

Because every dog and cat deserves a loving home

paws

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In this issue...

A look behind the scenes at Battersea Old Windsor

The knitting club keeping our cats cosy this winter

Ask the Experts

Helping your dog or cat to maintain a healthy weight

Home for the holidays

Facing another Christmas in kennels, our long-stay dogs are hoping to find a family in time for the festive season





14



26

Contents

10

FEATURES

10 Behind the scenes at BOW

Why our Old Windsor centre is so important for Battersea dogs

14 Knit one, purr one

How Battersea's Knitting Kittens Club is getting crafty to help our cats

22 A family for the festive season

All our long-stay dogs want for Christmas is a home to finally call their own

28 Happily rehomed

Dogs and cats getting their second chance at happiness

34 Joanna & Millie

Actress Joanna Scanlan talks about her ex-Battersea Staffie, Millie



36

REGULARS

3 Welcome

From our CEO Claire Horton

5 Home front

Battersea news and essential dates for your diary

16 Take us home

Room for a little one?

17 Little Paws

Your selfies, quizzes and jokes, plus a pull-out poster

26 Ask the experts

How can you maintain a balanced diet for your dog or cat?

30 Pet gallery

Beautiful dogs and cats in happy new homes

32 Your letters

Heartwarming stories for you to enjoy

With Christmas around the corner, many of our dogs are just trying to find a warm, loving place to call home

22





Welcome

For many of us, this time of year always brings our attention and our thoughts to what's most important. And, at the top of the list for a lot of us, is family.

Sadly, for some of the dogs and cats currently in Battersea's temporary care, a loving family to call their own is one gift they may not find in their stocking this festive season. From just a few days to several years, the length of time that Battersea will look after an animal in need of help has no limit – we will be there every step of the way until the animal finds a new home, however long it takes. For some of our animals this can be a considerable stint as, through no fault of their own, they find themselves falling into our 'long-stay' category. Like Diesel, our cover star this issue who has spent most of this year waiting to find a loving home, these long-stay residents are just as keen as any of their kennel-mates to find a

family to snuggle up with in time for the festive season. Perhaps after reading our feature on page 22 you might be able to do just that?

Also in this edition of *Paws*, you can take a look behind the scenes at Battersea's Old Windsor centre to see how the rural retreat offers a totally different dynamic for some of our dogs and cats. Surrounded by natural beauty and scenic countryside walks, Old Windsor offers a literal breath of fresh air for the animals temporarily calling it home – see for yourself on page 10.

Season's Greetings to you all from everyone here at Battersea (both two and four-legged!)

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GCVO

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GCVO

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Cover star Diesel, a five-year-old Alaskan Malamute, is still hoping to find his forever home since coming into Battersea back in February

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Home front

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Catch up with Battersea people, pets, events and campaigns

Battersea's animal cruelty campaign makes great progress

In the autumn, Battersea received very welcome news that – after months of campaigning and public support, both the Westminster and Scottish Governments have announced their willingness to raise the maximum sentence for the most abhorrent cases of animal cruelty in England from six months, and in Scotland from 12 months, to five years. Battersea launched its campaign calling for five-year sentences back in February at Westminster – a call the public answered loudly. Some of the UK's best-loved comedians – Paul O'Grady, Ricky Gervais, Sue Perkins, Harry Hill and Tracey Ullman – also pledged their support, and the Scottish phase of the initiative was launched back at the end of August. Battersea was then joined in September outside the Scottish

Parliament by the Environment Secretary Roseanna Cunningham and MSPs from all parties (pictured).

Claire Horton, Battersea's Chief Executive, said: "Battersea is thrilled that the Westminster Government plans to raise the maximum sentence for the most abhorrent cases of animal cruelty in England from six months to five years."

Claire added: "This news will be very positively received by the public, the majority of whom share Battersea's wish to see this change. Since we launched our campaign calling for five-year sentences, the momentum has clearly been building and the response has been tremendous, with close to 62,000 members of the public across the UK calling on their elected representatives to back this

change. I would also like to thank the Scottish Government who made it clear last month that they are willing to raise the maximum sentence in Scotland from 12 months to five years. We cannot underestimate the positive impact their position has had on this issue."

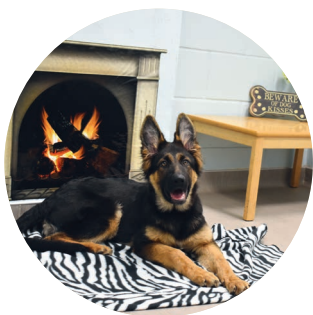
Over just seven months, no fewer than 145 MPs and MSPs pledged their support, and almost 62,000 people contacted their own MP or MSP in every UK constituency. Battersea now hopes to see a change in the law by 2019, which would be an incredible achievement and great news for countless innocent animals.

Join us to change the law

▶ Visit battersea.org.uk/notfunny

✉ Email your MP/MSP using our [online form](#)





Revamped residences

Those of you who haven't been to our London centre for a while may want to pay us a visit to check out our newly-renovated kennels. Boasting a calm and inviting colour scheme, the new kennels open to the public have been specially designed to encourage a peaceful and relaxing environment for our dogs, plus 18 refurbished kennels for you to explore. The lovely 'home from home' touches include 'living rooms' for our dogs to chill out in, complete with our Paul O'Grady series on the TV. For the first time ever the rooms offer viewing windows for people to see our canine residents in a more natural environment.



Did you know?

Cats are digitigrade walkers, which means that instead of walking on their heels and the balls of their feet like humans, cats walk on tiptoes.

'Pet manicures' warning

A worrying trend on social media, where pet owners are giving their dogs and cats 'manicures' to match their own nails, became something staff at Battersea Dogs & Cats Home witnessed first-hand earlier this year when Christina, a five-year-old Domestic Short-hair tabby and white cat was brought into the rescue centre in London with glued-on red claw covers. Battersea's vets had to put her under anaesthetic to safely remove the covers. Lindsey Quinlan, Head of Catteries at Battersea, said: "This is the first time we've seen a cat come in with claw covers and we're concerned that this craze is becoming increasingly popular with pet owners. It's cruel to inflict this sort of thing on your cat as it stops them from displaying their natural behaviour." Lindsey added: "There are alternative ways to keep your cat from scratching your household furniture, for example, providing a suitable scratching post which should be tall enough to allow your cat to fully stretch. Horizontal scratching surfaces are also available." After her claw covers were successfully removed, Christina eventually went on to find a home with her new family.



Fashion for a cause

Battersea Dogs & Cats Home has partnered with fashion chain Jigsaw to create a range of children's clothes, including super-soft jumpers and cosy pyjamas that are perfect for the winter season. After the Jigsaw team visited Battersea, their in-house artist was inspired to create the hand-painted artwork that features on the front and back of the items. For each item from the range sold, £5 will go towards Battersea.

▶ See the range for yourself at jigsaw-online.com

Battersea by numbers

1,399

The number of volunteers that help Battersea to continue its good work



Wear Your Whiskers 2017 - it's a wrap!

Thank you to the thousands of people who took part in Wear Your Whiskers to raise money for the dogs and cats in our care. On Friday 27 October, lots of you spent the day at work, school, home or out-and-about, parading your whiskers in aid of Battersea. We've seen plenty of pictures and you all look fur-bulous!

▶ To take a look at all the wonderful whiskers that were worn, search the hashtag [#WearYourWhiskers](https://www.instagram.com/WearYourWhiskers) on social media. Join in the fun and sign up to Wear Your Whiskers next year at battersea.org.uk/whiskers

FAST FACT Bloodhounds are able to trace scents that are over 300 hours old



Mission accomplished

Dogs and cats are great at calming us stressed humans down and earlier this year our London centre gave two adorable Jack Russell Terriers a very special mission - to help make busy commuters at Waterloo station smile during the extensive engineering works that took place. The inseparable duo are former Battersea residents 14-year-old Mollie and 16-year-old Millie (pictured), who were rehomed together and ventured down to Waterloo with Battersea staff to help spread the word to commuters that plenty of their four-legged friends back at the Home are still in desperate need of happy endings of their own. The paw-fect pair certainly helped put a smile back on the faces of those who stopped for a stroke and a chat, and who – much like Battersea dogs and cats – just wanted to find a way home.



Millie helping to brighten the day for commuters at Waterloo station

FAST FACT Female cats are typically right-pawed, while male cats usually have a dominant left paw









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45 million

UK homes tuned in to series five of POGDOGS in 2016



Battersea on the box

Unless you've been living under a rock for the past few weeks, we're hoping that you will all have been enjoying the sixth series of *Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs* on ITV. After a busy couple of months filming across all three Battersea centres, it's always great to finally see our staff and residents getting their moment in the spotlight, as well as raising awareness of the work we do at the Home and some of our dogs still looking to find their new families.

