

pawws

The supporter magazine
of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home

SPRING 2015
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A Day to Remember

Commemorative issue celebrating
Her Majesty The Queen officially
opening our new kennels





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We think older dogs and cats are
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paws
Spring 2015

Executive Editor
Dee McIntosh
Editor
Caroline Stringer

Contributors
Lisa Bunce
Debbie Chapman
Emma Palmer
Helen Stone
Louise Taylor

Paws Magazine
Battersea Dogs & Cats Home
4 Battersea Park Road
London SW8 4AA

✉ paws@battersea.org.uk
🐦 @BDCH
📘 Battersea

For more information and our
opening hours, call 0843 509 4444 or
visit our website battersea.org.uk

Old Windsor
Priest Hill, Old Windsor, Berkshire SL4 2JN

Brands Hatch
Crowhurst Lane, Ash, Kent TN15 7HH

Patron
Her Majesty The Queen

President
HRH Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO

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& Cats Home by williamjoseph.co.uk

Advertising enquiries
corporate@battersea.org.uk

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Battersea Dogs & Cats Home
4 Battersea Park Road
London SW8 4AA

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Front cover
Our Royal dog
guard of honour

Welcome

Claire Horton, Chief Executive

*'I hope this issue paints a vivid
picture of our day, and makes you feel
very much a part of the celebration'*

I'm delighted to welcome you to this very
special Spring 2015 issue of *Paws*. On
17 March, we marked a truly historic day
at Battersea's London centre. Our Royal
Patron, Her Majesty The Queen, came
to the Home to officially open our new
kennels, and what an amazing day it was.

I only wish we could have invited all
of you to share the occasion with us. It
was exciting, historic, unique, moving
and incredibly important as the Home
continues on its journey of transformation
for our dogs and cats, and the care we can
give them.

So I hope our colourful and descriptive
souvenir issue of *Paws* paints a vivid
picture of our day, and makes you feel very
much a part of the celebration. This was
the single most important day Battersea
had experienced in a quarter of a century,
and I am so pleased I can share it with our
good friends and supporters through *Paws*.

*“Our new
kennels will
be home to
legions of
dogs and
puppies we
have yet to
meet”*

It is entirely due to the kindness of
everyone who so generously gave whatever
they could to make our new Mary Tealby
Kennels rise, brick by brick, that we are
rebuilding Battersea, not just for the dogs
of today but for the hundreds of thousands
of lost, abandoned and neglected dogs
who will pass through our special Home in
the decades to come.

Our new kennels, and our amazing staff
and incredible volunteers, will be home to
legions of dogs and puppies we have yet
to meet – and to whom we shall freely and
gladly give our love and care.

Sadly, some of them will be the victims
of irresponsible backstreet breeding. You
can read all about our campaign to help
end the plight of dogs like Marjorie, who
are forced to be mothers again, and again,
in a special feature on page 12. I urge you to
join us in this fight to save all the Marjories,
Savannahs and Pollys of this world from
a lifetime of misery and neglect. Find out
how on page 14.

And on page 24, you can meet a few of
the Battersea cats and dogs who have a
very important place in all our hearts – our

*“Time is precious, and
every memory made will be
a memory to hold dear”*

beautiful, golden, oldies. There is nothing
to compare to walking the autumn of life
with a treasured companion, or feeling
the steadfast gaze of faltering but still-
loving eyes.

Everyone who has lost their heart, as
I have, to an older dog or cat, knows that
time is precious, and every memory made
will be a memory to hold dear.

And everyone who has chosen one of
our oldies, or who is lucky enough to have
seen their Battersea boy or girl reach
retirement age, has given the amazing gift
of a forever home. On page 32, you can
meet some of the playful, mischievous,
slightly eccentric but wholly adorable
dogs and cats who are still waiting. 🐾



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FEATURES



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Battersea Ambassador Amanda Holden celebrates our good fortune

Taking a gamble on dogs and cats

Do you enjoy playing People's Postcode Lottery? Then we owe you £400,000 thank-yous, after the first-ever funding for our Home from players of the charity lottery.

In July, we were presented with £125,000 to help us care for homeless cats and dogs. At Christmas, we received £50,000, and used it to set up a Battersea Stress Squad of volunteers who used sights, sounds and smells to keep our dogs and cats relaxed and stress-free over the festive period.



Belle and Tuppence

Tails were wagging again when players of People's Postcode Lottery awarded us a further £200,000 for our vital community engagement work, which teaches people of all ages about responsible pet ownership and helps tackle antisocial behaviour with dogs. And at the Lottery's annual Charity Gala in Edinburgh, the good news was delivered to Battersea that we had been awarded a further £25,000. This will help us care for older dogs like Belle and Tuppence, who have been at Battersea's Old Windsor centre for 180 days and are still waiting to be rehomed together.

Clara Govier, Head of Charities at People's Postcode Lottery said: "I am delighted that players of People's Postcode Lottery are able to support Battersea Dogs & Cats Home. As a nation of animal lovers it made perfect sense that players of People's Postcode Lottery would support this wonderful charity. This funding will ensure that the amazing staff at Battersea can continue to care for Britain's beloved animals."

Birthday surprise

Animal lover Dhapintha Ruprai celebrated her 22nd birthday with a visit to Battersea, bearing birthday treats for our lucky cats and dogs.

Dhapintha asked family and friends to give her money to buy goodies for our animals, instead of gifts on her birthday, and her special delivery was very happily received in kennels and the Cattery.



Dhapintha unwraps the goodies

Happy ending to Kasper's toy story

A huge thankyou to Kasper Doig, who raised £150 from the sale of his old toys at his school, Elm Green Prep School in Little Baddow, Essex. Milo the Schnauzer got the chance to give hugs of appreciation on behalf of all Battersea animals, and he was rehomed the day after Kasper's visit.



Kasper and Milo the Schnauzer

Rehoming news



MOLLY

This little black and white beauty had some baggage when she arrived at Battersea's Brands Hatch centre as a stray - five young kittens. As well as caring for them until they went to new homes, she had to battle both enteritis and mastitis before she was ready to find a new family herself. "Molly is an amazing addition to the family," says her new mum Micheala Jenkins of Dunmow in Essex.



GIZMO

Gizmo was so sad he'd stopped wagging his tail, but now he's whirlier than a helicopter in a hurricane. After six months at Battersea, poor old Gizmo was understandably down in the dumps, and that meant many a potential owner passing him by. Not Ian and Jan Bevis of Suffolk though. They came, they saw, their hearts melted, "Gizmo has completely come out of his shell and is loving long walks on the beach followed by evenings cuddled up on the sofa. He's the cuddliest, most affectionate Staffie you could hope to meet," says Ian.

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



John Hughes on stage with his ventriloquist's dummy

A last request

A former ventriloquist who rehomed two dogs from Battersea left the Home his entire estate when he died recently at the grand age of 90.

John Hughes had no children, and both his wife and subsequent partner died before him, so he asked Battersea to be the Executor of his Will, a role we were honoured to fill. We also arranged Mr Hughes' funeral, and as dogs were the great love of Mr Hughes' life (his Battersea dogs were called Butch and Twinkle), we thought it fitting to attend with Battersea puppy Bruno (below) to pay our last respects.

If you would like more information about remembering Battersea in your Will, please email a.parente@battersea.org.uk or call 020 7627 9300



LIKE! **BATTERSEA**

When long stay Biscuit went home after 689 days, Facebook fans were delighted:

"So pleased for you boy, been watching and following you on here wishing someone would take you on, and now the day has come."



Billy soaks up the news

Purr Minister is elected

Our second Battersea Purr Minister competition had politicians campaigning hard for votes – for their cats. Winner Billy, who belongs to Mid Dorset and North Poole MP Annette Brooke, stood with a manifesto of 'love and care' and edu-CAT-ion for all. We don't think he'll be defending his title at the upcoming General Election, but he's already done his bit to involve rescue cats in politics, so well done Billy.



Lodge makes the Grade

Whittington Lodge, admired by millions of visitors to our world-famous London Home over the years, has been awarded Grade II Listed status.

Built in 1907, the Lodge was designed by the architect Clough Williams-Ellis, who went on to create the Italianate masterpiece Portmeirion in North Wales (famously used as the set for 1960s cult TV series *The Prisoner*). It was used to house Battersea's cats at the turn of the 20th century, providing a safe home for 787 stray cats in its first year of use, and was named after Dick Whittington.

To celebrate the lodge's new listed status, Culture Minister Ed Vaizey MP renamed one of

Clockwise from top: Veronica Fiorato, English Heritage, Culture Minister Ed Vaizey with Whittington the kitten, and Chief Executive Claire Horton outside Whittington Lodge as it stands today; Whittington the kitten; the Lodge in the 1940s

Battersea's feline residents 'Whittington'. She arrived with her litter mates after their mum disappeared, having been spooked by noise from building works.

Our Chief Executive Claire Horton said: "Battersea is one of the oldest and best known rescue centres in the world and is steeped in the history of our great city. We're thrilled that Whittington Lodge has

been Grade II Listed in our 155th year of taking in lost, abandoned and unwanted animals.

"Whittington Lodge was very possibly the nation's first cattery. We've cared for nearly a quarter of a million cats since its construction and Whittington Lodge has stood the test of time, surviving two World Wars. Listing accreditation for this wonderful architectural treasure further cements Battersea's status as one of the intrinsic parts of the London landscape."

We're open daily, so if you'd like to see cats, dogs and listed buildings, come and visit: battersea.org.uk/visitus

YOUR TERRIFIC TWEETS @BDCH

In order to help banish the January blues, Battersea teamed up with *Heatworld* for a second year running to bring the much-loved Kitten Cam back to our computer screens. Thousands of viewers watched five youngsters doing what kittens do best – getting up to mischief and generally being adorable – all in the name of cat therapy.

