

Dear Readers...

I HAVE ALWAYS said I had the best job in the world. I have never been tempted to move on to 'glamorous' women's mags.

In 23 years I have never applied for another job; I never imagined there was anything else I'd ever want to do.

But then a challenge popped up and it set my mind and pulse racing - a job that would use every inch of my life experience to date and stretch me to learn more.

Rachael Millar is your new editor and I promise you that her passion for dogs and their welfare is only matched by her journalistic skills.

Rachael literally knocked on our door a few years back as a promising young graduate looking for work. Sadly, we had no vacancies. But for six months she worked for free until she became so indispensable that we gave her a job. When she went back to uni to do a master's degree, she just juggled her *Dogs Today* work, never missed a deadline and still got a distinction!

You will have seen her byline on many of the meatier articles in recent years. She's effortlessly drilled down and got us exclusive interviews with politicians and civil servants and got our voice heard when vital dog legislation was being discussed.

I am sure she will be a very great editor.

We are very fortunate to have tremendous depths of quality and loyalty in our team - without these good folks I couldn't ever have contemplated taking on another challenge.

Rosie Peace, our talented designer, is a shareholder and has been with us every step of the way. Chief sub and writer Claire Horton-Bussey has clocked up 18 years (with a sabbatical in the middle to work on books). Our Julia Owen has never worked anywhere else since leaving uni. Kevin Brockbank has been illustrating the magazine for about 16 years, while also working as a fireman - they are an eclectic bunch of people! Christine Bailey joined us when I was just a few weeks pregnant

with my son Kieran, who is now 12!

And then there are relative newbies of Craig, Jodie, Rachael H and Mike... who still only count their years in single figures. And the wonderful contributors, many of whom have been with us for decades.

And the newer members of the clan have soon become indispensable, too.

While I won't be your editor, you can't totally get rid of me! I'm still going to be publisher. I'll probably write some things, if the day job gives me time to do that and Rachael thinks they are good enough!

I hope you'll wish me luck in my new job. I'll be going to miss you all, but you can come and help me - I'd love it if you do!

You can read all about my new job on page 18 and there's a poster on page 20 that shows how you can get involved.

Next month it will be Rachael writing this letter to you... I'm feeling quite tearful! I hate goodbyes!

Thank you so much for all your amazing support over the last two decades. You've always been there - through births, deaths, floods and weddings.

Together we've campaigned to make dogs' lives much better and have hopefully saved quite a few, too.

A few months ago, when Rachael spontaneously stayed late to help that poor sobbing lady suddenly made homeless, who had all her dogs and cats in the car that very cold night, I knew Rachael was perfect to take over from me.

I leave you in very safe hands.

Beverley

Stop press...

Out with the old, in with the new! Here is our latest office girl, Heidi, who is Christine Bailey's new Miniature American Shepherd pup



Beverley Cuddy is *Dogs Today's* Editor. She shares her life with Tess, a gorgeous rescued English Springer from Dogs Trust and Oscar, a very handsome Bearded Collie. The dogs are firm friends and partners in crime.

Photo by Philip Ide

