



BATTERSEA

HERE FOR EVERY DOG AND CAT

PAWS

WINTER 2018

SUGGESTED DONATION £2

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

How online sales
can lead to the
suffering of dogs
and cats

The Battersea
dog who saved
her owner's life

Tips for keeping
pets healthy
this winter

**LOST AND FOUND BEHIND THE SCENES OF
BATTERSEA'S LOST DOGS AND CATS HELPLINE**



WELCOME

While finding loving new homes for unwanted and abandoned dogs and cats has been Battersea's mission since we first opened our gates over 150 years ago, for many of the animals that find their way here, a new start is not what they're searching for – they're just trying to find their way home.

Luckily, thanks to the incredible work of the team behind our Lost Dogs & Cats Line, in 2017 alone we were able to reunite 1,185 animals with their owners. To celebrate 20 years of bringing pets and owners back together, you can find out more about the work done on our helpline on page 12 of this issue.

Sadly, for some dogs and cats, there is a different type of 'line' having a major impact on their lives. Online sales of animals that aren't medically or behaviourally ready to be rehomed are still an ongoing battle for rescue centres such as Battersea, as these dogs and cats are often brought in when owners can't cope with an under-socialised pet or afford its treatment. While it may seem quick and easy to buy a new dog or cat with a click or a tap, find out the hidden cost of buying a pet online in our article on page 22.

With winter now well and truly here, it's also time to think about how to keep our beloved four-legged friends safe during the colder months. From food to antifreeze, snow to grit salt, make sure you're well informed about the 'winter warnings' to keep an eye out for, with expert advice from Battersea vet Claire on page 28.

Wishing you and all your pets a very happy and safe festive season – we'll be fully embracing the spirit here at Battersea with a fun-filled Christmas, plenty of present-giving for our animal residents, and lots of snuggles before we settle down to watch the Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs Christmas special!

Claire Horton, Chief Executive (with her ex-Battersea dog, Pilot, a Bracco Italiano)

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

OUR OTHER CENTRES

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BATTERSEA BRANDS HATCH
CROWHURST LANE, ASH
KENT TN15 7HH

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



On the cover:
Many dogs like
four-month-
old Lurcher,
Arlow, come into
Battersea as a
stray with no chip
or missing report..



CONTENTS

FEATURES

LOST AND FOUND How Battersea's Lost Dogs & Cats Line has reunited thousands of pets with their owners	12
PAYING THE PRICE The potential dangers faced by cats and dogs that are bought online	22
COLLARS & COATS Experience the glitz and glamour of our 10th annual gala ball	24
TAKING ON THE CHALLENGE Dogs and their owners tackled Battersea's biggest ever Muddy Dog Challenge	26
LIFE BEYOND BATTERSEA Meet the special dog that saved her owner's life	34

REGULARS

WELCOME From our Chief Executive Claire Horton	02
HOME FRONT Battersea news and essential dates for your diary	05
HAPPILY REHOMED Dogs and cats enjoying their second chance at happiness	11
LITTLE PAWS Your selfies, quizzes, stories, and a pull-out poster	17
TAKE US HOME Battersea animals looking to be loved	21
ASK THE EXPERTS Top tips for keeping pets healthy this winter	28
PET GALLERY Former Battersea dogs and cats who are loving their lives in a new home	30
YOUR LETTERS Heartwarming stories of happiness found at Battersea	32



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HOME FRONT

ANIMALS | PEOPLE | EVENTS | CAMPAIGNS

Staffordshire Bull Terrier Foxy was happily reunited with her owner because she had an up-to-date microchip.

[CAMPAIGN]

WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN

INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF BEING REUNITED BY MICROCHIPPING YOUR PET

New research by Battersea has revealed that less than one in three stray dogs found by or taken to Local Authorities are microchipped with accurate contact details for their owner. Even more worrying is the fact that 35% of stray dogs don't have any microchip at all.

Battersea is calling on pet owners, vets and microchip providers to do more to help ensure lost dogs are reunited with owners.

Battersea Chief Executive Claire Horton said: "It's very worrying that two years after compulsory dog microchipping was introduced by the Government, many stray dogs are still found without a microchip. Microchipping is such a simple, painless procedure for dogs, and many rescue centres, including Battersea, provide this service free of charge.

"It can save an awful lot of heartache for any pet owner whose dog does run off and will prevent thousands of dogs ending up homeless every year."

Two-year-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier Foxy was brought into Battersea after a concerned member of the public found her in South London. Every animal that comes in is scanned for a microchip, and fortunately for confused Roxy, staff found an up-to-date microchip. They were then able to make the phone call to Roxy's owner with the good news that their dog had been found and was safe at Battersea.





[NEWS]

BATTERSEA IN BEANOTOWN

DOG LOVERS HELPED TO REUNITE TWO OF OUR FAVOURITE CHARACTERS...

One of *Beano's* most loved characters, Gnasher, recently got himself a bit lost in an issue of the iconic British comic. After the Abyssinian Tripe Hound ran off in hot pursuit of sausages, he found himself at Battersea.

The bespoke storyline, which ran across two issues in September and October, was created following insights from Beano Studios' consulting team of 'trendspotters'. The group of 9- to 12-year-olds, who share the latest trends from the playground, has continually highlighted

in 350+ hours of research that animal care and responsible pet ownership are important issues to kids.

Luckily, after a missing dog appeal gained the support of dog lovers up and down the country, Battersea was able to reunite the iconic duo of Gnasher and Dennis, thanks to his microchip. It's not the first time Gnasher has got himself into mischief, and it's unlikely to be the last, but Battersea is relieved that he's safe and, for now at least, back at home in Beanotown.



5 MINUTES WITH...
ROXY MOK,
CATTERY REHOMING AND WELFARE ASSISTANT

What's a typical day like for you as an RWA at Battersea?

Depending on my duties, which change every day, I would normally interview customers and match them to suitable cats, or assess new cats coming into Battersea and take lovely photographs of them to feature on our website.

What made you want to work at Battersea?

I love animals and have always been passionate about animal welfare. Growing up I thought I was more of a 'dog person' but cats are now my true love! I feel so lucky to be working for Battersea, surrounded by people as committed to the animals as I am.

What is the part of your role that makes you most proud?

I often foster cats and kittens for the Cattery. The best feeling is always seeing them go off to their loving new homes - it makes me feel so proud when owners send in updates of the kittens when they're all grown up.

[FUNDRAISING]

COATS FOR A CAUSE

At this year's 10th anniversary Collars & Coats Gala Ball, there was a special surprise for all guests, as our very own 'dogwalk' saw dogs of all shapes and sizes get their moment in the spotlight to model a range of exclusive designer dog coats.

Featuring bespoke designs by Vivienne Westwood, Jenny Packham, Matthew Williamson and many more internationally renowned fashion names, the coats were auctioned off on the night, along with other special items, raising over £75,000.

Pictured right is Gemma the Bichon Frise, modelling a Vivienne Westwood creation and photographed by legendary photographer, Rankin.





[ONE TO WATCH]

PAUL O'GRADY BACK ON SCREENS

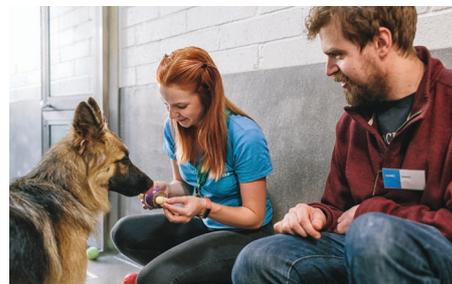
TUNE IN FOR THE LATEST SERIES OF BATTERSEA'S BEHIND-THE-SCENES ITV SHOW WITH PAUL O'GRADY

With winter upon us, Wednesday nights can only mean one thing: curling up with your furry friends to catch all the antics of Paul O'Grady and his Battersea chums. The seventh series of our successful ITV show, *For the Love of Dogs*, hit screens in October so if you've not been tuning in at 8pm every week, you can catch up on the ITV Hub now.



