



# JUST FOR DOGS

RESCUE AND REHOMING CENTRE

August  
2006

## Just For Dogs Website Re-Launch a Runaway Success!

In March of this year things for JFD were looking decidedly bleak with a total of 12 long-term dogs in our kennels - dogs that had been with us for over 9 months! Of course 9 months in kennels isn't the end of the world for most dogs, especially JFD's kennels, where there are daily walks and/or play times on the yard and 3 acre field, food in abundance and cosy beds in warm, clean kennels. But, at the other end of the scale 2 of these dogs have been here for nearly 4 years, 2 had been here for 3 years and 4 had been here for nearly 2 years. The future for these dogs was looking bleak (euthanasia is never an option) as offers of homes had not been forthcoming for months and months. What more, we asked ourselves, could we do to raise the profile of these dogs?

There had been talk for some time about revamping our website as unfortunately, due to other JFD commitments, the website had become somewhat neglected. We had Parker Severn Builders Merchant's offer to continue their support and sponsorship of the website and Andy Gaucher from Just 30 more than eager to get to work on a new site.



Davey Having Cuddles



Davey and new Family



Davey on 'his' Settee!

## Website goes live June 7<sup>th</sup>

Throughout May and June Andy beavered away at the new JFD website and by early June it was ready to go live, with the help of local newspapers to gain as much promotion as possible, the website went live on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

To say the site has been a runaway success would be a vast understatement. Within weeks the following dogs had been offered homes the length and breadth of England - Bernie, a large St Bernard x, went to Rotherham, Sgt Pepper a highly dangerous, dog aggressive EBT went to live with an accountant in Sheffield, Jeeves a one eyed Jack Russell who had lived at JFD for nearly 2 years, went to live at Mackworth with a lady pensioner. It would appear that Jeeves also believes that, he too, is in retirement as when he was visited by JFD dog walker Pat, he was spread-eagled, snoring his head off, in the shade of a large tree, in a very large garden, his days of putting the fear of god into any dog that dared to pass his kennel are well and truly a thing of the past - or does he still dream about being 'king pin' at JFD? A gentleman pensioner from Wirksworth offered Alfie, a middle-aged Staffie, a wonderful home and reports are coming back that he is also living the life of luxury. Tigger another staffie has gone to Suffolk as a companion to an army wife for when her husband is posted abroad. Thor a huge Mastiff has gone to Northamptonshire, Herbie a mature Belgian Shepherd has retired down to Bournemouth and Fred Astaire our elderly, tap dancing Pointer has gone to live in Clacton-On-Sea. Just yesterday, Lily our much-loved EBT x moved out of JFD, after 20 long months, to go and be 'spoilt rotten' in Stoke! Yes, it is true to say that the new website has been most fortunate for all the above dogs, but non more than EBT x Davey.



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## Davey's Story

Davey arrived at JFD in July 2004 and when Paul came to give him his first vaccination and check up he said 'Lovely dog that, he won't be here long'. Little did we know that Paul would be back in June 2006 giving this 'lovely' dog his annual booster!

Davey had been with us for around two months when he was offered his first home with two ladies. All went well and the three looked to live happily ever after. Sadly after three months his owner's shifts were changed meaning that Davey would have to be left for twelve hours at a time. Of course this is unacceptable and Davey was returned to JFD.

A full year passed by before Davey was offered another home. It is hard to believe that such a young, healthy, friendly, playful and loving dog such as Davey can go unnoticed in a rescue centre such as ours – God knows we did enough to draw attention to him especially if someone came looking for a family pet. Davey had two faults; one was that he was dog aggressive. 'Not a problem really' we defended 'He just needs exercising with a muzzle on'.

But Davey had another huge disadvantage – he was of bull terrier descent. Can a dog really be in a rescue for many, many months purely because of breeding? Yes it can, you only need look at Molly, Petal and Storm to discover the answer to that question. All of them bull breeds, all brilliant with children and adults alike, young, healthy, house trained dogs, with one other thing in common - they have been at JFD nine, eleven and eighteen months respectively!

