



BATTERSEA
HERE FOR EVERY DOG AND CAT

PAWS

SUMMER 2018

SUGGESTED DONATION £2

ROVING REPORTERS FIND OUT HOW WE'RE HELPING
THE NATION BELIEVE THAT RESCUE REALLY IS BEST



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

How Battersea's
vets are
responding to
'Frenchie fever'

The ex-Battersea
cat brightening
up hospital life

Battersea
through
the ages



WELCOME

It's been a long, hot summer here at Battersea and it's not over yet. While our dogs have been enjoying cooler morning walks and our cats have been busy curling up in sunny spots, the priority for all our staff and volunteers remains ensuring that our animals are safe and comfortable in the heat.

With this in mind, our brachycephalic breed residents have been high on the list of those requiring extra attention. Sadly, we are still seeing an increase in the number of flat-faced dogs coming into Battersea and our vets carried out 36 airway surgeries last year alone – a 177% increase on 2016. With French Bulldogs officially overtaking Labradors as the most popular breed in the UK as of June this year, our feature on page 22 takes a look at how dogs like Battersea Pug Tilly – pictured above – can be prone to a life of medical complications if not given the right care and treatment.

We hope you may have already seen our cover stars Peanut and Misty, who appeared in our TV and online adverts earlier this year, showing how much care and effort goes into the Battersea journey of making sure all our animals are happy, healthy, and ready to be loved. You can read more about this in our cover article on page 12, which takes a behind-the-scenes look at the Battersea journey, from arrival at our gates to going home.

However you're planning on spending the rest of your summer, we hope that this exciting new issue of *Paws* magazine will keep you entertained, informed, and, as always, we look forward to hearing how all your Battersea dogs and cats are loving life.

Claire Horton, Chief Executive (with Tilly, rehomed after successful BOAS surgery)

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GET IN TOUCH

PAWS MAGAZINE

BATTERSEA DOGS & CATS HOME

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Mon to Fri, 9am-5pm. If your details have changed or if you wish to stop receiving *Paws*, please let us know.

OUR OTHER CENTRES

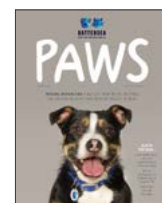
BATTERSEA OLD WINDSOR

PRIEST HILL, OLD WINDSOR
BERKSHIRE SL4 2JN

BATTERSEA BRANDS HATCH

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KENT TN15 7HH

Due to space limitations, *Paws* magazine is unable to reproduce submitted short stories or poetry from readers.



On the cover:
Peanut (front)
and Misty (back),
Battersea's
undercover
journalists.



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HOME FRONT

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[CAMPAIGNS]

RESCUE IS BEST

BATTERSEA ENCOURAGES THE PUBLIC TO ADOPT INSTEAD OF BUYING PETS ONLINE

Battersea is appealing to the public to choose to rehome a rescue dog or cat after we recently revealed a growing number of people are turning their backs on homeless animals – and logging onto the internet to find a new pet instead.

Four-week-old Nimbus (pictured) was rushed to Battersea in May after his new owner, who'd bought him on a car boot sale app, realised he was far younger than he'd been advertised. The tiny white kitten was so young he could not clean himself properly and was badly scalded from his own excrement. He was severely underweight, in pain and very frightened.

Battersea's expert veterinary team bathed him and cleaned him up. They named him Nimbus as he resembled a fluffy cloud after his bath. Nimbus faced weeks of treatment to get to a healthy weight and repair the damage done from being separated from his mother at such a young age, so Veterinary Care Assistant Kate Brooks fostered him to ensure he got the care and attention he needed round the clock.

As he had never been shown how to eat from a bowl by his mother, Kate had to teach him, as well as administering regular baths to soothe his skin and eye drops for his eye infections.

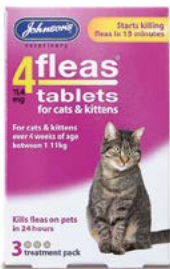
Battersea's Head of Catteries, Rob Young, said: "Luckily Nimbus was brought to us just in time, as without immediate care, his future could have been very sad. His story goes to show how dangerous it is to buy a pet online. Buyers are being duped and we're seeing more people bringing in animals with the same sad stories."

[Four-week-old Nimbus was brought in after being purchased online, and faced weeks of treatment to repair the damage done by being separated from his mother at such a young age](#)



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[FUNDRAISING]

AGAINST THE ELEMENTS

33 CORPORATE TEAMS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY TAKE ON SPONSORED CHALLENGE

In April, our new 'Stray Over' fundraising event saw 33 keen corporate teams from across the country take on the sponsored challenge of sleeping out under the stars in aid of Battersea.

Participants took part in fun challenges and activities and enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour and silent cinema screening of classic dog films, before braving the wet conditions and bedding down for the night in the open air.

The event raised a fantastic £100,000 to help our dogs and cats, and we would like to extend a huge 'thank you' to all those who took part. There is still time for you and your colleagues to register for our Old Windsor Stray Over, taking place on 28 September. To find out more visit:

battersea.org.uk/support-us/events/stray-over-2018.

[PEOPLE]

NEW FACES IN THE BATTERSEA FAMILY

Battersea has announced two new official Ambassadors, actor Anthony Head and renowned canine behaviourist Sarah Fisher.

Both Sarah and Anthony have been closely involved with Battersea for more than 20 years. Sarah has worked across all of Battersea's centres to offer advice to our staff and volunteers, dealing with a variety of complex and challenging dogs. She has trained many staff in using the Tellington Touch (TTouch) method of training to keep dogs calm and has fostered several Battersea animals.

Anthony, a world-famous actor known for roles in *Buffy The Vampire Slayer*, *Girlfriends* and *The Iron Lady*, has lent his voice to many of Battersea's videos and appeals, in addition to supporting Battersea fundraising events.



IN BRIEF



Paul O'Grady heads back to Battersea

Paul O'Grady has rolled up his sleeves to get to work at Battersea for the seventh series of our successful ITV show, *For the Love of Dogs*. Raising awareness of the work we do at Battersea and some of our dogs still looking to find their new homes, the new series will be hitting screens later this year in the autumn, so watch this space for updates.



Battersea Best Friend

We recently launched 'Battersea Best Friend', a new membership programme for our dog-owning supporters. Members will receive behavioural tips from our experts, advice and information on your dog's health and wellbeing, as well as free 24-hour access to Vetfone. Find out more at battersea.org.uk/batterseabestfriend.

[CAMPAIGNS]

POSITIVE STEPS AGAINST SHOCK COLLAR TRAINING



Battersea has welcomed new consultations by the Governments in England and Scotland to ban electric shock collars. We've long campaigned against the use of these training devices that work by delivering an electric jolt to the animal.

Our canine behaviour experts use only positive and reward-based training methods, which work by reinforcing good behaviours, rather than suppressing bad behaviour through barbaric means.

Electric shock collars are already banned in Wales, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Austria, Switzerland, Slovenia, Germany and in some states in Australia. We'll continue to push for a ban in England and Scotland.

SUPER SUPPORTERS GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND



A century of dogs

Battersea supporter Hilda Lees turned 100 in February and, to celebrate "a century of dogs", her daughter Jane asked friends and family to donate to Battersea. Hilda's fundraising page has raised over £300 so far ([justgiving.com/fundraising/hgl100](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hgl100)), and Jane has bought a commemorative plaque in our kennels, bringing the total to £450 in celebration of Hilda's milestone birthday. Pictured is Hilda with some of the Battersea dogs she's rehomed over the years.



