



MUDDY DOG
A BATTERSEA CHALLENGE

PRESS PACK

MUDDYDOG.BATTERSEA.ORG.UK

#MUDDYDOGCHALLENGE

Battersea Dogs & Cats Home is a charity registered in England and Wales (206394).
Age requirements, sign up fees and £100 minimum sponsorship apply.

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Battersea's Muddy Dog Challenge is back, bigger and better than ever before! In its fifth year, the obstacle course is the UK's first 2.5km and 5km that you can tackle alongside your dog.

No matter your fitness level, everyone is welcome to take part with their four-legged companion, or you can take it on solo – it's all about having fun.

Participants can expect to hurriedly hop over 'Dog Tyred', and swiftly splash through 'Dog Baths' before crossing the finish line, all in aid of the dogs and cats at Battersea.

Animal lovers taking part are asked to raise a minimum sponsorship of £100 to help Battersea care for the thousands of animals who arrive at the animal shelter every year.

For more information please visit muddydog.battersea.org.uk

ARE YOU READY FOR A CHALLENGE?

EXETER Saturday 13 April
Powderham Castle, South Town, Exeter, EX6 8JG

WINDSOR Saturday 11 May and Sunday 12 May
Windsor Great Park, Windsor, SL4 2BD

CHELTHENHAM Saturday 1 June
Stowell Park, Chedworth, Cheltenham, GL54 3LL

NOTTINGHAM Saturday 29 June
Wollaton Park, Nottingham, NG8 2AE

MANCHESTER Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 September
Ashley Hall, Ashley Mill Lane, Altrincham, WA14 3PY

TUNBRIDGE WELLS Saturday 21 September
Eridge Park, Sham Farm Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN3 9JD

NEWCASTLE Saturday 5 October
Newcastle Racecourse, High Gosforth Park,
Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE3 5EJ

LEEDS Saturday 19 October
Harewood House, Harrogate Road, Leeds, LS17 9LQ





HEAR FROM OUR BATTERSEA AMBASSADOR

DAVID GANDY

Internationally-renowned supermodel and Battersea Ambassador David Gandy took part in the Tunbridge Wells Muddy Dog Challenge with his Battersea dog Dora last year. It was the third time he had taken part.

David Gandy said: "I loved running the Muddy Dog Challenge with Dora last year. It's such a great day and Dora and all the other dogs loved getting involved and taking on the obstacles."

The Muddy Dog Challenge is also a wonderful way to support Battersea. I'd encourage any animal lover to take part – whether or not you own a dog. My one piece of advice is to take it at your own pace. It's not a race and it's all about having fun!"

« David Gandy with Dora at last year's Muddy Dog Challenge in Tunbridge Wells



GIVING BACK WITH MUDDY DOG CHALLENGE

It was an eventful summer for 25-year-old Katherine Neal and her husband Tommy from Hampshire, when their three-year-old beautiful Husky, Luna, was caught up in an unexpected car accident last May. Despite suffering serious leg injuries, the Husky took part in last year's Muddy Dog Challenge, alongside Katherine. Read more about Katherine and Luna's inspirational story below:

“It was heartbreaking to see her like this.”

≈ Luna suffered serious leg injuries after being caught up in a car accident

Conference Operator Katherine, said: “It was Saturday afternoon when we decided to take Luna out on a walk. We took her on the normal route we take daily in the beautiful countryside of Hampshire. However, little did we know how her life could change so quickly.”

The hardest part for us was knowing she couldn't understand what was going on, it was heartbreaking to see her like this. Luna's recovery was complicated as she avoided walking on her injured leg, which meant she lost muscle that she later had to regain.”

Katherine continued, “Luna was walking off-lead when the accident occurred on a quiet country road near our house. Everything was fine until she spotted a cat and became distracted, when suddenly, a car hit her.

Katherine continued, “It took at least 3 months for Luna to start using her back leg again. However, with hard work and determination, Luna became her happy self again and has since made a full recovery thanks to the treatment she received. She's now back to her previous strength and we can't wait to get her out and enjoy the sunshine this summer.

“It was awful. I was so worried she wouldn't be able to use her leg again because of the extent of her injuries. We rushed her to an emergency vets in Reading, where we were told she had completely shattered her back leg and needed a big operation.

“We decided to give back and take on the Muddy Dog Challenge to raise money for the thousands of animals who need help at Battersea every year.”

Our beautiful, brave girl needed to have a temporary metal bar placed through the bone and around the outside of her leg. We knew it was going to be a long road to recovery and Luna needed multiple operations, physio and hydrotherapy sessions over the coming months to help her walk again.

Katherine and Luna took part in last year's Muddy Dog Challenge in Windsor.



≈ Luna recovered and the duo took part in last year's Muddy Dog Challenge.



TRAINING TIPS

Here are some easy steps to help prepare for the big day:

- 1.** Make sure you're wearing appropriate footwear. You'll be surprised what a good pair of trainers can make to your walk, jog or run. Check your trainers are secure too – you don't want to lose them in the mud!
- 2.** Do a few practice runs with your dog first so you both get used to running with a lead. We would advise fitting your dog with a harness.
- 3.** Mix it up a bit! Try out new dog walking routes in different locations and different terrains. Not only will this stop you from getting bored, your dog will also love exploring somewhere new.
- 4.** Keep hydrated during your walks – for both human and dog. Make sure you both drink plenty during training runs. There will be lots of water stops throughout the course at Muddy Dog.
- 5.** Don't overdo it. Start off easy and at a level that's appropriate for you and your dog. Remember, the Muddy Dog Challenge is all about having fun.



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VISIT MUDDYDOG.BATTERSEA.ORG.UK FOR MORE INFORMATION

FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT

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