

# Patron - The Kennel Club of Jersey

## His Excellency Vice Admiral Jerry Kyd CBE BSc PGDip



Dogs are indeed mans' best friend and while 'they are not our whole life, they do make our lives whole.'

Our beautiful, family dog is called 'Kyla' (or her pet names: 'Moonpie' or 'Mrs Waffle'). She is a black working cocker spaniel and, I am convinced, she is the most spoiled and hugged dog in Jersey! She is now three and a half years old and my wife, Karen, and our four sons simply dote on her. She is such a lovely animal and she has brought so much fun and energy to our house with her cheeky personality and irrepressible sense of play.

We bought her from a good breeder in England during my last appointment as Fleet Commander when I was in the last couple of years of my service in the Royal Navy. Although I always had a series of dogs as a child – beagles and dachshunds mainly, I joined the Navy at 18 years of age and then spent the next 37 years at sea or deployed to far-flung outposts around the world. Owning a dog was just not possible or sensible. But now, very firmly shore-based in St Saviour's, I have a dog back in my life. For me and my family too, we just cannot contemplate life without her now.

I am sure you will all agree with me that a house just doesn't seem complete without the constant presence of a tail-wagging dog, whether wet or dry, snoring or bounding about. A dog is such an important part of the house and part of the family and, well, a dog seems to help make things 'complete' and 'better' in a way that is not easily explained on paper. Dogs are, after all, little miracles with paws, and they do so much for us in so many different and important ways: as a family pet, or a hard-working dog on a sheep farm in Yorkshire, a dog for medical and mental comfort, working dogs for the police and Armed Forces, or a dog for a blind person; they do it all without complaint or murmur. We owe them so much and they give us so much.

Whatever breed you have, Thom Jones is spot on when he said: 'dogs have a way for finding the people who need them, and filling an emptiness we didn't ever know we had.' And for my family, our lovely spaniel, Kyla, has been such a wonderful addition to our lives. She loves living in Jersey and she welcomes our steady stream of guests and visitors to Government House with a frenetic tail wag and a lick. But my favourite time is on one of our wonderful walks with her on Jersey's amazing beaches or on a cliff path on the north coast – such joy!

Blessed to be your Lieutenant-Governor here in Jersey, I am both a proud dog owner and so very chuffed to be the Patron of The Kennel Club of Jersey. And I look forward to seeing you with your special friends on St Brelade's Bay beach soon..... until then, can I say a very loud 'woof'!

*His Excellency Vice Admiral Jerry Kyd CBE BSc PGDip*