

# The magazine of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home

# paws

## Building for the future

Battersea's Ambassadors launch the biggest appeal in our  
154-year history – for the rebuilding of our kennels



Also inside this issue:

### Kevin Doyle

*Downton Abbey's Molesley and his Battersea girl Molly*

### Sighthounds

*Meeting eye-to-eye with Battersea's sighthounds*

### Cat Takeover

*Catching up with our wildly successful cat campaign*



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# Contents

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### Keep in touch

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44,918 (Jan-Dec 2012)





# Help us build a future for our Battersea dogs

Some of our kennels are over 120 years old and are in desperate need of updating

**We urgently need to rebuild our kennels**

battersea.org.uk



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Registered charity No. 206394

## Text DOGS to 70800 to donate £5\* or give online today at [battersea.org.uk/KennelAppeal](http://battersea.org.uk/KennelAppeal)

\* Texts cost £5 plus standard rate text message charge. A minimum of £4.97 depending on your service provider, will be received by Battersea Dogs & Cats Home. Please ensure you have the bill payer's permission.

Please send to: **Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, FREEPOST SN1457, SN12 7BR**

I would like to make a donation of:

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KAAD1403/POODAE01



# Welcome

On 20 March, we laid the cornerstone for the future of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home and generations of lost, lonely and unloved animals to come.

As you can see from our Spring *Paws* cover, all four of Battersea's wonderful Ambassadors – international supermodel David Gandy, actor and presenter Paul O'Grady MBE, children's author Dame Jacqueline Wilson and actress Amanda Holden – joined us to mark the start of work on the new kennels at our London centre.

This is our biggest project for many, many years – and our biggest ever fundraising appeal to pay for it, too. Find out why our dogs deserve ideal homes, not dark, damp Victorian kennels, and how you can help us build them, on page 10.

Claire (and Wilma) and Chairman of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home Heather Love in one of our oldest kennels

Page 24 sees *Paws* visiting the Yorkshire home of actor Kevin Doyle, a familiar face from period drama *Downton Abbey*. He's also part of our Battersea family, having rehomed beautiful Border Collie Cross Molly from us in 2001. Kevin talks about life with Molly, Mr Carson (*Downton's* redoubtable butler and Kevin's on-screen boss) and the moving World War One drama he – and Molly – are currently starring in.

Although it's a defining year for our dogs, as we work towards new kennels and new beginnings, Battersea cats are teaching us a thing or two about making the most of the limelight. When we gave them the chance to shine, they grabbed the opportunity with open paws. As well as being fun, fantastic and full of warm felines, our Cat Takeover campaign has made a real difference to the lives of the 3,000 cats we care for each year. See how on page 16.

From stress busting toys for dogs, to play tunnels for cats; from cuddle buddies for youngsters to Dame Jacqueline's lovely *Paws and Whiskers* anthology for all ages, I'm loving the goodies in our spring catalogue at the back of this issue. And all our dogs and cats love the fact that you'll be helping them by treating yourself.

Claire Horton, Chief Executive



# paws news

## Wait a minute, Mr Postman!

We love sharing news of our dogs, cats and people with you – and hope you enjoy reading Paws. But if you would prefer not to receive Battersea's magazine please email [paws@battersea.org.uk](mailto:paws@battersea.org.uk) or write to the address on the contents page and we'll take you off the mailing list. You can also download our app by searching for 'battersea paws' in the Apple App Store.

## Top of the doggy cops

Battersea sniffer dog Herbie is celebrating a record haul after just four months on the job with Northamptonshire Police dog section.

Whilst executing a search warrant of a house, the Springer Spaniel – now Police Dog Herbie – sniffed out half a kilo of cocaine with a street value of £10,000–£15,000, hidden inside a utility room.

His success – and new life as a fully operational specialist search dog with PC Emma Reid and her German Shepherd Dog Willis – is thanks to Battersea's Service Dogs programme, which finds service homes for dogs who wouldn't suit a traditional pet home.

Herbie was brought into Battersea's Old Windsor centre by Service Dog Manager Keith Payne because his owners couldn't cope with his behaviour. Keith assessed the young Springer and soon found he had an incredible natural aptitude for searching out tennis balls, an initial requirement for a potential search dog.

The rest – and the cocaine haul drugs criminals were hoping to make a packet from – is history. Herbie graduated on 7 August 2013, put his amazing nose to good effect, and has now been trained to detect firearms and cash too.

"Life isn't all work and no play and Herbie loves nothing better than a nice walk with Emma and Willis around the local countryside where they live and, given the opportunity, a swim in the river or getting very muddy," says Keith. "Herbie is thriving as a service dog and enjoying his days off in the countryside."

To find out more about our service dogs programme email [k.payne@battersea.org.uk](mailto:k.payne@battersea.org.uk)



Herbie with Emma and on the drugs trail



## A pair of page turners

There are two good reasons to curl up in your favourite chair with a good book this spring, and they both have Battersea's warm glow radiating from the pages.

The journeys of some of our favourite boys and girls from Kennels and Cattery to loving new homes are brilliantly told in *Lost & Found: True Tales of Love and Rescue from Battersea Dogs & Cats Home*, published by Penguin.

They include gentle Lurcher Harper, who helped young Ben Harper overcome illness and depression, a three-legged kitten who gave comfort and love where it was desperately needed, and Jester, who sparked a Staffie love story.

*Lost & Found* has a foreword from our very own Paul O'Grady MBE. His fellow Battersea Ambassador Dame Jacqueline Wilson's new book, *Paws and Whiskers*, will be a must-see on young animal lovers' bookshelves. Jacqueline has chosen over 30 stories from writers including Michael Morpurgo and Enid Blyton – and best of all, there's a brand new story from our favourite author herself.

You can buy *Lost & Found* and *Paws and Whiskers* in our shops and online. Royalties from sales are donated to Battersea.

We've got six copies of each book to give away to lucky Paws readers. Email your name and address to [paws@battersea.org.uk](mailto:paws@battersea.org.uk) with a subject of 'Paws book competition', or write to the postal address on page 1.

WIN!



We're looking for companions for our animals, to give them a break from kennel or cattery life



Battersea Staffie Marcel and his cosy blanket

## US students in stitches

Sixth grade students in Charlotte, North Carolina, are learning to crochet, and their newfound craft skills are all down to Battersea.

Teacher Christopher Gorski says: "We had a terribly cold winter all over the United States so after some thinking and searching I came across the idea of blankets for furry friends, from the Battersea website.

"After teaching 130 11 and 12-year-olds how to crochet (whew), we're well on our way to making our own patchwork blankets. So while it's impractical to get them to Battersea across the Atlantic, I did want to say thank you for the inspiration. We'll be sending our blankets to a local shelter in early April."

And you can find the knitting pattern at [battersea.org.uk/knitting](http://battersea.org.uk/knitting)

## Old Windsor Fun Day

Battersea Ambassador Dame Jacqueline Wilson is the guest of honour at this year's Old Windsor Fun Day, and will be judging the Best Battersea Dog class.

