

pawws

The supporter magazine
of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home

WINTER 2014
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Memories of Home

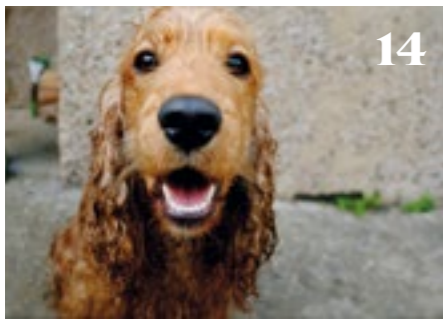
As the long winter nights
draw in, cosy up with some
wonderful family memories
of Battersea in days gone by



CHRISTMAS AT BATTERSEA
A DAY LIKE NO OTHER
HOME ALONE
TACKLING SEPARATION ANXIETY
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT
CATCHING UP WITH PAUL O'GRADY STARS



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paws
Winter 2014

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Front cover
Three sisters with their new puppy c.1960s

Welcome

Claire Horton, Chief Executive

'As you read the seasonal stories in this winter issue, I know you'll be thinking of all our dogs and cats.'

Battersea's vision is a world where every dog and cat has a safe and loving home, and is free from fear and pain.

At Christmas, we make this wish even more fervently, and rejoice in being able to unwrap a time of joy, gifts, good food and long walks for all the Yuletide residents at our three centres in London, Brands Hatch and Old Windsor.

My heart is always uplifted as hundreds of amazing members of the Battersea family defy the pull of their own homes, and the lack of buses and trains, and come to give the animals in our care a sense of the magic of Christmas: the joy of a special day bursting with love and warmth, the comfort of familiar companions and the pure pleasure of physical contact.

Christmas is a busy day like every other at Battersea, and a day like no other.

“Christmas is a day like every other at Battersea, and a day like no other”

Claire and her Battersea Jack Russell Terrier Wilma

It's filled with good things, good people and the goodwill of all those who keep Battersea and our animals in their hearts.

Each supporter who has bought a special festive gift for a Battersea dog or cat (page 13), everyone who ran a marathon or knitted a woolly mouse (page 4), those who gave us a bit of something they'd put by, or have generously remembered the Home in their Will (page 27), every special individual who decided to share their life with a rescue animal (page 20), has placed a gift of love underneath the Battersea Christmas tree.

As you read the seasonal stories in this winter issue of Paws, I know you'll be thinking of all our dogs and cats, whose patient wait for a new beginning will likely include a Christmas at Battersea.

Generations of homeless animals have undertaken that same wait, and generations of animal lovers have helped them along the way, and been there to give their stories a happy ending. You can meet some of them – and lift the curtain on the olden days of Battersea – on page 8.

“Raise a festive glass to staff, volunteers and supporters”

We also have a sneak preview of our engrossing new paperback collection of rehoming tales from the Home, called *Christmas at Battersea* (page 12). I'll let you into a little secret – my own family experience of the unique fulfilment of rehoming a Battersea dog is one of the stories.

So this year, the Horton family will join every proud owner of a Battersea dog or cat everywhere, in raising a festive glass to the staff, volunteers and supporters who helped make our rehoming dream come true.

And I'll be saying a special Christmas prayer, that our dream for every dog and cat comes a little closer still next year. 🐾



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COMPETITION



Picture this
The results of our Pawtraits competition
p14

LITTLE PAWS



Dog's (Christmas) dinner
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TV CATCH-UP



Where are they now?
Find out the festive plans of some of the stars of the third series of 'Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs'
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New kennels take shape

Work to build new kennels for Battersea dogs is scheduled for completion in February – and we could be rolling out the red carpet for our first canine guests by next summer.

Battersea's kennel appeal is the biggest in our 154-year history, and was launched in March. Our four Ambassadors David Gandy, Paul O'Grady MBE, Dame Jacqueline Wilson and Amanda Holden laid the cornerstone for 56 new kennels – and started a transformation of our famous old site.

As Christmas approaches, our new kennels are rising fast. Single storey, with more space, indoor runs, natural light, under floor heating and sedum green roofs (to help us be even more energy efficient and sustainable), the four kennel blocks will each be temporary home to up to 15 dogs.

We'll also have 12 exercise paddocks for dogs to play in and explore.

We hope that by giving the 6,000 dogs we care for each year this happy, healthy environment, we will be able to rehome them more quickly – and that will enable us help even more dogs.

Battersea Chief Executive Claire Horton says: "The new kennels should help dogs pass through the Home more quickly, and be more relaxed when they meet prospective owners, which can only help their chances of finding a new family. 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."

Want to help Battersea build new kennels and rebuild lives? You can Pay for a Day by visiting our website at battersea.org.uk, or text DOGS to 70800 to donate £5 to the Kennel Appeal.

Your parties were tea-mendous!

A big thankyou to everyone who indulged in a Purr-fect Tea party or had a Ruff 'n' Ready version on 24 October. It costs £18.4m a year to care for all the dogs and cats who need us, so to all our cuppa buddies who held a Battersea Tea Party – cheers.

And a big shout-out to the Battersea runners in the Royal Parks Half Marathon and Windsor Half Marathon. You were truly inspiring.

Find out about events and challenges you can take on in aid of Battersea by emailing events@battersea.org.uk or visit battersea.org.uk/eventsandchallenges

Right Made in Chelsea's Cheska Hull hosts a Tea Party for her Battersea dog Evie



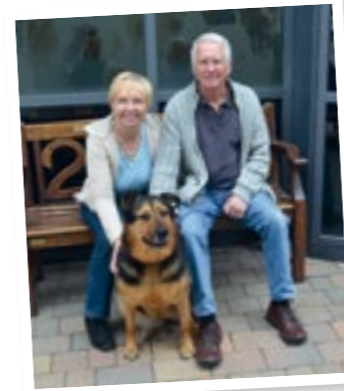
Blister's back

The power of the microchip was demonstrated recently when a Border Terrier who went missing nine years ago was reunited with his astonished owner.

Blister was just three when he escaped from James Barker's garden in Streatham Hill in 2006. Older, and considerably greyer, he turned up at our London centre in August. A routine microchip scan revealed Mr Barker's details, and a joyful reunion followed.

Sadly, the owner who thought she had taken Blister on legitimately two years ago never had him scanned, so she didn't know she was caring for someone else's dog. And where Blister had been for seven of those lost years remains a mystery...

Rehoming news



BLESS

Bless (now Bess) was considered to be the saddest dog in the land - her long Battersea stay (and long face) popped up in all the newspapers as she searched for a home. After 164 days, sadness turned to joy when our mournful Rottie cross was rehomed by Geoff and Sylvia Shoesmith of Chelmsford, Essex.

Geoff said: "She's fantastic, I can't fault her. She's got that sort of face that never gives much away - but as soon as you put your coat on and it's time to take her out, then she positively bounces!"



MONKEY

Monkey was born without one of the bones in her left foreleg and so she needed a special home... and a new name. Now Peggy, she flies around the house at alarming speeds, comes to meet new owners Em and Drew Froggatt at the door and is on politely curious terms with the house rabbit. "We wouldn't trade her for the world," says Em, from south London. "Thank you for letting us have this wonderful little character."

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



Heading for cat-astrophe?

There are now more cats in the UK than there are homes – and that's causing a crisis for stressed felines, whose health is at risk due to overcrowding in the home and outside.

Head of Cattery Lindsey Quinlan says the only way to control this growing problem is to neuter cats. Battersea takes in almost 3,000 cats a year, and neuters and microchips every cat it rehomes.

"It's crucial for there to be enough resources in one area to reduce competition with other cats. A lot of cats sharing one space can result in a highly stressful environment," she explained.

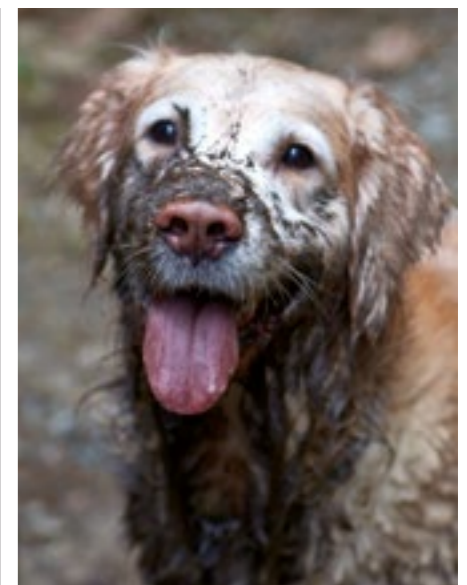
"Every cat has its own unique personality, so it depends on the individual pet as to whether it is happier living alone or with another feline.

"Two cats that are being forced to live together can physically fight but also become mentally stressed, which can result in stress-related illnesses such as cystitis, and behaviour problems. If your cats are displaying aggressive behaviour towards one another on a regular basis, you should seek advice from a behaviourist."

