



# Peace of mind

Caring for a pet is a lifelong commitment, but what will happen to your dog if you become terminally ill, or old age compromises your ability to look after your pet dependents? Thankfully, that's where the Cinnamon Trust can help – and it is always on the look-out for dog-loving volunteers

**T**he Cinnamon Trust is the only specialist national charity that seeks to relieve the anxieties, problems and injustices faced by elderly and terminally ill people and their pets. The trust was founded in 1985 by Aueril Jarvis whose determination and dedication ensured that the manifest need is fully addressed. Just as Mrs Jarvis was starting her work to develop the charity, her beloved Corgi, Cinnamon, died in her 17th year. It seemed appropriate to name the trust in her memory.

The charity provides peace of mind to those concerned about their pet's future. According to their website: "Pets are our family, and they depend on us to keep them safe, happy and healthy. Therefore, making advance provisions for them in the event of your passing is crucial.

Many of the people who register their pets with us are older, some are facing terminal illness, and others live sheltered lives without friends or family who can take care of their pets if something happens to them. However, this service is not limited to those with immediate health concerns. We offer 'pet profiling' to everyone for free, regardless of age, health or financial status."

## SAFETY NET

The trust's network of 20,000 volunteers helps dog walk for those who are housebound and fosters pets when owners need hospital care. They help with any task that will keep a pet and owner together.

Spokesperson Rima Jalba explains how people get to find out about the Cinnamon Trust. "I think much of it is word of mouth, because

people will talk about what they get involved in. Our current volunteers are really good ambassadors in getting the word across.

"I think the assumption is that the volunteers just do dog walking, whilst it's whatever a person would need to support and assist with their companion.

"Every time we enrol a volunteer, we find out what kind of experience they have with different breeds and species, what their availability is, and what they would be comfortable doing, and then we match that with the support that others seek in the area. Sometimes our volunteers just pick up pet food and bring it back to the owners, or help the owners take the pets to the vet because most of the people that we help are housebound.

"Every time we have an owner

coming forward in need of assistance, and someone looking to volunteer, we build very comprehensive profiles. Knowing so much about them makes it easier for us to play Cupid. It's finding people that match in terms of characters, schedules, availability and so on.

#### FOSTER CARE

"We really value the volunteers, and we always try to respect the boundaries and the things they are OK with because they offer their time, energy and resources to support us and help someone else.

"If the owner faces a hospital stay and needs to be away from home, say, for a few weeks or longer, we are constantly in touch with them to see how the recovery is going. In the meantime, we will find a local volunteer who would foster the pet short term and make sure that the pet has everything they need. We always try to protect the pet and give them a home-from-home environment to ensure the separation is as easy as it can get.

"It's called 'pet profiling', which means that the owner entrusts us with their pet, and they make these arrangements where they say, 'I want you to take care of my pet if anything happens to me.' And anyone of any age can do that, it's not just 65-plus or the terminally ill.

It means that they legally entrust the pet to us and put us in charge of their pet's well-being. Although the pet is legally ours, it will forever be placed with the new owner.

"The technicalities of it are that as long as the pet is legally ours, we can provide and uphold that promise to the original owner that the pet will always be cared for and looked after because the moment we become the legal owner, it means that we can always offer that relief to the new fosterer of not having to pay for the vet bills or having to worry about anything else that might endanger the welfare of the pet.

"I think the fact that the service is nationwide is something that needs to be known a lot more because often we're referred to as the Cinnamon Trust Cornwall, and it's not just Cornwall. We're based here, but we do operate nationwide.

#### VOLUNTEER NETWORK

"We are volunteer-reliant, meaning we can only help as much or as far as our volunteer network will go. We're always in search of new volunteers. It might be that we won't have an immediate case to attach to you, but if we have an emergency coming through, we can take it on, rather than feel reluctant or struggle to find enough volunteers to help." 🐾

#### HOW THE TRUST HELPS

The Cinnamon Trust's services are for pet owners who are either terminally ill or aged 65+. To enquire about pet support, owners can call 01736 757900.

The trust does not use kennels or catteries and it pays all vet bills for the rest of a pet's life. They stay in contact and support animals entrusted to them for the pet's full lifetime. They always keep animal families together and have a 24-hour emergency line.

#### VOLUNTEER REGISTRATIONS

<https://cinnamon.org.uk/volunteers/>  
01736 758707  
volunteer@cinnamon.org.uk

#### FOREVER FOSTERING AND GENERAL ENQUIRIES

For those wishing to become Forever Fosterers, the trust recommends calling for a chat, as it allows the team to give guidance based on their lifestyle and circumstances. Alternatively, they can start the discussion by emailing. 01736 757900  
[hello@cinnamon.org.uk](mailto:hello@cinnamon.org.uk)