If you've yet to visit our Berkshire centre, or if you're an old friend returning again, we'd love to see you on **Saturday 5 July** from 10.30am until 4.30pm, for agility, children's games, stalls and lots of dogs in all shapes and sizes.



Fostering





## Bark in the park

We'll be chipping, tagging and having fun in North London this spring, at *Pets in the Park* in Clissold Park, Stoke Newington.

So come along to meet the Battersea team, and give your wannabe champion canine a go at agility or winning a class in our dog show, which includes the Best Rescue Dog class. We'll also be offering microchipping and tag engraving.

**Hackney Council's *Pets in the Park* is at Clissold Park, London N16 9HJ, from 9am-4pm on Saturday, 26 April 2014**

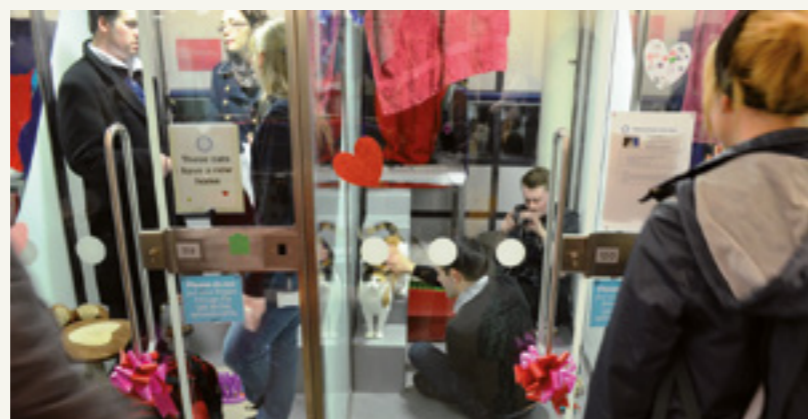


## Those darn cats are at it again!

As part of Battersea's Cat Takeover, they captivated a whole Cattery full of Valentine visitors looking for friendship, or maybe miaow, at our Feline Lonely evening on 14 February.

Our cats, and their courtiers, enjoyed a night of feline fun and frivolity which resulted in more than one match made in heaven.

Over 600 people spent their Valentine's Day evening at Battersea and we raised over £2,000 to care for our moggies. Three cats went home on the night, another eight were reserved, and lots of our visitors said they were thinking of rehoming from us in the near future.



## Up for a challenge?

Good luck to our fantastic team of runners in the Virgin Money London Marathon on 13 April. Thank you for all your hard work training and fundraising; we can't wait to see you on the day.

If you would like to take on a challenge event and raise vital funds for Battersea there's still plenty to get involved in. In June, we're looking for cyclists to join our fantastic team in the 100k Nightrider cycle challenge, pedalling past some of the greatest landmarks in the capital including Tower Bridge, Parliament and the London Eye.

We are also very excited to have places in the London Triathlon in August for the first time. Swim, run and cycle a range of distances from Super Sprint up to Olympic Plus. And if you don't fancy doing the whole thing, why not follow in the footsteps of Olympians Louis Smith, Jade Jones and Nicola Adams and take on one leg as part of the team relay with friends?

To find out more about all our challenge events visit [battersea.org.uk/get\\_involved/events\\_challenges](http://battersea.org.uk/get_involved/events_challenges) or email [events@battersea.org.uk](mailto:events@battersea.org.uk)



## Boris to the rescue

London Mayor Boris Johnson gave a Battersea dog his vote when he dropped into a Junior Citizen event at Hillside Primary School in Bromley recently.

Boris met English Bull Terrier Summer, a former Battersea girl owned by Volunteer Mel Fernandes, who was giving a talk to the London youngsters on how to be safe around dogs.

## Paul wins again

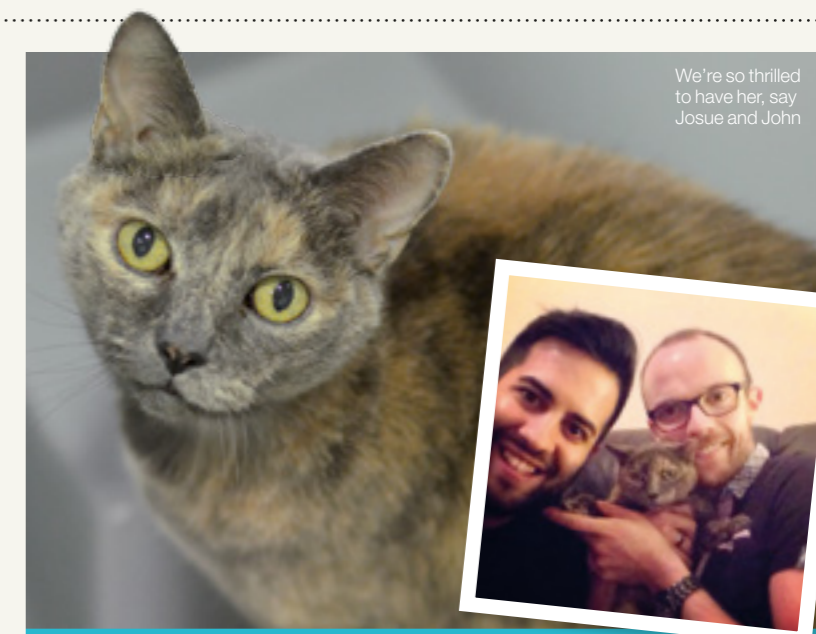
Have you heard the news? Battersea's dogs have yet more top TV awards to their name.

*Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs* saw off the competition to retrieve a successive Best Factual Entertainment Award at the National Television Awards 2014 – voted for by members of the public.

Collecting his trophy for the second year running, Paul said: "There's just somebody I would really like to thank – it's all the dogs in the Home, they are the real stars of the show."

The show also recently won the 2014 Television and Radio Industries Club award for Factual Programme.

*For the Love of Dogs* has now topped the ratings for two primetime ITV series and two Christmas specials.



We're so thrilled to have her, say Josue and John

## Dusty comes home

When lovely old tortoiseshell moggy Dusty's owner died, one thing the grieving family didn't have to worry about was her pet's future.

Having rehomed Dusty from our London centre as a kitten in 1999, her owner left Battersea a £1,000 legacy in her Will. When she died recently, Dusty came back to her first 'home' and we cared for her until loving new owners Josue and John chose her to live out her retirement years in South London.

"If potential Legacy donors ask us to look after their beloved cat or dog when they're gone, we promise as much continuity of care as possible," says Legacy Manager Spencer Wisdom. "They will get the very best of care as they pass through Battersea from one loving owner to another."

To find out more about how to leave Battersea a gift in your Will, call 020 7627 9247 or email [legacies@battersea.org.uk](mailto:legacies@battersea.org.uk)

## Put a spring in your step with a new furry friend

Find out more about dog fostering at [battersea.org.uk/fostering](http://battersea.org.uk/fostering) and cat fostering at [battersea.org.uk/cats/fostering](http://battersea.org.uk/cats/fostering)





# Rehoming news



Sandy

## Sandy

Sandy's new mum and dad had never imagined themselves with a Staffie but now they'd recommend this super breed to anyone. After entrancing everyone at Battersea with her gentle, funny character, Sandy trotted off with Frans and Shirley Conroy and soon found her way into their roast beef dinner, their beds and their hearts.