Call Battersea

Do you have a great Battersea story to tell? Did your Battersea dog or cat transform your life, or help you get through a really tough time? We'd love to hear from you.

Please email press@battersea.org.uk or call 020 7627 9265.



Are you a muddy dog or mucky pup?

Find out by taking part in Battersea's brand new obstacle and mud run specially designed for two and four legged friends with our Muddy Dog Challenge.

Whether you scamper, jump, walk or jog round the obstacle course on your own or with a four-legged friend, everything you raise in sponsorship will help more dogs find loving new homes where they too will be able to have muddy fun.

The Muddy Dog Challenge, taking place in London in spring 2015, is designed for all abilities with a 2.5k and 5k course, and is open to individuals and teams with or without dogs. Children and spectators will also have the opportunity to take part in activities in the event village.

Visit battersea.org.uk/muddydog, Facebook or Twitter, or call 020 7627 7886.



Battersea Staffie China in a festive mood

Sing in Christmas with us

On the first day of Christmas, Battersea gave to me... a Carol Concert in Chelsea.

We'll be decking St Luke's Church in holly and ivy this year and asking friends and supporters to join us on Monday, 8 December at 7.30pm, for a wonderful evening of festive cheer including a special doggy Guard of Honour, mulled wine and mince pies. Collegium Musicum of London Chamber Choir will lead us in song and we'll hear Christmas readings by some special guests.

Come along and meet Chief

Carloine Quentin at last year's concert



Executive Claire Horton and a whole host of Battersea friends including Dame Jacqueline Wilson, who will give a reading. Actress Caroline Quentin, who gave a reading last year, said: "A great way to start Christmas, a wonderful celebration. I met some truly delightful characters... and the humans weren't bad either!"

A massive £13,523 was raised last year and we hope to do even better this in 2014. **For more information or to buy your tickets, please visit battersea.org.uk/carolconcert or call 020 7627 9295.**

Care in the community

From cake sales to bucket shaking, Battersea's fundraising family is showing its love for the Home in fun and imaginative ways. They're helping raise the £18.4m we need, each year, to care for the 9,000 dogs and cats who come through our doors. And we'd love you to join them...

With the support of our new Regional Community Fundraisers, you can fundraise on your own, with friends, with work colleagues or with your school or community group.

Gayle Evans is a great example of how one person can make a huge difference to our dogs and cats. Over the last few months, Gayle has organised a sponsored bike ride and a ladies night, raising over £1,500 and rallying the support of other Isle of Sheppey residents and companies.

Meanwhile, Windsor dog owners Jane, Ali and Helen approached a local pub to host a dog-friendly coffee morning for Battersea. The landlord donated the coffee and pastries, and local businesses contributed lots of prizes for a dog-themed raffle. Over £140 was raised in just a couple of hours.

If you would like to show your support for Battersea's dogs and cats, we would love to hear from you! Please contact:

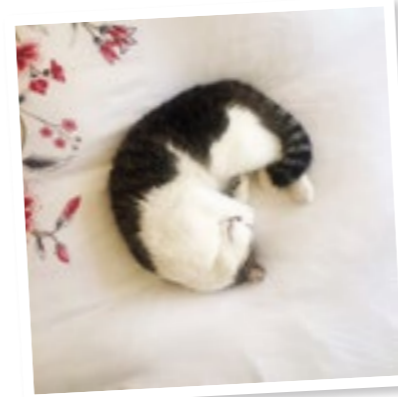
For Berkshire, Surrey, Middlesex, Bucks or Oxon
Janet Brewer
 07590 173458
j.brewer@battersea.org.uk

For Kent, Sussex or Essex
Victoria Lawrence
 07590 173456
v.lawrence@battersea.org.uk

For London or any other area
Anais Hawkins
 020 7627 7886
a.hawkins@battersea.org.uk



Rehoming news



PAULY

When your owner moves away and leaves you to fend for yourself, life can become tough, especially when you've no road sense and lie down in the middle of the street while traffic whizzes by. Fortunately, Pauly was brought to Battersea before he came to any harm, and he now lives with Dr Anna Herasimtschuk in north London. "Cupertino, as we now call him (Coop for short), is doing very well. He's very affectionate and prefers us to be sitting down when we're around him so he can curl up in one of our laps."



CASPER

"Casper plays all day, sleeps all night and would eat anything so we have to be very careful that he is not overfed. Considering he is so young he has settled very well, he loves the garden and spends hours playing with his toys and running up and down the steps. For anyone who is worried about adopting a young dog, don't - and for people who may be concerned about terriers, yes they do dig holes but they also learn very quickly. Get a Battersea dog!" says Vicki Matthews.

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



Best Battersea Dog Barney at our 20th Annual Reunion

Record Reunion

Remember scared and worried Benny from *For the Love of Dogs*? What a transformation. Here he is, winning the ultimate canine honour at our 20th Annual Reunion in Battersea Park.

Our most successful Reunion ever raised over £13,000 for the Home. Now called Barney, our shy Rottie cross becomes Battersea's latest Ambassador, joining other worthy winners of the Best Battersea Dog title who have overcome adversity to lead happy lives.

Battersea Ambassador and children's author Dame Jacqueline Wilson was one of the judges on the day, with *Holby City* actor Jules Knight, fashion designer Julien Macdonald and TV presenter Matt Johnson.



KNIT NUTS!
News of Battersea Cattery's unique Knitting Kittens, a friendly, craft-based club where you can come once a month and cast on in the company of our feline friends, was warmly greeted on Facebook

"The perfect knitting club"

"Let's do this!"

"I live on the Isle of Wight so getting to London is difficult, but I can still make the toys for the cats and send them in"

"I would volunteer for quality control testing of knitted items with the cats"



Find out more at battersea.org.uk/knittingkittens
 f BATTERSEA

Fluke of luck for Staffie pup

Staffie puppy Fluke was being offered for sale as a bargain buy by a man outside a kebab shop. Luckily, he was brought to Battersea instead.

Our little takeaway now lives with Battersea Rottie Roxy in Upminster Essex and is looking forward to her first Christmas with the Acton family.

"Christmas will be interesting - Roxy and Fluke's first together," said Robin Acton. "Decorating the tree will be fun. As the decoration go on Fluke will take them off and we may have to put some items higher up for safe keeping.

"If we get snow I'm sure Fluke will go mad in it. Roxy is not so keen, as she is too much of a lady."

You can read all about how the canine stars of *Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs* will be spending Christmas on page 22.



Weighty challenge for fat cat Texas

Here at Battersea, we take in cats of all shapes and sizes. But some take up even more space, in our hearts and our pens, than others.

Recently we had our hands full with titan-ic Titan, who weighed in at 10kg, over double the recommended weight for a domestic short-haired cat of his size.

Now we'd like you to meet Texas. He's an unbelievable

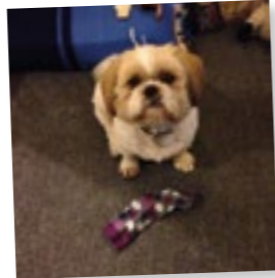
12.3kg and lived as an indoor cat with his elderly owner who sadly passed away.

SuiLi Weight, Battersea's Cattery Team Leader, says: "At Battersea we take in around 3,000 cats every year, but Texas is by far the biggest cat we've ever seen. We have had to specially kit out his pen with a double staircase up to his bed and extra bedding to make sure he is comfortable.

Some people might think it's funny to see a cat this big but the pain in his eyes is very apparent and it is in fact extremely sad to see an animal which is suffering so badly." Texas is now on a strict diet to shed the pounds before he finds a new home. **If you think you could give a home to a Battersea cat, visit the rehoming pages at battersea.org.uk**

YOUR TERRIFIC TWEETS 🐦 BDCH

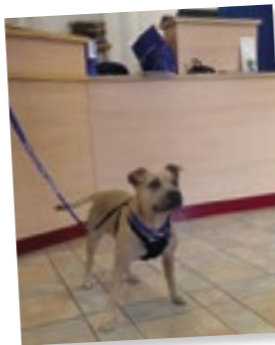
During the current series of *Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs*, we've seen on Twitter just how much you and your pets have been enjoying **#pogdogs**. From your four-legged friends who are fans of the show to those of you who have been inspired to donate or rehome after seeing us in action, here's just some of your tweets.



"Herbert is thrilled that the lovely Pepi has found such a wonderful home! Thank you @BDCH for all you do! **#pogdogs**"
@holly_alexander



"@BDCH one year on... Thank you for bringing us together! We love our boy. **#dog sarethebest #pogdogs**"
@heathermakeup76



"Our new girl, Dusty. Beautiful. Coming home today, thanks to @BDCH and **#pogdogs**"
@cupcake_1973



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Memories of Home

At Battersea, we rehome dogs and cats, and we create memories which last a lifetime and go on through the generations. The kitten great, great Grandma rehomed that used to hide in her knitting basket; the family Mongrel who came from Battersea and has never been forgotten...

