

# pawws

The supporter magazine  
of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home

SUMMER 2016  
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## Making a Difference

Meet Battersea's volunteers



**PAWS OFF!**  
WHAT IS HARMFUL TO YOUR PET  
**STRANGER DANGER**  
HELPING YOUR DOG TO GREET VISITORS  
**LOST AND FOUND**  
EXTRAORDINARY TALES FROM THE TEAM





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**Front cover**  
Kennel Support  
Volunteer Louis Proud  
with Greyhound, Song

# Welcome

Claire Horton, Chief Executive

*'We are truly privileged to have the help and support of 1,238 wonderful, dedicated volunteers'*

Behind the scenes at Battersea, we are truly privileged to have the help and support of 1,238 wonderful, dedicated volunteers who work alongside our hardworking staff in order to make a real difference to our animals. This selfless army make sure that our dogs and cats are as little stressed as possible by making their time with us fun and enjoyable and that the shy animals that are often overlooked get that extra one-to-one support as they await their second chance in life. National Volunteers' Week in June coincided with our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and a group of our volunteers were invited to The Patron's Lunch and to be part of the parade to celebrate her special milestone.

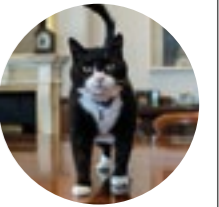
*“ This selfless army make sure that our dogs and cats are as little stressed as possible ”*

Claire with Duke the Beagle who has been reserved to his foster carer

It's not just our animals who benefit from the work of our volunteers. Others give up their time so freely to cheer participants on at our many fundraising events or to help our Community Engagement team spread the important message of responsible pet ownership, including helping to change mindsets on backstreet dog breeding. Too often we pick up the pieces of this terrible trade and see so many sick and worn out dogs that bear the brunt of overbreeding, as well as the resulting puppies that come to us with medical conditions and need our lifesaving help. In fact six-year-old Beagle Duke, who you see with me here, is a product of puppy farming and came in to Battersea with congenital defects that have affected his health. He is thankfully now on the mend after extensive treatment from our Clinic team and is being fostered in a loving home. We champion our band of volunteers in this edition of *Paws* and I offer my heartfelt thanks for their unwavering commitment to our cause.

Once a Battersea dog finds that all-important new home, our help and support doesn't stop there. Our advisors are on hand to offer any new owner guidance, while their new four-legged friend is settling in. Over on page 20 we talk about the steps you can take to help calm your dog before answering the door (which will keep the postman happy!) as well as understanding the worries that your new companion may have about strangers arriving at the home.

Sometimes animals turn up at Battersea in the most unusual way – some even as stowaways on public transport. You can read about the tales from Lost & Found on page 24, which is bound to put a smile on your face. This team just like all the others at Battersea take pride in their work and find their days filled with humbling experiences of hope, laughter and sometimes sadness. Indeed, the Summer issue of *Paws* provides just a small snapshot into our Battersea world of animal welfare, one where we strive to always do the very best for our dogs and cats.



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Palmerston trying out his new surroundings – hopefully he won't use the tables as a scratching post!

# Rags to riches

Little did a black and white stray moggy know that when he arrived unceremoniously at our London Cattery he would soon be one of the most famous felines to patrol the corridors of power.

Two-year old Domestic Shorthair Palmerston was picked to be chief mouser at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and was named after former Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary Henry John Temple, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Viscount Palmerston.

Since taking up his post on 13 April, Palmerston has been greeting international visitors and diplomats and befriending fellow political puss and

former Battersea cat Larry who lives next door at 10 Downing Street. When he's not working, Palmerston resides in the office of Permanent Under Secretary, Sir Simon McDonald, and is looked after by members of staff. Battersea's Head of Catteries, Lindsey Quinlan says: "Palmerston's a very confident cat, loves being with people and enjoys a good chin rub. We know he'll have an eagle eye out for unwanted visitors to keep his new home free of rodent interlopers. If his behaviour at Battersea is anything to go by, we predict Palmerston will be a formidable feline, very deserving of his new name."

## Battersea welcomes Chelsea Pensioners

We were honoured to welcome a group of army veterans from the Royal Hospital Chelsea to our London centre in May who were greeted by a Battersea doggie Guard of Honour, no less. Prince the Boxer and ex-Battersea Staffies Willow and Whippet were among those on their best behaviour and welcomed them with waggy tails.

The group were given a tour of the Kennels and Cattery, where they had lots of cuddles with our four-legged friends, before finishing off with tea and biscuits. Among the group was Doug Hassall, who enlisted in the Army on the day the Second World War was declared and spent four years in a Japanese Prisoner of War Camp. Mr Hassall is one of the regular Pensioners who we see at the Royal Hospital on our monthly trips with our Battersea dogs. As ever, he had a box of biscuits for the dogs and a £10 donation to buy them some treats.



Despite the rain, the Chelsea Pensioners enjoyed their trip



Mud, glorious mud was enjoyed by all!

## Bigger, better and muddier than ever!

Over 600 people and 450 dogs got both feet and paws wet as part of our LV= sponsored Muddy Dog Challenge at Brockwell Park in London and Windsor Great Park in Berkshire. Over muddy obstacle courses of 2.5km and 5km the two days saw a whole lot of splashing, crawling, climbing and even some running and were a massive success!

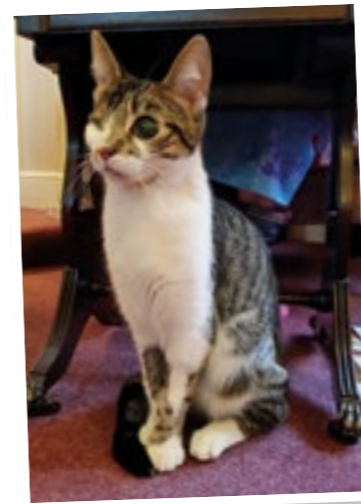
DJ Nick Snaith from Magic FM took part at Brockwell Park with his Dachshund Rolo capturing their adventure on camera and at Windsor Great Park our Battersea Ambassador and international model David Gandy got stuck in – quite

literally – to the muddy mayhem.

Our dogs were stars of the madness too; long-stay Greyhound/Collie cross Bud was filmed taking part alongside Head of Canine Behaviour Ali Taylor for our fifth series of *Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs*. Both events have raised thousands of pounds towards the care and support of our dogs and cats so a huge thank you to all who participated and helped on the day – we simply couldn't have done it without you.

**If you would like the latest updates, you can register your interest at [battersea.org.uk/muddydog](http://battersea.org.uk/muddydog)**

## Rehoming news



HAZEL

Hazel had come in as a stray needing major surgery after being hit by a car. Her right eye had to be removed immediately and sadly our vets realised the accident had damaged her optic nerve in her left eye too, leaving her blind. A special indoor home was needed for this sweet, young cat and she landed on her paws with Natalie Kempshall and her mum who followed the Cattery's advice implicitly. "She's so loving and it's great fun to play games with her," says Natalie.



RORY

Rory soon got the nickname 'the vampire cat' after he had to have a rather radical dental at Battersea, leaving him with protruding fangs. His story went viral and his newfound celebrity status had rehoming enquiries coming in from USA, Hawaii and even Columbia! Four-year old Rory was snapped up by the Payne family in Christchurch, Dorset and they say: "We just flippin' love him. He is ace and we have so many funny stories about him already!"

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



Many of the Pitbulls or Pitbull types we see are friendly, family dogs like Toby

## Dangerous Dogs Act

July marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dangerous Dogs Act and here at Battersea we have taken the opportunity to talk about how ineffective the legislation is in its current form. Under the law, four breeds of dog are banned in the UK – the Pitbull Terrier, the Dogo Argentino, the Japanese Tosa and the Fila Brasileiro. Battersea has long-campaigned against breed specific legislation that judges a dog on its look and not its behaviour. We take in any dog regardless of breed, age, or medical history and we're dismayed that this outdated piece of legislation too often focuses attention on friendly, innocent dogs such as Toby pictured, whilst ignoring the owners who create violent dogs to use as weapons. In fact last year, 71% of the 91 Pitbulls or Pitbull types we took in across our centres were friendly, family dogs that we could have rehomed.

Earlier this year we worked with BBC Three and rapper/presenter Professor Green to talk about the number of Pitbulls we take in at our centres and the injustice of the current law. For the programme we followed the journey of Caramel, a Staffie cross whose fate hung in the balance as we awaited a decision from the Police on whether she had enough physical characteristics to identify her as a Pitbull type. **You can watch the film by visiting [bbc.co.uk/bbcthree](http://bbc.co.uk/bbcthree) and search for Professor Green: Dangerous Dogs**



## Tackling animal welfare

Westminster's Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Sub-Committee paid our Battersea London centre a visit at the end of April so we could show them the impact that backstreet breeding and poor enforcement of animal welfare is having on rehoming centres.

The Sub-Committee are currently looking at whether the current Animal Welfare Act 2006 and its enforcement is effective enough to protect animals, especially the growing number now being sold online by unscrupulous backstreet breeders and puppy farms.

Claire Horton, Battersea's Chief Executive says: "Thousands of animals arrive at our gates every year, some in terrible conditions, which we believe could be prevented if changes were made to the Animal Welfare Act and other pieces of legislation designed to protect animals. It is a source of concern and frustration that the most severe cases of cruelty, the consequences of which we see at Battersea, can only result in a prison term of six months."



## Heart of gold

Big-hearted Londoner Julie Patterson decided to do something extra special to celebrate her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. She asked friends and family not to give her presents, but instead buy gifts for our dogs and cats which resulted in an amazing 400 items being donated to the Home from treats to blankets, toys to bowls! Julie brought the huge pile of goodies into our London centre and had the chance to spend time with some of our dogs.



