Our newest Ambassador tells us why she has a special place in her heart for Battersea.

Also inside this issue:

- **Moggie mayhem**
  The cats take over as we celebrate 130 years of cat rehoming

- **Winter woofs**
  Akitas, Huskies, Malamutes and Inuits are on the rise at Battersea

- **Yule remember**
  Favourite mistletoe memories from our staff and volunteers
I’m absolutely thrilled that the gorgeous and talented actor and presenter Amanda Holden has agreed to become our fourth Ambassador, joining international supermodel David Gandy, TV award-winning Paul O’Grady and best-selling children’s author Dame Jacqueline Wilson in promoting our animals and work at every opportunity.

Amanda is one of Britain’s most popular and much-loved personalities, and we feel very proud to welcome her to Battersea. Meet Amanda and find out why she feels so at home at our Home on page 10.

We love a Battersea Christmas. The days are at their darkest outside but here in London, and at our Brands Hatch and Old Windsor centres, our warm and bright kennels and cattery pens are sparkling with tinsel, and the calming music we play to soothe our dogs and cats is turning festive.

I’ve loved reading memories of special Christmases at Battersea on page 26, and I’m sharing my favourite seasonal memory there too.

The dogs and cats who’ll be spending their Christmas holidays at Battersea have only one wish on their list for Santa – a new home. If you have space in front of your fire this winter, turn to page 24 to meet some of our current residents.

Northern breeds like the Siberian Husky, Northern Inuit and Akita are increasingly chosen as family pets, and this year well over 100 have found themselves at Battersea. On page 22, we look at these stunning dogs and the commitment and work they need to be good companions and pets.

And there’s still time to order a gift or two from our treasure trove of Christmas 2013 Goodies, so I hope you’ll find plenty of stocking fillers to tempt you. We’ve called in some experts – including Rufus the Rottie and Sparky the Mongrel – to road test some of our gifts, and they share their verdicts on page 30.

Claire Horton, Chief Executive

Like you, our Battersea Ambassadors are passionate and vocal supporters of the work we do.

Welcome

to see our complete range visit www.jvp.co.uk
or for more information email info@johnsons-vet.com
available from all good pet shops and garden centres

Johnson’s Veterinary Products Ltd, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B75 7DF
Tel: 0121 378 1684 email: info@johnsons-vet.com www.jvp.co.uk
**Cats cash in**

Battersea celebrated the opening of our brand new Battersea Dogs & Cats Home from Home in September, and we can now reveal the mini centre’s very first rehoming successes.

We’re now part of the new Pets at Home store in Sydenham, London with our ever first rehoming spot away from our three centres. Every day a dog and a cat looking for a home will spend the day at the store soaking up attention and tucking into the odd treat or two before returning to our Brands Hatch centre in the evening.

Two of our feline friends, Jeffrey and Pepsi, have been lucky enough to find a brand new home after spending time in the store’s cozy cat room. Magalie Labrosse from Lewisham visited Pets at Home and fell for six year old Pepsi after the majestic moggy spent 53 days in our care. Friendly gent Jeffrey was rehomed just a week later, when Daphne Brebner from Gravesend saw him in the store and then rehomed him through our Brands Hatch centre.

The Home from Home doesn’t just showcase Battersea’s dogs and cats; visitors can also speak to our expert team for information and advice on everything from house training to neutering, as well as pick up some brilliant Battersea souvenirs. With over 1,000 visitors to Battersea Dogs & Cats Home from Home in just the first week of opening, we’ve got high hopes for our Brands Hatch dogs and cats. So, if you are close by, please do pop in to see the new mini-centre and meet our staff and animals.

You can find out more, including how to find us, at battersea.org.uk/fromhome

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**Home run**

Cheering on our marathon runners

Did you bag a ballot place in the 2014 Virgin Money London Marathon? If so, we’d love you to join Team Battersea. Our dedicated team will support you every step of the way with regular updates from the Home as well as an invitation to an exclusive behind the scenes tour of our London site. If you’d like to be on our team please contact events@battersea.org.uk

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**A work of art**

Paws has made a budding artist out of Battersea fan Ruby Cahill, from Barnet.

Ruby came to our London centre for a special visit on her 6th birthday in August, and when she received her very first copy of Paws through the post she set to with a box of paint and an artist’s eye to draw cover star Phyllis. We showed Phyllis’s pawtrait to her new owner Clare Hobbs, who rehomed our beautiful Mongrel girl in August. “What a fantastic drawing, Phyllis loves it!” said Clare.

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**Further Christmas**

Are you a Santa with a sprint in your step? Then join our Battersea team for the fundraising Santa Run in Victoria Park, East London, on 8 December – we’ll provide the good cheer and the Christmas costume; you decide between 5k and 10k runs.

For more information please call 020 7627 9339 or email events@battersea.org.uk

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**Cats get a Head start**

Film star father and daughter Anthony and Emily Head have backed our Cat Takeover campaign by urging cat lovers to rehome a rescue moggy from Battersea.

“The Buffy the Vampire Slayer star and Emily, who shot to fame in The Inbetweeners, came to Battersea recently to spend some quality cat time with us. “I have always loved cats and will definitely get a cat from Battersea when I move into my own house,” said Emily. “Whether it’s a kitten or cat, I think it’s really important to go to a rescue centre like Battersea.”

And our late-night Purrsdays have seen lots of people doing just that. We’re opening the Cattery to after workers, night shifters and in betweeners on the last Thursday of every month, until 8pm.

Visit one of our centres to rehome, or text CATS to 70800 to donate £5 towards caring for our cats.

