



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**18 September 2008**  
**For Immediate Release**

## **Dogs Tales Told In Exclusive Audience With Martin Clunes**

Star of the hugely successful *Men Behaving Badly* and *Doc Martin* series, actor Martin Clunes delivered a special “audience with” and book signing session for staff at Scottish Widows to mark the launch of his new book *A Dog’s Life* out today (Thursday 18 September).

Released hot on the heels of his fascinating two-part television documentary to find out why the relationship between humans and dogs has lasted so long, and how this is changing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the memoirs, *A Dog’s Life*, captures every moment of his worldwide adventure.

A first for Scottish Widows, this exclusive event was secured by Sylvia Dow, arts veteran and spearhead of Scottish Widows award winning Arts@Work Programme in association with Arts in Business.

In recognition of Martin’s love of dogs Scottish Widows staff will also be raising funds for the Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre in West Calder.

“Securing an audience with Martin Clunes is a real coup.” said Sylvia. “Staff are thrilled to have met one of the best known faces on television and hear first hand his colourful adventures inspired by his own dogs Mary, Tina and Arthur.”

A privileged audience of actuaries, insurance and financial colleagues gathered to listen to witty and humorous tales of dog lover Martin’s experiences as he accompanied a singing dingo on the piano; was hauled out of a sub zero snow hole by trained rescue dogs; and dragged through a blizzard by a team of excited huskies.

Susan Tonner, Centre Manager of Dogs Trust West Calder, along with Lizzie and Bryce, two Labrador cross puppies joined Martin and staff at the event.

“We are absolutely delighted at Scottish Widows’ kind gesture to raise money for Dogs Trust. Dogs Trust receives no funding from the Government and we rely on donations to care for the 16,000 stray and abandoned dogs we look after every year. Meeting famous dog lover Martin Clunes was the icing on the cake.”

A signed copy of *A Dog’s Life* will also be raffled to raise funds.

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**For further information, please contact –**

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Notes to Editor:

Dogs Trust is the UK's largest dog welfare charity and cares for over 16,000 stray and abandoned dogs through its network of 17 Rehoming Centres across the UK each year. Dogs Trust is working towards the day when all dogs can enjoy a happy life, free from the threat of unnecessary destruction.

**Scottish Widows** was founded in 1815 as Scotland's first mutual life office. Becoming part of the Lloyds TSB Group in 2000, Scottish Widows has become one of the most recognised brands in the life, pensions and investment industry in the UK. The product range includes ordinary long term insurance, such as life assurance, pensions, annuities and permanent health insurance, and savings and investment products. Using a multi-sales network of Financial Advisers, Direct Sales, Direct Marketing, the Internet and via the branch network of Lloyds TSB, Scottish Widows currently employs about 4,000 people.

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