Battersea staff and volunteers were all smiles during the parade on The Mall

# The Patron's Lunch

Proud Battersea volunteers took part in the parade for Her Majesty The Queen and 10,000 guests at The Patron's Lunch on 12 June. The historic event was a celebration of The Queen's patronage of over 600 charities – including Battersea – on the occasion of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Rob Carter, an Events and Community Engagement volunteer at the Home's Old Windsor centre was one of approximately 20 Battersea volunteers who were part of the parade. He says: "Three years ago I was volunteering at the Battersea London 'Kitten Shower' event and my role was to look after kittens that had been named on potential Royal baby names, since it was just before the birth of Prince George. One didn't find a home, a black kitten called George, so it was only right that he should live with us.

We have since adopted two more cats from Battersea named William and Kate!" Battersea foster carer Chris McLean was selected to join thousands of charity supporters on The Mall for a huge street party on the same day, in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the Home. Battersea's Head of Volunteering, Charlotte Fielder explains why Chris stands out among Battersea's 1,200 active volunteers: "The patience, compassion and joy Chris displays in any given task is truly inspirational. She is a trusted representative of the Home and takes on dogs when no one else can to change their lives. It's Chris we immediately think of whenever we have a vulnerable or traumatised dog in need of additional care and nurturing – she really is a life saver for these dogs."

### YOUR TERRIFIC TWEETS @BDCH

To celebrate #NationalBestFriendsDay we asked you to Tweet us pics of you with your favourite four-legged friend!



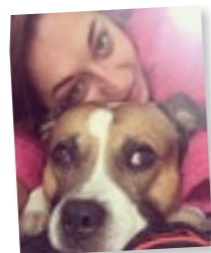
"This is me and my beautiful fur baby girl Charlie." @nightflower2001



"Love her to the moon and back #NationalBestFriendsDay" @repealbsllisa



"Mylo and me." @LOvell



"#NationalBestFriendsDay me and my Staffie Charlie who has epilepsy. He'll be 8 in November!" @MissNaomiJayne



## One voice

We spoke out for the welfare of dogs and cats and shared our knowledge at the annual Association of Dogs and Cats Homes (ADCH) conference in April. Attracting over 400 delegates from 68 organisations, Chairman of ADCH and Battersea's Chief Executive, Claire Horton, hosted the entire two day conference and was joined by staff and volunteers from across the Home along with Battersea dogs Squirt and Oakley, who were popular participants!

As part of the event, there were panel debates on puppy farming, feral cats and dog and cat welfare and Claire launched a three-year strategy to support our colleagues in other rescues in order to improve the standards of animal welfare across the board.

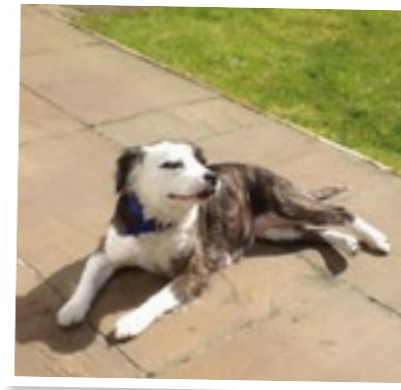


## Don't look down!

This year we are launching the first ever Battersea Sky Diving Weekend on 24–25 September 2016. So if you have ever fancied an adrenaline rush or want to overcome a personal challenge of a lifetime, this is your chance.

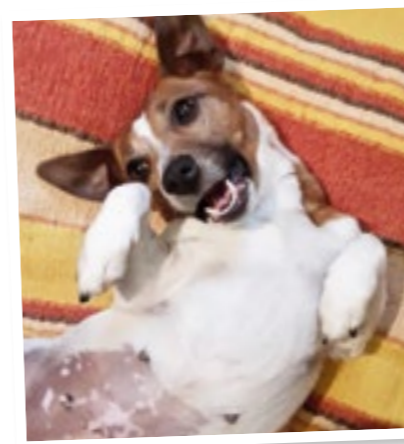
Hannah Lloyd, Corporate Fundraiser at Battersea was challenged to jump from 10,000 feet last year by one of our corporate partners. She says: "I have never been more proud of myself. I thought it was something I would never be able to do because I am scared of heights and had to really dig deep to find the courage. However, it was an amazing experience, and free falling was incredible." **If you want to conquer your fears, or just want to take advantage of this amazing challenge while helping to raise money for our needy dogs and cats then please get in touch. Email events@battersea.org.uk or call 020 7627 9295.**

## Rehoming news



LUCY

Gorgeous smiley Staffie-cross Lucy needed three months of medical care from our Clinic before being well enough to be rehomed. Loved by all the staff who came into contact with her, she arrived very nervous of people and was suffering from severe alopecia, masses in her abdomen and problems with her joints. Thankfully Lucy made a full recovery and is living out her days with her new owner in London who comments "she's a lovely soul".



FANTA

Eight-year old Jack Russell Fanta came into Battersea due to no fault of her own, looking for a doggy companion and someone who would give her a good belly rub and ear scratch! She didn't have to wait long, after being spotted by Briney Miller who says she has been an absolute joy to have and gets on well with their resident Staffie.

**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 and get involved by emailing [events@battersea.org.uk](mailto:events@battersea.org.uk)

## Treks

Dates available throughout the year

Whether you want to trek the iconic Peak District, the unspoilt South Coast or the Thames Path join us with thousands of other walkers to take on these treks one paw at a time. Email [events@battersea.org.uk](mailto:events@battersea.org.uk) or call 020 7627 9339



## Tough Mudder

Dates available throughout the year

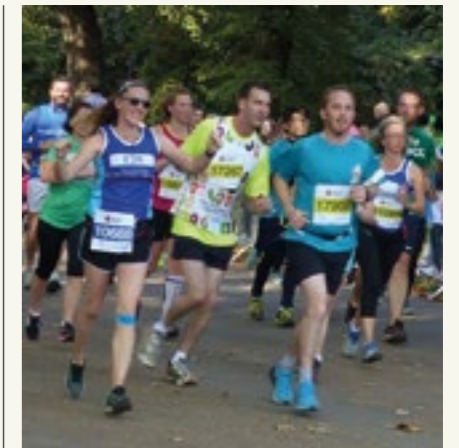
Join our Tough Mudder teams for this 12-mile obstacle ultimate hard core fitness challenge. Designed by the Special Forces to test your physical and mental capabilities, this challenge will push you to your limits. **Join us at events throughout the year and to find out more go to [battersea.org.uk/toughmudder](http://battersea.org.uk/toughmudder)**



## Annual Reunion

4 September 2016

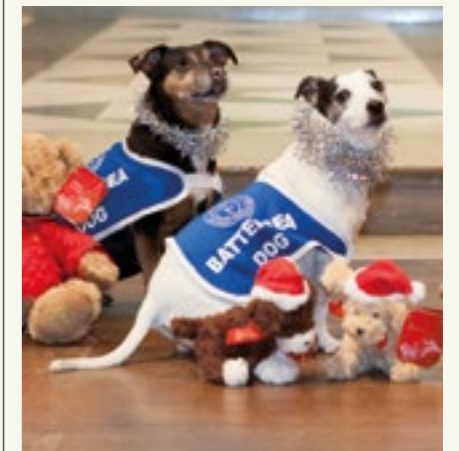
Meet a host of Battersea dogs at this year's Annual Reunion, sign up to compete in a class or just enjoy the family fun day with a touch of celebrity spotting. **Find out more at [battersea.org.uk/annualreunion](http://battersea.org.uk/annualreunion)**



## Royal Parks Half Marathon

9 October 2016

Join the biggest running team for the sprint of a lifetime through London's scenic royal parks and sign up to this year's Royal Parks Half Marathon as part of Team Battersea. **Find out more at [battersea.org.uk/royalparks](http://battersea.org.uk/royalparks)**



## Carol Concert

5 December 2016

Christmas may seem like a while away, but grab your carol concert tickets and join us for a beautiful night of carols, Battersea dogs, mince pies and mulled wine. **Tickets for this sell out event are available now at [battersea.org.uk/carolconcert](http://battersea.org.uk/carolconcert)**

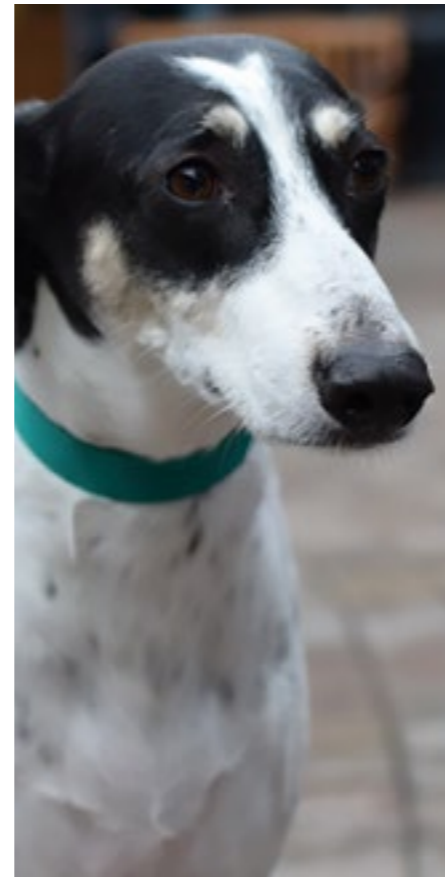


## In aid of the Home

A trio of dog walkers on Tooting Common started a Facebook group last year to share pictures of their pets enjoying one of London's most glorious open spaces. Since then the group has attracted over 300 members and the page is full of dog owners posting pictures of their canine companions.