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Find us at Pets at Home Bell Green Park Spine Road Sydenham SE26 4PU

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Find more about our latest kitty crusade on page 16
Sami the Boxer, who came to our Brands Hatch centre as an undernourished stray in 2009, has scaled the heights with owner Marianne Hunter this year and is surely a shoo-in for fittest Battersea dog. Sami is gaining quite a reputation for herself in the distance running world. Her challenges this year included two summer and one winter Fan Dance runs in the Brecon Beacons, two Paras 10 endurance races, the Grim Challenge and Zombie Evacuation runs, a marathon, mountain trips and numerous training runs.

“It’s brilliant to win Best Battersea Dog because we’ve entered every time we’ve been to the Annual Reunion,” said Ruby, 14. “I’ve known Molly my whole life and she’s the most wonderful dog we could ever have asked for. She’s deaf now and going blind but she’s still a great dog.”

Molly was also runner-up, with doggy pal Hector, in the Fancy Dress class for their Sherlock Hound and Dog-ter Watson duo.

Five thousand owners and their dogs came to the reunion, sponsored by PetPlan, and helped us raise £20,000 for our current residents. We also welcomed special guests and Battersea Ambassadors Dame Jacqueline Wilson and David Gandy, as well as Chelsea Pensioner friends from The Royal Hospital.

When they wed 38 years ago, on 1 March 1975, Jeff and Irene chose the Home as their romantic honeymoon hideaway. “We’d seen a programme on the television about giving a dog a home, so we set off to Battersea instead of going on honeymoon. I’d never had a dog before and when Irene spotted a German Shepherd with the biggest paws I have ever seen, I said: ‘We ain’t having that one’ – so of course we drove home with her that night…” Jeff explained.

Mandy was the best wedding present ever, and a big part of Jeff and Irene’s life for the next 13 years. The Lilles, from Eltham, South London, will never forget their Mandy, and have decided to keep her memory alive forever by choosing to remember Battersea in their Will.

If you’d like to find out more about how to leave a gift in your Will, call 020 7627 9247 or email legacies@battersea.org.uk

As Battersea prepares the festivities for all the homeless dogs and cats who will turn to us for comfort this Christmas, we’re deckling the halls with bow wows of holly for our first-ever family Carol Concert.

We’re Home for Christmas at St Luke’s Church in Chelsea, London, on Wednesday 11 December. As well as traditional carols, mulled wine and mince pies, some of our lovely Battersea dogs will be greeting guests with a festive guard of honour.

Tickets cost £20 for adults and £10 for children under 12. Seating capacity is limited, so please contact our Events team on 020 7627 9295 or email events@battersea.org.uk

Season’s Greetings from aspire Estate Agents, proudly supporting this event.

Festive TV Pick

Bring in the New Year with a furry friend.

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Mr Pickles
Known nationwide after his boisterous appearances on our Paul O’Grady: For the Love of Dogs ITV show as ‘the naughtiest dog at Battersea’, Mr Pickles was rehomed by experienced Beagle owners Gordon Pitt and Christine Harland from Bletchley. “When we saw Mr Pickles’ story we were in floods of tears. He’s only young and has had a really unsettled start to life. Taking him on has been quite an experience, but he’s finally becoming a happier and better behaved dog and is so affectionate,” says Christine.

Elvis & Marie
This harmonious pair were two of a litter of young cats found on the streets with their timid mum. After 74 days at Battersea, they went home with Joe and Rachel from Leighton Buzzard in Hertfordshire. “We live surrounded by countryside, and Nancy loves her long walks in the forest – and our 19-year-old cat Dennis,” says Steve.

Nancy
Labrador Retriever cross Nancy deserved the very best in life after being homeless, giving birth at Battersea, being rehomed and then coming back to us because her owner died. Happily, she’s found exactly that, with Nicola and Steve Mather from Leighton Buzzard in Hertfordshire. “We live surrounded by countryside, and Nancy loves her long walks in the forest – and our 19-year-old cat Dennis,” says Steve.

Rizzler
With 215 days at Battersea to his name, beautiful Staffie Rizzler was our longest-stay dog. He’d spent lots of time in a loving foster home when the real thing came along in the shape of the Perkins family from West London. “Rizzler has completely taken over our family,” says Sarah. “He has settled in really quickly, is a definite asset in terms of stopping squirrels digging up the lawn and we couldn’t be happier with him. We feel very privileged to have him.”
Our newest Ambassador, TV presenter, actress and award-winning West End star Amanda Holden tells us why she has a special place in her heart for Battersea.
When our brilliant friend and steadfast supporter Amanda Holden visited our London home recently, it was clear how much Battersea means to this dedicated animal lover.

Amanda couldn’t wait to share hugs and cuddles with the doggy guard of honour who greeted her, and she loved spending time in the Cattery, helping our volunteers play with and socialize a litter of young kittens.

I’m so pleased to announce that Amanda is our fourth Battersea Ambassador. Her commitment to the Home is unwavering – Amanda has just co-hosted (with Paul O’Grady OBE) her third Collars & Coats Gala Ball for us, helping Battersea raise money to care for all the dogs and cats who so desperately need our help – and she is a passionate champion of rescue dogs and cats.

Her continued support and her unquestionable love for animals makes her a perfect advocate for the Home. We’re extremely grateful to now have four very special Ambassadors who, through their passion and dedication, help champion the work that Battersea does for all its dogs and cats.

Claire Horton, Chief Executive
A big woof out to everyone who sent in a photo of their Battersea graduate. We’d love to use them all but we just don’t have the space! Visit battersea.org.uk/dogs/happy_endings to see more very special dogs.

Please send us your pictures by email to paws@battersea.org.uk
You can also write to the address on Page 1
If you’d like your pictures returned, enclose an SAE.
Fed up of the dogs hogging the limelight, our cats are fighting back and using their cunning, cleverness and all-round cuteness to claw their way to the centre of attention. So far, they’re doing a very good job of it too.