In memory of Mark

We received a donation of more than £600 in memory of dedicated supporter Mark Prior, who rehomed a dog, Louie, in 1998. After Louie died in 2007, Mark wrote to us about how much love an older dog can give, which we featured in a calendar and book we produced. Mark sadly passed away last year at the young age of 48. At his funeral, £607 was collected for Battersea - a generous and touching tribute to how much one man's dog really did change his life in a big way.

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UPCOMING EVENTS



WINDSOR HALF MARATHON

30 September 2018

Just a short distance from the Battersea Windsor site, join thousands of runners in this picturesque half marathon, with the stunning backdrop of Windsor Castle and the autumnal setting of Windsor Great Park.

battersea.org.uk/support-us/challenges/windsor-half-marathon

ROYAL PARKS HALF MARATHON

14 October 2018

Running through the beautiful parks of central London alongside some of the city's greatest landmarks – a wonderful way to start the autumn.

battersea.org.uk/support-us/challenges/royal-parks-foundation-half-marathon

BRIGHTON MARATHON

14 April 2019

Join team Battersea in running along the Brighton seafront, taking in the sights and sounds whilst achieving something incredible.

battersea.org.uk/brightonmarathon

LONDON MARATHON

28 April 2019

Register your interest in running the world-renowned marathon.

This incredible challenge is

often a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and you could help dogs and cats in need.

battersea.org.uk/londonmarathon

OWN PLACE CHALLENGE

Are you thinking of taking on a challenge this year – a run, a cycle or even a swim? Why not raise money for Battersea while doing it? Get in touch with the events team and tell them what you've got planned.

battersea.org.uk/support-us/challenges/own-place-challenges

TREKS AND CHALLENGES

Take on the challenge of walking or running 100km, 50km or 25km in some of the most picturesque places in the UK. Fancy something a bit different? From obstacle runs with your dog to cycling from London to Paris, there is a challenge for you.

South Coast

25–26 August 2018

Thames Bridges Trek

8 September 2018

Thames Path

8th–9th September 2018

battersea.org.uk/support-us/challenges

THE WOOFMAS BALL

17 November 2018

Organised by Bow Wow Wags Fundraising Group in aid of Battersea, kick-off your festive celebrations in the stunning setting of Warbrook House Hotel, Hampshire. Guests can enjoy a three-course meal, a drink on arrival, various fabulous raffle prizes and the chance to break in your dancing shoes.

For further details, email:

woofmasball@outlook.com.

GET MUDDY WITH YOUR DOG FOR BATTERSEA

29 & 30 SEPT
TUNBRIDGE WELLS

13 OCT
PETERBOROUGH

20 OCT
MANCHESTER

MUDDYDOG.BATTERSEA.ORG.UK
#MUDDYDOGCHALLENGE

Battersea Dogs & Cats Home is a charity registered in England and Wales (206394). Age requirements, sign up fees and £100 minimum sponsorship apply.

MUDDY DOG
A BATTERSEA CHALLENGE

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UP FOR THE CHALLENGE

BATTERSEA'S MUDDY DOG CHALLENGE TAKES PLACE IN NEW LOCATIONS ACROSS THE UK

MUDDY DOG



Runners and their dogs basked in the glorious views of Wollaton Hall, Nottingham.

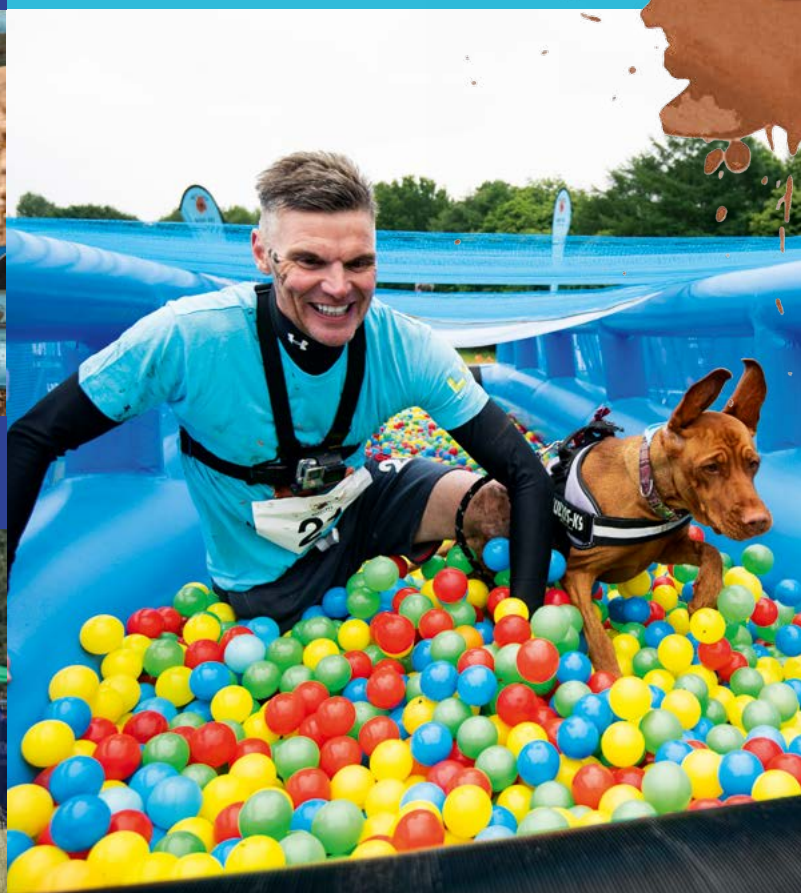
All attendees – both human and canine – took home plenty of rewards for their hard work.



While a total figure is yet to be counted for 2018, last year's Muddy Dog Challenge raised over £400,000.



Dogs of all shapes and sizes enjoyed a variety of agility and water obstacles along the route.



Supported by LV= for the past three years, Muddy Dog Challenge sees participants and their four-legged friends take on either a 2.5km or 5km course.

Unfortunately, two events were postponed due to high temperatures. Sign up for the rescheduled dates in Peterborough (13 Oct) and Manchester (20 Oct), and a two-day event in Tunbridge Wells (29/30 Sept).

HAPPILY REHOMED

BATTERSEA DOGS AND CATS GETTING THEIR SECOND CHANCE AT HAPPINESS...

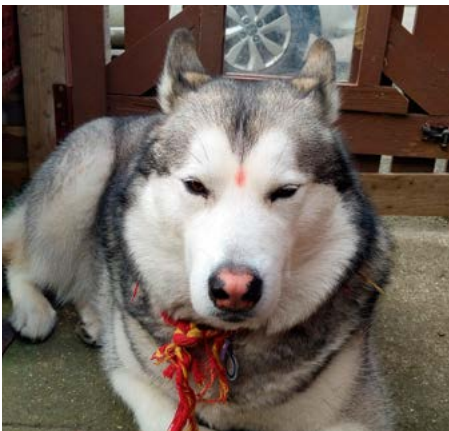
TIMID TILLIE

Tillie was brought into Battersea Old Windsor in January as she wasn't getting on with the dog in her previous home. As with all cats that come to Battersea, Tillie, a seven-year-old Domestic Short-hair, was tested for FIV and sadly the results came back positive. The cattery staff worked hard to build up her confidence and soon she was jumping on people's laps for strokes and cuddles. When Dominique Boulter from Egham and her family came to our centre looking for a lap cat, Tillie was the perfect match.



BARRY'S BLISS

Shy kitten Barry was brought in with mum Betty and siblings Bill, Bert, Bruce and Bob, when their owners moved. Barry won over the Pepsiczky family and, now seven months old, they describe him as the "smartest and most playful" kitten. His new best friend is their female rabbit.