Lottery Luck

Battersea's weekly Paw Draw lottery is in full swing, and the lucky winners keep on coming. So far, winners across the country have won prizes ranging from £5 to £600, simply by playing for £1 per week. And, four times a year, players will be automatically entered into a super draw with an opportunity to win a grand prize of £3,000, a second prize of £1,000 or a third prize of £500. Find out more and join in the fun while raising vital funds for dogs and cats at: battersea.org.uk/support-us/paw-draw-weekly-lottery.



[TRAINING]

SHARING SKILLS

At Battersea, we strive to improve the lives of every dog and cat. That's why we've spent 158 years rescuing and rehoming them across the UK, and it's also why we recently launched Battersea Academy, offering a series of educational programmes to train animal welfare practitioners from anywhere in the world, at any scale and with any budget, no matter how large or small. Delivered by our experts, the educational programmes can be tailored to each rescue's needs and will equip them with the knowledge and skills to operate effectively and to the highest possible standards. Whether a small, volunteer-run shelter or an established centre, Battersea Academy is here to support all kinds of animal rescue organisations to help even more vulnerable animals. Learn more: battersea.org.uk/battersea-academy.



[CAMPAIGNS]

GOVERNMENT GETS TOUGH ON ANIMAL ABUSERS

Battersea welcomes the Westminster Government's determination to increase punishments for animal abusers, after DEFRA published the results of a consultation into raising the maximum sentence for serious animal cruelty. The Government's plans to increase the maximum sentence to five years will save countless animals from becoming victims of abuse. Currently the maximum sentence in England and Wales is six months, the lowest in Europe.

Battersea also welcomes Scottish Ministers' renewed commitment to tougher sentences in its Programme for Government (PfG), but is calling on politicians to make this overdue change a priority. Battersea's Chief Executive, Claire Horton, said: "We're very pleased that the Scottish Government has reaffirmed their commitment to tougher sentences for animal cruelty. We hope they'll make good on this commitment to animal welfare by putting legislation for five-year sentences before Parliament as soon as possible."

MSPs gathered outside Scottish Parliament in 2017 to show their support for the campaign.

[OUR SUPPORTERS]

10 YEARS OF NUTRITION SUPPORT

Battersea has been working with Mars Petcare since 2008. In that time, they have been supplying our three centres with Pedigree and Whiskas main meals and treats, helping us to feed and treat all our dogs and cats.

This generous annual gift allows us to provide the animals in our care with a consistent high-quality diet. Mars Petcare has also raised over £150,000 from sales promotions in Tesco.

This year, to celebrate our 10th year of partnership, they will be helping to raise a further £100,000. Between 7 November and 24 December 2018, 15p from every pack purchased at Tesco from the Mars Petcare Christmas Gift Range will be given to Battersea.

Battersea would like to thank Mars Petcare for a decade of raising money and for ensuring that the animals in our care get a balanced, nutritional diet while waiting for their new homes.



[DID YOU KNOW?]
**BATTERSEA
USES 123 TINS
OF DOG FOOD
AND 333 CAT
FOOD POUCHES
EVERY DAY**

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food & medication costs
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We are an officially registered pharmacy with the GPhc and accredited by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD). *Excludes temperature controlled items.

UPCOMING EVENTS



LONDON LANDMARKS HALF MARATHON

17 November 2018

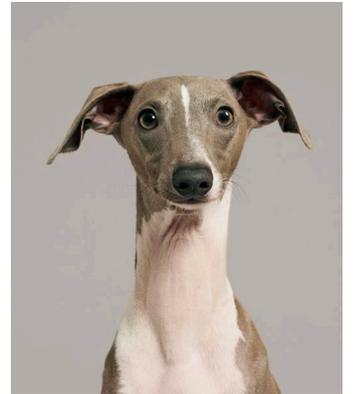
We have extended our running programme and now have charity places in the London Landmarks Half Marathon on March 24, 2019. The big landmarks of the city can be seen out on the course, which celebrates the history and heritage of the city. To find out how to get involved in a Battersea challenge, go to: battersea.org.uk/support-us/challenges.

DO YOUR OWN CHALLENGE

If you have already successfully secured your own place in an event, we would love you to join the Battersea team and help raise vital funds for Battersea's dogs and cats. There's no minimum sponsorship commitment, simply raise as much as you can and we'll support you every step of the way.

THANK YOU!

A huge Battersea pat on the back to all of you out there who have trekked, run, skydived, cycled - in fact, taken part in a challenge event of any kind - to raise money for Battersea this year. We are so proud of you all and grateful for your hard work to help care for all our animals.



7 DECEMBER
 ST LUKES CHURCH, CHELSEA
 DOORS OPEN AT 7PM TICKETS FROM £20



CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

Wrap Battersea's dogs and cats in love this Christmas by joining us for an evening of carols, mince pies and hot mulled wine. battersea.org.uk/CarolConcert

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

Pet Pavilion

Battersea Dogs & Cats Home is a charity registered in England and Wales (206394)

Our treat to you is keeping their
food & medication costs
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HAPPILY REHOMED

DOGS AND CATS ENJOYING THEIR SECOND CHANCE AT HAPPINESS...

RAFIKI SHOWS HIS BEST SIDE

After 58 days at Brands Hatch, five-year-old Greyhound Rafiki went home with new owner Lucy in London. With his dashing good looks and unique ear flopped over his eyebrow, Rafiki has proved to be a wonderful model at the auction house where Lucy works (pictured). Lucy says: "Rafiki is settling in well and his funny personality is really starting to come out."



THANKING HER LUCKY STARS

Three-year-old Lucky the Labrador cross came to Battersea as her previous owner could no longer cope. At Battersea, Lucky showed her intelligence and ability to learn. Following a 61-day stay, Lucky was rehomed to Michelle in Gravesend. They even celebrated with a party!



QUENTIN'S CONNECTION

One-year-old Akita Quentin was found as a stray in North West London with a chip registered in Yorkshire. He spent 22 days at Battersea before catching the eye of Simon from Salisbury, who says: "Our bond is strengthening day by day. We love him for how he is and he will be forever looked after."



SPOCK BOLDLY GOES HOME

Domestic Medium-hair Spock arrived at Battersea when his previous owners weren't allowed pets in their new home. He found cattery life difficult but staff worked hard to settle him in and, 27 days later, Nancy-Jane from Surrey took him home. Now Spock can live long and prosper in his new life.



WHEN FRANK MET SALLY

Adorable but shy Mongrel Sally (formerly Pye) was brought to Battersea in January. A month later, Sally caught Frank's eye and started her new life in Windsor. Frank says: "She is so gentle, she hasn't got a bad bone in her body. She has bonded with my wife and me and has come on in leaps and bounds."

MAKING THE CONNECTION

BATTERSEA'S LOST DOGS & CATS LINE: 20 YEARS REUNITING MISSING PETS WITH THEIR OWNERS

With 158 years' experience rescuing stray dogs and cats and reuniting them with their owners, Battersea is a leading authority on how to track down lost pets. But, what you may not perhaps realise, is that Battersea's efforts to reunite missing pets with their owners include a dedicated helpline for people who have lost a dog or cat – a service that has helped to reunite more than 5,000 pets with their owners in just the last five years.

Battersea's Lost Dogs & Cats Line service was started 20 years ago, receiving its first lost pet report in November 1998. Two members of staff now head up the service, which logs around 300 reports of lost dogs and cats per month, supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery.