The kitten cam from [@heatworld](https://twitter.com/heatworld) @BDCH is the cutest thing ever. Just what my Monday needed!
@liz545

This #KittenCam is really making my day – thank you [@heatworld](https://twitter.com/heatworld) and [@BDCH](https://twitter.com/BDCH)
@Jessikalili



Interesting viewing
#KittenCam @BDCH
@princeriker



There's a live kitten camera [@BDCH](https://twitter.com/BDCH) and it's the cutest thing in the WORLD
@London24

Rehoming news



TOBY

"We rehomed Toby the day after we got back from our honeymoon", says Victoria Wickman from Twickenham. "He was in quite a state when he arrived at Battersea, and was waiting for a home for quite a while. He has settled in so well and certainly rules the roost, spending many an hour watching the fish tank television. Thank you for nursing this little stray back to health so he could come and live with us."



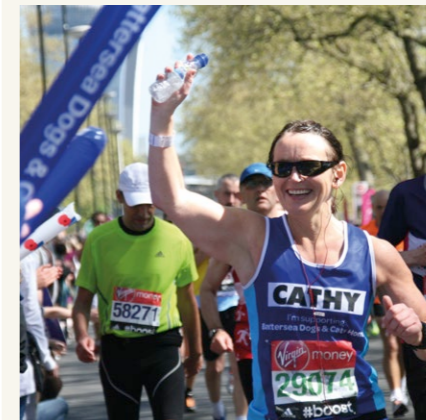
TULA

Luckily, there was no clash of the titans when giant Canary Dog Tula met monolithic Italian Mastiff Digger - the pair are huge friends. After 273 days at our Brands Hatch site, we were worried Tula would never find a home, because of her size. But now the happy-go-lucky girl with a larger than life character has a knockabout pal. Owner Anna Scott, from Salisbury, says: "Tula thought she was a big dog until she met Digger. He's ten now so he's a bit clumsy with his paws, and if Tula's around and gets accidentally clobbered, she just accepts it - she knows there's no malice. Big dogs are underrated and misrepresented. They are loyal, cuddly and tremendous fun."

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

Events

Do something amazing for Battersea. Find out more by emailing events@battersea.org.uk or visit battersea.org.uk/getinvolved



London Marathon

26 April 2015

Good luck to all the runners in the Virgin London Marathon, training hard for the starter's gun on 26 April. If you have your own place we'd love you to join Team Battersea and raise money for our cats and dogs.



Nightrider

6-7 June 2015

We're wheely pleased to have places on offer in the 100km Nightrider cycle challenge, which takes in all the great sights of London as you whizz over Tower Bridge, through Canary Wharf and around Piccadilly Circus.

Royal Parks Half Marathon

11 October 2015

Join Team Battersea for a scenic run through four of London's loveliest green spaces; Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, St James's Park and Green Park.



Muddy Dog Challenge

10 May 2015

Like running and LOVE mud? There's still time to join our stickylicious Muddy Dog 2.5k or 5k challenge in Brockwell Park on Sunday 10 May, and raise money for our dogs and cats. Katie Morgan and her dog Freddie are entering as a team. "I knew that Freddie would love to take part and if we can raise money for Battersea too that makes it the perfect challenge. Training is going well, we are practising with running and obstacles in the park and Freddie is enjoying getting very muddy!" says Katie.

Find out more at battersea.org.uk/muddyydog or call 020 7627 7886

Old Windsor Fun Day

4 July 2015

Save the date for a paw-some day out at our country centre in Berkshire. We have fun activities for all the family – including the dog! – loads of stalls, tea and cake, and our famous fun dog show and Battersea Rehoming Parade.





Tyke with his handler, Sam O'Connor

Good boy, Tyke

Battersea Service Dog Tyke, who was talent-spotted while he was a pup at Old Windsor, has done us proud by winning Animal of the Year for his work with the UK Border Forces.

The nine-year-old Labrador, who works at Heathrow, won the IFAW title as he was about to retire after a glittering career at the world's busiest airport. He had already been named In the Line of Duty winner in

ITV's *The British Animal Honours* awards.

Tyke is trained to find products of animal origin, including meat, fish, dairy and products of illegal wildlife trade such as elephant ivory, snakes, tortoise and turtles. He can also sniff out tobacco and cigarettes. More than 20 Battersea dogs found their feet in service homes last year, doing everything from guarding nuclear submarines to search and rescue.

Happy 2015 to our cats

In the first 78 days of 2015, our three catteries rehomed an astonishing 700 cats (that's almost nine a day) including 11-year-old Maude here, who was rehomed in 2006 but brought back when her owners moved. Maude waited two months for her happy ending and is now looking forward to holidays in Devon twice a year.



11-year-old Maude enjoying her happy ending

Knit knack

The world's first interspecies knitting club has the crafting community purring with delight – so make a date with our Knitting Kittens in 2015.

The Cattery is the place to be for a knit together. Both Battersea's London and Old Windsor centres are hosting a monthly knitting club. The first meeting of the year, in wild and woolly January, saw around 20 enthusiasts casting on to make toys and blankets for our residents and their own pets, all in a friendly and tranquil setting – and with added cats, of course.

"We chatted to Battersea staff and volunteers about their roles and even had a little look around the cats currently in Battersea's care. The knitting club is open to everyone, so even if you're a complete beginner you are casting and knitting your first line in no time," said one happy knitter. Find out more at battersea.org.uk/knittingkittens



Fun at our January Knitting Kittens meet-up

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A Day to Remember

Her Majesty The Queen made her first visit to Battersea Dogs & Cats Home in 24 years to officially open The Mary Tealby Kennels, a £4.8m project funded entirely by our steadfast, generous supporters.

Photography by Simon Wilkinson and Kate Walch

Above
The Queen unveils the commemorative plaque

On 17 March 2015, the sun rose on a bright new dawn for every dog who will ever need the love of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home.

Hard-working builders polished newly-installed windows, washed down walkways and swept away the last dust from the works which have transformed our world-famous old site on the banks of the Thames at Battersea.

Our staff and volunteers brushed off their Sunday best, and set to arranging tables and chairs in our marquee, putting up bunting, laying out name badges for 400 guests, and asking how else they could help.

Chief Executive Claire Horton and Chairman of the Council of Trustees Heather Love put the finishing touches to their speeches of thanks to every single supporter, rehomer and friend of Battersea who is helping us build our future, brick by brick.

Our four incredible Ambassadors arrived – David Gandy, Paul O’Grady, Dame Jacqueline Wilson and Amanda Holden – ready once again to champion the Home they love.

Watches were anxiously checked, photographers focused their long lenses, Union Jack flags got practice waves, the smartest and best-turned out London bobby on the beat that day stood ready.

At 3pm precisely, her official car sweeping under the Victorian arches which have encircled our Home for 155 years, HM The Queen came to Battersea.

The Royal Standard, which only flies when she is ‘in residence’, rippled proudly in the breeze over our new kennels.

And, just like everyone who visits us, her eyes shone and a wide smile broke through as she spotted our most famous characters; the true symbols of Battersea and all its long history of care and rescue. Our dogs.

Oblivious to the fact that this day, and that Most Important Visitor, marked the start of a new era in the way we rescue, rehabilitate and rehome animals, they wagged and wiggled, bowed and bounced. Welcome, Your Majesty, welcome to our special Home.

OUR RIGHT ROYAL HOME

The Royal Family has been closely connected with the Battersea story for well over a century. HM The Queen has been our Patron for almost 60 years, and HRH Prince Michael of Kent is Battersea’s President.

The Prince of Wales, the future Edward VII, became our first Royal guest when he visited the Home in 1879, and five years later his youngest brother, the Duke of Albany, was the first member of the Royal Family to rehome a Battersea dog, a Fox Terrier.

On 16 December 1885, Queen Victoria sent £10 to the Home, and promised a yearly subscription to that amount. Encouraged by her interest, the Committee wrote to ask whether their Queen and →



HEATHER LOVE
Chairman

“The reason we are all here today is because of one very sad and lonely Victorian London dog, dying alone and in pain in a city that considered itself to have more worldly cares and ambitions than showing lost, abandoned and cruelly treated animals humanity and respect.

Mary Tealby alone saw him fall, and made a life-changing decision. She decided not to turn her back on this one small tragedy, as she knew that it veiled a multitude of others. And so she made a promise, a promise that has shaped the face of animal welfare today – to never turn away any other dog in need. And it’s a promise that has endured for 155 years, a promise that lives on here at Battersea, every single day.”



Clockwise from top
Heather Love escorts HM The Queen;
Battersea waves the flag;
Our Patron meets the Home’s Ambassadors;
Her Majesty signs our Visitors Book;
Battersea dog Suki greets the Royal party

Empress would also care to become the first Royal Patron of a dogs' home – of this dogs' home.

"Certainly," the Queen replied. "No one loves dogs more than the Queen or would wish to do more to promote their comfort and happiness. They are Man's truest friend."

Prince Michael himself is the proud owner of a Battersea dog, a most handsome Black Labrador called Shadow. And HRH The Duchess of Cornwall has rehomed two dogs from Battersea – Jack Russell Terriers Blubell and Beth.

THE MARY TEALBY KENNELS

HM The Queen, our Royal Patron for almost 60 years, made her first visit to Battersea Dogs & Cats Home in a quarter of a century to officially open The Mary Tealby Kennels, a £4.8m project funded entirely by our steadfast, generous supporters.

Over the past year, as we continued, day by day, to raise the money to pay for them, eight kennel blocks were built where our old exercise paddocks used to be. 56 new homes-between-homes for some of the 6,000 dogs who turn to us for help each year. Our Chief Executive Claire Horton explains what a life-changer they will be for our dogs:

"The new kennels will hopefully speed up dogs' journeys through our Home, and with less stress. We want their experience of kennel life to be as comfortable and as

HRH PRINCE MICHAEL OF KENT President

"As Battersea's President, a role which I hold with immense pride, I know full well the tragedies and triumphs which make up everyday life at the Home. I am all too aware of the determination, passion and sheer hard work which everyone connected to Battersea brings to their role... and the great pride and loyalty that they have for this very special place."

