christmas Party. Because a Radley picture bag is not everyone’s cup of tea, and to make the raffles more appealing, we also added a good quality 2nd and 3rd prize. Often the prizes are donated by a member or corporate sponsor, and sometimes STECS needs to buy the prizes.

The objective of the raffles is, of course, to raise a modest amount of money for STECS, and participation is optional. However the raffles are also intended to enable those members who live too far away to travel to any social events to participate (if they wish) in fund raising activities, and help them feel part of the charity. On average between 100 to 160 members take part. So the odds of winning a prize are not as bad as it may seem. The Christmas raffle is the most popular. Those members who do not participate in the raffles fed back the following reasons:

		0% - 100% of responses	
1	Not interested in raffles in general		47%
2	Not interested in the prizes on offer		22%
3	Process to buy tickets is too complex		25%
4	Think that the probability of winning is too low		11%
5	You consider STECS already has enough money		0%
6	Personal financial constraints		14%
7	You don't approve of raffles		3%
8	Other		17%

The main “other” reason for not participating in the raffles is that people simply forget to return their tickets. Suggestions for improvement were almost exclusively a request for more prizes, including prizes specifically for the dogs (rather than the owners). It would not be financially prudent for STECS to buy more prizes but for future raffles we would welcome any donated runner-up prizes that are suitable for posting to the winners.

## Events

From the very beginning of the formation of STECS an Annual Garden Party was held to raise funds and enable members to socialise and meet the rescue Scotties. This started off on a small scale in someone's garden but as the charity grew it became necessary to use a bigger venue. In recent years the biggest attendance at a Garden Party was approximately 400 people and 150 Scotties. For lots of Scottie owners the Garden Party was one of the highlights of their year. In 2008 a Christmas Party was added. This was followed in subsequent years by an occasional party held in Scotland or the south of England. To put it into perspective, the net money raised from the Annual Garden Party would typically cover just one month of our vet fees. Those members who do not regularly attend a party provided the following reasons:

		0% - 100% of responses
1	Not interested in socialising	0%
2	Too far to travel	81%
3	Venues and/or facilities not suitable	1%
4	STECS has enough money	0%
5	Entrance fee of £5 is too high	0%
6	Your dog(s) do not get on with other dogs	10%
7	Health issues prevent attendance	14%
8	Work commitments prevent attendance	9%
9	Other	11%

Unsurprisingly, the travelling distance was by far the main reason for not attending a STECS event. We are a small exclusive charity and our members are thinly spread across the UK from the Shetland Islands to the tip of Cornwall. Each person of course has a different opinion of what "too far to travel" means. Some people do in fact travel from the opposite ends of the country to attend an event, staying overnight nearby and making a full weekend of it, or incorporating it into a holiday. STECS was founded in the north west of England and as a consequence this is where the highest concentration of members is. The Annual Garden Party has therefore always been held in the north west.

The Christmas party, Scottish party and Southern parties were introduced to give people who were unable to travel to the Annual Garden Party the opportunity to meet up, socialise with other members and meet the rescues. The Christmas party and Scottish party are generally well attended but the Southern parties have always been very poorly attended and have generated very little, or no funds. Notwithstanding, the second highest concentration of STECS members is the area to the east and south of London (Suffolk, Essex, Kent and Sussex). Despite appeals in previous newsletters for volunteers in this area to help organise a party and find a venue we have had no or very little response.

Most of you who attended our social events were happy with the format. Suggestions for improvement varied considerably with no particular recurring theme. Suggestions included, more activities for children, more refreshment and hot food options, more seating, and some ice breaker activities. We were also pleased that quite a few members who had previously not helped out at an event, volunteered their services. If you expressed an interest in volunteering we will contact you in advance of an upcoming event to check if you are still interested and are able to attend.

## Internet and website

Of the members who responded to our survey, 14% told us that they did not have access to the internet. It is for this reason that we will continue to produce the newsletter in hard copy only. We have previously considered emailing a soft copy to members but decided against this. It would be too easy for copies of the newsletter to be forwarded onto individuals who have not paid a subscription fee, thereby invalidating the one of the key benefits of membership. We are still digesting the feedback and suggestions on how the STECS website could be improved and will report back in due course.

## Laddie Hahm

My wife Jean and I have had Scotties since 1993. We have been privileged to be the proud owners of seven Scotties, four of which we bought as pedigree puppies and three of which have been STECS rescues. They have all been very different in character. This is a brief story of Laddie who we adopted from STECS in November 2018.

