

pawws

The supporter magazine
of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home

WINTER 2016
SUGGESTED DONATION £1
battersea.org.uk

Will Bud have a home for Christmas?

Rehoming the breeds that
often get overlooked



CAT CABINET
POLITICAL CATS IN THE HALLS OF POWER
POGDOGS CATCH UP
FAMILIAR DOGGIES FROM PAST AND PRESENT
THERAPEUTIC PETS
EXTRA SPECIAL BATTERSEA ANIMALS



22



12



8



28

paws
Winter 2016

Executive Editor
Dee McIntosh
Editor
Sarah Harrington-James

Contributors
Sarah Hughes
Ceiri O'Douglas
Rosa Steele
Francesca Vitale

Paws Magazine
Battersea Dogs & Cats Home
4 Battersea Park Road
London SW8 4AA

✉ paws@battersea.org.uk

🐦 @BDCH

📍 Battersea

For more information and our opening hours, call 0843 509 4444 or visit our website battersea.org.uk

Old Windsor
Priest Hill, Old Windsor, Berkshire SL4 2JN

Brands Hatch
Crowhurst Lane, Ash, Kent TN15 7HH

Patron
Her Majesty The Queen

President
HRH Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO

Paws is designed on behalf of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home by williamjoseph.co.uk

Advertising enquiries
corporate@battersea.org.uk

Advertisements and advertising inserts appearing within or sent with Paws magazine have been included at the advertiser's request only. Battersea Dogs & Cats Home does not verify the quality, condition, validity or standard of the offers, products or services advertised. Battersea Dogs & Cats Home does not in any way endorse any of the products or services offered.

Keep us up to date
If you would like to let us know about any changes to your details, or if you wish to stop receiving Paws magazine, email us at fundraising@battersea.org.uk. Please include your name, address, and postcode so that we can find your record. You can also write to:

Supporter Services Team
Battersea Dogs & Cats Home
4 Battersea Park Road
London SW8 4AA

By sending us imagery for use in Paws, you grant Battersea a non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free right to use, reproduce, modify, adapt, and publish any photos or videos. Any photographer or videographer may retain copyright and moral rights in their submitted images and every endeavour will be made to credit the copyright holder when the image/video is used and published by Battersea. Although Battersea Dogs & Cats Home will always supply the correct information to third parties (for example to press/media), it cannot accept responsibility for any credit line errors or omissions by these parties.

Front cover
Long stay Bud, a Greyhound/Collie cross, is looking forward to Christmas

Welcome

Claire Horton, Chief Executive

'Our patient staff never give up on their mission'



Claire at our Annual Reunion alongside Hollie Oppe and Chris McLean with their newly-crowned Ambassador dogs

Our staff, volunteers and dogs welcomed a very special guest to the Home on 7 September as Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall joined Battersea Ambassador Paul O'Grady in opening our new Veterinary Hospital and Centre of Excellence. It was such an important milestone in the history of the Home.

Our Veterinary Hospital is a place of transformation and hope that will help us realise our ambition to treat more abandoned, neglected and unwanted dogs and cats long into the future. As our animals go on to find loving new homes and a second chance of happiness, we'll be sharing our expertise of animal welfare through our new Centre of Excellence to staff from other rescues and rehoming organisations. We've come a long way in our 156 years from humble beginnings and if our visionary Victorian Founder Mary Tealby could see us now, I'm sure she would be proud.

In fact, Mary's aim to never turn away an animal in need of help is one we are honoured to follow to this day, no matter

the age, health, breed or behaviour of the animal. We understand that this may mean they may take longer to find a perfect match and a loving new home, but our patient staff never give up on their mission.

We introduce you to some of Battersea's long stay dogs in our feature on page 8 including lovely Bud who has been at our Old Windsor centre for over two years. You'll read here if he does indeed have a home for Christmas, having found a special place in someone's heart.

For all our Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs fans we have a lovely round-up of some of your favourites from series past and present on page 22, including Boxer

“Mary's aim to never turn away an animal in need of help is one we are honoured to follow to this day”

Carmine and Pug Peanut. Thankfully all of these precious four-legged friends – some who had a really bad start to life and had to learn to trust again – found loving and secure homes so that they may live out their days surrounded by kindness.

Over on page 28, you can meet more extra-special former Battersea dogs and cats that are providing their owners with so much more than just companionship. These therapeutic pets have given their human companions a new lease of life. A great example is Chris McLean who I am pictured with at our Annual Reunion (above left). She takes her Battersea Ambassador dogs along to community engagement events and workshops to educate young people on responsible dog ownership, as well as to brighten the lives of the Chelsea Pensioners.

And now, as we start to prepare for Christmas and the season of goodwill, I envisage that all our former Battersea dogs and cats will be a big part of the family festivities. But don't forget to tune into our Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs Christmas Special! 🐾

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

NEWS



A special day
A royal opening for our new Veterinary Hospital and Centre of Excellence
p3

FEATURES



For the love of dogs
A trip down memory lane with our POGDOGS stars past and present
p22

ASK THE EXPERTS



Allergic reaction
Your questions on pet allergies and how to deal with them
p33

FEATURES

- Matchmaking Homes for Life** 8
Some dog breeds are more challenging to rehome, we take a look why
- The Battersea Cat Cabinet** 12
Our trio of political cats are causing a media storm!
- The Heart of the Nation** 22
We catch up with some POGDOGS happy endings from each series
- Therapeutic Pets** 28
Battersea pets provide more than just companionship for some

REGULARS

- Claire's welcome** 1
- News** 2
- Me and my Battersea Dogs** 14
- Little Paws** 17
- Cat gallery** 21
- Dog gallery** 27
- Letters** 30
- Ask the Experts** 33
- Take us Home** 36



Above from left HRH The Duchess of Cornwall meets Senior Vet Nurse Becky Smith and some of the patients in our new Clinic; Paul and The Duchess unveil a plaque to mark the occasion

A Royal welcome

As the sun shone down on a glorious late summer's day, Battersea staff excitedly lined the entrance to our new Veterinary Hospital and Centre of Excellence, eagerly awaiting Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall. Welcomed by a doggy Guard of Honour The Duchess, who has two Battersea Jack Russell Terriers of her own, officially opened our state-of-the-art facilities on 7 September alongside our Ambassador, Paul O'Grady.

During her visit, Her Royal Highness met some of the homeless dogs and cats who were currently being treated by our Veterinary team, including Nancy, a one-year old Yorkshire Terrier cross and Mickey, a three-year old German Pointer who has been undergoing corrective surgery to his bowed front legs. As part of her special tour, The Duchess was also

shown some of the positive work that Battersea does through our Community Engagement, Marketing and Public Affairs teams in helping to educate people and change opinions on animal welfare.

Prior to the new Veterinary Hospital opening, Battersea's 32 Veterinary staff were performing around 70 operations a week in just two operating theatres, as well as an average of 150 dental procedures per month. But now with three top-spec operating theatres and a dedicated dental suite, brand new intensive care areas and sound-proofed recovery wards, we will be able to open our facilities up to many more animals in years to come.

Shaun Opperman, Battersea's Veterinary Director for the last 24 years says: "Working at Battersea as a vet is very different to working in general

practice as so many animals come to us as strays without any medical history. We are perhaps more reliant on diagnostic procedures such as radiography, ultrasound or laboratory work in the first instance, to be able to diagnose any problems before being able to return them to full health.

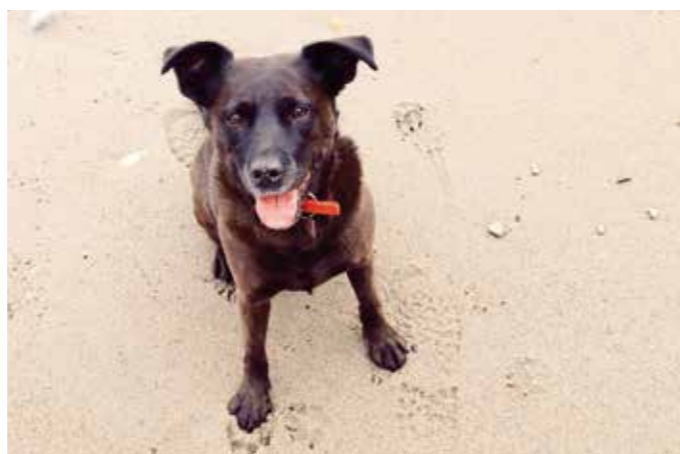
"Our previous clinic was struggling to cope with the 8,000 dogs and cats coming through our doors, many the innocent victims of neglect, overbreeding or puppy farming. Every aspect of our new Veterinary Hospital and Centre of Excellence is designed to help us treat greater numbers of animals with more complicated surgical needs. Our new facilities will speed up treatment and recovery to give each and every rescue dog and cat a chance of a new life as quickly as possible."

Bess to the rescue

Beautiful Bess a Labrador/Staffie cross who was adopted by the Brown family from our Old Windsor centre as a puppy nine years ago, has gone on to be a true hero. Daughter Alexina got in touch to tell us that her dad Andrew, who is normally fit and healthy,

recently suffered a severe brain haemorrhage in the early hours of the morning.

Had Bess not barked to alert the rest of the family after seeing him collapse shortly after letting her outside, he may not be alive today. Andrew spent a month in intensive care where, despite being forgetful and confused, he told all the nurses about his beloved Bess and kept a picture of her at his bedside. He is now back at home where she is helping him to build up his strength on their daily walks.



Rehoming news



LAYLA

Ten-month old Mongrel Layla (formerly Diamond) came in to our London centre due to her owner's ill health and so she hadn't been out much. Sweet and loving and willing to learn, Layla caught the eye of Clare and Tom Whitehead who say she is settling in really well and is a very happy little lady. "She has already met her walking buddy George and they immediately fell in love!"



