Therapy Dogs Help Bereaved Children

Victim Support
(CPV Canine – Therapy Dog Team)
Recently Community Policing Volunteer
Angeline Taylor and her therapy dog, Luna
(female Husky), were requested in support
of an ongoing Crown Court case where the
victim was considerably vulnerable. The
Officer in the Case requested canine
support as part of the Special Measures
agreed with the Judge presiding the case,
to enable the victim to provide their
evidence. PC Martyn Tulk who trains and
heads up the team said, “The reassuring
and calming presence of Luna handled
professionally by Angeline was significant
in providing the support needed to ensure
the justice process continued correctly for
the victim and was a first for the team.
Expansion for the facility is being
discussed in conjunction with the Victim
& Witness Care Department.

Officers & Staff Wellbeing Support
(CPV Canine – Therapy Dog Team)
During the first quarter of 2023 the team
has been busy supporting requests
from internal departments. With ever
increasing pressures and demands placed
upon everyone within Kent Police,
managers recognise the importance of
ongoing staff and officer support in a
number of ways.
One of the ways which is gaining
obvious popularity is having a visit from
one or more of the CPV therapy dog teams,
enabling staff and officers to disengage
from their workloads for a period of time
to interact with the dogs, this may seem
like just petting and playing with a dog
however, as PC Martyn Tulk explained,
“There is proven science at work here,
and this is why the role is so important for
people because the long term exposure
to stress or regular exposure to short term
stressful situations affect us physically as
well as psychologically. Stress causes the
release of Cortisol, Epinephrine,
Norepinephrine, and Insulin, which in turn
affects the performance of secondary
functions including the digestive, growth
and immune systems, making them less
efficient. Positive eye contact with dogs
triggers the release of a hormone called
Oxytocin which is responsible for love and
bonding in both humans and dogs,
Oxytocin proactively reduces the negative
effects caused by stress released
hormones and chemicals”.

Teams have been visiting Police
Officers at Ashford Police Station, All HR
staff at North Kent Police Station, and the
recruitment department at the Police
College, Maidstone. This is in addition
to the external visits the teams carry out
in our communities.

Bereaved Children Support
(CPV Canine Crime Team)
Community Policing Volunteer Sally
McCarville and her therapy dog Bruce
(male Cockerpoo) engage every
weekend in an ongoing commitment in
support of the charity organisation
Slideaway in Maidstone.
Slideaway support bereaved children
in any number of situations including one
to one counselling services, Sally & Bruce
have been integrated into that process and
during appropriate sessions children are
able to interact with Bruce, this can enable
them to open up because of the presence
of the dog and also enables them to tell
Bruce how they are feeling or just have a
one-sided non-judgemental conversation
with him. It is all part of the canine assisted
therapy provided to help them.

Kent Police Therapy Dog Luna
Sally & Bruce at a Community Event 2022
Long Service Award, presented to Police Support Volunteer Julie Walker

Julie has been volunteering with Kent Police for 12 years. During her time as a volunteer, she has supported West Kent Neighbourhood Watch and worked alongside many Volunteer and Watch Liaison Officers, ensuring new Neighbourhood Watch members are appropriately registered and have all the resources necessary to make their scheme a success.

Julie makes a valued contribution to the West Kent Neighbourhood Watch Committee meetings and is the Editor of the “Watch Out” community safety newsletter.

Julie is always willing to support the VWLOs and Neighbourhood Watch in any way she can and is a valued member of the committee. Her dedication to Neighbourhood Watch and Kent Police over many years is admirable and greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your service and the important work you continue to do.

I would like to thank Chief Inspector Jason Wenlock for the award. I have been involved with NhW for over twenty years now and have been a Kent Police volunteer for twelve years. I really enjoy the job that I do which also involves talking to our NhW members.

Catherine Mulholland has worked for Kent Police for 24 years. In the later part of her career she was Kent Police’s Liaison and Volunteer Officer. Pria Webster, liaison officer. Peter Rolington, chairman of the West Kent NhWatch Committee and Sue Mason, area representative for North Tonbridge. We all work so well together as a team helping our members.

May 6th 2023. King Charles III was crowned at Westminster Abbey alongside his wife, Queen Camilla. Many people were outside watching the Royal couple arrive, later cheering them and waving Union Jack flags as they left the Abbey.

It was very enjoyable to watch history in the making. There were millions of people watching at home, many of them enjoying a street party, sadly some in the rain.

It was a very happy occasion and we wish his Majesty and his wife Camilla good health and happiness in his reign as our new King.
Outstanding volunteer from Kent chosen as a Coronation Champion

One of Kent’s most dedicated public service volunteers who is currently the county’s Neighbourhood Watch Chair has been nominated as a Coronation Champion for his outstanding contribution to his local community, one of only 500 people recognised in this way nationwide.

Peter Rolington, a retired accountant, was invited to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace as part of the official Coronation celebrations on Wednesday 3 May 2023 having spent the last two decades volunteering for Crimestoppers and Neighbourhood Watch.

Nomination
After the Royal Voluntary Service called for people across the UK to nominate their volunteer heroes, almost 5,000 entries were received. With nominations made for individuals aged 14 up to 103, Mr Rolington’s commitment to his local community saw colleagues from Kent Police put him forward for consideration.

Mr Rolington has now been recognised by Their Majesties The King and The Queen Consort as part of the official Coronation celebrations in conjunction with Royal Voluntary Service. He has since been invited to attend one of the official Coronation Service. He has since been invited to attend one of the official Coronation Service.