## Picasso

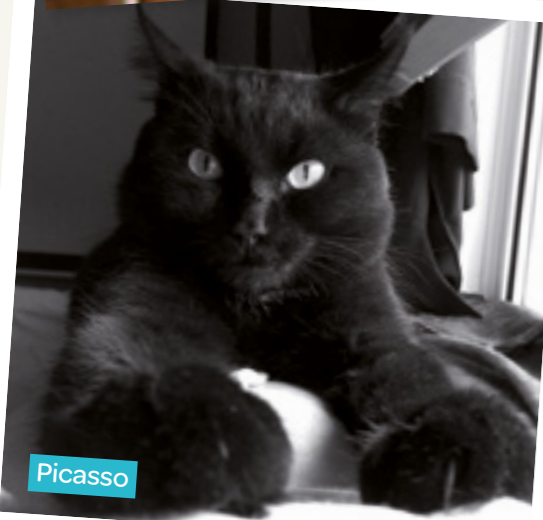
Shy Picasso refused to venture out from behind the sofa for weeks, says Tim Mellor, of Cambridge. Like his namesake, Picasso was eventually drawn out and now enjoys the landscapes in Tim's garden as well as the still life in his pond and watercolours (that's drinking from the tap).

## Shadow

Our lovely Shadow took his time sizing up options for his future life – 270 days. He even appeared in the newspapers, and was named Britain's loneliest dog. Finally though, this gentle Greyhound sprinted into the hearts of the Andrews family from Ipswich, and is now "always wagging his tail, full of bounce and affection, always up for walks, playtime, kisses and cuddles with everyone he meets". Perfect.

## Ben and Jerry

The cats that got the ice cream name are double trouble brothers who double up as John Lovell and Phill Weaver's morning alarm clock. "They have such great characters and everyone who visits the house immediately falls in love with them, like we did when we first saw them on your website then met them for real at Old Windsor", says John.



Picasso



Shadow

Ben &amp; Jerry

# Clean 'n' Safe

## House Training Pads Offer

NEW



## For puppies and dogs of all ages

- Super absorbent gel locks in moisture & odours
- Leak proof pads dry in 30 seconds
- Keeps paws & floors clean & dry

Buy any pack of Johnson's Clean 'n' Safe House Training Pads and get 50p off Johnson's Puppy Trainer or Anti-Chew Training Spray



50p

OFF...

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To the retailer: Johnson's Veterinary Products Ltd will redeem this voucher, providing it has been received in part payment for any Johnson's Puppy Trainer or Anti-Chew Training Spray. Redeem by returning all vouchers to JOHNSON'S VETERINARY PRODUCTS LTD, FREEPOST (BM2565) SUTTON COLDFIELD, West Mids B75 7DF. (Please note there is a £2 minimum redemption value) Johnson's Veterinary Products Ltd reserve the right to refuse the redemption of any vouchers Terms & Conditions apply. Offer ends 31.08.14





# Building for the future

Left Winter the Deerhound in one of our Victorian kennels  
Right A view of the proposed kennel blocks with intake building to left

This spring saw Battersea launch the biggest appeal in our 154-year history – to rebuild our kennels. Our promise to never turn away an animal in need is as vital as ever, and while our promises have endured all these years, our premises sadly haven't.

Battersea Dogs & Cats Home finds itself in the 21<sup>st</sup> century but based in 19<sup>th</sup> century premises. Many of the original Victorian kennels of the South London site are still here – underneath railway arches. These kennels are no longer used: they have concrete floors, iron bars and are impossible to heat properly or clean thoroughly.

Our current kennels were opened between 1986 and 1991, and became home and somewhere to eat, sleep and play for all of the lost or abandoned dogs that arrive at Battersea every day. We see 6,000 dogs come through our doors each year and many find kennel life stressful. Many of the kennels are small, gloomy and noisy, exacerbating an already stressful situation for the dogs. We give our dogs all the love we can but our facilities are letting them down.



We have seen a dramatic increase in the number of bull breeds that arrive at our doors either as strays or given to us by owners who can no longer look after them. Recent years have seen an increase in the arrival of Huskies and Alaskan Malamutes as they have become trendy, without widespread understanding of these breeds' requirements for space and exercise. More of these large, energetic dogs living in small, uniform kennels without a lot to offer in terms of enrichment or sensory stimulation is stressful and not good for the wellbeing of all of our dogs.

Over the next year, we plan to completely transform the buildings at our Battersea centre, to create brand new kennels with more space and natural light which will lead to a calmer and more peaceful environment for our dogs: bigger kennels will mean the dogs have more room for themselves and the modern design will reduce stress levels. Infection control management will see improved dog health and reduced infection levels across the site, while light and attractive kennels will provide a welcoming environment for our staff and visitors. Improvements in our exercise paddocks will offer dogs a variety of textures to explore and encourage natural behaviour, and all of these factors will lead to calm, healthy, happy dogs, who can be rehomed more quickly – enabling us to help even more dogs over the course of each year.



A brief history of the kennels at Battersea

- **1860**  
The Home that would become Battersea opened in a disused stableyard in Holloway; the kennel was in the coach house, 'neatly tiled with a bright coke fire burning'
- **1870**  
The Temporary Home for Lost and Starving Dogs moves to a site in Battersea, bounded by Victorian railway lines, whose arches are made into kennels
- **1896**  
Battersea's kennels were swamped by the arrival of 232 dogs a day – the result of a rabies outbreak. In the space of 50 days, the Home took in 11,399 dogs
- **1900**  
17,000 stray, lost and abandoned dogs arrive at the Home in one year
- **1939-45**  
B-Block Kennels took the brunt of the bomb damage inflicted on Battersea during World War Two
- **1954**  
The Home's new chief, Lt Cdr Benjamin Knight, reported that the Kennels were dingy, rundown and bitterly cold in winter
- **1991**  
A new kennel block, Tealby, was opened by our Patron, HM The Queen
- **1996**  
The capacity of the Home increased to 650 dogs with the opening of the Kent building
- **2010**  
As Battersea marked 150 years of keeping its promise never to turn away an animal in need, some were still enduring their stay in kennels nearly as old as that promise...



The countdown has begun. But we can't keep our promise to the dogs that arrive at our doors without your help.

On 20 March, the first cornerstone of our new kennels was laid by our wonderful ambassadors, Dame Jacqueline Wilson, David Gandy, Amanda Holden and Paul O'Grady, helped by our Ambassadors Poppy, Molly and Bobby. This was the first step in a process that will see the structure of the Battersea London centre change completely.

To fulfil this vision, we need to raise the last £1.9m to be able to complete the build. Battersea receives no Government funding and relies entirely on the help of our supporters to care for our animals. Battersea cares for around 6,000 dogs every year. If, for every one of them, ten people donated £40 to our appeal, we could reach our target and help more dogs made homeless through no fault of their own.