The cats – and Battersea – have risen to the challenge of raising awareness of our 130-year role in caring for and rehoming cats.

Our London Cattery is proudly displaying a three-storey high vinyl of a beautiful black and white girl called Bertha, who is now enjoying life in her new home. Posters featuring Bertha and former resident Steve the Ginger Tom have caught the eye of many a cat lover at busy tube and train stations throughout London, including Britain’s busiest, Waterloo.

Our website and social media channels have also dedicated themselves to all things cat. And best of all, we’ve seen lots more people visiting our Home so they can get involved in the Cat Takeover and rehome one of our residents.

Shadow & Star prove cats are good for the soul
Pair of pussycats Shadow and Star enjoy the ultimate haven of peace and tranquillity at the Jamyang Buddhist Centre in Kennington, London. Star, who is now called Tara – which is Tibetan for Star – and Shadow, who has been renamed Kala, spend their days in the calm courtyard welcoming visitors.

Famous Felines
Our kitty crusaders may not need an ego boost but many of our moggies are mighty enough to deserve it.

Larry, Chief Mouser at No 10 Downing Street
Arguably the most famous feline who we helped to find a home, Larry took up residence behind that famous black door in 2011. He has fast become the most well-known kitty in the country as he greets VIPs, including American President Barack Obama, and makes regular appearances in the world’s media.

Pluto is cast as Battersea Arts Centre cat
This lovely local venue rehomed our super black fella back in 2007 and he’s been making his mark behind the scenes ever since. He wins over his legions of fans by helping out in the offices – which often involves lolling around on a desk or taking a nap in someone’s chair. His artistic adventures are charted on Twitter @Pluto_BAC.
Taking over in your homes too

It’s not just at our Home where the cats are taking over either. Lots of our supporters on Facebook and Twitter have shared photos and videos of cats ruling the roost in their homes too. Whether it’s sitting in a sink, deciding a desk is the perfect spot for a cat nap or squatting in suitcases, your cats take over whenever the opportunity arises. Here are some of our favourites.

Tigger

The photo shows that wherever I want to sit – so does he. He is quite the poser too as you can see – with his tongue poking out, he’s a cheeky boy. He has definitely become a wonderful member of the family – we love having Tigger with us.

Anna Goswell, South Croydon

Lucky

Lucky has got into the habit of religiously every morning at 4.30am scratching the carpet or coming up to our face in bed until we go downstairs and feed him. We don’t appreciate the early mornings but we would do pretty much anything for him. He is a spoiled cat, we adore him and he makes us laugh with his funny ways, his funny games and his funny sleeping positions. He is the light of our life.

Kirsty Marshall, Epsom

Matilda

Matilda made herself at home within an hour of getting here. She is into everything, constantly wrapping herself around our legs and is a great companion when working from home.

Mark Gilby, Wimbledon

Lily-Rose

Lily-Rose has become firm friends with the cat we already had, Lucy-Lou, and they will regularly curl up together and give each other a wash. She has also discovered her purr and uses it to full effect. She has developed into a real character and is certainly vocal enough to make sure she is noticed.

Sarah Simmonds, Waltham Abbey

Did you know?...

Battersea has been looking after cats for 130 years

In that time we have looked after more than 229,000 fabulous felines

In 2002, Battersea Dogs Home became Battersea Dogs & Cats Home

In 2010, HRH The Duchess of Cornwall officially opened a state-of-the-art cattery at our London centre

For the first time in Battersea’s history, more cats have been rehomed than dogs at our London centre over the last year

1,607 Cats

1,342 Dogs

16% more moggies

Our centres have rehomed 16% more cats than this time last year, with 318 more moggies finding marvellous homes

How you can lend a paw in the Cat Takeover

Visit one of our three centres to meet your new feline friend – our London Cattery is staying open until 8pm on the last Thursday of every month for late night Purrsdays so you can meet and greet our cats late into the evening.

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Buy a present or a treat for one of the cats in our care by visiting our online shop at battersea.org.uk/shop

Molly, Benson and Baby Girl are all still looking for new homes – help us to care for a feline waiting for a family by texting CATS to 70800 to donate £5

Send your Happy Endings to paws@battersea.org.uk, and share your stories, photos and videos with us on Facebook (facebook.com/battersea) or Twitter (@bdch) using the hashtag #CatTakeover and on YouTube and Pinterest

Visit battersea.org.uk/CatTakeover to download fun images for your desktop wallpaper or your social media profile pages

Has your cat taken over your home? Send your photos and stories to paws@battersea.org.uk

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Santa’s little helper

We have had Donner, now called Holly, since rehoming her from Battersea as a pup. It’s nice to see, thanks to Paws, that her brothers and sisters, who were Cupid, Dancer, Vixen and Comet, are all doing well. Holly is a good dog, a loving member of our family and loves our three girls.

Dave Harding, Walton-on-Thames

Paws for thought

Our beautiful Siberian Husky/Labrador Maddie who we rehomed from Battersea two years ago. She loves to keep up with the news in Paws magazine.

Sanaya Ngw, South Croydon

Lucy… an update

My mum retired and moved to Derby with her partner John. I love him and am pretty sure he loves me too. Now I have five adoring grandchildren as you can see from the photo. In February, I was diagnosed with lymphoma, my spleen was also affected.

I started my chemotherapy just a few days later and happily now at week 15 there are no cancerous cells. My vet Elsa and my clinical nurses, Jenny, Zoe and Lindsey are just the best, in fact everyone is lovely and one of my reports says ‘Lucy is a lovely dog and we all love her’! I have lost some of my hair and am looking forward to it growing back at the end of my treatment. I read the Paws magazine with my Mum’s help and always hope that the residents of the kennel I sponsor (Number 9) find a loving home like I did.

My Mum discusses my chemotherapy treatment with me and worries a lot but I tell her that every day is precious and I can cope with hair loss and not feeling so good sometimes as long as we can be together.