GYPSY

Young Terrier cross Ellie, renamed Gypsy by her new owner Lynda Skeldon, originally came in as a stray. This cute 10-month old has wrapped her mum around her paws with her cheeky personality. Lynda says she loves her to pieces and can't imagine ever being without her. In fact, she couldn't be more perfect! Gypsy is getting lots of walks and loves playing games and has already learnt to sit and wait for her food and when crossing the road, clever girl.

If you think you could give one of our animals the loving home they deserve, turn to page 32 for Take us Home

From the archives

When Battersea Dogs & Cats Home was just a mere 50 years old, we were left one of the biggest donations of our time after the death of wealthy city financier Leopold Salomons (1841–1915) of Norbury Park, Mickleham, Surrey. Mr Salomons (pictured right) instructed the Executor of his Will to share £60,000–£90,000 of his money between three charities in London and Surrey, to be chosen by his nominated friends.

Even if the beneficiaries received £20,000 each, this would be the equivalent of £12m in today's money! In fact Mr Salomons was well-known for his generosity. In 1914 he purchased 230 acres of Box Hill in Surrey in order to protect the area from development and gifted it to the nation.

There is a permanent memorial to the Victorian gentleman at a viewpoint at the



Reproduced by permission of Surrey History Centre @Surrey History Centre

country park. It is thanks to people like Mr Salomons that we are able to continue our important work in animal welfare today. **If you would like to learn more about how you can leave a gift or legacy to Battersea in your Will, call 020 7627 9300 or visit battersea.org.uk/support-us/gifts-wills**



Left Kenny and Trotty were named in honour of our cycling gold medallists Above Handsome Peaty enjoying his media call

Gold rush

Our dogs and cats got into the Olympic spirit earlier this year as we celebrated some of the GB gold medal wins in Rio with a ceremony of our own – albeit a naming one! To mark Staffordshire-based champion swimmer Adam Peaty's tremendous medal and world record victories, we just had to name a Staffordshire Bull Terrier after him. Lovable six-year old stray Peaty was such a poser for his photos and understandably wasn't at Battersea for long; he is currently enjoying his new life in Carshalton, Surrey.

Then there was four-year old Shih Tzu Trotty, who was photographed alongside her doggy pal Kenny, a Cocker Spaniel/Poodle cross to represent their famous

real-life love bird namesakes, Olympic cycling gold medallists Laura Trott and Jason Kenny. They had a wheely good time in the paddock and both have happily found new loving homes in London.

Of course we couldn't miss out on naming a dog after runner Mo Farah – and Mo the Greyhound had a special job to do before going home with the Thomas family from Middlesex – he was one of the extra-special dogs picked to be part of our Royal doggy Guard of Honour for The Duchess of Cornwall's visit. Mo's Greyhound buddy Farah struck gold when she was spotted by her new owner within two weeks of her arrival at Battersea and is living out her days in south east London.

Over at our Cattery, bonded stray kittens Heather and Helen (named in honour of gold medallist rowers Heather Stanning and Helen Glover) landed on their paws with their new owner in west London, making everyone a winner!



All I want for Christmas...

You can spoil our animals and show your support over Christmas by buying them a special gift from our Battersea shop. Our special festive dog and cat hampers are given directly to them during the

festive period and include a selection of tasty treats and snacks, toys to chase or chew and to snuggle up to. **Check out our online shop to find out more battersea.org.uk/shop**

It's a waggy-tailed takeover!

Thousands of former Battersea dogs and their proud owners took over London's Battersea Park for our 22nd Annual Reunion and family fun day in September.

From Rottweilers and Retrievers to Chihuahuas and Shih Tzus, former rescue dogs of all shapes and sizes came from across the UK to take part. The canines were joined by some famous faces too, with celebrities including our Ambassador, children's author Dame Jacqueline Wilson and *Holby City* actors Rosie Marcel and Guy Henry taking to the arena to judge a number of dog classes.

The most coveted award of the day was Best Battersea Dog, sponsored by notonthehighstreet.com

and over 50 of the Home's former four-legged friends gathered to try their luck. However, it was 16-year old Staffie Lolly (pictured bottom left) who won the top spot. Her owner Gillian Andrews says: "When we first got her from Battersea 11 years ago, Lolly was very overweight and out of condition as she'd been kept in a crate for nine hours a day. She didn't know what toys or treats were and it took a while to get her to come out for a walk. But now she's the most affectionate girl; she wants to please and be loved so badly."

There was also a special announcement at the event where we named four new Ambassadors, Staffie crosses Willow and Whippet, along with British Bulldogs George and Marjorie, who all had a difficult start in life and now represent the Home at events in the community.

Other categories on the day included Dog That Looks Most Like its Owner which was won by Daniel Cooper and his Staffie Louis, Dog the Judges Would Most Like to Take Home, won by Kerri Allman and her beautiful Golden Retriever, Summer and Golden Oldie which was won by Daniel Jacobs and his faithful canine companion, Judy.



YOUR TERRIFIC TWEETS @BDCH

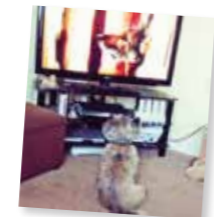
Our Twitter feed has been full of lovely comments about our fifth series of #pogdogs



"@itvpogdogs holding my Boxer boy that bit more after tonight's show. Loved Prince #pogdogs."
@ClaireabelleRed



"I love #pogdogs. Paul O'Grady is a wonderful warm human being. Dogs bring so much love into your life. Here's mine."
@RoseAChild



"YEAH!!! #pogdogs. It's time for my favourite programme #ForTheLoveofDogs. Shhh everyone be quiet while it's on!"
@NormanTheCairn



Winning deal

Mad Max superstar and friend of the Home Tom Hardy joined Battersea dogs Wilson, Lola, Anya and Poppy on the trading floor of BGC Partners in London, to help raise money for Battersea.

The special Charity Day is held each year to commemorate those who perished in the 9/11 World Trade Center attacks. Celebrity ambassadors representing participating charities work alongside licensed brokers to conduct transactions with BGC clients and 100% of the revenues from the day are donated to charities.

Actor Tom Hardy is a huge animal lover and owns several dogs – he visited our London centre last year and joined Battersea Ambassador Paul O'Grady in appealing for a home for one of our longest stay dogs at the time, Sidney the Staffie.



A touching legacy

Sheila Rackstaw visited our Brands Hatch centre along with members of her family to bring us an incredibly kind donation of £1,097, which was handed over to the Cattery staff. Sheila's husband Sid sadly passed away in June and in his memory they asked for donations to the Home instead of flowers in recognition of their beloved cat Billy that they adopted from the centre some years ago and who is still being thoroughly spoilt.

Rehoming news



SUSHI

Beautiful Sushi was born at Battersea with an underdeveloped brain (cerebellar hypoplasia) and it was touch and go whether she was well enough for rehoming. Thankfully she pulled through and her proud foster carer, Senior Canine Behaviourist Nathalie Ingham who hand-reared Sushi and her siblings, was there to give her to her new mum Sarah Ormonde-Walsh. Sarah is well-known to the Home and also has two cats - one of whom has special needs - and a docile Border Collie.



CHILLI

Super-friendly Tabby stray Chilli was scooped up from the streets of West London and landed on his paws when he was rehomed to Nikki Hughes and Janna Regina. This little charmer quickly stole their hearts and their sofa where he takes his afternoon naps. He clearly enjoys lazing about his new pad - lucky boy.

If you think you could give one of our animals the loving home they deserve, turn to page 32 for *Take us Home*

Events

Do something amazing for Battersea. Find out more by emailing events@battersea.org.uk or visit battersea.org.uk/getinvolved



Carol Concert

5 December 2016

With the support of Pet Pavilion, we will be celebrating Christmas in style with our special Battersea doggy Guard of Honour, traditional carols followed by warming mince pies and mulled wine at St Luke's Church, Chelsea. Tickets cost £10 for a child and from £20 for adults – this sells out every year so don't miss out!

Find out more at battersea.org.uk/carolconcert



Muddy Dog Challenge

Dates TBC

Calling all dog lovers. Join us for the UK's first mud and obstacle run where humans can take part too. With locations across England, will you tackle the 5km or 2.5km run? You can register your interest now to be the first to find out when the event launches.

Go to battersea.org.uk/MuddyDog

Brighton Marathon

9 April 2017

Be part of the fantastic atmosphere and join in the 2017 Brighton Marathon which takes runners through the iconic city centre before finishing on the seafront for a well-earned ice cream – or fish and chips, of course!

We have a small number of places available so register your interest now at battersea.org.uk/support-us/challenges/brighton-marathon



London Marathon

23 April 2017

Have you or anyone you know secured a ballot place in the 2017 Virgin Money London Marathon? If so, we would love for you to join Team Battersea. As a Battersea runner you will receive a bespoke running vest, a fundraising pack, training advice, an invitation to a behind the scenes tour of the Home and a cheer team to support you on the day!

Find out more at battersea.org.uk/support-us/challenges/virgin-money-london-marathon

Thank you!

Royal Parks Foundation Half Marathon
A huge Battersea pat on the back to the runners that took part in the Royal Parks Foundation Half Marathon on Sunday 9 October to raise money for our homeless animals. We are so proud of you all.



Claire receives her award from category sponsor representative Jill Cloke and host, comedian Mark Watson ©Third Sector

Battersea accolade

Our Chief Executive Claire Horton has been named Charity Chief Executive of the Year in the prestigious Third Sector Awards in recognition of her achievements in steering the Home through a period of successful transformational growth.

In the six years since she joined Battersea, public support for our much-loved charity has soared. Battersea's volunteer numbers have increased nearly 200 percent, while last year alone there was a 48 percent increase in the

number of foster carers.