As the long winter nights cast their shadows, we thought we'd cosy up with some wonderful family memories of Battersea in days gone by. Amazingly, they stretch back 154 years, to when Mary Tealby, the founder of *The Temporary Home for Lost & Starving Dogs* first made her promise never to turn away an animal in need.

A Victorian winter

When the very first of the 3.1 million animals our Home has cared for since 1860 crossed the threshold of a stable-yard in Holloway, a "decent-looking man in wooden shoes" welcomed the dog in and settled him in front of a bright coke fire to warm through.

This was James Pavitt, the Home's first keeper, who served Mary Tealby until his death in 1883. A true animal lover, Pavitt gave each new arrival a good old traditional name – Towser, Fido, Spot, Rusty and so on – before entering their details in his book, fastening a tin tag on their collar and assigning a spot in a trough, basket, box, cage or tub.

"James Pavitt is my great, great, great grandfather on my mother's side," says Gloria Bunce, who comes from a long line of Londoners and Essex folk, but now lives in Northampton. "We discovered him when my husband was researching my family tree. I don't even know what he looks like, but I'm so proud that he was there right at the start of what is now Battersea.

"My grandfather was also such a big animal lover, and once tackled a rag-and-bone man who was beating his horse. We think his strength of feeling was passed down to him from James."

And steadfast family feelings for Battersea have also come down the Pavitt line. When Gloria was just six or seven, over 60 years ago in the early 1950s, she came to Battersea with her mother to look for a suitable family pet.

"There were so many dogs, and such a sound of dogs barking," she recalled. "We were able to walk about wherever we wanted, and Mum picked a little black and white Mongrel who was



Gloria Bunce, great great granddaughter of James Pavitt

Keepers from the Victorian era

covering in the background as all the other dogs bounced around.

"Mum made a donation and we took him home. She called him Bumpy Dog because he didn't walk, he sort of bumped instead. We were told he was probably a lorry man's dog, out on the road all over London, until he jumped off the van and got lost."

And James Pavitt's family is still helping Battersea, in a very practical way, to this day, 154 years later. Gloria has left Battersea a gift in her Will, and would love to live close enough to volunteer at the Home. She hasn't visited us since that day she came along with her mum, but she promises she will – maybe even to search for another Bumpy Dog.



A world at war

Imagine a Battersea with German bombers rumbling overhead, and volunteer fire watchers' eyes peeled for the incendiaries which could fall in the area of what was then known as The Dogs' Home.

Retired engineer John Barrett can do more than imagine; as a young man he lived and worked in wartime London as an apprentice (and fire watcher) at commercial vehicle specialist G.C. Cook in the arches which are now part of the Home. His mission was to snuff out incendiary bombs, extinguish fires and mark where dangerous butterfly bombs had fallen.

The Home was right in the firing line. Enemy raiders used the four concrete beacons of Battersea Power Station to guide their route along the Thames to targets further down river, and air raid wardens and fire watchers like John were all fearful of the consequences of a hit on the famous old kennels and cattery.

"We used to see the dogs, all in a big yard, and meet them being walked down to Battersea Park. But on nights when the German planes came over, you could only hear the drone of the engines and anti-aircraft fire. With the Power Station, three gas holders, rail lines, light industry and residential housing all around, it's a wonder the Home didn't get bomb damaged."



John Barrett on his first visit to Battersea since the end of the war

“It's a wonder the Home didn't get bomb damaged”



Battersea Billy

Battersea supporter Pam Clarke, who lives in Eastbourne, was brought to Battersea during World War II, aged 9. She'd been evacuated to her aunt and uncle's home in Surrey to escape the Blitz.

"My little dog had died and my uncle, who was a taxi driver, organised a surprise visit to Battersea to find a new dog.

"It was rundown and filled to capacity with dogs homeless from the bombings," says Pam, who is now 82. "There were just a few kennels under the arches, which must have been some protection against the terrible bombing in Battersea.

"After looking in all the cages I chose a little black and white dog with a brown head, we bought a collar and lead, and Billy and I trotted out of Battersea and were never parted until I had to move back to London when the war ended.

"We used to shelter from the bombs and rockets in my aunt's Morrison shelter



Pam Clarke, pictured in 1945 with her Battersea dog Billy

“I chose a little black and white dog with a brown head, we bought a collar and lead, and Billy and I trotted out of Battersea and were never parted until I had to move back to London when the war ended”



– a metal cage in the house – and in my friend's Anderson shelter in the garden; me and my pal with our best bits in suitcases, and Billy. He would never go anywhere without a stone in his mouth – they wore his teeth away in the end."

Our cats' branch meetings

Lady Gloria Cottesloe, widow of the 4th Baron Cottesloe, who became Chairman of the Home in 1969, wrote in 1979 of how Battersea's cats were housed "in a lovely modern building behind the dog kennels, so the nervous ones are not made over-aware of their canine companions in distress.

"Here, by an ingenious stacking arrangement, each cat has its own draught-proof compartment, which has a little door at the back opening on a common large compound that affords them the chance to stretch their legs and climb and jump about on the branches provided – rather like the monkey house in a zoo." 🐾

Your memories

"Years ago our family went to Battersea looking for our lost dog Blackie. Many dogs in the compound came to the bars when the keeper called out 'Blackie, Blackie', each hoping they were Blackie!

"Around 1923/24 my Nan visited, looking for a guard dog, but left with the saddest little mongrel in the compound. She cared for little Pat and later gave her to me – my first Battersea dog. On a second visit Nan chose her guard dog after all. But Posh, large, ginger and smooth coated, turned out not to be a fierce guard dog but a real softie who loved everyone. He lived with the family for years and Nan gave up her idea of getting her guard dog." **Hilda Lees**



Harry Collins with Yorkie/Chihuahua cross Tanner

"My parents had their first dog – a true Heinz 57 – from Battersea 62 years ago in 1952. He was an escapologist and could always find the tiniest hole in a fence. We moved from London to Carlisle and then on to Wolverhampton. He escaped from the garden and disappeared for a couple of weeks. Eventually he was found back in Carlisle! He was returned by our wonderful police who drove him from border to border feeding him and petting him along the way. He lived to be at least 15." **Elsbeth Green**

“My son Harry has a friend who is always pleased to see him”

"My school was Notre Dame, an all girls school – along Battersea Park Road. It had buildings on both sides of the road and was staffed mainly by nuns. We used to be able to hear the dogs barking, and you could see them from some classrooms. It made me want a dog more than ever. I never visited – I never knew you could! I remember a gate with Battersea's name on, and the runs out the back were enclosures near the arches with concrete bases, for the dogs to run in I suppose. You would

occasionally see dogs being taken to Battersea Park but I don't think it was a regular thing then.

"After leaving school I moved to Kent, but still worked in Whitehall as a Civil Servant, so I caught the train into Victoria, and I still saw the dogs each day on my way to work. I used to always sit on the Battersea side so that I could see the dogs.

"I got to 50 and the itch to have a dog, begun all those years ago by Battersea, wasn't going away. My son Harry has Aspergers Syndrome and dogs have a very calming effect on him. So we rehomed Yorkie/Chihuahua cross Tanner. Harry has a friend who is always pleased to see him. Me? I have the dog I have wanted all my life."

Louise Collins

"Back in the 1960s when I was just a little girl I use to go and visit my nanny just across the bridge from Battersea, and on a Sunday we used to go and have a look round the kennels and shed many tears for all the lonely dogs.

"All the family have adopted dogs from the Home and they have all ended up very happy. I would love to come back and have a look round one day."

Jill Miles

"I started working for Battersea at the London site about 16 years ago and I stayed for six and a half years (still the longest job I've had to date).

"Even though I still work with dogs, I really miss it, and would jump at the chance to work there again if I still lived in London. It's like being part of a family."

Maxine Button



Children meet their potential new pets in the 1950s

A very Battersea Christmas

This Christmas an amazing team of staff and volunteers will set about creating a perfect day for the more than 500 dogs and cats who will be spending Christmas with us.



In the small hours of one very special morning, young and old alike are waking with a flutter of excitement in their bellies. The morning sky is still dark and, although it's freezing, a tingle of anticipation is settling across every home. Excited children rush into their parents' room, while mums and dads sneak downstairs to turn on the fairy lights – and magic – for their kids. With good reason: this is Christmas Day.

For many, Christmas Day is sacred, a day to be spent at home, sandwiched between hugs, sumptuous meals and presents. But there's one selfless team that will set about creating a perfect day for over 500 dogs and cats who can't spend Christmas with a loving family in a warm and cosy home.

This is Christmas at Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, and staff and volunteers are streaming through the gates.

Within minutes, the lights warm up from dim to full-on. Instantly the place is sparkling. The tinsel around the desk and noticeboards shimmers, and wispy sprays of glitter add to the festive atmosphere now settled firmly over Battersea.



This glimpse of Christmas in our Home is adapted from the introduction to *Christmas at Battersea*, the follow-up to our best-selling paperback *Lost and Found*. Packed with heartwarming, and heart wrenching, journeys from loss to new beginnings, *Christmas at Battersea* will fill your Christmas with joy.