▶ In case you missed it, catch up with the entire series of #POGDOGS on ITV Player.

Another way to give

If you have a special occasion coming up, why not do something a little different thanks to Battersea's 'Give In Celebration' initiative? Whether it's a wedding, birthday, anniversary or other special occasion, you can make it a special day for our dogs and cats too by asking family and friends to donate to the Home instead of buying you a gift. Or, perhaps, if you have rehomed a Battersea dog or cat, why not celebrate the date you took them home? You can mark the special day your dog or cat came home by holding a party in their honour and ask your guests to make a donation to Battersea to mark the occasion.

▶ Go online to find out more at Battersea.org.uk/support-us



Honouring Mary Tealby

3rd October marked the anniversary of the death of Battersea's inspirational Founder, Mary Tealby. Chief Executive Claire Horton visits Mary's grave every year on the anniversary of her death to lay flowers and pay our respects for a true pioneer in animal welfare. Claire says: "We are, and always will be, incredibly proud of our heritage and we remember our Founder's passion, commitment and determination to help dogs and cats in urgent need. We share Mary's values to this day and we will forever be grateful to her." Pictured are former Battersea dogs Pug Vera and Terrier Wilma at Mary's grave.



Five minutes with...
Vicki Milner, Canine Behaviour & Training Advisor, Battersea Brands Hatch

Q: What does your role entail?

A: The role of a CBTA is very varied, which is one of the aspects that appeals to me. I can be supporting an entire kennel block of dogs as well as working through an individual care plan or assisting with dog-to-dog interactions. I also support with managing a dog's behaviours when they are being matched to new potential owners, taking dogs offsite and supporting owners in a home environment with aftercare. Other tasks include running workshops on various topics for both staff and volunteers, passing on knowledge to ensure they are supported in their roles.

Q: What is the highlight of your day?

A: Seeing a dog or their handler really achieve a task they have been struggling with and the obvious delight that comes with it.

Q: Are there any former Battersea residents that have stuck in your mind? If so, who and why?

A: Honestly, there have been so many over the years. I would say I remember the ones that have challenged me the most, that have tested me to think of new solutions to aid with improving their behaviours.

Top: Vicki with Stanley, a five-month old Lurcher puppy

FAST FACT On average, cats sleep for almost 70 per cent of their lives

Events

Do something amazing for Battersea and help raise much-needed funds

Brighton Marathon

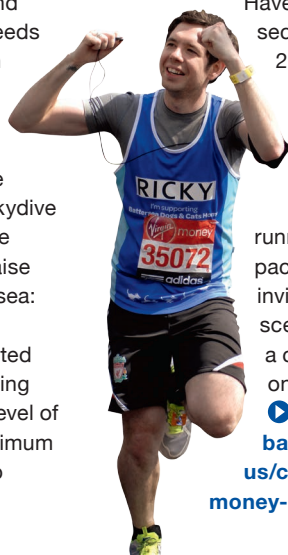
15 April 2018

Be part of the fantastic atmosphere at Brighton and join in the 2018 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! By taking part in the Brighton Marathon for Battersea you'll be helping lost, abandoned and unwanted dogs and cats find the loving, new homes they need.

▶ **While general entry is now closed, we still have a small number of places available so register your interest now at battersea.org.uk/support-us/challenges/brighton-marathon**

Aim for the sky

Jumping out of an aeroplane at 10,000 feet and freefalling at speeds of up to 120mph is music to the ears of any adrenalin junkie! There are three types of skydive that you can take part in to help raise funds for Battersea: Tandem, Static Line or Accelerated Freefall, depending on your ability, level of training and minimum sponsorship. Do you dare?



London Marathon

22 April 2018

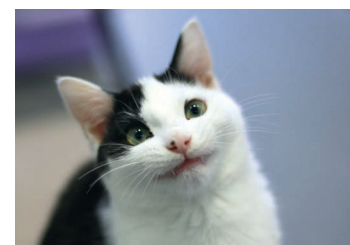
Have you or anyone you know secured a ballot place in the 2018 Virgin Money London Marathon? If so, we would love it if you would join Team Battersea. As a Battersea runner you will receive a bespoke running vest, a fundraising pack, training advice, an invitation to a behind the scenes tour of the Home and a cheer team to support you on the day!

▶ **To find out more visit battersea.org.uk/support-us/challenges/virgin-money-london-marathon**

Thank you!

A huge Battersea pat on the back to the runners that took part in the 10th Royal Parks Foundation Half Marathon on Sunday 8 October to raise money for our homeless animals. We are so proud of you all and grateful for your hard work to help care for our animals.

▶ **Find out more by emailing events@battersea.org.uk**



Christmas Carol Concert

Monday 4 December 2017

Doors open at 7pm

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

Tickets: £20-£35

Celebrate the Christmas season with an evening of carols, mince pies and warming mulled wine; including a very special welcome from our Doggie Guard of Honour.



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For further information and to book tickets visit

battersea.org.uk/CarolConcert or call 0207 627 7883



Behind the Scenes at

BOW

Taking a look behind the doors of Battersea Old Windsor

Set in the leafy outskirts of Berkshire, Battersea's Old Windsor Centre, known by many as BOW, feels a world away from the fast-paced buzz at the Home's London site. Nestled at the end of a tree-lined path, the rural retreat offers something of a haven for the dogs and cats that call it home while they are waiting to find their new families.

Centre manager Kaye Mughal says: "I've seen lots of change over the 30 years I've been here. Fundamentally, it doesn't change – the dogs and cats come in, we look after them, then we rehome them – but there have been many improvements to the facilities and I feel as though we've managed to keep a nice, family and community feel. For some of the dogs that come in to Old Windsor, you can almost see them relax. There's a lot more space here and a lot more greenery, so it's a very natural environment with lots of opportunities to go for walks and have a good sniff about.

"When I first started at Battersea Old Windsor the kennels were all wooden, and in those days all the runs were rough concrete. Our facilities have definitely moved on and now the plan is to demolish our oldest kennels, called Pippin, which were built in 1979, and rebuild the block to have 24 kennels plus a maternity wing."

Kaye continues: "I think it's a lot more relaxing for dogs out here. Obviously, it can still be quite stressful for any animal to be in kennels but the environment surrounding Old Windsor offers so much more."

Rehoming and Welfare Manager Sean Welland adds: "There are lots of options, so, for example, if there's a dog that struggles around other dogs we can utilise the environment more. We could go into the garden, explore the trees and bushes, or head into the wooded area, whereas in London the environment is obviously a lot more urban."



A major attraction

Many long-standing Berkshire residents will remember the countryside centre as Bellmead, a boarding kennels, which, by the end of the 1970s was a highly-respected Kennel Maid training school. Turning out up to 24 qualified staff a year, lectures were held in the basement of Priest Hill House – a beautiful listed building that still stands proudly in the centre of the site today.

Battersea took ownership of Bellmead in 1979 and it wasn't long before the trainees had learnt the ropes at Battersea Old Windsor, which, with 7.5 rolling acres of fields and woodland, was ideal for dogs coming into the Home who could benefit from the calm of the countryside.

The Old Windsor centre has become a firm fixture in the local community and, over the years, has drawn many visitors to its site,

most notably for the annual Fun Day, held on site for the past 12 years. This sees thousands of Battersea dog owners return to the centre where they first met their much-loved canine companion, as well as members of the public with their dogs and visitors who simply enjoy the community feel of the day.

Fast-forward 38 years from when Battersea moved in and the centre now rehomes over 700 dogs and 600 cats every year, and receives over 30,000 visitors annually. With around 80 staff working on site, much like Battersea's other two centres, Old Windsor simply couldn't run as smoothly as it does without the tireless help of over 250 volunteers who give their time to help the dogs and cats currently in the Home's care.

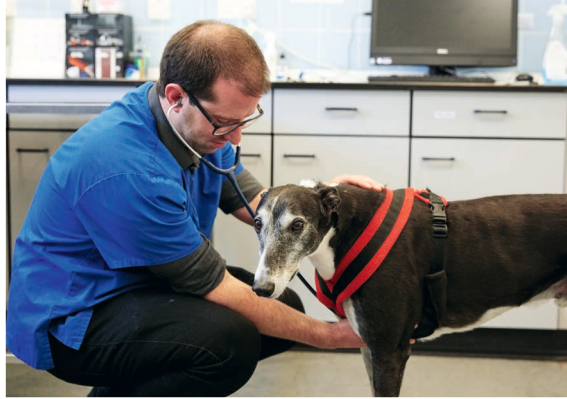
Charlotte Fielder, Head of Volunteering & Fostering says: "It's not simply a case of walking in one day, being handed a dog's lead and heading off for a walk, it's a big responsibility and people have to attend the training and take it seriously. The focus is very much on people who have experience of working with dogs or being around difficult breeds – it's about welcoming volunteers who can offer Battersea something valuable, in a role that utilises their own existing skills and knowledge."