Lucy (and Andrea & John Delaine), Derby

Could you sponsor a Kennel or Kitty Kabin?

Find out how at battersea.org.uk/get_involved

The talented Ripley

Dear Ripley, who we rehomed from you way back in 2005, is now 12 and still going strong. He has made history by being the first canine to travel from the Bluebell Railway’s Sheffield Park station to East Grinstead for the first time since it closed in 1958. The Bluebell is now connected to the National network and attached is the photograph of him being welcomed by the Station Master, who happens to also be the Bluebell’s chairman, Roy Watts.

Nigel and Toni Smyskyns, Tonbridge, Kent

Age and beauty

Never be put off rehoming an oldie. My dear Sophie died seven years and 15 days after coming home with me. She was 18 and a beautiful old lady. What age was she when I rehomed her from Battersea? It didn’t matter – she looked at me, grinned, and I was smitten. What joy and love she gave to all who knew her. The age of a ‘rescue’ is unimportant – the dog is.

Kathryn Andress, Westerham, Kent

Matchmaking, Battersea-style

This is Angel, a Battersea girl. We got her when she was 15 months old and she is now nine. It still only seems like yesterday.

Tim Stockwell, Sidcup

Sweetest Rosie

Myszka arrived at Battersea as a stray. She must have been a resourceful little thing, because she was almost blind. We formed a strong bond – she enjoyed lazing on my lap in the garden and would follow me everywhere. She managed to disappear while exploring, but thanks to a leaflet campaign, a neighbour contacted me after a week to say she had been looking after her.

Amazingly, this lady had seen her photo on the Battersea website and had thought about adopting her herself, even remembering her Battersea name, Rosie. Myszka had a heart murmur and later developed cancer, but before that, we spent a happy two years together; she comforted me so much while I was recovering from cancer and then I was able to look after her when she became ill. She had the sweetest nature and I miss her terribly. I am so grateful for the time we had together.

Kelli Kilkicovics, Wandelworth

In loving memory

Layla

Philip & Les
Lane-Owen, Aldershot

Two times three

When I arrived at Battersea that weekend, as a volunteer to make some aftercare calls, I didn’t expect to be going home with a cat – I already have a 13 year old, Mojito, missing a leg and tail following an argument with a car when she was a kitten, who was quite happy being the centre of attention. But when I had a walk around the cat pens, I saw a little fluffy ginger and white kitten, with a cone and an amputated leg and I knew I could offer him a good home.

So he’s settled in well, the two cats have 6 legs and one tail (but what a tail!) between them. Tinners loves chasing butterflies, insects and frogs in the garden and can make some quite impressive jumps for an invalid! He’s very vocal, happy to follow you around and ‘talk’ at you and loves his evening ‘play’ with the brush – it’s amazing how much dust and leaves can get caught up in that tail. He’s managed to bully both of my brother’s cats, my parents’ cat and their Labrador into submission, although he hasn’t had such luck with Mo, has happily travelled to Derbyshire and Cornwall in the car and made himself at home in other houses. He’s the friendliest cat I’ve ever known, he settles down and purrs on anyone who makes the mistake of sitting down.

Thank you for letting me take him home – he’s lovely and I feel so lucky to have such a handsome, friendly cat!

Megan Paul, London
It’s winter, and our friends from the north are in their element, weather-wise. But can these double-coated characters fit into our lives as pets?

Wolf, bear, status dog, distance runner, family pet – like the Staffie, the four-stong Northern breed pack of Akita, Husky, Inuit and Malamute risks being misunderstood, misrepresented and misunderstood.

Battersea is taking in rising numbers of all these breeds – so far this year 26 Akitas, 66 Malamutes, 66 Siberian Huskies and one Northern Inuit. Back in 1988, when the dog occupying most kennels at the Home was the Mongrel (53,395), followed by the German Shepherd (16,414), we took in two Huskies, one Akita, and no Malamutes. The Northern Inuit hadn’t even been invented.

So why the change? And what are these lions of winter really like? Where is their ideal home in lowland Britain, and who is their human soulmate?

**Super cool customers**

“The can be more work than your average dog, but once you put in the time and training they are incredibly loyal and loving.”

They can be more work than your average dog, but once you put in the time and training to bond and create that relationship they are incredibly loyal and loving. Their intelligence and energy mean you’ll have a very fulfilling and fun relationship. They take to any activity well – agility, flyball fun scent work, even pulling a sled.”

Sarah says many arrive at Battersea looking for a fresh start because their owners have underestimated the commitment and work needed to create a well-balanced dog. And yet they do make good family pets, with the right guidance and ground rules.

“They’re not suited to being home alone all day with only a short walk. They need large amounts of exercise, mental stimulation and games. The only real way to build a good bond with them is to spend time with them, so they’re not suitable for everyone.”

“They need space – they’re really energetic animals. Ideally an enclosed, safe garden so they can have secure off lead time if their recall isn’t great. They can get on well with other animals, but we always explore this on a dog-by-dog basis as they can be prone to chase even though they might be playing.”

And as they’re slightly more primitive and instinctive than a more housetrained dog, they can be fans of digging, howling and other behaviours that they think are perfectly acceptable but their owners won’t.

“But if you want a dog to teach fun tricks to, go jogging with or simply snuggle up on the sofa, they’ll be up for the challenge,” says Sarah.

And a Northern breed’s perfect person? “Someone engaging, active, who enjoys training, likes the buzz of teaching something new and also has patience. Because the Northern breeds won’t do something just because you’ve asked – like a Labrador – but because they’ve weighed up what they’re going to get out of the transaction, whether that’s the reward of love, or a sausage. And that answer might change from day to day.”

“And someone who doesn’t mind that at times they will be more intelligent than you.”

