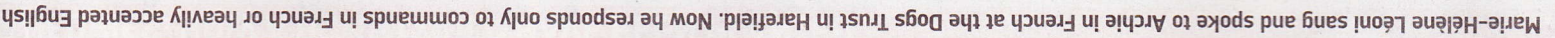


Marie-Hélène Léoni sang and spoke to Archie in French at the Dogs Trust in Harefield. Now he responds only to commands in French or heavily accented English



TRAINING dogs can be an arduous job but the new owner of one stray jack russell will face an unusual challenge — he responds only to commands delivered in French or in a strong Gallic accent.

The terrier, called Archie, was sent to a centre run by the Dogs Trust charity last year after being found abandoned and terrified in Ireland.

He was helped to overcome his mistrust of people by Marie-Hélène Léoni, a volunteer and nursery school

little doggie, and 'mon petit chou', which means 'my little darling'. After that he started trusting me more and, because he was responding so well, staff started to speak to him in a French accent."

Archie, who is four, spends his weekends with the French-speaking volunteer but the Dogs Trust, which cares for 16,000 dogs at 20 rehoming centres, hopes to find him a permanent home, preferably in a French-speaking household.

Lizzie Smith, a canine carer at the Dogs Trust centre in

Ruff guide