

Because every dog and cat deserves a loving home

# paws



Spring 2018 | Suggested donation £2 | Battersea.org.uk



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How to encourage your cats to explore the great outdoors

Sowing the seeds for a new sensory garden at Brands Hatch

*Rescue is best*

The top 10 reasons for you to rehome a rescue animal

# Mud Time to get fit with your four-legged friend, as **Muddy Dog Challenge** returns glorious mud





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# Welcome

**After a long, cold winter, spring is not only finally in the air but – for dogs across the country – there’s a spring in their step, too.**

This season is always one that brings with it great change here at Battersea. Not only do our residents get to explore a whole new world of sights and scents while out walking but there is a fresh sense of hope in the air; hope that soon their perfect match will walk through our gates and a new chapter can begin.

This is always a wonderful time of year to get out and about with your dog, so check out our article on page 22 and discover more about Battersea’s amazing Muddy Dog Challenge, which this year is back with even more locations across the country. I can thoroughly recommend taking part, as can my wonderful Battersea dog Simba, who loves dragging me through the mud!

And we haven’t forgotten about the cats that are also looking forward to

getting out in the spring sunshine. As a cat’s natural habitat is the great outdoors, it’s important to ensure that your feline companions have a safe and stimulating environment to explore. Take a look at our advice on page 10 for how to keep your cat happy indoors and out.

With spring cleaning also high on the agenda for many of us, there’s no better time to give your pet a good groom ready for the summer. Whether it’s what type of brush to use or whether you should be clipping claws at home, Battersea’s expert groomers offer their advice on page 26.

Here’s to lighter evenings, longer walks, fun times and many more dogs and cats finding happy new homes.

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(with her Battersea German Shepherd, Simba)

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If your details have changed or if you wish to stop receiving *paws*, please let us know.

### Our other centres

[Battersea Old Windsor](https://www.batterseadogsandcats.org.uk), Priest Hill,  
Old Windsor, Berkshire SL4 2JN

[Battersea Brands Hatch](https://www.batterseadogsandcats.org.uk),  
Crowhurst Lane, Ash, Kent TN15 7HH

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You may recognise cover star, Jet, as one of the litter of eight puppies born to Fern the Dalmatian/Spaniel cross, featured in episode one of *POGDOGS* Series 6.



# Home front

Follow us online and on social media:

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



Catch up with Battersea people, pets, events and campaigns



Environment Secretary Michael Gove with Claire Horton, Ali Taylor and Enid the Bulldog

## Battersea welcomes decision to introduce five-year sentences for animal cruelty in England and Wales

Environment Secretary Michael Gove visited our London centre in December, choosing Battersea as the location to launch a new draft bill to increase sentencing for animal cruelty. This move underlined the Government's determination to address the growing problem of animal cruelty, something Battersea welcomes after campaigning on this issue. Claire Horton, Battersea's Chief Executive, said: "Battersea is thrilled at the plans to raise the maximum sentence for the most abhorrent cases of animal cruelty in England and Wales from six months to five years. This shows that the political will is there to make the punishment fit the crime and so many innocent animals will benefit from this action."

Battersea launched its campaign for five-year sentences back in February 2017, a call that you, our supporters, 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.

Claire added: "The momentum has clearly been building and the response has been tremendous. Over 62,500 members of the public across the UK have called on their elected representatives, which is an incredible response – and 158 politicians have backed the change."

During the Environment Secretary's visit, Battersea staff showed him how our centres operate on the front line of dog and cat welfare, taking in around 7,000 animals every year, including

many that have suffered serious cruelty or neglect. Mr Gove saw a dog, that had been traumatised by the abuse it had suffered, being cared for by Battersea staff and met Enid the Bulldog (above), who'd arrived at Battersea in a terrible condition.

The Government has now finished its consultation to increase the maximum sentence, and Battersea hopes that a bill will be presented shortly. Battersea is also thrilled that, in its September 2017 Programme for Government, the Scottish Government announced its intention for a five-year maximum animal cruelty sentence.

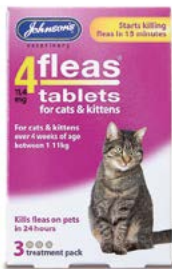
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## Little Ronnie wins the nation's hearts

Bought online as a Christmas gift, eight-week-old Ronnie was the first arrival into Battersea's London centre in 2018. The mongrel puppy arrived through Battersea's doors on 2 January when his owner sadly became homeless after receiving Ronnie as a present from her former partner. Ronnie's plight hit the headlines and Battersea's rehoming team was soon inundated with enquiries. We are happy to report that this gorgeous boy was rehomed to a loving family in Orpington, Kent.

▶ [Find out more about the dogs and cats waiting for a new home at Battersea by visiting \[battersea.org.uk\]\(http://battersea.org.uk\)](#)

*Did you know?*  
Battersea gets through 200 tins of dog food and 332 pouches of cat food every day! The Home uses 224,000 poo bags and 180,000 litres of cat litter every year.



## Battersea says thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery

Players of People's Postcode Lottery have awarded Battersea a remarkable £800,000, bringing the total figure the animal charity has received from the organisation since 2014 to a staggering £2.1m.

The money will help Battersea continue to care for over 7,000 homeless and unwanted dogs and cats across its three centres every year. Animals such as eight-year-old Hugo, a Miniature Schnauzer whose owner was moving overseas and could no longer care for him, and Little Bear the cat, also eight years old, whose owners moved to new accommodation where pets were not allowed. Luckily, after being cared for by Battersea, they have both found happy new homes.

Funding from players of People's Postcode Lottery has already helped Battersea to expand its Volunteering and Fostering Department and open a new Volunteering and Fostering Resource Centre. Paul Marvell, Battersea's Interim Director of Fundraising, said: "We're incredibly grateful to players of People's Postcode Lottery for their continued support. This wonderful donation will help Battersea give thousands more dogs and cats a second chance in life."



## Yorkshire cats head to the capital

Here at Battersea, we like to help dogs and cats in need of care across the country. And, as the charity is seeing a strong interest in rehoming, there aren't always enough dogs and cats to meet customer demand in the South East. Therefore, Battersea works with rescues located all over the country who may have a surplus number of residents, including Yorkshire Cat Rescue, which has partnered with us to start shuttling a number of cats every month to London where they can be rehomed.

▶ [To view all our cats currently looking for homes, visit \[Battersea.org.uk/cats\]\(http://Battersea.org.uk/cats\)](#)

### Battersea by numbers

# 1883

The year Battersea started taking in cats, after a £500 donation by Mr Richard Barlow Kennett, honouring the wishes of his late wife.

## Changing Faces

You may notice that the next issue of *paws* landing on your doorstep looks a little different. No need to panic – we haven't changed any of the things you love about the magazine and about Battersea, but we are undergoing a makeover this year, which will be noticeable across all our centres and the ways in which we communicate with you, our incredible supporters. Keep your eyes peeled and let us know what you think of our new look.



**FAST FACT** Dogs curl up because of an instinct to keep warm and protect vital organs while they sleep

## Getting social

The use of influencers and social media is hugely popular in today's world and Battersea has begun an exciting new era of working with some very special 'animal influencers' in an innovative and engaging way.

Dog and cat Instagram influencers from across the UK are helping to promote Battersea's dogs and cats to a wider animal-loving audience by posting content and photos about the Home's animals with links to their rehoming profiles on the Battersea website. Battersea is planning on working more closely with popular influencers throughout 2018 and hopes to get them involved with events such as Muddy Dog Challenge, which Instagram-famous Husky Anuko (pictured right) and his owner Jasmine have already signed up for.

▶ Follow us! Simply search for @battersea on Instagram



@huskyanuko

**FAST FACT** Powerful night vision allows cats to see at light levels six times lower than humans

## Battersea in the community

While the number of stray dogs is decreasing year on year, during 2016 to 2017 there were still 66,000 stray dogs across the UK. In 2017, with the help of a grant of £33,075 from Support Adoption for Pets – an independent charity established by Pets at Home – Battersea began to roll out a project among various Local Authorities to improve the knowledge, resources and quality of care for stray dogs in council pounds. Alongside this, the project aims to help increase public awareness of responsible dog ownership, which will in turn encourage fewer strays on London's streets. Battersea is incredibly grateful to Support Adoption for Pets for helping the Home to pilot this innovative project, which will expand across more local authorities and help even more dogs in 2018.



## Teeing off in tribute of a great supporter

As a charity that receives no government funding, without our supporters Battersea simply couldn't exist. And one friend of Battersea, Dave Bumstead of the Rose Inn in Rainham, Kent, has so far raised an incredible £1,098 in memory of his partner, Ann Egan, who passed away in 2015.

As well as a collection from family and friends, Dave organised a charity golf day and raffle in Ann's memory. The event was a big success with 40 participants raising an amazing £828 for Battersea. Dave plans to continue Ann's legacy by making this an annual event in support of our dogs and cats.

To show our thanks for Dave's fantastic fundraising achievements we have placed a plaque at our London centre as a lasting tribute to Ann and her love of animals.

▶ Find out more about donating in memory by emailing [specialgifts@battersea.org.uk](mailto:specialgifts@battersea.org.uk)



One of Battersea's community engagement workshops underway

**FAST FACT** Dogs have around 1,700 taste buds, and cats 473



## Feline Forever Loved

Last year, 19-year-old domestic short-hair Nala found her quiet life suddenly turned upside down after her previous owner sadly passed away. Fortunately, Nala was part of Battersea's Forever Loved scheme, which promises pet owners the peace of mind that we will care for and rehome their much-loved companion should the worst happen. Because of this, her owner's family knew to bring her to Battersea, where she spent just seven days as our oldest feline resident before finding herself the perfect new retirement home with her new owner, Elizabeth, who says: "I loved the idea of giving an older cat a home. Me and Nala might not have as many years together as I would like, so we have to make sure we really enjoy our time together."