**Akita**

The Akita is the largest of the Spitz group of dogs (the smallest is the Pom). Japanese Akitas were originally bred to be the protectors and hunting companions of the Shogun – a military class – and Akitas are light, proud dogs, who are loyal and protective to their family and affectionate with people they know. Their impressive double coats make them well suited to the northern climes where they originated.

Perfectly at home in the Arctic Circle, preferably pulling large loads for their Eskimo owners, the Malamute is a pack dog with a strong instinct to chase and run. Kennel Club figures say Malamute numbers have risen tenfold in the past decade, making them the fastest-growing breed in Britain. They outnumber Poodles, Basset Hounds and Corgis.

Another Spitz, double-coated, the Husky is born to run. He can – and will – go for miles, with or without a sled. Huskies need lots of exercise, and because their recall can go out of the window when they sense the chase is on, they often need to be kept on the lead and have a good level of training.

**Northern Inuit**

This handsome fellow is actually a crossbreed designed to look like a wolf, but with the gentler, more trainable character of the domesticated dog. He might have German Shepherd, Siberian Husky and Inuit breeding within, so his personality will reflect his ancestry. This is a relatively new breed, not yet recognised by the Kennel Club but growing in popularity. They can make a very good family pet.

**Battersea Canine Welfare Trainer Sarah Tapsell**

Sarah puts the rise of the Northern breed down to a long-time interest in the Northern breeds, and a welcome foothold after hundreds of years of persecution.

“However exotic breeds like the Husky and the Inuit look, the animal in your home is a beloved pet dog, not a wolf,” says Sarah. “They’re as close to a wolf as a Chihuahua is.”

“Northern breeds have been less intensively bred away from that original template, so it’s true – but they are still a different species, which is what allows us to live alongside them in our homes as family pets.”

These are dogs who tend to be intelligent, strong-willed and independent – and will make a decision if you don’t do it for them.

“Alpha Malamute Furio, originally came from Spain. His owner was advised and Furio found a new home.

2 Samson the Northern Inuit Akita, who needs experienced and active owners.

3 The words of advice on this Akita, who was given to Battersea because of his owner’s change in circumstances.

4 Five-month-old Northern Inuit Maisy, a playful girl who was found strong, and even though she had a relationship her owner deemed not to claim her. She has now been rehomed.

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Battersea is taking in rising numbers of all these breeds – so far this year 26 Akitas, 66 Malamutes, 66 Siberian Huskies and one Northern Inuit. Back in 1988, when the dog occupying most kennels at the Home was the Mongrel (53,395), followed by the German Shepherd (16,414), we took in two Huskies, one Akita, and no Malamutes. The Northern Inuit hadn’t even been invented.

So why the change? And what are these lions of winter really like? Where is their ideal home in lowland Britain, and who is their human soulmate?

**Super cool customers**

“They can be more work than your average dog, but once you put in the time and training they are incredibly loyal and loving.”

They can be more work than your average dog, but once you put in the time and training to bond and create that relationship they are incredibly loyal and loving. Their intelligence and energy mean you’ll have a very fulfilling and fun relationship. They take to any activity well – agility, flyball fun scent work, even pulling a sled.”

Sarah says many arrive at Battersea looking for a fresh start because their owners have underestimated the commitment and work needed to create a well-balanced dog. And yet they do make good family pets, with the right guidance and ground rules.

“They’re not suited to being home alone all day with only a short walk. They need large amounts of exercise, mental stimulation and games. The only real way to build a good bond with them is to spend time with them, so they’re not suitable for everyone.”

“They need space – they’re really energetic animals. Ideally an enclosed, safe garden so they can have secure off lead time if their recall isn’t great. They can get on well with other animals, but we always explore this on a dog-by-dog basis as they can be prone to chase even though they might be playing.”

And as they’re slightly more primitive and instinctive than a more housetrained dog, they can be fans of digging, howling and other behaviours that they think are perfectly acceptable but their owners won’t.

“But if you want a dog to teach fun tricks to, go jogging with or simply snuggle up on the sofa, they’ll be up for the challenge,” says Sarah.

And a Northern breed’s perfect person? “Someone engaging, active, who enjoys training, likes the buzz of teaching something new and also has patience. Because the Northern breeds won’t do something just because you’ve asked – like a Labrador – but because they’ve weighed up what they’re going to get out of the transaction, whether that’s the reward of love, or a sausage. And that answer might change from day to day.”

“And someone who doesn’t mind that at times they will be more intelligent than you.”

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Name: Benson
Age: 4 years
Breed: Domestic Short Hair

Beautiful Benson is FIV positive, which means he’d like to be an indoor cat but with an enclosed outside run. He was home alone before he came to Battersea; such a shame for a friendly, affectionate chap who loves being stroked and groomed. He loves company, and playing games. Christmas cat’s cradle, anyone?

Name: Samba
Age: 6 years
Breed: Domestic Short Hair

Samba came to Battersea in April, because her owner was moving house and, as Christmas approaches, she’s not feeling very festive. Samba needs a calm, settled home to match her quiet, sensitive character. She loves company and will bring comfort and joy to any silent nights with her peaceful, placid nature.

Name: Max
Age: 4 years
Breed: Boxer Cross

This Christmas, Max will have been at Battersea for nine months. He’ll be dreaming of a White Christmas, of course, but also of his own loving home, where he’ll be the life and soul of the party and a magnet for all the toy action. He’ll enjoy training, and staying focused to earn treats, and will reward the love of his new family by being an amazing companion.

Name: Dawn
Age: 3 years
Breed: Domestic Short Hair

As 2014 dawns, will our chunky black beauty be where she yearns to be – ruling the roost and calling the shots in a new home? Although happy to give it up for treats and the odd stroke, Dawn is an independent lass who would suit working owners. Rumour has it she trills like a diva and will wind herself around your legs as a party trick.