To raise the money for this appeal, we are asking supporters to sponsor a dog for one day in the Battersea kennels – £15.70, or £20.70 for a special day like Christmas. You can choose which day you would like to fund on our website, at [battersea.org.uk/payforaday](http://battersea.org.uk/payforaday)

Each sponsor will receive a certificate to thank them for their support, which can also be bought as a gift for someone else.

You can also text **DOGS** to **70800** to donate £5.

Claire Horton, Chief Executive of Battersea, said: "This is a new beginning for Battersea Dogs & Cats Home and a fresh start for thousands of dogs who will benefit from new spacious, light and warm kennels. It is the help of our incredible supporters that enables Battersea to give dogs a second chance – and this is our chance to set the Home up for the next 150 years and beyond."



**Amanda Holden**  
Battersea Ambassador

"Battersea's very oldest kennels were built over 100 years ago and have been home to generations of homeless dogs. Now, they urgently need replacing so that lost, abandoned and unwanted dogs have a safe and comfortable Home between homes. You can help to build new lives for them."



**Nicky Clarke**  
Hair stylist to the stars

"Battersea needs your help even more urgently than before, to build new kennels for all the neglected, abandoned and unwanted dogs who come through these gates every year – 6,000 of them. By giving just £15.70 to Battersea's appeal, you'll be paying for a day at Battersea for one of those dogs."



A slate plaque marks the start of a new era



Changes to the area

We're at the heart of a massive transformation of our local area, which will see the Thames-side strip from Vauxhall down to Battersea change out of all recognition over the next decade.

An £8 billion redevelopment of Battersea Power Station is being carried out, with a new shopping street connecting the old Victorian power station to a new London Underground station, and new residential neighbourhoods to be built on either side.

The station will be part of the Northern line extension, with another new tube station at Nine Elms on Wandsworth Road, scheduled to open by 2019. A park will be built along the river on the South Bank, running from Nine Elms through Vauxhall and on to Battersea Power Station.

This project will create 16,000 new homes and 25,000 new jobs, with an estimated 10,000 more people walking past the Home twice daily for their commute.

# Forever loved

For being your best friend.  
For making home feel like home.  
For being there when you feel down.  
For every stroke and every hug.  
For all the love they give.  
For Battersea.  
Forever.

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

'Without Battersea, Eddie and I would never have found each other. That's why I've remembered Battersea Dogs & Cats Home in my Will. Will you?'

*Paul O'Grady*



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







**Please return to: Battersea Dogs & Cats Home,  
4 Battersea Park Road, London SW8 4AA  
or call 020 7627 9300  
[battersea.org.uk/forever](http://battersea.org.uk/forever)**

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# Anxiety & Behaviour Solutions

## Stop Pulling

## Mekuti Balance Harness

Enjoy walking your dog!

- Stop pulling on the lead
- Gentle, kind and really works!
- Removes strain on dog's neck

"I cannot believe that this has really worked. I was getting fed up with being pulled around like a rag doll. **The Mekuti arrived and every walk has been fantastic.** Even with other dogs she was exactly the same, calm and a joy to walk. **I cannot praise this product enough.**" Mrs A.L., Milton Keynes



## Anxious behaviour

## T-Shirts & Body Wraps

Calming your dog with a T-Shirt or Body Wrap helps reduce:

- Thunder and firework fright
- Aggression towards dogs and people
- Car and travel problems

"It really works! We had a week of fireworks and thunder. Every time I put it on him within five minutes he was asleep. **I am so grateful!**" Cath, Wuff Dog Training



## Excessive Barking

## Calming Band

A Calming Band is a very gentle way to help reduce:

- Barking, whining and licking
- Aggression and stress outside or inside

"I really didn't expect this to work, but it has! Before, he would start barking at any dog as soon as he could see them now he greets them with his tail wagging." Mrs J.C., Durham



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# Doggallery

These gorgeous girls and bouncing boys will put a spring in your step. Catch up with more Battersea dogs in their new homes at [battersea.org.uk/dogs/happy\\_endings](http://battersea.org.uk/dogs/happy_endings)



Archie



Reggie & Maddy



Honey



Socks



Bonzo & Cassie



Toby

- 1 Archie, from Caroline Riddock
- 2 Reggie & Maddy, from Sharon Barnes
- 3 Honey, from Maria Parker
- 4 Socks, from Claire McRae
- 5 Bonzo & Cassie, from Peter Kirby
- 6 Toby, from Kelly-Anne Munn

Please send us your pictures by email to [paws@battersea.org.uk](mailto:paws@battersea.org.uk)  
You can also write to the address on page 1  
If you'd like your pictures returned, enclose an SAE



# Cat-egoric success

For the first time in Battersea's history, our felines are finding more families than their canine counterparts. The cats have well and truly walked all over their woofing buddies – that's one successful Cat Takeover.



Last year, our cats set themselves a mission. The moggies wanted to make their mark in our Home, as well as yours, for a Cat Takeover. They were fed up of the dogs stealing the limelight so they decided to cunningly claw their way into the centre of attention.

It worked. In the last six months, over 1,000 Battersea cats have found new homes. In one weekend alone, we rehomed a record-breaking number of cats as 53 felines left Battersea with new families. This made such a huge difference to the Home as we have been able to help even more cats in need to paw their way into the new lives that they deserve.

Battersea's Head of Cattery Lindsey Quinlan said: "We've been absolutely blown away by the success of the Cat Takeover campaign. We've never been so busy with lots of people from all over the UK visiting us and wanting to rehome our feline friends. We hope that this campaign has really put Battersea's cats in the forefront of people's minds and that cat lovers will continue to visit us and give much-needed homes to the thousands of marvellous moggies that we look after every year."

Since September, we've cared for some true cat characters. We've looked after Misty, the polydactyl cat who has five-fingers, Oyster who hitched a ride to our London centre after being found on the Tube, and feisty feline Baby Girl, who impressed us all with her ninja skills.



Campaign stars Baby Girl (above) and Misty (below)

Baby Girl definitely stole the show during her time at Battersea. This feisty not-so-little feline faced a six-month wait for a new family after coming into the London centre as a stray. Most of our cats spend an average of just 27 days with us before being rehomed so Baby Girl decided to take matters into her own paws. She demanded an 'interview' and to be given her own feature on the Battersea website and social media channels, Facebook and Twitter. She purred to her growing admirers: "The humans seem to think that there's something amusing in the way I play with the toys they provide me with – whether it's chasing a toy mouse or catching a fish on a string. Us cats just know how to use what we've got to our full advantage." After her moment of fame, she soon caught the eye of Jenny and Paul Frogley from Wallington, Surrey where she is now enjoying her own place to pad around in.

In the last six months, over **1,000** Battersea cats have found new homes



"We hope that this campaign has really put Battersea's cats in the forefront of people's minds"

Even though Battersea has been looking after cats for more than 130 years, it has been relatively unknown that Battersea does more than just dogs. We started looking after cats way back in 1883 and since then we've looked after more than 200,000 mighty moggies with an average of 190 cats in our care at any one time across our three centres or in foster homes. That was reason enough for our pusscats to want a boost in popularity.