The original three members (pictured above), Jacqueline Said, owner of Jerry the

Springer, Amanda Lyon-Brown, owner of Dinky the Norfolk Terrier, and Nikki Attree, owner of Charlie the Westie, decided to create a calendar of these photos and sell them through the page, donating the proceeds to Battersea. At the end of June, they brought in a cheque for a much-appreciated £486.24 to go towards the care of our dogs. In 2017 the group are confident they'll donate even more.



Beautiful Starr was bewildered when her owner died

## Man's best friend

Mr Jones was truly devoted to his beloved rescue Greyhound/Lurcher cross, Starr. They were often seen out together in his local area of Northampton and six-year old Starr would happily trot along beside him in his mobility scooter. When his health started to fail, Mr Jones made sure that Starr would be looked after by leaving a sum of money in his Will to Battersea to be used towards any future vet bills that Starr's new owners may incur. But Mr Jones didn't just stop there; he wanted to help all our dogs and cats while they are patiently waiting for their second chance and generously left a share of his estate to the Home too.

When Mr Jones sadly passed away, a relative brought Starr to our London centre with her food, toys and bedding to help her settle in. Thankfully it didn't take long for someone to fall in love with this sweet and friendly girl, who is now living with the Straiton-Parker family in West Molesey, Surrey.

**If you would like Battersea to care for your beloved dogs and cats after you die, you can apply for a Forever Loved card by calling 020 7627 9300 or visit [battersea.org.uk/forever](http://battersea.org.uk/forever)**

LIKE!

*We marked Volunteers' Week in June on Facebook by thanking the 1,238 incredible people who give their time for free to Battersea - we simply couldn't do what we do without them.*

*"Wow that is an incredible number of volunteers. Thank you to all the wonderful people for helping these dear animals."*

*"Thanks to you all, you truly are heroes."*

*"I would love to be a volunteer to help too. I would like to say thanks to all the volunteers that help the homeless animals."*

**BATTERSEA**



## Mini love, maximum generosity

Battersea loves a classic car rally; our Brands Hatch centre has previously hosted a convoy of vintage Fords and at the end of June our London site saw a procession of both classic and new Minis drive under the famous railway arches. Members of the Southern Mini Owners' Club were making a pit stop to donate a generous cheque for £2,120 on behalf of the club.

Led by Joanne and Paul Gallagher, the Mini enthusiasts

had driven in convoy from Maidstone in Kent to Battersea and what a group of animal lovers they were too - at the mention of a photo opportunity, out came all manner of cuddly dog toys. The group were joined by Battersea Greyhounds Ria, Jake, Song and Charlotte and given a grand tour of Battersea, meeting some of the dogs and cats who will be the lucky recipients of their fundraising efforts to the Home.

## Run the Royal Parks Foundation Half Marathon

**There's still time to join Team Battersea and run the Royal Parks Foundation Half Marathon on 9 October 2016.**

As you run past some of the most iconic sites in London you will be playing a special role in helping all the animals in our care.

We'll be there to support you every step of the way with your fundraising and will be there to cheer for you on race day.

To join our team visit **[battersea.org.uk/royalparks](http://battersea.org.uk/royalparks)**

For more information contact the events team on **020 7627 9339** or email **[events@battersea.org.uk](mailto:events@battersea.org.uk)**



Royal Parks Foundation Half Marathon

*"Fabulous charity to be involved with, I felt I was really part of the team."*  
Sophie Reeve, RPFHM 2015



## Christmas Carol Concert

**Monday  
5 December 2016**  
Doors open at 7pm

St Luke's Church  
Sydney St  
London SW3 6NH

Wrap up warm and join us for a festive evening of carols, mince pies and mulled wine in the beautiful St Luke's church. Your arrival will be warmly received by our Battersea doggy Guard of Honour, who will invite you inside to celebrate Christmas with us.

For further information and to book tickets visit **[battersea.org.uk/carolconcert](http://battersea.org.uk/carolconcert)** or call **020 7627 9295**





# Making a Difference

Battersea is privileged to have an army of volunteers who help us with our everyday tasks. Now thanks to a funding boost from players of People's Postcode Lottery, we are starting a recruitment drive for many more...



**Above** Kennel Support Volunteer and Dog Socialiser Stuart Nolan playing with Layla the Staffie  
**Right** One of our youngest volunteers Louis Proud doesn't let his learning difficulties stand in the way of doing what he loves

**B**attersea would not be able to function as well as it does without the dedication of our big-hearted volunteers and foster carers – that's 1,238 selfless individuals from all walks of life who are determined to make a difference to the lives of our dogs and cats.

These people want to do something worthwhile with their spare time for all sorts of reasons; to give back after adopting a Battersea pet, to meet other animal lovers or perhaps to gain some hands on experience to help with their career aspirations. But what connects them all above everything else is their unwavering commitment to our cause.

## A SENSE OF WORTH

Stuart Nolan has been a Kennel Support Volunteer and Dog Socialiser in London for almost six years.

"Volunteering has been a saviour for me, having just arrived from Australia to live in a new country, wanting to find something that mattered and in a place where I could make a difference," he says

*“It's very satisfying when you see your work has a direct positive impact”*

in reflection, adding he has always thought Battersea is as much a home for him as it is the animals.

"For the unfortunate dogs that aren't rehomed as quickly as the others, I find it immensely satisfying and a privilege getting to know them during their time at the centre."

Stuart finds it impossible to not become emotionally involved and attached, especially as he works with the dogs over many weeks – invariably these are the ones that are not coping well in a kennel

environment and require extra support. Stuart is just one of our 428 dog volunteers who commit five hours a week to the Home, working alongside our staff across all three sites as a combined team effort. There are also currently 215 Cattery volunteers behind the scenes who do their very best to enhance the lives of our feline friends while at Battersea. That can be making sure their pens are clean and comfortable to being their cat buddy and sitting with them for reassurance, offering the chance to play or simply to give a nice warm lap for them to snuggle up on. And well, that's just purrfect!

## THE HEART OF THE MATTER

Volunteering with us may lead onto other opportunities, which is exactly what Anais Hawkins found. After marrying and relocating to London from Texas in 2014, she applied for a few volunteering roles with Battersea and was selected to work alongside our Community Fundraising team.

Helping out with administration and key events such as the Annual Reunion and Collars & Coats, she also supported the incredible individuals who were taking on fun challenges to raise money for the Home. Anais enjoyed this role so much that she was offered a permanent position in the team a year later. But her story doesn't end there; compelled to help even more at a grass roots level Anais applied to be one of our very special foster carers – and has never looked back.

She is one of 254 Battersea fosterers who open up their homes to the dogs and cats that are very stressed, very young or in need of some quiet recuperation after being treated by our veterinary staff.

Anais says: "Fostering has been so incredibly rewarding; from seeing our first foster dog overcome some tough challenges, through to taking on a family of cats – the constant highlight is unveiling our foster animals' true personalities outside of Battersea and seeing them off to their forever homes."

Anais fondly remembers looking after a special case of two new feline mums that shared the nursing of nine kittens. "Our home was filled with lots of laughter in those nine weeks and we really enjoyed the challenge of taking on such a large bundle! When the time came to take the kittens in to meet their new families, we'd taken over 1,000 photos, used 23 bags of cat litter and I was given a 'crazy cat lady' coaster!"

*“We really enjoyed the challenge of taking on such a large bundle of kittens!”*

## BEING THERE TO HELP

We are world-renowned for our dedication to animal welfare, yet it may come as a surprise that 38% of our volunteers work in non-animal facing roles. Out of these people, 29 individuals crucially help our →



Community Engagement team spread the message of responsible dog ownership at events and educational workshops.

We also have Front of House volunteers who help out the reception desks and greet visitors as they come in, as well as Kennel Information volunteers who answer queries regarding our rehoming process.

Indeed, Sandra Peace put herself forward to be a Kennel Information volunteer at our Old Windsor centre after finding she had a bit of extra time on her hands. One of her friends was already a Battersea Events volunteer and often spoke of how much fun she had while doing something really rewarding.

"Eighteen months on I'm still doing this role in addition to being a Dog Socialiser and they both complement each other and offer the chance to see the work that Battersea does from both sides," Sandra says.

"Before I volunteered I thought I might find the whole atmosphere overwhelming – sad dogs with sad stories, sad people with

sad stories – that kind of thing, however it's really wonderful to see these dogs go home and it can be truly uplifting. Sometimes it's not just the dogs that need rescuing!"

As part of our volunteer recruitment drive, there will be brand new and exciting roles coming up this year. You could be our next volunteer van driver transporting semi-feral cats to a new life in the country or even our Fairy Dogmother/Dogfather, helping to make the wishes of very ill children come true with a special day out at Battersea. Our volunteers are a vital part of the team and perhaps one day you too could be joining them to make all the difference. 🐾



**Top** Cat Socialiser Dawn Smith spending quality time with Tortie Loana who came in as a pregnant stray

**Above** Cattery Support Volunteer Harriet Stanwix has Gato under her spell!

**Left** Foster carer Anais Hawkins once looked after two feline mums and their nine kittens



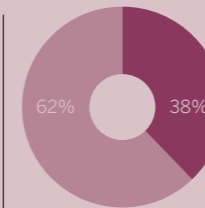
## What you can do to help...



### How do I become a volunteer?

Our website lists current volunteer vacancies and is updated regularly. Visit [battersea.org.uk/volunteer](http://battersea.org.uk/volunteer) for further details.