Name: Lola
Age: 4 years
Breed: Bull Mastiff

What a gentle giant Lola is. Lola has recently been voted the wiggliest Battersea dog of 2013 – she can twist faster than a garland of tinsel in a breeze. She is much-loved by us all, for her sunny personality, her softness and sociability with people and dogs, and her yearning brown eyes, which are surely saying, ‘Be my friend, and take me home’.

Could you give a second chance to one of these Christmas crackers looking for a home this winter?

Call our Battersea centre on 0843 5094444 or email rehoming@battersea.org.uk

Call our Old Windsor centre on 01784 494460 or email bow.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

Call our Brands Hatch centre on 01474 875109 or email bbh.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

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Call our Brands Hatch centre on 01474 875109 or email bbh.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

Call our Battersea centre on 0843 5094444 or email rehoming@battersea.org.uk
Everyone wants to be home for Christmas. This year, 400 dogs and 200 cats will be guests at our Home and helping add to the very special memories staff and volunteers have of...

Rebecca Norris, Rehoming, Old Windsor
Rosie was a Jack Russell Terrier who arrived here on the 14th of December 2011 as a gift; her owners didn’t have enough time for her so brought her in for us. Rosie was only a baby, weighing in at a little over 6kg. I seem to remember she came in wearing a coat, once the owners had left we then removed it and saw that obviously she was heavily pregnant! That year I was working on Christmas Day, cleaning, feeding and spending time with the dogs, and making up special meals of potato, turkey and carrot that had been cooked for them as a treat. All day Rosie was fine, just snuggled up in her warm bed listening to the carols playing on the radio. But the final time I checked, I noticed a tiny puppy nestled next to her. She quickly gave birth to two more, coping really well and managing fine by herself with just me keeping a close eye on her. I named the pups Mary, Joseph and Nick — they were all rehomed, and so was Rosie. It was a really lovely Christmas for me, I do love puppies.

Jill Craven, Volunteer, London
I’d been volunteering at Battersea for almost three years in 2009, and decided that I’d spend Christmas Day helping out at the Home, walking dogs, sitting between us and another volunteer we got all the dogs out, managed a bite of Christmas lunch, laughed a lot, cried not a bit and went home exhausted. It was a good day, and one I have repeated every year since.

Carly Perry, Rehoming Co-ordinator
I remember helping serve up festive dinners in the café to the kennel staff on Christmas Day. We used to have a glass of wine with our dinner!

Michael O’Byrne, Fundraising
The first time I came to Battersea on Christmas Day it didn’t go as planned. We rely so much on volunteers to exercise our dogs, and whilst many do give up their time, understandably it can be difficult for some to get to the Home on Christmas Day so I had planned to come in and walk a few dogs around Battersea Park before going to visit my family for a festive lunch. However, the first dog I took for a walk was an elderly gent called Herman. Walking around the park on Christmas morning is a wonderful experience with strangers smiling to each other and sharing seasonal greetings. Herman got quite a few admiring comments and cuddles too. Whilst no spring chicken, he was a clever chap and as soon as he twigged we were making our way back to the Home, Herman dug his heels in and decided that he was perfectly happy to stay in the park. Our brisk walk turned into an hour and a half marathon of wills, and when I eventually did get him back to his kennel, I didn’t have time to walk another dog.

I still remember him with fondness though and it was lovely to receive a letter from his new dad a couple of months later. Walking dogs on Christmas Day is such a lovely event. I’ll never forget how cold it was and yet how snug and warm and happy we all were, especially our dogs who had such a lovely time. I of course had my lovely Wilma with me in her fleecy festive red coat and we stood huddled together merrily singing carols in between a litter of Lurcher puppies being carried by our nurses and bundled up in the brightly coloured blankets knitted so lovingly by our wonderful supporters.

We sang Battersea’s very own version of the 12 Days of Christmas with lines like ‘Five golden Labs, four Siamese, three Tortoiseshells, two Ginger Toms and a Poodle in a pear tree.’

Paul O’Grady was there of course singing his heart out and as we sang and laughed and enjoyed just being together with our colleagues and our animals, snow fell softly and light, and the world, just for a little while, seemed almost perfect.

Ali Taylor, Canine Welfare
I once slept at Battersea on Christmas Eve with a dog called Cabbage, so I could make sure I was at work in time because I didn’t drive then (plus I was obsessed with the dog). And one Christmas Day I also did a live radio interview about people who worked on this special day and I was there to answer behaviour questions. The only problem was not one of them was dog or cat related so I was in danger of being rather embarrassed by my ignorance. One lady said her rabbit attacked her every morning and one Christmas Day I also did a live radio interview about people who worked on this special day and I was there to answer behaviour questions. The only problem was not one of them was dog or cat related so I was in danger of being rather embarrassed by my ignorance. One lady said her rabbit attacked her every morning and

Matt Marshall, Volunteer Dog Socialiser, London
I would like to say, as I was in on Christmas Day 2012, that it was magical... but it was just wet and windy. I’m coming in on Christmas Day 2013 and I will have a great day, just like every day I come into the Dogs & Cats Home. Every day is magical at Battersea.

Clint Singh, Volunteer Photographer, Brands Hatch
My favourite Battersea Christmas memory is the festive photoshoot I did in 2012 with a litter of kittens. They were really cute, and loads of fun to work with. I could have continued all day but one of the kittens held out her paw, almost as if to say: “Ok, we’ve had enough now!”

Claire Horton, Chief Executive
I absolutely loved the Battersea Christmas carol concert in 2012. Quite simply, it was a moment for us all to come together, to share the joy of Christmas, a really busy and often tough time for the Home and our animals. It brought our Battersea family together, to reflect on the year we’d had and the poorly and desperately sad animals we’d taken through our doors, nursed back to health, loved, cared for and given a second chance. And it gave us time to give thanks for all we have and all we are able to achieve with the help of all of our supporters around the country.