▶ For more information about our Forever Loved scheme, please call 020 7627 9300 or email [specialgifts@battersea.org.uk](mailto:specialgifts@battersea.org.uk)



### When you play, they win

In January, Battersea launched its first lottery – The Paw Draw weekly lottery – in which players could win one of 14 prizes up to £600 every week. There is also the chance to win up to £3,000 in our super draw, which occurs four times a year. The Paw Draw weekly lottery is a great way to support Battersea. You'll be helping care for the thousands of abandoned, lost and unwanted animals who arrive at our gates every year, and while they win, you could too.

To find out more about how you can play The Paw Draw visit [battersea.org.uk/PawDraw](http://battersea.org.uk/PawDraw)

**FAST FACT** Dogs can locate a sound source in 6/100ths of a second

## POGDOGS triumphs at the NTAs

It was a night to cherish at this year's National Television Awards in January, when Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs was honoured with a Special Recognition award. Paul O'Grady, accompanied by Battersea's Chief Executive Claire Horton, Head Vet Shaun Opperman and Head of Canine Behaviour & Training Ali Taylor, went up to accept the award in front of a packed O2 arena and millions watching at home. What made it so special was this award was in recognition of how POGDOGS has helped the nation better understand and want to rehome rescue dogs. Accepting the award, Paul said: "For me, I'm delighted that the programme's done well because it highlights the work that goes on at Battersea. Thank god you lot are there to take [dogs] in and work the magic that you do. I can't tell you how much I respect you all." Paul also urged viewers to avoid buying dogs from the internet and encouraged them to come to Battersea instead.



**60 million**  
over 60 million viewers tuned in to watch POGDOGS during 2017



### Five minutes with...

Debbie Catt – Battersea Voices Volunteer and Tour Guide

#### Q: What does it mean to be a Battersea Voice?

A: I arrange and give talks to as many groups of people as I can – spreading the word about all the brilliant work Battersea does. I also attend events such as dog shows, and am proud to represent Battersea making speeches and generally raising awareness about everything we do. It's an absolute delight to share my enthusiasm and admiration for the way we care for our animals and our wonderful rehoming success stories.

#### Q: What's your favourite part of the role?

A: Public speaking isn't everyone's idea of fun, but it certainly is mine. I really love being able to tell people about the history of Battersea, how they can support us and why we continue to have so many animals that need our help. I've found one of the best ways to get information across is by my cat and dog quizzes – these have proved very popular, especially with younger audiences such as Rainbows and Brownies. Keeping their attention is quite a challenge, but I now have a Labrador puppy puppet, which is really making an impact!

▶ To arrange group tours, contact [doyourownthing@battersea.org.uk](mailto:doyourownthing@battersea.org.uk)

To find out about volunteering visit [battersea.org.uk/support-us/volunteer](http://battersea.org.uk/support-us/volunteer)



# Events

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

### Brighton Marathon

15 April 2018

Start the year as you mean to go on, join team Battersea and take on the Brighton Marathon in 2018. Running along the Brighton seafront, you can take in the sights while achieving something incredible. To join team Battersea, visit [battersea.org.uk/brightonmarathon](http://battersea.org.uk/brightonmarathon)

### London Marathon

22 April 2018

Are you running the London Marathon this year? Why not join team Battersea and help to raise vital funds? You will receive a bespoke fundraising vest and the opportunity to come to the Home

and meet some of our animals.

Find out how to support us at

[battersea.org.uk/londonmarathon](http://battersea.org.uk/londonmarathon)

### Get Trekking

Share an amazing experience with friends and take on the challenge of walking or running 100km, 50km or 25km in some of the most picturesque places in the UK. Sign up for one of the following treks at [battersea.org.uk/support-us/challenges](http://battersea.org.uk/support-us/challenges)

#### Isle of Wight

5–6 May 2018

#### London 2 Brighton

26–27 May 2018

#### Cotswold Way

30 June–1 July 2018

#### Jurassic Coast

21–22 July 2018

#### Wye Valley

11–12 August 2018

#### South Coast

25–26 August 2018

#### Thames Bridges Trek

8 September 2018

#### Thames Path

8–9 September 2018

### Muddy Dog Challenge

Join us for the UK's first 2.5km and 5km obstacle runs that you can do with your dog! You can enter as a dog-and-human duo or go solo. Prepare yourself for a day of mud, sweat and cheers on our dog-friendly obstacle course. By taking part, you'll be helping us provide

love and care for the thousands of dogs and cats in our care.

In 2018, Muddy Dog Challenges will take place in Windsor on 30 June/1 July, Nottingham on 9/10 June, Manchester on 7 July, Peterborough on 28 July, Cardiff on 18 August and Tunbridge Wells on 29/30 September.

Visit [battersea.org.uk/muddydog](http://battersea.org.uk/muddydog) to find out more.





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# The great outdoors





*Outdoor  
essentials*

Make sure your cat is microchipped, and remember to update your details whenever you move house.

# o o r s

**Many people assume that cats are happy to lie on the sofa all day, but there's a whole world out there they'd love to explore...**

**M**ost cats are happiest when outdoors, as being outside is the most natural thing for them. They love having the freedom to wander around, explore their own territory, and seek out interesting sights and smells. These activities all help to keep a cat mentally stimulated and physically active.

However, allowing your cat to explore the outside can be a big step for any cat owner, so Battersea has come up with some ideas to make your garden more cat-friendly – so your cat can have the best of both worlds.

In some cases, an attractive garden may also become irresistible to other felines, so make sure that there are lots of safe places in the garden for your cat to go to if necessary.

Sue Hartley, Battersea's Feline Welfare Manager, says, "By providing your cat with a feline-friendly outdoor environment, your cat can still safely explore the outdoors without needing to venture off on long hikes. It can also help them to feel relaxed and at ease in their own home. Mental stimulation is key, and your cat needs plenty of fun things to do to keep them nearby."





**Outdoor essentials**  
If possible, a quick release safety collar with contact information is also useful.

Battersea staff cat Barry ruling the roost in his new outdoor environment.

### A cat-friendly garden

Ensuring that your garden is safe and fun for your feline friends is easy. Cats love to play and hide, so give your cat hidey holes in and around the garden and make sure that he or she has access to the following:

-  Places to get up high and feel safe
-  Comfortable spots for relaxation
-  Access to fresh water
-  Shelter from the wind, rain and cold
-  Something to scratch on
-  Places to do their business

### What about FIV cats?

Battersea believes that cats who have tested positive for FIV should still be able to explore the outside, so that they're not frustrated at being stuck inside and can enjoy positive experiences. To minimise the risk of spreading FIV among cats, a cat-proof garden is always required.

A cat-proof garden requires a high barrier or structure that would make it impossible for your cat to climb or jump up and out of the garden. This barrier could be an overhang of netting secured to the top of the fence or rolling poles across the top of the fencing. These barriers should also stop other cats from coming in.

As before, your garden should have all the elements of an enriched cat-friendly garden, but your cat will have less freedom to roam outside of the garden boundaries, so an enclosed garden will need plenty of stimulation to prevent your cat from getting bored or frustrated. The more interesting elements and areas that can be added to the garden, the more appealing and beneficial it will be for your cat. Don't forget to provide lots of stimulation indoors for your cat. As well as toys, a range of indoor plants such as catnip and cat grass can be easily grown in small pots and placed around the house for your cat to sniff and chew on. 🐾

### What is FIV?

- FIV stands for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus
- It's a slow-acting virus that affects the white blood cells causing a gradual decline in the cat's immune function
- FIV affects approximately 2%–5% of the cat population in the UK
- Many cats with FIV enjoy a normal lifespan with no apparent health concerns
- A cat with FIV has a greater risk of disease from infection from other viruses and bacteria
- Biting (typically when cats fight) is the main method of transmission as the virus passes through the saliva to the bloodstream
- A cat with FIV should have good-quality food in appropriate quantities, regular worming, flea treatment, yearly booster vaccinations and prompt vet care when unwell

### No-risk nature

Cats are also big fans of plants so a few interesting shrubs in the garden will make it extra appealing for your moggy, but be sure to do your research thoroughly first to make sure any plants in your garden are non-toxic. Below are just a few of the plants and flowers that are potentially harmful to cats:





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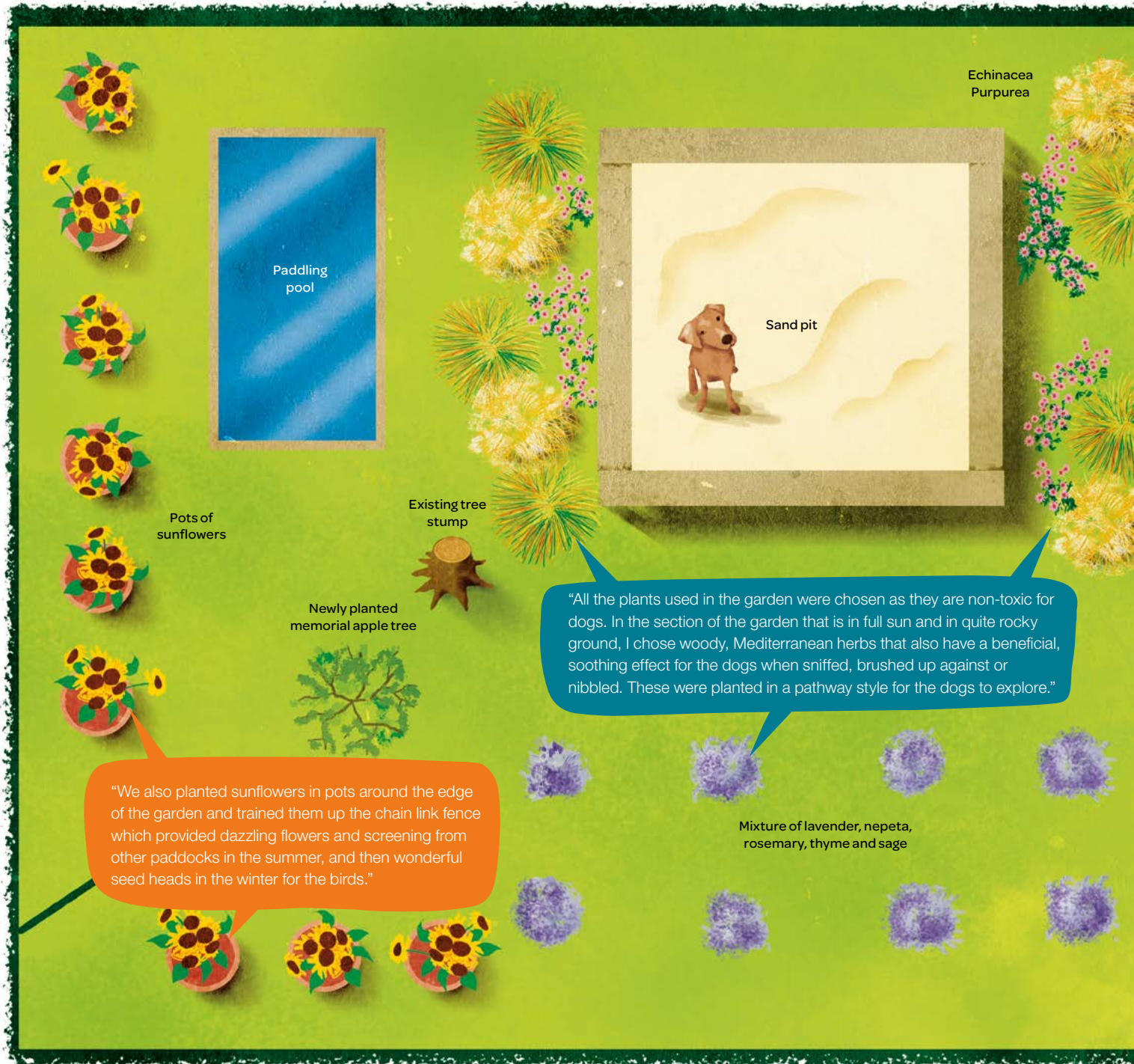
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# Back to Nature

Spring has certainly sprung over at Battersea's Brands Hatch Centre, thanks to its stunning new sensory garden. Katie Morgan, Volunteer Head Gardener, explains the features and plants used to create this special place.







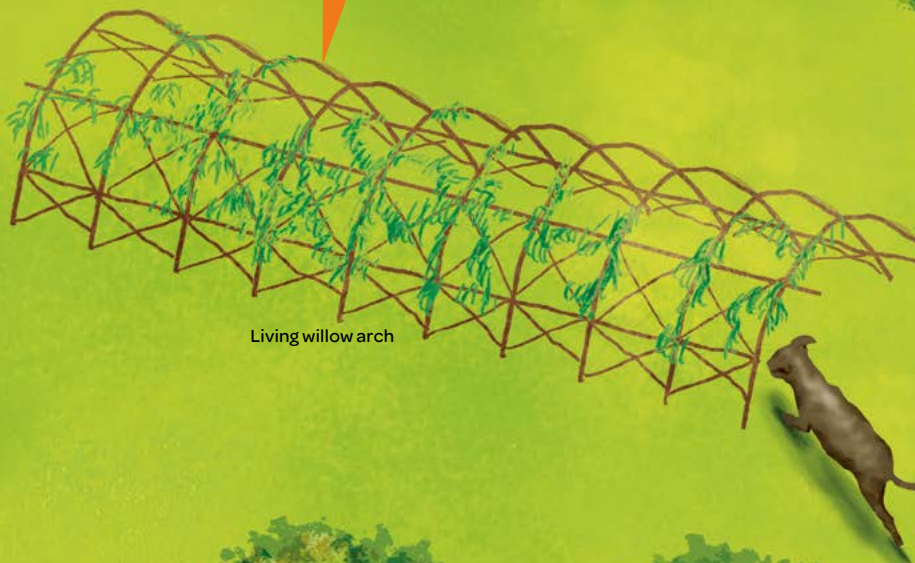
“Opened back in 1999, Battersea’s Brands Hatch centre offers a stunning rural environment for its temporary residents, many of whom are larger breeds or long-stays in need of more physical and mental stimulation. Surrounded by fields, the centre already offers a nature-rich environment for its residents, however, not all dogs are comfortable in such an open space. To create a more reassuring and safe environment, in which dogs could enjoy off-lead training, Brands Hatch staff and volunteers recently worked to transform an unused paddock into a garden that all residents can explore and enjoy.

We have kept the garden quite simple to begin with and will see what works and develop it further over the coming year. We did almost all the building and planting in May 2017, with the help of a wonderful team of volunteers from the fashion brand company Stella McCartney. There were some features in the paddock that we decided to keep, for example stumps and logs from felled trees that could be used for climbing and jumping.

The plan was to have the features around the edge of the paddock so that walking could be done around the edge, with the open space in the middle left free for running. The sand pit, grassy areas, bark and paddling pool all provide different textures and experiences.” 🐾

“The living willow tunnel was created for the dogs to explore, and will provide a shady spot for rest in the summer. The willow twigs are intertwined to create an arch, which we left open at both ends so dogs don’t become trapped and so that handlers can get into the tunnel if necessary.”

Mixture of Carex and Stipa



Living willow arch



Existing tree

Bug hotel

Ferns

Logs

Bark chippings

Ferns

“At the bottom of the paddock there was a lot of flint, so a 30cm deep layer of play bark was brought in and planted with beautiful semi-evergreen ferns which provide lush greenery in a shady spot. The ferns we used were: *dryopteris erythrosa* and *dryopteris filix-mas*.”



Table

Existing tree

Existing tree

Bench



# Happily rehomed

Some of the Battersea dogs and cats getting their second chance at happiness...

## Jerry jumps into a new home

It was love at first meow for **Jerry** and his new owner Jordan Bunce. Arriving at our Old Windsor centre in September, Jerry was a stray and found in a poor state. While sitting in his pod awaiting a vet check, Jordan spotted him and fell in love. The staff explained that Jerry was unable to be rehomed just yet as he still needed some medical assessments, but his potential new owner vowed to keep an eye out and scanned the website each day waiting for the moment he could take him home. A month later, his wish came true! Since going home, we hear that Jerry has been sleeping all day and playing with his toys all night – what a lucky cat to find such a happy ending!



## Happy Batter-versary

**Boo** and **Bear** recently celebrated a one-year anniversary of finding a happy forever home with Rachael Peddie and family in Hither Green. The pair of Shih-tzus spent just eight days at Battersea's Brands Hatch centre last summer before being snapped up. Since then, Boo and Bear have joined in on holidays to Scotland, Margate, Dorset and Devon. "They seem to be a favourite with everyone," says Rachael. "We tell everyone where they came from, as they make great ambassadors for Battersea."



## Sphynx high-jinx

**Bella** and **Kiki**, eight-year-old Sphynxes, arrived at Battersea together at the beginning of December and went home just after the New Year. Charlotte Dawson, a registered vet, was happy to take these beautiful ladies. While at the cattery, the pair loved climbing on staff's shoulders. Charlotte says: "At home, their personalities shine through. Bella loves playing and will climb on me as soon as I sit down, whereas Kiki is a big foodie who runs when she hears a food packet rustle!"



## Henry's happy home

**Henry** the poodle (formerly Enzo) found his new home in September last year with Tracey O'Dell in South London. Henry arrived at Battersea in a bad way – he was overweight and not happy. Now Henry has a routine in place, going for regular walks and keeping to his diet. He also doubles as an alarm clock – trotting into the bedroom every morning at 6am to tug on the quilt. Tracey says: "Thanks for a super little dog who is now having fun walks and joining in with the other doggies at the park."



## Terrific Ting Ting

Handsome **Ting Ting** was a favourite in the London cattery during his month-long stay. Although an affectionate and playful boy, it took Ting Ting a little bit longer than expected to find a home as he tested positive for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV). This meant he needed an enclosed garden where he could spend time outdoors without encountering other cats – new owner Rob George could offer Ting Ting just that. "He has settled in well," says Rob. "We are delighted he is part of our family."



# Little Paws

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

Cool pics, quizzes & a poster!

Winner!  
Ryan with  
Blaze



Amelia with  
Toby



Callum  
with Tawny

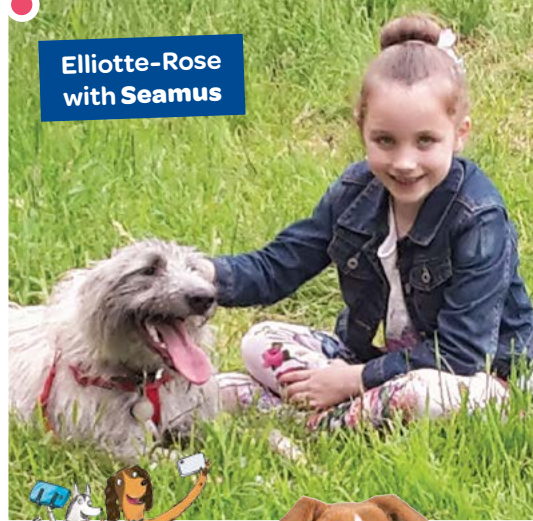
## Your epic pet selfies...