NIKITA FINDS HER BLESSING

Two-year-old Nikita arrived at our London centre last September after her owner passed away. After just 11 days the Malamute caught the eye of Dr Steve Guest. An experienced owner, he has since taken her to his Buddhist temple to be blessed. She now enjoys weekly visits, for dog-friendly green tea.



NUTMEG COMES OUT OF HER SHELL

One-year-old British Short-hair, Nutmeg, found her perfect home with Sarah Champness and family in Surrey. While Nutmeg was shy to begin with, she soon warmed up. Sarah's son, Josh, fell in love with Nutmeg instantly and she now follows him everywhere.



ARGENTINIAN ADVENTURE

After her owner had a baby and brought Misifu into Battersea last year, she was rehomed to the Argentinian Embassy. The eight-month-old Domestic Short-hair caught the eye of the Embassy's Alexandre Goncalves and everyone is smitten with her – even the Ambassador's Pug, Mylene.

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A JOURNEY THROUGH BATTERSEA

FROM ARRIVAL TO FINDING A NEW HOME, THERE IS A LOT MORE GOING ON BEHIND THE SCENES TO MAKE SURE ALL THE ANIMALS WHO COME THROUGH BATTERSEA ARE HAPPY, HEALTHY AND READY TO BE LOVED.

1. ARRIVAL

Battersea receives over 2,000 calls a month from members of the public who are looking to give up or report a missing pet. Lost & Found Assistant Charlotte Munden explains: "Battersea has a non-selective intake policy, meaning we accept any breed of animal, irrespective of their age, condition, or any behavioural issues they may have. Battersea operates on an appointment basis. However, we will of course take in strays 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

"Once a dog arrives here, we'll speak to their current owners to find out the history of the dog they're bringing in, including their likes and dislikes. This will help our rehoming team find the best possible home once

they are ready to leave Battersea. This process is slightly different for cat owners, who will be asked to fill out this information before arrival."

Charlotte adds: "If a dog or cat arrives as a stray, we will scan their microchip with hope of reuniting them with their owner. This is why it's so important to keep microchip details up to date. Strays who arrive without a microchip must stay at one of our centres for at least seven days before they are ready to find a new home."

Charlotte continues: "A Battersea nurse will then carry out an initial health check, before dogs are taken to our intake kennels to settle down and meet staff who will be caring for them. Cats will also have a health check, after being settled in the Cattery."

Behind the scenes

You may have seen Battersea's new rehoming advert on your TV screens in the spring, featuring undercover reporters Misty and Peanut. The animal journalists, who followed the journey our dogs and cats take from arrival to a new home, starred in five web episodes, available on the Battersea website. Peanut, who goes by Elsie in her day-to-day life, arrived at Battersea alongside a litter of unwanted puppies. The mongrel was hand-reared by *POGDOGS* star Ali Taylor and hasn't left her side since. Meanwhile, Misty the Domestic Short-hair lives an exciting life as a stunt cat in TV and film.



A person with long brown hair, seen from behind, is walking a dog on a dirt path through a wooded area. The person is wearing a dark blue jacket with white text on the back, dark leggings, and black boots. The dog is a beagle with brown, white, and black fur. The path is covered with fallen leaves and surrounded by trees and greenery.

BATTERSEA
HERE FOR EVERY DOG AND CAT

2. SETTLING IN

Battersea's Kennel and Cattery teams work tirelessly to help care for over 7,000 dogs and cats every year. There is no time limit on an animal's stay at Battersea and our staff will go to huge efforts to help the dogs and cats settle in during their stay.

Rehoming and Welfare Assistant Natalie Holmes explains: "We try to make an animal's stay as comfortable as possible. To do this, we create individual care plans for every dog and cat that arrives

across our three centres. We'll make sure to spend time sitting in cattery pens and kennels and play with toys to help keep their minds stimulated.

"We also use various techniques such as different scents and classical music to help keep the dogs and cats calm. Our Old Windsor and Brands Hatch centres are surrounded by acres of beautiful countryside and provide the perfect sanctuary for dogs who aren't familiar with a city environment."



3. ASSESSMENT

Every dog and cat at Battersea undergoes a behaviour assessment to find it the perfect home. Rehoming and Welfare Assistant Caz Stanford says: “We can learn a lot about a cat’s behaviour by sitting, playing with and feeding them. We can then suggest the most suitable home, whether on a farm with less human interaction or with a family.” Canine Behaviourist and Training Advisor, Beth Kidd, adds: “As Battersea has a non-selective intake policy, we may care for dogs with severe behavioural problems. We support dogs who need extra help: from agility training to using essential oils, we do everything possible to help them get ready for a new home.”



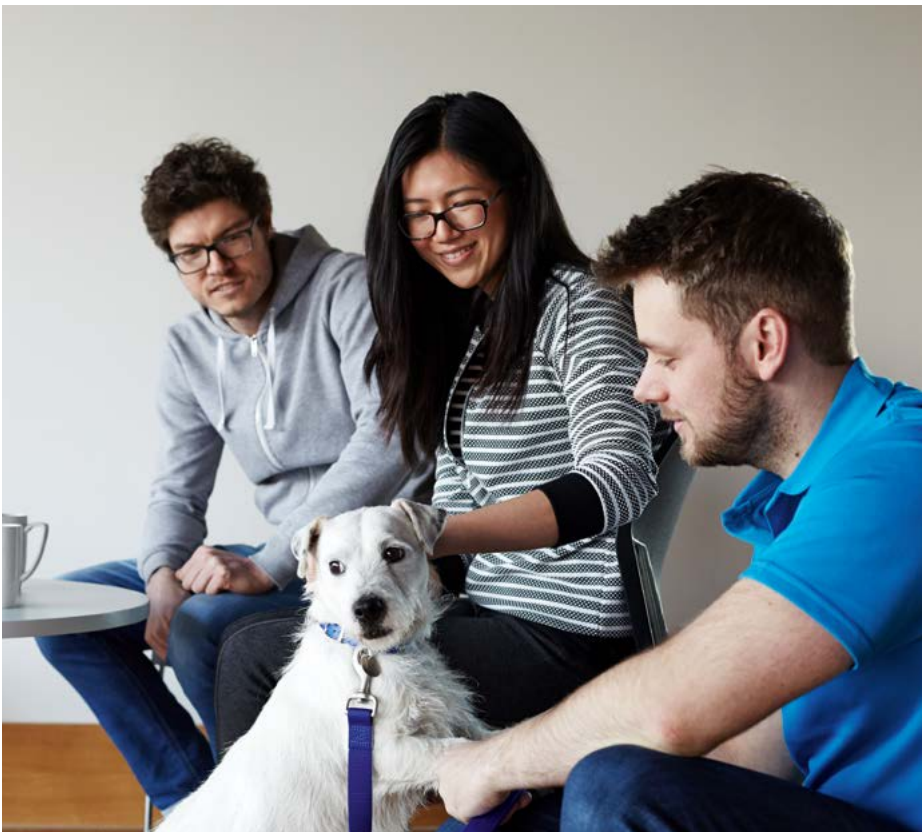
4. HEALTH CHECK

Every animal receives a thorough health check by Battersea’s expert Veterinary team. Last year, Battersea carried out over 4,500 operations on the dogs and cats that arrived through its gates.

Head Nurse Rachel says: “Each animal that arrives at Battersea will receive a full veterinary assessment to ensure

they are healthy enough to go to a new home. “Generally, a dog or cat will need no more than a simple flea or worming treatment, vaccination or neuter.

“However, we do see cases where animals will need more extensive treatment, for example a French Bulldog who is struggling to breathe will need surgery to widen its airways.