We were holidaying in the Scottish Highlands when we got a call from Cath, the Welfare Officer. A male Scottie pup called Jet had been handed over to STECS in the north of Scotland. At the time there was no one locally on the adoption list who would take a young male. Cath asked if we could pick him up from the local STECS re-homer and drop him off in Lancashire when we drove back from our holiday. We were of course more than happy to help in any way we could. Cath also said that as we had been looking to rescue a young male Scottie since 2015, and to minimise the number of people and households handling him, if he was right for us, we could have first option to adopt him. In particular we needed to ensure that he got on with our existing female Scottie, Moffat, and vice versa. So that was very lucky! We just happened to be in the right place at the right time.

On the day that we departed our holiday accommodation I set off at 5.45am to drive to Dingwall to collect the puppy. I got back to the lodge at about 8.00am and lifted a little fluffy bundle out of the car. We tentatively introduced Jet to Moffat. Well, he jumped straight on her head and both their tails were wagging so fast I thought they were going to take off. They bonded instantly. We knew immediately that we wanted to keep him.



**Laddie at five months-old when we adopted him. He arrived as a fluffy bundle. This was his first hair cut.**

Jet was just five months old when he was handed over to STECS. He was a very boisterous puppy and a real live-wire. His owner had sadly decided that it would be best for him if he could go to an experienced Scottie home who could give him all of the attention that he needed.

As we drove home from Scotland we spent the whole seven hour journey trying to think of a new name for Jet. Eventually we settled on Laddie. When Jean was a young child she had a Scottie-X called Laddie. Apparently she used to put a bonnet on him and push him around in her doll's pram.

When we got Laddie home we discovered that he was indeed very boisterous. Gosh he was hard work! I have never encountered a dog who ate his food so fast. He constantly drank and peed everywhere. Looking back, he must have been very stressed. However after a few weeks he calmed down and is now a very genteel eater, most untypical for a Scottie. Laddie soon settled in and became part of the Hahm household. Out of all of the Scotties we have owned he is the most gentle-natured and loving. The Scottie girls have all been a bit aloof but Laddie just loves to cuddle up with you. He has never shown any aggression whatsoever. He gets on really well with Moffat, who is two years his senior. They adore each other and their favourite pastime is goading each other. Two or three times a day (usually when I am on an important phone call) they will noisily tear round the house chasing each other.



**Laddie (right) annoying Moffat (left)**

Laddie does have his issues though. He is the most vocal dog I have ever owned. I am absolutely sure that he has got the doggy equivalent of Tourette's Syndrome. Much to the annoyance of our neighbours he can often be found in the garden at 11 o'clock at night barking back at his own echo. If you ever tell him off, like a cheeky child, he answers you back. He also thinks that the top of the best sofa in our living room is his exclusive bed. He sleeps straddled on the back cushion with his legs dangling over the sides. He has got bucket loads of personality and we absolutely love him to bits.

**Karl Hahm**



## Maddie Haberland

I am a member of STECS and I live in Switzerland. In 2019 I sadly lost my Scottie, Maddie. Although Maddie is not a STECS dog, I rescued her when she was eight years old. Maddie (or Madi) in Swiss-German translates to "little girl". In Maddie's memory I have turned her unique story into a wonderful illustrated book, available in English and German. My first language is German so I needed some help to translate it into English. Another STECS member, Heather Hamblock, and her daughter Barbara kindly helped me with the translation. All profits from the sale of the book will be donated to STECS.



I have owned Scotties for more than 20 years and my first Scottie was Sheena (1998-2011). After Sheena, I got Maddie, the Scottie who is the subject of my book. Maddie changed my thinking about Scotties in so many ways. After Maddie had been with me for two years Iona joined her. Iona is named after my favourite Scottish Island. Maddie immediately took Iona under her wing and was like a mother to her.



The book is illustrated by the fabulous artist and Scottie dog owner, Valeria Moldovan

Soon after losing Maddie in 2019 it became clear to us that Iona needed another companion. She wasn't used to living alone as a single dog so little Bonnie Eileen (called Bonnie) joined the family.

Although I am a Swiss national and currently live in my home country of Switzerland, for two years from 2007 to 2009 my husband Thomas and I, and Scottie dog Sheena, moved to Culloden in Scotland. Long before I moved to Scotland an acquaintance had told me about STECS and because of my love of Scotties I started to support STECS financially and from time to time bought some of the Scottie items from the shop. When we lived in Scotland I became a volunteer for STECS and helped rescue Scotties. The most memorable experience was helping to rehome a male Scottie called Rory whose owners had unfortunately become very ill and were no longer able to look after him properly. I drove down to Perth and took the little fella back up to Culloden where he found a new home with an elderly lady. From time to time I looked after Rory when his new owner was away for a couple of days, or I took him to the beach at Nairn. I love Scotties so much. They are dignified, loyal, funny, strong minded, sometimes very goofy, full of love and energy and very, very intelligent.