Shirley Smith is one of those staff members and she has worked tirelessly to trace the owners of stray animals arriving at the London centre and provide support to owners reporting their pets as missing. She started working on the phone line 10 years ago, and in that time has received thousands of phone calls from anxious or tearful owners seeking Battersea's advice.

"We deal with all emotions, from people who are very upset at losing their pet and are

asking lots of questions about what to do, to those who are absolutely overjoyed that we have their missing dog or cat. It's certainly a roller coaster of emotions working on the Lost Dogs & Cats Line but those incredible, happy moments when you see a dog rush into the arms of its relieved owner make the job so worthwhile."

The Lost Dogs & Cats Line uses a special database that collates details of registered missing animals and matches them with reports from around the Greater London area. Many rescue centres keep a lost and found database and the team at Battersea works closely with these and the national DogLost database in their daily detective work to try and match missing owners with missing pets.

So, after reuniting thousands of lost pets with their owners, there must be some reunions that really stand out to Shirley?

"We've had some unusual arrivals, that's for sure," she says, "everything from dogs being found on buses to cats being found in Royal Mail postal vans. The reunions that really stand out to me though are those when a dog or cat has been missing for a long time, and finally end up at Battersea for whatever reason."



Battersea's Lost Dogs & Cats Line has reunited 5,000 pets with their owners over the last five years



In August, Battersea released new figures showing that less than one in three stray dogs found or taken to Local Authorities are microchipped with accurate contact details for their owners. And, despite the law requiring owners to microchip their dog being introduced over two years ago, 35% of stray dogs don't have any microchip at all.

For Battersea's Lost Dogs & Cats Line, it can make all the difference. Shirley adds, "If we have correct microchip details and can get in touch with owners, we can reunite a missing dog or cat within hours, saving owners a lot of heartache and their pets the stress of having to go into the unfamiliar environment of kennels or a cattery."

Unsurprisingly, there are certain times of the year that tend to be busier for the Lost Dogs & Cats Line. In November and December many animals are spooked by fireworks and can run away from home, but, perhaps more surprisingly, the summer

months can bring in more lost dog reports.

"We'll always know when it's the first weekend of hot weather and people are going to the park or inviting their friends over for a BBQ. With more people coming and going, and people relaxing and paying less attention to their dogs, it's unfortunately all too easy for them to sneak off. When major sporting events are on, such as the World Cup, we've also been known to see an increase in lost dog reports from people whose attention is being diverted.

"If you find a cat we'd always advise you to check if there are any missing posters up in the area and talk to your neighbours to ask if they know who the cat belongs to. It's best not to report the cat as missing immediately but do get in touch if you keep seeing the cat and have noticed it looking skinnier. On our Battersea website we also provide a printable paper collar that you can try and put on the cat, asking an owner

"THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A PLACE FOR BATTERSEA TO PROVIDE SUPPORT"

1,185

dogs and cats were reunited with their owners in 2017 thanks to Battersea.



The top five breeds registered lost on our Lost Dogs & Cats Line since 2013 are: Staffies, Jack Russell Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers, Mongrels and Chihuahuas.

1,000

There can be up to 1,000 lost dogs and cats on Battersea's database at any one time.

[DID YOU KNOW?]
**IN 2017 THE LOST
 DOGS & CATS LINE
 RECEIVED REPORTS
 OF 1,525 LOST
 DOGS AND 1,248
 LOST CATS.**



to contact you if the cat is theirs.”

Many of the lost cat reports may be a little premature, however. Shirley explains: “We’ll often take calls about lost cats, only to be called back by owners who say they were just behind the settee. People typically think they’ve found missing cats in their garden and on their doorsteps too, when often it’s just the neighbours’ cats looking for some extra attention, food, or enjoying a nice sunny spot to relax in.”

While it used to be the case that most lost pet reports would come in by phone, with the Lost Dogs & Cats Line handling around 18,000 lost and found reports in just one year at its peak, Shirley notes that social media has begun to be a first port of call for many owners seeking to find their lost pet.

“We now advise people to spread the word on social media as part of their efforts to find their pets, as we recognise that many pets have been reunited through generating

awareness online. At the end of the day, we want every owner to have the best chance of finding their much-loved dog or cat and if social media can help with that, it can only be a good thing.”

So, after two decades of reuniting pet owners with their beloved companions, what do the next 20 years hold for Battersea’s Lost Dogs & Cats Line? Shirley says, “Even the most responsible pet owner can have that moment where their pet runs off or goes walkabout, so there will always be a place for Battersea to provide support, whether that’s just having a calm voice at the end of the line to talk to and offer advice, or to let them know that we have their dog or cat safely in our care.

“At the end of the day, people will always think of Battersea when it comes to stray dogs and cats and we’re only too willing to provide our expertise and help to ensure they find their pet as soon as they can.”

REUNITED!



Sable

In 2017, Battersea took in an eight-year-old Spaniel called Sable. When she was scanned for a microchip, staff discovered that she’d been stolen from her owner’s farm in East Sussex four years ago. Paul and Julie thought they’d never see Sable again and, over the moon, they rushed down to collect her.



Scruffy

Scruffy, an 11-year-old Yorkshire Terrier, was spotted wandering the streets in Tooting, South London. Fearing he was lost, kind-hearted members of the public brought him to Battersea. His owner Michelle, frantic with worry, had made a lost report to Battersea’s Lost Dogs & Cats Line that day, and was very happy to have Scruffy back.



Frankie

Frankie went missing in Southend in 2008. Nine years later and 45 miles away, an 11-year-old cat was brought into Battersea London when the owner’s circumstances changed. The cat they’d taken in as a stray nine years ago was in fact the long-lost Frankie. Owners Paul and Sadia were thrilled to have him back.

60%

Most found dog reports are for Staffies (60%) followed by Jack Russell Terriers.

23%

Most lost dog reports are for bull breeds. 23% of reports since 2013 are for Staffies.



August is the busiest month for lost dog or cat reports.

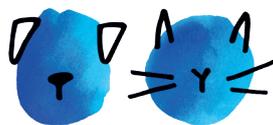


PROMISE TO BE THERE WITH A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Tiny puppy Bernard was just 10 weeks old, but in that short time had already experienced too much heartbreak for one so young. Born on a puppy farm and taken from his mother far too soon. Desperately sick and in urgent need of lifesaving surgery. Battersea was his last hope.

By remembering Battersea in your Will, your incredible promise will give hope to countless dogs and cats like Bernard and give them the second chance of happiness they so desperately deserve – now and for many years to come.

Return the attached postcard or visit battersea.org.uk/wills to request a Gifts in Wills information pack.



BATTERSEA
HERE FOR EVERY DOG AND CAT



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

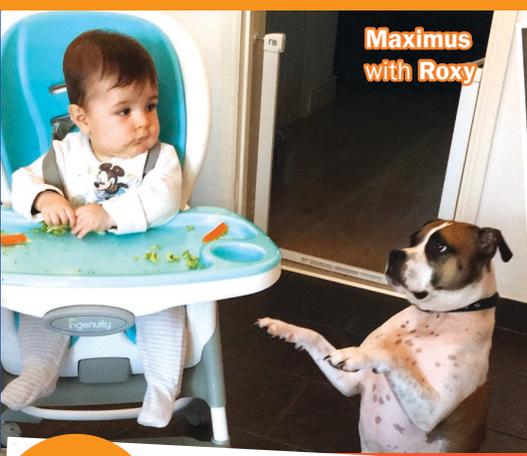


LITTLE PAWS



COOL PICS, QUIZZES AND A POSTER!