"I think the demographic of volunteers here is a little bit different from other Battersea centres," says Volunteer Co-ordinator El Walkinshaw. "We tend to welcome a lot of retired people giving their time to help our dogs and cats. We have roles as kennel or cattery support volunteers, clinic volunteers and people can get involved in events, fundraising or collections. We're also recruiting for gardeners to help keep our lovely, green site neat and tidy."





Sandy, a one-year-old Mongrel who spent the summer at BOW before being happily rehomed in September



Clockwise from top left: Rehoming & Welfare Assistant Shaun Matthews enjoys the sunshine at BOW with Jazz the Staffie; Veterinary Surgeon Paul Dobson gives Norman the Greyhound a once-over; The centre now rehomes over 700 dogs and 600 cats every year

It's not only the volunteers around site who are helping to keep Old Windsor running smoothly - there is another extremely vital way that Berkshire residents are giving their time. Sharon Evans, Foster Co-ordinator, explains: "We're always in need of fosterers. The help that they give our dogs and cats is priceless - it's a hugely important and rewarding role, taking in our animals to a temporary family foster home."

A new phase for Pippin

One thing that sets Battersea Old Windsor apart is the focus it has on looking after pregnant dogs such as Fern, a four-year-old Mongrel who was brought into Old Windsor earlier this year as a stray carrying a litter of puppies. Thanks to its large kennels and quiet surroundings, Old Windsor offers a calm and comfortable environment for pregnant dogs, however there is no dedicated maternity facility right now. Instead, staff use kennels that have become increasingly dilapidated over the years. Battersea is now seeking to raise £3 million to demolish and rebuild its oldest block, the Pippin Kennels.

Kaye Mughal says: "A vital part of our kennel redevelopment is a specially designed maternity block and garden. This area, the first of its kind across the three Battersea sites, will offer some of our most vulnerable dogs the space, comfort, and level of care that they desperately need without meeting other dogs.

Our focus is simple: providing mothers and puppies with the necessary facilities to reduce stress and infection."

Kaye continues: "Staff will be on hand to care for the animals around the clock. Sensory equipment will help puppies' development, and provide a relaxing environment for mothers to give birth in. A dog could spend up to 10 weeks in the unit. It will be home for mothers and puppies from across all three of our sites, and it is anticipated we will care for 50 mothers plus their litters each year."



Back at the start of 2017, when HRH The Duchess of Cornwall was announced as the Home's new Patron, she visited Battersea's Old Windsor centre where she met our animals and staff and also heard all about the plans for Pippin. The ambitious project will have the same impact on the level of care the Home offer dogs at Old Windsor that it has achieved at the London Centre. The new facility will not only house a state-of-the-art maternity wing that will help dogs like Fern even more, but will mirror the success of the Tealby Kennels in Battersea London by providing a kennel block that ensures dogs in Windsor can be housed in kennels that offer the very best in animal comfort. This will have a significant and long-lasting impact on the welfare of these dogs; keeping them calm and healthy, reducing their length of stay so that they can begin their journey to a new life sooner. 🐾

The new Pippin Kennels will provide:

- Four blocks containing six kennels, each with a covered back run and glass frontage for natural light and fresh air circulation which helps to lower stress levels and maintain infection control
- Each kennel block will contain a 'chill-out' room where staff and volunteers can spend time with the dogs in a more natural, domestic environment
- Dedicated puppy kennels and a separate maternity area, along with a special puppy paddock for socialising and play
- Two isolation kennels for housing more challenging or sick dogs in safety and comfort
- New and improved outdoor paddocks for dog exercise, games and training; with sensory plants and agility equipment
- An integrated music system to play different types of music throughout the day to help dogs stay relaxed

If you would like to make a donation to the Pippin project, contact Battersea's fundraising team on 0207 627 7883.

Battersea's Old Windsor centre houses many of the dogs who, through no fault of their own, have found themselves in the Home's care for a longer time than most, such as seven-year-old Cocker Spaniel, Louis. To find out more about our 'long-stay' dogs, turn to page 22.



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Knit One, Purr One

How Battersea's supporters are picking up their needles to help our cats stay cosy

As the winter evenings draw in and the air across London takes on a distinctly seasonal chill, a group of like-minded individuals can be found braving the cold to gather at Battersea's London Centre, where the warmth of our cattery awaits. As staff members head out into the dark to make their way home, Battersea's Knitting Kittens Club are only just getting ready to roll out the yarns of wool and start knitting.

Founded in 2015, the club meets once a month to get crafty, all for the love of cats. Attracting crafters of all ages, from experienced knitters to needle novices, each two-hour session provides a perfect opportunity to meet new friends in the heart of Battersea's state-of-the-art cattery, enjoy a cup of tea and a slice of cake, and cast on for a cause you're passionate about.

Rosa Steele, Cattery Team Leader, says: "Knitting Kittens Club makes blankets and toys for the cats in our care, helping to make their stay here as comfortable as possible. As scent is so important for cats, we send them home with a couple of blankets from their individual pen that have their familiar scent on to help settle them in."

Sue Hartley, Feline Welfare Manager, explains: "A cat's 'core area', which is usually inside the home for a pet cat, is the area where he or she should feel safest and most secure so they can rest, sleep, relax, eat and play without feeling worried about potential dangers and threats. Cats live in a world of scents and smells so they like to create a familiar scent profile through marking with their face and body and through scratching. This helps to signal safety and security."

Scott Wellard, one of the club's attendees, says: "It's nice for the kittens to have something to play with that's been made with love. And it's also nice for us to come in to Battersea and see the cats enjoying their handmade gifts, as well as making

new friends and learning new skills. Suzie Evans, another Knitting Kittens Club member, added: "They deserve a lot considering what some of them have gone through. Some of them have had a poor start in life and they need a bit of comfort."

It's not just those living near Battersea who have been busy getting knitty with it to help our feline residents – contributing from home can be just as rewarding. Rosa says: "Knitting Kittens is open to all – knitters that may not be able to get into Battersea can send in the blankets and toys they've made. Or, with Christmas around the corner, they could purchase our patterns to hand-craft special gifts for loved ones, which also helps to raise money for the Home."

Snuggling up

While Knitting Kittens Club is currently only held at Battersea's London centre, there is a widespread movement of people that generously contribute from across the country, and the Home gratefully receives knitted donations at all three of its centres – Battersea London, Old Windsor, and Brands Hatch. It's not just our feline friends that benefit from the knitters' generosity, either, as many of the dogs temporarily calling Battersea their home also enjoy snuggling up in a warm, hand-crafted blanket for added comfort while in kennels.

From meeting like-minded people to becoming a better knitter or simply getting out of the house to mingle with our cattery residents, the opportunity to create hand-made pieces before watching the cats and kittens enjoy the fruits of your labour right in front of your eyes is one that is gathering momentum at Battersea and beyond. So, if you're tempted to turn your talents to a spot of knitting, while also supporting a great cause and making new friends – both human and feline – Battersea's Knitting Kittens Club could be the purr-fect solution. 🐾



Careful crafting

If you'd like to get involved with knitting for dogs and cats, it is important to remember that safety should always be a priority.

Sue Hartley explains: "Avoid additional bits that are stuck on the blanket, which can come off and get swallowed. Blankets and toys should be checked regularly to make sure that they're not unravelling or coming apart. Blankets for puppies and kittens should be close knit so they don't have any holes or gaps in them that could pose a safety risk. Always make sure that a knitted toy or blanket is checked for any needles to ensure they've all been removed. And finally, cute as it may look, balls of wool shouldn't be left around for cats to play with unsupervised in case they get entangled in the wool."