Chayelle  
and Pepsi

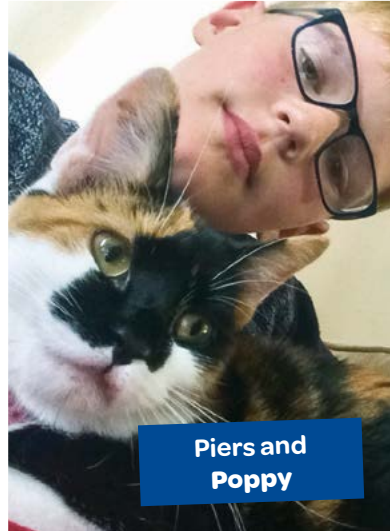


Ellen  
with Sally

Elliotte-Rose  
with Seamus



Catherine  
with Rosie



Piers and  
Poppy

### Win!



Chatty Charlie the Barkin' Beagle

FurReal Friends have teamed up with Battersea to give one lucky Little Paws reader the chance to win their very own Chatty Charlie the Barkin' Beagle - a fun, cuddly dog with a collar that translates his 80+ barks into phrases to reveal exactly what he is thinking and feeling. With ears that move, Charlie also responds to touch and cuddles, and wags his tail when petted.

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



Little  
paws







## Barney and Wizzy

**Barney** Labrador, four years old

**Wizzy** Domestic short-hair,  
four weeks old

Orphan kitten Wizzy was found sheltering in a London back garden along with her siblings, aged just four weeks. They'd been abandoned by their mum and were suffering from cat flu. Luckily for little Wizzy, Battersea's resident cat-sitter, Barney the loving Labrador, was around to share his bed space and this cute little kitten was soon doing well again after her rough start in life.





# Little paws Your stories



## Brownies at Battersea

Before Christmas, a local Brownies group had been very busy knitting blankets to keep our dogs and cats warm in winter. As the cold weather crept across London, the 4th Shirley Brownies from Croydon, with their leader Sheila Fenner (far right), paid a visit to our London centre to donate the blankets. The group then toured the public cattery and kennel blocks with Senior Receptionist Emily Hodesdon (back, left). Battersea staff made sure to put the bright and cosy blankets to good use, and our animals enjoyed snuggling up in them throughout the season.

## Baked with love

Over the festive period we received lots of generous donations across our three centres. One young Battersea supporter kindly decided to use her free time over the holidays to cook up some treats for our animals. Twelve-year-old Maya Shah developed her recipe using animal-friendly ingredients, and brought in bags of homemade pet treats for all our animals to enjoy. During her visit, Maya enjoyed looking around the kennels and seeing all the dogs who, in return, enjoyed their homemade treats.



## A special birthday gift

A few weeks ago, animal lover Cyra Sachan arrived at our London centre with her nine-year-old sister Gia and their father. Seven-year-old Cyra kindly donated £55 to us, which she chose to receive instead of birthday presents this year. Although the family don't have any pets at the moment, the sisters come from a big family of animal lovers and their dad Sunil volunteered at an animal shelter in Chicago a few years ago.



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

1. Dogs' whiskers help them see in the dark

True  
 False



3. Cats have a barbed tongue

True  
 False



2. Cats meow to communicate with each other

True  
 False

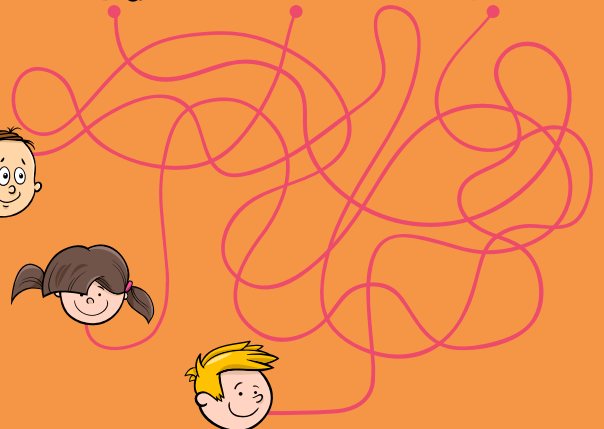


4. Dogs have sweat glands all over their skin

True  
 False

ANSWERS: 1: True – they can tell a dog about changes in air currents so they know what's nearby, eating and grooming. 2: False – they only meow to communicate with humans. 3: True – these tiny hooks are useful for to cool down. 4: False – dogs only have sweat glands in their paws, which is why they pant.

## Purr-fect partners Can you match these friendly felines to their owners?





# Take us home

There are plenty of dogs and cats at Battersea waiting for their very own new beginning. Here are just some of our adorable animals looking for a fresh start this spring...



**PENELOPE**  
*1 year old*

✉ [bow.rehomers@battersea.org.uk](mailto:bow.rehomers@battersea.org.uk)

Meet Penelope, our affectionate Lurcher lady who is really coming out of her shell. She will need owners with some understanding of worried dogs to help her blossom, and should ideally live with a dog friend to help her see that the world isn't so scary. She would be best suited to a quiet home with a private garden.



**BONNIE**  
*4 years old*

✉ [rehoming@battersea.org.uk](mailto:rehoming@battersea.org.uk)

This Bonnie lass is a very sweet and affectionate lady, looking for a new home with owners who are experienced in socialising dogs. Bonnie loves to settle in big beds and play with her tennis balls. She is such a joyful, loyal character who needs a quiet home where she can settle in at her own pace.



**PEPPER**  
*4 years old*

✉ [rehoming@battersea.org.uk](mailto:rehoming@battersea.org.uk)

Pepper loves nothing more than playing with her toys and making new friends - both human and four-legged. Pepper can be anxious at times, and will need to be encouraged to relax when left alone. Her new owners must also be able to continue her training and keep her clever mind ticking over with mental stimulation.



**SNUGGLES**  
*2 years old*

✉ [rehoming@battersea.org.uk](mailto:rehoming@battersea.org.uk)

Despite his big cheeks, typical of tough tom cats, Snuggles can be a bit shy until he gets to know you. Once he grows confident, he loves having his head rubbed and meows when it's time for his food. He is looking for a human companion who can get him settled in a new home and allow him access to their garden.



**GEOFF**  
*3 years old*

✉ [bbh.rehomers@battersea.org.uk](mailto:bbh.rehomers@battersea.org.uk)

Jovial Geoff is a cracking cat who loves to meet new people and friends alike. While sometimes he can feel a little insecure, with a little love and encouragement Geoff forgets his fears and will seek lots of fuss and attention. Geoff will need access to a garden once settled in his new home.

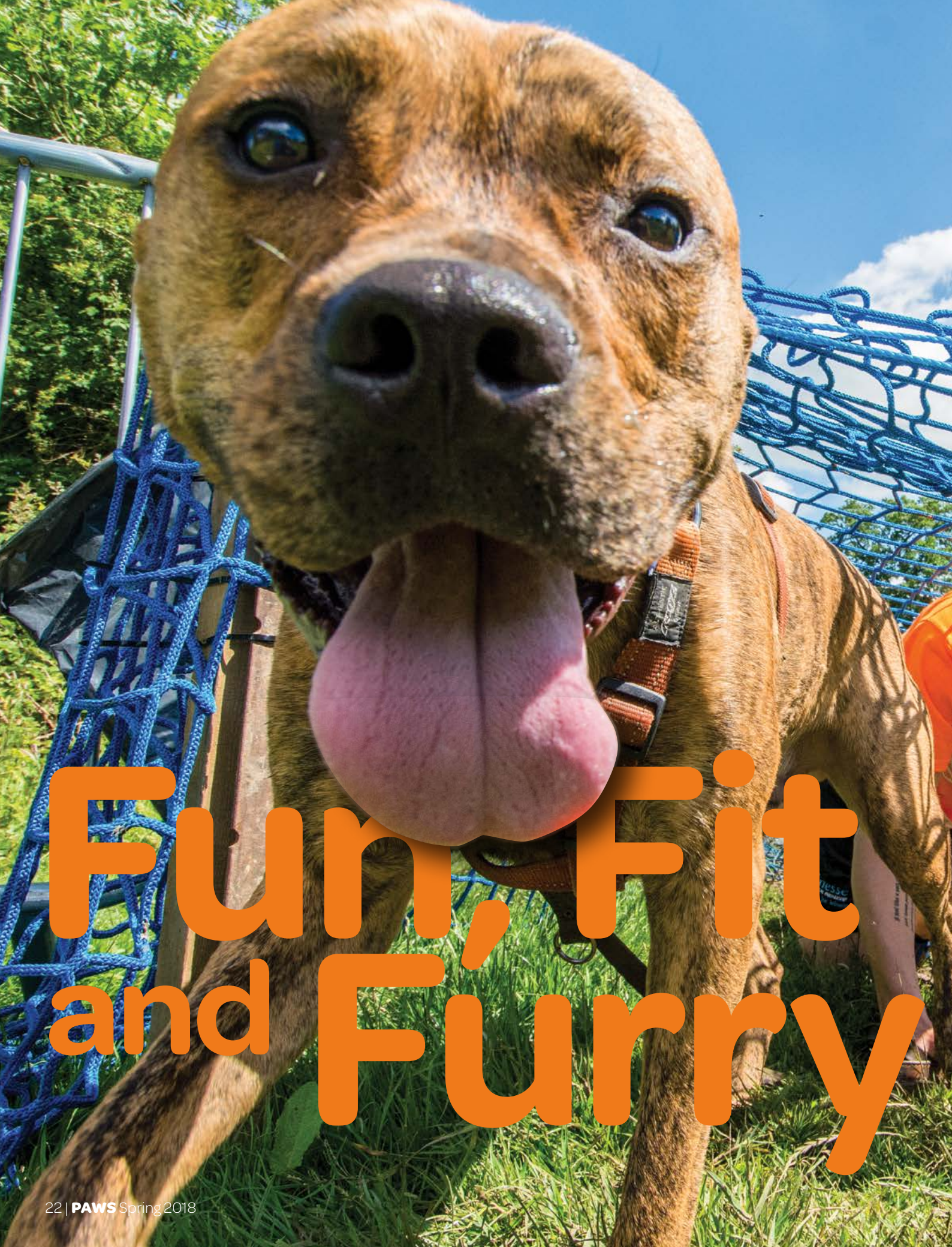


**TONY**  
*4 years old*

✉ [rehoming@battersea.org.uk](mailto:rehoming@battersea.org.uk)

Though he has been quiet during his first few days at Battersea, there is one surefire way to get Tony talking - and that's his food! Tony is looking for a new home with access to a garden, as he loves going on adventures outdoors, and patient owners who will allow him the time he needs to come out of his shell.