If you would like to buy a copy of my book, read all about Maddie's unique story, and support STECS, please email me directly at [info@lifetimedog.ch](mailto:info@lifetimedog.ch). The book costs CHF 26.90 which is equivalent to £22.00. This price includes postage and packing to the UK. For delivery elsewhere in the world, or for more than one copy, please contact me for an estimate. If you do not have access to the internet and would like a copy you can order directly via STECS. Please send a cheque for £22.00 made payable to STECS to Karl Hahm, STECS Treasurer, West Winds, Biggin, Leeds LS25 6HJ.

**Astrid Haberland**

### Adoption waiting list and process

Demand for a rescue Scottie remains at unprecedented levels, with our adoption waiting list hovering around the 300 mark. In parallel, the popularity of Scotties has declined in recent years meaning that far fewer dogs are needing to be rescued. Registration of Scottie puppies with the UK Kennel Club reached an all time low in 2018 with only 438 puppies registered. The number of new registrations in 2019 bounced back a bit (468 registrations), but in 2020 have fallen to **xxx**. Therefore please be patient and accept the probability that we may not be able to find you a suitable Scottie.

A significant number of people who have applied to adopt a Scottie told us via the member survey that they were concerned about the lack of regular feedback and updates from STECS on dogs available for adoption. In particular, they were worried that no news meant that they had been forgotten about. We understand your frustration but rest assured that once you apply to adopt a Scottie, and as long as you keep your membership up to date, we will not forget about you.

We stress that it is not necessarily the person who has been waiting the longest who will be offered the next incoming rescue. Our priority is to find the most appropriate home for each individual Scottie. Your regional rehoming officer is notified whenever there is a dog needing a new home in their area, and they will review all the applications in their patch to identify the best match. It's a two-way process, so do be proactive and email or call your rehoming officer (see contact details on the back page) every few months to reconfirm that you are still interested and willing to adopt

Notwithstanding the above, our Welfare Committee and regional rehomers will review the current adoption process to consider possibilities for improvements in communication. This will include reviewing the processes of other canine rescue charities to identify if there are any examples of best practice that STECS can implement.

### From Joy and Ian at the STECS Scottie Shop

When we realised that the Scottish Gathering event would have to be cancelled, and subsequently all the STECS events for the remainder of the year, we were very worried about the takings for the shop and therefore the money needed to keep STECS running. We need not have worried! We had so many postal and online orders during the year (almost 500!) which was wonderful and in fact our takings for the year were our best for the last five years. So, thank you all very much for your support. Nobody is sure when we will be able to get together again. While we are delighted with the amount we took, it was not the same as meeting you all (and your Scotties). Until then, please keep ordering from the shop, do phone if you have a query as we are always pleased to try and help – and talk about Scotties!



We are now looking for photographs for the 2022 calendar so if you have any good quality pictures of your Scotties in landscape format, please send them to us at [stroatsscotties@gmail.com](mailto:stroatsscotties@gmail.com) or to our address which is on the back of the catalogue. The photograph above is Maggie and is an example from this year's calendar.



Fergus & Archie, and Little Ted

Our STECS members Phyllis & Bill Manley have very kindly donated some limited-edition mounted prints of a painting of two of their Scotties (Fergus and Archie). The original was a gift for their silver wedding. The print is approximately 40cm x 50cm and is available to buy from the shop. The price is £35 + £5 postage.

Fergus & Archie were their 4th & 5th Scotties. Their latest addition is Little Ted who is Scottie number 9.

## Louis Walton (overcoming anxiety separation)

Salut à tous, je suis Louis. I don't actually speak much French but that's where I came from. I remember coming across to England in a boat. I was nine months old when I was rescued in 2019 and I went to my temporary foster home with Auntie Cath (Marchbank).

One day I was busy trying to catch something in a fishbowl in Auntie Cath's office when a nice lady tapped her fingers on the floor in front of me in a fun way. It got my attention. And that was it really, the deal was done. She seemed like a good sort, so I chose her. She had brought her twin ten-year old Scotties (Merlyn and Mischa) to meet me. They were chilled dudes. So, I hopped in my crate and off we went down to Dorset on my next life adventure.



This is me. Am I a handsome boy or what!

I'm making it all sound easy but I had some issues that came with me. I'll share them with you, if you like, over the next few newsletters. The first hurdle I had to overcome was **separation anxiety**. I had loved and lost. My heart had been broken. So, whenever Mum and Dad left the room, for even a few seconds, I would scream. Literally scream for them not to leave me. It didn't matter that the twins were with me. It was the humans I craved and wanted. I needed to be with them – all the time. Especially during the night. I couldn't be left. They were very kind and put my crate in their bedroom and covered it over with a blanket at night time so I knew it was time to settle. As long as I could hear and smell them, I could sleep.