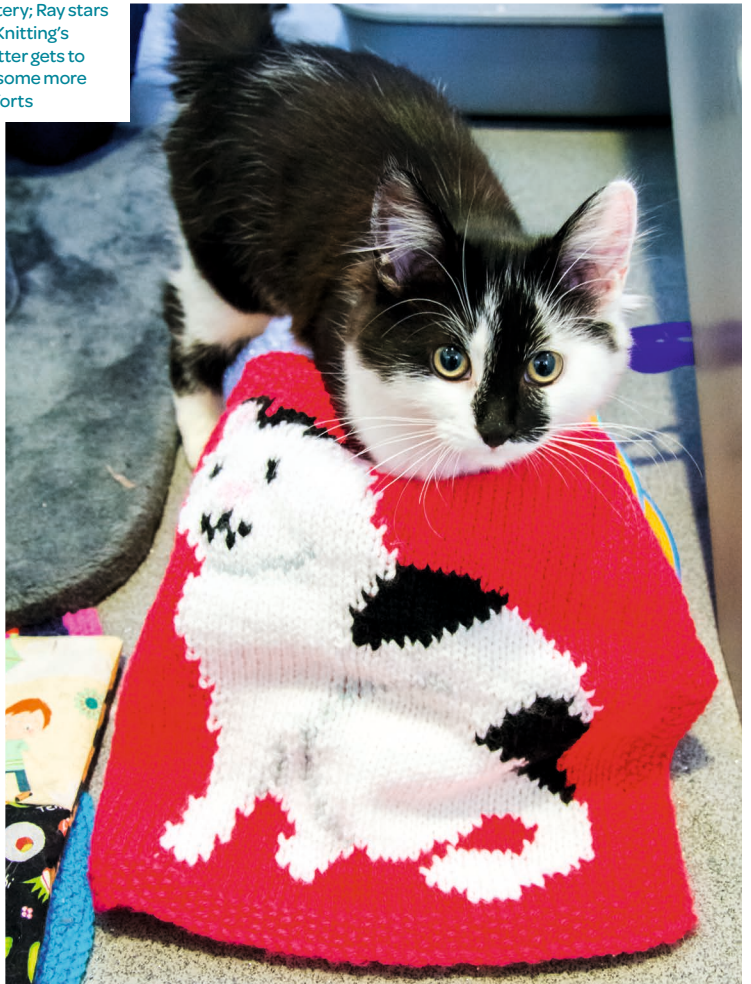


Real-life pet patterns

LoveKnitting has teamed up with Battersea to create a range of 11 dog and cat patterns (six crochet and five knitting), each based on a real dog or cat that was once at Battersea, but has now been rehomed to a loving family. In addition to patterns designed to look like dogs and cats, there is also a cushion cover and blankets. As every kitten and cat that leaves Battersea's cattery goes home with a donated blanket from their pen, these hand-knit creations offer a sense of familiarity in their new environment. The patterns are available at loveknitting.com/battersea and can be purchased until the end of November. Not only would these make an ideal hand-crafted Christmas present, but you'll also be giving a gift to our animals at the same time thanks to LoveKnitting kindly donating 100% of the pattern proceeds to Battersea.



Clockwise from top left: Our kittens love getting their claws into some knitted goodies; the club meets once a month in our state-of-the-art cattery; Ray stars in one of LoveKnitting's patterns; a knitter gets to work creating some more creature comforts



Take us home

It's not only the dogs in our main cover feature that are hoping to find a happy new home in time for Christmas. Here are just a selection of other Battersea residents waiting for their new family to come forward...



SOPHIE
1 year old

✉ rehoming@battersea.org.uk

Sophie is a bubbly youngster who loves food, toys and responds well to instructions. While she can't live with other dogs just yet, Sophie would benefit from hanging out with some friendly doggy pals, and can live with older children who will enjoy helping with her training and playing constructive games.



KEVIN
4 years old

✉ rehoming@battersea.org.uk

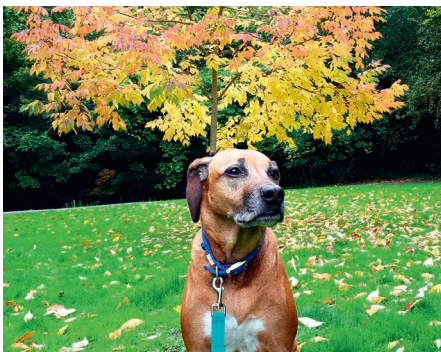
Kevin is an ex-racer who has won some awards in his time, but is now looking for a quiet life where he can put his paws up and relax. It would be beneficial for Kevin to live with people who have some experience with greyhounds, and he would be extra happy to have a friend in his new home.



LOUIS
7 years old

✉ bow.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

Louis greets everyone he meets at Battersea's Old Windsor Centre with a big smile and wagging tail. He is an energetic chap who is looking for an active home where he can bounce around in the fields with his nose to the ground by day, and cuddle up with a soft toy by night.



ELLIE
6 years old

✉ rehoming@battersea.org.uk

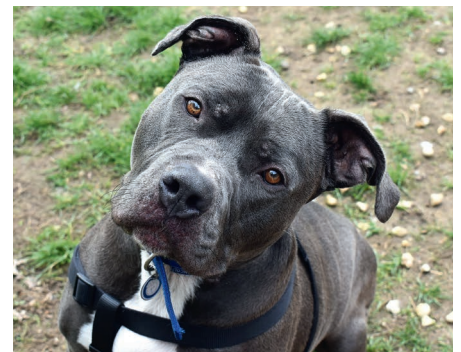
Rhodesian Ridgeback Ellie is a lovely yet shy lady with a heart of gold, who will be utterly devoted to her new family. Ellie's new owners will need to be adults who have some experience with bringing shy dogs out of their shell. Ideally, they will have experience with large breeds as well.



GWYN
4 years old

✉ rehoming@battersea.org.uk

Handsome chap Gwyn has finished his career on the race track and is now looking for a comfy couch to retire on. He's looking forward to being the only dog in his future home, and would be happiest living with older teenagers who won't try to play rough and tumble games.



BLUE
4 years old

✉ bbh.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

Beautiful Blue is looking for new owners who will enjoy being out and about with him but are prepared to put in a bit of training. Blue hasn't had the best time around other dogs previously, so is looking for someone who can help him along with his socialising skills.

Little Paws

Kids pull-out section
this is your bit of
the magazine.
Grown-ups,
hands off!

Cool pics, quizzes & a poster!



Winner!
Livia with
Huggins



Alfie with
Minnie



Robert
with Tilly

Your epic pet selfies...



Oscar with
Mabel



Oscar
with Zeus



Dior with Cruz



Isabella with
Willow



Bethany
with Honey

Win!
One of
Battersea's
brand-new
story books



I Want a Dog/I Want a Cat are designed to help guide children on the important things to think about before becoming a dog or cat owner. Both books are also available to buy online at amazon.co.uk.

HOW TO ENTER: Simply take a super selfie with your family dog or cat and email it to littlepaws@battersea.org.uk.

Little
paws





Bella

Age Three years old

Breed Staffordshire Bull Terrier

Beautiful Bella is a very sweet and affectionate girl, who sadly arrived at Battersea with a litter of puppies after they were all abandoned. Bella did a brilliant job of raising her pups and, after seeing them off to their new homes, it was finally her turn to leave Battersea and go on to find her happy ending with a new, loving family.



Your stories



Sweet treat

Back in July, Battersea received a lovely visit from six children from the Corpus Christi School based in Brixton. The schoolchildren had been busy giving Mary Berry a run for her money by baking glorious cakes and raised over £120 for the Home. To say thank you, the star bakers were given a tour of Battersea where they met ex-Battersea dog and the London and Herts Community Teams fundraising mascot Peppa (pictured).

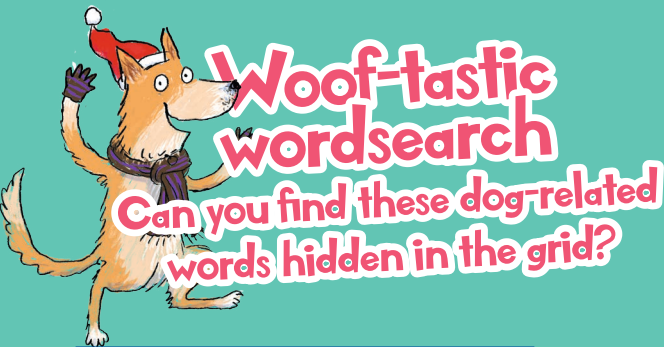
Superhero sprinter

Nine-year-old Cassia raised an almighty £280 for us by running a 5k Superhero Run in Regent's Park while dressed as Batman. Cassia wrote us a sweet card, explaining that she chose Battersea as her charity because she loves dogs and cats so much. She lives with her mum and dad in Raynes Park and is a huge animal-lover. During her visit to our London centre, Cassia (pictured) told Little Paws: "I can't wait to see the dogs and cats, I want to give them all a home!" Cassia was eager to visit our kennel and is hoping to get a Battersea pet at some point in the future.



All the way from Australia

Ten-year-old Jessica Keywood is a big fan of animals of all sizes, including cats, dogs and guinea pigs just to name a few. While recently visiting from Australia, Jessica decided to visit the Home to kindly donate her pocket money and give lots of treats to our dogs – on her own birthday no less! While visiting the shop, Jessica got the chance to meet Coco the Shih Tzu who very much enjoyed his treat (pictured with receptionist Courtney Pinnock).