Throughout the year, we've opened our doors on special occasions to celebrate Halloween and Christmas in true Battersea style and to give our supporters and their families the chance to meet our cats. This has really helped as in the last six months we have seen a soar in visitors with more than 26,000 people visiting our three centres in London, Old Windsor in Berkshire and Brands Hatch in Kent. Not everyone leaves with a new four-legged friend, and that's just fine as we love meeting new people and talking to them about the work we do at the Home. We've got a full schedule of events planned for this year too, so keep an eye on the Battersea website for announcements.



As we head further into 2014, we're hoping that our cats will remain top of the list for feline fans looking to support cats in need. As well as rehoming, there's lots of ways to provide the vital help that our animals depend upon:

**Sponsor a Kitty Kabin so our cats have a safe and warm place of their own**  
[battersea.org.uk/kitty\\_kabin](http://battersea.org.uk/kitty_kabin)



**Find a spot on your sofa for one of our cats by fostering or rehoming**  
[battersea.org.uk/cats/fostering](http://battersea.org.uk/cats/fostering)



**Text CATS to 70800 to donate £5 to help us care for our current residents**



**Spreading the Cat Takeover word**

We've been spreading the word about our Cat Takeover in more ways than one. If you live in London or have recently visited the Capital, you may have seen our Cat Takeover posters adorning many a billboard throughout the London transport network on the tubes and trains. Or, maybe you spotted our postcards featuring Battersea cats beautiful Bertha or fabulous Frank which have also been dotted around the city. Lots of photos of our campaign posters and postcards have been shared on Twitter and Facebook as our supporters enjoyed seeing a friendly feline face as they went about their day.

The many people who pass our London centre every day also couldn't fail to see the three-storey vinyl featuring Bertha which adorns our Cattery, facing out onto Battersea Park Road. Gorgeous Garfie has also been decorating windowsills of many a cat-loving household as we have given stickers to people who have recently rehomed a Battersea cat.

We've also been overwhelmed with photos of the Cat Takeovers happening in your homes with hundreds of photos being shared on our social media channels.

Our cats really have taken over Battersea Dogs & Cats Home and that's exactly how they intend to keep it... just don't tell the dogs.

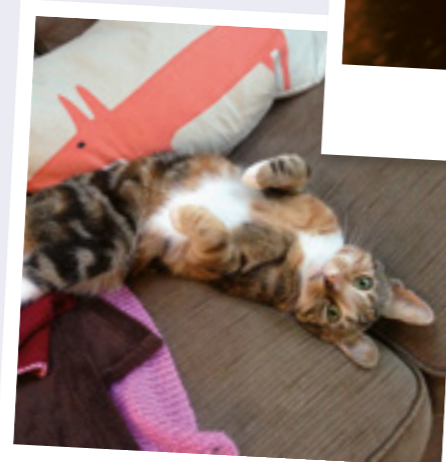
If you think you could help, find out more at [battersea.org.uk/CatTakeover](http://battersea.org.uk/CatTakeover)



Flutterwing



Andre



Cookie

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## cottages4you

Don't forget our friends at **SockShop** are also donating 12% of every order when the code **BATTERSEA** is entered in the gift voucher code box when shopping online.



# Cat gallery

What a striking line-up of Battersea cats in their new homes. Thank you to everyone who sent us a photo of their special pal – we're sorry we can't publish them all. You can see more at [battersea.org.uk/cats/happy\\_endings](http://battersea.org.uk/cats/happy_endings)



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- 1 Alfie, from Ray Laphorn
- 2 Mumbo & Jumbo, from Denise Celik
- 3 Minnie Moo, from Michael Francis
- 4 Gus, from Julia Chambers
- 5 Jasper, from Mike Dunn and Marlene Rose
- 6 Jasper & Willow, from Charlotte Welch
- 7 Jozio, from Anna Ryland

Please send us your pictures by email to [paws@battersea.org.uk](mailto:paws@battersea.org.uk)  
You can also write to the address on page 1.  
If you'd like your pictures returned, enclose an SAE.



# paws Letters

Mia



STAR LETTER

## A happy homecoming

Our little kitten Mia from Battersea Brands Hatch has settled in so well, we are all very happy together. Thank you so much for everything, you have been brilliant, more than words can say. Everyone we have dealt with at Battersea, be it on the phone or in person has been outstanding, you truly are remarkable people and what you do is amazing.

The world is a better place for Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, without question, and we are proud to be part of the Battersea family.

John, Sarah and Sandra Witherden, Maidstone



Mila

## Vintage terrier

I got Mila, a Parson Russell Terrier, about 16 or 17 years ago from the main Battersea site. I think at the time you told me she was three years old according to dental records. This makes her an astonishing 20 years old this year.

I thought you would like to know that she is remarkably well, still loves a long walk. She is blind in one eye now but it doesn't seem to impede her in any way. She is a real character and loved by all.

Wendy Gaston, Cranleigh, Surrey

## Blessed by Cliff

We were blessed in June 2012 in adopting Cliff and May. Cliff was unfortunate to have his fair share of health problems, from blindness to a heart murmur. However, he never let this get him down and enjoyed life to the full.

Unfortunately a few months ago Cliff became ill with kidney failure. We all miss him so much and our home just isn't the same without him. We were only blessed to have him a short period of time, but he touched everyone's heart. He was a major part of our family and will be missed deeply.

Having May around has helped with our loss. She's loving all the one-to-one attention and is becoming very attached to our family rabbit!

Claire Sigley, Kent

Cliff and May were originally found tied up in a bag by the side of a North London canal. They were given a second chance and a life full of love, security and happiness by the Sigley family.



Cliff

Luna

## Cool runnings

I just loved *Super Cool Customers* in *Winter Paws* because it was like reading about Luna, our Siberian Husky, who we rehomed four years ago; she's been a fantastic addition to the family, so full of character and so loving.

She's like having a fourth teenager in the house. She's quite happy in her own space, doing her own thing (usually snoozing) but when she wants attention and a cuddle she'll let you know with a prod of the nose and lick; she'll appear at the slightest hint or smell of food and she can be stubborn and might try testing the rules.

She just loves to walk or run (not off-lead) around the fields where we live for at least an hour in the morning and another hour in the afternoon so this year we're going to start bikejoring (Luna running on a towline in front of a bike) as she'll absolutely love it!

Nicky Upton, Bedfordshire



Whiskey



Philip

## A perfect friend

Our beloved Whiskey has died. He was almost 17 and our grief is enormous. Whiskey came from Battersea in October 1997. He had been cared for by Vet Shaun Opperman and was rehomed to us by Ali Taylor. I was worried at first as he was only 12 months old and I wanted at least a two-year-old.

God bless you Ali for having such foresight. You were right, never have we had such a wonderful dog. He was the best dog I ever had, and I have had many over 82 years. God bless you all at Battersea for your devotion to animals. May you always be there for them.

Rosemary Braun, Milton Keynes



Arlo

## Goodbye, little man

Arlo was a Battersea dog, I have had him since 1993 and I was told that he was about four when I got him. He was an amazing little dog and has been a fantastic companion not only to me and my son but to the other dogs in my family, some whom passed away years ago.