BEAMA MEETS HIS MONARCH

Battersea wouldn't be Battersea if we didn't try to match a great home with a great dog, so we introduced Her Majesty to Welsh Cardigan Corgi Beama. This portly 11-year-old found himself at Battersea after his loving owners had to go and live in a care home where dogs aren't allowed. Despite professing herself tempted (and being a knowledgeable, loving and experienced dog owner with her own private gardens), The Queen wished Beama well on his journey to a new home – and, being by Royal Appointment, that came along just four days later, courtesy of a family from south London.

Below
Paul O'Grady and Head of Canine Welfare Training Ali Taylor introduce Beama



easy as possible, which can only help their chances of finding a new home. We saw a 30% increase in cat rehoming when we opened our new cattery in 2010, so we are expecting a similar impact for our dogs."

We have built smaller, more containable kennel blocks that reduce stress, minimise noise levels and cut the risk of infection for vulnerable and anxious dogs. No dogs are facing each other in the new layout but at the same time the kennels have open fronts so our staff and volunteers are always interacting with the dogs in their care. Each dog has access to an external 'run' which is designed with glazed shutters that can be held open in summer for fresh air and cool breezes, and closed in winter.

Each of the eight kennel blocks has its own vet consult room, food preparation area, dog grooming and covered exercise paddock to give dogs a break from their kennels.

And then there's the fun part. Creating a doggie haven and somewhere where our dogs can relax, recuperate and play is vital. Our intake kennels are where we see extremes of behaviour as dogs struggle to cope with being parted from their much-loved owners, or where abandoned and often neglected strays need time and space to build up their strength and learn to trust again.

We've created as quiet an environment as possible, and our kennels have built-in speakers for us to play soothing music. We have adjacent exercise, play and assessing paddocks and lots of things to



Clockwise from top
Welcome Home;
Vet Nurse Emma Hunkin, RWA Suz Coogan and Head of Dog Rehoming Rob Young wait to meet Her Majesty;
Regal Corgi Beama;
Head Vet Shaun Opperman and Head Nurse Rachel Ab'dee in a new consulting room

CLAIRE HORTON Chief Executive

"Your Majesty, 66 years ago your father King George VI broadcast to the nation at the start of World War Two, quoting these inspirational lines: "I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown'."

"And it is at the 'gate of a new era' for Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, that we stand here today.

"I know I speak for all our Battersea family when I say that we are so proud that Battersea will be the light that guides countless animals towards something they may never have known, a new life, a second chance, a kind and loving home and a lifetime of renewed hope.

"Three million dogs and cats have passed through our doors, and in the next 150 years no doubt we will see three million more. They are the anonymous souls yet to arrive at our gates and plead silently for help.

"They have still to wander into our hearts and claim our love. They are yet to give us lifetimes of joy and laughter, and then leave us with only memories."

create interest for dogs like paddling pools, climbing mounds, small agility, play equipment and sensory plants, protected from direct sun and rain by canopies and screened from the kennel runs by planter boxes. 🐾

BECOME A KENNEL SPONSOR

Our new kennels are built, but they are only a milestone on our journey of transformation – our work is not done. We still need your help, and so do our dogs.

Soon, the Mary Tealby Kennels will be full, each one home to a bewildered, frightened dog or puppy who desperately wants a new start and a second chance. We'll give them all the time and care to make that new life – but what they also need is a friend. Could that be you?

By sponsoring one of Battersea's kennels, you'll be giving each dog who finds a temporary haven there the warmth, safety and love that he or she craves. Your support will ensure that every dog has bedding, blankets, toys and treats to keep them happy and healthy.

You can do all this, and be a part of the unfolding Battersea story, for just £5 a month. Call us on 0870 890 0000 or visit battersea.org.uk/sponsorship

Mother Again

Battersea has launched a major campaign to end the cruel practice of backstreet breeding.

Photography by Andrew McGibbon



In homes up and down the country, in cosy beds next to the boiler, or quiet corners in warm rooms, chubby bundles of newborn pups snuggle up to their contented mum. Healthy, safe and loved, everyone hopes they're destined for a good life.

This is the image many of us hold from our own family experiences of breeding a litter of pups from a beloved pet: that puppy smell, those tiny pink feet, the scramble for a teat at dinnertime.

Sadly, far too many of the 6,000 dogs who turn to Battersea every year tell a different story. It's a tale of neglect and exploitation, of uncaring and mercenary people and exhausted, broken dogs.

Often kept in filthy conditions, with no veterinary treatment, no human love, no purpose except profit, often passed around multiple owners like mobile breeding units, these poor dogs are fuelling a trade we want to see ended through legislation and people power.

This type of unregulated breeding is happening clandestinely across the UK, and is a very different business to that legitimately carried out by licensed breeders and caring people breeding their dog as a hobby.

Battersea is painfully aware of the consequences of unlicensed, unregulated breeding of dogs for monetary gain. We see it in the worn

“The majority of people - 53% in a survey we carried out via YouGov - don't know what is meant by backstreet breeding”

faces and dull eyes of bitches like Polly (left), used as puppy machines and thrown away as obsolete after a lifetime on the mating, carrying, birthing, feeding treadmill.

We see it in the health, behavioural and medical problems of dogs like nine-month-old Ruby Roo. Her owners told us they'd bought her from "a private seller who was quite dodgy", as a teacup Chihuahua. Their vet was horrified by her size and weight (700g - just over 1½lb), and didn't think she would live.

She was so weak she could barely stand, and it was only with a huge amount of TLC that she survived and thrived. Sadly, her owners could no longer care for Ruby Roo, so she came to Battersea.

It's for dogs like Polly and Ruby Roo that we're asking for your help.

We want to see a change in legislation so that a breeding licence is needed for any household producing two or more litters a year (the number is currently five litters a year), and the sale of puppies under eight weeks old is banned.

We know that the majority of people - 53% in a survey we carried out via

“Friends or family thinking about getting a puppy? Make them aware of our campaign to end backstreet breeding”

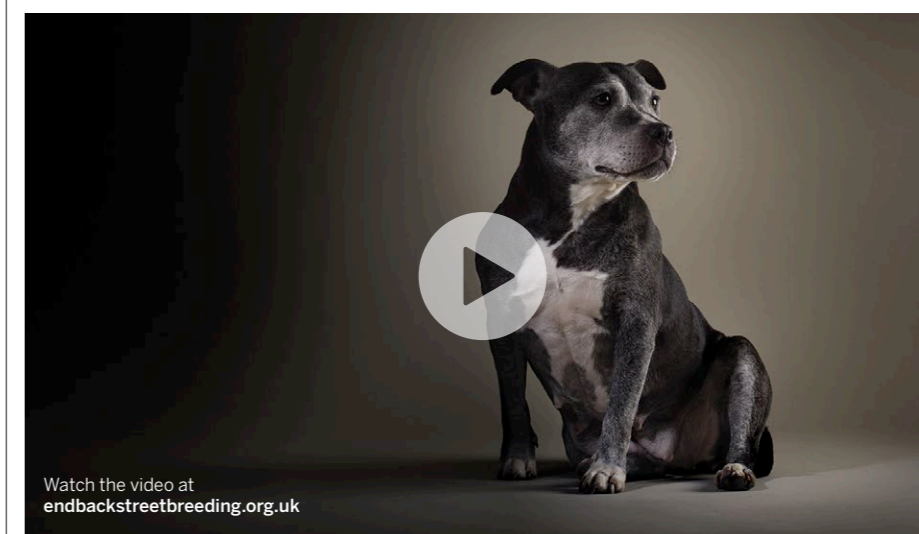
WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

Please email your MP - see how overleaf →

YouGov - don't know what is meant by backstreet breeding, so we also want to make sure many more dog lovers are aware of this term, and exactly what it means to ill-used bitches, struggling pups and disappointed owners.

It's certainly not an industry any dog lover would want to be associated with. Sadly, if you have ever rehomed a dog without going through a formal process such as a licensed breeder or rescue centre - perhaps you bought him from a small ad in the paper or chose your new best friend without meeting his mother - you may just be an unwitting victim of backstreet breeders.

Mothering Sunday fell just a few weeks ago, a day when we think of the enriching, nurturing, giving values of motherhood. For dogs who are caught in backstreet breeding and forced into motherhood by unlicensed breeders, it's just another unhappy day.



BATTERSEA'S WISH LIST



A breeding licence to be required by any household producing two or more litters a year (the number is currently five litters a year)



The sale of puppies under eight weeks old to be banned

PLEASE HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Rehome a rescue dog: Battersea has hundreds of dogs crying out for good homes.

If you buy from a breeder, ask to see the puppies with their mother. If the answer's no, head for the door.

Enquire whether mum will be having another litter later in the year. If she is, her owners may be using her for backstreet breeding.

If your friends or family are thinking about getting a dog, tell them about Battersea's campaign to end backstreet breeding and urge them to think about how they go about buying a dog.

Be aware of the responsibilities of ownership, and be prepared to pay for a healthy, happy pup. Buying a dog cheaply is a huge risk that you could be paying for in vet bills and heartbreak.

Visit endbackstreetbreeding.org.uk for a guide on buying a dog or puppy and what to look out for when visiting them for the first time. →



MARJORIE (above)

This is Marjorie. Isn't she just the sort of wise old dog you could cherish for the rest of her life? It might shock you to learn that Marjorie is just two years old and barely an adult. But she's already seen a lifetime of misery, and her body sags under the weight of her woes – and multiple litters. Marjorie was abandoned to her fate in Feltham, West London, and we're trying to turn her life around and give her the home she deserves. Our first step is to help Marjorie regain her health. Then she can start learning how to be a dog.

PIPPA (right)

King Charles Cavalier Spaniel Pippa is a beautiful girl but looks can be deceiving. Her distorted facial features, unusually long neck and a raft of medical problems all point to her being a product of backstreet breeding. Our Clinic team nursed her back to health before Battersea rehoming found a family to love her.