Every copy sold helps us care for more dogs and cats like Tiffin and Ophelia, who are two of the book's stars. You can buy online in our shop at battersea.org.uk/shop, or from bookshops and online retail sites.

Over the speakers that usually deliver soft classical music to soothe frazzled canine and feline nerves, familiar Christmas melodies softly play, filtering through to the kennels and Cattery, while the air is filled with the aromas of cinnamon and nutmeg from festive embroidered scent pouches sent in by supporters. Not only do the scents put everyone in the Christmas mood, but they help to keep the dogs and cats calm and content.

Across Battersea's three centres, in London, Old Windsor and Brands Hatch, tails are swished and ears wiggled as the residents stretch, wake and shake off their early-morning grogginess. Before long, there is a flurry of activity as the staff and hundreds of volunteers walk along the

CHRISTMAS WISHES



ROB YOUNG
Head of Dog Rehoming

'I wish all the Battersea dogs get a loving home whatever time of year as soon as they possibly can - but failing that, a nice big Jumbone to keep them going until that day arrives!'



REBECCA NORRIS
Senior Rehomer at Battersea Old Windsor

'I wish all the dogs and cats had a warm fire to cosy in front of, surrounded by a loving family.'



NATHALIE INGHAM
Canine Welfare Trainer

'My wish at Christmas for the dogs of Battersea is a bit of a paw trim to stop any snow and ice balls from clumping to their fur, as well as a nice fleecy coat to keep them warm after their hair cut as they charge around the frosty park with the volunteers.'

corridors and set about their first tasks of the day, most of them adorned in an assortment of reindeer antlers and tinsel.

Once the morning feeds are complete, the volunteers and staff in London take the dogs for walks around the site and across to Battersea Park, where the fountains are frozen and the grass is tipped with frost. With the backdrop of the London skyline, Battersea Power Station and the River Thames, it's a walk to remember.

Twenty-five miles west at Battersea's country centre, in Old Windsor, Berkshire, dogs get the treat of a winter walk around the centre's lovely fields and wooded copses. The rolling landscape is a sight to behold on the foggy winter morning. It's crisp and cold and only just daylight, but the duty staff and volunteers taking care of the residents across all the Battersea sites don't mind.

Festive chat is swapped and spirits are even higher than usual. Soon many of the staff will be playing Father Christmas as they deliver a kindly-donated gift, handpicked, to each animal that currently calls Battersea its home. Christmas Day at Battersea is about to begin. 🐾

Buy for Battersea

There's a turkey (or fish) dinner waiting for every resident this Christmas, as we pull out all the merry organ stops to make 25 December a day to remember. Christmas at Battersea is such a special time, and the volunteers and staff who spend their day helping to look after our dogs and cats wouldn't miss it for the world.

Each animal will have its own stocking, bulging with a squeaky toy or a catnip mouse, a Kong smeared with tasty Marmite or peanut butter, a long-lasting chew, a tasty bag of treats or even a soft and cosy bed. If you'd like to be the generous soul who fills that stocking and makes Christmas come alive for a Battersea cat, or gives a Battersea dog a tail-thumpingly good playtime, it's easy. You can buy a gift for one of our animals online at battersea.org.uk/shop, visit one of our three centres, or call 020 7627 9228 to make a donation. Battersea, and our dogs and cats, say Thank You.



CHRISTMAS WISHES



ALI TAYLOR
Head of Canine Welfare Training

'For me it has to be that perfect loving home to materialise after Christmas... but as most will be with us over the festive period, it is about making sure they have a good one!'



SUILI WEIGHT
Cattery Team Leader

'Every cat and dog to have a safe, warm home to enjoy a white Christmas in, and 'pigs in blankets' for all!'



MICHAEL O'BYRNE
Fundraising Officer

'My wish is for all the kind animal lovers who support the Home with donations of money to have a very happy and peaceful 2015 with their loved ones, both two and four-legged. Without them, there wouldn't be a Battersea Dogs & Cats Home.'

Perfect pawtrait



Winner!
Studio session worth £350 with
venture photography

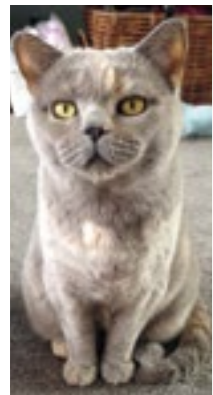
Paws' readers showed their pride in their pets when they entered our Pawtrait competition. We received Jack Russells from Sidcup, a Northern Inuit from Wiltshire, Tarquin from Wantage, two cats from Exeter and many more.

And what a panorama they made. Our expert judges just loved the variety of pets and poses, the mischief and love shining out of each frame, and the textures, light and effects you used.

We debated, deliberated and discussed each entry, finally compiling a shortlist of our favourites, with the winner chosen by Venture Photography's Creative Director Richard Mayfield.

"We have had such an array of entries which made it difficult to choose a winner," Richard said. "At Venture we pride ourselves on creating images which tell the story of who our customers are and with this in mind, as well as being a fantastic shot, I felt newspaper-reading Bassett Hound Ollie fitted with this perfectly."

So proud owner Mike Wood, from Okeford Fitzpaine, Dorset is the winner of Venture Photography's photo session worth £350. And here is Ollie, and a few more of your champion cats and dazzling dogs to enjoy. 🐾



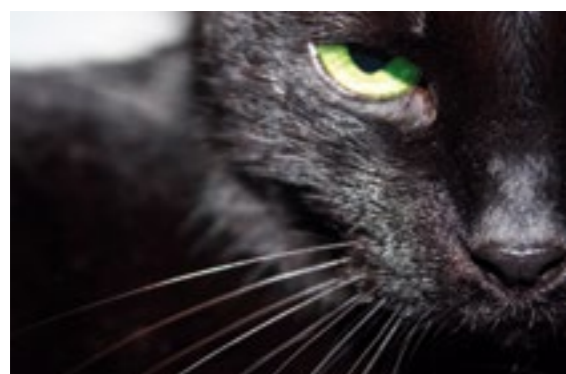
1



2



3



4



5



6

- 1 Martha, from Cheryl Jones
- 2 Boo, from Stephanie Richardson
- 3 Alfie, from Sheila Laphorn
- 4 Jade, from Claire Woollam
- 5 Troy and Molly, from Clair Davidson
- 6 Sakari, from Selina Cotton

Little paws

FOR JUNIOR SUPPORTERS OF
BATTERSEA DOGS & CATS HOME

STORIES GAMES FUN

NAME THAT PET

Win a Battersea cuddly toy

Isabella Tranter-Richards

Grace (7) and Rhiannon (10) Buckingham from Watford visited Battersea in the summer holidays. They were worried that with over 2,000 stray dogs to look after every year, we would run out of names to call them, so they came up with a whole alphabet. Which do you like best?

Cheryl Prater

Amy Petts

Grace and Rhiannon have two dogs - Blue the Lurcher and Ringo the Jug (that's a mix between a Jack Russell and a Pug!)

- ALFIE
- Blue
- CHUCK
- Donut
- ELVIS
- Fly
- GRACIE
- HOPE
- IRIS
- Jack
- KING
- Layla
- MARMITE
- Nelly
- STELLA
- POPPY
- QUEENIE
- Ringo
- Treacle
- ULYSSES
- Venice
- OLA
- Zeus
- WOOF
- Xena
- YOYO

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

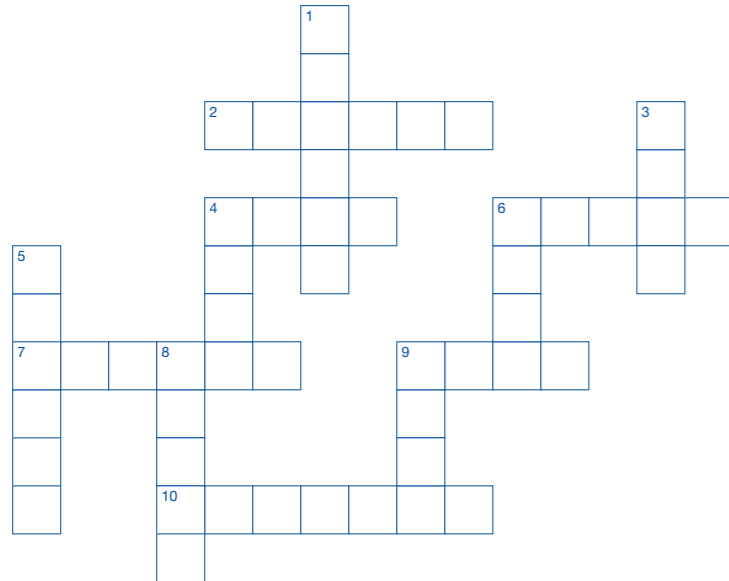
PULL-OUT POSTER





ONLY JOKING!

What do you call Santa Claus's dog?
SANTA PAWS!