He was a very independent little Patterdale cross dog. He had no hair on his head but he was adorable and we always called him our "Little Man Boy".

Everybody thought that Arlo would live forever but two weeks ago he developed a tooth abscess and was too weak to have the tooth removed as he would never survive the anaesthetic, so yesterday Arlo passed away at home. He was 24 years old. What an amazing Battersea dog, I will always miss him.

Josie Lee, Barnes, London

## Hi Max, or should I say Dad?

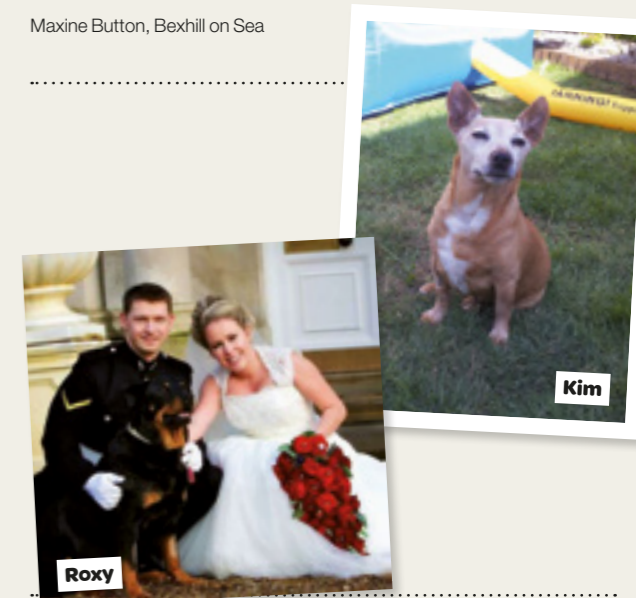
It was good to read your letter in *Paws*, Dad. (*Max enjoyment*, Autumn 2013). I wonder what Bluebell, Crocus, Honeysuckle and the others from the litter are doing? Since joining my new family last March I have explored the Hampshire countryside locally and further afield. I climbed Snowdon last summer with them; nobody else wanted to play football later, perhaps it was too far for them! Like you, I love running, racing across the stubble fields and ball games, especially with the boys in my family.

Philip (and Ruth Brooker), Hampshire

## Easy rider

We got Kim from the London site 15 years ago when I was still working for Battersea Dogs & Cats Home. I worked on the vans collecting strays, and used to take her out with me driving all over London. Three years ago we moved from London to the South Coast and Kim got the retirement she deserved, finally getting a garden to plod around in (arthritis had stopped her doing much running). In May last year she was diagnosed with a lung tumour and given a month at the most to live. She responded well to treatment and surprised us all by living for another eight months, still her usual happy self. She finally lost her battle and has left a massive hole in our lives. Goodbye my dear friend, I will always miss you.

Maxine Button, Bexhill on Sea



Kim

Roxy

## Our maid of honour

We rehomed Roxy in May 2010 and she immediately became a central point in our lives. She was guest of honour at our wedding in January 2014 and we were incredibly proud of her. Sadly she passed away peacefully in her sleep the next week but we will never forget her and are so grateful she could be at our special day.

James and Fiona McNeil (nee Clohessy)





Left Kevin and Molly enjoy a country ramble near their Yorkshire home  
 Right Taking a break from rehearsing their lines  
 Far right Lieutenant-Colonel Roland Brett (Kevin Doyle) and Molly, with Matron Grace Carter (Hermoine Norris)  
 Image: BBC/Nick Wall

# Double act

Renowned British actor and *Downton Abbey* favourite Kevin Doyle, together with his wonderful ex-Battersea dog Molly, will soon be hitting our screens in upcoming BBC 1 World War One drama *The Crimson Field*. In our exclusive interview, Kevin remembers the day he first set eyes on Molly and fills us in on just how she came to be a television star in her own right.

On 10 September 2001, Kevin and his partner Olwen stepped foot inside Battersea Dogs & Cats Home with the hope of rehoming a rescue dog. The very next day they left with Border Collie Cross Molly and the rest, as they say, is history.

“We had ventured to Battersea with a very open mind about breeds,” Kevin tells us. “But we were both immediately drawn to Molly. In a sea of barking dogs, Molly was sat very quietly and gave us a look which said ‘I’m ready to leave here now please.’ It certainly tugged on our heartstrings.”

Molly, thought to be approximately nine months old when she arrived at Battersea, was a stray found on a road nearby, so there was no way of determining her history or how she had found her way to us. With this in mind, Kevin and Olwen did a lot of research on the breed to ensure she settled into her new family life as easily as possible.

“We learned very quickly about Collies,” says Kevin. “They are working dogs, and need to be challenged on a daily basis, but they are also a fantastically loyal breed.” So did a move to Yorkshire from London four years later bring out Molly’s working dog roots, we wonder? “Actually, no” Kevin tells us. “In fact Molly is terrified of sheep which makes for a very entertaining sight on our country rambles!”



Terrified of sheep she may be, but Molly is a true pro when it comes to being in front of the cameras. Soon to appear alongside Kevin in *The Crimson Field*, a gripping World War One drama set in a tented field

hospital on the coast of France, Molly, it transpires, was originally only meant to be a visitor on set.

“Due to Olwen having a directing project on at the same time, I arranged for Molly to join me in the Cotswolds where *The Crimson Field* was filmed,” explains Kevin. “As soon as the producer heard that I had Molly in tow, her eyes literally lit up. Apparently the writer, Sarah Phelps, had always wanted my character to have a dog and one phone call and plenty of excited squeals confirmed it – Molly had her own role written in especially and was made an official cast member.”



And it seems Molly’s loyal and focused character lent itself well to being a television star. “Even with so much going on around her on set, Molly settled in really well and stuck by my side throughout filming”, Kevin tells us. “She was made an absolute fuss of and enjoyed every minute too which was lovely to see.”

So now a fully-fledged small screen star, does this mean we will be seeing Molly in an episode of *Downton Abbey* any time soon? “Oh no” replies Kevin, who plays Joseph Molesley in the award-winning drama, “Mr Carson would never allow such a thing.”

And on that note we leave a happily snoring Molly tucked up in her bed, no doubt dreaming of her name in lights.

Like Molly, our dogs come in all shapes and sizes – and so do our rehoming. Find out more at [battersea.org.uk/rehoming](http://battersea.org.uk/rehoming)



# Take us Home



**Glorious Summer**

## Summer

8 year old Rottweiler

☎ 0843 509 4444 ✉ rehomings@battersea.org.uk

Rottie with laughing eyes and the goofiest grin. Summer loves cuddles and attention, and isn't shy of asking for them! Very happy meeting new people and waggy on introduction.