# Fun, Fit and Furry



45 miles

The average distance participants travelled to join in the Muddy Dog Challenge

## From muddy obstacle courses to running free, Battersea's experts advise on the endless exercise options you can enjoy with your canine companion

As the dark evenings draw out and temperatures start to rise, there is no better time than now to start getting active. And your canine companion can make the perfect exercise partner. Keeping fit will not only help you both maintain a healthy lifestyle but will also help your four-legged friend stay stimulated, with lots of new smells to sniff and different textured surfaces to explore while exercising.

Battersea's experts share their top tips for you and your dog to take on for the start of summer...

### Getting muddy

Battersea's Muddy Dog Challenge is back for the fourth year running, with even more dates and venues added across the UK thanks to popular demand. The 2.5km and 5km obstacle course serves as the perfect opportunity to work out alongside your dog, no matter what your fitness level.

Supported by LV=, Muddy Dog Challenge is the UK's first obstacle course where runners have the option to take part with their furry friends. Participants are asked to raise a minimum of £100 sponsorship for Battersea.

Sarah Whiffen, a Canine Behaviourist and Training Advisor at Battersea's Old Windsor centre, says: "Whether you're an active runner or a first-time beginner, taking part in Battersea's Muddy Dog Challenge is a fun way to exercise with your dog while raising vital money for the homeless dogs and cats in our care.

"We recommend talking to a vet before starting any exercise programme to ensure your dog can safely take part. There are lots of different techniques to get you both off to a flying start, including gentle play with toys in your back garden or at the park.

Sarah adds: "Taking your dog on gentle walks, building up to a light jog will also help you and your hound to gradually build up stamina. Remember, always start off with a warm up to

avoid injury! It's important to give your dog lots of breaks and to look out for signs of tiredness.

"We suggest spending at least eight weeks training for the obstacle course, especially if you decide to tackle the 5km route. As dogs must be on a lead at all times, we recommend training with a harness rather than a collar.

Sarah continues: "Getting your dog familiar with obstacles will also help you both on the day. Start off with a small object on the ground, such as a broom handle. Let them smell and explore the object before enticing them to step over it.

You can then begin to build height, making sure they're comfortable with jumping over obstacles – treats are a great way to encourage this!"

If you'd like to try it, Muddy Dog Challenge 2018 will be taking place in Nottingham, Windsor, Manchester, Peterborough, Cardiff and Tunbridge Wells. Keep a look out for lots of training hints

and tips available on our website, including a downloadable training plan.

Find out more at [muddyydog.battersea.org.uk/muddyydog](http://muddyydog.battersea.org.uk/muddyydog).

### Joining forces

On the hunt for a jogging partner? Then look no further as Canicross provides the perfect opportunity for you to go running and get fit alongside your four-legged companion. Dawn Grehan, one of Battersea's Rehoming and Welfare Assistants, explains: "Canicross is

Alfie

The most popular name for dogs taking part in Muddy Dog Challenge 2017

Proudly supported by





## you and your dog

a fantastic way to get active with your dog, especially if you're a big fan of running. There's nothing better than a run in the sunset.

"Canicross involves stepping into a harness and clipping it around your waist. Then there's a bungee, about two metres long, that clips onto a harness on the dog. It's a specific harness designed so that it's not pulling against their neck, the pull is taken through the dog's shoulders."

Dawn continues: "As the harness fits snugly so that the dog is pulling through your hips, this enables you to remain balanced. You've also got free hands, allowing you to steer much easier and carry water bottles for you both. It's such a fun bonding activity to do with your dog and it's also proving to be a great way to exercise Battersea dogs away from kennels. Myself and other staff regularly take dogs out to do Canicross in Battersea Park, where we both end up burning off plenty of energy!"

### Making tracks

For a fun and active game to enjoy with your dog, tracking provides the perfect opportunity



**Labrador**

The most popular breed to take part in the Muddy Dog Challenge 2017

*"With Canicross, the harness fits snugly around your waist so that the dog is pulling through your hips – this enables you to remain balanced"*

**2,600+**

Over 2,600 dogs took part in MDC 2017



to spend time exploring the great outdoors together. The exhilarating game, which is especially popular among sniffing breeds such as Beagles, Spaniels and Shepherds, involves using a long line lead to allow your dog to explore hidden objects using scent.

Stacey Judd, Canine Behaviourist and Training Advisor at Battersea, says: "Tracking is a fun activity, especially on a long country walk. It's the perfect opportunity to keep your dog mentally and physically active while keeping yourself fit."

Stacey continues: "We recommend starting off in an area with limited foot traffic, such as an open field, to help your dog develop first-rate sniffing skills. We suggest using objects such as old T-shirts, pegs, toys and tennis balls.

"Make sure to leave their favourite treat or toy at the end of the trail to reward them for their good behaviour. Remember, dogs are like humans and need to start off slow. Take care to warm up and help them build up stamina." 🐾

### More fun ways to get fit with your furry friend

- Long walks in the park
- Playing fetch
- Agility training
- Flyball – a doggy team sport





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# Grooming at home

If a luxury weekend at the pamper parlour isn't quite on the cards for your dog or cat, keeping your furry friend looking and feeling their very best with a spot of grooming at home doesn't have to be a challenge...

Meet our experts



**Catherine Etheridge**

Battersea Groomer



**Evy Mayes**

Feline Welfare Advisor

Above right: Catherine at work getting one of Battersea's animals looking and feeling good  
Opposite page: Bathing cats is often a far more tricky task, given they are the kings and queens of self-grooming




**Win!**

Malin + Goetz Dog Shampoo is not only good for pampering your own pooch, but with £1.66 from each bottle sold in the UK donated to Battersea it can help make our animals feel cared for, too. For the chance to win one of 10 bottles for your own dog, simply email your name with the subject "Malin + Goetz" to [paws@battersea.org.uk](mailto:paws@battersea.org.uk) (winners will be selected at random).




## **Q** How often would you recommend I bathe my dog?

 All dogs have natural oils in their coat that are promoted by good diet and exercise, but you need to bear in mind the environment your dog lives in. If there are many pollutants in the air like cigarette smoke or traffic fumes, for example, which can build up on your dog's coat, bathing would be beneficial. Dogs can have sensitive skin so if you are bathing regularly you will need to use a product that is not going to become an irritant. Dogs who love to roll in the mud will sparkle again after a good brush once the mud has dried. Also, avoid making it into an ordeal – not many dogs will appreciate being hosed down with cold water – so there's nothing wrong with making the environment calm and relaxed with soft lighting as though you were about to enjoy a nice pampering bath yourself. If you are going to use a professional groomer, find one you and your dog are happy with. Make sure they are sympathetic and reading your dog's signals and, while they might give your dog a bit of style, it is still up to you to do the ground-work in maintaining your dog's coat,

keeping them comfortable and building good associations with being handled.

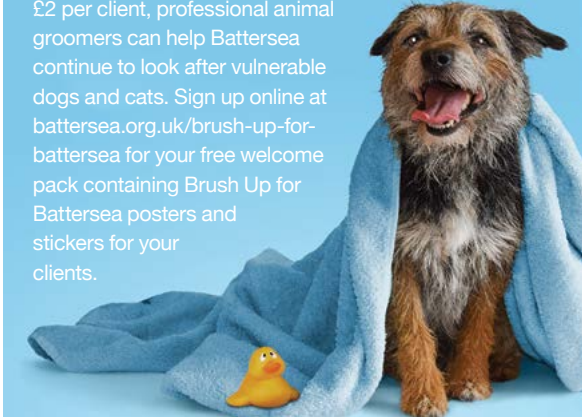
## **Q** Is it OK to clip my cat's claws at home and how should I do so safely?

 As most active cats maintain their own claws by keeping them clean and sharp during their daily activities, owners shouldn't necessarily need to clip their cat's claws. It's important that every cat has their own scratching post in the home to help with claw maintenance. Scratching posts come in all shapes and sizes, but it is important to ensure your cat's scratching post is rigid and large enough for your cat to fully stretch along it. You can also offer a horizontal scratching board to your cat as they may prefer this option to maintain their claws. Elderly or less active cats may not be able to retract their claws as easily, so they may get caught up in furniture around the house or their claws may overgrow and stick to their pads. If regular claw trimming is necessary due to these reasons, please seek advice from your veterinarian on how to clip your individual cat's nails in the most feline-friendly way.



## Brush Up for Battersea

Any professional pet groomers out there are invited to 'Brush Up for Battersea' later this year. By donating just £2 per client, professional animal groomers can help Battersea continue to look after vulnerable dogs and cats. Sign up online at [battersea.org.uk/brush-up-for-battersea](http://battersea.org.uk/brush-up-for-battersea) for your free welcome pack containing Brush Up for Battersea posters and stickers for your clients.