Claire beat four other finalists to scoop the top prize. Speaking after the ceremony, she says: "It is a great honour to be recognised as Third Sector's Charity Chief Executive of the Year, especially facing such tough competition. Battersea is a place like no other and I'm proud to lead a highly-talented team of people who care so passionately for our animals, giving them the second chance in life they so deserve."



Feline curiosities

We have the perfect Christmas gift for those cat lovers out there – our newly launched book *Catopedia* which is full of entertaining facts about everything from wild cat ancestry and cat physiology to cat worship and cat movie

stars. And just in case you're wondering why your feline friend acts in a certain way there is a helpful section on cat behaviour and what makes our cat's tick.

Catopedia costs just £14.99 and royalties from the sale of this book go towards supporting our work. You can buy it online at battersea.org.uk/shop

LIKE!

Who doesn't love a Staffie smile and lots of our residents sport those grins even without the pleasure of a home to call their own. We asked you to share your photos of your happy Staffies #StaffieSmile #SofterThanYouThink



Lucy was sadly deemed to be a banned breed



Max, from Mavis Dee



Ziggy, from Holly Leam-Taylor



Bonnie, from Lynsey Hughes



Otto, from Lauren Elmer

Help us change the law

Battersea received a huge public response to our damning report on the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. We are calling for a repeal of Section One which bans four breeds of dog from the UK: the Pit Bull Terrier, the Dogo Argentino, the Japanese Tosa and the Fila Brasileiro.

Our report *Dog Bites: what's breed got to do with it?* surveyed 215 expert behaviourists and consultants on the reasons why some dogs may be aggressive towards people. 74% argued that breed was either not at all important or only slightly important, whilst an overwhelming 86% believed it was due to the way that the dog was brought up by its owner.

Battersea's dog law solicitor Trevor Cooper adds: "This new evidence confirms why this law is so wrong. The only way of changing Breed Specific Legislation is through Parliament and so we are asking those who agree with Battersea to please write to your MP and tell them it should be repealed."

Battersea Chief Executive Claire Horton says: "Battersea cannot break the law but with public support we can try to change it, to save the lives of innocent dogs in the future. That's why we're urging people to write to their MP and point out the ineffectiveness and injustice of the Dangerous Dogs Act."

You can read our report by visiting bdch.org.uk/files/Dog-bites-whats-breed-got-to-do-with-it.pdf

essential winter healthcare for your pets



to see our complete range visit www.jvp.co.uk or for more information email info@johnsons-vet.com

available from all good pet shops and garden centres



Johnson's Veterinary Products Ltd, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B75 7DF

Tel: 0121 378 1684 email: info@johnsons-vet.com www.jvp.co.uk

Matchmaking Homes for Life

Battersea aims to help all dogs and cats however challenging they may be to rehome, as we focus on matching the right people to the right animals. Here we take a look at the dog breeds that often get overlooked.

Photo: Warren Allott



“Battersea is there to help care for these dogs for as long as it takes so long as they are coping. We never give up until the right home is found”

Opposite Greyhound/Collie cross Bud was up until October our longest stay
Left After waiting patiently for two years, Theo finally found his forever home
Below right Bud was on long-term foster with the Wordsworths who spoil him last Christmas!

It's human nature to find cute, four-legged bundles of doggy joy appealing; those soppy eyes, a nudge from a wet nose and maybe even a slobbery kiss and that's it – we're hooked. These are the kind of dogs at Battersea that are quickly snapped up by loving new owners who are keen on opening up their home to a rescue animal. But what about our long stay dogs – those that, for no fault of their own, don't immediately catch the eye of a potential new owner?

Some come to Battersea under-socialised having had a bad start to life and need training to boost their social skills and confidence around humans and dogs. Others are overlooked because of their breed traits and misconceptions, but despite the reasons Battersea is there to care for these dogs for as long as it takes so long as they are coping. We never give up until the right home is found.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Of the 4,643 canines that happily got their second chance on life through Battersea last year, certain breeds stood out as being more challenging to rehome. Take energetic breeds like Siberian Huskies, Akitas and Alaskan Malamutes for example.

These beautiful, big working dogs have seen their popularity soar thanks to TV series like *Game of Thrones* where people have rushed out to buy one on impulse, but not thought about whether

the breed is actually right for their lifestyle.

“There is a misconception of what to expect from these dogs. People tend to see them as big teddy bears but actually they do not always enjoy being restrained by human cuddles,” explains Battersea London Centre Manager, Rob Young.

“If they are not getting what they need then they can start to demonstrate frustrated behaviours. Their breed traits – lack of recall, hunting drive and independent streak – can often be seen as problematic when actually it's just the way they are,” he adds.

Theo, a handsome stray Malamute/Husky cross was found wandering the streets of south west London. He was taken to our rural centre at Brands Hatch where, after two years of patiently waiting for the right owners, recently had his third introduction with a couple from Oxfordshire who are now fostering him with the plan to take him on permanently – one that we would usually recommend with our long stays.

“Theo has such a personality; he is a fabulous, playful dog,” says Rehoming & Welfare Assistant Chloe Scoones, who was also his foster carer for a while.

“When he first came in he was very frustrated on the lead, incredibly vocal and difficult to handle. We spent a lot of time working on introducing him to other dogs and managed to lower his frustration levels to the point that he plays appropriately. He has moments of affection, mainly when he wants something like a walk or his dinner, but

that is all part of having a Malamute!” she laughs.

PART OF THE FAMILY

Many people assume wrongly that Greyhounds, in particular ex-racers which we tend to see a lot of at Battersea, require plenty of exercise but although they are bred to chase and sprint over short distances they are often couch potatoes at heart. This breed make fabulous family pets as they are incredibly affectionate, do not need lots of training and are much more playful than people think.

Bud, was at our Old Windsor centre for over two-and-a-half years while he was waiting for that special person to sweep him off his paws. A Greyhound/Collie cross, Bud has inherited the intelligence of a Collie and the love of food typically displayed by Greyhounds!

Although the staff and volunteers at Old Windsor tried to make Bud's time in kennels fun and relaxing, nothing beats a home environment. Luckily experienced Battersea foster carers Naomi and Gary Wordsworth opened up their home to him for almost a year, where he really flourished with the help of some ground rules and a routine.

Naomi says: “Bud is a very clever boy who is always looking for ways to earn treats so he will learn new tricks easily. He really wants to be a member of the family and join in whatever we are doing. We can be chatting away and before we know it his nose is two inches in front of ours making sure that he is included in the plans for the day.”

Being part Greyhound, Bud is required to walk on a lead wearing a muzzle, which Naomi thinks has put some people off. “Bud is bigger and stronger than a lot of Greyhounds and you do have to be prepared to hang on when he sees a cat – he really doesn't like them!” she explains.

Bud also has an unusual fear – he is →



scared of the dark and so will sometimes bark and jump at imaginary things hiding in the gloom – but that’s all part of his endearing character.

It was recent stardom on *Paul O’Grady: For the Love of Dogs* that prompted 150 enquiries about him. Happily he was matched to a family in the Midlands who have the space and type of home life that Bud needs.

CHEEKY CHIHUAHUAS

On the opposite end of the size scale are Chihuahuas and we took in 101 through our gates last year. These pooches may be small, but they have big personalities and don’t always take too kindly to being treated as so called ‘handbag dogs’.

“Battersea does occasionally take in wonderful examples of the breed, but the majority we see have been treated as child replacements or a toy and are under-socialised, making them difficult to handle,” says Rebecca Fisher, Battersea’s Head of Dog Rehoming.

Eighteen-month-old Chico is sadly one of these handbag dogs that had lived a sheltered life. He was carried everywhere by his previous owner from a puppy and had never been walked, met other dogs or any other people apart from those he lived with. Unsurprisingly he was incredibly nervous when he arrived at our London centre and so was immediately fostered by Lost & Found Assistant Laura Stubbs who helped to boost his confidence.

Chico soon transformed into an amazing and confident little chap. “He will always be wary of new people and has to be allowed to approach you when he is ready,” says Laura. “It is often the misconception with Chihuahuas that you can just go straight up to them and pick them up – but they need to be treated like a dog not a toy.”

After 17 days in our care, Chico was rehomed to a young family in Worthing where he has proved to be a super-affectionate, happy and playful companion who enjoys going to the park and meeting other dogs.

ESCAPE TO THE COUNTRY

A breed which is not suited to an inner city lifestyle is the Beagle. And so we would always see that those coming in to our



“Beagles are not your regular dog. People buy them for what they look like and don’t think about their breed traits”

London centre are rehomed away from the hustle and bustle of suburbia to people who are enthusiasts of the breed.

“Beagles are not your regular dog. People buy them for what they look like and don’t think about their breed traits. They are stubborn and need an awful lot of exercise and mental stimulation; if not they can get vocal, destructive and will suffer from separation anxiety,” explains Rob Young.

“You have to have an active lifestyle and we do try our hardest to manage people’s expectations when they say they want to rehome a Beagle, but occasionally we will see these back in our care.”

Marley, a two-year old Beagle is a Battersea success story. Brought in as his former owner’s job had changed, some two months later he was matched to retiree Philip Hurn, who knew what he was getting himself in for.

Philip says: “Marley was a handful when we took him on and we have found he needs a good walk every two-and-a-half hours. He loves company and as he has me to himself all the time, he doesn’t chew or bark and wants to play. Initially he had a habit of stealing things off low tables and I found that when I didn’t chase him it stopped being a game and he soon learnt that it’s boring!”

Rest assured that for all of the Theos, Buds, Chicos and Marleys in this world, our dedicated canine teams are there to help each and every one through their challenges, so that they too can have their second chance of happiness. 🐾

Above Handsome Marley the Beagle was rehomed to an owner who can dedicate plenty of time to him
Left Chico came in to us under-socialised and incredibly nervous



“I’d love a friend like you.”