Christmas is my favourite time of year as it is a special time that brings out the best in everyone, when people take that opportunity to say hello to someone they don’t know, to smile at each other, to laugh and to come together with close friends and family and most of all to give thanks for the wonderful blessing of our pets in our lives. The Battersea carol concert gave us a chance to do just that. It was such a lovely event. I’ll never forget how cold it was and yet how snug and warm and happy we all were, especially our dogs who had such a lovely time. I of course had my lovely Wilma with me in her fleecy festive red coat and we stood huddled together merrily singing carols in between a litter of Lurcher puppies being carried by our nurses and bundled up in the brightly coloured blankets knitted so lovingly by our wonderful supporters.

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Wish a Battersea dog or cat a very merry Christmas with a tasty treat or top toy buy them a special present online at battersea.org.uk/shop
We’ve teamed up with cottages4you to bring you a fantastic selection of pet friendly cottages. Discover properties in the UK, Ireland and overseas and enjoy a break where you have the freedom and flexibility to do what you want when you want.

For every holiday booked through the site Battersea Dogs & Cats Home receives a 10% donation of the holiday cost.

Whether you are planning a festive family get together or a relaxing escape in the new year book your break with cottages4you and feel great about supporting the animals in our care.

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.

Help the Home and... Buy for Battersea

Visit battersea.org.uk/buyforbattersea

Help to raise valuable funds for Battersea by buying from our specially-selected partners.

St Luke’s Church
Sydney St
London SW3 6NH

Christmas Carol Concert

Wednesday 11 December 2013

For further information and to book tickets visit battersea.org.uk/carolconcert or call 020 7927 9295

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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

Please send us your pictures by email to paws@battersea.org.uk You can also write to the address on Page 1

If you’d like your pictures returned, enclose an SAE
Toy stories

We handpicked a gang of Battersea technicians – Rufus the Rottie, Staffies Frog and Rocky, and Akita Max – to road test our great new range of dog toys.

Developed using Battersea staff expertise and knowledge, and in partnership with pet toy designer Rupert’s Pet Shop, these toys are designed to be safe and fun for dogs of all shapes and sizes.

No toys were harmed in the making of this feature but some are looking a little the worse for wear...

Ask the experts:

Our brand new range of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home toys is available to order from the Christmas Goodies pages at the back of this issue or online at battersea.org.uk/shop

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Battersea Dog Toys

Buy from Tesco, in our stores and online at battersea.org.uk/shop

Super Squeaky Toy

Six squeakers and lots of floppy plush.

Max: Nothing like a sleepy, comforting cuddle with a soft toy – who’soud that from Marvin – we’ll be friends for years. Unless Rufus gets hold of him, of course. No toy is indestructible, sadly.

Super Squeaker Balls

Does what it says on the label, and all in non-abrasive material too. Unzip and fill.

Rocky: Oh. My. Dog. These guys are awesome, and you find two in a pack! Double the fun. Tricky little bouncers too – they fly about all over the place. Amuse balls. Get them on your Christmas wish list, boys and girls.

Super Flinger Retrieve Toy

Tough rubber and soft natural cotton rope combine in a great outdoor toy. Just swing and fling.

Frog: We played for ages. It was such fun and I didn’t want to go home for my dinner. My human co-tester was careful to throw the flinger for me, not at me, and I soon learned to bring it back for another go.

Hide ‘n’ Fetch Reward Bone

Unwrap and put a treat in one of the pockets. Make your dog sit and wait, hide the bone and encourage him to retrieve to get his reward.

Max: When I found out there are three treat pockets, I knew I wanted this one. I had to practice a bit to learn how to unwrap it and get the treat. Self-service – yum.

Tumball

Also made from our special foam, Tumballs have an exciting random bounce, they float and fit a standard ball launcher.

Rufus: Oh. My. Dog. These guys are awesome, and you get two in a pack! Double the fun. Tricky little bouncers too – they fly about all over the place. Amuse balls. Get them on your Christmas wish list, boys and girls.

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4. We have the biggest list of pet-friendly places in our unique Pet Neighbourhood.

5. Connect with other pet owners in our social network – simply create a Pet Profile and start networking.
Day in the life
The seven Lurchers of Christmas

Remember the seven Lurcher pups who lit up our ITV Christmas special, Paul O’Grady: For the Love of Dogs last year? Holly, Ivy, Mince Pie, Dean, Dora, Dilys and Dixie were all born at Battersea on 2 November 2012. Their mum – a Battersea dog – rejected the puppies so the litter were hand-reared by our wonderful Vet Nurses. All happily rehomed, the littermates are looking forward to their first proper Christmas, so we asked their new families to reveal what a Christmas Day in the life of a young Lurcher will be like.

Betty (Holly) and the Nail family, East Molesley, Surrey
Apart from snoozing, Betty will undoubtedly be trying to eat our Christmas dinner and digging holes in our lawn between naps. Of course, butter wouldn’t melt...

Dora and Jane Bishop, Folkestone, Kent
We’re really looking forward to her first Christmas with us. I don’t think our decorations are going to be very Dora proof, though. Dora will be unwrapping her favourite toy which is a small squeaky space hopper. She’s also got her own stocking, which we’ll hang on the fireplace, filled with treats for Christmas Day. And she’ll be eating the last treat in her very own doggy Advent calendar.

Ashling (Dixie) and the Thomas family, Morden, Surrey
Ashling came into our lives on 29 December 2012 and helped to mend our broken hearts after we had to say goodbye to our dear Washington (a Battersea dog) after 15 very happy years. We’re a bit worried about Christmas as Ashling does like to steal things and eat them and we do have a lot of Christmas decorations, so plans will have to be put in place. But she will definitely have her own Christmas stocking to hang on the mantelpiece and as long as she doesn’t chase the reindeer I’m sure there will be lots of treats for her.