5. TIME TO GO HOME

As part of the rehoming process, Battersea will match you with the most suitable dog or cat, depending on their individual needs and the care you are able to offer them.

Rehoming and Welfare Advisor April Porter says: “When you are matched with a dog or cat, we will carefully talk you through the needs of the animal to make sure you are ready to take it home.

“One of the best things about working at Battersea is seeing a long-stay dog or cat find its new home and hearing how well they have settled in.”

After care

Once you leave Battersea with your new companion, you won’t be on your own. If you need healthcare or behaviour advice, Battersea’s experts are here to help.

TAKE US HOME

CAN YOU CHANGE THE LIFE OF AN ANIMAL LOOKING FOR A LOVING HOME?



SNOWY

2 years old

bow.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

Snowy, the beautiful Saluki, came in as a stray, but while we are unsure of her past, she is very affectionate. Snowy is looking for owners who will understand that she may take time getting used to a house environment and are happy to help build her confidence. While she doesn't know any commands yet, her love for food will make training easy.



CHICO

8 years old

rehoming@battersea.org.uk

Mature Corgi Jack Russell Cross
Chico needs a family that has some understanding of either breed, to give him the right training. He will need time to settle in but his cheeky personality soon shines through. An independent soul, Chico would suit a home where he can potter in the garden, have a little lead walk, then reflect in his own bed.



SKY

12 years old

rehoming@battersea.org.uk

Sky is a lovely Yorkshire Terrier who enjoys the sound of her own singing and will show it off to those around her! But while she may seem brave, Sky is a sensitive older dog, looking for owners that will be respectful of her and take the time to build her confidence. Sky needs an adult-only home in which to spend her twilight years.



HANNAH

6 years old

rehoming@battersea.org.uk

Hannah is a sweet lurcher who can be very excitable and bouncy, though can also be sensitive and worried. Hannah looks to her known handlers for reassurance. She can be worried by other dogs at times if they're acting a bit strangely, but loves people of all shapes and sizes and will instigate a fuss from anyone she comes across.



KATE

2 years old

rehoming@battersea.org.uk

Beautiful Kate has been a great mum to her five kittens and is now looking to find a home of her own where she can chill out and stay cool in the last of the summer heat. An affectionate cat, Kate enjoys chin and cheek rubs and will even settle on a lap for a snuggle after she's been out and exploring her new family's garden.



VALENTINO

10 years old

rehoming@battersea.org.uk

He may be a bit late for Valentine's Day, but Valentino is still hoping to find his perfect match. Having been given his name due to a ginger heart-shaped splodge on his nose, He can be bashful at first but soon blossoms into an affectionate cat. This 'mature' bachelor, will need a garden to play in, as he's still got a lot of adventure left in him.



KIDS PULL-OUT SECTION
THIS IS YOUR BIT OF
THE MAGAZINE. GROWN-
UPS, HANDS OFF!



LITTLE PAWS



COOL PICS, QUIZZES AND A POSTER!

YOUR EPIC PET SELFIES



Win! Chatty Charlie the Barkin' Beagle



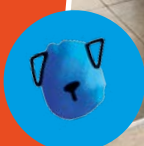
FurReal Friends have teamed up with Battersea to give our lucky winner their very own Chatty Charlie – a fun, cuddly dog with a collar that translates his 80+ barks into phrases to reveal exactly what he is thinking and feeling. With ears that move, Charlie also responds to touch and cuddles, and wags 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.

LITTLE
PAWS





Tiny kitten trio **Tali**, **Thomas** and **Theodore** had a hard start in life after being abandoned on the street at only a few days old. Luckily, a member of Battersea staff lovingly took the kittens home to hand-rear them and – once fit, healthy and old enough – all three went on to join their happy new homes.



ONCE UPON A TIME IN BATTERSEA..

To celebrate World Book Day, eight-year-old animal-lover Annie was so inspired by her Battersea book series she dressed up as a member of staff to show her admiration for all those who look after our dogs and cats. Her mum, Katie, kindly made a donation to Battersea alongside Annie's dress-up day, which we think she pulled off perfectly thanks to her branded T-shirt, backpack and bum-bag, not forgetting her Huey the dog toy from the Battersea book series.



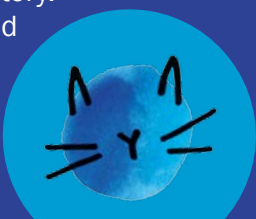
BREE'S SPONSORED SPRINT

10-year-old Bree from Kent did a sponsored run to raise money for Battersea, covering 8.4km in 1 hour 43 minutes. Bree says, "There are many dogs and cats out there that are neglected, which makes me angry and upset, so I wanted to help. When I visited Battersea I was inspired by the people who work there and the care they give." To date, Bree has raised a total of £268.15 from her run.



A ZEST FOR FUNDRAISING

Earlier this summer, we were visited by seven-year-old Daniella who raised a whopping £103.16 at a lemonade stall that she ran over the May bank holiday weekend. Daniella and her father, Tony, came to our London centre to drop off their donation, and were excited to meet five-month-old Patterdale Terrier Katherine and visit the Cattery. Daniella is a huge animal lover and the proud owner of a Chihuahua named Myla.



GNASHER COMES TO BATTERSEA

Beano fans can look forward to a bespoke storyline out later this month featuring Dennis and Gnasher visiting Battersea BeanoTown. Will Gnasher be a good dog, making new friends in our kennels or will he be up to mischief, giving our staff the run around and causing mayhem? We can't wait to find out. Visit www.beano.com from 29 August to see exclusive content.



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THE CONSEQUENCES OF CUTE

BATTERSEA'S VETS RESPOND TO 'FRENCHIE FEVER'

It's impossible to visit a London pub without bumping into one, scroll through social media without seeing photographs with millions of likes, and it seems like every second celebrity has one on their arm. It's not hard to see why French Bulldogs have shot up in popularity in recent years.

In fact, in June this year, The Kennel Club revealed that French Bulldogs have overtaken the Labrador as the UK's most popular dog breed for the first time since records began. But, as with all trends, there's another side to the story – and Battersea is beginning to feel the effects of 'Frenchie fever'.

In 2014, Battersea took in just eight French Bulldogs across the entire year. In 2017 alone, it took in 36 – and, this year, it has already welcomed 19 Frenchies through its gates.

Almost without exception, these are pure-bred French Bulldogs whose owners are giving them up in part due to veterinary bills that they had not anticipated and cannot afford. Now Battersea is urging people to thoroughly research the breed before taking one on and ensuring they use only responsible breeders if they choose to buy a Frenchie, as, sadly, there is a cost to their cuteness.

The flat faces so prized by their admirers mean they are part of a group of dogs known as brachycephalics – dogs that are increasingly being abandoned as their owners realise the potential pitfalls behind their exaggerated breed characteristics. Other dogs in this breed category include Pugs and Bulldogs of all kinds, but Frenchies seem to be particularly affected due to irresponsible breeding.

Battersea's Veterinary Director, Shaun Opperman, says: "You can certainly understand the appeal of dogs like Frenchies – with their oversized ears and upturned noses, they look like cartoon characters, and they're usually lovely and good-natured dogs.

"Sadly, their popularity has made them prime targets for puppy smugglers and irresponsible breeders – they command high prices, so unscrupulous traders can make thousands out of a litter, with no regard for their welfare. These breeders are often breeding them specifically to exaggerate these facial features, which causes a multitude of health problems.

"Their flat faces mean they have cramped airways and shorter soft palates, which combine to make breathing very difficult for them.

Right: French Bulldog Piccalilli was brought in because her owners could no longer meet the cost of her rising vet bills.