Voluntary work
For nearly 20 years, Mr Rolington has contributed selflessly to support Kent Police’s work to serve and support the local community. He holds the position of Chair for both the west Kent and county board of Neighbourhood Watch and is acting as Chairperson for Crimestoppers.

He created Kent’s e-Watch newsletter, which keeps people informed of current police appeals and policing news and is digitally delivered to nearly two thirds of the county’s population, twice a week.

Mr Rolington is also the brains behind Country Eye, an app that was built in collaboration with Kent Police to make it easier for members of the public to report rural crimes.

An enthusiast of modern history, Mr Rolington routinely books and leads battlefield tours for police cadets between the ages of 13-18, sharing his wealth of knowledge about World Wars One and Two.

Community
On receiving the news of his nomination, Peter Rolington said: “It is an honour to be recognised in this way nationwide. I don’t do any of it for recognition but because I feel that giving back to the community is the right thing to do.

“Not having worked in policing prior to volunteering, I am thrilled to be supporting officers and potentially making a difference to keeping people safe.”

The award
With the support of Her Majesty The Queen Consort, a passionate advocate of volunteering and President of Royal Voluntary Service, the Coronation Champions Awards were launched to recognise exceptional volunteers at this momentous point in history. Across the UK, 500 Champions impressed the judging panel with the impact of their work, their inspirational stories and unwavering commitment to volunteering.

Catherine Johnstone CBE, Chief Executive of Royal Voluntary Service said: “We were completely blown away by the response to the Community Champions Awards and the huge volume of amazing nominees put forward. Our judges had a tough job selecting just 500 Champions from an array of thousands of inspirational individuals, who all deserve to be recognised and commended.

“Each of our Coronation Champions displayed a commitment and contribution that far exceeds any expectation and we’re overjoyed to honour and thank them during this exciting point in history.”

Scam Interceptors
BBC TV has been showing a very good programme named “Scam Interceptors”.

It shows Rav Wilding, Nick Stapleton and Jim Browning with their team, following staff working in Indian call centres. The staff members of the call centres are calling innocent members of the public advising them that they are about to have their bank account hacked and that they are going to help catch the offenders.

During the conversation, the scammers are trying to take your bank details and passwords to take your money out of your account.

The Call Centre Team work very hard indeed trying to warn the innocent member of the public not to give their/details away. They send messages to their mobiles stating “this is a scam phone call please put your phone down”. Hoping it will reach them before their money is lost.

If you get chance to watch it when the new series starts please do, it really shows you how easily you can fall in to the trap when these rogues call innocent members of the public.

If you feel you may have been scammed call your bank immediately. By dialling 159 it takes you through to a central number and they will put you in touch with your own bank, where you can explain what has happened, get your passwords changed and alert the bank to what has happened to you.

Also call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 and tell them what has happened. All this will help to stop more innocent people being caught out, and hopefully catch these rogues!

If you receive a telephone call like this and you are in doubt, put the phone DOWN and check with your bank that your account has not been interfered with.

Railway Crime
If you see anyone damaging railway property, trespassing, dumping rubbish, behaving suspiciously or throwing stones, please do report this immediately.

Don’t ignore it please, report it immediately, your call could save lives.

Report to 40 50 40. Calls are free, lines are open 24 hours a day. 7 days a week.

We Say Farewell
Catherine Mulholland Kent Police Volunteer and our Liaison Officer has now retired after 24 years in Kent Police. Catherine was always willing to help us with any queries we had and always very supportive to all Volunteers and members of the West Kent Neighbourhood Watch Committee.

Catherine will be greatly missed by us all. We wish her every happiness in her retirement.
Twenty-four arrests during National Stalking Awareness Week

Twenty-four people were arrested as part of enforcement activity to mark National Stalking Awareness Week.

Suspects from across the county were brought into custody on suspicion of stalking, harassment and other linked offences including revenge porn, making threats to kill and breaches of court orders.

Officers from across Kent Police took part in the operation on Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 April 2023 including community policing teams, divisional support units, the Rural Task Force and specialist domestic abuse officers.

National Stalking Awareness Week is run annually by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust and aims to help people spot the signs of stalking behaviour and be aware of the support available.

In addition to the enforcement activity, Kent Police officers have been carrying out welfare checks on vulnerable people and holding drop-in sessions for victims to meet with officers and representatives from other organisations for help and advice.

Detective Chief Superintendent Emma Banks, Head of Protecting Vulnerable People, said: “Stalking can have a devastating effect on victims’ lives and we remain focussed and committed to keeping people safe and bringing offenders to justice.

“Stalking is one of a number of offences that disproportionately affect women and girls, which is why tackling it and other forms of violence are a priority for Kent Police. It is however important to remember that others can be victims too regardless of their gender and we take their welfare just as seriously, with the same support available to all.

“One of the ways in which we safeguard victims is through the use of Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs), which allow us to proactively manage people displaying stalking behaviour regardless of whether or not a criminal prosecution is being pursued. We have been recognised nationally as being at the forefront in the use of SPOs, having obtained 112 since they came into force in February 2020 – the most of any force outside of London.

“Victims of stalking or any other linked offences are encouraged to contact us so we can take steps to protect you and action against the person responsible. Help is available and you do not need to suffer in silence.”

Examples of stalking may include if you are being regularly followed, if someone is repeatedly attending your home uninvited or you are regularly receiving unwanted contact.

Report offences to Kent Police online at www.kent.police.uk/report or by calling 999 in an emergency. You can also call the National Stalking Helpline on 0808 802 0300 for further support and advice.

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BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE

Text 61016 to report non-emergency incidents on trains or on the tube.

Dial 0800 405040 to give more information.

A 999 call is guaranteed a quick response.

For Crimestoppers dial 0800 555 111.