POLLY (page 12)

Polly the Shar-pei carries all the marks of being used to produce litter after litter. She was dumped in a park in south-east London. Polly struggled to trust the world around her, and needed Battersea vets' expertise to treat an eyelid disorder and a skin condition. Her new family, who live in Middlesex, are helping her to discover the small joys of a peaceful life. 🐾

THE RESPONSE TO THE CAMPAIGN FROM BATTERSEA SUPPORTERS HAS BEEN OVERWHELMING

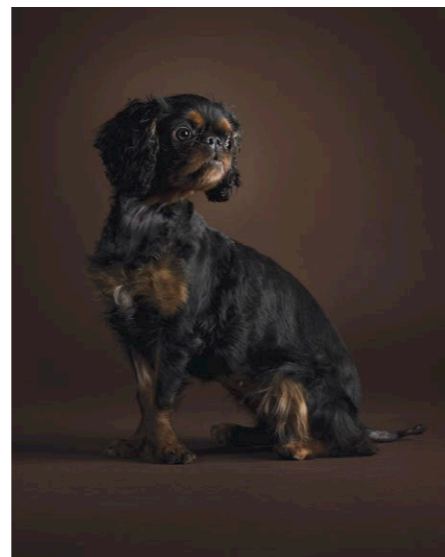
"I've seen first-hand the poor, damaged dogs in Battersea's kennels that have been bred from over and over again. It sickens me to think what these dogs go through before they're dumped on the streets broken and unloved. The awful thing is that backstreet breeders are everywhere lining their pockets from the demand for puppies. If there's one thing we can all do it's to make sure we think about where we're getting a puppy from. Visit a rescue centre or a registered breeder and help Battersea end backstreet breeding." Battersea Ambassador Paul O'Grady

—
🐦 **BDCH**

"Well done @BDCH for great #MotherAgain campaign highlighting horrific impact of backstreet breeding on dog welfare" The British Veterinary Association

—
📘 **BATTERSEA**

"Thank you Battersea for highlighting this greedy and selfish act. Great email template, mine has been sent to my MP. Literally took seconds to send" Sarah Rolfe, supporter



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Please email your MP at endbackstreetbreeding.org.uk Ask him or her to campaign for a change in legislation. You'll find a template there to use, so asking your MP to put backstreet breeding on the political agenda is really simple to do. Please share the campaign and ask your friends and family to contact their MPs too by linking to the website on Facebook and Twitter using the hashtag #MotherAgain.

#MotherAgain

Little paws

FOR JUNIOR SUPPORTERS OF BATTERSEA DOGS & CATS HOME

STORIES GAMES FUN

DAILY KITTY CARE

Cats should always have access to a bowl of fresh water. Food and water bowls need to be cleaned regularly.



Although most cats prefer to go to the toilet outside, some may also require a litter tray indoors.



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



Rebecca & Millie



Stevie & Biscuit



Rowen, Abbey & George



Lily & Sydney

TOP TIP

Cats should not be given cow's milk as it can give them an upset tummy – special cat milk is available to buy instead.

FANTASTIC FACT

Cats do not have to be hungry to go hunting – it is something that they do naturally.

FOOD FUN

Most adult cats should be fed twice a day. Dry food helps keep their teeth clean and healthy.

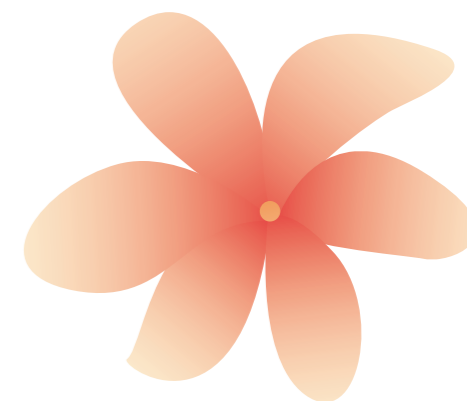
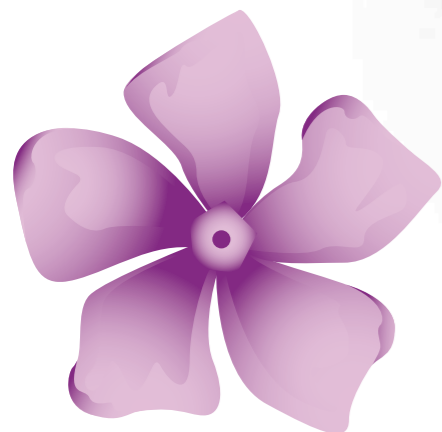
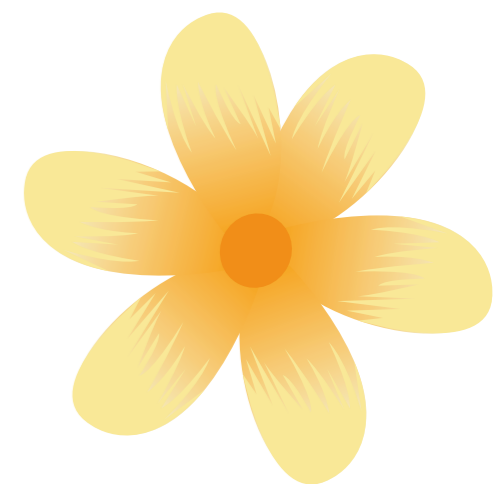


Selfies competition

Take a photo of yourself with your family cat or dog and send it to *Little Paws* for the chance to win a Battersea cuddly! What are you waiting for? Get snapping! Send your selfies to littlepaws@battersea.org.uk

And don't forget, all our Battersea soft toys are available from our shop battersea.org.uk/shop

Little
paws



Little
paws

What is a cat's
favourite colour?
PURRRRR-PLE!



Win a
Battersea
book!

Battersea's fact-packed guides to looking after your pet dogs and cats properly are out in paperback, and *Little Paws* has three copies of *Caring for Dogs and Puppies* and three of *Caring for Cats and Kittens* to give away. Just email littlepaws@battersea.org.uk saying which you would like. Simple!

Published by Hachette Books and on sale at battersea.org.uk/shop and in the shops at our three centres



Thanks
Katelyn!

Okay, all you Year Sixes – what do you get when you add a carol concert, a non-uniform day, a collection and a giving tree? Time's up! The answer of course, is a brilliant £1,222 cheque for Battersea. This was the really kind gift 11 year-old Katelyn Cox from Upton House School in Windsor, brought to our Old Windsor centre. Katelyn and her family have two cats they rehomed from our Berkshire centre and wanted to do something to raise funds for us. Thank you so much, Katelyn, for all your hard work.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the five differences between these two jolly joggers?



HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESSICA!

Birthday dreams came true for Battersea fan Jessica Garratt when a surprise outing for her special day led straight to our gates.

Six-year-old Jessica's mum Michelle wrote to us saying how her daughter loves Battersea and Paul O'Grady, so we invited the family down from Birmingham for a special tour. Jessica and her sister Harriett were especially smitten by the kittens they cuddled in the Cattery. And Jessica's promised to come back when she's older, to volunteer for her favourite rescue centre.



The 2014 amendments to the Dangerous Dogs Act affect all dog owners. Here we explain the changes and share some tips on how to help your dogs be model citizens. →

Citizen Canine



Keep your dog on a lead in public places, particularly in child-populated areas

Amendments to the Dangerous Dogs Act, which came into effect in October and affect ALL dog owners, threw up some worrying possibilities for ordinary, responsible pet lovers.

Did you know that a dog can be declared dangerous and out of control when it has NOT injured anyone? Or that a court can order a male dog be neutered? And that if your dog is perceived to be out of control on your own property, you could be prosecuted?

WHY WAS THE LAW CHANGED?

The changes were made in response to mounting calls on the Government to take action against irresponsible dog owners following a series of well-publicised dog attacks on private property. Existing legislation meant owners could not be prosecuted, and the number of people being admitted to hospital for dog bites was rising yearly.

WHAT ARE THE CHANGES?

The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 has been amended so that it is now an offence to allow your dog to be dangerously out of control in all places, including private property, such as your home and garden. Sentencing has also been increased from a maximum of two years for an aggravated attack to 14 years imprisonment if a person dies as a result of a dog attack.

As well as protecting family members and friends, these changes give protection to people – including postal and utility workers and community nurses – who visit residential properties as part of their work.

In addition, under the new Anti-Social

“It is now an offence to allow your dog to be dangerously out of control in all places, including private property”

Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act, the police and local authorities have been given new powers that allow them to place orders on dog owners. If a complaint is made about a dog to the council or police, then the owners could be made to attend dog training courses, or muzzle their dog in public, for example.

WHAT STEPS CAN I TAKE TO ENSURE I DON'T FALL FOUL OF THE LAW?

As well as following our tips to help your



Regularly check and repair your fencing

dog become a model citizen, there are other measures you can take to ensure your own peace of mind.

Regularly check, and if necessary, repair your fencing to ensure that your dog can't leave the property. If your dog is found as a stray, you could be fined under the Control of Dogs Order, as well as have to pay kennelling fees.

When you're expecting visitors, don't allow your dog to roam freely around the house and garden, particularly if he/she is nervous around strangers.

Ensure your dog is microchipped, neutered and wearing a tag – if someone does make a complaint about your dog, this shows that you have already taken steps to be a responsible owner.

Keep your dog on a lead in public places, but particularly in child-populated areas, such as the children's playgrounds in parks and at the school gate. You will understand your dog's behaviour in those environments, but the children you come into contact with may not know how to behave around dogs.

Battersea Dogs & Cats Home promotes responsible dog ownership, and our experts work with organisations like EDF Energy and Local Authorities, giving training to staff who come into contact with dogs.



