

Let's Go!

Summer 2026

Meet Sam and Hank:

"Thanks to Canine Partners I know I'll have a lifetime of support."





WE BELIEVE PETS & PEOPLE ARE BETTER TOGETHER

At PURINA® we believe in the magical and unique connection between pets and humans and when people and pets bond, life becomes richer.

This belief is placed at the heart of everything we do and we're passionate about finding ways to make this bond stronger. Our commitments to pets include, helping advance nutrition through the products we make, championing the role of pets in society and working towards a waste free future.

We've been proud supporters of Canine Partners since 2000. Like them, we know just how transformational your relationship with your pet can be – and how much love and joy that can bring to your life.

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To learn more about us visit:
<https://www.purina.co.uk/>

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Sam and Canine Partner Hank

Welcome to Let's Go! Summer 2026

You might notice things look a little different. We've refreshed our brand to better reflect who we are today.

What hasn't changed is what matters most: creating loving, life-changing partnerships between disabled people and expertly trained assistance dogs.

Inside this issue, you'll meet the people and dogs at the heart of it all.

Sam once faced the possibility of life in a care home. With the support of her Canine Partners, Bugsy and Hank, she continues to live independently in her own home.

You'll also meet Jess and her Canine Partner, Xolani, who sadly passed away in March. Jess talks about why being involved in the rebrand was so important to her, and reflects on her journey with Xolani to honour their legacy and the lasting difference these partnerships make.

Every partnership begins with a puppy in training. Lulu, an 18-month-old dog, is taking those first steps, supported by volunteers like Nicola, who found purpose again through volunteering after the loss of her son.

Over the past 36 years, we've created more than 1,000 partnerships – with another 35 being matched in 2026. But many more disabled people are still waiting for the independence and confidence an assistance dog can bring. This next chapter is about reaching them.

Every partnership starts with someone like you. Thank you for making it possible.

Warmest wishes,



Lucy Eldred
CEO, Canine Partners

Meet Sam and Canine Partner Hank

"Without Hank, I'd be facing life in a care home. With him by my side, I'm enjoying life again."

Sam was once living a busy, active life working as a nanny and nursery nurse. But in her early 20s, after months of experiencing unexplained symptoms, she was diagnosed with dystonia. "My life changed forever in that moment. There's no cure. I was told it would get worse over time."

What is Dystonia?

Dystonia is a neurological condition causing painful muscle contractions, spasms, and abnormal postures.

Sam lived with and was supported by her mum for many years. After her mum died in 2006, her future became uncertain and she eventually needed full-time care.

Over the years, Sam underwent several major operations, but as her condition progressed, everyday tasks became increasingly difficult. Simple things many of us take for granted - getting dressed, picking something up from the floor, or getting into bed - became exhausting or impossible.

“I was really struggling. You don't realise how much the small things matter until you can't do them.”

Everything changed in 2015, when Sam was matched with her first Canine Partner, a Golden Retriever named Bugsy. Bugsy could pick up dropped items, open doors, and fetch essential items. But beyond the practical support, he restored Sam's confidence and dignity.



Sam and Canine Partner Hank



Sam and Canine Partner Hank

“He helped me undress, nudged my legs back into bed, and in an emergency could activate my alarm – he gave me my independence back.”

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After ten wonderful years together, Bussy retired and continued living with Sam. Soon afterwards, she was partnered with a black Labradoodle called Hank. “I was over the moon. Nothing could replace what Bussy meant to me, but I still needed help and I knew Hank was going to make a difference in my life.”



Hank quickly settled in, supporting Sam both at home and out in public, giving her the confidence to live independently. “Without Hank, I would be totally reliant on another person and facing the possibility of life in a care home. With him by my side, I can stay in my own home and enjoy life again.”

Living with Dystonia has meant constantly having to adapt to new challenges. Sam has lost much of the life she once knew. But thanks to Bussy and Hank, she has regained the freedom to live life on her own terms. “They’re not just assistance dogs, they’re my family. They’ve given me the freedom to live my life again.”

Fund a lifeline for a lifetime

It costs around **£10,000** to support a partnership like Sam and Hank’s from placement course through to retirement. Right now, around 250 partnerships across the UK rely on this lifetime of support, with 35 more being created this year.

If just 120 people set up a regular monthly donation this Summer, it would help ensure this life-changing support is there for years to come for the people who need it most.



Set up your regular donation today by scanning the QR code or visiting cpartners.uk/lifeline-for-a-lifetime.