They gradually edged my crate towards the bedroom door and then, a couple of weeks later, out onto the landing. I was OK because I could still hear the humans snoring (and boy can they snore)! After a few weeks they moved me onto the landing half-way down the stairs.

However when they tried moving me to the bottom of the stairs, I freaked out a little, and they brought me back up to half-way for another couple of weeks. As I became gradually more confident, I was able to cope with being at the bottom of the stairs. And then it wasn't long before I made it into the kitchen in my crate (with the door open) to sleep alongside Merlyn and Mischa. The twins were very laid back so I learned from them that I would be OK too, even if the humans weren't around.

I also noticed that, at various points during the day, Mum and Dad would leave the room for a few seconds, then come straight back in. I became quite tired of getting so anxious every time they left the room, so I didn't scream quite so much. Very gradually, they lengthened the time they spent on the other side of the door. So, I gradually got used to them going out of the room and coming back in again. Also, I am much less stressed and anxious about things if I have a full belly. So rather than just one or two meals a day, we all get breakfast (cottage cheese and blueberries), fruit for lunch (apples, tangerines and berries) and a good supper (offal or white chicken or fish, broccoli and sweet potato). And carrots as snacks in-between. I am a lucky little chap.

After walks, when I was dog tired (ha ha did you see what I did there?), Mum and Dad fed us all lunch, put the radio on for company, then left the house for five minutes – and came back. No fuss at the door – no tearful goodbyes or excitable reconciliations. Then, day-by-day, they gradually stretched the time they spent outside to 10, 15, 20 minutes, then half an hour. This went on until, ultimately, I worked out that even if Mum went rowing for a couple of hours she would still come back. So, while I still hate seeing the humans go – it's OK. After five months or so, I lost interest in my crate and chose to sleep on one of the comfy doughnut beds with the other dogs. I had arrived!

When I was a puppy I felt very happy on walks. Other dogs were kind to me and I loved the freedom of running off lead. Strangely all this changed when I became a teenager. I began to feel threatened when other dogs ran up to me, all bouncy and in my face. I just didn't know how to act. My fear just grew and grew. To cover my fear, I decided to act big, get in first and dominate the other dogs in every engagement. A proper Scottish Terrierist!

More on how I overcame this hurdle next time. So, until then, "À bientôt mes amis".

**Louis Walton**

## STECS Contacts and Who's Who

Northern Ireland	
Catherine Marchbank	07891 203212 welfare@steecs.net
West Scotland	
Carol Annan	01360 550230 welfare@steecs.net
East Scotland (north)	
Fiona Ward	01349 877829 welfare@steecs.net
East Scotland (south)	
Jean Hill	01506 880415 welfare@steecs.net
North East England	
Gill & Paul Simms	01642 320826 simms.62@ntlworld.com
North West England	
Catherine Marchbank	01772 601169 welfare@steecs.net
Yorkshire and Humberside	
Magda Teale	07836 624712 welfare@steecs.net
Wales	
Penny Gutridge	01286 830817 welfare@steecs.net
West Midlands, Notts, Leics, Derbyshire & Lincs	
Karen Clayton	07817 122441 karenbclayton@aol.com
Warwickshire and Northamptonshire	
Tony & Caroline Hart	01676 522173 theharts@mailboxesuk.com
Berks, Bucks, Gloucs, Oxfordshire & Beds	
Nick Sanders	07768 932254 welfare@steecs.net

Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs & Kent	
Patricia Smith	01273 558712 welfare@steecs.net
Sussex and Surrey	
Rob McLeod	01403 891125 robmcLeod@edncf.com
Somerset, Dorset, Hants and Wiltshire	
Liz Bradley	01963 240494 brueik@aol.com
Devon and Cornwall	
Sarah Masters	01647 277350 welfare@steecs.net
Microchipping	
Shirley Evans	01787 211874 anneingwing@yahoo.co.uk
Sales and merchandising	
Joy & Ian Gower	01594 543042 stroatscotties@gmail.com
Treasurer	
Karl Hahm	01977 685753 treasurer@steecs.net
Secretary	
Jean Hill	01506 880415 secretary@steecs.net
General correspondence, newsletter and secretarial	
West Winds, Oxmoor Lane, Biggin, Leeds, LS25 6HJ Email: secretary@steecs.net	
Treasurer and membership payments/queries	
West Winds, Oxmoor Lane, Biggin, Leeds, LS25 6HJ Email: treasurer@steecs.net	
Welfare, re-homing and adoption applications	
Rydings Barn, North Road, Bretherton, PR26 9AY Email: welfare@steecs.net	