Daisy, Jack Russell. Abandoned, hungry, scared. Give her happiness, warmth and love for just £12 a month.

Right now there are dogs at Battersea Dogs & Cats Home like me who urgently need a friend like you. Your love, care and support will help me in my time of need. Will you sponsor my kennel at the Home for just £12 a month?

You can help Battersea look after me until they find me a permanent, loving home. With your friendship dogs like me can have a second chance of happiness. Thank you.

Sponsor a Battersea kennel today for just £12 a month

call us on **020 7627 7883**

or visit www.battersea.org.uk/sponsorship



Kennel Sponsor

The Battersea Cat Cabinet

Our trio of political pussycats are swiftly becoming the most talked about felines in the country. Our cat experts have some advice if your moggy has as much catitude as these three.



Photo: Press Association

Battersea cats get rehomed to all kinds of places, not least Westminster, where three of our rescue moggies have made huge names for themselves.

The Home's first cat to enter politics back in 2011 was nine-year-old Tabby Larry, picked to take up the enviable position of Chief Mouser at 10 Downing Street. This friendly stray had been living rough for some time, but he had all the right qualities for coping with the demands of daily life in the spotlight and warding off those pesky rodents. Five years on, rumour has it that he much prefers sleeping on antique furniture and lounging around but he's certainly won the hearts of the nation with his much documented exploits.

RAGS TO RICHES

In April 2016 our London Cattery received a request for a second political puss to patrol the corridors of power in Westminster. And a particular two-year old confident and friendly black and white neglected stray moggy stood out from the rest; he appeared playful and keen to chase and hunt his toys and we thought he would be a great candidate to keep the mice at bay in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

Fittingly named Palmerston after former Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, Henry John Temple, third Viscount Palmerston, it was only a matter of weeks after arriving at Battersea that he joined the ranks of formidable felines, just a stone's throw from Larry's pad.

Palmerston also shot to fame following his move and now boasts a phenomenal 30,000 followers on his Twitter account DiploMog where people can enjoy seeing him do everything from meet and greet international visitors and diplomats to

congratulating Team GB's Olympians and of course, confirming when he's caught any mice.

Larry and Palmerston have not been entirely neighbourly to each other as of late, dominating the news headlines with a spate of altercations and stand-offs on Downing Street, which have been captured by press photographers. Neither is keen on sharing their outdoor space with another cat and so our feline welfare experts visited the teams in Westminster to try and help the situation.

Sue Hartley, Battersea's Feline Welfare Manager says: "These cats were chosen to be chief mousers to their Government buildings based on their sociable, bold and confident nature, but the only downside to these behaviour traits is that aggression can sometimes occur when the territories of two cats overlap. It's not uncommon for felines to get feisty with each other which is a normal part of predation, play and social conflict."

OVERLY TERRITORIAL

Like all the cats that Battersea rehomes every year, both Larry and Palmerston had been neutered before being rehomed which helps to reduce the risk of them

“It was only a matter of weeks after arriving at Battersea that Palmerston joined the ranks of formidable felines just a stone's throw from Larry's pad”

attracting attention from other cats.

Sue adds: "We advised that Larry and Palmerston have temporary restrictions on the areas they can access outside to reduce the risk of them meeting in their early days as neighbours and then stagger

2011



LARRY

Nine-year-old Tabby Larry was picked to be Chief Mouser at 10 Downing Street

2016



PALMERSTON

In April, two-year-old Palmerston joined the Foreign & Commonwealth Office



GLADSTONE

And in July, Gladstone became our third political puss when he took up residence at The Treasury



Opposite Larry was the first Battersea puss to enter politics
Above Palmerston en route to the Foreign & Commonwealth Office
Below Permanent Under-Secretary Simon McDonald welcomes Palmerston and some of Battersea's Cattery team

When introducing cats to areas which may be heavily cat populated we suggest the following:

- Ensure that your cat has access to outdoor space which is cat friendly and has some of the following resources:

- Planters and pots with feline-friendly plants and herbs such as catmint, thyme, basil and rosemary
- Cat-friendly bushes and grasses
- Outside water fountains
- Logs and tree stumps
- Wooden benches for resting, shade, perching, observation and privacy
- Raised walkways and/or cat climbing frames

- A designated outdoor toilet area using sand, woodchip or compost

- Ensure other cats are less able to access your cat's outdoor space by blocking off routes used by them

- Ensure your cat has only one way in and out, ideally via a microchip catflap, and that this goes directly to their designated area so that multiple cats do not need to cross paths

- Don't forget to make your cat's indoor environment stimulating as well, with scratching posts, hidey holes, elevated areas, toys and puzzle feeders.

their time outside after this. There is sufficient space for more than one cat in Westminster so they should both be able to roam outside their homes in their designated areas without meeting each other, while still being able to fulfil their important mousing duties."

Thankfully the newest Battersea cat on the block in Westminster has so far not got up to too much mischief. From bins to The Budget, former stray Gladstone who went off to his new home at The Treasury in July, has also taken social media by storm with his aptly named Instagram account Treasury Cat.

Named after former Chancellor and four times Prime Minister William Ewart Gladstone, this sleek black feline is hoping to conquer The Treasury's menacing mouse problem when he's not snoozing on important civil servants' paperwork and utilising the comfy laps of visitors from around the world, of course. 🐾





Me and my Battersea Dogs

With Amanda Mealing

British actress Amanda Mealing has carved out a successful TV career where she is best known as consultant Connie Beauchamp in BBC1's medical drama series *Holby City* and sister show *Casualty*. TV stardom started early for Amanda – her first professional performance was at the age of six in a *Julie Andrews Special* on the BBC – and many more appearances followed over the years in film and TV including in *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and *Midsomer Murders*. More recently, Amanda has been behind the camera directing short films and an episode of *Casualty*. Away from our TV screens, we find out about her connection with Battersea and her love of dogs in particular.

I was first introduced to Battersea Dogs & Cats Home as a six-year old. We had lost our Labrador, Monty, and I was heartbroken that I would never see him again but, we called Battersea and there he was! I have never forgotten the happiness the place gave me in bringing him home, so I have always had a soft spot for the charity. However, in more recent years I can vouch Paul O'Grady's influence for the now ever-growing pack we have at home! We have been friends for over 20 years; as well as a Battersea Ambassador, he's Godfather to my boys Milo and Otis



and is my closest friend and confidant. Let's just say his autobiographies have been delicate with some events, only because I have as much dirt on him!

In 2012 I visited Battersea with Paul as he said he wanted to show my boys around. Of course I should have realised

that he'd have a surprise waiting! We had sadly lost our Jack Russell a few months earlier in a road accident so we were feeling that gaping hole in our home, until Paul handed us a white Jack Russell/Staffie cross. Her name came about as we were taking her for a walk to see if she was happy with us; Paul, who has a dog called Bullseye, starting reciting the entire musical *Oliver!* as he often does (trust me), so it was obvious that if he had a Bullseye, we should have a Nancy.

We have always been open to having more than one rescue dog. When we had to move to Cardiff for my work on *Casualty*, as a seducer to the boys we said once we'd settled, we would get them Huskies. As a very active family living in the countryside near woods, the breed seemed perfect for us plus they are gorgeous dogs. We had asked Battersea to look out for one after they sent me a birthday Tweet message from a white Husky – he was so beautiful. And considering Nancy is completely white in colour, we thought what's one lot of white hair compared to more?

We waited patiently for a match and then the most adorable white Husky/Akita cross turned up. That was it – game over for me. My husband Richard tried to play reticent and merely obliging, but was absolutely head over heels when we met him for the first time at Battersea.

We named him Miś (pronounced Meash) which is Polish for bear and seemed rather apt, plus this was the name of Richard's old Dobermann. When Miś

“As a very active family living in the countryside near woods, a Husky seemed perfect for us, plus they are gorgeous dogs”

arrived he was a whirlwind of testosterone; the whole dynamic of the house changed overnight. Having lived with smaller dogs for years it was strange to have this huge white wolf in our home. Of course he was excited to be with a family again and being only nine months old he has quite a bit of energy. Luckily living in the countryside with my husband at home writing and often needing to literally 'run ideas off' and my teenage boys into fitness, our Husky gets a really good amount of exercise.

It took Nancy a little while to accept Miś as this had been solely her house and she had had our full attention. Now they are so wonderful together despite the size difference.

I often wonder if our Battersea dog pack is complete. Miś has been a beautiful addition to the family and let's face it, there's not much difference in looking after two or three dogs is there? I think I'd have to stop at three or else completely retire to a log cabin; not that it hasn't crossed my mind recently. 🐾

Natural pet healthcare made simple

FREE
standard
UK delivery



Stiff joints?

YuMOVE offers a unique formula for stiff and older dogs that works fast.

- Aids stiff joints and supports joint structure
- Promotes mobility, ideal during winter walks
- Clinically proven
- The UK's #1 veterinary joint supplement*



Stressed dog?

YuCALM is a Triple-action calming supplement for dogs who are stressed or nervous.

- Helps reduce stress and supports calm behaviour
- Eases anxiety
- A complete formula to support a calm and happy dog
- Made with scientifically proven and all-natural ingredients



Call 01379 871 051 or place your order at animeddirect.co.uk



Animed
Cutting the cost of pet care

Free UK standard delivery + Guaranteed low prices + 100% secure and safe + Genuine UK sourced medication + Veterinary advice

We are an official registered pharmacy with the GPhC and accredited by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD). *GfK VetTrak Sales Data, MAT values (June 2016)

A dog's best friend™



As a central member of the family, your dog's health is a top priority. Like you, your dog must receive enough daily micro-nutrients to help stay fit, active and healthy.