Ensure that your dog is microchipped and neutered

CHANGES IN SENTENCING

14 years

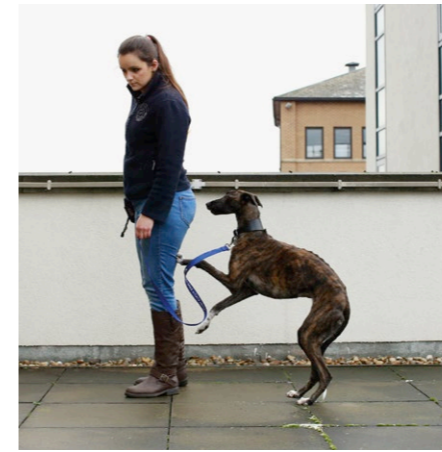
Up to 14 years, from two years, for a fatal dog attack

5 years

Up to five years, from two years, for injury

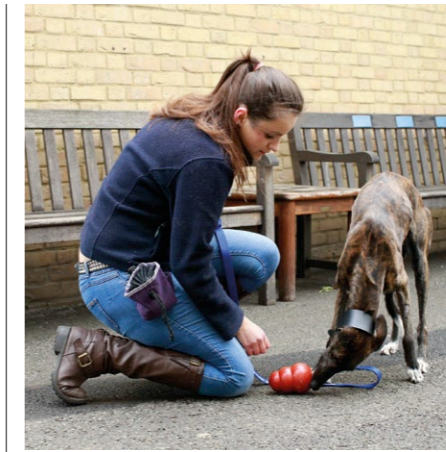
3 years

Up to three years if an assistance dog is attacked



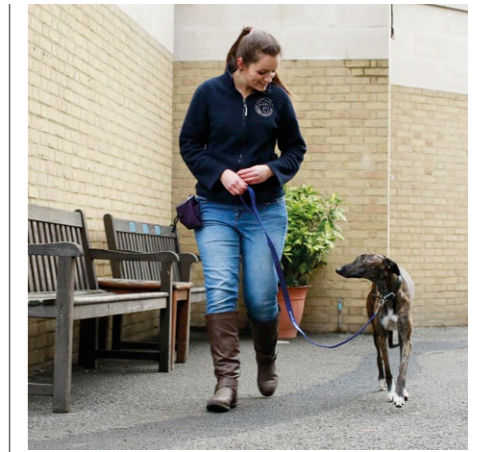
1 SIT TO GREET

Sit to greet. Dogs jump up to get our attention, so make sure your dog is completely ignored if he jumps up – don't look at him, touch him or speak to him until he has all paws on the floor, then shower him in praise. Teach him to sit before receiving attention (he can't sit and jump up at the same time).



2 RECALL

Being able to call your dog back to you in all situations is very important. Short, fun bursts of play will strengthen the bond between you and your dog, and will help to improve recall. Never punish your dog for taking a long time to come back, instead he should always be rewarded for returning, whether it's with lots of praise, tasty treats or a game with a favourite toy.

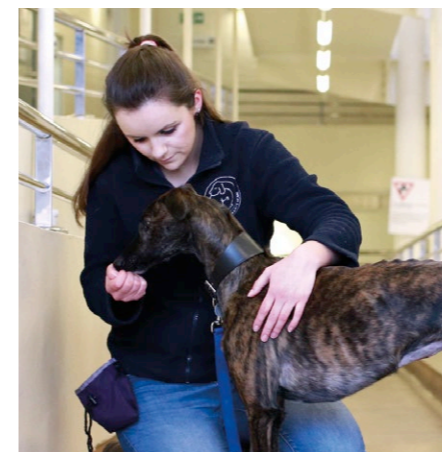


3 MANNERS AROUND OTHER DOGS

Ensure your dog acts appropriately around other dogs. Even if he is friendly towards other dogs, always check with the owners before letting your dog off-lead. Do not allow him to run up to dogs that are on lead, instead call him back to you. If you are having any issues with your dog around other dogs, you will need professional help from a reward-based trainer or behaviourist and you may need to keep him on lead when other dogs are present.

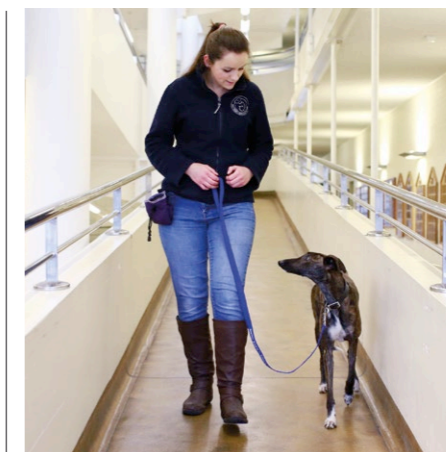
MANNERS MAKETH THE MAN'S BEST FRIEND

If you want a considerate Cavalier, a genteel German Shepherd or a ladylike Lurcher, here's Battersea Canine Welfare Trainer Louise Taylor to explain how



4 VET CHECKS

Many dogs dislike visiting the vet and can become stressed. Teach your dog to enjoy being formally handled by you first of all. Use lots of treats and go at his pace, gently handling his whole body. If he wants to move away, let him. Take your dog to the vets to visit when he isn't feeling poorly and ask the receptionists to give him treats. If your vet asks for your dog to be muzzled, practise firstly at home by holding the muzzle and feeding treats through it, not clipping it on until you've done lots of repetitions and your dog is completely relaxed wearing it (this process should be done over a few days).



5 WALKING ON A LOOSE LEAD

A dog that pulls on-lead can be difficult to walk. Practise indoors, encouraging your dog to stay next to you using tasty treats and rewarding when he walks with a loose lead. Before you go out, don't excite your dog by saying 'walkies' or words to that effect, as if you start the walk with a calm dog, he will pull less. Stop every time he pulls and encourage him back to your side using treats. If you have further problems, consult a reward-based trainer.



6 SETTLE DOWN

If you take your dog with you to cafes, pubs, etc, you will need to teach your dog to settle and relax in these environments. Only take your dog if he is confident and social, as it could be too overwhelming for some dogs. Exercise your dog first, ensure he has had a drink and then put a piece of bedding next to your seat for him to settle on. Give him a Kong filled with tasty treats, or a chew (as long as he has no behaviour issues around food). Keep him on lead and under control at all times. 🐾



Me and my Staffie

Actor Jane Hazlegrove's CV shows a golden touch. The *Casualty* star also has *Coronation Street*, *Silent Witness*, *London's Burning* and *Jonathan Creek* on her timeline. Her partner of 19 years, Isobel (Wiz) Middleton, is also a successful actor, and the pair have just made their first film together, called *Snap*. There's never been a Staffie in *Casualty*, but there is one waiting at home – and she comes from Battersea.



Jane at home with partner Isobel and Staffie Gertrude

It didn't start with a Staffie. In 2002, we were living in Camberwell, and had just got a place of our own. I was appearing in shows like *Dinnerladies*, *Where the Heart Is*, *Silent Witness* – Dixie and 300 episodes of *Casualty* were still a few years down the road.

Own home, working – time to get a dog. Time to visit Battersea Dogs & Cats

Home. There were hardly any Staffies to see, but lots of Mongrels, Greyhounds and Lurchers. We were turned away first time around. There weren't any matches for two working actors with no garden. But when we went back a fortnight later, our social worker Rachel (that's what I always call the people who helped us find the best dogs in the world), said there was a

Tibetan Terrier cross, scrawny and a bit moth-eaten, who'd come in a couple of days earlier. He was his own dog, but very well adjusted and laidback, and hilariously funny.

We had Herbert for eight years, and when he died we were devastated. We carried on, went for walks, worked hard, but there was something missing. After nine months we were back at Battersea again.

By this time I was playing Paramedic Dixie on *Casualty*, and living in Bristol during the week. Isobel was still in London, so we needed a dog who could travel and be happy in either house.

Matt Bardock, who played fellow Paramedic Jeff for seven years, has a Staffie called Maisie and is passionate about the breed, so we knew one Staffie quite well, but as we walked through the gates, I said to Wiz: "No puppies, and definitely no Staffies."

I had lots of misconceptions, even knowing Maisie. I was frightened of them, after living in London for 15 years. And we wanted a Border Terrier.

We walked up and down the kennels – lots of Staffies this time – and then had our interview with our social worker, Jay McGuinness. Just like Rachel had, he said there was someone he wanted us to meet, and within a heartbeat, every single notion we had ever had just disappeared when a wriggly brown Staffie pup barrelled into the room, jumped on the table and then peed in the corner.

Hello, Peach, you absolute sweetheart! So we took her home, renamed her Gertrude, and I got on the train back to Bristol, leaving Wiz with a dog she didn't know and a breed she distrusted after having been bitten years earlier.

That first night she called every few minutes. "She's sitting in front of me – is that right? She's beside me on the sofa, is that what they do? She's lying on her back with her head in my lap and she's snoring. Oh, this is lovely."

And you know what, she's just an ordinary little dog, is Gertie. There's not a bad bone in her, she's just a dog, a lovely dog, with so much personality. Gertie's a full-on girl, and won't rest until everyone she meets has fallen in love, she's a food thief and she loves her bed. An absolute belter, as my dad would say.

Life is rubbish without a Staffie – we both believe that. Gertie has her play times with Maisie, and when we dog sit for Matt and take them out together I do hear people say: "There's that *Casualty* bird with two Staffies", so we're doing our bit for Staffies just walking down the street.

When we read the *Paws* interview with our lovely pal Kevin [Doyle, who plays Mr Molesley in *Downton Abbey*] and his Battersea Mongrel Molly, who used to hang out with Herbert, we thought readers might like to hear about our Gertie. Even though we live in Bristol now, Battersea is very close to our hearts – we feel we're in a very special club.

Staffies really are softer than you think – and when they've had their afternoon nap disturbed, just a little bit sulky too. 🐾

Cat gallery

A purr-fect page of magnificent Battersea cats and kittens, all enjoying their new homes. We love to see your photos, but we can't squeeze them all into *Paws*, so check out more at battersea.org.uk/cathappyendings



- 1 Tia, from Laurence Derox
- 2 Tinkerbelle, from Margaret & Terry Rolfe and their grandchildren Imogen and Maisy
- 3 Stephen, from Deborah and Adam
- 4 William, from Simon Griffin
- 5 Toby, from Jhanet Thyssen
- 6 Tom and Kitty, from Tracy and Neil Crossfield

Please send us your pictures by email to paws@battersea.org.uk You can also write to the address on the contents page. If you'd like your pictures returned, please enclose an SAE.

Golden Oldies

Here at Battersea, we think older dogs and cats are that extra bit special.

Your muzzle is grey, your eyes are cloudy and you whimper a little when you wake from deep sleep. Your heart murmurs in protest at our shortening walks, but it's a heart full of love, for me, for life, for love itself. Hello, old fellow, welcome to another day. Let's make the most of it.

