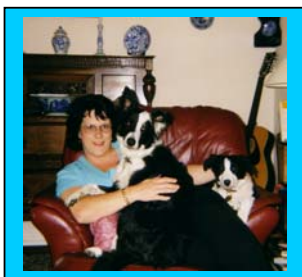


The Penny Jones Animal Hospice

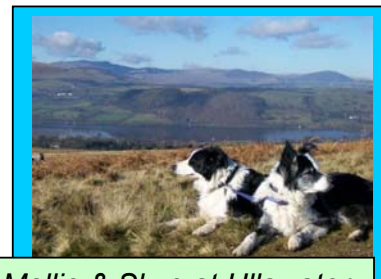
A new dimension in patient care by The Revd Anton Müller, Eden Valley Hospice, Carlisle



Penny with Mollie and Skye

Penny Jones came to the Eden Valley Hospice last year following a terminal diagnosis and during this time it became clear that a major source of anxiety and stress for Penny was the future and well-being of her beloved Mollie and Skye. The future was not good, the best we could do was find a home for Mollie, but the older dog faced termination.

At the eleventh hour a lady who was already involved in animal rescue came to our rescue and took Mollie and Skye into care. With Mollie and Skye in a safe home and in safe hands, Penny prospered and was able to do much to get on with the rest of her life. Penny and her children visited Molly and Skye in their new home and spent a lovely afternoon with them. In the few days before Penny died I went with Elizabeth, the warden of the Animal Rescue project and we took Mollie and Skye to see Penny in hospital. The children also came to see them.



Mollie & Skye at Ullswater

During that visit Elizabeth and I shared with Penny our thoughts and feelings about creating a new project within the existing rescue work which would help other folk who might be in a similar situation to Penny. It seemed right that this project be called *The Penny Jones Animal Hospice*. Penny was overwhelmed and deeply moved by the request to name the project after her. The Penny Jones Animal Hospice has already received a generous donation following Penny's funeral and a further £500.00 was sent in specifically for this project.

It is a principle of Hospice care that folk are enabled to live the remainder of their lives with love and support through the careful management of pain. That pain is not just physical, it is emotional, social and even spiritual. The nurse at the hospital where Penny died told us that many people struggle with this issue and that for some the worry and anxiety for a much loved pet is greater than for the family who remain!

The Penny Jones Animal Hospice will continue to do its everyday work with the animals that have already come and others will be equally welcomed and cared for. It seems to us after the sad but also encouraging experience with Penny, that this seems to be the right way forward. Fund raising is already in progress to provide new kennel accommodation and to improve the existing site and structures. This will be adjacent to a lovely little wooded area where a board walk is to be created suitable for people in wheelchairs and where the names of the many animals that have been helped in the past will be remembered within a short woodland walk.



Penny's Children with Mollie & Skye

The Penny Jones Animal Hospice will enable owners and their families to continue some contact with their pet and just as we visited Penny in hospital with Mollie and Skye we would try to continue with such visits for other folk, as appropriate. It is really exciting to be part of this work which links in so well with my own work at the Eden Valley Hospice where we try and do whatever we can to alleviate suffering – and that we have discovered includes helping with a person's pet.

The Penny Jones Animal Hospice, Rigg Head Cottage, Hethersgill, Carlisle CA6 6HH
www.pennyjones.org.uk