INVESTIGATION

Right: Battersea Vet Daniella Kelsey-Foreman at work carrying out a delicate – and not without risk – BOAS airway surgery

CASE STUDY



Six-year-old French Bulldog Piccalilli was brought in to Battersea at the end of March last year after her owners could no longer cope with the cost of her rising veterinary bills. She suffered from a host of medical issues – breathing problems, constantly infected ears and almost continuous vomiting due to allergies.

Battersea's vets thoroughly assessed Piccalilli and got to work treating her. She required surgery on her airways and surgeries on both ears, as well as a special diet and a strict regime for her skin. She was fostered with a staff member to make sure she got the care and attention she needed around the clock, and finally found a loving home last August.



I always compare it to a human trying to breathe through a drinking straw. Their trademark snuffling and snorting is actually often the sound of a dog in respiratory distress, and it means they can't run and play the way they'd like to. They're also prone to ear infections, skin infections and allergies."

French Bulldogs often require complex surgery to clear their airways of soft tissue and make it easier for them to breathe. As their admissions continue to rise, Battersea vets are having to perform this surgery more frequently. In 2016, just 13 such surgeries were performed at Battersea's Veterinary Hospital – a number that rose by an astonishing 177% to 36 last year. In only the first four months of 2018, Battersea's vets had undertaken this surgery 20 times.

Shaun added: "Years ago, it was quite a rare surgery but now it's everyday business. While this operation

can really help many brachycephalic dogs, unfortunately it's not curative and in some cases doesn't make much difference to a dog's quality of life. We typically have to perform surgery on French Bulldogs' ears to remove diseased and damaged tissue due to repeated ear infections.

"The average length of stay for a Battersea dog is 38 days but Frenchies stay longer, usually because they spend weeks undergoing complex treatments and recovering. Once they're available for rehoming, they're snapped up.

"Battersea is here for every dog and cat, and our veterinary teams do their best for every animal – but so much suffering could be avoided if we could end this cycle of irresponsible and cruel breeding. French Bulldogs are wonderful dogs but they're becoming caricatures of themselves, and we're seeing the consequences of this bad breeding every day."

HOW CAN I AVOID BUYING FROM AN UNSCRUPULOUS BREEDER?

- We'd always encourage people to rescue a dog from a shelter like Battersea but if you're set on buying a dog, spend time finding a reputable breeder. Don't respond to online listings or adverts, including on social media – you cannot guarantee they're from a reputable source.
- Any reputable breeder should be able to give you a thorough background on the dog, including paperwork documenting vaccinations and microchipping.
- As a bare minimum, ask to see the puppy with its mother, and make sure you're buying a puppy that is more than eight weeks old. It's a good idea to see evidence of health checks for the mother too.

GET YOUR PAWS ON THESE PRIZES!

Join in at postcodelottery.co.uk or call 0808 168 2512

- ✓ Players of People's Postcode Lottery have raised over **£2.1 million** for Battersea Dogs & Cats Home
- ✓ Winning postcodes announced every day for **£10 a month**
- ✓ At least **£12 million** will be won in every month's draws



MONTHLY

£3 MILLION

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MONTHLY

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£30,000

for every ticket in 1 winning postcode

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£1,000

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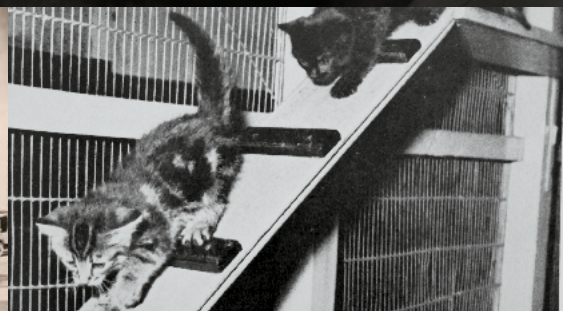
NO ROLLOVERS!
Only playing postcodes are entered

Join in at postcodelottery.co.uk or call 0808 168 2512



THROUGH THE AGES

DURING ITS 158-YEAR HISTORY, BATTERSEA HAS REMAINED AT THE FOREFRONT OF ANIMAL WELFARE. HERE WE LOOK BACK AT SOME OF THE MILESTONES...



1860

Mary Tealby's Temporary Home for Lost and Starving Dogs opens its doors in Holloway, North London. Sadly, little is known about our visionary founder, but her legacy has helped improve the lives of animals all over the world. In the 1800s, stray dogs were left to roam the streets or, at worst, be killed by local enforcement. However, in the Victorian era things began to change, helped by popular literature featuring loveable animals. Dogs were becoming more common as pets, and Battersea's first Royal Patron, Queen Victoria, helped to reinforce the notion of 'man's best friend' by keeping dogs, ponies and goats as pets, (even reportedly requesting that Turi – a Pomeranian – lay with her on her deathbed). Mary may not have been entitled to the vote, but was part of a wave of women who pushed the boundaries for social change.

1871

With the need to improve facilities at Battersea becoming ever more apparent, the Home moved to its current South West London site in 1871 and became known as Battersea Dogs Home. Opposite Battersea Park and with the power station standing next door, the new location meant Battersea could offer more space, improved kennel facilities, plenty of surrounding green space for walks, and – most importantly – increase the size of its workforce to continue carrying out Mary Tealby's good work to help rescue and rehome stray dogs.

1883

Battersea started taking in cats as well as dogs, originally housing them in a cattery created in Whittington Lodge, the now Grade-II listed blue and white building that sits proudly in the entrance courtyard of our London centre. By opening our doors to cats in need of help, Battersea once again pioneered the way for other animal rescue centres to do the same.



1979

Having acquired Bell Mead kennels on the edge of Old Windsor, Battersea Old Windsor opened for operation in the late '70s, responding to the demand to provide help for stray dogs and cats outside of Greater London.



1999

In the 20 years since opening its Old Windsor centre, the numbers of stray or unwanted dogs and cats across the UK showed no signs of decreasing, so Battersea's Brands Hatch Centre was opened in Kent. The surrounding countryside provided a haven, particularly for larger breed dogs or those with extra behavioural needs. This was also the year of the Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999, which meant any person breeding dogs for business must obtain a licence from the local council. 'Backstreet breeders', who would illegally breed from the same bitch multiple times then dump her on the street, meant Battersea's three centres were often left to pick up the pieces and nurse these dogs back to health and find them a happy home.

2002

Having become a stalwart of the animal rescue industry, 2002 saw one of the biggest changes in Battersea's identity. Known as 'The Dogs Home' for over a century, our new name, Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, was launched, including a new logo and identity to reinforce the importance of the fact we look after cats as well as dogs.

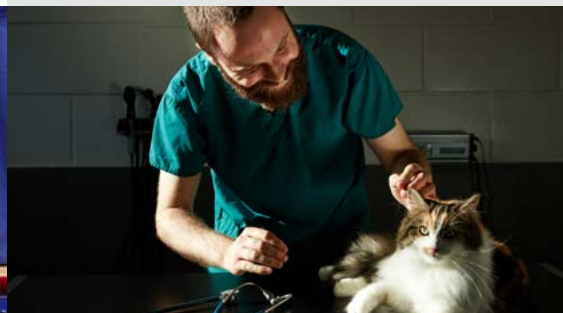


2015

Continually striving for ways to make the lives of our animals less stressful during their time at Battersea, in 2016 our brand-new intake kennels were opened by HM The Queen – our patron at the time. Named after our founder, the large Tealby block allowed bigger, air-conditioned kennels, where the priority could be on giving dogs a better and calmer experience when arriving in an unfamiliar and confusing environment. Setting an example to other large rescue centres, the Tealby kennels enabled our staff to carry out quicker assessments, improve infection control and – ultimately – find new homes for our dogs more quickly.