Here at Battersea, we think older dogs and cats are that bit extra special. And nothing makes us happier than waving off a senior cat-izen or pensionable pooch, leaving with their new family for a much-deserved retirement. In 2014, we rehomed a grand old total of 224 cats and dogs over the age of 10 – 138 venerable cats and 86 wise old dogs. 21 were 15 years or over, with lots of bounce and beauty still to offer.

With dogs and cats living to riper old ages than ever before, it's a sad fact that more and more are being abandoned to life as elderly strays, given up by owners who can't afford the bills and don't like the mess, or even having outlived their human companions.

Luckily for the hundreds of older animals who need the safe haven of Battersea, we know some amazing people who want to share the unique joy, and inevitable sorrows, of giving a home to a golden oldie.

Just like their human companions, our pets' lifespans are being extended with the help of good medical care and a healthy lifestyle – and long may they continue. We asked Battersea Senior Veterinary Nurse Lauren Emmett, who rehomed beautiful 17-year-old cat Ellie in 1999, for her top tips to help your best friend live life to the max.

"Less active dogs and cats need less food, no matter how much they tell you otherwise", says Lauren. "Obesity contributes to disease and puts strain on joints, so choose a diet that's lower in fat and protein, and easy to digest. And warming food in the microwave for 30 seconds can tempt reluctant appetites.

"Walking is great exercise, so keep your dog active. His desire to run wild all day long may have gone, but regular short walks will help keep the weight off, his joints supple and sense of adventure and curiosity satisfied.

"You can teach an old dog – and cat – new tricks. A new toy, a little gentle training (there are some videos on the advice section at battersea.org.uk) or some interactive play will help keep the canine and feline mind active.

"Older cats don't groom themselves as effectively as the young'uns, so they'll benefit from a helping hand and brush to keep those tangles, matts and sore spots at bay. The same goes for older dogs.

"Natural wear and tear on joints and organs (not to say teeth and gums) makes a regular date with the vet even more important. Your veterinary team will be able to keep a check on how things are ticking over, make adjustments to medication, suggest changes to diet and exercise and look for subtle changes you may not have spotted."

Older pets often lose the inclination to be enthusiastically played with by children or young grandchildren. "This is especially true if they're coping with aches and pains, and eyesight and hearing is fading", says Lauren. "Give them a safe and quiet place to go and snooze when your youngsters visit.

"Like people, older animals appreciate a routine and aren't keen on change. They want to know when it's dinnertime, bedtime and walkies – and where their bed, food bowl and litter tray are. Try to keep things familiar, especially if your cat or dog has failing eyesight or recognition and memory loss.

"Love every moment. Whether you've had a long time love affair or you met on a blind date at the rescue centre six months ago, make each day count. Store up those happy moments, and you'll be making memories that can never die." →



“““
**Rudi makes me
laugh every single
day – we won the
lottery when we
found him**

Our love for all the dogs and cats we've cared for and rehomed lasts a lifetime and we're always thrilled to hear from the new families of our Battersea graduates. It's even more exciting when we get news from some of the most senior members of the Battersea family.

GRAHAM

You might remember handsome scruff Graham from our ITV series *Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs at Christmas*. Our vet Steve Gosling was appalled by the state of ten-year-old Graham – skinny, neglected, with a mouth full of rotten teeth and a skin condition that had made his hair fall out. But you can't keep an old dog down, and after an operation to remove 24 teeth, lots of tender care and a little time, Graham was ready to step into a new life with newlyweds Stephanie and Luke Chadwick from Putney who rehomed their boy instead of going on honeymoon.

"He's doing wonderfully," says Stephanie. "Now we whizz his food he's gulping it down like never before and has put on weight. His fur is growing back and he doesn't even need a jumper, although he still likes them when he's feeling chilly. We took him to the beach in Weymouth and everyone wanted him, even though he did wee on someone's sandcastle."

CHARLIE

Black and tan Shi-tzu /Dachshund cross

Charlie's was rehomed from Battersea way back in 1997, when he was already quite a grown-up two-year-old. Charlie celebrated his 19th birthday on 11 February. What an amazing little fellow.

"He is a very happy old chap even though he has had quite a few operations," says owner Joanna Clayton, of Carvey Island. "Most recently he had to have both his eyes removed due to eye ulcers that the vets could not repair for him. He is coping very well around the house and garden and he is lovely still."

PHOEBE

"The cat I rehomed from Battersea in 2000 is approaching her 23rd birthday," says Viv Steer-Heath, proudly.

"Eight-year-old Phoebe came to live with me in 2000. She and a fellow female cat had been brought to Battersea during the summer of 2000 as their London-based owner was going to a care home in the West Country. I came looking for a cat and went home with two! Mimi sadly died in 2004, but Phoebe moved to Devon with us seven years ago and is enjoying her retirement here in Beer."

RUDI (Previous page)

After his mum and dad had died, and after years of being his mum's carer, Geoff Blyth and his wife Rema, from Kent, finally decided to rehome a dog. With an acre of land and backing onto fields, the one they

chose was going to be a lucky pup.

"We came to our local rescue centre, Battersea Brands Hatch, and as we walked round, Rudi was the only one not barking his head off," recalled Geoff.

Rudi didn't have a lot to bark about; before he was even one, he'd broken his leg in two places and then been given up by his owners. But Geoff and Rema weren't about to give up on the small brown Terrier, and in April 2004, he became their boy.

These days, aged 12, Rudi is a veteran of trips to far flung destinations (well, for a dog they are) such as Spain, Italy, Germany, Andorra and Lichtenstein.

"He makes me laugh every single day – we won the lottery when we found Rudi," says Rema.

TITAN

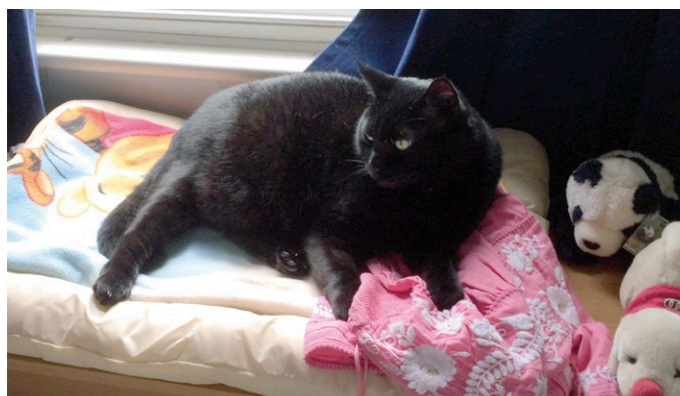
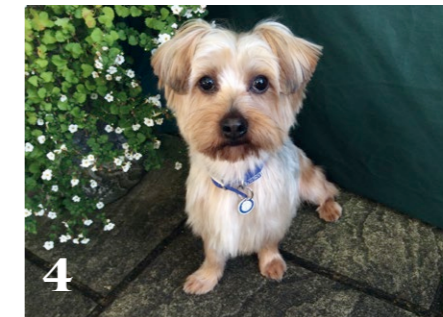
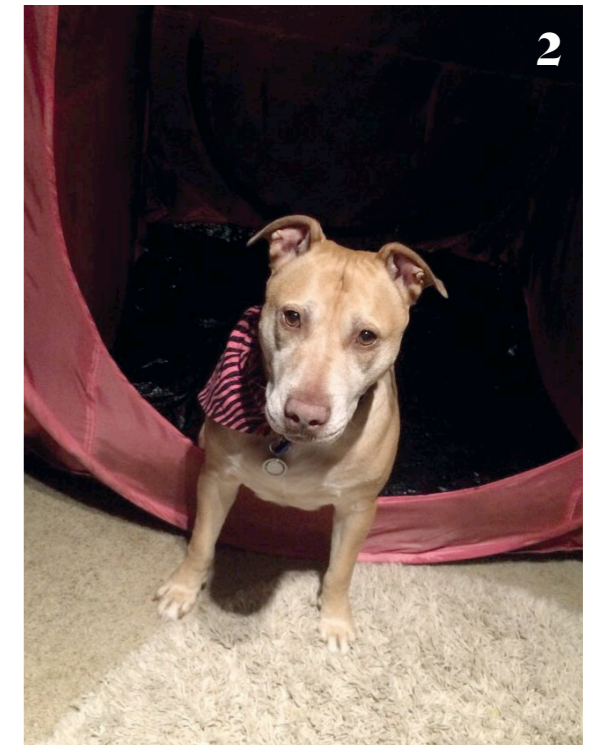
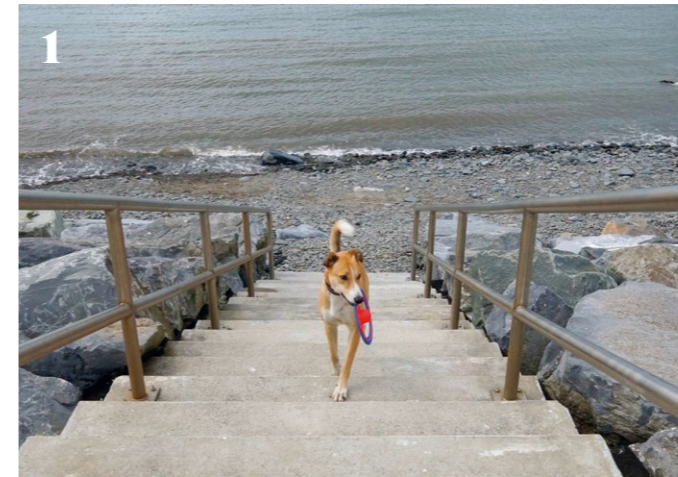
Ten-year-old Titan had been spoiled rotten by his owner, and when she died, he faced a difficult 'weight' for a new home.