SuperDog is from the pet division of Vitabiotics, specialising in premium nutrition for all sizes and breeds of dogs. From vitality to healthy joints and bones, SuperDog's comprehensive formulations are scientifically formulated by nutritional experts to give your dog the latest support available. Providing optimum levels of advanced micro-nutrients, vitamins, minerals and botanical extracts, SuperDog is your dog's new best friend to stay in tip-top condition.

VITAVET
SuperDog[®]
ADVANCED VITAMINS

Available from:
vitavet.co.uk **M** MORRISONS amazon

Vitavet is the specialist pet division of Vitabiotics Ltd. Vitabiotics' partnership with Battersea Dogs & Cats Home includes a donation of 10p from the sale of each pack. For more information please visit www.battersea.org.uk

Proudly Supporting



(Registered Charity No. 206394)



VITABIOTICS
PET DIVISION

Little Paws

FOR JUNIOR SUPPORTERS OF
BATTERSEA DOGS & CATS HOME

STORIES GAMES FUN



Our resident experts Batt & Zee give you some great insights into how dogs and cats think, act and behave

Keep an eye on your cat as they love sparkly baubles and may climb up the Christmas tree!



Olivia and Picasso



Samuel and Pinto



Jen and Mr Jinxy

Can you spot the 10 differences?

Win a Battersea stationery set!

Selfies Competition

Take a photo of yourself with your family dog or cat and send it to Little Paws and the best one will win a Battersea Dogs & Cats Home stationery set and other goodies. What are you waiting for? Get snapping! Send your selfies to littlepaws@battersea.org.uk

The selfie winner of last issue's book prize is a delighted Carly pictured here reunited with her best friend Molly after she had been missing for 11 days. Great stuff!



Winners!

Carla and Molly

Little paws





What is a dog's favourite Christmas carol?
BARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING



Thanks!



Seven-year old animal lover Mim Asker wanted to do something extra special for her birthday and had the idea of asking for presents for our animals. Her family and friends were very generous and Mim came in to our London centre at the end of June with her parents and big sister Hattie, laden with bags full of treats! Mim was given a behind-the-scenes tour of our Cattery where she had the chance to cuddle and play with lots of kittens, including eight-week old litter mates Roger, Ronnie, Reggie, Rita and Rhonda which she thoroughly enjoyed. After this she had a look around the kennels with the help of volunteer Peter Marshall who introduced Mim to Max, a Collie/Malamute cross for a final farewell photograph.



Siblings Ben and Lotty Gill (aged nine and six) from Bromley rehomed kittens Connor and Patrick (now called Tux and Sandy) from our London centre in April. They decided to take advantage of a spell of good weather in July and sell drinks to thirsty passers-by to raise money for the dogs and cats in the Home. One of the mixes included orange and basil, which proved to be very popular!



Little Paws Letters



Big impression

We love Gary to the stars and back. Sometimes he lets us pick him up and have a cuddle and he leans his warm head on our knee. He is like a big black and white lump! He is a bit like a dog and loves nothing more than rolling over for a tummy tickle and will lick our hands to ask for more. We like to think he nibbles our toes because he loves us but really it's because he wants us to give him his food! He's good at catching flies too but that's disgusting as he eats them.
From Marcela (age 9) and Otto (age 5)

SUCCESS STORY

We adopted Fred in May and he's settled in really well. He loves playing with his toys and is very well behaved with other dogs in the park. Thanks for Fred! You are all brilliant!!
From Hal (age 14)



Sisters Alice and Chloe Newman aged 10 and seven years and Alice's classmate Bea came into Battersea to present a wonderful cheque for £213.78 raised through a bake sale. The animal loving girls encouraged their classmates from Belle Ville Primary School to don their oven gloves and take up their spatulas and the results of their hardwork were then sold at Northcote Road Fair in London.

All the girls are big dog lovers, their favourite breeds being Jack Russells, Yorkies and Pugs and they said they were inspired to raise money for Battersea's dogs after their friend looked into rehoming one. Thanks girls!

Cat gallery

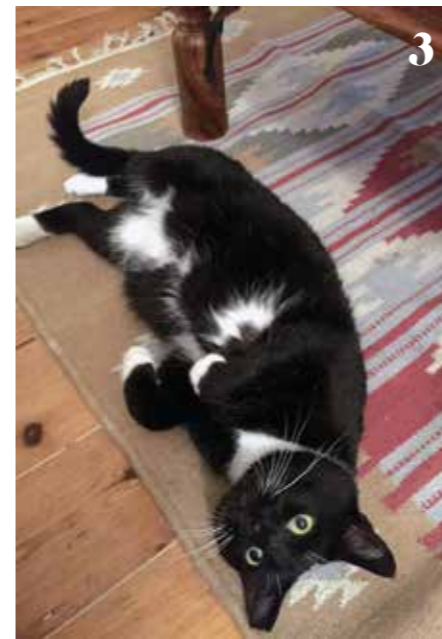
It's a tough life being a former Battersea cat, as you can see by these photographs! Snoozing, playing and posing are all in a day's work. You can see more rehoming pictures and stories at battersea.org.uk/cathappyendings



1



2



3



4



5



6

- 1 Willow (was Adelaide), from Samantha Willis and Daniel Nicholas
- 2 Woody, from Matt Stringfellow and Steve Clarke
- 3 JJ (was Ernie), from Tessa Martlew
- 4 Daisy (was Kiki) and Poppy (was Kinani), from Sue Palmer
- 5 Simba, from Jeffrey and Linda Nardini
- 6 Paddington (was Cake), from Rebecca Oldfield and Simon Seddon

Please send us your high-resolution pictures by email (minimum 1MB in size) to paws@battersea.org.uk You can also write to the address on the contents page. If you'd like your pictures returned, please enclose an SAE.

Heart of the Nation

Our award-winning *Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs* ITV series gives viewers a behind the scenes glimpse of the highs and sometimes lows at Battersea. We catch up with some familiar doggy faces from programmes past and present.

Little did Battersea know back in 2012 how much of a formidable success Paul O'Grady's ITV series would be. Now four years on, this compelling, touching and at times heartbreaking show continues to pull in millions of viewers per episode who are glued to their seats watching the latest dramas unfold. As well as raising awareness of the Home and animal welfare issues, Paul has helped encourage the nation to think of Battersea when considering rehoming a rescue dog or cat, giving more animals a second chance of happiness – and we couldn't ask for more than that.

Carmine, Benny and Sparkle (Series 1)

Who could forget the love that Paul had for Boxer Carmine. The feeling was mutual from the moment they met and indeed Paul tried to dognap the handsome Boxer on our screens many times! Two-year old Carmine, who came in to Battersea as his former owner could no longer afford him, found a loving new home with Jessica and Roy Piggott in April 2012.

They had always wanted to rehome a dog from Battersea, but Carmine didn't quite catch their eye in the kennels. In fact they met a different Boxer first of all. "He didn't stand out, but my husband had already taken a shine to him! Elvis, as we call him, is strong and big but he is the most loving dog I have ever met. He is constantly under your feet, would have you throwing a ball 24 hours a day and the flatulence is pretty awful, but we love all

these things about him when we see how happy he is," says Jessica, who adds that he is wonderfully patient with their two young children. "We all love him very much and are looking forward to many more adventures."

Seven-month old Rottweiler cross Benny was brought in to Battersea in March 2012 by an individual who was asked to look after him temporarily, but their friend never returned to collect him. Having not had such a great start in life, poor Benny was scared and very wary of new people, especially men.

"When we first met him, my two children weren't sure about him as he wasn't cuddly and didn't want to know us. But there was just something about him and a glint in his eye that I knew he was the one for us," explains Ian Tuckwell, who went on to rename him Barney. "It took about a week for him to calm down but at least six to eight months before he would totally trust us and feel comfortable – now he's the best dog I've ever had," he confirms.

Some four years on, Barney has grown into a cheeky chap whose pastimes include stealing the socks and slippers of his humans and hiding them in his bed. But his biggest achievement was winning the coveted title of Best Battersea Dog at our Annual Reunion in 2014 – a day that his family will never forget.

Do you remember one of the most shocking neglect cases that our Clinic staff has ever seen? Two-year old Staffie Sparkle, who had been found by a passer-by dumped in a suitcase in a →



Above Paul O'Grady with lovable Peanut who starred in Series 4



CARMINE, NOW ELVIS



SPARKLE, NOW AMY



BENNY, NOW BARNEY

London park, was so emaciated that she could hardly stand as her bones jutted out of her tiny frame. Her terrible story brought a tear to Paul and many a viewer, but with time and patience this gentle dog was nursed back to health while being fostered by a member of the veterinary team.

Eventually she was well enough to be put up for rehoming. Paula and Mark Oliver from Clacton-on-Sea went to Battersea looking for a small dog that would enrich their lives – and there they spotted Sparkle. “We were instantly drawn to her; she was throwing tennis balls around in her kennel and wagging her tail at about 100 miles an hour. I looked at her and I fell in love instantly and knew then she was right for us,” declares Paula.

“We renamed her Amy and took her home that very same day and she settled in like she had always been there. Everyone I meet on our walks remembers her from the programme and they always comment on what a beautiful girl she is.”

Twinkle and Faith (Series 2)

Six-month old Lurcher/Collie cross Twinkle was tied to the gates of our Brands Hatch centre on a snowy evening in February 2013. We can only imagine how terrified this poor little dog must have been and by the time our staff arrived she had already collapsed. Twinkle was rushed to our London clinic where she was given the care that she so desperately needed, before being fostered by Battersea staff. Thankfully she made a full recovery and was rehomed to Helen and Colin Page from France who were looking for a companion dog for their recently bereaved Bearded Collie.