2016

Following two years of construction, Battersea's state-of-the-art Veterinary Hospital opened its doors in 2016, providing a world-class facility with the most modern and comprehensive equipment available. The new hospital allowed Battersea to carry out more complex medical interventions, and, thanks to a dedicated dental ward, more dental procedures. With ever-increasing numbers of challenging medical cases coming through our doors year-on-year, the new hospital allowed Battersea's team of expert vets to remain at the forefront of animal welfare, pioneer more complex surgeries, train clinic staff on the latest veterinary techniques, and help more dogs and cats.



2018

The launch of our first TV advertising campaign revealed a new identity that reflects our purpose – to be here for every dog and cat both inside and beyond our gates. We also introduced our new logo and brand identity, featuring watercolour, deliberately 'unfinished' animals such as the two below, to represent how every Battersea animal is on its own as-yet-incomplete journey.





Walter sent in by Kevin and Nicky Iles



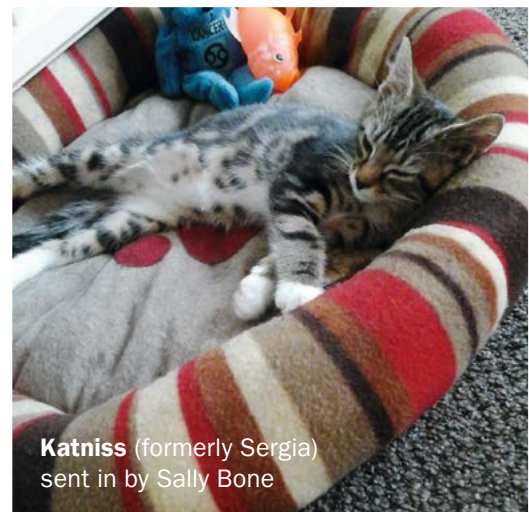
Bambi sent in by Gerda Laurence

LOVING LIFE

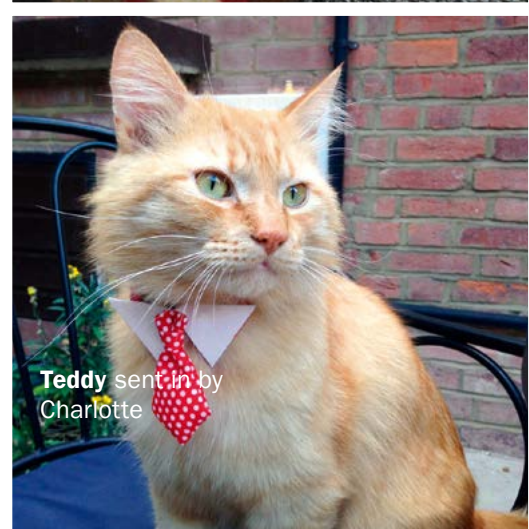
NOTHING BRINGS US MORE JOY AT BATTERSEA THAN SEEING OUR FORMER ANIMALS ENJOYING THEIR NEW LIVES AND PROVING RESCUE REALLY IS BEST.



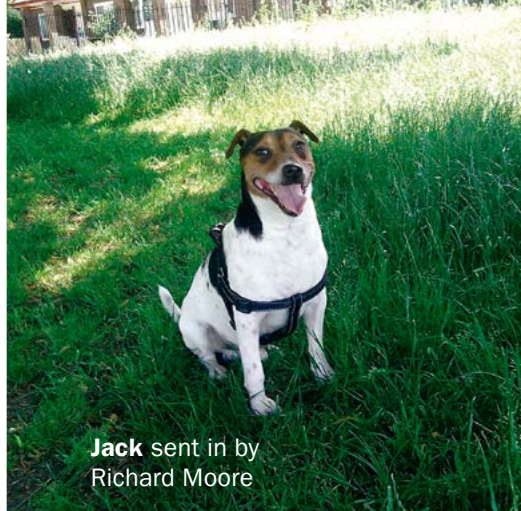
Jecca sent in by Ruth Parkinson



Katniss (formerly Sergia) sent in by Sally Bone



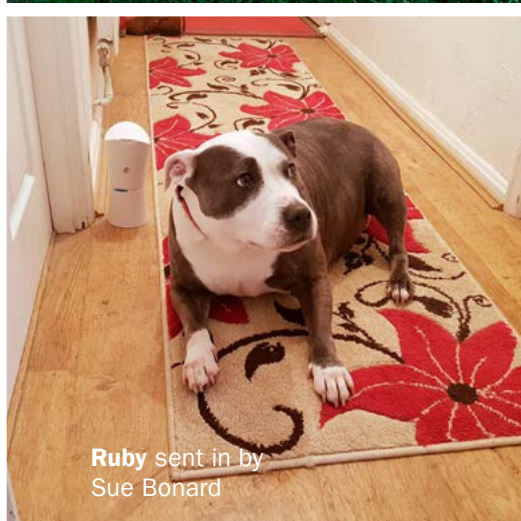
Teddy sent in by Charlotte



Jack sent in by
Richard Moore



Bonnie and Berty
sent in by
Patricia Chacón



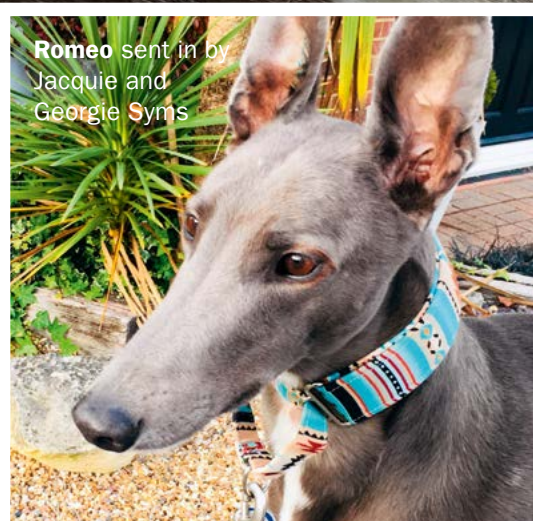
Ruby sent in by
Sue Bonard



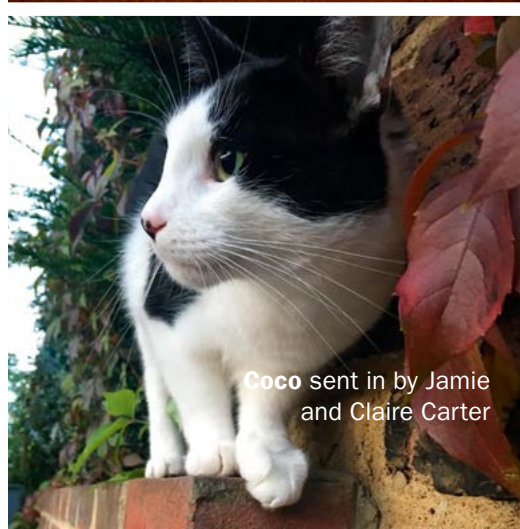
Jasper and Parker sent in
by Geoff Nordemann



**Archie, Ellie and
Thistle** sent in by
Sally and Philip
Derbyshire



Romeo sent in by
Jacquie and
Georgie Syme



Coco sent in by Jamie
and Claire Carter



Lulu sent in by
Kelsey and Oli



Q & A

OUR FELINE EXPERTS ANSWER YOUR CAT BEHAVIOUR QUESTIONS

MEET OUR EXPERTS



Sue Hartley
Feline Welfare
Manager



Georgia Randall
Feline Welfare
Advisor

Q: My cat doesn't really seem to have noticeable 'moods' like I've noticed dogs do, is this normal? I'm worried my cat is unhappy most of the time...