Across

- 2 Tray where cats go to the loo (6)
- 4 This helps a cat balance (4)
- 6 'A game of cat and _____' (5)
- 7 Another name for male cats (6)
- 9 Cats' feet (6)
- 10 These help a cat to feel (7)

Down

- 1 Cats go crazy for this (6)
- 3 The sound cats make as a warning (4)
- 4 A fishy cat dinner! (4)
- 5 A baby cat (6)
- 6 A cat saying 'hello' (4)
- 8 These are sharp! (5)
- 9 The sound a happy cat makes (4)



CHRISTMAS DOS AND DON'TS

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



FANTASTIC FACT

Never give a dog a bone as a treat – even at Christmas. It could get stuck in his throat.

TOP TIP

Never give a dog chocolate – it's poisonous to them! There are lots of special doggy teats you can give your dog as a reward instead.

FANTASTIC FACT

Cats love shiny baubles and tinselly trimmings, so don't leave her alone with the Christmas tree, as she might try to climb up it, or even knock it over.



Little Paws Letters

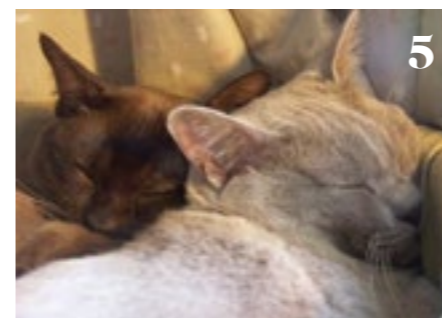
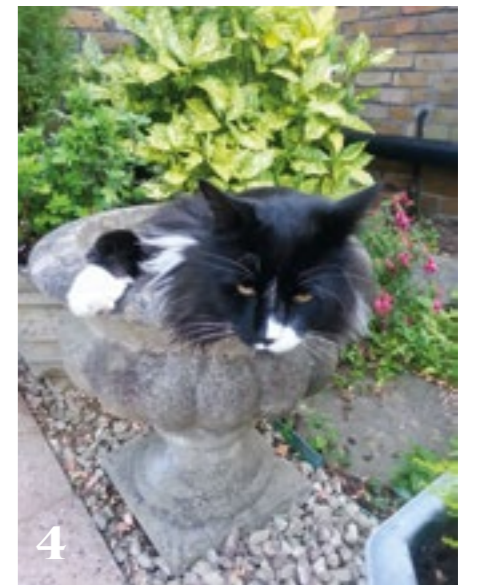


This is five-month-old Rosie, laying with her cuddly cat Martha. Martha was rescued from Battersea Brands Hatch two years ago and now lives happily with the Jones family.

My name is Eve and I'm eight. This is my new rescue kitten called Woody. He is about four and a half months old. He was found as a stray and he is very cuddly and cute. We also have another rescue cat Minnie. She was found in a box with two kittens. She is big and fat.
From Eve Stott, Bromley

Cat gallery

What a striking line-up of Battersea cats in their new homes. Thank you to everyone who sent us a photo of their special pal, we're sorry we can't publish them all. You can see more at battersea.org.uk/cathappyendings



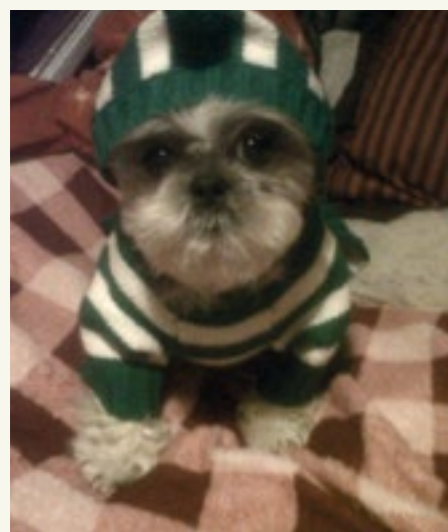
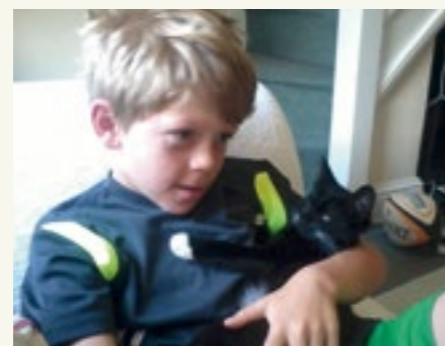
- 1 Nanook and Suki, from Peter Russell
- 2 Lucy, from Catherine Hamilton
- 3 Ella, from Astrid Gilbertson
- 4 Sparky, from Katy Sophoclis
- 5 Coco and Violet, from Angela Pitt
- 6 Bubble and Squeak, from Dee Shorter
- 7 Monty, from Margaret Hunter

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.

Aslan and Toby are making a splash



Dax and Dale, now Aslan and Toby, are content, confident and happy thanks to being so well treated by their foster family. We have discovered that black boy Aslan loves small spaces and Toby (stripey boy) loves water. They have both dived into the bath while one of us was in it, more than once. But the most wonderful part is the relationship they have with my son Jaiden, they all play beautifully together and then usually collapse on the couch for cuddles. They are a huge joy.
Taryn Walker, London



IT'S SWOON TIME

Mummy and me are so excited that Paul O'Grady is at Battersea with my doggy chums again on ITV. I am watching the programme with my Mummy and I know she wants to adopt them all!
And those dishy vets are back on. Mummy swoons when they come on the screen, so I'm busy passing her tissues and smelling salts. I keep telling her to pull herself together and concentrate on the dogs he's helping and that she is too old to be behaving like a juvenile. When she goes to Battersea to get me a brother or sister, if she spots Dr Phil, then I think I'll lose the will to live. Long live Battersea – big hugs to all the staff, doggies and moggies.
Caleb the rescue Shih-Tzu, West Molesley, Surrey

A LIFE OF SUNSHINE AND SKYPE

Today I made a small donation in memory of my beloved cat, Oscar (or Simba as he was when he was in your care). I adopted Oscar on 18 July 1999. He was, in my opinion of course, the most beautiful, well-mannered and loveable cat to ever graduate from Battersea. The day I got him, I wished him nothing but a life of good health, and promised him years of happiness and love. Those wishes and promises were all fulfilled.

After two years of living in London, Oscar and I moved to South Africa where I am from. Needless to say, he loved the sunshine. For the past six years I have been commuting back and forth between the UK and SA. During my times away, Oscar has been in the care of my partner, Francois, who is probably the only person in the world who I trusted to love him as much as I did. With modern technology, I was able to 'chat' to Oscar on Skype. Or rather, I did the chatting while he walked all over the keyboard, often disconnecting the link before we had finished.

I treasure the 15 years we had together, at peace with the fact that he was blessed with a life of good health and happiness.
Donald Nell and Francois Horn, South Africa

“I treasure the 15 years we had together - he was blessed with a life of good health and happiness”

THANK YOU TOBY

We re-homed Toby from Battersea in August 2001. He stayed with us until he went to sleep in August 2014 aged nearly 15. At times a very naughty dog, who learnt to love and trust and in return gave all who knew him so much pleasure. Our home feels empty without him. Thank you Toby and Battersea. Forever in our hearts.
Roger Grace and Family



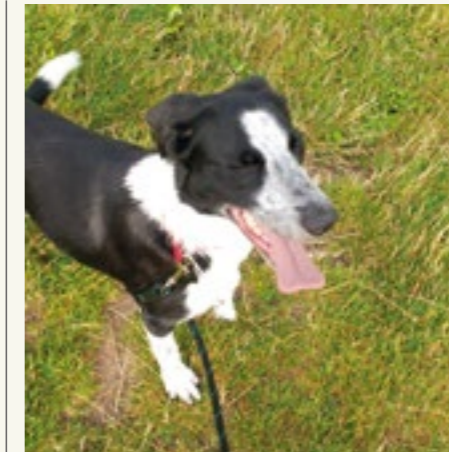
Photo: Libi Pedder – libipedder.com



LES MISERABLE? NOT HUGO

Hugo is now a year and nine months old and loves the company of teenagers, walks in the fields and the odd bath at home.

He rarely barks but loves being in the car, even if it's going to the vets for his six monthly check up. He's well known in Guildford as he stands on the gear box and 'surfs' every corner. If people don't look at him he fixes them as if he was asking them what's wrong with them. He's also now got his own passport and has travelled to France on three occasions.
Sue and Victor Lanson, Guildford



BAND OF BROTHERS

Bede and Mutley are two Battersea boys, rehomed ten years and 300 miles apart. Bede the Lurcher was rehomed by my parents and lived till he was about 17 or 18 – a fantastic fellow who lived in the country in Durham, and I adopted Terrier cross Mutley in 2001. He is now 14. Bede and Mutley were great pals.

Both got off to a rocky start in life but thanks to Battersea found loving, forever homes, and became Battersea brothers.
Denise, London



READY FOR MY CLOSE-UP, MR O'GRADY

This is me running around the fields, with my tongue lopping out the side of my mouth and my ears flapping in the breeze, all to the tune of *Born Free*. As you can see I have a girlie pink chest harness. I get to lounge around on the furniture and even get a treat for having a pee in their garden.