G	M	B	R	E	E	D	J
T	A	B	L	Q	B	P	Q
V	U	O	V	P	W	A	T
Z	R	N	D	U	R	W	W
H	M	E	B	P	P	L	W
N	D	K	U	P	D	E	O
F	S	B	C	Y	Y	A	O
T	Z	H	F	K	W	D	F

- PAW
- LEAD
- BONE
- WOOF
- PUPPY
- BREED



Pet puzzlers: Test your knowledge with our true-or-false mini quiz!

1. Dalmatians are born with spots

True
 False



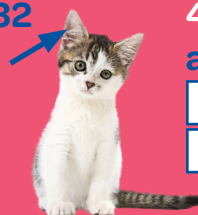
3. A dog can make more different sounds than a cat

True
 False



2. Cats have 32 muscles in their ears

True
 False



4. Cats can't taste anything sweet

True
 False



ANSWERS: 1. False – their spots start to develop when they're 3 or 4 weeks old. 2. True – have you seen how cats move their ears? They're very flexible! 3. False – a cat can make more than 100 vocal sounds, a dog can make about 10! 4. True – it's another reason not to share your sweets with them.



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Main image:
Nine-year-old Alfie came into Battersea Brands Hatch back in June. This gorgeous, scruffy Lakeland Terrier mix is just one of our long-stay dogs hoping to spend Christmas in a happy new home.

Opposite page inset:
Bud finally got his happy ending thanks to the Corns family, who spotted him on #POGDOGS and fell in love

Home for the holidays

While many of our former residents have found their happy ending in time for the festive season, there are still many Battersea 'long-stays' waiting to spend their first Christmas with a new loving family...

For some people, the thought of rehoming a 'long-stay' dog may come with certain negative connotations. Animals that have been in rescue kennels for longer than a few months might fall victim to the assumption that there 'must be something wrong with them'. Naturally, some dogs may need longer to work on behavioural issues that they have been experiencing with their previous owners, or perhaps need a little more medical attention before they're ready to go home, but for some dogs at Battersea there's not an obvious reason why they have spent longer than average waiting to find a new family. And, with Christmas approaching, there are a handful of Battersea dogs who are desperate to find a cosy couch to curl up on for the festive season, such as Alfie (pictured opposite) who can be a little anxious around new people so is looking for a particularly quiet and calm new home.

Rehoming and Welfare Manager Becky Fisher says: "There are many misconceptions when it comes to why a dog may have spent longer in kennels than most. Often, though, long-stay dogs are just looking for a particular home. People may be worried about the pressure of taking on a dog that's spent so long in kennels, and in many cases time and



patience is needed to settle these dogs in. However, we always hear wonderful stories from people who have rehomed our long-stays, who are so proud to have come to the rescue of dogs that have become firm favourites with Battersea staff and volunteers over the months they've been in our care."

Becky continues: "Christmas is always a poignant time of year for many of our dogs who have been in kennels for a while. While Battersea's policy means we would never rehome a dog to a family that have only registered interest in the days just leading up to Christmas – after all, a dog is most definitely a long-term commitment – we are always keen

to see as many of our long-stay animals find a home before the holidays."

Seven-year-old Greyhound Collie cross Bud was just one of the dogs seeking a home for Christmas last year. The cover star of last year's *Winter Paws* broke hearts across the nation when it was revealed in *Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs* that he'd spent over 1,000 days at Battersea, through no fault of his own. Luckily, Bud caught the eye of Ian Corns and his family from the West Midlands who, following the loss of their own Collie cross, hadn't felt the time was right for a new companion until they saw Bud on their TV screen. Ian says: "We had no hesitation. In fact, Bud's age and longevity in Battersea played no part whatsoever – if Bud had been 15 and spent 10 years in Battersea we still would have applied for him."

"I think Bud's story is one to help other long-stay dogs find their forever home. Having had Bud now for nearly 10 months, I cannot understand how he didn't find a home earlier. He's a fantastic dog to have and has made our family complete again. Whenever we tell his story while out walking him, people can't believe he was in Battersea for 1,050 days. His story may inspire people looking for a new dog to look beyond the length of time a dog has been in care."

“Sometimes, long-stay dogs who are out in foster homes may be overlooked when potential owners are visiting the centres”

Bud, along with many of Battersea’s long-stays benefited from spending time in a foster home with volunteer foster carers Naomi and Gary Wordsworth, who regularly open their doors to long-stay Battersea dogs who for whatever reason are struggling to find the right owners. Naomi says: “Some dogs can get very stressed in kennels, and when we bring them home we gradually see them relax and show their true characters. We remind them what it means to live in a home with a family, and they then find it much easier to adapt to their forever home when the time comes.

“Sometimes, long-stay dogs who are out in foster homes may be overlooked when potential owners are visiting the centres (although Battersea provides life-sized cut-outs of some of our foster dogs so they can still be seen!). But the wonderful thing about the dogs we foster is that we can tell you so much about them. We can say that they are house-trained, what time they like to get up in the morning, whether they like long walks or short walks, tummy tickles or ear rubs. There is often no good reason why a long-stay dog has been overlooked, and they have been waiting for longer than they should have for their forever family.”

And, when a long-stay dog finally does find its happy ending – Battersea’s involvement doesn’t stop there. Ian Corns says: “We’ve kept in touch with as many people from Battersea as we can, and people that cared for Bud throughout his journey. We love to hear from them and we try and keep people up to date via his own ‘Bud Corns’ Facebook page!”

Diesel dreams of home

Unfortunately, our cover star for this issue, Diesel, has been passed around a little bit during his life and came to be at Battersea’s Brands Hatch Centre through no fault of his own. He is now looking for a calm and sensible family who want to share their home with this big fluffy bear. Canine Behaviour and Training Advisor, Mala Breeze, says: “After seven months in kennels, Diesel is desperately seeking new owners who have owned Malamute types before and are able to demonstrate a good understanding of their nature. What you see is what you get with Diesel; so long as his new owners can appreciate and understand his breed and his own needs, he should make a fairly low maintenance companion.”



Home at last: Kezzie

In late September, Battersea bid farewell to the longest stay dog across all three of its centres, eight-year-old Border Collie, Kezzie. After a grand total of 695 days at Brands Hatch, Kezzie finally went home to Woodbridge in Suffolk with besotted new owner Sylvie Ballard. Kezzie’s success was made possible by many people – not least her dedicated foster carer Kai Breeze, who worked closely with the behavioural team at Brands Hatch on Kezzie’s many sensitivities, allowing her to let her affectionate and playful sides shine through. Experienced owner Sylvie has been looking forward to taking Kezzie home to the Suffolk countryside. After just their first day together, Sylvie reported back, saying: “Kezzie had a lovely day here. She thoroughly explored the garden while I picked apples off the tree, and we have been for a lovely long run in the forest. She didn’t want to eat her supper at first, so I sat with her until she plucked up the courage and ate it all. She is giving me lots of affection, and I would say she is settling in okay. Thanks for bringing her out. You can’t have her back!” Pictured is Kezzie with Brands Hatch staff Dermot Rudd, Beth Stevenson, Emma Watts, Mala Breeze and Kristina Jones.



Cover star Diesel has been a temporary Battersea resident since February 2017



This image: Affectionate Alice came into Battersea as a stray
Below: Derek is looking for an active and adventurous new family

All about Alice

Brought into Battersea's Brands Hatch Centre as a stray, Alice can be a worried girl initially and react a little bit to strangers, which means it can take time to settle her and get used to new people. Rehoming and Welfare Manager Michelle Bevan says: "Alice will need time to establish new routines, however, once bonded, she is amazingly responsive to training and is very eager to learn. Being brought in as a stray does not necessarily mean a dog will require a longer time to work on their behaviour and training, but as Battersea staff have no previous history to go on it can often be the case that our team must take their time to uncover all the details about the dog's personality, likes and dislikes."

Derek's big day?

One Battersea Old Windsor resident waiting to find their happy ever after is six-year-old dashing Derek. This fun and cheeky chap has been looking for owners who are also active and want to burn off energy

with him, along with having knowledge of his breed. Unfortunately, Derek has been waiting patiently to find his match for over 180 days.

Did you know?
One of Battersea's longest-serving resident to date is Biscuit, who spent 689 days in kennels. Check out this issue's Letters page for an update on his happy ending...

The thing about Derek is that he's an enthusiastic sort, and loves to play with any toy you can think of. And, having come into Battersea knowing no commands and being very eager (and vocal) to greet other dogs, it has taken a while for Derek to learn the ropes. But he is getting there. Sarah Whiffen, Canine Behaviour and Training Advisor, says: "Derek is quite a character and a great favourite with staff and volunteers – he is extremely amusing and makes us all laugh on a daily basis.