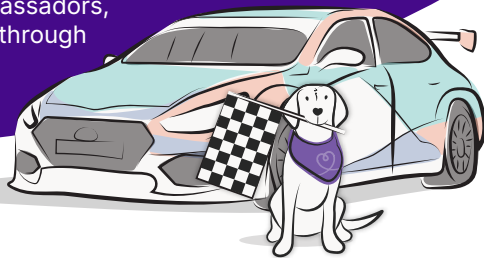
Everyone who sets up a regular gift will receive a **limited-edition Canine Partners pin badge** as a special thank you for your generous support.



Driving impact with our newest partnership

We're delighted to announce that we've been named Team VERTU's chosen charity for the 2026 British Touring Car Championship, in partnership with EXCELR8.

Throughout the season, Canine Partners will feature across the team's cars and events, helping introduce our work to new audiences across the UK. Our staff and volunteers will attend race days as Grid Ambassadors, raising awareness and encouraging support through dedicated fundraising activities.



Give the dog a bone

Birds Bakery has chosen Canine Partners as their charity partner for the next two years.

Following a successful 2022 partnership that raised more than £34,000, Birds will donate 20p from every sale of its popular dog bone biscuits across its 62 East Midlands stores. The partnership will help fund the specialist training our dogs receive while strengthening the community we've built around our National Training Centre.

Real-life hero dogs meet PAW Patrol

We teamed up with Chessington World of Adventures for a special preview of their new World of PAW Patrol theme park.

Claire and Sophie, Brandon and June, and their families were invited to meet their favourite characters and explore the park. **"Our kids are huge PAW Patrol fans, so it made the day even more special. It was lovely to celebrate my real-life hero Sophie."** said Claire.

While PAW Patrol tells stories of heroic dogs on screen, our assistance dogs live that role every day – helping their partners gain independence, confidence, and freedom. The collaboration helped showcase to new audiences through national media and social channels.

From choosing Canine Partners as your Charity of the Year to volunteering and payroll giving, find out how your business can help create more life-changing partnerships. To find out more, scan the QR code or visit cpartners.uk/corporate-support.





A day in the life of an assistance dog in training

Hi, I'm Lulu. I'm 18 months old, and I'm training to become an assistance dog.

My journey started with my Puppy Training Volunteer, Mike. That's where I learned the basics - my name, how to explore the world (including the occasional muddy puddle), and important skills like touch, tug, and retrieve.

Now I'm at big school at the National Training Centre, where I'm turning those skills into practical tasks that will help someone live more independently.

Morning

My day starts at home with my volunteer, Elaine. After breakfast and a walk, she drops me off for the day.

My trainer, Belinda, and I practise picking up items and placing them carefully into her hand. I use a tug toy to open doors and cupboards. I press buttons with my nose. These are the skills that will make a difference in someone's daily life.

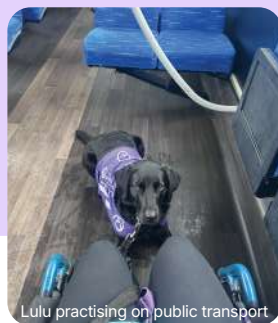
The centre can be busy, with lots of people coming and going. Sometimes it's hard to stay calm and focused, but I'm learning to - the treats I get as a reward definitely help!

Afternoon

It's not all work. The Wellbeing Team make sure I'm happy and healthy. That might mean a pamper in the grooming room, preventative physiotherapy to support my joints and movement, or enrichment activities to keep my mind sharp. There's always lots of time to relax too.

Late afternoon, Belinda and I head into town. We visit some shops, practise working around wheelchairs and walking frames, and build my confidence step by step.

At the end of the day, I go home with Elaine to play, relax, and just be a dog.



Lulu practising on public transport

Every small step is bringing me closer to one day being matched and becoming part of a life-changing partnership.

One of the first things Lulu learned was her name. By naming a puppy, you could help start their life-changing journey. To find out more, visit cpartners.uk/name-a-puppy or scan the QR code.



Life after loss: finding purpose again through volunteering

"I started volunteering to help change someone else's life. In doing so, I changed my own."

Nicola and Andrew Brown know first-hand what volunteering can give back.

In December 2017, their lives changed forever when their 21-year-old son, Jake, died in a car accident. "I don't think anyone can describe what it feels like to lose a child. He went out of the house one day and didn't come back," Nicola said.