Now known as Beryl, she settled in immediately along with rescue cats Rosie and Daisy and canine friends, Barney and Berkley. “We go on long walks, but mainly she loves to sleep and to laze around in the sun and selfishly demands one hundred

percent attention of anybody who starts to show her affection!” laughs Colin. Beryl likes to cuddle up at night with Rosie – her best buddy, proving that sometimes dogs and cats can be friends!

Our Series 2 Christmas Special featured Faith – a Great Dane puppy who was literally hours from death. She only weighed a pitiful 16kg when she was brought in to our Old Windsor centre, having been found by chance in a ditch by a Battersea volunteer out walking her dog, Foxy. It was Faith’s faint whimpers that alerted Foxy and got her emergency treatment from Battersea’s vets.

Described as one of the worst cases of malnutrition the Old Windsor clinic had ever seen, staff there believed that Faith had been eating soil in the ditch to stay alive. Her resilience touched the hearts of many POGDOGS fans and indeed her new owner, Annie Gravett. She had heard about Faith’s terrible ordeal from one of Battersea’s Trustees and knew then she had to help her.

Annie says: “Faith settled in really quickly and immediately formed a good friendship with our Great Dane, Lola. She is a fun companion at all times and follows us around our farm – she likes to bark at the pigs but gives the horses a wide berth! Faith is a truly loving dog and adores everyone.”

Whisper (Series 3)

Paul was really touched by Whisper, a Staffie who had been a victim of backstreet breeding. This very frightened and undersocialised young dog had stretched mammary glands and was found abandoned, huddled under a bush after she was of no more use to her former owners.

It was likely that Whisper had only ever known confinement as she became extremely anxious when she was away from her kennel. Staff hoped that she would improve in a foster home and



WHISPER



PEANUT, NOW GEORGE (left)

indeed she did – finding the confidence to go out in the garden and play with her toys and finally enjoy human company. It was fate that brought Whisper and her new owner Peter Couldwell together.

He explains: “Late one night I came across a forum thread about a newspaper report regarding an agoraphobic dog at Battersea Old Windsor. I followed a link and suddenly I was staring into the most forlorn, world-weary pair of brown eyes I have ever seen. We have fostered a few dogs with issues in the past and I knew we had the time and patience to help this little girl.”

There was a catch though. Whisper was being featured on television the following evening and he knew that there would be thousands of emails and calls from kindhearted people wishing to adopt her, so he emailed Battersea at 3am and didn’t tell his wife until later that day! Thankfully they were a great match for Whisper and understood that progress had to be made at her pace.

It took three weeks for her to venture out of the front door and for a year they were limited to the field outside. “Her character – the word that comes to mind is klutz! She has no sense whatsoever of her own size, slobbers and is a sofa hog,” he adds. “She is not a normal dog by any means and she is still afraid of men, but as time goes on she is improving and gaining in confidence.”

Peanut (Series 4)

Do you remember Peanut the Pug whose poor breathing caused by congenital defects was such a concern for staff at our London centre that he had to undergo an operation to clear his airways? Paul had a real softspot for four-year old Peanut who, following surgery, became a more energetic dog.

Dr Shaun Davies heard about Peanut after a tip-off and was so intrigued he hopped in a cab and had him in his sights

“He is my shadow and when he wants a cuddle his head goes on my shoulder and half his body on my lap”

within an hour. He and his partner Greig Boyle (both pictured above) were looking for a playmate for their existing Pug, Jessie and from the moment they met, they were inseparable.

“He is a dream dog – no accidents, no upsets, nothing but a sweet affectionate and well-adjusted bundle of fun,” says Shaun, who renamed him George. “He is always being recognised from being on TV – we often get stopped in town by people who saw the programme and I show them the clips and the lovely photos of him with Paul O’Grady that are on my phone – he is our own little superstar!”

Prince (Series 5)

Our fifth series of POGDOGS aired throughout September and October where Paul followed the stories of some very special canines, including Prince the Boxer who reminded him so much of Carmine. But Prince was different. A senior citizen at the ripe old age of 13, he needed to have a huge cancerous growth removed, along with a radical dental while in Battersea’s care. There was no evidence that the cancer had spread, but the Clinic team could not guarantee this handsome and happy dog would be cancer-free.

Nonetheless, Barbara Whiffen who had lost her beloved Battersea Bedlington Terrier a year ago, was told about Prince by her daughter who had seen him on the website. “I was very interested in this old boy, Prince, who needed a comfortable and caring home for perhaps his last few months,” she says candidly.

“In came this skinny dog, ribs very prominent, huge scar and gummy mouth and it was love at first sight. I knew he was right for me and so it has been proved.”

There was no settling in period – Prince was at home the moment he stretched out on the sofa. A perfect gent, Barbara says he is very obedient and responds quickly to various commands. “He has three meals a day and if I am a little late or slow, he grumbles and taps his dish!” She adds. “At 6am I am woken by his nudges as it’s breakfast time.”

Barbara took Prince on holiday to Cornwall in the summer and as soon as he was released from his lead he raced across the beach to test the water. The pair have a special unbreakable bond which is clear to see by all who meet them.

“He is my shadow and when he wants a cuddle his head goes on my shoulder and half his body on my lap. I daren’t move!” She laughs. “Hopefully he will reach his 14th birthday next March. Fingers crossed – we can only hope.”



PRINCE



TWINKLE, NOW BERYL



FAITH



Muddy Dog Challenge

A fun, muddy obstacle race whether you have two or four legs

Muddy Dog Challenge 2017

Find out more
battersea.org.uk/MuddyDog
E: muddydog@battersea.org.uk
T: 0207 627 9339

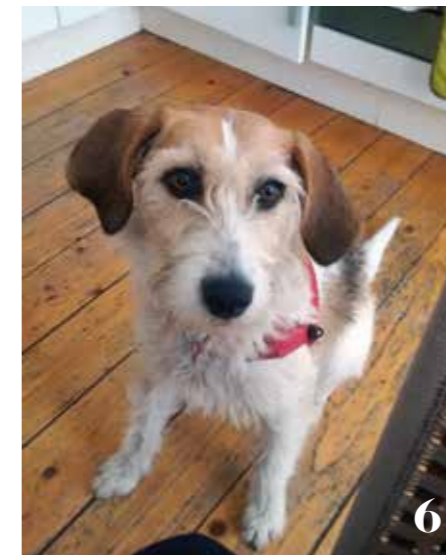
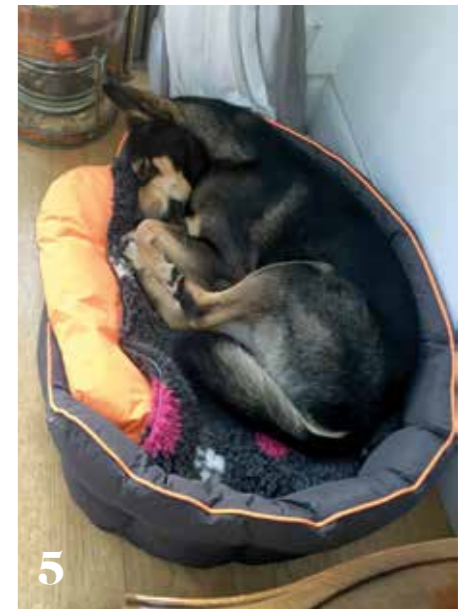


Various locations across England

Registered charity No. 206394 give with confidence

Dog gallery

These former Battersea residents love posing for the camera, but Nikko missed his photo call as he's catching up on forty winks. Check out more Happy Endings at battersea.org.uk/doghappendings



- 1 Minnie and Betsy, from Louise and Peter Biggs
- 2 Dillon, from Mary and Trevor Wilson
- 3 Legend, from Terry Simpson
- 4 Marley, from Katie and James John
- 5 Nikko, from Ann and Mark Cruise
- 6 Possum (was Blossom), from Anne Kane

Please send us your high-resolution pictures by email (minimum 1MB in size) to paws@battersea.org.uk. You can also write to the address on the contents page. If you'd like your pictures returned, please enclose an SAE.

Therapeutic Pets

Adopting a dog or cat can bring us much happiness, but for some they provide so much more than just companionship. We speak to some owners with extra special Battersea pets.



Not every animal that comes to Battersea is destined for a life relaxing on the sofa. Some extraordinarily exceptional dogs (and some cats) provide assistance or therapy to their owners to help build up self-confidence, boost their mood and ease depression and just the process of stroking a pet has been proven to lower blood pressure.

Lorraine Pickering first met Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Harley just before Christmas in 2014. She found herself walking straight towards Harley's kennel at Battersea's Old Windsor centre. "I have aggressive Multiple Sclerosis," Lorraine says. "As soon as I saw Harley I knew that she was going to help me."

Harley had initially been assessed by staff at Battersea as suffering from separation anxiety, but Lorraine knew that this wouldn't be an issue as she would never be parted from her. "Harley was very nervous when I first got her but over time, very slowly, I got her used to being touched very gently," she says. "Now she is completely fine with everybody. I take her into hospital with me whenever I have appointments and she sits beside me. All the nurses know her."

CALMING INFLUENCE

The following year, Lorraine signed Harley up to Pets as Therapy (PAT), a charity that aims to enhance the health and wellbeing of people in need in the community through visits from volunteers with their animals. Pets as Therapy visit hospitals, hospices, nursing and care homes, special needs schools and a variety of other venues all across the UK. All breeds of dogs and even cats can become part of a PAT team, the requirements being that they must have been with their owner for at least six months, be over nine months of age and pass a temperament assessment.