Whilst at Battersea I so much wanted for Paul O'Grady to give me air time, because of my good looks, but he went off to the Old Windsor site and I missed him. Still, life's brill.
Sadi, Basingstoke
(We've made sure Paul has caught up on Sadi's news, and he says he's sorry to have missed her but thrilled she's loving her new home so much)

“I so much wanted for Paul O'Grady to give me air time because of my good looks, but I missed him!”



BOBBY BLUE 2002-14

When Susannah and I found Bobby in Battersea it was as if he had been waiting for us.
He settled in quickly and enjoyed meeting James, our half Burmese cat who was also a former Battersea resident, and his daily walks in Kensington Gardens. When he wasn't making flying catches for his frisbee he was rounding up squirrels and getting them back in the trees where they belonged.

He also loved travelling and always accompanied us on our trips to our Normandy farmhouse. It was on one of those *petit vacances* that Bobby had his most amazing adventure when he found our neighbour's cat, Luc, close to death in a barn. As our neighbours were abroad we took him straight to the vet who told us Luc had swallowed rat poison and needed a blood transfusion immediately if he had any hope of surviving. She then asked us if Bobby was in good health. "We need him," she said. "I want him to be a blood donor for Luc."

Bobby Blue sat patiently on the table while we held him and the vet extracted almost a litre of blood from a vein in his throat. It was one of the most nerve-wracking twenty minutes of my life. Luc had his transfusion and the danger was past. He was thereafter known as 'Lucky Luc', and Bobby as 'Le Celebre Bobby Bleu'.

This Christmas will be our first without him for 12 years. Bobby was discovered to have a tumour in his heart and after a great deal of soul-searching and rivers of tears we had to make the hardest decision any dog owner can make.

Bobby Blue was more than just a dog. He was an exceptional, multi-faceted creature. He loved playing in the sea and the bright lights of the city streets. He has walked in the Old Brompton Road and on The Champs Élysées. Everywhere he went, people stopped and stared.

His passing has left a hole in our lives that will never be filled. He lived a charmed life and the love we gave him he returned tenfold. He is in our hearts for ever.
Neil Norman, London

Paws catches up with some of the canine stars (and their owners) of the third series of *Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs* and finds out their festive plans.

Our first Christmas

Paul O'Grady with Tulip



TULIP (LEFT)



DOLLY



FREDDIE (LEFT)



JACKSON

Photo: Trish Beswick

The gates of Battersea are almost ready to close on another great series of our award-winning ITV show *Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs*. It's been an incredible journey, packed with amazing dogs, emotional stories of new beginnings and the heartbreak of parting, laughter and tears, joy and despair.

We hope you've been loving Paul's latest foray into everyday life at Battersea's three centres as much as we have. And we know you'll be eager to find out what happened next for some of the canine stars of Series 3...

Sad Freddie had suffered the death of his owner, so we cheered him up with... puppies. Mastiff Freddie was a gentle giant just perfect for socialising young dogs, and he also stole the heart of Ulla Munch-Petersen, who (with the help of Paul and an open-top car) took him back to her home town of Copenhagen to live with her other Battersea dog Ice.

Freddie is such a lovely dog, everyone in Brumley (where I live) adores him. Ice

thinks he is fantastic and he thinks she is a funny old lady. Every weekend we go to Møn, south Sjælland, where Freddie loves to be at the beach and run in the water.

We will celebrate Christmas in Denmark in the evening of 24 December together with Freddie, Ice and my family.

It is a very cosy evening. We are eating duck. Freddie and Ice will also have a little piece of duck and after that we will have rice pudding.

After the dinner we dance around the Christmas tree, I think it will be funny to see how Freddie will react. Ice is used to it. Later in the evening we will give each other Christmas presents and of course there will be a present for both Freddie and Ice. I think they will get a present from each member of the family, they are so spoilt!

Battersea Ambassador Dame Jacqueline Wilson rehomed Patterdale Cross pup Jackson in April.

I knew exactly the sort of dog I was looking for. A girl, small and cute, preferably blonde with silky hair, a docile, shy

little lap dog that might curl up beside me as I wrote. Then I went to Battersea and what did I get? A little boy, a Patterdale Terrier cross, a wildly sociable, lively, scruffbag with a mind of his own. And guess what? I wouldn't swap him for all the pretty little lap dogs in the world.

I didn't choose him. He chose us. He was this tiny scrap of black fur moping in a large kennel but the moment he saw us he perked up. He hopped on a knee, he licked our faces, he practically turned somersaults saying "Pick me, pick me".

I've always loved dogs but I've never had a puppy before. I hadn't realised just what hard work they are! I was alarmed by all the play-biting, imagining Jackson would be mauling every passing toddler when we could take him out. I was exhausted by the chewing and scratching. I was especially vulnerable because I tend to wear fancy shoes with ribbons and delicate dresses and expensive tights! But hey, these were just teething problems – literally! Jackson is six months old now and utterly delightful. He is tremendously

gentle and friendly with small children. He adores everyone, even the postman, and he's thrilled to meet every single dog in the park. He's a tiny chap but clearly thinks he's a German Shepherd because he loves a bit of rough stuff with the big guys. We've made so many new friends now and it's all because of Jackson.

The most timid dog-phobic person can't seem to help falling for our little boy. Most happily of all, our two Battersea cats, Jacob and Lily, accept him graciously, though he was a little boisterous with them at first. But Jacob learnt to hiss and Lily to jump up on the sofa and scoff – and now they are all three the best of friends.

Paul O'Grady himself fell for pup Tulip, and wanted to rehome her. Sadly, she didn't get on with the rest of his canine family – but then Jill Davison from Maidenhead, and her adorable American Bulldog Sadie came along.

Sadie has been Tulip's mum and trainer, and has made her into the perfect dog. Tulip looks to Sadie for help and advice on everything, and they are inseparable, and play non-stop. She's a beautiful girl, and everything I could have wished for.

We're looking forward to a family Christmas in Somerset, with my mum's rescue Boxer Molly.

Shih-Tzu pup Dolly was brought to Battersea when her owner moved abroad, and her unstable back legs meant she had a right wobble on – and spent lots of time in our Clinic before she was cleared to be rehomed by Sara and Chris Vincent from Camberley.

When Dolly came into our lives it was like a comedian had joined our family. Dolly is a character through and through and her favourite things are toys and chews – but best of all she loves going out in the car.

One of Dolly's most endearing qualities is the way she enthusiastically says hello, which she does even if she last saw you five minutes ago. It is almost a tap dancing ritual, which never ceases to make us laugh. She also loves a cuddle at the end of a busy day and snuggles into our necks,



DUCHESS, NOW TILLY



ASHLEY, NOW EVEE

sometimes peeking out to lick our noses.

We are looking forward to spending our first Christmas all together as we always have a wonderful morning walk before opening our presents, and Dolly and our Spaniel Alfie will get some lovely treats from the family. We hope people will remember all the dogs at Battersea who would love a new home, or just a visit and some treats, this Christmas.

Little Duchess and her rounded belly had Battersea vets reaching for the ultrasound, but our stray Border Terrier wasn't pregnant after all. With new owner Sandie Sandilands from Twickenham, Duchess has become Tilly.

Tilly and I have bonded so much, and she is adored by all that meet her. She's come a long way since I brought her home – still a bit nery of some people and noises but generally a very happy little girl. We have been to training classes and although not top of the class we still managed to get a well done rosette.

Tilly loves coming to the pub with me

and has had a great time at the family parties we've been to, so I know she will enjoy our family Christmas and get thoroughly spoilt.

Labrador Retriever Ashley (now Eevee) came to Battersea with her litter of one-day-old puppies after her owner was evicted. She was a really nervous young mum, who now lives with Charmain Senior and Staffie Sally in Bromley.

Evee has transformed not only my life but that of Sally, who was very withdrawn and would not go out in the garden at night or if any of my neighbours were out. Now Sally is transformed, much more outgoing and confident. Evee has brought so much joy back into the house.

She loves going to the park for her run, to meet her many doggie friends down there and to jump in the little brook every chance she can get.

I have a special Christmas Day planned for Eevee with her own sack for her gifts and also a cooked Christmas dinner for Sally and Eevee, as they both deserve it. 🐾

Home alone

While a busy festive period may mean leaving beloved pets home alone more often than usual, parting need not have to be such sweet sorrow, with our experts' guide to separation anxiety.



Christmas can be a whirlwind; there's the shopping for the presents, then the shopping for all the food, not to mention visiting friends and family, and perhaps even a (Battersea) carol concert or Midnight Mass. When we're out and about so much, what's happening to our cats and dogs?

Lots of pets have no issues with being home alone while we are away, but for those that do, these periods of separation can be very frightening. This issue is called separation anxiety and it boils down quite simply to the fear of being left alone.

