



# Santa Paws is coming to town



## ABOUT ANNA

Dog and cat lover Anna Webb is the co-presenter of BBC London's 'The Barking Hour'. She also appeared regularly on 'The Alan Titchmarsh Show'. Find out more at [www.annawebb.co.uk](http://www.annawebb.co.uk)

### Anna Webb prepares for a chaotic Christmas with Miniature Bull Terrier Prudence.

**W**ith Prudence's first Christmas in London approaching, I've decided for the second year on the trot not to have a tree.

For health and safety reasons, we're better off avoiding Christmas decorations. Space is tight in our London flat, and the addition of a tree would mean temporarily banishing the green vintage swivel chair to the shed.

Besides, I simply couldn't bear my prized Bull Terrier-themed baubles being shattered. They'll be celebrating their 15th Christmas safely boxed up in the cupboard under the stairs.

However, we won't let a lack of decorations dampen our festive cheer — especially when we have plenty of invites to Christmas parties and previews of seasonal must-haves.

One of these was an invitation to the launch of Lulu Guinness's new 3-D clutch bag, a stunning mini replica of Lulu's own Westie, Daphne.

Only small dogs were welcome at the flagship store in Covent Garden, so

Prudence was instantly ruled out as a guest — she might be a true 'Miniature' at 12 inches tall, but small she is not. One of her many nicknames is 'Big', as everything she does is exaggerated. Whether it's shaking her head, wagging her tail, or making an entrance — it's all big!

Instead, Dexter relished the opportunity to visit this exclusive store, high-stepping perfectly to heel as we made our entrance. His elegant looks, polite demeanour, and understated presence turned heads. He spoke when he was spoken to, and accepted an array of canine canapés politely, not spilling a morsel.

Prudence, however, was able to attend Dogs On The Streets' (DOTS) festive party, to celebrate the not-for-profit's move to new offices. The new space looked so pretty: tinsel, balloons, and a yummy buffet.

But the Christmas tree in the corner made my heart sink as Prudence made her signature 'bull in a china shop' entrance.

Distracting her with her goody bag and a rubber toy, Michelle Clark, founder of DOTS, insisted Prudence enjoy the space off the lead. In her element, like a Duracell bunny, Prudence played fetch the entire time, surprising guests with her atypical textbook retrieve.

Meanwhile, Dexter and I enjoyed some chat and tucked into the Twiglets.

Then, a draught caught one of the balloons and it floated

towards the dogs' water bowl, startling Prudence. I couldn't get across the room in time.

She pounced and the balloon popped, triggering her eponymous 'Bullie run'.

I was helpless. A bottle of red wine keeled over on the buffet, drowning the Twiglets as Prudence thundered past, heading towards the tree.

Time stood still for a chaotic five seconds, as Prudence transformed a jolly festive party into what looked more like the end of a rowdy student disco. We quickly said our farewells, thankful that, in spite of trashing the joint, Prudence would be invited back next year.



Pru eyes up Anna's treasured Bullie baubles.



You can read more about DOTS in Stephen Jenkinson's column on page 73.

Prudence models her elf hat.



Dexter attends the Lulu Guinness launch.