- You need to be a minimum of 18 years old to volunteer (for insurance purposes), but there is no upper age limit so long as you are physically fit and able.
- We ask Kennel Support volunteers to commit to one five-hour shift a week, either 8am–1pm or 12pm–5pm. With Cattery Support volunteers it's a four-hour shift from 8am–12pm or 1–5pm.
- For office support volunteers it is dependant on the project required, but usually this is one to two days per week.
- Events volunteers help with three Battersea events per year.
- With Community Engagement volunteers it can be one to two talks a month.



62% of our volunteers work directly with our dogs and cats and the remainder work in non-animal facing roles. These include gardening, advising the public at microchipping events, Front of House volunteers and even cheering people on at our events.

**Top left to right** Keeping our centres looking neat and tidy, advising people at our Community Engagement dog microchipping events and helping out in our shops  
**Below** Getting into the Battersea spirit at our Muddy Dog Challenge

### How do I become a foster carer?

If you are interested in offering a temporary home to one of our dogs or cats, please visit: [battersea.org.uk/dogs](http://battersea.org.uk/dogs) or [battersea.org.uk/cats](http://battersea.org.uk/cats) where you can find out more and download an application form. Once your form has been received our Fostering team will be in touch and if you're successful, we will arrange a home visit.

#### MAIN REQUIREMENTS

- Compassion, understanding, patience and an enthusiasm for training.
- Experience of owning and looking after a dog (ideally Bull or guarding breeds) or cat (particularly kittens).
- Have no other pets, but some exceptions can be made.
- Do not have young children (older children may be considered).
- Be living within a two hour radius of one of our three centres and travel there sometimes at short notice for Clinic appointments and Rehoming introductions.
- Ideally be able to commit to us on a long-term basis to provide a stable environment for our animals.

#### WHAT WE PROVIDE

- Training in dog or cat behaviour and welfare.
- Regular contact and support with our volunteer team.
- Veterinary and behavioural support
- All food and equipment throughout the foster period.
- Travel expenses to and from our centres.



# Paws off! What is Harmful to your Pet?

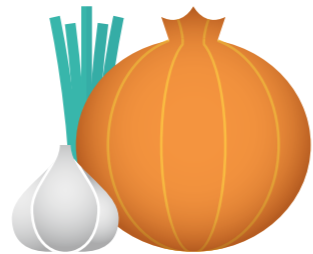
Dogs and cats are opportunists, but beware if your pet eats, drinks or comes into contact with any of these as it may involve a lifesaving trip to the vets.

## Cats



### ALCOHOL

Just like humans, cats can get drunk too but it is said that as little as a tablespoon of alcohol can be seriously problematic for your cat and cause liver and/or brain damage.



### ONIONS, GARLIC & CHIVES

All members of the onion family whether eaten raw or cooked in sufficient quantity may give your feline friend an unpleasant digestive upset.



### DAIRY PRODUCTS

We've all heard the phrase 'the cat that got the cream' but actually most cats are lactose intolerant and giving them a saucer of milk may give them a nasty stomach upset. It is better in fact to leave down a bowl of fresh water instead as branded cat milk has no nutritional value.



### ANTIFREEZE (ETHYLENE GLYCOL)

Although we don't find antifreeze appealing, our cats will thanks to its sweet taste. Ethylene Glycol is the chemical compound in most types of antifreeze which is very toxic to cats. Even just a few drops of this in a puddle or spill under your car is enough to cause serious if not fatal kidney damage if your cat decided to lap it up or walk through it and then lick their paws. Symptoms include vomiting, drooling, loss of appetite, excessive urination or none at all. Go to your vet immediately.



### MEDICINES

Often we reach for a paracetamol or ibuprofen tablet to ease our aches and pains, but both medicines are poisonous to our pets and should never be given to them as pain relief. Paracetamol in particular is highly toxic to cats and can cause irreversible damage to their red blood vessels and liver. Signs to look out for include panting, difficulty breathing and a brown tongue and gums. Call your vet immediately as an antidote called acetylcysteine may save your cat's life.



### CHOCOLATE

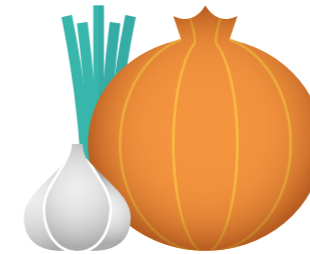
Chocolate is just as toxic to cats as dogs, thanks to the key substance theobromine. Even a small amount can cause heart problems, kidney failure and/or seizures, so it's always best to keep those chocolate munchies hidden away in the cupboard. If you suspect your cat has eaten chocolate, go to the vets immediately.



### HOUSEPLANTS AND BULBS

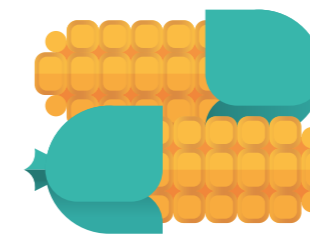
Cats like to eat grass when they're outside, but sometimes they bring this habit indoors and chew on houseplants and most are toxic. Lilies have a sweet scent which attracts curious cats and it's the orange pollen which is highly toxic and causes fatal kidney failure. Brushing against the flower can cause pollen particles to cling to their fur which are ingested during grooming. If you think your cat has been in contact with lily pollen get them to a vet immediately.

## Dogs



### ONIONS, GARLIC & CHIVES

The onion family, whether dry, raw or cooked, is particularly toxic to dogs and can cause gastrointestinal irritation and red blood cell damage. Signs of illness aren't always immediate and can occur up to a few days later. If onions have been eaten, take your dog to the vets as soon as possible.



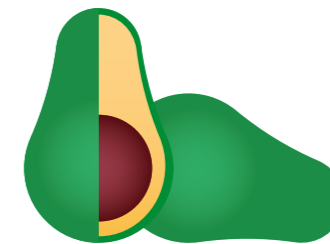
### CORN ON THE COB

Corn on the cob conjures up images of lazy summer days by the barbecue, but giving one of these to your dog to eat could potentially be fatal. Although the corn is digested, the cob is a sure way to cause a blockage in your dog's intestine. If Fido has mistaken one of these for a bone get him to the vet pronto.



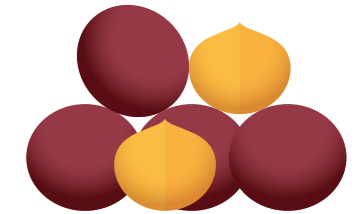
### CHOCOLATE

The sweet-toothed amongst us can't resist a bar (or two) of chocolate and of course during Easter and Christmas we surround ourselves with boxes full of the stuff that are covered in brightly coloured wrappers – all rather tempting for humans and dogs. However, chocolate contains a simulant called theobromine (dark chocolate has the highest content) which is toxic to dogs and can cause kidney failure. If ingested, get your four-legged friend to the vets immediately so that they can administer medicine to induce vomiting.



### AVOCADO

This fruit tastes great in salads, but it contains a substance called Persin which is in the leaves, fruit and seed of the plant and can cause vomiting and diarrhoea in dogs.



### MACADAMIA NUTS

These contain a toxin that can affect your dog's muscles and nervous system resulting in weakness, swollen limbs and panting.



### ARTIFICIAL SWEETENER (XYLITOL)

Our insatiable desire for sweet treats, chewing gum and drinks together with low-fat, diet and sugar-free products (including peanut butter that most dogs love) are often laced with an artificial sweetener called Xylitol which causes an insulin release in our bodies. However, if your dog turns your sugary snack into a main meal they can go into hypoglycaemia which is linked to liver failure and blood clotting disorders. Even small amounts can be dangerous – see a vet quick sharp.



### ALCOHOL

We may love a glass of our favourite beverage every now and again, but just make sure it's out of reach of your opportunist four-legged friend so there's no chance of a cheeky steal. Alcohol not only causes intoxication, but can lead to sickness and diarrhoea and even central nervous system damage.



### COOKED BONES

Giving your dog a raw uncooked bone to chew on is good, but avoid cooked bones at all cost. These can easily splinter and in large quantities cause constipation or at worst, a perforation of the gut which can be fatal.



### GRAPES AND RAISINS

When you really think about it, raisins are in many foods that we love to eat such as cakes, biscuits and cereals so it's not just the fruit form we should be concerned with. The active ingredient which causes the toxin is unknown, however both grapes and raisins may cause severe liver damage and kidney failure which is why you should go to the vets straightaway.



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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.

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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](http://www.battersea.org.uk)

Proudly Supporting



(Registered Charity No. 206394)



# Little paws

FOR JUNIOR SUPPORTERS OF  
BATTERSEA DOGS & CATS HOME

# STORIES GAMES FUN

CAN YOU FIND ALL THE CAT BREEDS HIDDEN BELOW?

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | Q | E | S | T | Y | A | D | P | H | Z | H | A | V | B |
| P | A | R | W | O | I | U | F | E | K | A | I | O | D | C |
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SIAMESE  
BENGAL  
BIRMAN  
HIMALAYAN

PERSIAN  
BURMESE  
RAGDOLL  
MANX

Annabelle and Pumpkin



Chloe and Coco



Sophie and Ellie



Imogen and Merlin

Win a Jacqueline Wilson book!



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



## TOP TIPS

Try to ignore a dog when he is being bad or demanding attention and only reward him when he is being good.

This will help to teach him how to behave and keep calm around you and your family.



## 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 Paws and Whiskers by Battersea Ambassador Jacqueline Wilson full of animal tales! What are you waiting for? Get snapping! Send your selfies to [littlepaws@battersea.org.uk](mailto:littlepaws@battersea.org.uk)

And the selfie winner of last issue's Battersea puzzle prize are Kelsey and Lola who are both all smiles for the camera. Congratulations!



Winners!

