

Andy's Story

Andy owned his own building company, but in his late forties he suffered the tragic loss of his partner and a short time later his business failed. His consolation was his two dogs and it meant everything to him to fulfil his promise to his late partner to always look after them.

When he also lost his home, Andy hadn't bargained on how difficult it would be to find other accommodation, but time and time again he was blocked by the policy not to take dogs.

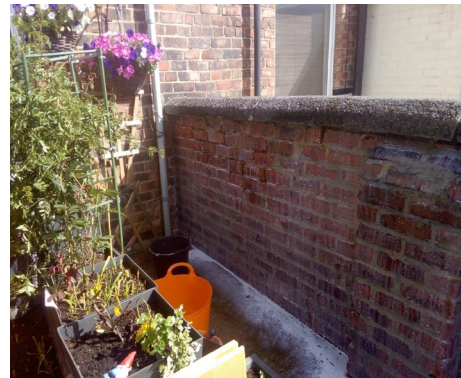
For twelve months the three of them lived in an unheated garage but Andy found himself without any roof over his head when he was evicted even from that inadequate "home".

The Bus Shelter MK became aware of Andy's plight and as the only homeless charity in Milton Keynes to accept dogs, were pleased to be able to offer him a bed and to his relief, his beloved dogs a kennel.

When he arrived on the bus the stresses of the past few years had left Andy anxious and traumatised. As he settled into life on the bus he began to regain his confidence and our support worker Helen worked with him to find a long term solution to his housing problem. Like Andy's initial local search to find a place for him and the dogs to live in the Milton Keynes area ours too failed, so the challenge to find accommodation spread countrywide.

"This was one of the most difficult searches for accommodation I've done." Support Worker, Helen said "Andy found the whole process overwhelming, so I took that pressure away from him. I spent time researching the options and asked important questions on his behalf."

After an extensive search we were excited to find a housing scheme in County Durham, which not only supported affordable rent, but more importantly accommodated his four legged house mates.



Helen and the team ensured that Andy's move went as smoothly as possible. *"When moving into a new home there is always so much paperwork to complete and like many of our guests Andy found this challenging, so by working through this with him I took the worries away."* Helen added.

By partnering with a charity in the local area we were able to kit out Andy's new home with essential furniture and white goods. Thankful to finally have a place he can again call his own Andy has used his skills to decorate his new home and grow vegetables in his garden.

Andy and the dogs are happily settled and he is looking for work.

In his first Christmas in his new home Andy sent us this message. "Thank you I'm not in a garage this year. Thank you I can sit in the warm. Thank you because my dogs and I now have a place called home. Thank you to all who helped me get here."