



# Friends Of Baxter

WHERE ANIMALS ALWAYS COME FIRST

Autumn 2016 Newsletter

Welcome to all our new readers. In the past few months we've been quietly focusing on various 'behind the scene' activities that will form a solid foundation to help to ensure a successful future for our venture, raise the profile of holistic therapies in association with The Reiki Experience and raise the funds we need. We have updated our website, created a new logo and you'll notice a new look to the newsletter too. We've also been out and about at a few events and held a successful psychic card reading evening.

If you enjoy our newsletter please share it with any animal lovers you know and for more information or to become involved in our venture in any way email us at [info@friendsofbaxter.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsofbaxter.org.uk).

With very best wishes

Sue Malcolm (Chair and founder)



## Activities 'behind the scene'

Rather than forging ahead to become a registered charity as previously planned, we have remained a good cause organisation short term. A greater priority right now are the strands of activities that will enable our venture to successfully change the face of animal care in the UK.

When the first centre opens (in Yorkshire) we believe it will be the first charity holistic animal hospital, pet therapy (and complementary therapy training) centre and rescue centre of its type in the UK. Hence earlier this year we identified four areas in which to focus our attention, all of which require much more work but we have made a very promising start.

Our four current areas of focus are:-

- **Serious fundraising** - via the progression of Sue's first book on her journey to helping sick, abandoned and cruelly treated animals
- **Ensuring professional and credible training** - by setting high quality animal complementary therapy standards, starting with Reiki
- **Raising awareness of holistic therapies** - through information, education, treatments, promoting research and sharing feedback
- **Networking** - building relations with individuals & organisations who share our views.

Each of these will be explained more later in the newsletter



## 'Careers with Animals' Day



Leeds College of Animal Welfare (CAW)

Friends Of Baxter was represented at the Leeds College of Animal Welfare (CAW) 'Careers with Animals' Day, Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup>

What a great, well attended event where our vision for holistic animal care was shared on The Reiki Experience stand and via Sue's talk 'A Holistic and Complementary Approach to animal care'. We plan to create a video from the slide presentation to post on our website in the next few weeks for anyone who missed it or would like to see it again.

We view Reiki and other complementary therapies as beneficial techniques for any role that involves 'working with' or 'caring for' animals from a veterinary professional to a dog groomer, trainer, behaviourist, dog walker or someone working at a rescue, sanctuary, zoo, stable, kennel or cattery. Reiki in particular can be useful as it typically creates a feeling of relaxation in animals which can help to reduce any anxiety and stress they may feel.



The Reiki Experience

For holistic body and mind benefits  
A natural way to help people and animals  
Based in West Yorkshire



## US rescue centre case study that teaches Reiki – is this the way forward?

### By Reiki Practitioner Dona M Duke

Reiki Program at Ann Arbor, Michigan animal shelter, Humane Society Huron Valley

Full story at <http://Reikiinmedicine.org/Reiki-for-animals/Reiki-program-animal-shelter/>

**Background:** More than 10,000 animals, mainly dogs, pass through the shelter annually and the behavioural department generates a list of animals they feel will immediately benefit the most from Reiki - mainly dogs and cats, but also an occasional rabbit or ferret!

**Approach:** The shelter has 800 volunteers and after a certain number of volunteer hours they can learn to become Reiki practitioners. The observed benefits have led to staff registering for Reiki training classes.

**Reiki sessions:** Reiki sessions are usually half an hour per animal but can last as long as 90 minutes. All are recorded with changes post Reiki noted and the details are given to those who adopt the dogs. There is no limit to how much Reiki an animal receives.

The shelter considers Reiki an added benefit to the conventional medical, emotional and behavioural care offered by staff.

Reiki is also offered at a small but growing number of rescues and sanctuaries in the UK



## Pet Therapies - Ensuring professional and credible training

Some animal therapies are more tightly regulated with respect to their qualification standards. Acupuncture for example may only be administered to animals by appropriately qualified veterinary surgeons.

Complementary therapies such as massage therapy, zoopharmacognosy (a form of aromatherapy for animals), Reiki and a number of other therapies do not require veterinary training and there is often no 'national standard' for teaching. Each therapy will have basics that need to be taught but the actual course may vary widely from one teacher or organisation to another. For Friends Of Baxter it is crucial that anyone offering training on our future premises or on behalf of our organisation is optimally qualified and all animals receiving treatments are only given them by individuals who are following or have completed high quality training.



I am a Reiki Master Teacher listed on the UK register of complementary therapists accredited by the Complementary & Natural Healthcare Council (CNHC). A GP can refer a patient to anyone on this register. CNHC also set National Occupational Standards for training such as human Reiki. I would like to set up a similar training standard; and an accredited register for animal complementary therapists, which could be used by vets and the public.

## Pet Therapies - Raising awareness of holistic therapies

Holistic therapies are becoming increasingly popular and why not let your pet have a nice massage or non-invasive dose of energy healing if he or she would like it? Many do seem to love it and demonstrate a benefit afterwards too.

We understand that animal owners often like to read about new therapies to make up their mind as to whether it's something they'd like to try. Therefore, at any event where Friends Of Baxter or The Reiki Experience are present, we offer free Reiki taster sessions. See [www.thereikiexperience.co.uk](http://www.thereikiexperience.co.uk) for client feedback and a small but growing number of articles such as this UK Reiki Federation leaflet (right).