After Jake's death, everything stopped. "I didn't go back to work. Life just stood still and I felt like I had nothing to get up for."

As Nicola navigated her grief, she searched for something that could help her rediscover a sense of purpose. A lifelong dog lover, she came across Canine Partners. "If Jake had survived, he might have needed an assistance dog himself. Helping someone benefit from that support just felt right."

They became Puppy Training Volunteers and in December 2018 welcomed their first puppy, Saffy, into their home.

"Saffy changed everything. Grief can be very isolating, and I had become quite withdrawn. She gave me a reason to get up in the morning and helped me reconnect with the world."

Over the next 16 months, they helped Saffy build the confidence and skills she needed before moving on to the next stage of her assistance dog training.



“You do get attached, but knowing she would go on to change someone's life made it easier to let her go. When I heard she'd been matched and become a Canine Partner, I felt so proud.”

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Not long after, they were joined by Labradoodle puppy, Rosa.

Rosa's temperament and coat made her well suited to our breeding programme, and Nicola and Andrew began a new chapter as a Dog Breeding Volunteers.



Nicola and Andrew with Rosa's puppies

"From the start, we had such a strong bond. Incredibly, she shares her birthday with Jake. It felt like it was meant to be."



Since then, Rosa has had three litters, helping bring 20 future assistance dogs into the world. Nicola and Andrew support her through every stage, from pregnancy to raising and socialising the puppies. "It's hard work, but we get lots of support and it's incredibly rewarding. Watching them grow and knowing the difference they'll go on to make is amazing."

Alongside caring for Rosa and her puppies, Andrew has also used his

professional expertise in digital technology to help the charity develop our new website.

Volunteering has also brought a sense of community back into Nicola's life. "It feels like a new family. Everyone has their own story, but we're all here for the same reason."

When Rosa retires, she will stay with Nicola and Andrew as a much-loved family pet, and Nicola plans to continue volunteering. "I started volunteering to help change someone else's life. In doing so, I changed my own."

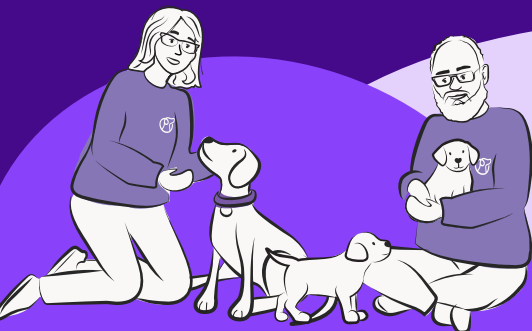


Volunteer for us

Like Nicola and Andrew, you could help raise and train the next generation of life-changing assistance dogs.

With full training and ongoing support from our expert team, no previous experience is needed and there are lots of ways to get involved:

- ♥ Give puppies the best start as a Dog Breeding Volunteer
- ♥ Become a Puppy Training Volunteer and help train a future assistance dog
- ♥ Foster puppies or dogs, short or long-term
- ♥ Join our Dog Ambassador Team and help raise awareness in your community



Not sure which role is right for you? We offer a range of volunteering opportunities to suit different lifestyles and locations.

Visit caninepartners.org.uk/ volunteer or scan the QR code.



Paws and play

A new feature for Let's Go! to celebrate our new look.

Every word in this puzzle reflects our new brand – what's changed, what we stand for, and what remains the same.

Find all the hidden words to uncover the message at the heart of our new brand.

The remaining letters spell out:



Partnership
Inclusive
Evolution
Accessible
Awareness
Community
Curiosity
Joy

Future
Purple
Digital
Modern
Expertise
Impact
People



Did you know?

Purple is widely associated with the disability community, which is why it remains an important part of our brand today.

Fact or Fiction?

♥ The wheelchair was removed from our logo because we've changed who we support.

♥ We work with Labradors, Golden Retrievers, Doodles, and crosses of these breeds because they are highly intelligent, food-motivated, making reward-based training positive and enjoyable.

We want to hear from you!

Want to feature in Let's Go!? We're launching a Letters page, which is all about celebrating you - your stories, photos, letters, poems, or recipes. Whether it's funny, heartfelt, or thought-provoking, we'd love to feature it.

Submit your contributions along with your name and contact details to letters@caninepartners.org.uk or post them to Let's Go!, Canine Partners, National Training Centre, Ashby Rd, Osgathorpe, Loughborough LE12 9SR.