At over 10kg, more than double his ideal size, Titan was not only elderly, but in poor health. We put Titan on a diet and encouraged him to exercise with lots of playtime. Titan is now making the most of his new lease of life with Juliet and Daniel Atkins in Sevenoaks, patrolling the garden and continuing his fitness regime. 🐾

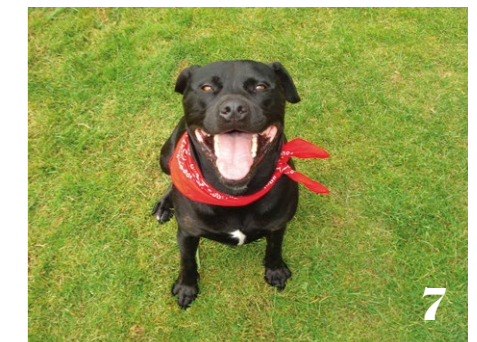
If you think you could give a special home to a special dog or cat, turn to page 32 to meet six of the best, or visit battersea.org.uk

Dog gallery

What a beautiful bunch of Battersea graduates. Catch up with more Battersea dogs in their new homes at battersea.org.uk/doghappyendings



Golden generation
Clockwise from above:
Graham, Charlie, Titan,
Rudi and Phoebe



- 1 Taffy, from Lowri and Ben Robjohn
- 2 Tanya, from Kim and Chris Urwin-Nash
- 3 Lexi, from Sue Ives
- 4 Toby from Carole Anderson
- 5 Mindy and Morgan, from Juliet Cornwell
- 6 Monty, from Owen Styles
- 7 Denzyl, from Stuart and Louise Gladwin

Please send us your pictures by email to paws@battersea.org.uk. You can also write to the address on the contents page. If you'd like your pictures returned, please enclose an SAE.

Sgt Hobson, we salute you

Sgt Hobson (who you may remember as Gingersnap) and I first became friends when I took him home in 2012 on the day of the Golden Jubilee celebrations. I was working as an instructor in the Army and Hobson, my Platoon Sergeant, provided assistance where possible. He was Platoon mascot for all the lads, he would help me inspect the troops, he would alert me if he thought they were hiding sweets in their patrol sacks and was always quick to unmake beds if the hospital corners were not to his high standards! He is also an excellent pace setter during Squadron runs though few keep up with him.

We are both now posted, and I thought you may like to know this Battersea boy – an ex-stray – is now travelling the world, and accompanies me to work every day.

We currently live in the Officers' Mess and he is affectionately referred to as 'the Mess Dog'. It is largely due to his overwhelmingly affectionate, playful and somewhat comical nature that those who also live in the Mess welcome him when he lets himself into their rooms for cuddles (he has also learnt to open doors) and why others insist on him being allowed in the bar at the end of many dinner nights.

He truly is everything you would want a dog to be, obedient without lacking the sort of naughtiness that contributes to character, playful at the most inappropriate of times but sensitive



enough to know when his old dear just wants to catch up with him on the sofa, and comical, always utterly comical! I often wonder what his life was like before Battersea, but I know he makes the most of every day post-Battersea. So for introducing me to my best mucker, thank you Battersea Dogs & Cats Home.
Charley, HM Armed Forces

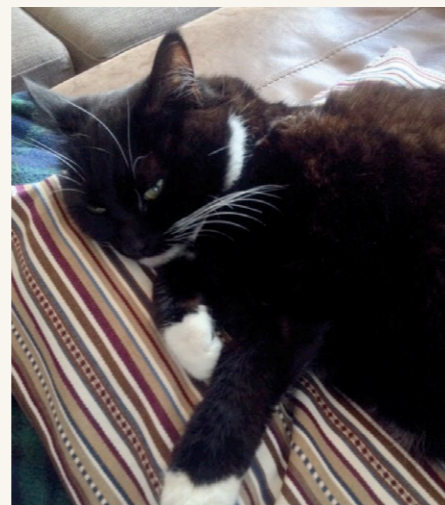
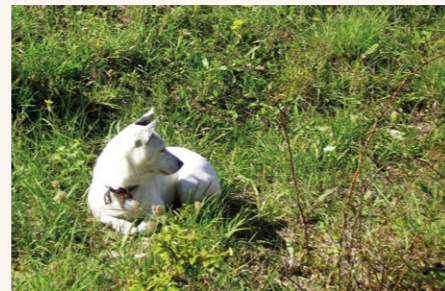
SOLEIL, MIMI

I read with interest in the latest issue about Bess, who was rehomed after 164 days at Battersea. I believe, Mimi, our Jack Russell, we took home in October 2006 aged four, resided at Battersea for a longer period, almost six months.

When we decided to adopt her we were warned about her shortcomings, but we have found her a perfectly delightful companion, clean, very bright, friendly towards everybody and affectionate.

Not only has she settled in well, but after receiving her Pet Passport she has become a great traveller as well. Here she is enjoying the hot Provençal sun in the South of France.

(Mrs) Candida Joseph, Purley, Surrey



DEAR DIARY...

On the day we rehomed Moschino, our seven-year-old started a diary about her and on day three he wrote:

"Moshi and I are now best friends. When I put my hand on the floor she comes and lets me stroke her".

He is so happy and both like playing 'laser chasing' together. She loves to sleep on all our cushions and blankets but funnily enough refuses to go anywhere near things that are intended to be for cats. No matter if it's the cat bed, cuddly cat blanket or the blanket she brought home from Battersea. Guess I can always use those when I don't want her to sit somewhere.

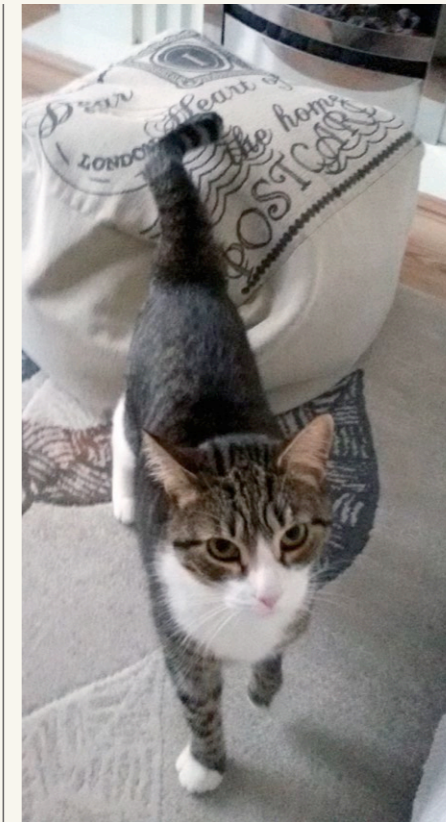
Natascha Downey, London



ARCHIE'S GOT THAT SINKING FEELING

My eight-year-old son Roman adopted Archie from Battersea just over two years ago. He was called Archie then, but Roman knew his real name was Pishi Lemon Squeezy, and he always answers to that name when he is called. He follows us to the shops and sometimes the park, waits, then follows us home again. He is the most treasured member of our family and my son's pride and joy. Here's Pishi in his favourite room – the bathroom. The sink is his favourite day bed.

Tracy Jeune, London



OH BOYD

Boyd was a shy boy when he came to live with us and help my husband feel less outnumbered by the five females in the house. As well as making us happy he has also made us fitter and less sofa bound.

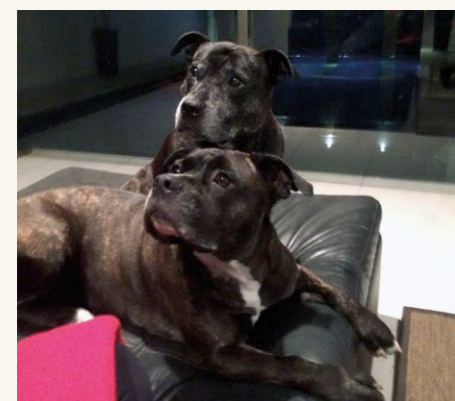
We are going on holiday to Devon soon and the girls are so excited that he is coming too. Even my mum and dad love him and are eager to come on walks.

He is a lucky boy and we are even luckier to have him in our family.
Peter, Lisa and the girls; Lauren, Kayley, Lauren and Georgia, Hayes, Middlesex

SCOUT'S HONOUR

My partner wasn't fussed either way about having a cat initially, having not had any experience with pets, but is so glad I convinced her we should, because she absolutely adores Scout – we both agree, she is such an adorable cat and an absolute pleasure to have around.

When she arrived at Battersea Scout (or Stoosh as she was then) had never been outside. But she is starting to show an interest now and we think she is going to love a large garden to explore and discovering new sights, sounds and smells.
Hayley Watts, Gillingham



G'DAY, MATES

We live in Brisbane, Australia, but my wife Kerrie Ann is from Suffolk. Even though we are thousands of miles away we watch *Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs*, and have many laughs and tears. We marvel at him and the work you guys do. Here are our dogs watching the Christmas edition, transfixed, as they are with all the programmes.

Garry Moore, Brisbane, Australia

NEVER TOO LATE

I visited Battersea Dogs & Cats Home today for the first time in over 50 years!

When I first visited I was wearing my Guy's Hospital outdoor uniform, to find a dog for my would-be husband. I met the sweetest little black mongrel terrier puppy who had been abandoned on Clapham Common. I managed to purchase her for 15/- instead of £1 as I was a nurse!

I took her back to the Nurses Home, where you weren't even allowed a goldfish, let alone a puppy. The very kind 'maid' who looked after the student nurses took care of Pooch while I was working.

After three days Pooch and I took a trip down to a farm in the Kent countryside where my fiancé worked – and she never looked back.

Pooch became a wonderfully loyal dog who was with us for 16 years, and became a memorable part of our growing family. What a special life for a discarded puppy.

Susan Marshall, Hampshire

Happy memories

One of my favourite memories of Jess is of a warm spring day. We ended up on the beach, you were off lead and when I turned around you had joined the queue at an ice-cream kiosk. I had no money but the owner gave you a cone for free. As James Herriot once said: "One day, the day he dies, your dog will break your heart." I miss you, my Jess.

Debbie Jeffries, Torquay



Penny is now with Louie and our other beautiful pets and they would all be happy – and indeed expect me – to offer their home to another rescue.

Jane Cundiff, Great Bookham



Gizzy had a wonderful life, lots of runs in the country and always so full of life. I loved her so.