Kelsey and Lola

Little  
paws





What do dogs eat at the cinema?  
**PUP-CORN!**

When is a black dog not a black dog?  
**WHEN IT'S A GREYHOUND!**

**ONLY JOKING!**

**Little Paws Letters**

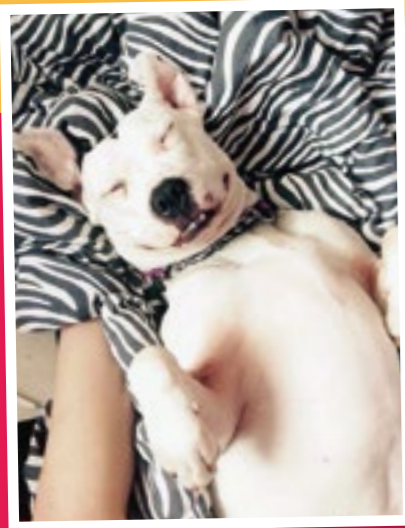
**THE BEST CUDDLE ...EVER!**

I always wanted a kitten and after Christmas my parents told me that I could have a pet. I was very happy! I love Quiver because she is so cute and she sleeps on my bed. When I get home from school I feed her and play with her in the garden. Quiver is my little baby.  
From Charlotte (aged 7)



Our Old Windsor centre had a visit from school children from years 6 to 9 of E-ACT Burnham Park Academy in Buckinghamshire. The enthusiastic bunch are currently raising money towards some new toys to keep our dogs happy and entertained in the paddocks and wanted to visit the site to see where the money will be spent. Rehoming and Welfare Manager Tracey Curren took the youngsters on a tour and also held a Q&A session. Lola the Rottweiler-cross and Norman the Greyhound also met the children and naughty Norman managed to sniff out a bag of sweets from a student's pocket!

**Thanks!**



**OUR LITTLE ANGEL**

We fell in love with Angel when we saw her on Battersea's website and were advised she was extremely shy and nervous, but we were prepared to give her lots of time and space.

Angel hid for more than a month under blankets, cushions and furniture until Dominic our nine-year old grandson spent a few days with us. He patiently coaxed her out of her igloo and on the next day she followed him from her safe room into the lounge. The photo shows Angel putting her trust in a human for the first time in over two months and Dominic gets all the credit for helping her with her confidence!  
From Mick and Pat Stocks, Reading



St Luke's Cubs got their hands mucky filling Kongs with tasty food for our dogs at our Brands Hatch centre and their work was all worth it when they earned their Animal Carer Badge. The pack also brought in bags of donations for our dogs and cats and Staffie Bullseye (pictured) had a great time meeting them all.

**Best friends**

Here is a picture of my gorgeous Bella. I'm so lucky to have her – she truly is like a therapy dog and has been there for me since day one! I can't thank Battersea enough for bringing Bella into my life; it's going to be such a struggle when I move away for college and have to leave her behind with my mum. But at least when I come back and visit the greetings I'll get from her will be AMAZING! I cannot see my life without her.  
From Tasha

**Dog gallery**

Dogs big and small, we love them all! Meet some of our former Battersea residents who are being spoilt rotten in their new homes. For many more Happy Endings visit [battersea.org.uk/doghappyendings](http://battersea.org.uk/doghappyendings)



1



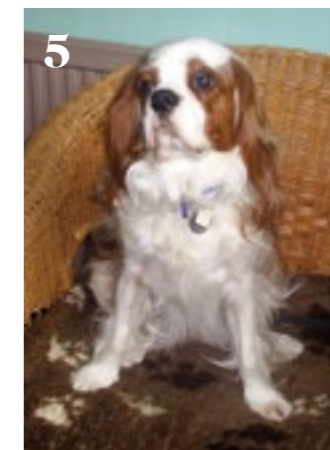
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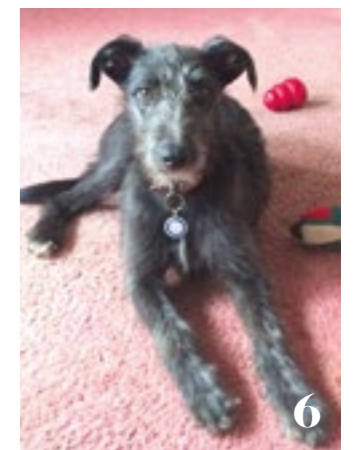
3



4



5



6

- 1 Max, (aka Maxycan Jumping Bean) from Colin and Lesley Kitchener
- 2 Rusty, (was Whisky) from Hugo Swallow
- 3 Bella, from Susan Lane
- 4 Buzz, from Nick and Jazz Howard
- 5 Harry, from Linda Williams
- 6 Violet, from Claire and Tim Davies

Please send us your high-resolution pictures by email (minimum 1MB in size) to [paws@battersea.org.uk](mailto: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.

# Stranger Danger

Many dogs display undesirable behaviour when greeting visitors to their home, but help is at hand from Battersea's experts.



Your four-legged best friend is relaxed and happy in your company but, just like how we can get anxious meeting new people, they may need some reassurance when strangers enter your home.

Unfortunately a practised behaviour becomes a learnt behaviour, so if your dog jumps up in excitement and this is not discouraged by some guests who may go on to stroke, play or give your dog attention, they will more likely do the same to the next person who visits – and it could be frail Great Aunt Flo! One way of deterring this unwanted behaviour is by asking your visitors to fold their arms and turn their back on your dog and only reward them with a fuss once they've quietened down.

Dogs may bark when someone knocks at the door because they're startled or fearful and when the stranger is allowed in, it can make them feel confused and vulnerable because their initial worry has been ignored. Trapped inside the confines of a hallway they may decide to take a more assertive approach and show their true feelings by growling, lunging or snapping.

Battersea has been working with meter readers, delivery drivers and maintenance companies since 2012 and trained hundreds of staff in order to help them understand from a dog's point of view how intimidating they can be when they enter the home. As part of this we teach them how to interpret and react to a dog's body language and the best methods of staying out of the dog's way.

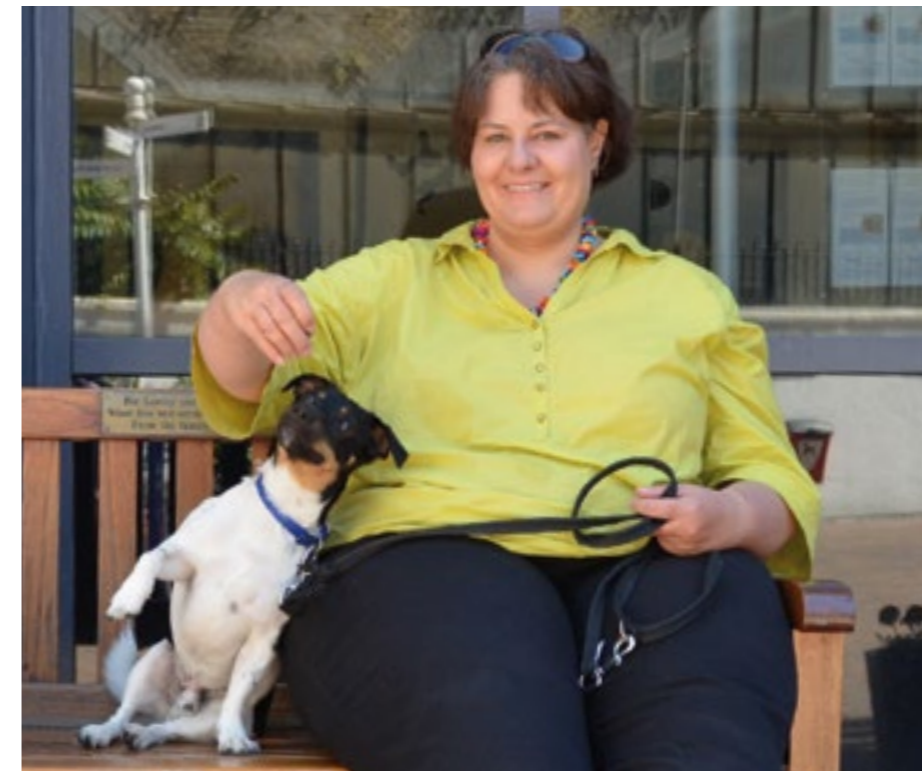
## WORK IN PROGRESS

Paws readers may well remember Snoopy the Jack Russell who was known as 'the dog who hates postmen' on *Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs*. While he was in our care, Snoopy was very nervous and worried around people he didn't know and

Battersea provides Dog Safety at Work training for company employees including EDF Energy meter readers



Snoopy and his devoted owner Nicola who hopes to eventually crack his issues around strangers to the house



would show his discomfort by growling.

But with some positive, reward-based training and by allowing Snoopy to decide whether he wanted to approach people or not, he slowly started to gain confidence and showed that he was actually a playful and affectionate little dog.

Some two years on, Snoopy's owner Nicola Spurr continues his training in the home and is determined to crack his deep-rooted behaviour issues. She knows that he will remain calm if the person stands

“ I firmly believe I could help undo his fear and aggression around postmen ”

still and speaks to him in a low voice – his aggression is vastly amplified if they shout or run away.

Nicola adds: “I firmly believe I could help undo his fear and aggression around postmen if I could spend time positively socialising him with our postie so that Snoopy starts to understand he's a friend. This in turn will create new, positive associations with the routine of putting mail through the letterbox.”

Royal Mail delivers to around 29 million homes across the UK six days a week and although there was a 10% reduction in dog attacks last year, on average around eight postal workers are still attacked by dogs every day. →

Battersea works in partnership with the Royal Mail as part of its Dog Awareness Week, supporting the organisation's tips and advice for managing dogs when they deliver mail, such as shutting your dog in another room before answering the door and giving them toys or food to keep them occupied. Of course if all else fails, consider installing a wire letter basket to protect the postman's fingers or fit a secure letterbox at the end of your path.