### Q My dog's breath is a bit stinky – how can I freshen up his dental hygiene?

If your dog has very smelly breath, it may require more than a bit of toothpaste. A trip to the vets is always recommended to ensure that your dog does not have gum disease or any infection due to a build-up of tartar on the teeth. This can be painful and affect their quality of life, so the best thing to do is to try not to let it get to this stage. Look at your dog's diet – dry kibble and the opportunity to chew on recommended toys and treats can help prevent decay. There are dedicated toothpastes and brushes available, but ensure that if you are going to use these that your dog is happy with the procedure and, if you have a puppy, you can start from scratch with a soft finger brush to get them used to it.

### Q My cat would never let me get near her with a toothbrush – how can I help keep her teeth clean?

There are more passive ways an owner could try to help manage dental disease in their cat. This can be by putting your cat on a veterinary-specific diet or by offering your cat chews and treats that have mechanical and chemical properties to help remove and prevent plaque. The best way forward would be to seek advice from your veterinary practice to see what works best for you and your cat.

### Q My long-haired cat tends to get little knots on her belly – is it OK to brush these out or should I cut them? I'm worried I might break the skin...

The belly of a cat is naturally an extremely sensitive area, so if you do come across a knot (known as a matt), tease it apart gently using your fingers from root to tip if your cat is comfortable with this. If your cat is not at ease with this then you should stop. Grooming sessions should be as short or long as your cat is happy with, and should be ended before the cat shows any signs of discomfort. Always reward relaxed behaviour with praise and food treats throughout the grooming sessions and at the end. Due to the sensitivity of the belly area, avoid using scissors here as it will be difficult to see where the skin ends and where the hair starts.



Key subtle behaviours that indicate that your cat may be feeling uncomfortable during a grooming session include:

- Skin rippling or twitching, particularly on the cat's back
- Tail swishing or thumping
- A sharp turn of the cat's head towards your hand or the brush
- Sudden freezing or tense behaviour
- Individual ear flicking or both ears rotating backwards
- A swallow or lip lick
  - Head shakes
- A rapid burst of short-lasting grooming to a localised area of the body
- Hissing or growling

If any of these behaviours are observed, interaction should be stopped.

### Q Can I use human bathing and hygiene products on my dog?

It is not recommended that you use human products on your dog – there's such a wide range of dog shampoos out there catering for all different coats that you can find one that really keeps your dog's coat healthy and shiny. Our hair and skin are very different to a dog's, so you may risk causing skin irritations by using products not specifically designated for them.

### Q Are there any other benefits to grooming my cat other than to keep her fur nice?

Most cats will spend a significant part of their day grooming. Their bodies are incredibly supple, bending and flexing to enable cats to reach all body parts with ease. A cat's tongue is covered with small spines designed to remove loose hair and dirt. Long-haired cats ideally need to be groomed every day, but careful attention needs to be paid to your cat's body language and current tolerance level – time spent grooming should not exceed this. Always choose a time to groom when your cat is relaxed and happy. Grooming can provide other benefits, too – if your cat is moulting you can help remove most of the loose hair and prevent hairballs. If your cat is highly social and enjoys social contact, grooming can be very therapeutic for both of you. 🐾

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





# Rescue

*Paws* magazine takes an undercover look at the rehoming process at Battersea, discovering and revealing our top 10 reasons why you should consider rehoming a rescue animal...

## 5 Every pet is unique

All Battersea's animals receive a detailed behaviour and temperament assessment. The Home's behaviourists are highly experienced and knowledgeable about specific breed traits, giving new owners complete peace of mind.



## 3 Battersea animals come in all shapes and sizes

The charity takes in an average of 13 dogs and nine cats a day, 365 days a year. For this reason, Battersea often has a wide range of animals across all three of its centres including pure and cross breeds. The Home takes in lost, abandoned and unwanted dogs and cats of all breeds and sizes, so we never know who will be coming through the gates.

## 4 All animals receive a full veterinary assessment

Battersea's vet checks include worming, flea treatment and vaccinations. All animals rehomed from Battersea may return to the clinic to receive free treatment for conditions relating to their stay at the Home for up to three months after being rehomed.

## 2 Battersea rehomes far and wide

Battersea doesn't just find loving homes for its dogs and cats in and around London – animals from the Home make it much further afield, even overseas. All that's required is that you can travel to one of Battersea's centres to meet your potential new pet then Battersea will arrange a home visit if necessary. Even though some Battersea dogs would prefer a rural environment, there are many who would happily live in a city home. The most important thing is to ensure each dog is matched with the right owner, wherever that home may be.



## 1 The perfect companion

Battersea's aim is to match you and your existing pets with a suitable companion using the experience of its expert rehomers. Everyone's situation is different and adopting a dog or cat is made as stress-free as possible with Battersea's simple three-step rehoming process.





# is best

## 6 Helping to spread the word

Battersea champions and supports all vulnerable dogs and cats and is determined to create lasting change for animals in society. The Home works within the community to inform, educate and advise about animal welfare. So, every time you and your Battersea animal take a walk or post a photo proudly displaying the Battersea tag, you too are helping spread the word about how important and wonderful it is to rehome a rescue animal.

## 7 Keeping it in the Battersea family

As a Battersea dog owner, you will be cordially invited to the Home's Annual Reunion and/or Old Windsor Fun Day events where past four-legged residents and other dogs gather for a great doggie day out to catch up with staff and meet other Battersea dogs and their owners.

## 8 Behavioural advice for life

You are never alone when you adopt a pet from Battersea. The charity's team of experts are only an email or phone call away, offering you and your pet support whenever you may need it.



### Did you know?

One of Battersea's longest-serving residents to date is Biscuit, who spent 689 days in kennels. Luckily, thanks to the Keogh family, Biscuit (now Blake) is living out his happy ending in sunny Cyprus.

## 9 Hairy additions make happy homes

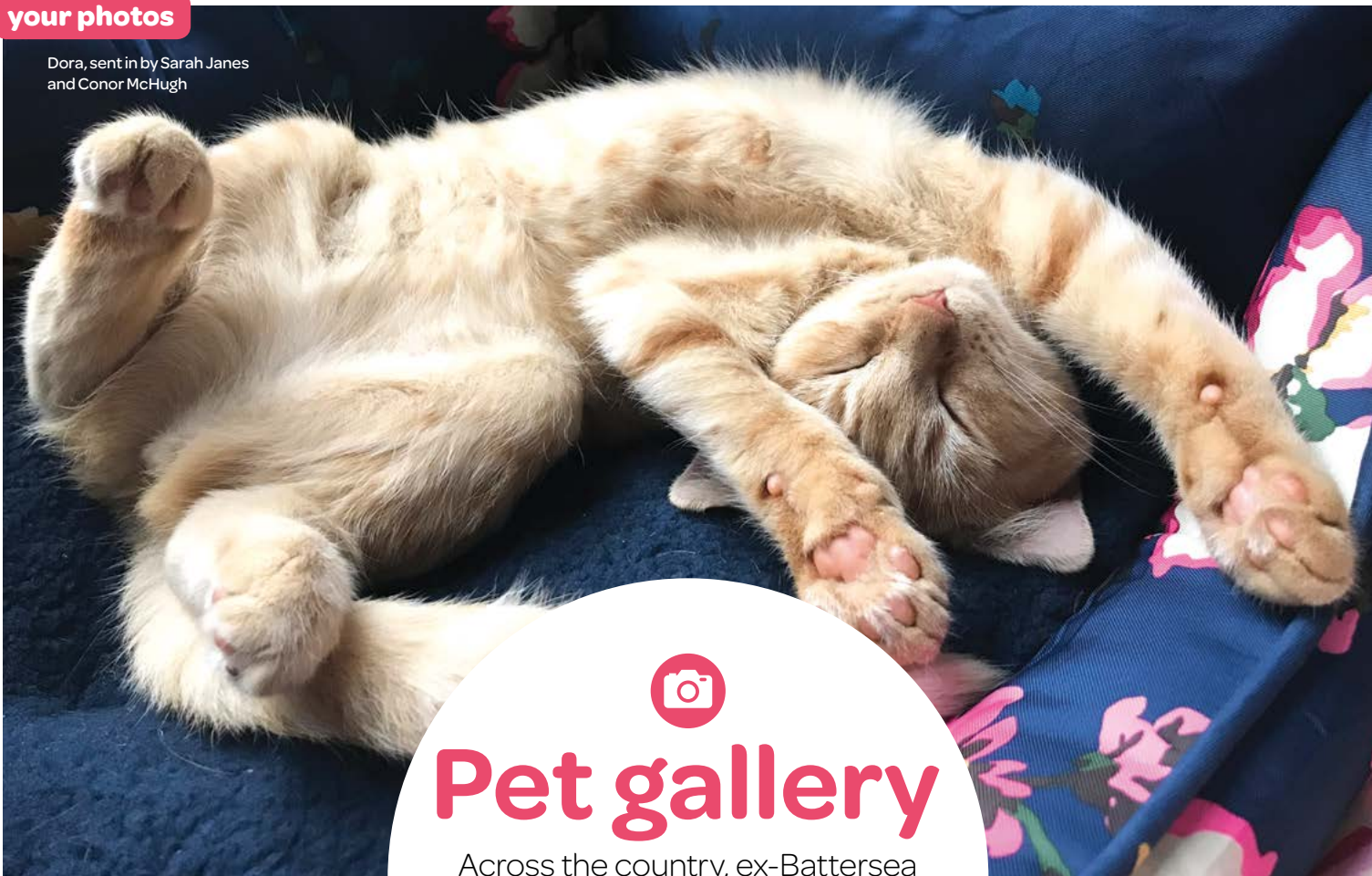
By welcoming a rescue dog or cat into your life you are opening yourself up to finding a new best friend who will bring lots of love to your home. Just a quick flick through this issue – or any other issue – of *paws* will give you plenty of examples of how Battersea animals have changed their owner's world for the better.