YOUR EPIC PET SELFIES



Win!



One of Battersea's new story books, *I Want a Dog* or *I Want a Cat*, to help guide children on the important things to think about before becoming a dog or cat owner. Both books are also available to buy at amazon.co.uk, just in time for Christmas. **HOW TO ENTER:** Simply take a super selfie with your family dog or cat and email it to littlepaws@battersea.org.uk.

LITTLE
PAWS



Tiny kitten **Holly** arrived at Battersea as a stray with four other kittens, having suffered a very sad start in life when they were dumped on somebody's doorstep in a cardboard box. Luckily for Holly and her siblings, Battersea staff members were there to hand-rear the tiny balls of fluff until they were all in full health and ready to go home. Holly soon left Battersea to join her new family in Berkshire.





A BATTERSEA BIRTHDAY

Animal-lover Harper visited our London centre to drop off a very special donation. He recently celebrated his 10th birthday, and instead of presents he asked friends and family to come to his party with donations for Battersea. He raised an amazing £450 to help our dogs and cats. This is not the first time that Harper has raised money for Battersea, as he donated on his seventh birthday too. Harper has a four-year-old Whippet called Otto at home and is pictured here with his parents, Robin and Edeline.



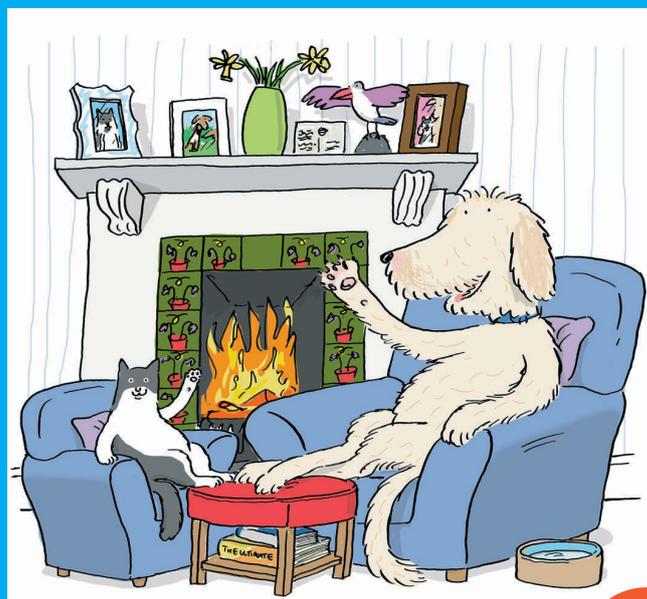
BAGS OF HELP FOR BRANDS HATCH

We'd like to say a massive 'thank you' to eight-year-old Emily, who brought a wonderful selection of gifts for the animals to our Brands Hatch centre over the summer. She raised £180 from a car boot sale and added £40 of her own pocket money to buy lots of treats, toys and equipment for our cats and dogs. Here she is with RWA Lynn Eade and Sid the Parson Russell Terrier, who was excited to meet Emily and choose his very own toy from the bag.



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!

Can you spot six differences?



MERRY QUIZ-MAS!

- How many volunteers will be helping out at Battersea on Christmas Day and Boxing Day? 50 60 70
- How many dogs (across all three of our centres) are likely to be spending Christmas Day at Battersea this year? 100 200 300
- How many cats (across all three of our centres) are likely to be spending Christmas Day at Battersea this year? 100 200 300
- How many dogs found themselves arriving at Battersea on Christmas Day last year? 8 9 10

Answers: 1 = 50, 2 = 300, 3 = 300, 4 = 9

TAKE US HOME

CAN YOU CHANGE THE LIFE OF AN ANIMAL LOOKING FOR A SECOND CHANCE?



JUNIOR

6 years old, Greyhound
rehoming@battersea.org.uk
 Ex-racer Junior has spent more than 100 days at Battersea and is still looking for his retirement home. This lovable boy is keen to play and enjoys a fuss from his favourite humans. It is possible that he has never lived in a home environment, so he is looking for new owners who are patient and understanding.



BUBBINS

11 years old, Domestic Short-hair
rehoming@battersea.org.uk
 Shy Bubbins came to Battersea under sad circumstances following the death of his previous owner. He is hoping to find a new home with people that understand his worried temperament and are willing to give him space to settle in. Bubbins will need a home with a private garden so that he can enjoy the great outdoors.



VINNIE

1 year old, Mongrel
bow.rehomers@battersea.org.uk
 This exuberant young boy was brought to the Old Windsor centre as his previous owners couldn't handle his energetic behaviour. He needs owners who lead active lives and are prepared to continue working with him as he needs lots of mental stimulation. Vinnie is sure to make a wonderful family member when he finds the right home.



TIGER-LILY

12 years old, Domestic Short-hair
rehoming@battersea.org.uk
 This sweet lady is looking for somewhere she can spend the rest of her days in peace and quiet. Tiger-lily is more of a flower than a ferocious tiger, and she is hoping to find new owners who will give her time to come out of her shell. Tiger-lily will need a home with outdoor access so that she can explore.



ROXY

6 years old, Mongrel
rehoming@battersea.org.uk
 Beautiful Roxy arrived as a stray. During her time at Battersea she has been a bit worried when meeting new people, but she quickly warms up to show her friendly and loving side. Due to a leg injury, Roxy is on a limited exercise plan and is looking for owners who understand her need to take things slowly.



DAISY

9 years old, Mongrel
rehoming@battersea.org.uk
 Daisy is a bouncy girl who is sure to win you over with her fun-loving attitude. She was wary of new people when she first arrived at Battersea but, with training, she has come along leaps and bounds. She's looking for a home with some experience of large breeds and owners that can manage her large size.

PAYING THE PRICE

THE HIDDEN COST OF BUYING A NEW DOG OR CAT ONLINE

Across the UK, a new ‘dog for sale’ advert is created online every two minutes, while a new ‘cat for sale’ ad is created every four minutes.

In a world where almost anything is available immediately online, the ‘instant gratification’ culture that many of us have grown accustomed to means that many people are sadly purchasing pets they like the look of via online selling and social media sites. They then find themselves the unknowing victims of an unscrupulous breeder, leaving rescue centres such as Battersea struggling with the fallout.

Battersea’s Deputy Chief Executive, Peter Laurie, says: “Our dog rehoming has been declining for years – last year we rehomed 8% fewer dogs than in 2016. Now we are seeing similar trends for cats, too. We were rehoming growing numbers of cats until last year, when numbers fell 16%, as we, and most animal charities, struggle to compete with the mammoth platform of online sales.

“You can buy a pet with the click of a mouse, often with no idea if you’re going to get the same animal as the cute photograph that caught your eye, and with no real idea of its background or personality.”

Back in August, Battersea welcomed the proposed Government ban on third-party puppy and kitten sales in England. The announcement could prevent thousands of animals from being born into squalid conditions and split from their mothers too young, to line the pockets of unscrupulous breeders.

Unfortunately, despite the Government’s plans to crack down on puppy farms through the ban on third-party sales, this does not stop the process of selling directly to members of the public via the internet.

One such dog was Jack Russell puppy Buddy, who was collected by the police after they pulled over a car one night this summer. After telling the officer at the scene that they had only just bought the puppy that afternoon on the selling website Gumtree, the people in the car said that they didn’t want him anymore and handed Buddy over.

Buddy was only around six weeks old. The minimum age for puppies to leave their mother is eight weeks old, meaning that he was too young to be away from his family and lacking the vital social skills that he would have learnt with them.

Luckily, with our experts to help him become socialised, happy and healthy, it wasn’t long before Buddy went home to a new family.