#### MAKING FRIENDS

It's not only postmen that some dogs have formed a negative association with. Jack Russell/Pug cross Buster had been passed from owner-to-owner by the age of three because of his persistent insecurities around strangers and his severe separation anxiety. He was a very stressed and overwhelmed dog when he arrived at our Brands Hatch centre and would continually bark at any unfamiliar person or dog.

Our advisors worked with Buster's insecurities, using positive reinforcement training techniques to help him. It was his lucky day when Morag Aslett and Mark Molloy from Surrey came to see him at the end of last year as they fell in love with him immediately and were determined to make it work. They followed the advice given by our staff and first set up a baby

gate in their home to stop him from getting to the front door.

Morag says: "If visitors do enter, they are briefed that they must go and sit in the lounge before he is allowed in to introduce himself. We tell them to ignore him and wait until he's settled and then let him come to them."

Now Buster comes in quietly with his tail wagging to meet his new friends. "Buster will always have issues but he wouldn't be the fantastic character that he is without them. However, he is improving and he is the most loving dog and likes nothing better than curling up on the sofa in the evening to watch TV with us."

At Battersea we see thousands of dogs through our gates every year with behavioural problems, but it just goes to show that with patience and understanding even the most complex cases can have a happy ending in the end. 🐾

Morag and Mark have worked hard to help Buster overcome his insecurities

### Top tips to help improve your dog's behaviour in the home

**1** Create a quiet, safe area away from the front door, ideally behind a baby gate, where your dog will be comfortable - it is important to guide your dog to this area before the front door is answered. Ensure their bed or crate is in there, along with fresh water, toys and chews or food puzzles to occupy and help calm them whilst your guests are settling.

**2** Once everyone is relaxed, check with your guests that they are comfortable having your dog in the room then bring them out either on a lead or with a longline trailing from their collar, depending on how much guidance you think your dog requires.

**3** Ask guests not to encourage your dog over to them to prevent them from becoming overexcited or feel pressurised.

**4** Reward calm behaviour in the presence of your visitors with food, toys and praise. We recommend these rewards come from you because if your dog is offered a treat from an unfamiliar person, they may find themselves in a state of conflict by weighing up whether it's worth approaching to get the reward from the stranger.

**5** If your dog shows trepidation towards visitors, you should offer guidance by moving them away. For instance if your dog's favourite thing is a toy, allow them in the room to see the visitor from a distance and if they remain calm, throw the toy away from the person. That way they get a sense of relief and a distraction from their worry and it teaches your dog they have the option to avoid.

**6** If your dog does not respond in a calm manner, put them back in their comfortable area and try again later.



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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.

Visit us at [www.blackdogdna.com](http://www.blackdogdna.com)

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# Extraordinary Tales of Lost & Found

From train hopping canines to pussy cat parcels, our Lost & Found team give an insight into the unpredictable and sometimes unbelievable days you can have working at Battersea...

## DOGGY DAY TRIP

You can never underestimate our pets' sense of adventure and that was certainly the case for Brandy's owners after he travelled from Brighton to Clapham Junction on the train for a spot of sightseeing. Brandy was seen climbing aboard the train at the platform in Brighton and was found roaming around Clapham by a passer-by before being brought to Battersea. We were a little stunned when his adventure became clear, but not as surprised as his owner in Brighton who we called thanks to his microchip. They quickly arrived to pick up the day-tripper, who had a one-way ticket back to the seaside.



## EAU DE DOG

We once had a lady who brought in her pooch, complaining that he "smelt of dog". There are many reasons people have to give up their pets and the team in Lost & Found will never judge someone having to make this difficult decision, but this one seemed to be something she could have considered before bringing him home!

Smells like a dog

Smells fine to me

## HAIR TODAY, HOME TOMORROW

People often bring in their dogs' favourite toys, blankets and bed when they bring them to Battersea to help them settle in and feel more at home. But there was one occasion when a dog arrived and in the bag of belongings we found a short black-haired wig. We weren't sure if it had accidentally been left in there or it belonged to the dog!



- Bowl - check
- Lead - check
- Collar - check
- Toys - check
- Bed - check
- Wig - check

## HOWLS ANGELS

A Staffie came in with his own wardrobe once. His owner brought him in to us because he could no longer care for him, but it was clear that he loved his dog so much as they had matching studded leather biker jackets. Apparently the dog used to ride around in the side car of his motorcycle. They must have looked like Wallace and Gromit meets The Hells Angels!



Help! I've lost my cat

## COACH CAT-ASTROPHE

A coach driver turned up at Battersea as he thought he was losing his mind whilst driving from Hounslow to Vauxhall. He had an unnerving feeling that a pair of bright green eyes were watching him and he had caught glimpses in his rear view mirror of a bushy tail shooting between the seats. After coming to his senses he realised the Tortoiseshell tail belonged to a cat and steered his vehicle in our direction.

The purring passenger turned out to be a heavily pregnant stray cat that was about to give birth and was, as luck would have it, heading in the right direction for receiving the care and attention she needed. On arrival, staff tried their best to coax the Tabby out from behind the dash but the cat was determined to stay in her new portable home. Thankfully we had the tools to bust her out in the nick of time before she gave birth to three adorable kittens.



...and that's how you got your names, Hounslow, Vauxhall and Battersea

## HE'S BEHIND YOU

We received a call from a man who had lost his cat and called to see if it had been taken to Battersea. There was no record of the cat arriving at the Home and so we suggested other ways he could look for him. We got a call from him a few days later to say he'd found his cat... under the bed! To be fair, we hadn't thought to suggest looking there!



# Community Spirit

Pub quizzes, themed nights and abseiling off the O2 Arena are just some of the events our community fundraisers have held in order to raise funds for Battersea. *Paws* finds out more...



**B**attersea is lucky enough to have a collection of fun and dedicated individuals who enjoy raising money on a regular basis to help our dogs and cats. And these people all have one thing in common: a real passion for the Home and the work that we do.

The Home currently has pro-active Fundraising Groups in London, Berkshire, Surrey and Kent, including two newly-formed teams in Surrey – Champion Chums in Tadworth and Croydon Fundraising Group. Sara Lindsay, Fundraising Co-ordinator for Champion Chums says: "I have a real passion for Battersea and recruited family members, friends and work colleagues to my group. We are enjoying setting up fundraising activities in our local community and find we are meeting lots of like-minded dog and cat lovers."

The Berkshire-based Bow Wow Wags was created just late last year by Sam Withers and Rachel Edwards and this amazing group has already raised over £3,500 for Battersea from a mixture of events such as a sponsored walk, a Halloween event, an Italian dinner and a pub quiz. Group members come from all walks of life. "With a background in media, I started fundraising for Battersea Old Windsor after adopting our dog in 2012," says Bow Wow Wags member, Emma Morris. "Battersea was there for our dog in

his time of need, so I decided that I would be there for the many others that rely on the Home each day."

Battersea volunteer dog walker and socialiser Jane Curtis joined Bow Wow Wags as she wanted to give something back. "Battersea will always hold a special place in our hearts as we were matched to our beloved dogs Raspberry and Piglet who are very much part of our family," she comments. "I am pleased to be part of Bow Wow Wags and this year I've enjoyed baking homemade dog treats and cutting out card for children's activities held at the Home."

Battersea is always looking for people to set up and join new Fundraising Groups in their local communities and membership can bring plenty of benefits. They offer the opportunity to meet new people and develop organisational skills, but more importantly the chance to make a difference by giving our dogs and cats a brighter future. Each group is headed up by a Fundraising Co-ordinator who doesn't need any particular skills or experience, just oodles of enthusiasm and the ability to get on with and motivate a group of like-minded people. Groups also require a Treasurer who is good with number-crunching and then perhaps two or three more people who have the passion, energy and commitment to make up a dedicated team. All groups become part of our special Battersea fundraising