Harley passed her assessment with flying colours and now she is a fully qualified PAT pet. Lorraine says: "I take her everywhere I go. We go to SportsAble which is a sports and recreation group for disabled and able-bodied people. Harley is



Above Labrador Flynn is always there for the children in his classroom
Below left Extra special Harley was awarded Best Battersea Dog at our Old Windsor Fun Day
Below right Gorgeous Teddy has been helping his new owner Charley with her anxiety

so calm now that she will go up to people in wheelchairs and sit by them so they can stroke her. If there's someone there who is nervous or finds the situation stressful, she will go and sit next to them."

Harley has made such a difference to Lorraine's life and had such a positive effect on the people that she meets that she decided to enter her into the Best Battersea Dog class at the Old Windsor Fun Day in July. She was completely overwhelmed when Harley took the top spot that she burst into tears. "Harley is one in a million and she deserves it so much," she adds.

“If there's someone who is nervous or finds the situation stressful, Harley will go and sit next to them”



BACK TO SCHOOL

It is not just adults who can benefit from the incredibly calming company of an assistance dog and not all have to be live-in companions either. Flynn the Labrador was 11 years old when his owner brought him into Battersea, as he was increasingly working away from home. Flynn's initial assessments revealed him to be a sweet-natured and very easy going older gentleman who would be an ideal family pet. However, Pam Stock and Claire Wells from The Collett School in Hertfordshire were looking for something a bit more extraordinary than a family pet: they were hoping to meet a dog who could live with them but spend each day at the school they both teach in for children with moderate to complex learning difficulties.

The Collett School first got in touch with Battersea six months previously and

when Flynn arrived, he was immediately identified as a dog with the perfect temperament for such an important task, one that would require meeting over 100 pupils aged from four to 17. "Battersea answered our prayers when they phoned us with news of a dog that would be suitable," explains Claire. "Flynn arrived a week later and was welcomed enthusiastically by the children and he relished their undying attention."

Claire cannot speak highly enough of how wonderful Flynn is and what a difference he makes. "One child who is a reluctant speaker opened up and chatted with confidence to Flynn, who listened to every word. All in all, it is proving that bonds between special needs children and dogs are priceless. We feel privileged to have him in our care and lives."

FELINE PERFECT

Some may not consider cats to offer any sort of 'therapy', but they'd be wrong. Charley Bray had always suffered from anxiety which became worse when she lost her mum to cancer at the age of 18. She was in her first year of university and felt like she didn't have anywhere to turn, but somehow she got through it. Over the next seven years Charley settled down with her partner, but still struggled to shake off that feeling of anxiety and nervousness which often made her feel depressed.

Then she had a light bulb moment – she had grown up with cats and found them to be wonderful companions and after convincing her boyfriend it was a good idea, they put a date in their diary to visit Battersea. "I wanted a cuddly cat who would sit on our laps and give us lots of snuggles. With this in mind, our wonderful Rehomer introduced us to Teddy (then known as Oreo) and we fell for him instantly," Charley says.

"Having him around and giving me something else to care for has really helped with my anxiety. Stroking him when I'm not feeling 100 percent really does calm me down and I think he senses when I need him to be there. Teddy really has changed my life." 🐾



STAR LETTER

Play mates



We rehomed Muffin on 29 May and renamed him Crumpet. Our baby daughter Lily was three months old when we brought him home and from day one he seemed unfazed by her and always likes to lie by the edge of her playmat. Crumpet's a friendly and sociable cat and if we're playing with Lily, he likes some attention too by way of a good stroke. They are the best of friends – Lily loves watching him and he's very good and will let her pat him. He is a lovely member of our family.
Mark and Kristyn Fox, Hampton, Middlesex

Win a Battersea tote bag! Each issue the star letter winner will receive their choice of either an 'I love cats' or 'I love dogs' Battersea tote bag



MISCHIEF MAKER

In January this year we adopted Finley from Battersea Old Windsor; an underweight, slightly poorly three-month old stray Lurcher/Saluki cross that had been abandoned. Now look at our handsome little boy we renamed Charlie – they're his ears by the way, not a wig! He's a real handful and easily capable of finding mischief where none appears to exist, but we love him to bits, as does our six-year old Greyhound who often instigates play fights.
Lee Kavanagh, Aldershot, Hampshire



THE PERFECT MATCH

It was a year ago on 1 August that we rehomed Sienna (left). We now think of that date as her official birthday (a bit like the Queen) and she celebrated with an extra long run, new balls and a Jumba bone! We have seen a lot of changes in Sienna in the past year; she is very playful and is just like a puppy and has loads of energy. She loves her toys, especially chasing her balls in the field next to the house or playing with her ragga in the garden. She is good with other dogs and always wants to play with them, especially a local rescue dog, a little Patterdale called Marmite – he is just as mad as her! Sienna really is an affectionate delightful dog and has suited us really well. She was suggested by one of the Rehoming team during my phone interview and I honestly don't think that you could have suggested a better dog.
Susan and David Skelton, Seaford, East Sussex



GENTLE GIANT

We adopted Henry (above) a Rottie/Bull Mastiff cross from your London site in June. We are so grateful for the fantastic care he received when he was with you and all the work you do for the dogs that need a happy new home. Henry has transformed our lives for the better and we absolutely love him! He is settling in well and loves the countryside where we take him for walks three times a day. He is very well behaved, sometimes a bit shy with others, but socialises with dogs on his walks with no issues. Thank you for letting us give Henry a second chance at life!
Marcine, Matthew and Grace Waterman, Worplesdon, Surrey

GOLDEN OLDIE

Tilly was 16 when we got her just over three years ago. She was Battersea Old Windsor's oldest resident and had been with them for some time, having had thyroid surgery. She took about a year to fully settle and due to stress lost most of her fur on her stomach as she was overgrooming. However, she is now much happier and is very vocal and bossy! Tilly is deaf now and always appears to be shouting at us. She loves the warm weather when she can go out into the garden and defend her territory under the gate – she dislikes other cats, all except a ginger one. The vet says she is doing well for her age.
Sharon Shepherd, Slough

FRIENDS FOR LIFE

We adopted Fred (right) from Battersea Old Windsor in May 2010. At the time we were told he was aged 7-10 and although he is a bit slower these days, he is still a happy and healthy boy. Our family has grown and 19 months ago we had our first child who has complex disabilities and a life-limiting condition. Fred has been amazing with our son and even alerted us when he has been critically ill in the night. I wanted to thank you for my best friend.
Julia Beavis, Reading, Berkshire



Happy Memories

Teyo my beautiful boy, loved by all who met him (even the vets), a gentle giant, his tail never stopped wagging, he will be forever in my heart. Thank you all at Battersea for the happiest time of my life.
Lee Hughes, Birmingham



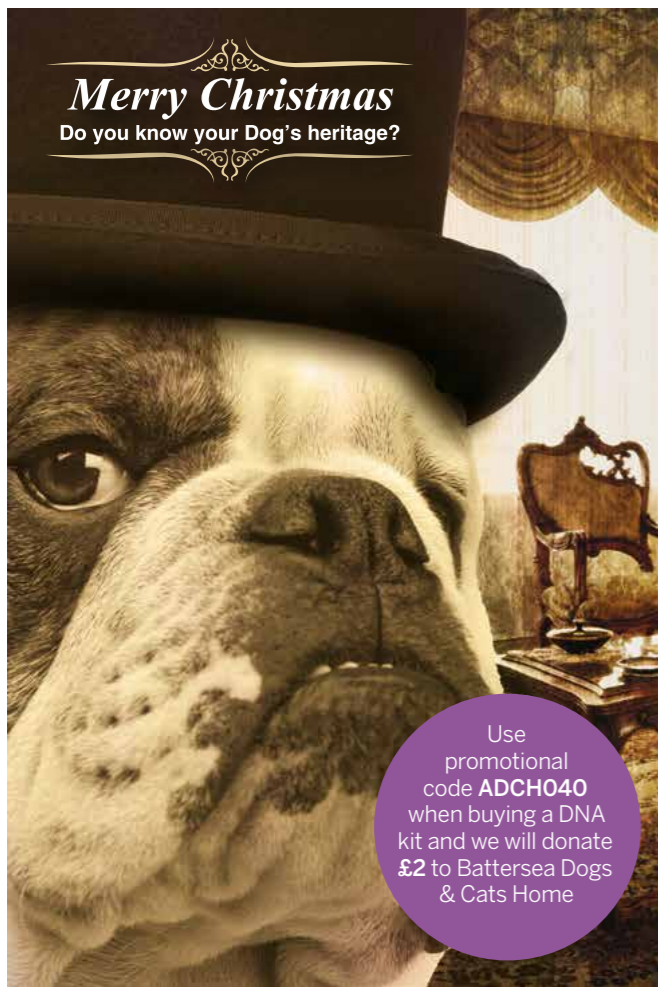
Jack died on 8 December 2015 just short of 15 years that we had him. We collected him from Brands Hatch centre on 30 December 2000 aged approximately 2-3 years. We did not realise when Jack had to be put to sleep that it was the same date 15 years before that we lost our Yorkie cross Terry. We have his ashes along with all our other dogs and cats and photos.
Susan Dale, Kent



In 2009 I adopted my lovely boy Curious George, a polydactyl tabby previously named Cosmo who was at the time just shy of a year-and-a-half old from your London centre. I'll never know why or how he died – he was still so young, wasn't out of sorts and there were no injuries – but he knew, without a doubt, that he was adored by so many who were blessed to meet him. Adored by me.
Beverley Radway-Bright, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire



Write to us at the address on the contents page, or email paws@battersea.org.uk



Merry Christmas
Do you know your Dog's heritage?

Use promotional code **ADCH040** when buying a DNA kit and we will donate £2 to Battersea Dogs & Cats Home

If you wish to give a Blackdog DNA test kit as a gift this Christmas, I will be happy to arrange to send the kit either to you or to the recipient. Contact me separately by email at info@blackdogdna.com and I will be pleased to accept instructions.