He is also extremely intelligent and quick to learn. Being a Lurcher, he also loves his creature comforts and members of public looking into his kennel don't necessarily get to see the full extent of his charms as he will stay snuggled into his duvet rather than going to say hello to them – they may not even realise he's there sometimes as he just about buries himself! He also tends not to show his full and quirky personality until he knows you but once you know him, you can't fail to love him." 🐾



Home at last: Mable

One of our super long-stay dogs, Mable, had almost given up hope of ever finding her new family earlier this year, after spending a total of 495 days (one year, four months) at Battersea's Old Windsor Centre. Team Leader Caroline Sales says: "When Mable came in as a stray, she was really under-socialised – she wouldn't want to walk anywhere, she wouldn't go out in the rain, she was just very scared of everything. When she gets overwhelmed, Mable can get a bit full-on, which we think was putting people off. We worked with Mable to learn lots of calming commands and day by day her confidence grew, but we knew she'd need experienced owners who were willing to keep up her training."

Fortunately, Mable managed to attract the attention of just such an owner, Berkshire resident Charlotte, who tells us that Mable has made herself quite at home and has been "doing brilliantly". "She's doing so well adjusting to her new home. She's being really good on the lead with other dogs and making friends with the locals."

While it's incredible to hear how dogs like Mable will be settling down for a snooze in the warmth of a loving home this winter, there are many more still here in Battersea's kennels hoping for the same thing – a simple wish as far as wishes go; a forever home in time for Christmas.

Maintaining a healthy weight for your pet

With Christmas around the corner, it's not just us humans that need to be careful about putting on the pounds. Battersea's experts are on hand to advise how you can help your dog or cat maintain a balanced diet...

Meet our experts



Mala Breeze

Canine Behaviour and Training Advisor
Battersea Brands Hatch



Lisa Porter

Senior Veterinary Nurse
Battersea Old Windsor



Above right: Maximus the cat came into Battersea extremely overweight
Opposite page: Anna arrived carrying more than a couple of extra pounds

Q How can you maintain a balanced diet for your dog or cat?

Mala: The large manufacturers of pet foods, like our nutritional partner Mars Petcare, put clear feeding guidelines on the back of the packaging so that you can find out your pet's weight and use the guide to work out how much food he or she needs each day, then you divide that between how many meals you're giving. Using tasty treats as food rewards to train your dog can be very effective, but it's a good idea to put aside a portion of their daily food for this



instead of giving high calorie snacks. Those little extras in between meals can mount up to extra pounds, so, if dog treats work best for you and your pet, just make sure you reduce their main meal to allow for the calories.

Lisa: There are a lot of good quality commercial diets on the market but the main thing to consider is your pet's life stage, and breed. Larger dog breeds grow more slowly than small breeds, for example, which means they need specially formulated puppy food and may need to stay on this for longer than smaller dogs. The good thing with commercial diets is that it's all carefully

balanced; everything is in there that your dog or cat will need and you don't need to worry about adding anything to ensure they're getting all their vitamins.

Q Is an overweight dog or cat always caused by diet alone or are there other reasons?

Lisa: Often the cause is too many calories, and we would always try a dietary approach first. When overweight dogs or cats come in to Battersea we put them on a carefully controlled diet and – if they begin to lose weight – you can usually be confident that overfeeding was the cause of the excess pounds. Sometimes, however, dogs and cats can have an underactive thyroid gland – a condition known as hypothyroidism – which means they gain weight easily and struggle to lose it. Our vets may carry out a blood test to check for this if reducing the diet alone isn't helping. Some animals that come in to Battersea have been fed human foods and may have not only been overfed, but also fed the wrong things, so it's always good to see the results when switching them to a balanced pet food.

Q Is it safe to give my dog scraps of food from my own dinner?

Lisa: We always recommend that dogs are fed specific dog food that is tailored to their own nutritional needs. Human food can contain things that could be harmful to dogs. For example, anything with onions shouldn't be given to dogs, as well as garlic and leeks. These can cause anaemia, so they're definitely bad news. Feeding human food to your dog every now and then might not do any harm, but it may cause them to develop gastrointestinal upsets if you start giving your dog human food that they're not used to eating. Also, foods such as grapes/raisins and chocolate should always be avoided as these are a big no-no.

Q If your dog is overweight, how can you safely help him or her to lose weight?

Mala: It's a balance of two things – it's making sure you're feeding the right amount and not encouraging weight gain with titbits, and ensuring your dog is getting enough exercise. If they're very overweight then you want to gradually reduce the amount of food, rather than simply halving a portion straight away. And, with exercise, you need to do it gently and get them used to their new activity level so that it's not putting too much pressure on their joints and overall health.

Lisa: A combined approach of working on their diet and exercise at the same time will be best. When a dog starts losing weight its activity levels may go up naturally due to the fact it's just feeling better and more energetic. Also, older dogs could have arthritis, and overweight dogs are more liable to get conditions like arthritis earlier because of the strain that carrying extra weight puts on the joints. Flat faced breeds such as Pugs and Bulldogs can experience an extra struggle if they're overweight, as the increased fat makes breathing even more difficult.

Q My dog is very active and doesn't seem to put any weight on, is this a problem?

Lisa: If your dog is underweight or losing weight then a vet check is recommended, in case there's a medical

Got a question?

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

cause that needs addressing. If that's not the case, and you've just got a particularly energetic dog that's a bit underweight, you can increase the amount of food you're giving them. Do this gradually, and monitor their weight and body condition regularly until their weight stabilises. For active or hard-working dogs, there are higher calorie diets available on the market.

Q What about cats? My cat doesn't seem to be eating a lot...

Lisa: Several small meals throughout the day can often suit cats better than two large feeds, so if your cat regularly leaves a lot of food in the bowl you may want to look at reducing the quantity of food you're giving him or her in one go. If your cat seems healthy and is not displaying any other unusual behaviours, there's no need to be concerned if he or she skips a couple of meals or doesn't eat as much as usual. Cats are notoriously picky, after all! However, if your cat is displaying symptoms such as diarrhoea or shows a sudden and dramatic change in appetite, you should always contact your vet to get their advice.

Q Should I automatically reduce the amount of food my pet eats following neutering?

Lisa: After neutering, some dogs and cats may need up to 30 per cent less food due to changes in their metabolism. This means some animals may put weight on quickly if their owners are feeding the same amount as before they were neutered. To spot if this is the case for your pet, you should start by cutting the amount back a little (ask your vet for advice) and monitor their body weight and condition very closely at this crucial time. You can then adjust the amount down or up if they are gaining or losing weight. You might also consider feeding a diet specially formulated for neutered animals, which contains fewer calories. 🐾



Mars Petcare

Keeping track



As Battersea's preferred nutritional partner, providing Pedigree and Whiskas to feed the dogs and cats in our care, Mars Petcare knows how important it is for all animals to have a healthy active life fueled by great nutrition. One way they help to make it easier for owners to look after their pets is through Pedigree Tracks, a personalised advisor in your pocket which helps you create a tailored menu for your dog and track their daily exercise levels. Visit the app store or uk.pedigree.com/tracks to find out more.

Happily rehomed

Dogs and cats getting their second chance of happiness...

Reggie's ch-ch-changes

Siberian Husky cross **Reggie** came to us from another animal rescue after he was found as a stray just under a year ago. Luckily, it wasn't long until his new owner, Dan Sexton, from Tooting spotted him in kennels at our London centre and fell in love. Since moving into his new home, **Reggie** has undergone a name change and is now known as **Bowie**; the perfect fit for this cool character. Dan tells us: "He's been magnificent and – we believe – very happy, and everyone he meets loves him. Thank you again for caring for our boy before we were united."



Captivating Keshmesh finds her family

After spending six weeks at Battersea when her elderly owner was no longer able to look after her, seven-year-old **KishMish** finally found her happy ending in South East London with Hannah Fletcher and her partner Mo when they fell in love with her during a visit to our Cattery. Now going by the name of **KeshMesh**, Hannah tells us: "We think she is very content and we couldn't be happier."