Need a hint? Sniff out the answers at cpartners.uk/puzzles

Keeping your dog safe this summer

Summer is a great time to enjoy the outdoors with your dog, but warmer weather can also bring risks. Dogs can't regulate their body temperature as easily as humans, so a few simple steps can help keep our puppies and dogs safe and comfortable.

Stay cool

-  Make sure your dog always has access to shade and fresh water.
-  Walk them early in the morning or later in the evening when temperatures are cooler and avoid exercise during the hottest part of the day.
-  Hot pavements can burn paws, so if it's too hot for your hand, it's too hot for your dog.



Keep them comfortable

-  Regular grooming can help keep your dog cool.
-  Frozen treats, damp towels and paddling pools are also great ways to help them stay comfortable and provide enrichment.
-  Dogs with light-coloured or thin fur can get sunburn, so use pet-safe sunscreen on exposed areas such as ears and noses.

Never leave dogs in hot spaces

Never leave your dog in a car or enclosed space, such as a caravan or conservatory, even briefly. Temperatures can rise dangerously quickly and become life-threatening.

Watch for signs of heatstroke, including:

-  Heavy panting
-  Drooling
-  Lethargy
-  Unsteady movement
-  Vomiting or collapse

If your dog shows any of these symptoms, contact your vet immediately. Acting quickly can make all the difference.

Be prepared

A simple dog first aid kit can help you deal with minor issues while out and about, or until you can get to a vet.

For more advice about keeping your dog happy and healthy visit our blog at: caninepartners.org.uk/blogs



What to include in your dog first aid kit

- ☐ Bandages
- ☐ Saline solution
- ☐ Adhesive tape
- ☐ Disposable gloves
- ☐ Blunt-ended scissors
- ☐ Tick remover
- ☐ Foil blanket
- ☐ Antiseptic wipes
- ☐ Vet contact details



Jess and Xolani: a partnership that lives on

"I'll be forever grateful to have been partnered with Xolani. As they say, it's better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all."

Jess and her Canine Partner Xolani were chosen to showcase our new brand, highlighting the real-life impact our dogs have and the range of disabilities we support.

Sadly, shortly after our refreshed brand launched in March, Xolani passed away after a short illness. For Jess, continuing to share their story is a way to honour the incredible difference Xolani made to her life and ensure she is never forgotten.

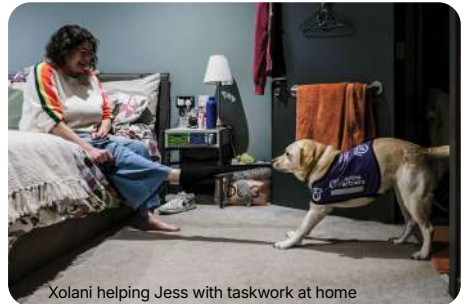


Canine Partner Xolani

Jess's story

Jess's career as an Operating Theatre Practitioner came to an end after a series of diagnoses, including Brittle Asthma, Cauda Equina Syndrome, Idiopathic Intracranial Hypertension and Antiphospholipid Syndrome. Chronic pain and

reduced mobility left her feeling isolated and dependent on others.



A turning point came in 2014, when Jess was partnered with her first Canine Partner, Xenna. Alongside practical support, Xenna helped Jess regain her confidence, independence and reconnect with the world around her.

When Xenna retired, the impact was immediate. Everyday tasks became exhausting again, her pain increased, and Jess found herself relying heavily on her mum for support.

“It was a tough reminder that a Canine Partner isn't a luxury - it's a lifeline.”

Thankfully, Jess was partnered with Xolani, a yellow Labrador who brought a renewed confidence and freedom into her life.



Jess and Canine Partner Xolani

Xolani's support made daily life more manageable and gave Jess the confidence to continue doing the things she loves – including coaching football for children and adults with disabilities. "If you'd told me ten years ago that I'd be coaching football with a dog by my side, I wouldn't have believed you. I never thought I'd return to work."

Xolani also helped Jess reconnect with another passion – AFC Wimbledon, where she is now Chair of the Disabled Supporters Association.



Jess and Xolani at AFC Wimbledon

The club was the location of our brand photoshoot. "It's such a special memory of me and Xolani together – walking side by side on the pitch and sitting in the Manager's chair made it a day I'll always treasure."

Jess is proud to support our new brand, which she feels better reflects her experience as a disabled person. "Not every disabled person is a wheelchair user, and I hope my story helps people understand that."