Sue: Cats can experience a range of different emotions and sensations, both positive and negative. These include relaxation, contentment, excitement and positive anticipation, fear, frustration and pain, to name a few. As we know, cats can sometimes be very subtle in the way they express these emotions. The domestic cat has evolved from the African Wildcat, a solitary species that doesn't necessarily want to advertise when they are afraid or in pain, as it might make them an easier target for larger predators.

Q: How can I tell when my cat wants to interact and when she wants to be left alone?

Sue: A cat's emotions might be subtle, but they can give an idea of what they're thinking and feeling through their behaviour and body language. By observing your cat's behaviour and posture when you are interacting with him or her, you will be able to tell whether your cat is truly enjoying the interaction, merely tolerating it, or finding it quite unpleasant. This is important because cats aren't naturally a very tactile species, which means they can sometimes find too much handling stressful, even though they may not show this in obvious ways.

Q: I've recently rehomed a Battersea cat and everything's going well, but sometimes it seems she is afraid of the most ridiculous things around the house! Why is this?

Georgia: Like humans, cats experience anxiety/fear as a negative emotional state that motivates them to protect themselves. Cats are likely to experience anxiety (the anticipation of something frightening) when they perceive a possible threat. Fear, a more intense level of the same emotion, is more likely to be experienced when there is an actual threat that the cat must deal with in that moment. It is difficult to determine whether a cat perceives an event as actual danger or

[DID YOU KNOW?]
KITTENS NEED TO
SPEND TIME WITH
HUMANS IN THEIR
FIRST 8 WEEKS
OR MAY GROW UP
TO BE WARY
OF THEM



NEW SURROUNDINGS

Sue: When rehoming or fostering a cat, it is best to establish one room as a base, bearing in mind that the cat may always see this room as somewhere safe to go. This room should ideally be a spare bedroom or other room that isn't too busy. If the cat is shy, they will prefer a quiet room where you can visit and sit while they get used to their new surroundings. Some confident and friendly cats may find your living room a good place to be, if they enjoy being close to people, but in a new environment they will still need time and space to make sure it is safe and to work out where everything they need is.

possible danger, as anxiety and fear share much of the same underlying emotional system. For example, a cat may experience anxiety or fear at a cat carrier that only appears before a vet visit.

Q: How can I tell if my cat is anxious or fearful?

Sue: If a cat is anxious or fearful, he or she is likely to use these basic strategies for protection:

Flight – if your cat is confronted with something they find frightening, their preferred strategy will be to remove themselves from the situation as soon as possible. Your cat may either turn and run or move very cautiously whilst keeping an eye on the potential 'threat'. In both cases, your cat will seek out the nearest point of safety, usually either a hiding place or somewhere up high.

Fight – If your cat is already fearful or anxious, they are likely to become aggressive only if their preferred option (flight) is not available. Or, your cat may have previously learnt that a pre-emptive

'attack' is the best defense. In both cases your cat may just growl and hiss, but could also swipe or bite.

Freeze – As an alternative, your cat may freeze when startled or when retreat is not an option. Cats may also use this strategy to 'buy time' whilst deciding on the best course of action.

Fidget – Another alternative, your cat may start to fidget by suddenly beginning to groom in a localised area or appearing to become very interested in something nearby, perhaps going off to sniff or investigate it. This may help your cat to calm themselves, but also reduce 'tension' when experiencing conflict or uncertainty about what to do next.

Got a question?

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

HAPPY TAILS

Georgia: The more attention you pay to how your cat responds during interactions, the less likely you are to be bitten or scratched. You will be able to better gauge how much stroking your cat prefers and where, and understand when to stop, before your cat needs to use her teeth or claws to tell you! If your cat is feeling relaxed and contented they will display some of the following signs:

- Their tail may wave gently and rhythmically from side to side, while your cat may produce a low-pitched and non-'urgent' sounding purr.
- Your cat should appear calmly interested in their surroundings, not appearing very 'alert' or 'agitated'. Or, equally, your cat may be relatively uninterested in their surroundings and have more of an 'internal' focus.
- The posture should be relaxed with no obvious stiffness or tension, or your cat may be resting on their side with the tummy exposed. They may appear to doze or start grooming themselves in a relaxed manner.
- The eyes may be more almond shaped than round, with pupils relatively small or constricted (although in low-level light conditions, pupils may still be relatively dilated), or your cat's eyes may be gently closed.
- The ears should generally be held upright and facing forwards, although they may rotate in response to sounds/movement.

YOUR LETTERS

SHARE YOUR SPECIAL PET MOMENTS WITH OTHER SUPPORTERS



[STAR LETTER]

VALIANT VIOLET

In March last year we welcomed beautiful Violet into our hearts and home, from Battersea London. We fell instantly under her spell – along with everyone else who meets her – it was love at first sight and she made herself immediately at home. Violet is a very special girl indeed, she previously suffered severely ulcerated eyes, from complications of the cat flu virus, and is now blind after both eyes had to be surgically removed at Battersea, where she received the most wonderful care and attention. But this does not hold her back – she has a true zest for life, living and fun. She has our home and enclosed garden completely mapped out in her mind, navigating where she pleases. Violet is very affectionate, chatty, and loves nothing better than a comfortable lap to relax upon. The rewards of her presence are endless.

Judith and Peter Irvine



Your prize

This issue's Star Letter will receive a T-shirt from our friends at Weird Fish, who have created a new line of tees in support of Battersea. Winners can choose a 'Bark to the Future' or 'Eat, Sleep, Walk' design.



BY THE SEASIDE

Brookland featured in an edition of *Paws* a few years ago right after we first took her home, but I thought maybe an update is needed. Especially since – after living for two years in Clapham – she's just moved to Brighton. As you can see, life beside the seaside seems to suit her now!

Mitchell and Cedric Darden-Keiver



A TRUE FURRY FRIEND

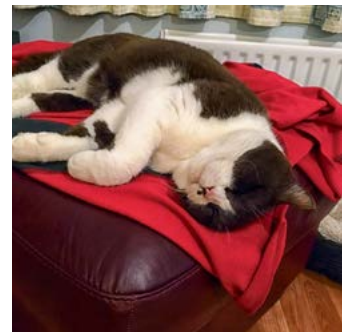
Our lovely little girl Willow is the best thing ever – we rehomed her from Old Windsor two years ago. As soon as we realised we would like a cat we went down to Battersea

and instantly fell in love.

As soon as we heard she had been shot six times with an airgun, we had to get her – she is the sweetest thing and we could not have asked for a better cat! Our whole family loves her, and we now realise that we had a hole in our hearts until we rehomed Willow.

She loves to come and sit on our laps at night, and, every morning, when I wake up she is sitting by my bedroom door waiting! When I get in from school, if I have had a bad day, she always seems to listen. Thank you, Battersea, we could not live without her.

Rafaella (aged 11) and Estelle



A COMPANION LIKE CHARLIE

When I lost my husband two years ago and then had cancer a few months later, I was at my lowest and decided I needed a loyal friend. My daughter found Charlie, a seven-year-old British Short-hair chocolate-

AN UNBROKEN BOND

When I first laid eyes on Mia as a pup at Battersea Old Windsor, it was instant love. We knew we had to be together, so she came home to join our two other dogs who loved her too. She was far more than a pet, she was a family member, a friend, and a loving soul I will never forget. She deserved nothing less than to feel loved, cherished and adored and safe and happy with us. Sadly, we lost her at the age of 12 after a long and happy life together. Even in her absence our bond will never be broken, she was an extraordinary blessing I will always be grateful for. We all miss you dearly Mee-Moo.