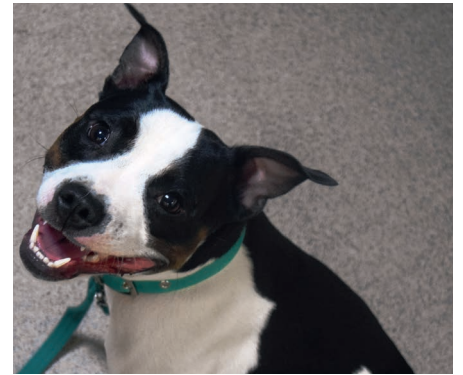
Right on the Marc

Marc the Staffie had a long wait at Battersea before he finally found his perfect match in June this year. He first came in to our London centre as a stray when he was found wandering alone in the park. This lively but loveable two-year-old was also a bit of a sensitive guy, but he's now settled and relaxed into home life with his new owners, Gary and Chris Atkins in Gillingham, Kent. His owners say that he is such a character and it feels like he's part of their home.



Barney's new beginning

Barney left Battersea back in March this year, and has since settled in very comfortably in his new West London home with Vicki and Lewis McInnes who told us: "We are really pleased to have **Barney** in our lives and we feel so blessed to have such a lovable, cuddly boy. He didn't take too long to get used to us and quickly became a real lap cat after only just a few days. **Barney** really is a wonderful cat and we love him with all our hearts."



Skye settles in

Two-year-old Staffie **Skye** spent Christmas 2016 in kennels. Luckily for this gorgeous girl, she has now been home in Hayes with Shaun Patterson for six months and it's great to be able to say **Skye** has truly found her forever home this time around. "I wanted to share this picture with you because I am very proud of my little girl," says Shaun. "She really is beginning to realise that she now has a home and is enjoying all the walks and open spaces. Thank you again."

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scheme

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- 2 Receive your engraved tag and card to keep safe.
- 3 Enjoy peace of mind that whatever happens your beloved pet will always have a loving home.

**Send for your free Forever Loved information pack today.
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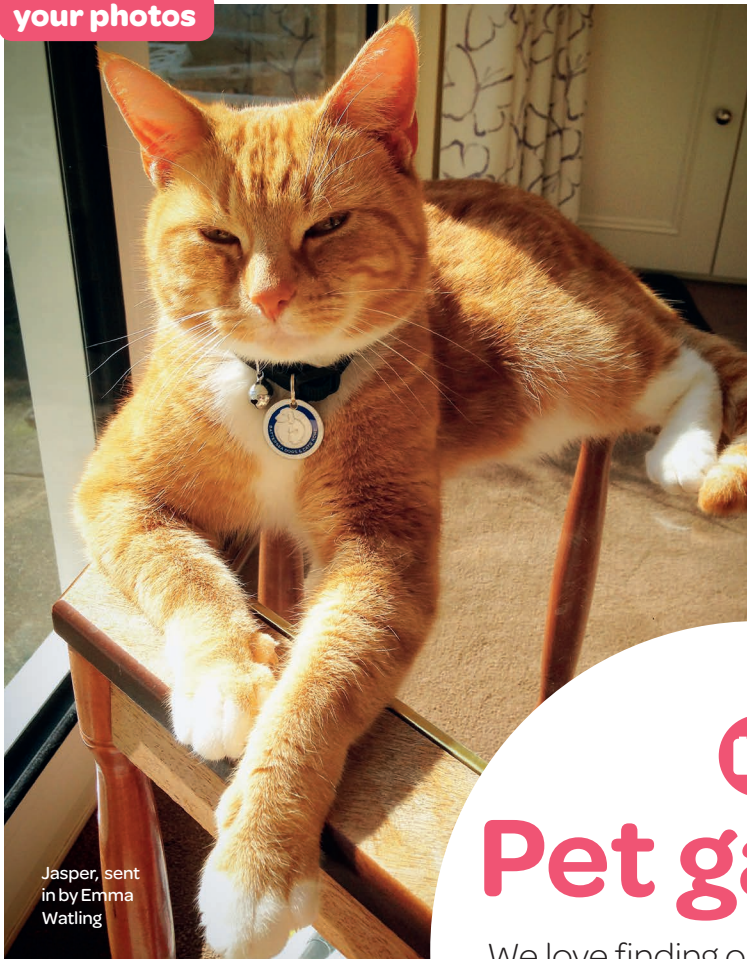
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Dogs & Cats Home, 4 Battersea Park Road,
London SW8 4AA

Email: fundraising@battersea.org.uk
battersea.org.uk/forever





Jasper, sent in by Emma Watling



Ella, sent in by Alana Hunt and Niall Mossop



Pet gallery

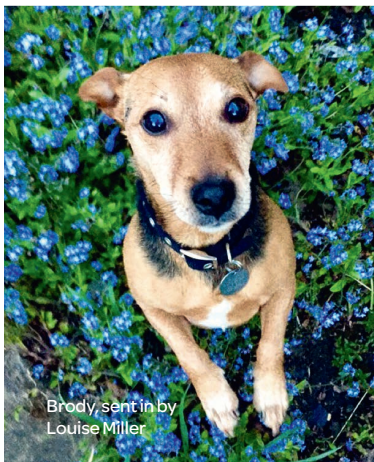
We love finding out what our former residents have been up to since going home, and these ex-Battersea dogs and cats certainly seem to be making the most of their new happy endings!



Lotte from Verna Ducker



Dusty, from Ingeborg Neale



Brody, sent in by Louise Miller



Pepper (formerly Lexi) from the Nash Family



Darcey (formerly Jasmine), from Bob & Edward

Archie, sent in by Kuniko Norman-Taylor



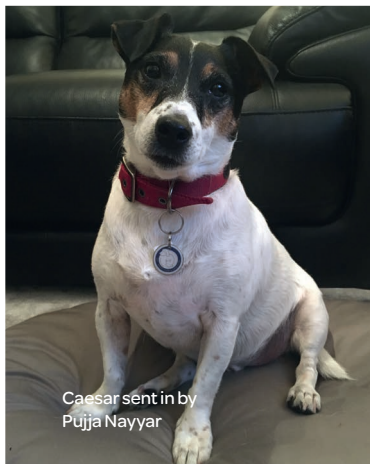
Share your pictures

Email your pet photos (minimum 1MB in size) to: paws@battersea.org.uk You can also post them to the address on the contents page. Please enclose an SAE if you'd like your pictures returned.

Albert sent in by Geoff Stonebanks



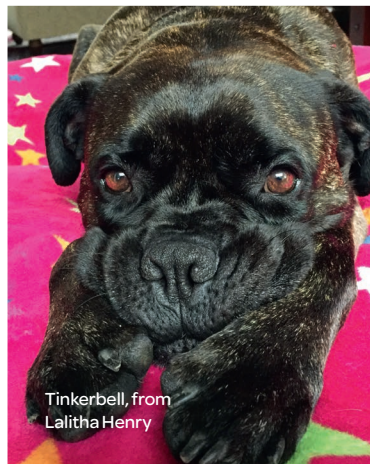
Tommy, sent in by Maicon Roldo



Caesar sent in by Pujja Nayyar



Miss Tiggs, sent in by Heidi MacDougal



Tinkerbell, from Lalitha Henry



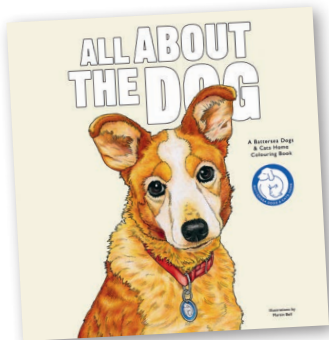
Popsy sent in by Georgie Atherton and Dan Hall

Your letters

Share your special pet moments with other supporters

Keep in touch

We love to hear from you and catch up with how our rehomed pets are getting along. Send us your stories and photos by email at paws@battersea.org.uk or by post to Paws Magazine, Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, 4 Battersea Park Road, London SW8 4AA



Your prize

All About The Dog, Battersea's beautiful new colouring book, celebrates the everlasting appeal of man's best friend. From tiny Chihuahuas to huge Great Danes, informative descriptions of each breed mean you can discover more about your favourite canines as you relax and unwind with a spot of colouring – no matter your age! Available to buy at laurenceking.com.



Dillon does his duty

It's now a year last July since our beautiful Dillon came to live with us and our other beautiful Irish Setters Murphy and Finn, he is an absolute treasure and fitted in so well, we have enjoyed taking him away to the coast and the Cotswolds and, at every hotel we have stayed in, the staff have fallen in love with him. This year has seen Dillon attending many fundraising events as he passed his assessment with flying colours to be a Battersea event dog. As well as several bucket collections in and around Windsor he attended the Windsor Horse Show where he had lots of admirers, and went along to 'Paws Against Stress' at Brunel University which was a lovely afternoon with the students. We can't thank you enough for letting us adopt our special boy.