The usual assumption is that dogs suffer from separation anxiety whereas cats don't; after all, we tend to think of cats as self-reliant individualists and dogs as more companionable and eager to please. While there is some truth to this, it's a misconception that cats do not become reliant on their owners for friendship, as well as food.

LONELY CATS

Separation anxiety in cats may be more prevalent for orphans, or if a cat has been weaned too early. But changes in lifestyle and environment can be unsettling for cats, so moving house or the arrival or departure of a person in the house can trigger anxiety.

Symptoms include excessive miaowing, as well as going to the toilet outside of their litter tray. Your cat may choose to relieve herself on your bed or even your clothes. This might not be your idea of a friendly welcome, but it's important not to tell your cat off for toileting. While it's easy to mistake this kind of behaviour for naughtiness or even disdain for you, it's actually a symptom of anxiety, and shouting at her will most likely only exacerbate her distress. One theory suggests your cat may even be trying to mix her scent with yours to reassure herself.

ANXIOUS DOGS

Separation anxiety tends to be easier to spot in dogs: whining or howling as you leave, toileting around the house, and in the most extreme cases, destroying the furniture or any object they can get a hold of. It's never fun to come home and find your sofa chewed to pieces – but reacting with anger can worsen the situation, as not only will your dog be fretful during your absence, but they might start to panic about what will happen when you return.

A TV documentary series shocked many dog owners recently as it showed animals that they considered well-adjusted and happy exhibiting other worrying stress behaviours when they were left alone in the house. These included crying by the door for periods of time, and spinning around.

WHAT SEPARATION ANXIETY MEANS FOR BATTERSEA

In 2013, 5% of dogs rehomed from Battersea were returned to our care within

three months, and the reason cited in half of those cases was separation anxiety. Upheaval or a change in circumstances is very frequently a trigger for separation anxiety, and so these failed rehomes can themselves prove extra stressful for an anxious dog – and make the next attempt even more of a challenge.

As it's more difficult to determine separation anxiety from other behaviours in cats, it's not so easy to understand how many of the 3% of returned cats is because of this, but it undoubtedly plays a part.

HAPPY REUNIONS

Overcoming separation anxiety is possible with training – and patience. In the worst cases of dogs with separation anxiety, steps may need to be taken to build up their confidence for even the shortest periods of being left alone. This can begin by asking them to stay at the bottom of the stairs while you walk to the top and then back down. Always reward good behaviour and positive responses with a treat.

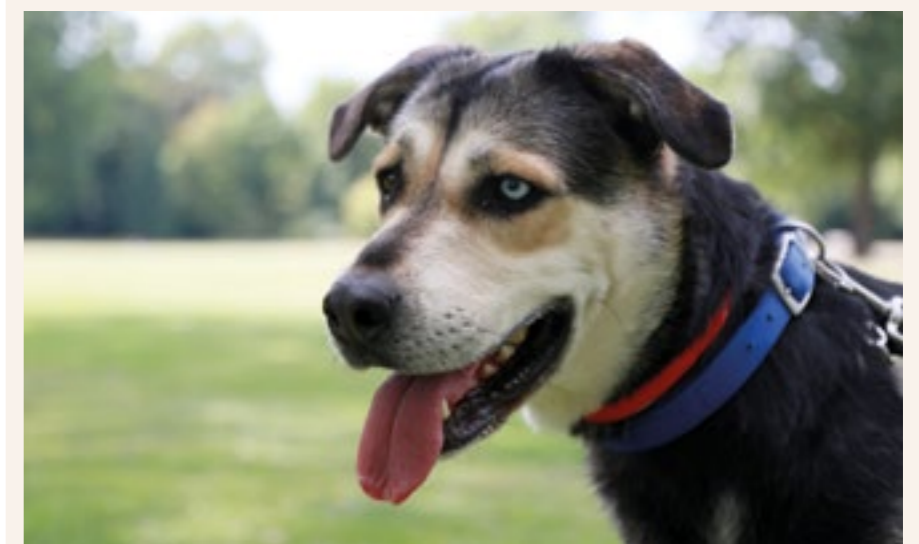
Another significant factor in separation anxiety is quite simply the boredom your cat or dog feels while it's home alone with nothing to do. Leaving the radio or TV on for background noise can be very soothing – we play music to the animals

in dog kennels and cat pens at Battersea – and providing scratching posts and food toys like Kongs is a must to keep them entertained.

HOW TO TACKLE SEPARATION ANXIETY

- Build up the time your pet is left alone very gradually. Separation anxiety is an embedded fear response and may take a very long time to resolve, so patience and repetition is key.
- Try not to reward clingy or possessive behaviour, as this can reinforce your pet's over-attachment to you. Cuddles are great but following you around the house is too much.
- Crate training – done properly – can provide a nervous dog with a safe haven to retreat to when they feel anxious.
- Leave quietly and without fuss, and try to vary your leaving routine. If your pet starts showing signs of anxiety when you pick up your keys, for instance, next time leave them in your bag. If possible, leave by different exits.
- Film your cat or dog after you've left. You can diagnose the severity of their anxiety by how soon the symptomatic behaviour starts, and modify your remedy accordingly. 🐾

Our experts were Head of Canine Rehoming Rob Young, Canine Welfare Trainer Helen Stone and Head of Cattery Lindsey Quinlan



Case study: Lexi the unhappy Husky

Lexi is a six-year-old Siberian Husky cross who was originally brought to Battersea because her owner had had surgery and couldn't walk her anymore. At that stage, Lexi had shown no signs of separation anxiety, but after three months with a new family, she was returned to Battersea for being destructive when left alone.

This turbulence clearly had a negative effect on Lexi. She was rehomed again, and once more brought back for destructive behaviour. A Battersea Rehoming and Welfare Assistant fostered Lexi to try and contend with some of her kennel stress, but had to bring her back after one night

as Lexi completely destroyed her sofa.

With each failed rehoming and subsequent return to kennels, Lexi's separation anxiety gets worse. What she needs more than anything is a stable, understanding and patient owner, who can devote their time (and possibly their furniture) to reassuring Lexi and settling her in. Lexi needs a home with another dog, to provide a positive role model, a kennel which can offer her a safe place to retreat, and as much aftercare as Battersea can give. **If you think you could give Lexi the loving home she deserves, contact Battersea on 0843 509 4444**

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Ask the experts

Every issue, Battersea's experts answer some of the queries *Paws* readers have about their pets. Here Canine Welfare Trainer Conor Goold helps out with flighty Shadow and shy Ollie. 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.



CONOR GOOLD
Canine Welfare Trainer



Q Every sighthound owner knows to be wary with his or her dog around small furry animals in case their natural chase instinct takes over. Our Lurcher Shadow is friendly and perfectly behaved... except when he sees a cat.

The urge to find and chase it overwhelms his recall on walks and has him standing by doors/windows in the house – it is obsessive and we are sure that if he ever managed to catch one he would seriously injure or kill it out of natural instinct. Is there any way to reduce this natural urge?

Jess Parker-Andrews, Ipswich

A In reality, there are few quick fixes to curbing or limiting a dog's desire to chase, especially in breeds like sighthounds that often have greater motivation for predatory behaviour! However, you can try to gain more control.

The first step is management and safety: make sure Shadow's recall is highly reliable and consistently practised, around dogs as well as other animals. If you see a lot of cats out on walks, or there are cats nearby your house, you may also want to consider keeping Shadow on lead (a 10m long line) and/or muzzling him when out on walks.

Try to teach some alternative behaviour. For instance, you could teach him to sit and watch you whenever you say "watch", and use this new behaviour to maintain his focus around cats. Starting in the house, show him a piece of tasty food, chicken or cheese, hold it up to your face, ask him to sit and then reward him. Practice this throughout the day.

Once Shadow is used to this routine begin associating the word "watch" with the behaviour, by saying the word just before you show him the food. Practice this in a number of different places, in and outside. Once he knows what "watch" means and gives you immediate attention whenever he hears it, you can start using it in more distracting contexts, such as around cats!

By making this as fun as possible, using really tasty food, his favourite toys and lots of verbal praise, Shadow will be highly motivated to play the "watch" game around a range of distractions, including cats. A certified, rewards-based dog trainer or behaviourist can help demonstrate this for you.



Q Ollie does not like to be around other dogs. He gets very stressed and does not stop barking. We have tried to socialise him with other dogs with treats, but this does not calm him down. Is there any other way you can suggest to socialise Ollie with dogs as it would be so nice for him to have doggy friends?

Caroline Bradbury, London

A Since Ollie is nervous of other dogs, it is unlikely he will ever be completely comfortable around them and may not have many doggy friends. However, you can try to make him feel more comfortable in their presence. Instead of barking at them you could teach him to turn around and move away whenever he feels nervous.