## 10 Starting off on the right foot

Battersea's rehoming fee for dogs and cats includes a full veterinary and behavioural assessment, microchipping, initial vaccinations, a collar, identification tag and lead. In most cases your new friend will also have been neutered or have an appointment arranged to do so. Each rehomed dog or cat is covered with four weeks' free Petplan insurance with an added 10% off the cost of the premium each year. Also included in your rehoming pack is a voucher for a free Vac4Life and veterinary consultation with Vets4Pets or Companion Care Vets. Vac4Life gives your pet their annual booster vaccinations for the duration of their life. 🐾



Dora, sent in by Sarah Janes and Conor McHugh



# Pet gallery

Across the country, ex-Battersea animals have been busy settling into their new homes. We love seeing how our former residents are enjoying their happy endings, and are sure you will, too!



Cooper, sent in by Selasie and Isabell Ocloo



Charlie, sent in by Allison, Brad and Catrin Carter



Lola and Max, sent in by Harriet Foster and Charlie Harvey



Fizz, sent in by Paul Walker-MacMahon





Jackson, sent in by Les and Maralyn Aubrey

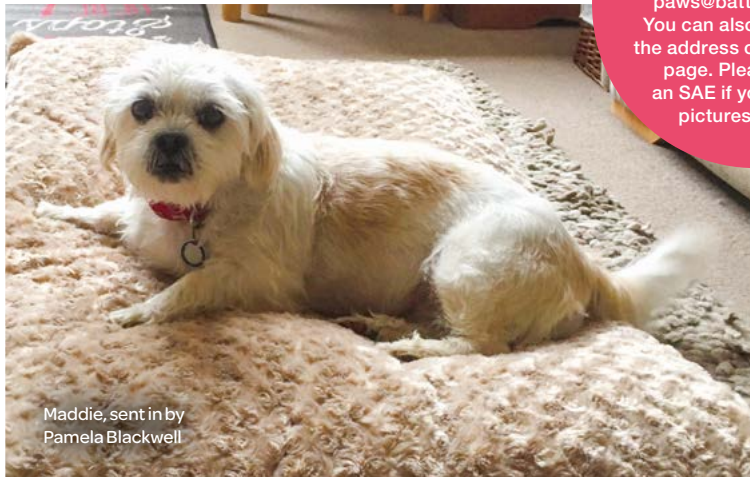


Boris (on the left, formerly Albie) with his pal Hendrix, sent in by Amanda Mitchell



Oscar and Ruby, sent in by Marion and John Griffin

**Share your pictures**  
Email your pet photos (minimum 1MB in size) to: [paws@battersea.org.uk](mailto: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.



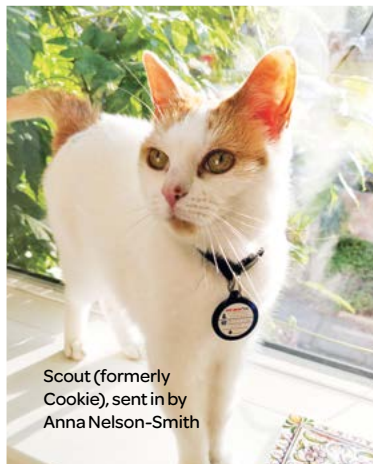
Maddie, sent in by Pamela Blackwell



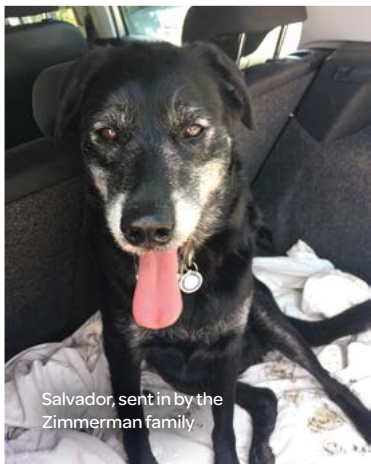
Aslan (formerly Lucky), sent in by Ruth Nevin



Bilbo, sent in by Hannah Matthews



Scout (formerly Cookie), sent in by Anna Nelson-Smith



Salvador, sent in by the Zimmerman family



Paddy, sent in by Deena and Lee Perry



# Your letters

Share your special pet moments with other supporters

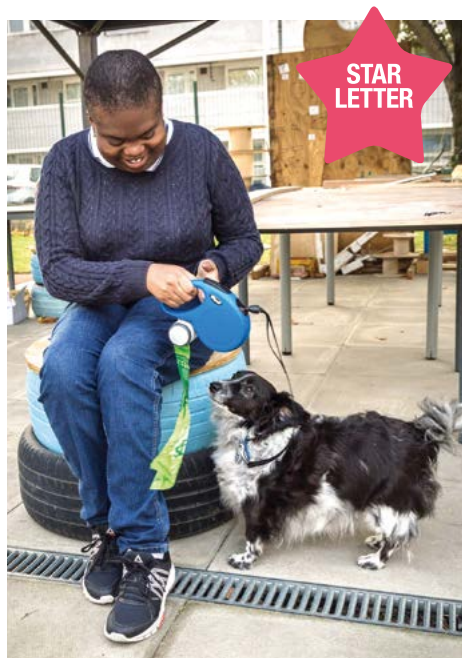
Keep in touch

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 to [paws@battersea.org.uk](mailto:paws@battersea.org.uk) or by post to Paws Magazine, Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, 4 Battersea Park Road, London SW8 4AA



## Your prize

The Casper Dog Bed, from the team behind the Casper mattress, provides the perfect sleep environment designed around your dog's behaviour. It is designed with pressure-relieving memory foam, excess material on top to mimic the sensation of pawing at loose earth, and supportive foam bolsters to create a safe space. Available to buy at [www.casper.com/uk](http://www.casper.com/uk)



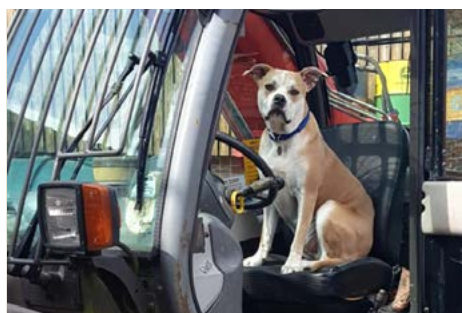
## Marvellous Monty

In October 2016 we adopted our beautiful boy, Monty, from Battersea Old Windsor. We lost our dog Lucy, who was 12 years old, in April, and decided it was time to rehome another.

We visited Battersea and kept an eye on the website, then saw a dog that we thought was ideal. It turned out he was looking for a more rural environment – hence not suitable for us – but we were told about Monty. We came up the following day to meet him. He came home a few weeks later and, after a few days, it was like he had been here for a lifetime. Within just a few weeks he came with us on our mammoth 10-hour car journey to Scotland to visit family; he was amazing and it turns out he's a bit of a motor-head who just loves cars!

Recently, Monty has started socialising with students from the Michael Tippet College, near where we live. The college is for students aged 19–25 with special educational needs. He helps them to get out and about and loves them throwing the ball for him, especially when they take him to the park. It's been great to see how well he has socialised with the students, and how much they have enjoyed his visits.

**Dave & Kieran Casey-McEvoy**



## One dog went to Bow

We rehomed Bow (formally Rambo) last summer and he has settled down lovely. We live on a small farm in Lincolnshire, where myself and my husband farm on a small-scale level as a hobby alongside our full-time jobs. As you can see, Bow has taken his new role as 'chief teleporter driver' very seriously!

**Susanne Stringer**

## Fostering fun

This is Domino, Daisy and Daphne (and us). We were fortunate enough to foster these Battersea kittens in our home, until they were old enough to go to their new forever homes – we even got to choose their names. While we were fostering the kittens, our friends always wanted to come to our house for a playdate so they could play with them too! When it was time for the kittens to go to their new homes we didn't feel sad, we felt really happy because we knew all three kittens were going to be friendly, confident and playful pets for their new owners, because we had spent so much time playing with them. Being a foster family for Battersea has been the best thing we have ever done.

**Romy and Xanthe (aged 10 and 8)**



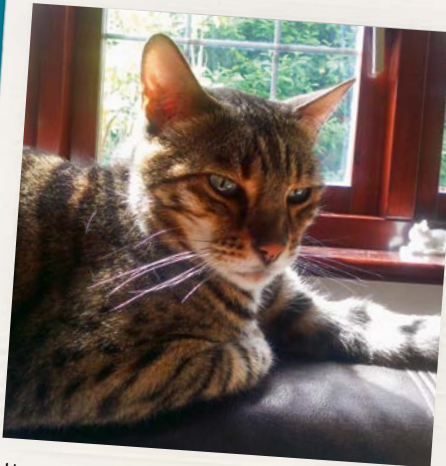
Romy and Xanthe snuggle up with the three Battersea kittens they helped on their way to a new home



## Courageous Baghera

It is with great sadness that I write to tell you that my beautiful Battersea boy, Baghera, passed away in January. He was 12 years old, and had lived with me since the age of about two. Bags, a stunningly handsome Bengal, was diagnosed with high-level aggressive lymphoma just before Christmas. He was such a courageous little cat and did his best to do things as normal, but it became difficult for him. My poor boy was weary and exhausted. He was a very special friend and a one-person cat! Thank you to Battersea – we couldn't have been a better match. Baghera will be missed beyond words. That said, I celebrate his life and all the joy he brought to mine.