Mary and Trevor Wilson, by email

Bailey is cream of the crop

I adopted Bailey from Battersea in August 2015. I had just had to say goodbye to my Jack Russell, Alf, after 20 years and was heartbroken. I had so much love still to give and found in Bailey the perfect dog to receive it – he was a happy, affectionate bright boy from day one. He was my first ever rescue and, from now on, I will always rehome in this way as the bond between dog and rescuer is especially strong – they both need each other sometimes. I met Paul O'Grady last year on holiday and told him that, thanks to his show, Bailey was in my family. And thanks to you too, Battersea, for the important and amazing role you play in giving animals a second chance when finding them their forever homes.

Kate Lenehan, London



Bailey found his happy ever after thanks to the power of POGDOGS



Doctor Sweetie

I adopted my beautiful tortie and white cat, Sweetie, from Battersea two years ago and she is amazing. Over the two years she has lived with me (and my adopted Chihuahua), Sweetie has recognised that I must take medication three times every day. Despite not being trained as a Medical Support Cat she reminds me with a special meow to take my tablets! She also has a different special meow when it's time to go to bed at night. I cannot imagine life without her. Thank you, Battersea!

Pamela Perraton, Ipswich

Farewell, Frank

Staffordshire Bull Terrier Frank came into Battersea as a stray in 2006, just six months old. He was soon given a new lease of life by owner Rachel Mailley, and joined her other dog, English Bull Terrier Roxy, visiting a school for disabled children in Essex. Frank was also an ambassador for Staffordshire Bull Terriers, and took part in Battersea's campaign to change the breed's much-maligned reputation – including a hilarious visit to Crufts with Paul O'Grady in 2012 for POGDOGS, where the pair took part in the rescue agility competition and won a rosette. Sadly, Frank passed away in July. Rachel said: "Frank changed my life. He helped me build my confidence by taking part in agility teams and going to dog shows. I am so proud of my boy and all we have achieved together."



Blake (formerly Biscuit) is loving his new life in the Cyprus sun

Taking the biscuit

In January 2015, after spending 689 days in kennels, Biscuit came home with us. We renamed him straight away as we wanted him to have a brand-new start, so he's now called Blake, and we now live in Cyprus! When he came to us he had many issues, but is now a very respectful boy who doesn't do any of the things he used to. In fact, he helps me with my rehabilitation cases and helps bring dogs out of their shell. He and his brother have their morning and evening bike ride and walks and use the pool daily when it's too hot to walk. He loves to swim. We're lucky over here as the weather is lovely even in the winter and he gets to spend a lot of time down at the dog beach. It took a lot of work but we have all come a long way. He's our little boy and we love him.

Gemma Keogh, Cyprus

Cover girl kitten

It was in 2009 that I came to Battersea to find a female kitten. A member of staff soon identified the perfect kitten for me. I was sent a photo and instantly fell in love. When she was eight weeks, I turned up to collect her to find that she was something of a star after a national newspaper had sent a photographer to Battersea to publicise the kitten crisis. The result had been that hundreds of people had phoned to ask for their cover star – who turned out to be my kitten, called Cleo at the time. She and her brother Samson had been photographed looking cute and everyone had fallen in love with them. Phoebe grew into a delicate and quite neurotic little cat who thinks she is a human. Many thanks to all the staff at Battersea, without whose care and love little Phoebe would not have had a chance.

Sally Hall, by email



Always loved 
never forgotten



Ice was the first dog that Battersea ever rehomed outside England. I picked her up in

England and she travelled to Denmark with me. She has written Battersea history, so it was with great sorrow that my dear little Ice was put to sleep in my arms in May after her lung capacity had been getting worse. She spent her final Sunday morning sitting with me and my other Battersea dog, Freddie, in the garden enjoying the sun. Ice was the most amazing dog, I could only reward her with all my love.

Ulla Munch-Petersen



13 years ago, we rescued a scatty tiny little Yorkshire Terrier with a lot of spice! We took her

home and renamed her **Poppy**, and have had some amazing years since. Sadly we lost little Poppy this year at the age of 14. I feel like my heart has been shattered into a million pieces and glued back together with bits missing, but thank you for giving us the opportunity to give Poppy a lifetime of love and family.

Mollie Rennie



We re-homed **Jessie** as tiny pup in December 2005 and our lives were forever

changed by a truly hilarious, clever, remarkable tornado of love in dog form. She was full of personality and spark - even managing her 15 minutes of viral fame on YouTube as 'Jessie sings to the accordion'! **Jessie** was an adored member of our family and we miss her terribly – but what fun we had.

Claudia Bonney

Joanna & Millie

A perfect partnership

Puppy Love and *The Thick of It* actress Joanna Scanlan reveals how life has changed since opening up her heart and home to special ex-Battersea Staffie, Millie



Animals and Me

My love of dogs comes from my mum who is a great animal lover. As children, she moved us from a suburban life to the countryside in North Wales. I was brought up with horses, dogs, cats and lots of local wildlife. We had many dogs over the years, none more precious than a Jack Russell called Belle who lived to the grand old age of 17. My love of animals seems to help me to make sense of the world. It shows me that we humans are part of the whole planet and every creature is unique.



City Girl

Millie is a true London dog and happiest in parks and local woods. In the countryside, we follow the countryside code and keep her on the lead, although when we were filming *Puppy Love*, someone left a door open and she escaped from the film set in pursuit of a tiny miniature pony! She eventually stopped and we managed to get her back, but only after she had been distracted by some llamas which seemed even more exotic and wonderful!

I lost my dog, Puppy, in March 2011 when she was 15. She had been a wonderful dog; loyal, easy to love and a tremendous companion.

I had even taken her on theatre tours with me over the years – she would patiently wait under my dressing table during the show and then, after curtain down, independently socialise in the bar with the audience! I was missing living with a dog and decided to visit Battersea with my niece and brother, who spotted Millie, a Staffordshire Bull Terrier. Millie needed lots of work to continue her socialisation and training, and so began a really enjoyable process for me. To start with I had preconceived ideas about her breed, so it took us both some time to gain confidence and was about a year before she really came out of her shell and began to be affectionate. I feel this has resulted in an even stronger bond and I was so inspired by her that I even wrote a TV show about being a dog trainer called *Puppy Love*.

Life has certainly changed for the better since Millie came on the scene. She needs loads of exercise so that ensures I get up and out every morning. I am currently training for a half marathon to raise money for Battersea and sometimes take her with me on runs. She needs clear boundaries and a steady, ordered life at home, which isn't naturally my way as I'm quite spontaneous! We've made loads of friends through her – especially her dog sitter and trainer Sally. I've learnt so much about consistency, love and how to just enjoy the good times together.

The work Battersea does is essential – not just for the benefit of animals but for Londoners, too. I can't bear cruelty to pets, whether malicious or neglectful, and education is very important. I don't believe we all naturally know how to look after animals, we need to be taught by others who are more experienced. I also think that changes in

circumstances in people's lives mean that – through no fault of their own – sometimes they need a reputable place to sadly give up their pets for rehoming, so Battersea is providing a valuable service to families and individuals.

To anyone out there considering rehoming an animal, I would say be prepared to find true love! There are so many wonderful adult dogs waiting for new homes that getting a puppy doesn't always make sense. Cross breeds are often the most characterful and clever dogs, and I personally want to be sure that I'm not inadvertently supporting puppy farming. Giving a home to a Battersea pet has certainly changed my outlook and I now couldn't imagine life without my Millie. 🐾



Stocking Fillers

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Battersea Card Box

Quality Christmas Card box containing a selection of cards illustrated with fun and festive designs. Each box contains 20 cards with 5 different designs.

410963 £10.00



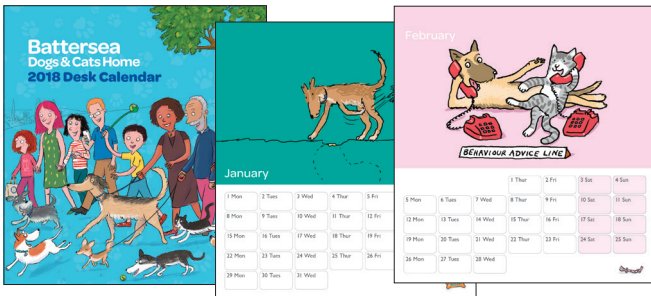
Tatty Devine

Tatty Devine Necklace or Brooch

Beautifully designed cat and dog jewellery laser cut from acrylic and detailed with laser etching, a sparkling Swarovski crystal eye and hand inked markings. Perfect present for animal lovers.

3305 Lurcher Necklace £45.00

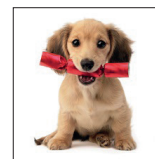
3307 Bengal Brooch £45.00



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Dachshund

A gorgeous Dachshund Christmas decoration perfect for any Dachshund lover. Made from wood with a beautiful design on both sides.

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10580 £2.50 each