Start in the house, say "let's go!" in an excited voice and throw some food behind you that he can go and eat. Practice this, using his daily meal food, over one or two days. Progress to practicing out on walks, in calm environments without other dogs around. Keeping a loose lead, say "let's go!", throw food behind you, and let him eat it. Soon, Ollie will start to turn around as soon as you say "let's go!". Whenever he sees another dog, give him the "let's go!"

cue, drop the food and allow him to eat it. Ollie is now being rewarded for moving away (instead of barking). With time and consistency he should start to move away voluntarily if he wants to. Being around other dogs should become a much happier experience and he should be calmer around them.

Finding a calm socialising partner for Ollie, who will ignore him even if he barks, would also be helpful, both in practicing his "let's go!" behaviour from a distance and gradually allowing him to meet and

“Whenever he sees another dog, give him the 'let's go!' cue!”

interact in his own time. However, it is important Ollie is not rushed or pressured into interacting with other dogs if he doesn't want to.

It would be beneficial to have a session with a certified, rewards-based dog trainer or behaviourist to demonstrate this routine with Ollie or offer more tips on building his confidence.

Christmas Carol Concert

Monday
8 December 2014
Doors open at 7pm

St Luke's Church
Sydney St
London SW3 6NH

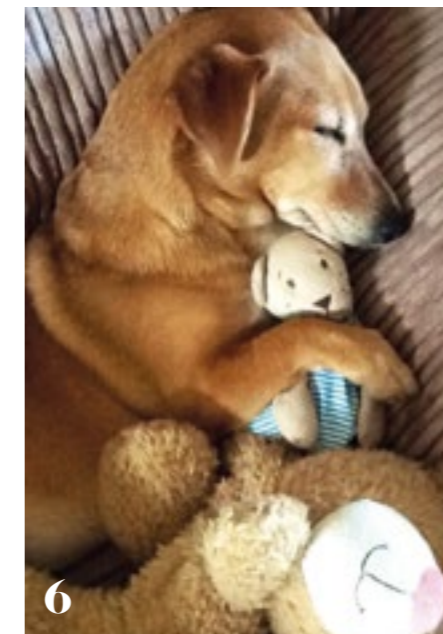
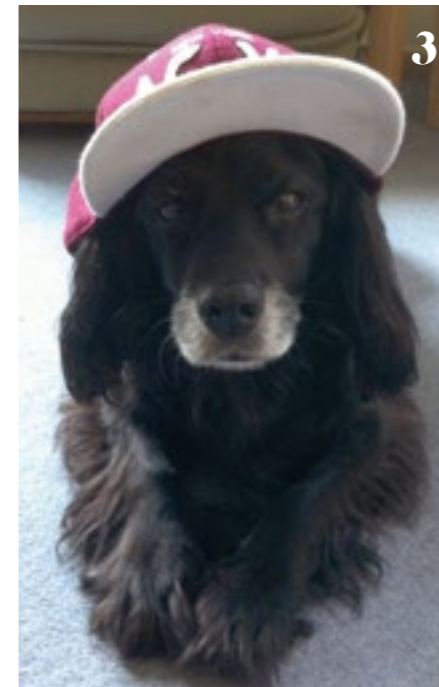
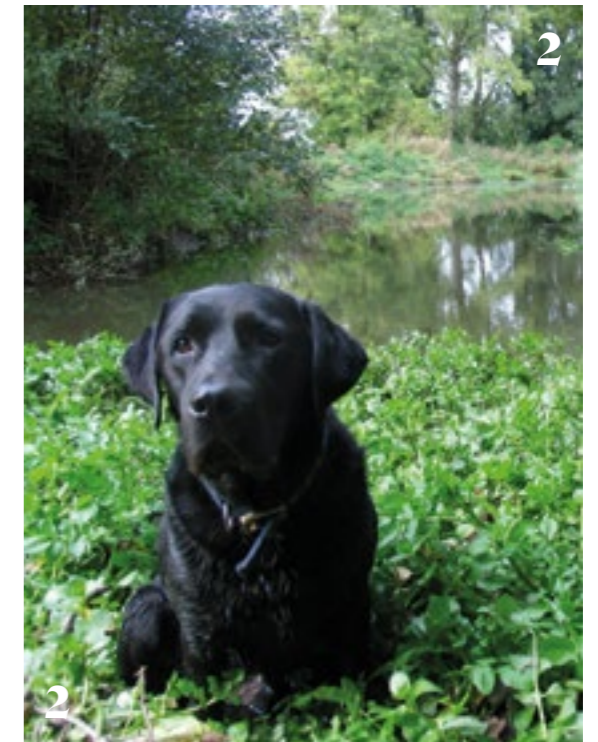
Wrap up warm, enjoy a festive dog Guard of Honour and join the Home's family and friends and celebrity guests, including Dame Jacqueline Wilson DBE to sing carols and celebrate Christmas in the beautiful surroundings of St Luke's Church. Mulled wine and mince pies will also be served.

For further information and to book tickets visit
battersea.org.uk/carolconcert
or call 020 7627 9295



Dog gallery

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



- 1 Zara, from Tracey Barton
- 2 Harvey, from Steven Morris
- 3 Jack, from Janet McHugh
- 4 Paddy, from Mary Kilcooley
- 5 Dougal with Patricia & Gina, from Caroline Hayes
- 6 Brandy B from Sharon Mackie
- 7 Izzy, Pluto & Libby, from Claire Daines

Merry Christmas

Do you know your Dog's heritage?

If you wish to give a Blackdog DNA test kit as a gift this Christmas, I will be happy to arrange to send the kit either to you or to the recipient. Contact me separately by email at info@blackdogdna.com and I will be pleased to accept instructions.



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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.

Take us home

Could you give a second chance to one of these great animals looking for a good home? Contact Battersea on **0843 509 4444** or via the centre email addresses below.



DODI TYLER

7-month-old Domestic Short Hair

✉ cat.rehoming@battersea.org.uk

Tyler ended up homeless because he was misunderstood. This energetic young boy used to be an indoor cat, and became frustrated by his restricted surroundings, so we'd like him to enjoy a home where he has access to the wider world.



SIMBA

8-month-old Mongrel

✉ bbh.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

With an extensive training programme in place, handsome Simba has the potential to become quite a dog. His new owners will be keen to carry on his learning, and devote plenty of time to him. In return, Simba will be a loving and playful companion.



PRETTY

14-year-old Domestic Short Hair

✉ bow.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

If you like your cats peaceful and happy, purring and dribbling with joy, lapping up attention and pampering, then our girl Pretty is the one for you. She loves to potter and sunbathe, so despite her age she'll need access to the outdoors.



GIZMO

6-year-old Staffie

✉ rehoming@battersea.org.uk

Foster mum Sarah says Gizmo is just a bit special. He loves cuddles and attention, but he's a shy, gentle boy who gets a bit worried by loud noises and environments, so he'd love living in a quiet neighbourhood.



WOODY

2-year-old Domestic Short Hair

✉ cat.rehoming@battersea.org.uk

Just look at that smouldering gaze. Handsome boy Woody has his eyes on a new home, possibly with children. He's a romantic too, loves his strokes and cuddles, and will happily rub noses and exchange kisses.



BISCUIT

2-year-old Mongrel

✉ bow.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

After over 600 days at Battersea, and counting, Biscuit really does deserve a break. He's in a lovely foster home where he's settled well, been friendly with everyone and shown off his clever, affectionate and cheeky character.

Christmas gifts for cats and dogs



- T01 Polly Penguin
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£6.99
- T02 Mini Noodle Noel
25cm
£3.99
- T03 Rita Reindeer
44cm
£6.99
- T04 Mini Rosie Robin
33cm
£3.99
- T06 Cat Toy Snowman
12cm
£2.99
- T05 Tough Trevor
46cm
£7.99
- T07 Festive Cat Ball Tube
19cm
£4.99

Battersea dog toys

Tested by our dogs, for your dog



- T08 Tennis balls
£3.99
- T09 Foam flyer
£8.99
- T10 Super squeaky toy
£6.99
- T11 Foam Tumbler
£7.99
- T12 Super flinger
£6.99
- T13 Reward bone
£5.99

Wrapping paper

Six sheets of wrapping paper, 500x700mm and 6 matching tags



- W01 6 sheets
£3.99
- W02 6 sheets
£3.99
- W03 6 sheets
£3.99
- W04 6 sheets
£3.99

Christmas Goodies 2014



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

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

Boxed christmas cards

24 boxed cards, four of each design



Christmas card packs

10 cards per pack



- C01 24 Boxed cards
£8.99
- C02 124x210mm
£5.99
- C03 120x172mm
£4.75
- C04 120x172mm
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- C05 137x137mm
£4.75
- C06 160x114mm
£4.99
- C07 228x86mm
£4.25
- C08 210x124mm
£5.99
- C09 159x159mm
£5.99
- C10 137x137mm
£4.75
- C11 140x140mm
£4.75
- C12 108x108mm
£3.40
- C13 140x140mm
£4.75
- C14 117x117mm
£3.60
- C15 117x117mm
£3.60
- C16 140x140mm
£4.75
- C17 150x150mm
£4.75
- C18 108x108mm
£3.40
- C19 228x86mm
£4.25