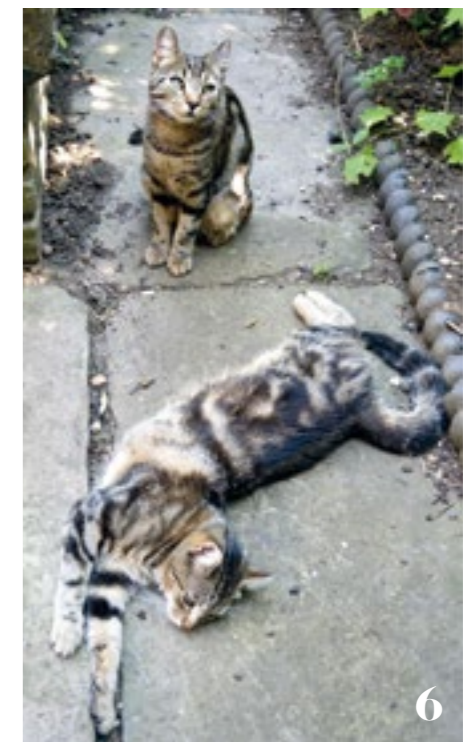
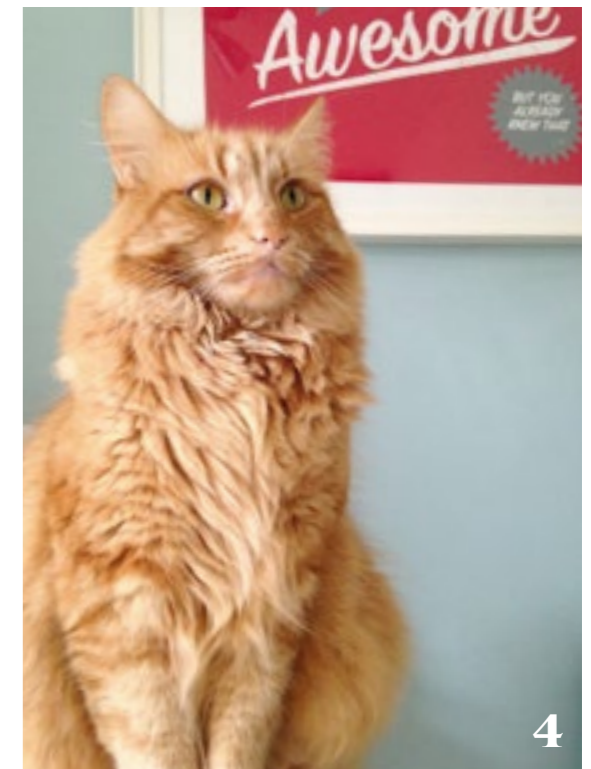
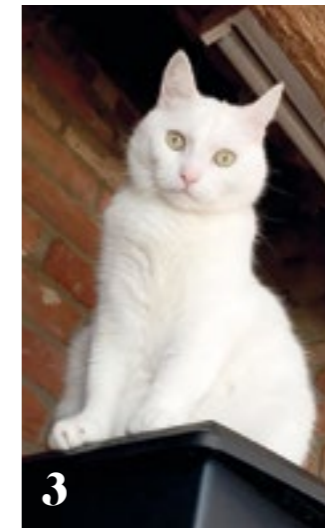
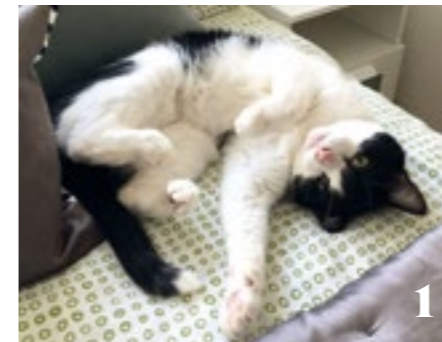
family, supported by a dedicated Regional Community Fundraiser. 🐾

**If you would like to join an existing Battersea Fundraising Group or set up a new one, please email [doyourownthing@battersea.org.uk](mailto:doyourownthing@battersea.org.uk) with your contact details.**



## Cat gallery

Nothing like a bunch of feline posers to put a smile on your face! You can see many more cute cats and their Happy Endings at [battersea.org.uk/cathappyendings](http://battersea.org.uk/cathappyendings)



- 1 Felix, from Ivone Chao
- 2 Yoda, from the Greenway family
- 3 Jules, from Vicky and Andrew Christou
- 4 Lewis, from Hector Prince Hill
- 5 Otis (was Snoopy), from Ross Barrett
- 6 Percy and Parker (were Emery and Emma), from Rebekah Cameron

Please send us your high-resolution pictures by email (minimum 1MB in size) to [paws@battersea.org.uk](mailto: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.

STAR LETTER

# Love knows no bounds



Our gorgeous Battersea girl Fifi passed away recently due to a very short illness. We only brought her home in January 2015, but she really enriched our lives – she was initially a very nervous puss, but really flourished with us. She arrived just five months after the death of our baby daughter, Euphemia Jasmine, and she sat beside me through the hardest time of my life. We spent time lying on the rug in the sun, playing with home-knitted mice and hiding/hunting out treats. As summer came, she loved our plant-filled balcony and observing other neighbourhood cats from a safe distance. We carefully nurtured each other and she became queen of our home.

Fifi became known as the 'nanny cat' when I was pregnant again, contentedly lying by my growing bump and keeping anxiety levels low. As our lovely daughter Ted arrived (pictured) Fifi was an absolute joy, snuggling in during every breast feed, nosing her feet and being ever so gentle.

They became firm friends – Ted squealing with delight as Fifi nuzzled her and paraded around.

It seems that we were all brought together to learn to love and trust again. And with her work done, she now rests in our parent's garden, in the sunny spot of course! We miss her every day in our home and lives.

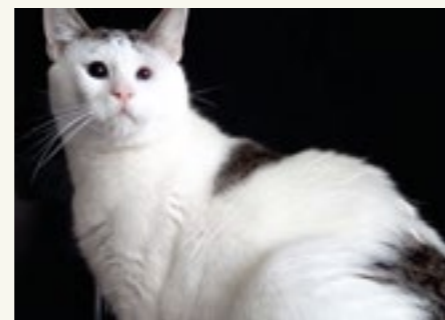
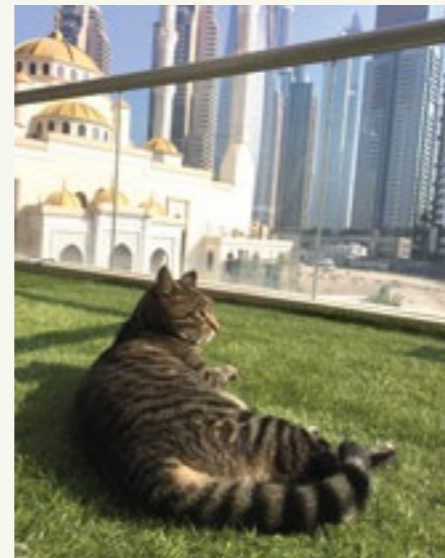
**Lindsay, Pete and Ted, London**

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



A PLACE IN THE SUN

I just wanted to send you a photo of our lovely Barney enjoying his new home in Dubai. We rehomed him from Battersea in January 2014 when we were living in east London. He has been the best cat anyone could ask for and he was our primary consideration when we moved to Dubai for work in September 2015. Barney has settled into his new home quickly and (as a gentleman with FIV) has really appreciated the opportunity to get some sun on his whiskers on our balcony. Who knows what he will make of the 50°C summers, but we are looking forward to spending the next few years with him here. **Rosanna Lockwood and Ben Manners, Dubai**



AGAINST THE ODDS

It was five years ago that I adopted Ray, a blind cat from Battersea when he was only 12 months old. He had been dumped outside a vets in London and brought into the Home. As you can see from the photograph he has developed into a beautiful boy and he likes to spend his days either roaming the garden, or lazily sleeping in one of his favourite spots in the house. He is an absolute joy and I love him to bits. I hope this will encourage others to think seriously about taking on one of your lovely cats.

**Annie Longbottom, Telford, Shropshire**



SUPER HOUNDS

Jess (wearing the green collar above) unfortunately found herself at Battersea as a young dog when her owners were moving house. She came to us around the end of 2002/early 2003 and is still amazingly spritely for her age, no stiffness, no loss of vision and is only a little hard of hearing. There was no question of not bringing her to New Zealand in 2005 when we emigrated along with our two German Wirehaired Pointers, both of whom she has outlived! She now has a new doggie family who are all from rescues: Frazer the tri-coloured Terrier, Tom the Jack Russell, Marley the Bearded Collie-cross and Jazz an elderly smooth-coated Jack Russell who is Jess's best friend. Thank you so much for trusting her with us; we now have heaps of Terrier experience and will continue to rescue dogs.

**Elaine and Alastair Rutherford, New Zealand**



MAGNIFICENT MILLIE

This is my dog Millie who I rehomed from Battersea when she was about a year old. She's now 16 and the photo shows her on duty at her last Pets As Therapy event before taking a well-deserved retirement. She became a therapy dog back in 2008 when I worked at a Pupil Referral Unit for children with mental health issues. She also regularly visited the children's ward of our local hospital and has been on duty at various fetes, dog shows and vet open days whenever we had a Pets As Therapy stall. She is still wonderful company although sleeps a lot more now!

**Julie Poole, Hornchurch, Essex**



BATTERSEA FRIEND

My beloved precious boy Milo (left), whom I adopted from Battersea in October 2010, went to heaven in my arms on 24 May. The vets say he was around 15/16 and ultimately died from organ failure. He'd had his ear canal removed some months before and they found a tumour which they could only partially remove, but he coped well and I had only noticed in his last few days that he seemed confused. His favourite way of walking was sitting on my lap when I was out in my wheelchair. I'm sure you've heard this all before, but to me my Battersea Friend was so special.

**Kate Simpson, by email**

Happy Memories

We had to say goodbye to our beautiful greyhound Jude – she was nearly 15. We adopted her in May 2005 after she had been brought to Battersea as a stray. When we saw this skinny dog trembling in her kennel with her face hidden under a blanket, we knew we wanted to give her a good home. She has left a big greyhound-shaped hole in our hearts and we miss her cheeky presence so much.

**Dr Geoff Snell, London**



We had the great pleasure of our dog Henry's company for nearly nine years and there were many happy memories. He was the third Labrador we had in 31 years and have many tales to tell.

**Audrey and Bill Brooks, Ashford, Kent**



My lovely Polly from Battersea Old Windsor has passed away aged 15 years. Although excitable in her younger years, she loved cats and greeted all dogs with a waggy tail. Three times a year she came to France and loved the beach where she would chase the waves and always seemed to gain a new lease of life every time we went.

**Jackie O'Curry, Amersham Common, Buckinghamshire**



Write to us at the address on the contents page, or email [paws@battersea.org.uk](mailto:paws@battersea.org.uk)



# 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](mailto:paws@battersea.org.uk) or write to us at the address on the contents page and we'll do our best to help.



GEN WILKINSON  
Veterinary Surgeon

Vet Gen administering  
flea treatment to Westie  
Jody

Before any animal is rehomed from Battersea we make sure that they have been thoroughly checked over by our Clinic staff and are up-to-date with their vaccinations, flea and worming treatment. Going forward, we recommend regular parasite control to keep your dog or cat in rude health. Here Gen Wilkinson, Veterinary Surgeon, talks about the most common parasites and diseases which can affect your dog or cat.