Barry (Dean), with Rachel and Rory, SE London
For Christmas, Barry will be unwrapping a present (with a squeaky toy, but don’t tell him that or you’ll ruin the surprise!). If he’s lucky he’ll get a few scraps of turkey from the Christmas table, then a nice long walk in our local park, where he’ll probably meet some of his friends! That’ll tire him out, so he’ll then go to sleep by the fire while we watch the telly. He’s rather taken with the tinsel, so we think the Christmas tree will be in for a mauling this year!

Mince Pie, with the Maslin family, Chippenham, Wiltshire
One of Mince Pie’s favourite things to do is to rip any piece of paper into shredds so Christmas Day is going to be one exciting time for him. It will be snowing paper in our house. Mince Pie has a sack full of presents for him waiting to be played with, along with our three other dogs, Toffee, Stanley and Betty, his best friends. Mince pies are a favourite at Christmas time, but my Mince Pie is a favourite all year round.

Maggie (Ivy), with the Allen family, Teddington
Maggie will be sleeping off her roast turkey and chipolata lunch. She was going to watch the Queen’s speech, but as Camilla didn’t feature and the corgis did, she’ll retire for an afternoon nap instead. After her nap she will be watching the recording she received in her stocking, Paul O’Grady: For the Love of Dogs, in the hope that she may see someone she knows...

Susie (Dilys), with Penny and Alan Holman, Haywards Heath
We knew it would happen, she loves the tree. Its lights, the tinsel, the baubles and the noise it makes when you jump on it and make it fall over. Susie must learn, but we can help. NO chocolates on the tree. Don’t put the presents out under the tree before Christmas morning and don’t leave Susie alone in the same room as a beautifully-decorated tree. After dinner, put the TV on, time to relax? Not this year. Susie gets her lead, tail wagging. We’re all off out for a hike, much better than lazing around.
A very Merry Christmas to you all

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. Around 400 dogs and 190 cats will spend Christmas at Battersea this year, the purchase of these goodies will help us to care for them.

Order at battersea.org.uk or call 020 7627 9228
Gifts

Happy Endings Calendar

Traditional Advent Calendar

Diary

Slim calendar

1000 piece jigsaw

100 piece jigsaw

Happy Endings Calendar

Traditional Advent Calendar

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The story of the Home from its beginnings in 1860 to the present day. Now in paperback.

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Please note the diary and calendars will be available from October and will be sent separately from the rest of your order.
**Books**

**Battersea stories**
A selection of entertaining and educational tales based on true life stories from our Home.

Seasonal offer:
5 children’s books for £20

**Gifts for dogs and cats**

**Battersea Dog Toys**
Battersea’s very own toy range, tested by our dogs for your dog.

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  - Six squeaker toy
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- Desmond Donkey
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- Monty Mouse
  - £2.99
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- **Four Christmas Cat Balls**
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  - 29cm
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  - Outdoor active toy
  - £8.99
- **Tumball**
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- **Super Flinger**
  - Retrieve toy
  - £6.99

**Dog toys**

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  - £7.99

**Other items**

- **Battersea stories**
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  - £4.99 each
- **Tumball**
  - Random bounce balls, fit in standard ball launcher
  - £7.99
- **Super Flinger**
  - Retrieve toy
  - £6.99
Wrapping paper

Gifts for Battersea dogs and cats

Show your support for the dogs and cats in our care over the festive period by buying a gift for them this Christmas.*

Dog 'special meal' £5.00 N01
Cat 'special meal' £5.00 N02
Dog toy £3.00 N03
Cat toy £3.00 N04
Dog blanket £9.99 N05
Cat blanket £9.99 N06

*The actual product given to a dog or cat will be at the discretion of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home. Delivery charges do not apply for these items.

**We like to keep supporters in touch with our work. If you do not wish to receive further communications from Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, please write to Supporter Services, 4 Battersea Park Road, London, SW8 4AA, email us at fundraising@battersea.org.uk or call us on 0870 890 0000.

Data protection:
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Order form

Order online at battersea.org.uk or alternatively please complete this form and together with a cheque or your card details return to:
Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, Christmas Retail, 4 Battersea Park Road, London SW8 4AA

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. Please note that Royal Mail 2nd Class last mailing date for Christmas 2013 is 18th December. Orders received after this date may not be received before 25th December. For deliveries outside the UK please email shop@battersea.org.uk or call us on 020 7627 9228.

Order online at battersea.org.uk or alternatively please complete this form and together with a cheque or your card details return to:
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Data protection:
We like to keep supporters in touch with our work. If you do not wish to receive further communications from Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, please write to Supporter Services, 4 Battersea Park Road, London, SW8 4AA, email us at fundraising@battersea.org.uk or call us on 0870 890 0000.

Please tick this box if you do want other offers or information from our carefully selected partners. Please refer to www.battersea.org.uk for our full statement on the use of your data.

** By providing your email address you are agreeing to receive updates about Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, and those of our carefully selected partners, from time to time. You can unsubscribe at any time.

* Gift Aid makes your gift go further! You can make your donation worth a quarter more, just by ticking the box below. So for every £1 you give, we receive an extra 25p from HMRC at no extra cost to you, provided you are a UK taxpayer.

** I am a UK taxpayer and I wish all donations that I make today and in the future and have made in the last four tax years from the date of this declaration to be treated as Gift Aid donations until I notify you otherwise.***

*** You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax all the charities you donate to will reclaim on your gifts for that tax year (currently 25p for every £1 you donate). Please note that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify.

Signature

Date

Registered Charity Number 206394