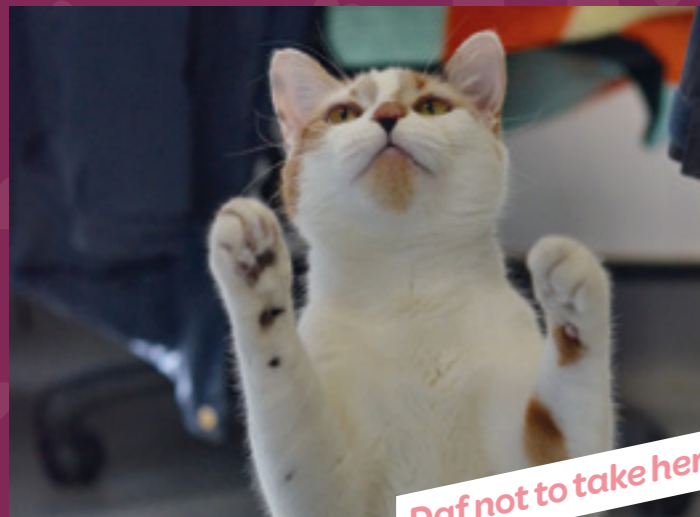
**Super Ted**

## Ted

2-3 year old Domestic Medium Hair

☎ 0843 509 4444 ✉ bow.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

Our rehomingers have described stunning Ted as 'feisty'. He's a wonderful, fun cat and loves to play – but on his own terms.



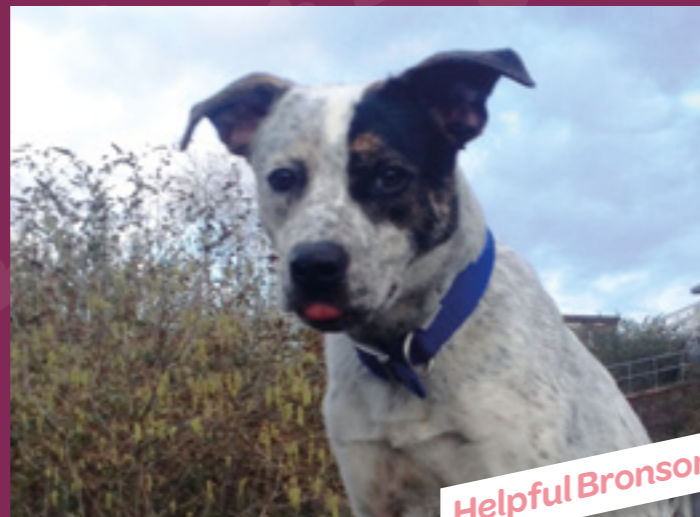
**Daf not to take her**

## Daffodil

1-2 year old Domestic Short Hair

☎ 0843 509 4444 ✉ cat.rehomings@battersea.org.uk

Daffodil is our little ray of sunshine. She needs an owner experienced with feisty cats, who can read her body language. She forms strong bonds and can be smoochy.



**Helpful Bronson**

## Bronson

8 year old Mongrel

☎ 0843 509 4444 ✉ rehomings@battersea.org.uk

What a lovely young man our Bronson is – he'll make someone a wonderful companion. Bronson has been helping on Reception; has greeted people really nicely. Loved all the toys, and the Hoover was his friend.

Meet some of the boys and girls we've got to know and love at Battersea. If you fall head over heels like we have, get in touch.



**Robbie's a softie**

## Robbie

2 year old Mongrel

☎ 0843 509 4444 ✉ rehomings@battersea.org.uk

Robbie makes friends quickly, but has a sensitive side. He's a great big softie with a grin as big as his heart, and knows 'sit', 'both paws' and 'speak'.



**Cheeky Tigger**

## Tigger

7-8 year old Domestic Short Hair

☎ 0843 509 4444 ✉ catterybbh@battersea.org.uk

Tigger's a couch potato who has piled on the pounds, so she'll need encouragement to exercise. Very cheeky, and happy to meet new people.



**Winning Brophy**

## Brophy

6 year old Alaskan Malamute

☎ 0843 509 4444 ✉ rehomings@battersea.org.uk

Brophy is very affectionate and happy to approach new people; straight over to have a sniff. Loves to play fetch and will amuse himself with toys; happy to entertain himself. Handsome, and a big softie.



**The full Monty**

## Monty

11 year old Bull Mastiff Cross

☎ 0843 509 4444 ✉ rehomings@battersea.org.uk

Lovely old gentleman but don't be fooled, he's strong physically and mentally. Loves a good fuss but values his time alone too. Still up for a walk and a play, and enjoys a potter and a sniff.



# Love at first sight

Sighthounds were originally bred to hunt by speed and sight, instead of by scent and endurance like scent hounds. They have a strong chase and prey drive, heightened in working dogs, however with training and patience they make wonderful family pets.



## Greyhound

Graceful, fleet... and incredibly lazy. At first sight, it's a dog's life for breeds like the Greyhound.

However, being born a black Greyhound is potentially one of the unluckiest things that can happen to a dog, says Battersea's Vicki Milner, an expert in canine welfare and owner of Bobby, a couch potato originally bred for racing.

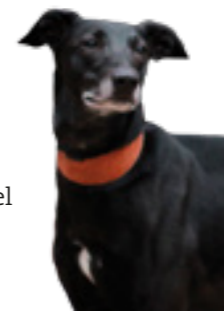
Black Greyhounds are hard to rehome. Other, lighter colours are more popular and, although beauty is only skin deep, others have to be patient while they are passed by, like Battersea's Shadow who spent 270 days here waiting for a new home.

The long slender 'head' of the sighthound family, the Greyhound is a familiar sight in Battersea's kennels. It's a sad fact that there are more Greyhounds running on the track than there are being enjoyed as family pets, and therein lies the breed's challenge. Bred to race and chase, often born and raised in kennel environments and facing long retirements after a working life of just two to six years, the odds seem stacked against them.

# 33

Lurchers brought to Battersea so far this year

Shadow spent 270 days at Battersea before being rehomed by the Andrews family - you can read more about Shadow's happy ending on page 8



Vicki's boy Bobby has no chase instinct whatsoever and was therefore unwanted as a puppy - a fate shared by many more Greyhounds than ever make it onto the track. At the other end of the scale, unless successful enough to be sought after at stud, a retired Greyhound will be looking for new board and lodgings to see out the next 10-15 years.

So it's good news that Greyhounds make great pets. "Why do I love Greyhounds?" asks Vicki. "They're incredibly lazy! People think taking on a Greyhound will involve one marathon walk after another, but in fact they are bone idle and like nothing better than a comfy bed or sofa and a warm lap to lay their head on. Short bursts of exercise are what Greyhounds love; the rest of the time they're couch potatoes."

"A Greyhound may take work and training to fulfil their amazing potential as a family pet, and you might have to be careful with them around small furry animals as they've been bred to course game and chase. But as family pets they can't be bettered - good with people and children, sociable with other dogs, relaxed and gentle, easygoing and docile, and blessed with a great sense of humour. If you're thinking of a rescue dog, think of a Greyhound."

Here are a few more members of the sighthound family: do you know your Saluki from your Sloughi or your Whippet from your Wolfhound?

Known as the poor man's racehorse, or snap dog, the thoroughbred **Whippet** is small, quiet and sensitive. He can also sprint at 35mph, so watch out if he's heading towards you!

