



Press Information

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NEWSFLASH - Hamish McFee wins HiLife PAT Dog of the Year 2009/10

A very big-hearted Hamish McFee has been chosen as the Pets As Therapy charity's 'HiLife P.A.T. Dog of the Year 2009/10'.

Hamish, a West Highland White Terrier, is owned by Barry and Margaret Crossby from Croydon, Surrey. They have been regular Pets As Therapy visitors to the Mayday Hospital, working with patients in the physiotherapy and stroke wards for over 6 years.

Nominations came from the hospital's volunteer service manager and the physiotherapy unit, amongst others. They underline Hamish's ability to add quality to the lives of many patients who often have a limited ability to communicate with other people. One staff member said the first words from a patient who had awoken from a coma after several weeks were, "Where's Hamish?".

Hamish was voted 'HiLife P.A.T. Dog of the Year 2009/10' by a celebrity panel and readers of Yours magazine. He was presented with his award by Town & Country Petfoods' Managing Director Tony Parkinson, Valery McConnell, Editor of Yours, and celebrity, Roy Barraclough, at Crufts 2010. His award comprised a cheque for £500, three months' supply of HiLife dog food and a specially engraved piece of crystal.

"I want to congratulate Hamish McFee, Barry and Margaret Crossby, and all the finalists for the compassion and care they show throughout the year, along with all the other Pets As Therapy volunteers and P.A.T. dogs around the country who do remarkable work, with some incredible results. All of us at HiLife are proud to be playing our part in supporting such a worthwhile cause", said Tony Parkinson.

Five runners-up, who each received awards of £100, a month's supply of HiLife dog food and a specially engraved piece of crystal, were Border Collie Oscar, owned by Hazel Foster from Cornwall; Cocker Spaniel Bertie, owned by Mary Oliver from North Wales; Golden Retriever Jody, owned by Veg Truman, from Leicestershire; Cocker Spaniel Muppet, owned by Leisl de Lafontaine, from Bath; and Whippet Bracken, owned by Bryan Porter from Cumbria.