Sean Welland, Rehoming and Welfare Manager at Battersea Old Windsor, said: “While it’s shocking that Buddy had been sold so young, it’s sadly not uncommon for dogs to be bought online and then swiftly discarded by their owners when they change their minds.

“Buying animals online is just as easy as ordering a new pair of shoes or jeans from an internet store. All too many people get a puppy and then decide that it’s just too much work. It’s then animal rescues, such as Battersea, that are left to pick up the pieces.”



Recent research by the Kennel Club reveals that 18% of puppy buyers who purchased their new pet directly over the internet, after initially finding the advert online, say their puppy experienced sickness in their first year, which was then ongoing throughout its life, or sickness and eventual death. This compares to 7% who experienced this overall. A further 13% experienced sickness in the first year but went on to recover.



A pet bought online might be too young, suffer health issues, or be a completely different animal.



BAD BREEDING

Over the past few years, Battersea has seen the types of dogs being brought through its gates changing, particularly with the rise of so-called 'designer' breeds being bred and sold online, helped in no small part by celebrities and social media. The number of French Bulldogs handed into Battersea has soared in recent years, as owners face staggering vet bills due to the health problems that irresponsible breeding has wrought in the breed. Battersea's Head Vet, Shaun Opperman, explains: "It's all too easy to be taken in by cute pictures and social media trends when it comes to designer dogs, without much thought or research. However, many owners find themselves unable to afford crippling vet bills. The welfare issues involved with the overbreeding of French Bulldogs and similar breeds is one of the most significant challenges Battersea is facing today."



Buddy ended up at Battersea when his owners got him online and then changed their minds.



Kitten Nimbus is doing much better following treatment, after being sold online at a month old.

SPOT THE SIGNS

While some online animal ads will be genuine, there are certain things to look out for.

- You should be looking to see the puppy or kitten in its home environment with its mum. A breeder offering to drop the animal off to you should be taken as a glaring signal that the animal has been taken away from its mother too early in life.
- Never hand over any money online before you have had a chance to go and see your new four-legged family member.

STARRY EYED AND WAGGY TAILED

GLITZ AND GLAMOUR FOR A GOOD CAUSE: THE HUMANS AND DOGS ATTENDING THE 10TH ANNUAL COLLARS & COATS GALA BALL PULLED OUT ALL THE STOPS TO RAISE VITAL FUNDS TO HELP OUR ANIMALS.

Our Ambassador, David Gandy, walked the red carpet accompanied by his Battersea dog, Dora.



Host Kirsty Gallacher rehomed her beloved Bulldog, Betsy, from Battersea.



Fashion designer Jeff Banks gets pally with Potato the Pug.



Comedian John Bishop and wife Melanie meet one of our four-legged stars.



Sherlock actress, Amanda Abbington, with a member of the Doggy Guard of Honour.



People's Postcode Lottery Ambassadors (L-R) Jeff Brazier, Matt Johnson, Judi McCourt and Danyl Johnson with Olive the Bichon Frise.



Jennifer Saunders and Olive both looked absolutely fabulous on the red carpet.



Designer Julien Macdonald at the event, which was supported by Vets4Pets.



Ambassador Dame Jacqueline Wilson was smitten with three-legged Toy Poodle, Charli.



TAKING ON THE CHALLENGE

THIS YEAR BATTERSEA WELCOMED ALL DOG LOVERS AND THEIR CANINE COMPANIONS TO TAKE PART IN OUR BIGGEST EVER MUDDY DOG CHALLENGE.



Our Ambassador David Gandy and his Battersea dog, Dora, showed their support by taking on the 2.5k course.



Double Olympic champion Helen Glover MBE and Steve Backshall joined in the fun at the Windsor event.

Liz Wilson and Standard Poodle Teddy trained hard to take on their first Muddy Dog Challenge.



£613,000

So far, with more still expected from the October events, the fundraising total stands at an incredible £519,000. Every penny goes towards helping the thousands of lost, homeless and abandoned dogs and cats that come through Battersea's gates every year.



Alhanna Shepherd and her Akita, Keola, share a very special bond and marked this by running to raise funds to help other dogs.

Throughout the summer, Battersea took over the country for our unique Muddy Dog challenge events, proudly supported by LV=. The UK's first dog-friendly obstacle run where people can take on a 2.5k or 5k route with their dog, participants of all ages and abilities (and breeds!) joined in the fun, with wet and wild obstacles along the way.

The summer of four-legged fun began in June when Muddy Dog Challenge arrived at Nottingham's Wollaton Park for the first event of the year. Over 650 animal lovers and their dogs attended, including Alhanna Shepherd who travelled from Doncaster with her dog, Keola. Their special story began two years ago, when four-year-old Akita began acting strangely around a pregnant Alhanna. Believing Keola could sense something, Alhanna went to hospital and was found to have a life-threatening infection. Thanks to super-dog Keola, it was spotted in time and Alhanna went on to have a healthy baby boy.

Next up, dogs and their owners descended on Windsor's Great Park, just a stone's throw away from Battersea's Old Windsor centre. The weekend raised a whopping £201,000 and was even attended by double-Olympic rowing champion, Helen

Glover MBE and her husband, wildlife presenter Steve Backshall, who were there to judge at the Battersea Fun Day being held alongside the Muddy Dog Challenge.

Battersea then travelled to Cardiff – a new location this year – where participants included 54-year-old Liz Wilson, who took part with her three-year-old Standard Poodle, Teddy. Having never run like this before, Liz started to build up her exercise on dog walks – working up to a 5k Muddy Dog Challenge, complete with obstacles and a dog to handle, an experience she describes as "Muddy, but great fun!"

September saw the Muddy Dog obstacles arrive in Tunbridge Wells, not far from Battersea's Brands Hatch centre, where Battersea Ambassador David Gandy took part in the challenge for the second year in a row with his cute Battersea dog, Dora.

The remaining events at Peterborough and Manchester, which were postponed due to the extreme hot weather the UK experienced earlier in the summer, saw all participants – both human and canine – getting involved in the aim of the day and having a blast as they ran, walked and rolled their way around one obstacle after another.

GET INVOLVED

The Muddy Dog Challenge may be over for this year, but Battersea is already planning even bigger and better events for 2019. If you're feeling inspired to do your bit for Battersea's residents, why not join in the fun next year? Or, if mud isn't your thing, there are many more events you can take part in to raise vital funds for the charity. For more ideas go to battersea.org.uk.



Q & A

HOW TO KEEP YOUR DOGS AND CATS HAPPY AND HEALTHY THIS WINTER

MEET OUR EXPERT



Claire Turner
Battersea
Veterinary Surgeon

Winter is a time when pets and people can embrace the cooler weather and all that comes with it: fleecy blankets, special treats, cuddles and cosy nights in front of the fire. But while the cold weather may be welcomed by some, it poses certain risks that pet owners should be aware of, says Battersea's Veterinary Surgeon, Claire Turner.

"While caring for your animal's health all year round is important, we'd advise that pet owners are extra vigilant in the winter months," she says. "By keeping your eyes peeled for our 'winter watchlist' of potential hazards, there is no reason why our four-legged friends can't also have fun this festive season."

Q: Is there anything to be aware of with dogs and cats playing in the snow? Is it safe for them?

Many of us love a snow day, and pets are no exception. "Many pets love to play in the snow, but make sure to watch out for dogs and cats who have long hair, as the snow can form into compact balls of ice, which can be both very cold and very painful for your pet," explains Claire. To make sure they enjoy their snow days, she recommends towelling off your dog or cat as this will prevent ice balls attaching to your pet's coat, helping to keep them warm and dry. It will also help with preventing any tangled up matts that could prove to be painful.