**Noella Grace, Chester**



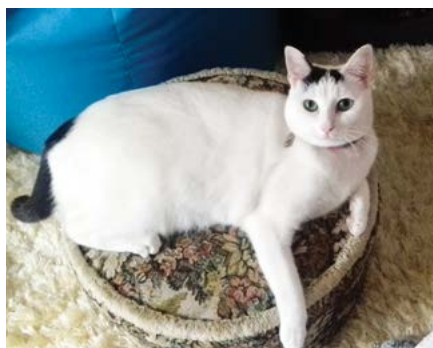
*Handsome Baghera, a courageous and very special friend, will be sorely missed*



## Amazing Emmy

Astoundingly, we're writing to update you on another year in the life of Emmy! She's 20 now and though she has the odd slow day (don't we all?) she is still going strong. It is getting harder to find photos of her when she isn't asleep or curled up in bed, but even on a cold day she likes to do a daily tour of the garden before retreating to bed. She still has a good appetite and – though not allowed any – has been known to gaze longingly at a slice of pork pie! She remains hugely affectionate, inquisitive and is increasingly chatty with us. Who knows, we may be sending in photos of Emmy's 21st birthday party this year!

**Rachel Kerry and Ian Brash**



## What Lola wants

I came to pick Lola up three months ago from Battersea and I love having her live with me. So far, she has slowly learnt to use the garden as she previously only had access to a fifth-floor balcony. She also likes to do her meerkat impression which is a great joy to watch – on going in to the garden she often goes into meerkat pose to survey her surroundings before making her move! Lola is definitely a princess and is very talkative – she is a beautiful cat and very precious.

**Charlotte Duncan-Smith**

## Rocky's rescue

We rescued Rocky from Battersea in May last year when he was one-and-a-half years old. We only had to spend 15 minutes with him to know just what we were letting ourselves in for, but we had our hearts set on having him anyway! Rocky settled in really well at home and snuggled up straight away on the chaise lounge in the living room. He is still very puppy-like and has taught himself of a night to curl up under his blankets and start yawning, which makes us all laugh every time. Rocky has gradually started making some friends at the local park.

He's part of the family, is brilliant with the kids, and we just couldn't imagine our home without him.

Rocky might be a nutter sometimes but he's our nutter and we love him! Thank you, Battersea.

**The Rowley family, London**



Always loved   
never forgotten



I rescued Cederic from Battersea 14 years ago. In his younger years he was a real handful, but in the

last couple of years he became gentle and meek. Five years ago, my partner died of cancer and Cederic became my best friend. I would like to honour him in *paws* to make me proud of him one more time. Thank you, Battersea, for providing for these lovely souls until they can find a home and change a life, like Cederic did for me.

**Ivo Belajic**



It is with sad hearts we had to say our final farewell to our beautiful Dalmatian Darla

on New Year's Eve. Darla, who was 'Miss August' in the Battersea 2014 calendar, had been suffering with severe osteoarthritis and we had to make the heartbreaking decision to let her go. When the pain has subsided a little, we shall return to Battersea to find another fur baby to join our family. Darla gave us so much joy and happiness and will be deeply missed.

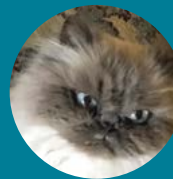
**Elizabeth and David Weston**



Our dearly beloved cat, Chloe, sadly passed away in July at 14. She is never to be

forgotten, and may she rest in peace.

**Dave Manfield**



Sadly, we lost Ruby in December after a battle with kidney disease. We miss her so much, but are

so grateful to have had the pleasure of her company, and at least we can say that the last three years of her life were happy ones. We are lucky to still have Ruby's daughter Jemima, who also has kidney disease but, thankfully, is coping well.

**Mary and Barry Gartside**



# Anna Maxwell Martin

The *Motherland* and *Bleak House* actress tells *Paws* how she and her family found their perfect family pet waiting behind the gates at Battersea...

We had a family dog when I was younger, and I really think having an animal helps children understand very quickly how important a member of the family a pet is. As my children grew up I really wanted a dog and I wanted it to be a rescue, but while they were babies I was aware that would be tricky, so I knew I had to wait a bit. But, I always knew that it would be a rescue dog.

My children were five and seven when we got our one-year-old Jack Russell Terrier, Robyn, from Battersea. It's important to me that they understand not only the importance of caring for a pet, but knowing how to behave around animals in general and the responsibilities you have towards your own pet. They now do 10 times more walking than they did before! In the holidays, our whole day revolves around where we're going to walk our dog – that's the starting point to our day and no one questions that. The amount they love Robyn is insane – I mean, they call her their sister!

While my childhood dog wasn't a rescue dog, my husband and his family have always had rescue dogs. I just think that there are so many animals out there who've been abandoned, that are so lovely and so in need of a home, that I don't understand why you wouldn't offer to rehome one.

I'm not saying all rescue dogs are easy – they're not – but one of the reasons why I herald Battersea for the work it does is that it doesn't judge any breed of animal. Each dog is an individual, but when you get a dog from Battersea there's amazing training already in place that you wouldn't perhaps have with a new puppy, so I would say always try to get a rescue – the staff at Battersea are amazing.

I think there are people who say, "Oh it's just Staffies and Greyhounds at Battersea," and – while I'm not saying there aren't plenty – there are so many different types of dogs looking for a new home. I never thought we would get a Jack Russell – I wanted a Staffie – but when I got the call to say that she was coming in and she would be great around kids, that was that. Robyn was this tiny little thing and it just felt like this was my kind of dog.

She was so sweet that I knew straight away I wanted to rehome her. Then within 24 hours of going home you're just in love and that's it.

To anybody considering rehoming a Battersea dog I would just say "Go!" The main reasons for wanting a rescue dog are different for everyone, but Battersea's passion for animals and treating every dog and cat as an individual is amazing. Rehoming that animal with the right people is such a vital part of what Battersea does and it's very impressive how thoughtful the process is. Once you go through the gates you're hooked, and I don't think any animal lover can leave without thinking "I'm going to take one home".

I'm around lots of people who have rehomed dogs, so I never had any reservations about giving a rescue dog a second chance. There are no negatives. Robyn can be a bit vocal, but she's a little Terrier living in a city, so I can understand why she's sometimes got a lot to talk about! All she wants is a cuddle, and once your rescue dog has become a member of your family you just can't imagine life without them, or without a dog at all. 🐾

## Rehoming Robyn



It's not going to be the case that you visit Battersea and leave with the wrong dog – it's a very thoughtful process. I was originally offered a beautiful Bichon Frise but she just wasn't the right dog for me. When I first met Robyn, it wasn't like I instantly fell madly in love, but it just felt like "Yes, this is my kind of dog." Then as soon as we got her home she was part of our family.

Jack Russell Terrier Robyn has settled in well to her new happy home life with Anna and family



## Welcome Spring

Don't forget those little extra surprise gifts!

### ESSENTIALS



Available in three colours



### Padded Exercise Harness

Reflective harness, specifically for dogs that pull on the lead. Making walks much more comfortable for dogs and owners. Available in blue, black and red, allow approximately 3cm for a comfortable fit. Use the following size guide to select the correct harness for your dog.

Approx. chest size:

32-38cm / X-Small

**178910** Black **£8.00**  
**178920** Red **£8.00**  
**178940** Blue **£8.00**

47-61cm / Small

**179010** Black **£10.00**  
**179020** Red **£10.00**  
**179040** Blue **£10.00**

58-71cm / Medium

**179110** Black **£12.50**  
**179120** Red **£12.50**  
**179140** Blue **£12.50**

67-82cm / Large

**179210** Black **£15.00**  
**179220** Red **£15.00**  
**179240** Blue **£15.00**

76-99cm / X-Large

**179210** Black **£16.50**  
**179220** Red **£16.50**  
**179240** Blue **£16.50**

### ANIMAL GIFTS



### Bouncing Woodland Bear

A beautifully soft toy with incredibly bouncy, knobby core for dogs who love to chase, fetch and retrieve. Small Bite toys are specifically designed for puppies and small dogs. This toy measures 10cm (approx.).

**991245** Medium **£8.00**

### Cat Play Tunnel

This collapsible tunnel comes with a hanging toy and has a soft inner lining. The play tunnel will provide great fun for your cat and you!

**702500** Cat play tunnel **£11.50**



### Mix and Match! Cat Mat and Bowls

Stainless steel interior and silicone base, with a fun cat design around the exterior, this is a great product for your cat to enjoy their meals from! The feeding mat with paw and fish design will be a great addition to your cat's meal times. Machine washable and featuring a plastic loop surface, this is a sure fire hit with any cat.

Select from lime, pink or grey.

**973130** Lime Feeding Mat **£4.50**  
**973150** Pink Feeding Mat **£4.50**  
**973110** Grey Feeding Mat **£4.50**  
**975130** Lime Cat Bowl **£4.00**  
**975150** Pink Cat Bowl **£4.00**  
**975110** Grey Cat Bowl **£4.00**

### JEWELLERY



### All You Need is Love and a Dog / Cat Necklace

Beautiful, engraved necklaces, with heartfelt messages "All You Need is Love and a Dog" and "All You Need is Love and a Cat". Size: 2 x 2cm pendant, 46cm chain length.

**SENTI047** Love and Dog **£8.00**  
**SENTI043** Love and Cat **£8.00**



### Sweet William Cufflinks

A delightful range of silver plated cufflinks, to be worn at special events and every day. All cufflinks come in a gorgeous presentation box.

**1001** Staffie **£25.00**  
**1002** Dachshund **£25.00**  
**1003** Black Labrador **£25.00**  
**1004** Lurcher **£25.00**





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