

autograph

Kathy Trout

Kathy Trout is the founder of the registered charity West Yorkshire Dog Rescue, which finds foster homes for dogs until a permanent home is found. The festive period is the charity and Kathy's busiest time of year and over the last five years more than 700 dogs have been saved. Kathy lives on a farm in the hills outside Huddersfield with her husband Richard, three horses, 15 free range hens and a parrot.

What inspires you to get up in the morning?

Helping people. Everyone thinks the charity is just to help dogs, but a lot of people who surrender their dogs to us have dreadful social and emotional problems forced upon them and are terribly sad. Equally the health benefits of dog ownership are a direct result for those adopting dogs from us.

What makes you want to stay in bed?

Listening to birdsong. The dawn chorus in spring is fabulous; my favourite bird is the blackbird.

Where would be your special place to have breakfast, and why?

Outer space. I applied to be a British astronaut in the 1970s but failed as I am too small at four foot 11 inches.

What is your most vivid childhood memory?

Stealing a poor dog from the park with a rope and taking it home only to be shouted at by my mother and told that we couldn't keep it. Goodness knows why I wasn't bitten. I was four years old.

What can't you do without, and why? I love art, I once spent two days in The Louvre, Paris. I can easily study one painting for an hour.

Which is your favourite room in the house, and why?

The lounge, where we have a wood fire burning, sheepskins on the sofa, photographs on the walls and Handel's Messiah playing.

What in Yorkshire would you like to change, and why?

Queuing to get on rush hour TransPennine trains then standing the whole journey.

What in Yorkshire would you never want to change, and why?

I love photography, and Yorkshire's stunning scenery and spectacular lighting effects make brilliant photographs, as do the historic buildings.

What would you do with a spare £1 million?

Establish several really comfortable refuges for battered women throughout Yorkshire.

Where in Yorkshire is your favourite place to eat?

Bridlington has some fantastic chip shops where I can really stuff myself!

What is your favourite place to visit?

The National Coal Mining Museum, Wakefield where you descend in a lift 450 feet down the mine and take a fascinating guided tour through the history of mining.

Sends her to Sleep



Favourite Bird



Proudest Moment



What is your favourite view?

Butterley Reservoir, Marsden which I see every day from the adjoining hillside. Due to the changing light and weather it never looks the same, which makes it familiar but never boring.

What makes you hopping mad?

People consider dogs a disposable commodity, often paying a lot for a pedigree puppy then abandoning it when it is no longer cute, usually between nine and 18 months old. I get so annoyed at the lack of respect and flimsy excuses some people state for wanting to hand in their dogs to the rescue centre.

What makes you smile?

Collecting eggs from the free range hens. They lay them secretly all over the farm and the surprise of finding them always makes me smile. They are so delicious.

Who would you invite to your fantasy dinner party, and why? Victoria Wood, Princess Anne and Frankie Dettori, so we could laugh and talk about horses.

What is your favourite film?

Apollo 13, and my absolute favourite quote is 'failure is not an option' when they were inventing ways of getting the doomed spacecraft home. I have applied that throughout my life.

What do you hope to get done before the end of the day?

Save another life. Britain's biggest kept secret is the numbers of dogs euthanised in stray dog pounds. The Dogs Trust statistics show there were 122,000 stray dogs in 2010 and not all get homes unfortunately.

Which of your achievements makes you most proud?

In 1994 I was the National Carriage Driving Champion in the Open Single Horse class at Windsor Great Park with my tremendous black horse Spider. Prince Phillip said 'Well done.'

What sends you to sleep?

A couple of glasses of merlot and I'm snoring.

What would you wish your epitaph to be?

'If I hadn't died today I could have saved another dog.'

(www.westyorkshiredogrescue.co.uk)