## Q Why is worming treatment so important?

**A** Although not a pleasant subject, a serious infestation of intestinal worms can be detrimental to your dog or cat's health especially if they are young. The two main culprits are roundworms and tapeworms which survive on partially digested food found in the bowel. Female roundworms lay microscopic eggs which pass out in the animal's faeces – all it takes is for a dog or cat to sniff or lick the ground that's been contaminated for them to pick up the eggs and for the lifecycle to continue. The most common type of tapeworm in the UK is spread by fleas so if your dog or cat is infested with these little critters it's best to treat them for both fleas and worms.

## Q What are the signs that my dog or cat might have worms?

**A** If your dog is excessively cleaning their bottom or dragging their behind across the floor, this could be a sign that they have worms. Other common signs to look out for are weight loss, vomiting and diarrhoea, a dull coat, poor skin condition and small white worms in their faeces. Puppies and kittens may also develop a pot-belly as well as discomfort. This is why it is important to treat your pets preventively to stop the condition from happening in the first place.

“The most common type of tapeworm in the UK is spread by fleas so if your dog or cat is infested with these little critters it's best to treat them for both fleas and worms”

## Q How often should I be routinely worming my pet?

**A** It is advisable that an adult dog or cat should be treated for worms at least four times a year. Some people don't realise that puppies can be born infested with worms passed on through their mother's milk – oral worming treatments are available from two weeks of age and should be given once a fortnight until 12 weeks old, then every month until they are six months old. After this, treatment should be given every three months.

## Q I've heard of lungworm – what is it and how can it affect my dog?

**A** Lungworm is potentially fatal to dogs. It is actually a parasitic worm which infects snails and slugs and is then passed on to canines if they eat them, infected grass, drink from puddles or ingest snail/slug slime. Once absorbed, the worms migrate to your dog's heart,

where they produce eggs that enter the bloodstream and lodge in the lungs. Breathing problems and coughing are therefore the main symptoms, along with weight loss, clotting problems, sickness and diarrhoea, reduced appetite and tiredness.

## Q Can I catch worms from my pet?

**A** Giving the increasing number of dogs admitted to Battersea which are known to have travelled overseas, we are now treating all new arrivals for Echinococcus – a small tapeworm found in much of Europe but not yet present in the UK. Although relatively harmless to a dog, this parasite is 'zoonotic' and can be transmitted from dogs to humans. Some types of roundworm also have the potential to infect people, so it is important from a public health perspective to keep up-to-date with parasite control.

## Q I'm going to take my pet on holiday with me abroad. Do I need to protect them against any particular parasites?

**A** As well as a pet passport your four-legged friend must be microchipped and in the case of dogs, have been vaccinated against rabies at least 22 days before travelling. It is now also a legal requirement to have your dog treated against Echinococcus by a vet at least five days before returning to the UK. This will depend on your destination so always consult with your vet before taking your pet abroad.

## Q How do I know if my pet has fleas?

**A** Scratching or overgrooming are signs that your dog or cat has fleas and if they develop an allergy to flea bites they may lose their fur on their back. The best way to check whether your pet has fleas is to run a fine-toothed comb through the fur on the back of their neck, base of the tail and stomach, looking for live fleas or flea dirt. Even then they can be difficult to find so always keep up-to-date with treatment. Remember, you must treat all the animals in home, not just the one infected. You can even buy monthly treatments to kill fleas on kittens and puppies.

## Q What's the best way of dealing with a flea infestation in my home?

**A** Unfortunately if your pet has fleas, it's very likely that they will also be present in your carpets, bedding and soft furnishings which become an ideal environment for the flea's lifecycle. Thanks to the added bonus of central heating, this often becomes a year-round problem! There are off-the-shelf products that you can buy such as 'flea bombs', 'foggers', sprays and powders to treat affected areas which will kill fleas,

eggs and their larvae. Depending on the product, effectiveness ranges from four weeks to 12 months.

## Q Can regular flea treatment also kill ticks?

**A** There are products on the market which are suitable for the eradication of fleas, their larvae and ticks. Your vet will advise you on a specific flea, tick and worm control programme based on your pet's lifestyle and risk. A potentially fatal disease called Babesiosis has for the first time been reported in the UK – this is transmitted to dogs through a tick bite and can cause life-threatening anaemia.

## Q I've heard of Lyme Disease. Is this something I should be concerned about?

**A** Lyme Disease is a bacterial infection spread by ticks which can seriously affect dogs and humans. The problem is it can be tricky to diagnose as symptoms such as headaches, fever, joint pain, swelling of the lymph nodes and, in more serious cases, inflammation of the heart, may not appear until months after the initial tick bite. If you find a tick on your dog it's better to act quickly – use a tick-killing treatment or a product that specialises in removing ticks – and wear long sleeves and trousers when dog walking in woodlands, long grass, moors and heathland. But these parasites are not just found in rural areas; Lyme-infested ticks have recently been found in Richmond Park and Bushy Park in London.



From 8 July until 21 October 2016, Bob Martin Vetcare is giving *Paws* readers the opportunity of a 10% discount on vet care products (including flea and worming treatments) through [www.bobmartinvetcare.co.uk](http://www.bobmartinvetcare.co.uk) by using code BMPAWS2016.

You can also help raise vital funds for Battersea by rounding up your total to the nearest pound at the till point and the difference will be donated to the Home. 🐾

# Take us home

While the cute and the confident get rehomed very quickly, the more anxious and complex dogs and cats are often overlooked. Here are just a small selection who would love a fresh start. Contact Battersea on **0843 509 4444** or via the centre email addresses below.



**CLIVE**

7-year-old Domestic Shorthair  
 bbh.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

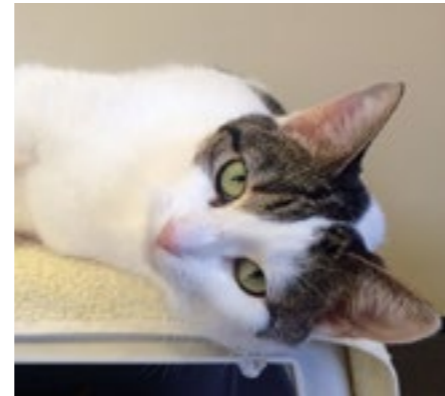
Black cats often get overlooked and Clive is no exception; he's been at our Brands Hatch centre for over three months and the staff have a real soft spot for him. He can be a little skittish until he gets to know you and then he can't get enough of a fuss. Clive will make a very loving and interactive companion.



**HONEY**

7-year-old Jack Russell/Chihuahua cross  
 bbh.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

Honey has been patiently waiting for over a year for an experienced owner who will understand her anxious side and help build up her confidence. She is currently in a foster home where her true cheeky character has emerged – her pastimes include singing along to the *EastEnders* theme tune, hiding treats and playing with her favourite squeaky toys!



**ROO**

8-year-old Domestic Shorthair  
 cat.rehoming@battersea.org.uk

Coming from a busy and noisy home living with four other cats and an 18-month old baby, it was all too much for shy Roo, who ended up suffering from stress-related health problems. When she first arrived at Battersea Roo spent her days hiding away, but has since transformed into a cuddly, friendly and playful cat. She's now looking for a calm home without any other pets.



**BOYZIE**

8-year-old German Shepherd/Rottweiler cross  
 rehoming@battersea.org.uk

Handsome Boyzie arrived at Battersea through no fault of his own and has been finding kennel life stressful. He can be a bit shy at first, but once he gets to know you he is a loving chap who certainly doesn't act his age! Boyzie is dreaming of a new life where he can run and play in the garden, maybe even with a new doggy companion.



**FLOSSY**

10-year-old Domestic Shorthair  
 bbh.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

Heavy-weight moggy Flossy has been enjoying the finer things in life and is looking for a home where she can burn off those extra pounds! She is friendly and likes a game of chase the feather toy. Flossy would love a quiet home for her retirement where she is the only pet, with space to stretch those portly legs.



**BLUEBELL**

2-year-old Mongrel  
 bow.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

The lovely Bluebell has spent nine months so far at our Old Windsor centre and really deserves a home to call her own. Fun loving and excitable, Bluebell's a clever little lady and willing to learn new things – she's already shown potential with clicker training. If she's not having cuddles, Bluebell will involve you in a game or two.



By remembering Battersea in your Will, you can transform the lives of desperate dogs and cats by giving them a brighter future beyond your lifetime.

We aim to never turn away a dog or cat in need of help, caring for them until loving new homes can be found, no matter how long it takes.

Once you have taken care of your loved ones, please give Battersea's dogs and cats the gift of a lifetime.

**For more information email [specialgifts@battersea.org.uk](mailto:specialgifts@battersea.org.uk) or call 020 7627 9300**

**Send or call for your free information pack about leaving a gift in your Will.**

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| Mr/Mrs/Ms/other | First name |
| Surname         |            |
| Address         |            |
| Postcode        |            |
| Telephone       |            |

Battersea Dogs & Cats Home would love to contact you by post or telephone to talk about the amazing difference you have made and how your financial support can help more dogs and cats.

Please share your telephone number if you're happy for us to contact you in by phone. If you do not wish to be contacted please let us know by writing on this form or using the contact details below.

**Supporter Services contact details:**

Freepost RTLJ-ETCZ-SCCZ,  
 Battersea Dogs & Cats Home,  
 4 Battersea Park Road,  
 London SW8 4AA

Email: [fundraising@battersea.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@battersea.org.uk)

**[Battersea.org.uk/giftsinwills](http://Battersea.org.uk/giftsinwills)**

Registered charity No. 206394. AC61

## Never lonely, forever loved

### Please remember Battersea's dogs and cats in your Will.

# let sleeping dogs lie...

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