



Our Special Friends

Promoting, preserving and providing the power of animal companionship

Our Special Friends is a West Suffolk based charity that provides a range of animal companionship support services to help those in need to continue to enjoy contact with animals during illness, bereavement and other crises.



Our Special Friends has been helping people benefit from support services for over 7 years now.

What makes us different is that we aim to fill a gap in community care by providing services dedicated to supporting the wellbeing of both people and pets during times of need.

We provide support through our volunteers and by working in partnership with human health and social care; as well as vets and animal charities.

Our workload has increased tenfold during the pandemic with an increase in cases from people suffering from the impact of lockdown; it may be that they are struggling with mental health issues, fleeing domestic abuse or living with loneliness.

Ruby, 93 years young cherishing her relationship with Bentley who visits regularly

Our Special Friends believe in the power of animal companionship and we strive to help people who are struggling by offering animal companionship support services, whether by helping someone maintain contact with their own pet or by introducing a new special friend into their lives. We have the evidence to prove that by doing so, we can provide the vital link which can help them to get through a difficult time.

Some testimonials from clients who have recently received our help:

“Our Special Friends has changed my life. I have improved greatly since receiving their help. They were so understanding and being confined indoors, showed me I was a human being.”

“Our Special Friends played a key part in my welcoming a dog to our home, we having lost ours to a premature death. She has filled a gap in our lives and is a quiet and gentle new friend to my wife and myself.”

“Our Special Friends reassured me that everything will be ok with my sick two year old companion. I am an unwell military veteran who relies on my dog for comfort and reassurance as well as safety. I have benefited by Our Special Friends significantly, and I would definitely recommend them to others.”



Members of the team members in their new home at The British Racing School

Our growing team has recently relocated to the British Racing School site in Snailwell, just outside Newmarket and we have recruited a new Animal Companionship Practitioner, to assist Belinda (Founder and CEO) with the increase in cases. We will also be joined by a new Volunteer Support colleague, to manage our team of volunteers across the region. These are both full time roles and with further assistance from volunteers helping with administration in the office, will free up Belinda to concentrate on developing the complex and multifaceted model of the charity to achieve our ultimate goal, which is to develop growth in other geographic areas.

All this work is totally dependent on our ability to raise funds. We are looking to increase our regular donors by investigating the viability of employing a major donor fundraiser in the future and we would really welcome your help. If you feel you can contribute to our cause, please consider becoming a regular donor.



If you are interested in getting involved with charity, either as a donor or a volunteer, we are always interested to hear from you. Take a look at our website www.ourspecialfriends.org which will reveal more about our work, some of the cases we have looked after and the brilliant support that our volunteers give.

There is a contact form on our website if you would like to keep in touch with Our Special Friends, and receive our quarterly newsletter.

If you would like to talk with us about how you might be able to help please do contact Belinda Johnston on 01284 335351 or email office@ourspecialfriends.org.

Wiggo offering Jenny his wholehearted support