Since Xolani's passing, Jess has been overwhelmed by the kindness and support from people whose lives Xolani touched.

We support our partners and their families at every stage of their journey, including bereavement. Scan the QR code or visit cpartners.uk/bereavement-support to find out more.



Leave a lasting Legacy

Half of our life-changing partnerships are made possible by gifts in Wills. These gifts create partnerships like Jess and Xolani's, restoring independence, confidence and freedom for years to come.

We've partnered with Farewill, a professional Will-writing service overseen by trained solicitors, to make writing or updating your Will simple and free of charge. It takes as little as 15 minutes.

By leaving a gift to Canine Partners, you can help fund future generations of assistance dogs.

Scan the QR code or visit farewill.com/cp-dm

Or call Farewill on 020 8016 3905 and quote 'cp-phone'.



Canine
Partners



In partnership with
Farewill

Telegraph Christmas Appeal raises £161,000

Canine Partners was proud to be one of four charities chosen for the 2025 Telegraph Christmas Appeal, helping highlight the life-changing impact of our assistance dogs. From November to January, stories from our partners and volunteers were shared, raising awareness as well as vital funds.

Thanks to the generosity of Telegraph readers, the Appeal raised a record £672,000 overall, with £161,000 donated to Canine Partners. This funding will help create 40 new



partnerships in 2026 and support more than 250 existing ones – bringing our loving, life-changing partnerships to more disabled people.

Going the distance for Canine Partners



From personal challenges to community events, there are many ways to fundraise for Canine Partners.

Take inspiration from Barry Field, our 2026 London Marathon runner, who raised an incredible £2367. Barry's journey began when he and his family became Puppy Training Volunteers, welcoming eight-week-old Labrador Flo

into their home, and helped prepare her for life as an assistance dog.

When Flo moved on to the next stage of her training, Barry decided to support the charity in a new way. After months of training, he crossed the London Marathon finish line in 4 hours 43 minutes, with every mile helping fund more life-changing partnerships. "Running the London Marathon was my way of supporting a charity that has made such a difference to our family," Barry said.

Ready to get involved?

Find out how you can help create more life-changing partnerships by fundraising this Summer. Scan the QR code or visit cpartners.uk/fundraise.





Canine Partners in Scotland

Sarah has celebrated her first year as Community Fundraiser in Scotland, helping more people discover Canine Partners and the life-changing difference our assistance dogs make.

Over the past year, Sarah has raised vital funds, supported volunteers, and connected with communities across the country. From welcoming supporters at open days to cheering on fundraisers at Kiltwalks and golf days, she has been at the heart of it all.

Reflecting on the year, Sarah said: "It's been incredible. Every conversation matters. Someone might not know we exist, but then they meet one of our dogs or hear a partnership story, and suddenly they want to help."

As a national charity, we are committed to supporting people across the UK, with Sarah playing a key role in growing our community and helping more disabled people live with greater independence.



Find out more about our work in Scotland, and how you can get involved by **scanning the QR code** or visiting cpartners.uk/scotland.



Our 2026 festive cards are here!

Get ahead of the pack and explore our 2026 festive card collection. Find a design you love and support Canine Partners with every card you send.



Our online card shop features even more designs to choose from. To order your cards, scan the QR code, visit cpartners.uk/card-shop or call 01227 811 673. Every pack you buy helps us train more life-changing assistance dogs.



Lines open Monday to Friday, 8:30am – 5pm (4pm Fridays). Orders are processed by our fulfilment partner and cannot be placed at our National Training Centre.



Sponsor a P🐶uppy



Change a life
for just over
£1 a week!

Help shape a life-changing future.

Right now, our puppies are in training. Exploring the world, building confidence and learning the skills they'll need to support someone living with a physical disability.

One day, these little life-changers will help a partner live more independently. They'll open doors, pick up dropped items, and give them the freedom to live life their own way.

But they can't do it without you.

Not all heroes wear capes... some wear purple jackets.



Sponsor a puppy from just **£5 a month** or a one-off payment of **£120**, and follow every step of their two year journey, from playful puppy to life-changing partnership.

As a sponsor, you'll receive:

-  A welcome pack with a cuddly toy puppy
-  Regular 'pupdates' on your puppy's progress
-  A personalised certificate



Start your journey today

Scan the QR code, visit cpartners.uk/sponsor-a-puppy or call 03456 580 480 to meet the latest puppies you can sponsor.