Afghans

Borzoi

Ibizan Hounds

Lurchers

Pharoah Hounds

Sloughis

Whippets

Wolfhounds

Strictly speaking, the **Lurcher** isn't a breed - they're a cross between any sighthound and a working breed, like a Collie or Terrier. Like Greyhounds, Lurchers are sprinters, so they don't need extensive exercise. Sensitive by nature, Lurchers usually enjoy a strong relationship with their owner. The quickest way to a Lurcher's heart is with attention and food. They have a natural desire to please and revel in human affection. So joyously praising good behaviour rather than shouting when things go wrong will work best.

## Saluki

With a top speed of over 40mph, the Saluki is almost as fast as the Greyhound. They're the oldest of the sighthounds and were bred to hunt gazelle. Smooth or feathered, the Saluki's a real looker. Battersea behaviourist Sarah Tapsell was won over by sweet stray Maple, and rehomed her after she had been with us for over a month.

"Salukis are known for being gentle, loyal and well-tempered," says Sarah. "Maple has never shown aggression and is naturally a soft dog, however consistent training and good socialisation has helped her stay this way. They can be a little aloof, even with their owners, but this is more because they tend to do things when they want to do them. However, due to their appeasing nature towards people and bottomless stomachs, Salukis are willing to do as asked for a little piece of cheese and an ear scratch."

Maple the Saluki was rehomed by Battersea behaviourist Sarah Tapsell



"Salukis are also sensitive and so don't respond well to any harsh training. They are good with children who are respectful but they won't appreciate anyone who pulls them around."

"They are trainable but because of their high instinct to chase they can lack intelligence in other areas as they are so distracted by the purpose for which they were bred. Their main issues are their desire to run and this can mean they don't always think first. Recall training is a must and they shouldn't be off lead unless you are 100% sure you can call them back. Off lead exercise should be done in enclosed spaces away from roads, as when running, a Saluki may not think about where they are running to."

See the Battersea sighthounds who need loving new homes at [battersea.org.uk/dogs](http://battersea.org.uk/dogs)



# Ask the experts

Welcome to our new look *Ask the experts* feature, where *Paws* readers can ask for advice on anything dog, cat, or Battersea-related from our brilliant vets, nurses, behaviour and welfare experts, responsible ownership team, Cattery people, rehomers, fundraisers or volunteer coordinators.

Ask away by emailing [paws@battersea.org.uk](mailto:paws@battersea.org.uk) or write to *Paws* at the address on the contents page and we'll do our best to help.



Clockwise from top left: Conor demonstrates throwing food to the floor; asking to 'sit'; gentle petting and stroking; and ignoring



**Conor Goold**  
Canine Welfare Trainer



**Shaun Opperman**  
Head Vet



**Taz Willis**  
Cat Rehomer

**Q** How do I stop my young Staffie Dougal from 'mouthing' when he gets overexcited when people make a fuss of him? It's only his idea of being loving but I worry if he does this to other people he could hurt them.

Caroline Hayes

**A** Dogs naturally use their mouths to explore the world – just as we humans use our hands. However, it's important for dogs to greet people without using their mouths. Make sure Dougal is always rewarded for greeting or interacting with people calmly. As soon as he approaches someone throw some food on the floor. Practice this, with people approaching him, you throwing food to the floor, and repeating. Progress to asking Dougal to sit whenever someone approaches him, then rewarding him on the floor. This will offer some basic control over his initial greetings and teach him to do something else when approached.

Secondly, dogs can become very excited by petting and stroking, so it is important that all handling is given calmly and gently under the chin and around the shoulders at first. Ask people not to handle him for too long (eg: five seconds at a time) to avoid him becoming too over-excited.

If he does start to mouth people, stop the interaction immediately by asking the person to walk away and ignore him for 10 seconds, then return and start over again. Avoid telling him off verbally, as he may take this as a form of attention and reward for his mouthing! You may want to start these exercises with Dougal on a lead or a long line and slowly build up to being off-lead.

**Q** When we got our dog George we were told we should have him castrated. Our vet said it would be best to wait until he settled before doing it. We still haven't had it done because George is so unaggressive and friendly and I'm afraid he will get fat and lazy if we do. Why does Battersea feel castration is so important? Wouldn't he be healthier if left unneutered?

Bernard Wood

**A** As the 6,000 unwanted dogs Battersea looks after every year would testify, there are already too many homeless dogs – and any unneutered male is entirely capable of helping to add to the figure. We also take in many puppies who are only a few weeks old, and the result of unplanned mating between unspayed females and uncastrated males.

There are health benefits too. Castration removes the risk of testicular tumours developing and helps prevent the onset of conditions such as prostate disease which is common in unneutered male dogs. Neutering male dogs will reduce their need to scent mark too.

With an appropriate diet and plenty of exercise, there is no reason why your neutered pet should gain weight. It is possible that your dog may need less food than before and your vet will be able to advise you on monitoring your pet's weight.

**Q** I've noticed my cat Winnie drinks very little water, should I be concerned? And she has three scratching posts but often favours a couple of chairs. How can I encourage the use of the scratching posts?

Cliff Jerred

**A** Cats, like all animals, need to have freely available access to fresh, clean water at all times. Winnie's water bowl should be emptied, washed and refilled at least once a day. Placement could be a reason too. Cats instinctively don't want to drink from water next to their food – in the wild any water source next to their kill could be contaminated.

Winnie's scratch posts could be in the wrong position, made from the wrong material or be the wrong height. When a cat scratches they are, in part, marking their territory, so they need to be in a prominent place – for now, in the spots where she is currently choosing to scratch. You can move them once she is consistently using them. Or try putting them near her favourite sleeping areas, as cats like to have a scratch when they wake up from a snooze.

Another reason cats like to scratch is so that they can stretch their spines. Make sure you have a nice, tall post she can use to really reach up and stretch. If the post is short, wobbly or awkward this may be a reason why she is not using it. Nowadays you can buy posts and pads made from corrugated cardboard, sisal material, sisal rope or carpet. Perhaps Winnie doesn't like the texture you have chosen and would prefer something else? You can buy upright posts; scratching boxes at an angle; or scratching pads that lie flat on the floor. Different cats prefer different angles.





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"All the team had a brilliant day and really enjoyed the opportunity to spend some time socialising with the dogs in your care. The dog agility challenge encouraged some great team bonding and brought out a bit of competition between colleagues!" **Pets at Home, New Malden**



# Battersea Dogs & Cats Home

GIFT CATALOGUE 2014



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Battersea Dogs & Cats Home rescues, reunites and rehomes dogs and cats. Since 1860, we have helped over 3.1m dogs and cats and we aim never to turn away an animal in need. Each year we look after 6,000 dogs and 3,000 cats, the purchase of these goodies will help us to care for them.

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Postage and packaging is charged at £3.00 for each order unless stated. All orders are delivered by Royal Mail 2nd Class. We will try to send all orders out within one week but please allow 28 days for delivery. For deliveries outside the UK please email [shop@battersea.org.uk](mailto:shop@battersea.org.uk) or call us on 020 7627 9228.

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