Q: I've heard about cats getting under car bonnets. How can I make sure I don't drive off with a cat in the engine?

In colder weather, outdoor cats may hide under car bonnets to snuggle up to warm car engines. Claire advises: "Before starting your engine, always give the bonnet of your car a few taps to make sure that you're not carrying any hitchhikers; any caught-up cats could face serious consequences."



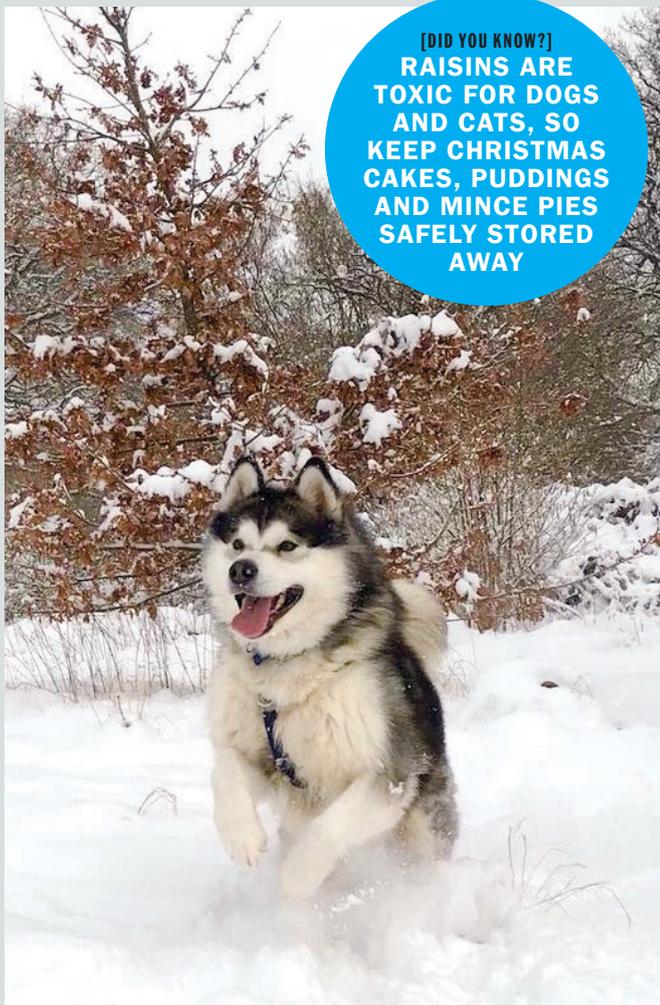
PAY ATTENTION TO PAWS

“Checking your pet’s paws may not be something that is immediately obvious, but it’s so important for owners to remember” says Claire. “Salt that’s used to de-ice roads can make pets’ paws very sore, causing dryness, cracking, chapping and burns to paw pads. Make sure to wipe your dog or cat’s paws after they’ve been out to try and prevent any damage.”

If you think your pet’s paws may be damaged by rock salt, contact your regular vet; they’ll advise you on different balms or treatments you could use to cure the damage done.

But it’s not just your pet’s paws that the salt can damage, they could also be poisoned by it, too. “If you spot your pet licking their paws before you’ve had a chance to wipe them, be sure to look for rock salt poisoning, which can include burns to the mouth and dehydration, leading to more serious health concerns if left untreated,” warns Claire.

If your pet may have swallowed any rock salt, contact your vet for further advice as soon as you can. Make sure to explain what you believe has happened, and how long ago it was, as it will help your vet decide on the action that needs to be taken.



[DID YOU KNOW?]
RAISINS ARE TOXIC FOR DOGS AND CATS, SO KEEP CHRISTMAS CAKES, PUDDINGS AND MINCE PIES SAFELY STORED AWAY

AVOID ANTIFREEZE

“Humans see antifreeze as a motoring necessity, but cats find it to be a tasty treat due to the sweet taste,” explains Claire. “Ethylene Glycol is a chemical compound found in most types of antifreeze and is extremely poisonous to cats; just a few spilled drops could be fatal if they were to consume it. The best course of action would be to avoid buying antifreeze entirely, which would help keep animals in your local area safe from poisoning.”

Antifreeze poisoning symptoms include: vomiting, drooling, loss of appetite and excessive urination or none at all. If you spot a cat with any of these symptoms, make sure to contact a vet as a matter of urgency.



Q: During winter months it's tempting to share bits of roast dinners and other treats with our pets. Is this healthy for them? How much should we give them?

Winter brings plenty of festive parties, where humans can indulge in a variety of foods and drinks, but be sure to watch what your pet eats if they're partaking in the fun.

“Dogs and cats alike are intolerant to many of our favourite festive foods,” says Claire. “Alcohol, chocolate, onions and some cheeses are all part of a long list of things that can be toxic for dogs and cats. Make sure that you know what your pet

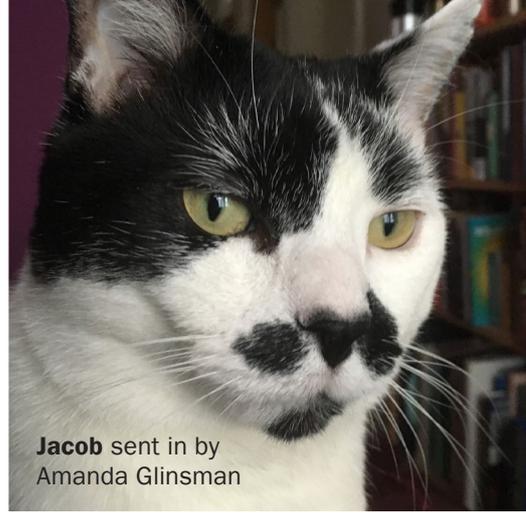
can and can't eat, and be sure to watch them around any foods lying around the house.” Even if your dog or cat consumes a small amount of a toxic food, it could be fatal. Make sure to contact your vet as soon as possible if you think they may have eaten something they shouldn't.

Got a question?