Mrs P. Smith, Kettering



Find more Happy Memories at:
battersea.org.uk/happymemoriesdogs
battersea.org.uk/happymemoriescats

Ask the experts

Every issue, Battersea's experts answer some of the queries *Paws* readers have about their pets. Here Canine Welfare Trainer Helen Stone helps out with anxious Pug Ernie. Send your questions to paws@battersea.org.uk or write to us at the address on the contents page and we'll do our best to help.



HELEN STONE
Canine Welfare
Trainer

Pug life
Ernie with owner
Anna and Battersea
Canine Welfare Trainer
Helen Stone



Friendly, cheerful, affectionate and playful. No wonder people love their Pugs. But even these little characters can have troubles which leave them facing an uncertain future and desperately needing expert help.

Ernies arrived at Battersea with a long list of woes for such a short boy. He was five, and had been living in a busy household with ten children and another dog. Depressed, tense and aggressive, Ernie was far from the image of a Pug most people imagine, and a long way from being ready for a new home.

He refused to leave his kennel, and growled, snapped and attempted to bite several of the people trying to care for him. What on earth had made Ernie into this thug of a Pug?

"We can't be certain, but it seems probable that Ernie had to compete for

attention and resources as well as trying to keep all those boisterous youngsters at paw's length," says Battersea Canine Welfare Trainer Helen Stone. "He'd become defensive and withdrawn, tried not to interact with the rest of the family, and spent most of his time trying to avoid them."

"He never went for walks, so he didn't meet other dogs or many people, and visitors to the home were asked to leave him alone. He was stressed, isolated and fearful."

Ernie needed to discover how to be a relaxed and trusting pet again. And Helen was there to help – for as long as it took.

"Ernie had issues around food, handling, new people and his bedding. He was struggling in kennels and not managing to build a bond with anyone so I took him on foster to see how his behaviour would develop in a pet home.

"We started working on food, trying to make the presence of the food and bowl seem less of an exciting event. We built his trust and could eventually take him for walks. The traffic was his biggest concern so once in the park he was much happier. It was a slow process – when food was brought out he would become very irate – lunging, snapping and making contact with legs. He began chasing people from the room, so we had to look at that."

After two months, Ernie was making enough progress to be considered for rehoming. "His new owners really needed to expect a long time to settle him in and not be offended by his defensive nature," explained Helen. "He needed to be given space and be respected, otherwise his behaviour would just get worse. He could never be picked up, as he didn't enjoy it."

"I was really upset when he left, I knew he was going to a really good home but I also knew how difficult he was. He wasn't a wiggly, pick me up, fun-loving Pug, he was extremely worried, cautious and quick to defend himself."

It was Helen's growing bond with Ernie's new family, and his owner Anna Bowen's willingness to take life at Ernie's pace, that got the little Pug through. Helen was available for advice and reassurance, and Anna gave Ernie the space and care he needed. "She was always there with support with any issues no matter the time of day – she's been great," said Anna, who brought Ernie and her other Battersea Pug, Jackson, back to the Home to see Helen recently.

Two years after he became part of Anna's family, Ernie is still a dog with difficulties – and a much-cherished family pet. "We gave Ernie all the time he needed to settle, and let him gradually come to

“Ernie enjoys life now; he loves going for rides in the car, likes sitting with me on the sofa, and he nips less”

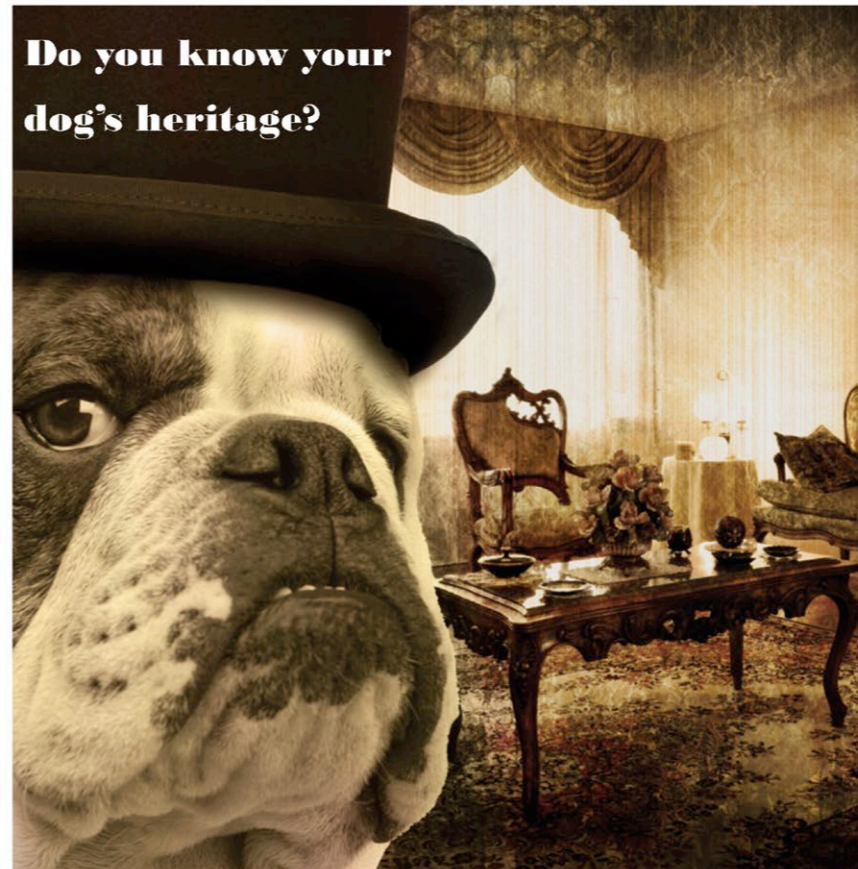
us. He was very stressed about walks, and going up stairs, and he even had a fit, which had me on the phone to Helen in a panic.

"But whatever space and distance he wanted, we gave him. He needed to trust people and be allowed to build a bond rather than being forced into it. After two months, he even let me pick him up."

"Ernie still has his worries (including phone boxes and wheelie bins!), and he definitely isn't your average Pug, but we manage him rather than trying to 'cure' him. He enjoys life now, loves going for rides in the car, likes sitting with me on the sofa, and he nips less. We love him so much, and have come so far with him."

Ernie is evidence, sadly, that some dogs are so altered by their experiences they will always bear the scars – and he's proof, happily, that even troubled souls can find a home, a haven and some happiness. 🐾

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Take us home

In the autumn of their lives, these beauties still have a spring in their step, and hope in their hearts. Contact Battersea on **0843 509 4444** or via the centre email addresses below.



BABYFACE
13-year-old Staffie

rehomeing@battersea.org.uk

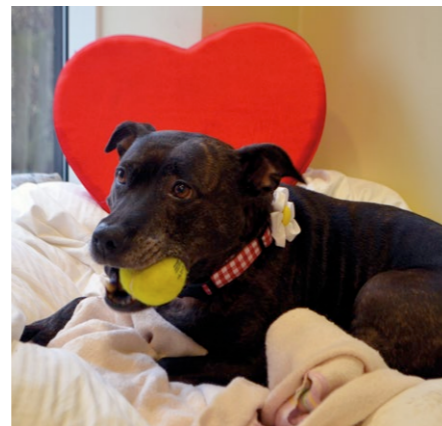
Babyface's foster carers say he's a "sweet and loving old boy who snores slightly and loves a belly rub". Like many older dogs, he's fully house-trained. He loves a trip in the car, and although a bit of a plodder on the lead, will reward your patience with a skip or two in the park.



KIRBY
6-year-old Domestic Short Hair

bbh.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

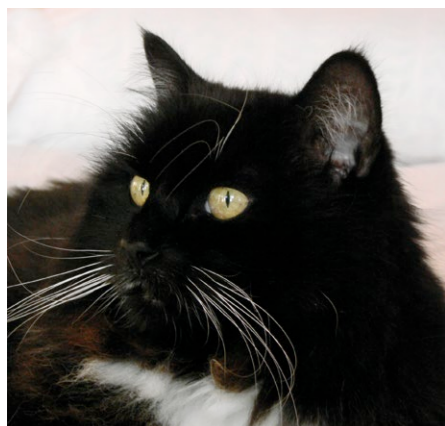
Kirby has a sensitive tum, and his owners couldn't afford his special food. Dietary needs aside, Kirby is all about loving and giving. His carers say he's a complete angel, and always up for a fuss and a good cuddle. He wants to be the only cat in your life, please.



MARTHA
9-year-old Staffie

bow.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

Is your image of the perfect companion a good-natured girl who loves to potter around the garden with her toys? Is she house-trained, a good traveller, and a solid sleeper? Will she be loving, keen on her treats, and just a little bit stubborn? Meet marvellous Martha.



TOMMY
11-year-old Domestic Long Hair

bow.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

Tommy has now found himself at Battersea, looking for a new home, twice. So this shy boy really deserves a break, and a peaceful life where sitting on a windowsill watching the world go by can be enjoyed daily. He loves affection, and is slowly relaxing into the grooming sessions his coat needs.



BRUNO
8-year-old Staffie

bbh.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

A change in working hours brought Bruno to our Brands Hatch centre, as his owners felt leaving him for very long spells would be unfair. Bruno is a soft old boy, who adored his owners' grandchild, and is friendly with people and other dogs. Such a treasure.



MUFFIN
8-year-old Domestic Short Hair

cat.rehomeing@battersea.org.uk

Muffin comes with some baggage – a stripy brown bed that he simply can't be without. So whoever's lucky enough to welcome this fine ginger boy into their lives will need to make room for a small slumber patch too. Muffin's ideal home? A roomy place, access to outside, and a flatmate to chill with.

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Run the Royal Parks Foundation Half Marathon

There's still time to join Team Battersea and run the Royal Parks Foundation Half Marathon on 11 October 2015.

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

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

To join our team visit
battersea.org.uk/royalparkshalfmarathon

For more information contact the events team on
020 7627 9339 or email events@battersea.org.uk



Royal Parks Foundation
Half Marathon

"Fabulous charity to be involved with, I felt I was really part of the team."
Sophie Reeve,
RPFHM 2014



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Contact information

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