With our unique service you can find out the breed ancestry of your mixed breed dog. All it takes is a simple and painless DNA test you can do in your own home. A qualified behaviourist will provide you with a unique and personalised behaviour profile. This information will help you understand your dog's needs better, and make both your lives happier.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR DOG'S HERITAGE?

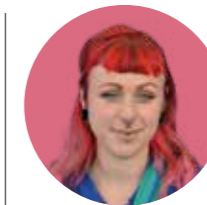
BLACKDOG DNA.COM

Ask the Experts

Every issue, Battersea's experts answer some of the queries *Paws* readers have about their pets. Send your questions to paws@battersea.org.uk or write to us at the address on the contents page and we'll do our best to help.



ROSA STEELE
Cat Rehoming & Welfare Assistant



SARAH HUGHES
Dog Intake & Assessing Team Leader



Dog breeds such as the Bichon Frise, Poodle and Yorkshire Terrier are often regarded as 'hypoallergenic'

A ccording to research collated by Dyson, the air pollution inside our home can be up to five times worse than outside as modern buildings are tightly sealed to retain heat and reduce noise. This can lead to microscopic particles being trapped inside like pollen, mould spores, bacteria, dust and in particular, pet allergens. Indeed, one of the many reasons people give up their pets is due to allergic reactions. *Paws* talks to two of our dog and cat experts to discover more about this phenomenon.

Q Do you often come across cats that have been given up because the owner finds they are allergic to them?

A **RS:** Amongst the numerous reasons that cats are brought into Battersea, allergies are fairly common. Often it is because a new baby or family member has an allergic reaction to the cat.

People can develop allergies at any stage of their life and allergic reactions are caused by the immune system overreacting to an allergen and producing antibodies. It is very rare to find people who have had cats all their lives suddenly develop an allergy to their furry friend.

Q What are the common symptoms that people cite and what is the main cause of their reaction?

A **RS:** The protein Fel d 1 is the particular allergen that is found in a cat's saliva. Cats spend half their waking hours grooming by licking their fur and therefore coating it in this protein, which then comes into contact with our skin when we stroke them. The same protein is also in the dead skin cells that are shed by a cat and these cause a respiratory reaction in allergy sufferers as they become airborne.

Allergic reactions vary in severity and some people are able to manage their allergy effectively and live happily with cats. Common symptoms include reddened itchy eyes, sneezing, coughing and wheezing.

SH: allergyuk.org says that in the UK pets are the second highest cause of

allergy in the home with 50% of asthmatic children sensitive to cats and 40% to dogs. The allergen is found in the dog's hair, dead skin cells (dander), saliva and urine. Dogs, like cats, frequently groom themselves so the allergens coat the hair and dander which when shed, spread easily throughout the home.

Q What advice do you give to people who would like to rehome a dog or cat from us but think they could have a pet allergy?

A **RS:** During the registration process we ask potential new owners if they

are allergic and will discuss the severity of the reaction and if it is to a specific breed of cat. During 'cat intros' we make sure they spend extra time in the pen and we often advise that they take home one of the cat's blankets to see whether any reaction flares up overnight. If no allergy presents itself, we can rehome the cat to them.

For those who have not had a reaction in the past but develop symptoms after they have rehomed from us, we would recommend that they visit their GP for advice on allergy testing and for medicine to help reduce their symptoms. While some people return the cat because of a severe reaction, others keep their →



Pet Insurance
from the UK's most recommended insurer

0800 085 0140

- ♥ Lifetime cover with up to £10k vet fees each year
- ♥ We can pay your vet directly
- ♥ Cover for puppies and kittens from 8 weeks old



LV=
LIVERPOOL VICTORIA

LV.com

For TextDirect, first dial 18001. Mon-Fri 8am-8pm, Sat 9am-5pm. Calls may be recorded. Research from YouGov BrandIndex using 'Recommend' measure conducted online between June 2015 and May 2016, sample size 32,328. More information go to LV.com 0008121-2016

new feline friend and ask us for allergy management advice.

SH: It can sometimes be difficult to ascertain whether people are definitely allergic to dogs and not other allergens such as pollen that may carry on a dog's coat. If allergies are suspected, gradual exposure to pets without other environmental factors can be built up over time. There are topical treatments that can be used on dogs which can be wiped over their fur to reduce dander and shedding and regular grooming outdoors can also help.

Q Is there a way of minimising pet allergens in the home?

A SH: Allergy symptoms can be relieved by good cleaning practices in the home, such as wiping down walls, replacing carpets with laminate flooring and using a vacuum cleaner with an integral HEPA filter especially designed for households with pets. It is also a good idea to keep pets out of your bedroom.

RS: We would recommend washing your hands immediately after stroking your pet and have a blanket on your lap if your cat likes to curl up on you to reduce fur and skin cells from being transferred onto your clothes. Installing an effective air purifier fan with a HEPA filter can also help rid the air of allergens from your home.

Q Are certain breeds worse than others to cause a reaction?

A RS: We do sometimes get requests for hypoallergenic cat breeds such

as the Balinese-Javanese, Cornish Rex, Devon Rex, Siberian, and Sphynx but we rarely see these at Battersea. These breeds produce less of the allergen Fel d 1

Free prize draw

Our partner Dyson is giving away a DC75 Cinetic Big Ball upright vacuum cleaner to a lucky *Paws* reader, designed especially for homes with pets. Certified Asthma and Allergy Friendly™, it is engineered to be completely sealed ensuring no dirty air escapes. To enter, simply email your contact details to: freeprizedraw@battersea.org.uk by 3 January 2017.

For full details please click on the terms and conditions section of our website.



dyson

Hairless Sphynx cats like Nigel and Kiki are a popular breed for people with known allergies

that cause allergic reactions, however it is still possible that people can experience allergic symptoms from being in close contact with them. Others find that they are only allergic to specific individual cats as opposed to the breed or hair length and we aim to (and often do) find them a cat that they do not have a reaction to.

SH: Even hairless dogs still produce dander and can cause people to have allergic reactions. Dogs with different lengths and types of coat tend to be no different so for example, a person can show a similar level of reaction to a Labrador as they do a Pomeranian! The heaviest hair shedders that need regular grooming are well-loved breeds such as the Golden Retriever, German Shepherd, Husky, Akita and Malamute.

Q Are there certain breeds that don't shed hair?

A RS: Apart from hairless cats such as the Sphynx, every cat will shed. There are however, cats known to shed less than others like the Cornish and Devon Rex which only have the downy layer of fur.

SH: Dogs moult in the spring and sometimes in the autumn too as their coats are shed and the hair can trigger allergies. Dog breeds that shed very little hair include the Yorkshire Terrier, Poodle, Italian Greyhound, Bedlington Terrier, Chinese Crested and Bichon Frise. Lesser known breeds are Bouvier Des Flandres, Hungarian Puli and surprisingly, the Afghan Hound! 🐾



Christmas Carol Concert

Monday 5 December 2016

Doors open at 7pm

St Luke's Church, Sydney St
Chelsea, SW3 6NH

Tickets: Adults from £20, Children £10

Enjoy an evening of festive cheer including a very special Doggie Guard of Honour, traditional carols, mulled wine and mince pies.

For further information and to book tickets visit battersea.org.uk/CarolConcert or call 020 7627 9295



Proudly supported by

Pet Pavilion

FRSB
give with confidence
Registered charity No. 206394

Boxed Christmas cards

24 boxed cards



C01



Christmas card packs

10 cards per pack

Any 3 for £10

Any 3 for £12.50



C02



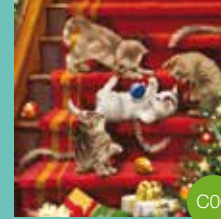
C03



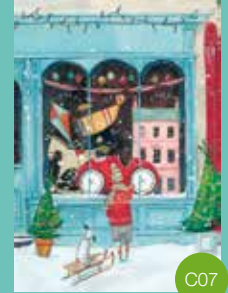
C04



C05



C06



C07



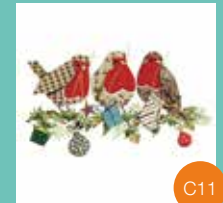
C08



C09



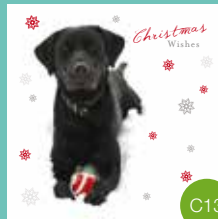
C10



C11



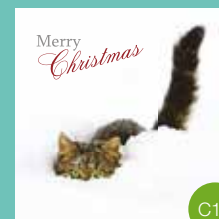
C12



C13



C14



C15



C16



C17



C18



C19



C20

C01
24 boxed cards
£10.00

C02
99 x 99 mm
£3.40

C03
99 x 99 mm
£3.40

C04
108 x 108 mm
£3.40

C05
108 x 108 mm
£3.40

C06
150 x 150 mm
£4.75

C07
171 x 121 mm
£4.75

C08
114 x 160 mm
£4.50

C09
228 x 86 mm
£4.50

C10
228 x 86 mm
£4.50

C11
117 x 117 mm
£3.75

C12
165 x 83 mm
£3.75

C13
137 x 137 mm
£4.75

C14
114 x 160 mm
£4.50

C15
137 x 137 mm
£4.75

C16
127 x 127 mm
£4.50

C17
120 x 172 mm
£4.75

C18
137 x 137 mm
£4.50

C19
141 x 141 mm
£5.00

C20
130 x 96 mm
£3.75

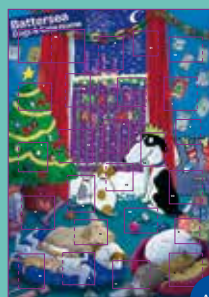
Calendars and Diaries

A01
Traditional advent calendar
£5.00

A02
Pocket diary
£6.00

A03
Square calendar
£10.00

A04
Slim calendar
£6.00



A01



A02



A03



A04