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



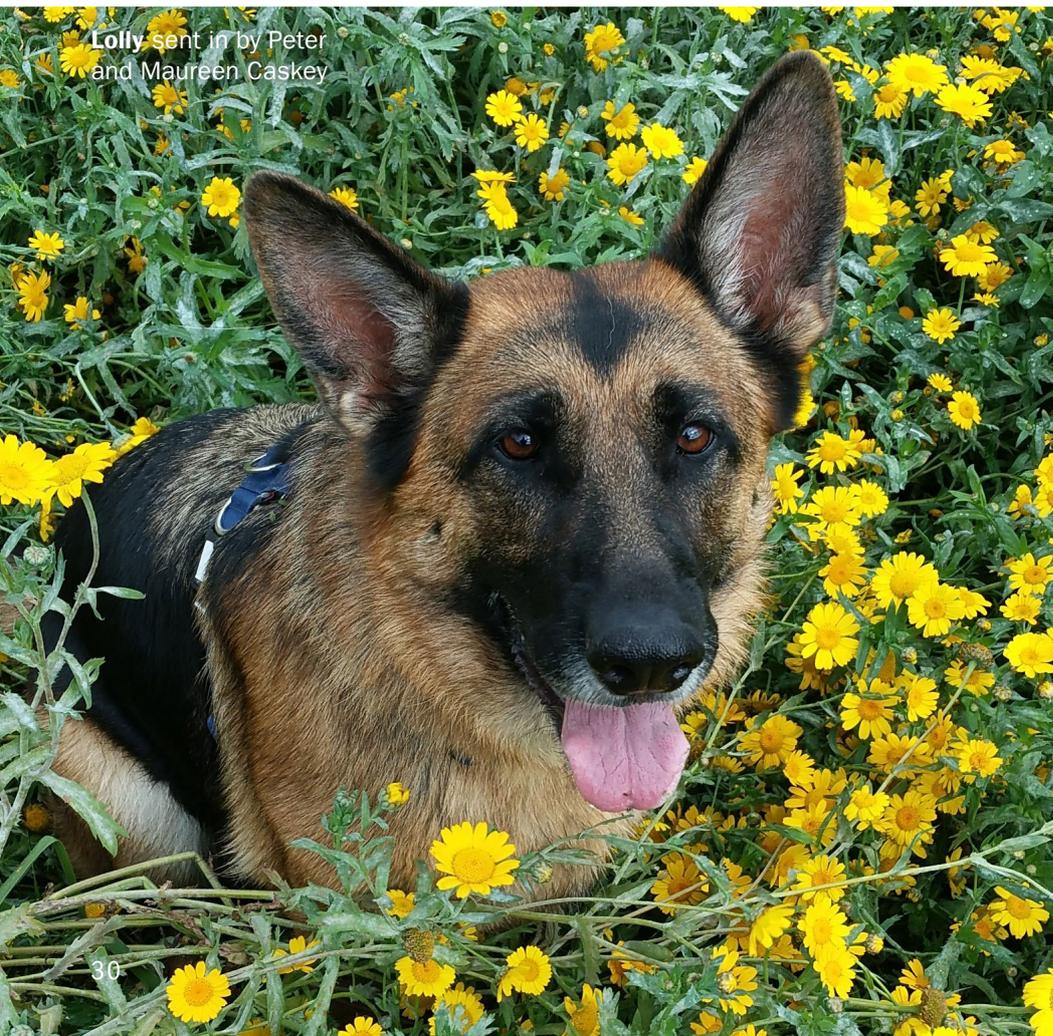
Oscar (formerly Humphrey)
sent in by Ecevit Emin



Jacob sent in by
Amanda Glinsman

LOVING LIFE

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



Lolly sent in by Peter
and Maureen Caskey



Duke sent in
by Linda Hacey



Coco sent in by
Matthew George

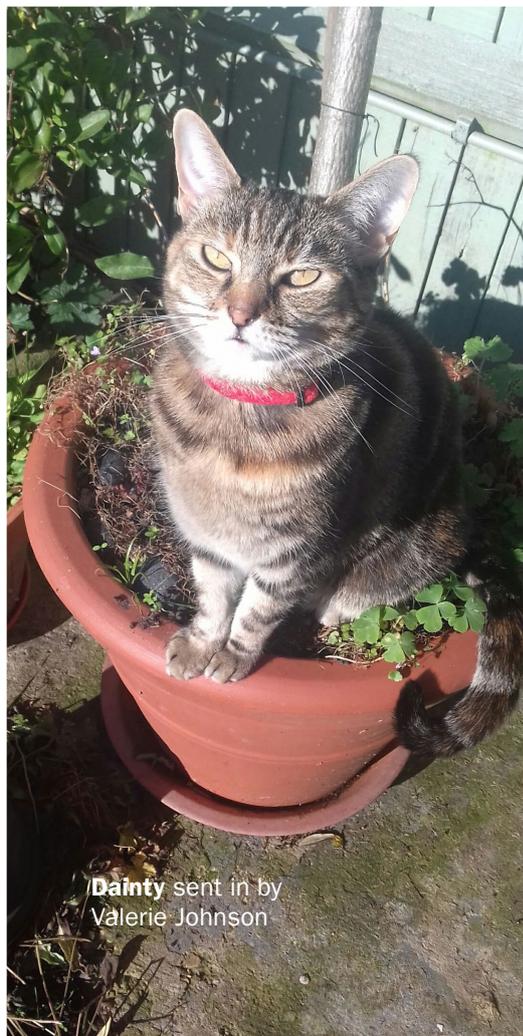


Garfield sent in by
Philippa Reeve

Maisy and Midnight
sent in by Shreya Roy



Tess (formerly Cheddar) sent
in by the Dreghorn family



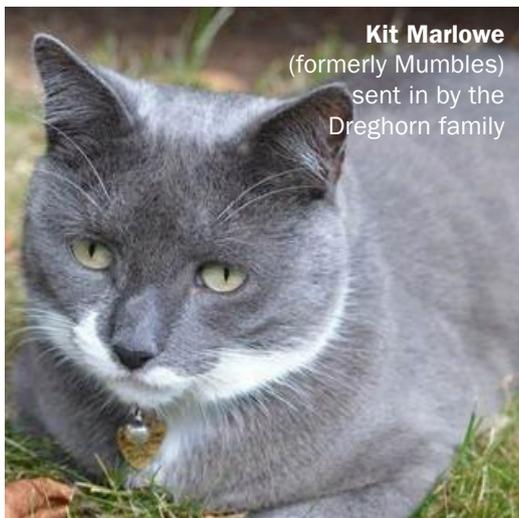
Dainty sent in by
Valerie Johnson



Bambi sent in by
Kathryn King



Teddy sent in
by Helen Crow



Kit Marlowe
(formerly Mumbles)
sent in by the
Dreghorn family



Giles sent
in by Andrew
Bunn and
Rose Turner

YOUR LETTERS

SHARE YOUR SPECIAL PET MOMENTS WITH OTHER SUPPORTERS



[STAR LETTER]

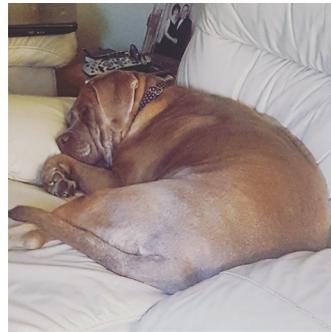
BACHELOR BUDDIES

Louis and I were supposed to find each other. After owning dogs before, I realised a cat was the best way for me to own a pet after moving to London. I looked at the Battersea website and Louis stood out. I wanted a male cat, and we share the same star sign! The team at Battersea explained Louis' history and character: a complicated and slightly frustrated individual who wasn't fully understood by his previous owners. He sounded like a cat who just needed to be himself. As I write this Louis is sat on my chest purring contently. He has changed my life for the better. I love this little guy and I think he has started to trust and love me back. He greets me when I come in and, after he has made a fuss of me, we go about our business. We share my bachelor flat together and he is now part of the furniture. Thank you, Battersea.
Jake Godson



Your prize

From the people behind *The Book of Everyone*, comes *Wise(ish) Words for Dog Lovers* and *Wise(ish) Words for Cat Lovers* – great gifts for canine devotees and feline fans. Heartwarming and humorous, the pages can be personalised and, best of all, £5 from every book goes to Battersea. Buy yours at thebookofeveryone.com/uk.



ROXY'S RURAL RETREAT

While I was scrolling through the Battersea website, Roxy's piercing amber eyes and size caught my attention and I showed my parents. The next day, we were driving to Battersea Brands Hatch to see if she would fit into our family. We met Roxy and fell in love. Her story was so mysterious – she was found wandering the streets of London having clearly had pups but no one had claimed her. You'd never know what she's been through, as she's so loving and sappy, and has been making her mark on our family ever since! She loves walks and diving nose first into the mud.

We think she may be a vegetarian as she loves carrots, watermelon and pineapple over her meaty meals, but we wouldn't have her any other way. Thank you, Battersea, for looking after her so we could give her a forever home in the Essex countryside.
Abbie Robinson



PERFECT PERCY

I adopted Percy last year, and I was very impressed with the kindness that he received while in the Battersea cattery – he was very shy, so was allotted a special carer, then, following some dental treatment, while his mouth was still sore, they managed to tempt him to eat using gourmet cat food.