## Serious Fundraising

With £3 million required to open our first complete centre (hospital, therapy centre and rescue) within a planned timescale of four years, we have much fundraising to do and need to concentrate on some large projects.

A major project has been my book 'It's All About Trust'. This has now been completed and submitted to publishing agents. It's a heart warming story, with unexpected twists and turns as I ride the peaks and troughs of my 'journey of learning', to fulfil my dream of helping animals in need. I expect this to be the first of a series of books. It's All About Trust should be published in 2017.

## What we hope to see next year



## Networking with 'Glamping with dogs' – the perfect country retreat for you & your dogs



Glamping with dogs is a non-profit making organisation run by two lovely owners who have their own dogs and adore animals of all sorts. They feel strongly about animal welfare issues and support holistic therapies too so when they approached Friends Of Baxter we quickly realised that we had a lot in common and could perhaps work together.

If your dog is truly one of the family and you don't wish to put him/her in kennels whilst you go away have you thought about taking your dog on a glamping holiday? Especially good if you love the great outdoors and long walks with your loyal companion(s) but without roughing it at night.

<http://glampingwithdogs.weebly.com/> is a great website with honest and helpful reviews on dog friendly glamping venues. Every venue has been personally tried and tested by the website owners and not only can you discover where to stay, eat and walk but local attractions are detailed too. For newcomers to glamping you can quickly read about relevant laws, unspoken glamping rules and useful advice on topics such as travelling with your dog.

**Baystone Bank Farm** in the Lake District (photos above) recently featured as venue of the month. With such a beautiful Yurt (round tent) who wouldn't say no to this posh form of camping? What a great getaway to escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

## Baxter – modelling for new Logo



Baxter has been busy modelling although he doesn't enjoy having his photo taken. He was far more interested in the biscuit rewards for sitting still than posing! However, here he is in our new logo which now appears on our website and other marketing and eventing materials.

Thanks to amateur photographer Helen Peake for her patience and generosity in doing this for Friends Of Baxter. Helen is kind, fun, professional and a natural with animals. I'd highly recommend her and she takes photos of animals for charities at cost, giving her time freely. To see examples of her work and to contact her go to <http://wolfyphotography.weebly.com>



## Interested in trying a holistic therapy



Our training provider, The Reiki Experience, is available to offer local or distant Reiki treatments and training. Other therapies will follow.

Taster treatments can be offered to groups who may like a talk and demonstration. These can also be offered at animal centres including training centres, farms, rescues, sanctuaries or other animal related establishments as well as to any interested individuals at events where we are exhibiting.

For more details or to discuss a possible booking please email [sue@thereikiexperience.co.uk](mailto:sue@thereikiexperience.co.uk)

## Local Fundraising Activity

In addition to selling more kindly donated goods via car boots, table top sales and Ebay, we have exhibited at a few events and had immense fun at a Friends Of Baxter card reading and fundraising evening.

This event on July 14<sup>th</sup> proved to be a great success and my thanks go to the wonderful and generous Ali Mather for her amazingly accurate mediumistic and Tarot card readings and to our host on the evening (see [www.alimather.co.uk](http://www.alimather.co.uk) for her details).

If you would like to host an event or have a skill that you would be willing to offer for an evening to benefit Friends Of Baxter please let us know. Alternatively if you can provide raffle prizes or help to raise our awareness within your event we'd be equally grateful.

For more ideas go to [www.friendsofbaxter.org.uk/fundraising-ideas](http://www.friendsofbaxter.org.uk/fundraising-ideas). Thank you

**Ali Mather**  
Medium, Clairvoyant & Reiki Master

**Readings & Mediumship**  
I pride myself on giving honest, direct, no nonsense, accurate readings delivered in a non-judgemental manner with understanding and compassion.

**Healing Services**  
I am a Reiki Master & Teacher, qualified in the lineages of Usui Reiki Ryoho and Usui Ghyiki Ryoho. I can work with your spirit guides to ensure that you receive the healing that your body & soul needs at that point in your life.

## Support Animal Petitions – it really does make a difference



Karma

If you believe that signing petitions won't make a difference here are just a few petition results to help sway your opinion. Adding a personal message helps even more!

- After 3 St Kilda penguins were brutally attacked, the Andrews Labor Government announced \$250,000 to help protect and monitor the iconic little penguin colony
- MEPs voted for stronger measures against Japanese whaling
- Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center, a refuge for abandoned and abused animals for 22 years, was stopped from closing 'because the animals were loud'
- Marley and Hank, confiscated because of their pitbull breed/ appearance, were returned to their families leading to a call for Breed Specific Legislation changes
- Major retailers have agreed to stop selling eggs from caged hens
- Service dog Karma was saved from being executed because of her being part wolf

These are just a few examples of many changes people like you have made by simply adding their name to show support. If enough of us feel strongly enough about anything I believe that we can change it for the better.

## To Get Involved

Would you like to become a committee member or just help us on an ad hoc basis, being involved in a revolutionary venture that we hope will change the face of animal care in the UK?

- Can you spare a few hours a week or now and again?
- Do you have any skills or contacts that could help?
- Would you like to meet like-minded people?
- Do you simply wish to help in some way?

For more information please contact Sue

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