

## **Nantwich Dog Training Team Supports Local Rescue with Free Training for Long-Stay Rescue Dogs**

*For immediate release*

**Nantwich, Cheshire – October 11, 2024**

In a heartwarming initiative, local dog training team Nose to Trail, led by clinical animal behaviourist Rachel Rodgers, dedicated an afternoon of pro-bono training to the local rescue charity, Pawprints to Freedom. The special session, held on Friday, October 11, aimed to help long-stay rescue dogs, many from Romania, struggling to find homes due to behavioural challenges.

Rachel Rodgers, founder of Nose to Trail, collaborated with Kelda North from Pawprints to Freedom to develop a targeted training program for these dogs. The initiative focused on improving the welfare and adoption prospects of dogs who have been in kennels for extended periods and need additional behavioural support to become more adoptable.

Joining Rachel was team member Mell Powers, who led sessions on "Free Work," an enrichment-based activity designed to encourage sniffing and foraging behaviours in dogs. Free Work helps to mentally stimulate the dogs, combating boredom and reducing problematic behaviours often seen in kennel environments. Mell and Rachel also demonstrated these techniques to the staff at Pawprints to Freedom, ensuring they could continue this beneficial work as part of the kennel routine.

In addition to the Free Work sessions, registered veterinary nurse and Nose to Trail team member Hannah Billington, who specializes in reducing reactivity in dogs, worked closely with five of the long-term residents. Alongside their handlers, Hannah assessed the dogs' behaviour around other dogs and provided expert guidance to help them become more relaxed and reduce excessive barking. This tailored training aims to improve the dogs' chances of finding homes by making them more sociable and approachable.

The afternoon culminated in a muzzle training demonstration, an important skill for increasing the safety of dogs when introduced to new environments. Teaching dogs to wear a muzzle properly can help mitigate bite risks, giving potential adopters more confidence when welcoming a new pet into their home.

In a generous gesture of continued support, Nose to Trail has gifted the team at Pawprints to Freedom complimentary access to their dog training membership. This will provide the kennel staff with ongoing access to expert advice and resources from Cheshire's Top Dog Trainer for five consecutive years, further helping the dogs transition into happy, well-adjusted pets in their new homes.

Rachel Rodgers said: "Our mission is to give these wonderful dogs the best possible chance at finding a forever home. By equipping the staff at Pawprints to Freedom with training techniques and providing the dogs with tailored behavioural support, we're hoping to make a real difference."

For further information on Nose to Trail's training services or their work with Pawprints to Freedom, please contact:  
[www.nosetotrail.co.uk](http://www.nosetotrail.co.uk)

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## **ENDS**

### **Notes to editors.**

#### **About Nose to Trail**

Nose to Trail is a pet behaviour service run by multi award-winning clinical animal behaviourist Rachel Rodgers.

Rachel has a Master's degree in Applied Animal Behaviour and Training. She is a full member of the APBC – Association of Pet Behaviour Councillors and PACT – Professional Association of Canine Trainers.

She lives on the outskirts of Whitchurch with her two small dogs, Rico – a rescue from Portugal, and Maisy a Jack Russell cross Pug.

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*The whole Nose to Trail Team from left to right, Hannah Billington, Harry the dog!, Rachel Rodgers and Mell Powers*

**About Pawprints to Freedom:**

Pawprints to Freedom is a dog rescue charity committed to rehoming dogs, many of whom come from challenging backgrounds in Romania, into loving homes across the UK. They focus on rehabilitation and providing second chances to dogs who need it most.

**Photos from the day:**

Rachel demonstrating muzzle training to the team at Pawprints





Hannah Billington with resident Dottie who did some muzzle training





Nala was very keen to try Free Work