Sadly Davey's second placement didn't work out either. A lovely couple offered Davey a home and made two promises. One to buy Davey a muzzle which was to be worn at all times when being exercised. The other promise was that the only reason Davey would be returned to JFD was if he did not get on with their ten year old son. No worries in that department then. The following day the couple rang JFD to sing Davey's praises. He was having a wonderful time, was brilliant with their son and had slept soundly all night in his new bed that had been purchased from the pet shop the day before. Davey, at last, had found someone who loved and appreciated him as much as we did. So, imagine our surprise when Davey and owner were knocking at our gate at 8.45am the very next day! Apparently, the previous evening, Davey was being exercised on a lead when another dog had approached, a fight broke out, Davey's owner tried to intervene and got bit on the hand, accidentally, by Davey. 'Well what about his muzzle?' we asked. 'We didn't have time to get him one' was the reply...

Then came June, the new website and the heaven sent Geis family, from Mill Hill, London, whose youngest son saw Davey on our website and thought he was just the dog they were looking for. Over the next couple of weeks several phone calls and e mails were exchanged between Irene and Gareth Geis and Margaret, as no one likes a wasted journey especially from London to Derby and back!

On a very hot day towards the end of June, Davey's new owners arrived at JFD and quite simply he melted their hearts instantly.

Since Davey's adoption we have had several progress reports there have been no major problems apart from Davey believes it is his right to retire up the stairs and sleep on whoever's bed takes his fancy and the temptation to curl up on the sofa is too great to ignore, as you can see from the photo's on page one and the e mail below it would appear that the humans have won the battle, but the war's not over yet!

*Hi Margaret Thought you might like to see some pictures of your favourite boy! He's settled down so well and absolutely adores playing football with the boys. Gareth has put a stair gate up so he doesn't go upstairs but he's quite determined to sleep on the sofa when he can. We do have to keep his muzzle on when he's taken out - he hasn't changed his mind about other dogs, but as you said he doesn't go after them but definitely doesn't like them coming close to him! Gareth has found a local butcher where we get his chicken carcasses from so the feeding is going well. I hope everything's well with you. Regards, Irene, family & Davey x*

Now everyone say ahhh, cos we all like a happy ending.

Visit us as often as you like at  
[www.justfordogs.org](http://www.justfordogs.org)

Now you can keep abreast with all the up to date news and visit our dogs without moving from the comfort of your own home. Andy is doing his best to update the site as soon as he receives information about forthcoming events and photographs plus details of each new arrival at JFD. You can also help to promote each JFD event by downloading posters from our events page and displaying them wherever it takes your fancy – within reason of course! Please take time to visit the Faithful Friend page and read the stories of our long-term lodgers and ways in which you can help them through our newly launched Faithful Friend Scheme. All dogs that have been at JFD for a minimum of nine months automatically get transferred to this page and although, as mentioned earlier, since the website launch, several long-term dogs have found loving homes, there are always more ready to become a 'Faithful Friend'



## Membership Renewal

For those of you who have recently renewed your membership, please ignore this reminder. To everyone else - IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN! Although we have always strived to keep subscription charges constant, with the recent increase in postage, we are now in danger of making a loss. All our members with internet access could help us tremendously with this, by having the JFD newsletter e mailed to them. This would not only save us on postage charges, but also on stationary, ink and (most precious of all) **time!** The big advantage to you is - you get the JFD newsletter three days before everyone else!

Don't forget JFD's annual Summer Dog Show in Darley Park **this Sunday** from noon onwards, also our Autumn Dog Show here at the kennels on **Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> September** from 11.00 am onwards. Both shows are Companion Dog Shows, run under Kennel Club rules. However, as always the emphasis is on fun – well with Mike Baxter as compere, one wouldn't expect anything less! However more importantly both shows are to raise vital cash for all our four-legged orphans so, see you there!

**Sponsored By: Blenheim Veterinary Centre**