Kathy Welsh



brown and white cat, at Battersea Old Windsor. Charlie is very loyal and always lets me know when he comes in from outside with a meow, asking for treats or fresh chicken and taps me on the nose in the morning to wake me for his breakfast and to be let out. Charlie also won Byfleet's best-loved cat. He has been a real treasure.

Veronica Jenkins



WHIZZY IZZY

When we collected Izzy from Battersea in 2013 she was six years old and we decided to keep her name as it just suited her. She quickly became part of the family and we love her loads. In the

first week she had to have a chipped tooth removed, then another day we thought we had lost her.

Luckily, we discovered that she likes to hide in small spaces and her snoring from the wardrobe gave her away! Two months in she got shut in someone's shed over the Easter weekend and ended up 10 miles from home. It transpired that when she escaped, disoriented, she followed our son's scent to school, where a lady took her home and found us via her microchip!

Her snoring has frequently helped me to find her – in a drawer, under my duvet, in a cupboard. She loves the garden and can jump higher than any other cat I've lived with. She launches herself halfway up a 10-foot wooden post that supports our grapevine and then runs up to the

top, or, as in this picture, she can be found up a tree watching the birds.

Sallie-Ann Everett

KNITTING FOR A CAUSE

I just wanted to send a photo of the cushion cover I've recently finished knitting for my daughter. I knitted it from the *Love Knitting* 'Theo' pattern, which was sold to help raise funds for Battersea, as myself and my family are supporters, having rehomed our dog Mickey from there over six years ago.

Linda Cooper



ALWAYS LOVED, NEVER FORGOTTEN



I rehomed Bella from Battersea 21 years ago when she was six months old. I remember the first time I met her, she was sat there looking at me with her tongue sticking out. Bella formed a special friendship with me and with my wife and daughter. It is with great sadness she is no longer with us. She loved life to the full and fought to stay with us to the very end.

Derek Ingham



We sadly lost Danny in March after 12 happy years together. We are so privileged to have shared many great times with him. Danny accompanied me on hundreds of miles of walks along various canal towpaths. We walked the length of the Kennet and Avon Canal from Bath to Reading in five days to raise money for Battersea. We will miss him enormously.

S. Joynson and J. Davies

FONDLY REMEMBERED FRIENDS

Creating a memorial can be a comforting way to celebrate your pet's life after they pass away. A new page on our website – Fondly Remembered Friends – is a space to upload photographs and remember the lives of treasured pets.

battersea.org.uk/pet-memorials

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 or by post to Paws Magazine, Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, 4 Battersea Park Road, London SW8 4AA

LIFE BEYOND BATTERSEA...

SOX, THE HOSPITAL CAT

TRACEY DIPALMA FROM THE ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR NEURO-DISABILITY IN PUTNEY, LONDON, EXPLAINS THE DIFFERENCE A BATTERSEA CAT HAS MADE TO THE LIVES OF STAFF AND PATIENTS.

It was last summer when we first contacted Battersea with a view to getting a cat for our hospital. The Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability treats adults that have suffered profound brain injuries – some residents stay a short time, but for others it is their home.

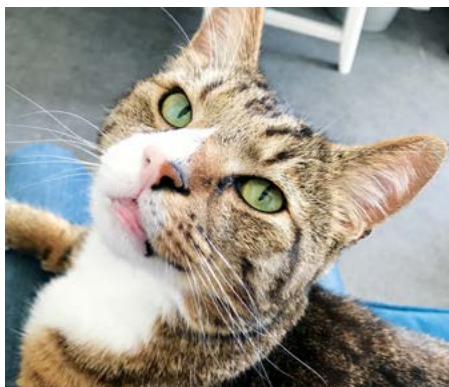
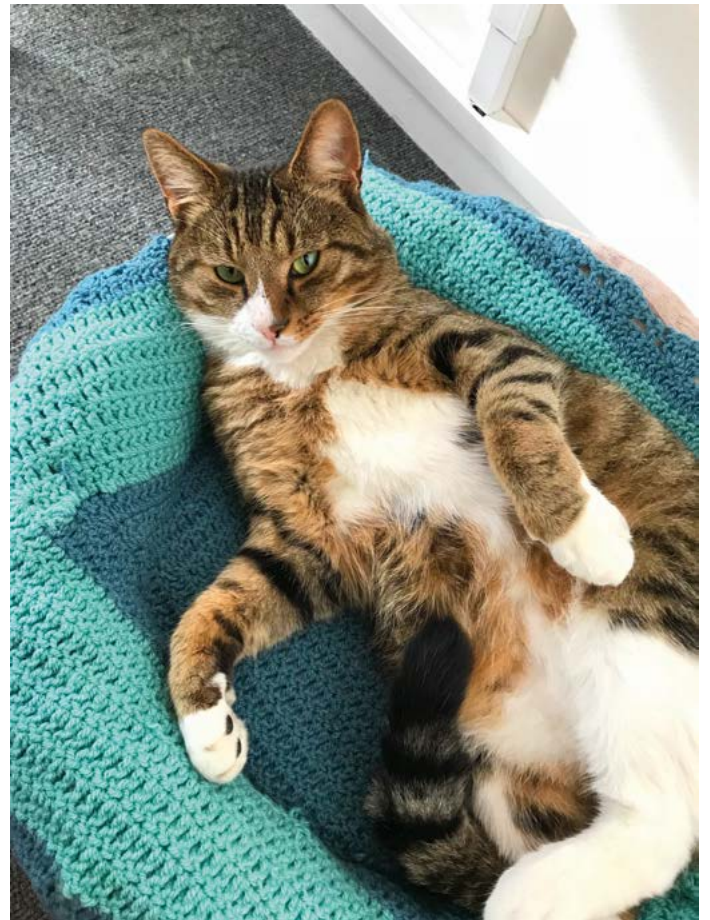
The Cattery staff completely understood our needs and the type of cat that was needed to interact with patients. It didn't take them long to introduce us to Sox, a loving and confident cat who enjoys human companionship with everyone he meets.

Six months later, he has settled in really well and our patients and residents love him. He has his own walkway down into the hospital gardens, and he ventures out during the night so that he is always around during the day when our patients and residents want to see him.

He is an absolutely adorable boy and we love him, he is a real pleasure and very spoilt. We can't imagine life at the hospital without Sox. He has not only become a special friend to the patients recovering from severe brain injuries, but also to all the hard-working staff caring for them.

His gentle nature means Sox has even formed part of some patients' rehabilitation treatment, where they will learn to walk up to him, and use their hands to stroke and play with him. Sox understands when it's time to be calm and will make himself comfortable on wheelchair trays to keep patients company.

Sox will never truly realise the happiness he has brought to our lives, but we make sure he feels our love by giving him lots of cuddles and strokes. By far, he is the most popular member of the hospital team!



To prepare for Sox's arrival, hospital staff created a comfortable home for him in their office and built a cat-walk ramp through the window so he can decide when he wants to venture outside to explore. With staff on-site 24 hours a day, Sox never feels alone, and the hospital's open-door policy means he has a regular patient fan club visiting him.

SHOP THE BATTERSEA COLLECTION

EVERY ITEM PURCHASED HELPS US
LOOK AFTER OUR DOGS AND CATS



Mug



Cat ID tag



Dog trolley keyrings



Cat pens



Cat trolley keyrings



Dog pens



Tote bag



Dog ID tag

[BATTERSEA.ORG.UK/SHOP](https://www.battersea.org.uk/shop)



BATTERSEA

HERE FOR EVERY DOG AND CAT