Percy is my perfect feline friend. When I come home, he is always there to greet me, and when he wants a fuss he gives me affectionate little 'head butts'. I firmly believe that "rescue is best".

If you are looking for your ideal feline or canine companion, Battersea can find the right pet for you. This may not be a youngster, as older dogs and cats have a lot of love to give. Percy is 12 years old but is very playful and bouncy and, I guess, this is because he is happy in his new home.
Lynne Connell

FAREWELL FREDDIE

It is with great sorrow that I tell you my dearest Freddie was put to sleep in my arms on 12 August. It is so difficult for me to write this. It had been a nice Saturday and we had been in the garden. Freddie had reduced muscle mass in his hind legs but he loved life, and everyone loved him. But he was in pain and I didn't want him to fight anymore. I can't tell you all how grateful I am to you for letting me rehome him and my other dog, Ice, who also passed away recently. Freddie came to Denmark with me from England (wonderfully captured in *POGDOGS*). He and Ice gave me all their trust and love. I could only reward them with the same.

Ulla Munch-Petersen



COOPER CROSSES THE BORDER

We've always had rescued dogs and admired and supported Battersea from afar, but never thought we'd be able to adopt from you as we live in Wales. But, earlier this year we realised just how small the internet has made the world! We saw Bentley, a seven-month-old Clumber Spaniel, pop up on a Battersea friend's Instagram feed. We had always talked of adding a Clumber Spaniel to our family and were amazed when a simple comment on social media, saying how much we'd love him, led to a flurry of activity and the eventual adoption of the lovely boy

we now call Cooper a few months later. He joined Toby the Leonberger, Darla the Tibetan Mastiff, Quade the Labrador Retriever, Monty Bassett the Cocker Spaniel cross and Herb Bassett the Springer Spaniel cross, and they all now share a five-acre smallholding here in Welshpool. Cooper celebrated his first birthday with us on 26 August and, as you can see, he has lots of adopted brothers and a sister, along with lots of space to be the happy Spaniel he was always meant to be. We couldn't be more grateful to the wonderful rehoming team for completing our family.

Paula and Tom Davis



HERCULES HEADS TO JORDAN

We rehomed Hercules six years ago. It's without doubt the best decision my wife and I have made. This is the big guy (all 75kgs of him) in Pembrokeshire. We've now moved to Amman in Jordan and he's adapted really well. They're not used to dogs out here and he's become a real traffic stopper. Thanks for introducing us to Hercules, he is the most loving and rewarding pooch.

Tim and Charlotte Baimbridge

We love to hear from you and catch up with how our rehomed pets are getting along. Send us your stories and photos by email to paws@battersea.org.uk or by post to Paws magazine, Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, 4 Battersea Park Road, London SW8 4AA



ALWAYS LOVED, NEVER FORGOTTEN



We rescued our beloved Cocker Spaniel, Shelly, when she was 12 and had three wonderful years with her. Shelly changed our lives for the better and the house feels empty without her. We're so glad to have had the opportunity to give her the love and attention she deserved in her final years.

Adele Lustig and Philippa Claiden



Our little Dizzy recently made the trip to doggy heaven at 15 years old. Dizzy was one very special dog; she was such a comfort when my parents died and always seemed to know when you needed a cuddle. She loved walks and running around right up until the end. Following a stroke she passed away peacefully in our arms.

Chris and Andrew Thurston

FONDLY REMEMBERED FRIENDS

Creating a memorial can be a comforting way to celebrate your pet's life after they've gone. Battersea's Fondly Remembered Friends is a space to upload photographs and remember the lives of treasured pets.

battersea.org.uk/pet-memorials

HONEY THE HERO

HELEN AND DEREK JAMES NEVER REALISED JUST HOW LIFE-CHANGING THEIR BATTERSEA DOG WOULD TURN OUT TO BE...

We rehomed Honey in April 2007 when she was just one year old. She had already had two homes, but staff at Battersea had worked hard with her on many issues – she was possessive, didn't get on well with children, and could be quite territorial. Anyway, we fell in love with her and she with us, but she didn't love anyone else and was always on her guard when people came to the house.

Last July, I was in the garden and shouted out to my husband, Derek, that I was going shopping and would see him later. At that moment, Honey came flying into the garden. She started running all around me, making an awful noise that sounded like she was in pain. I initially thought a bee had stung her, but she kept running back and forth towards the house, beckoning me to follow her.

I followed her in to ask Derek what was up with her, but there he was in full cardiac arrest. His face was blue. Panic set in and I knew somehow I had to keep him alive and get to the phone. All this time, Honey was still making that awful noise. I called an ambulance, dragged Derek onto the floor, and then started to administer CPR. Every time he took a breath, Honey howled.

Within four minutes, a London Ambulance Service paramedic in a fast response car arrived. Honey didn't move; she just sat watching them attend to Derek. Four more paramedics arrived and still Honey didn't move. She would normally have gone mad with this many people in the house, but she just sat there, watching and crying. They gave Derek 15 shocks and each time she howled, but still didn't move. Even with the front door open she refused to budge – she would normally run off.



Helen, Derek and Honey the hero dog, meeting the team of life-saving paramedics. Honey alerted Helen that something was wrong when Derek went into cardiac arrest at their home.

The paramedics were wonderful and I will never be able to thank them enough, along with Dr Lim and his team at St. George's Hospital. Derek was put into an induced coma, but thankfully he pulled through. Dr Lim and the paramedics were amazed by what Honey had done, particularly after hearing what a menace she can be! Honey knew she had to behave and let the paramedics do their job.

After a few weeks the paramedics invited us to meet them all, which was particularly nice for Derek as they were all strangers to him, but had saved his life. They absolutely loved Honey and presented her with a huge bone.

Our beautiful girl – the dog that had already had two homes – saved Derek's life. It certainly was third time lucky, especially for us. Thank you Battersea for letting us have Honey, our hero dog.

STRAY OVER

BATTERSEA
HERE FOR EVERY DOG AND CAT

STRAY OVER

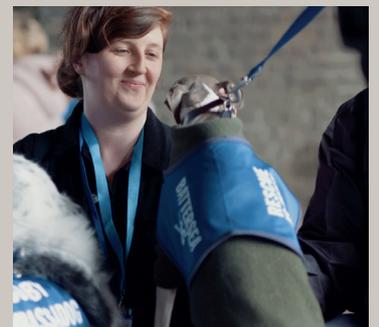
A BATTERSEA FUNDRAISING EVENT

FRIDAY 29 MARCH AND FRIDAY 5 APRIL

SLEEP UNDER THE STARS AT BATTERSEA LONDON AND OLD WINDSOR,
TO RAISE MONEY AND AWARENESS FOR ABANDONED DOGS AND CATS.

Stray Over is a fun evening with a serious message – to rescue stray dogs and cats from a life in the cold. Meet Battersea staff and dogs, network with like-minded people from businesses across the country, enjoy team-building games, entertainment and delicious food.

For more information and to sign up for Stray Over 2019
visit battersea.org.uk/StrayOver



BATTERSEA LONDON
4 BATTERSEA PARK ROAD
LONDON SW8 4AA


BATTERSEA
HERE FOR EVERY DOG AND CAT

BATTERSEA OLD WINDSOR
PRIEST HILL, OLD WINDSOR,
WINDSOR SL4 2JN

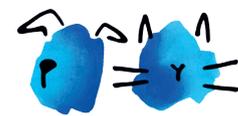
WRAP THEM IN LOVE

THIS CHRISTMAS



Christmas gifts for dogs, cats and humans available now at the Battersea Shop. All proceeds go towards caring for the dogs and cats in our care.

www.battersea.org.uk/shop



BATTERSEA
HERE FOR EVERY DOG AND CAT