

paws

The supporter magazine
of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home

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Frontline Care

Transforming lives in
Battersea's ground-breaking
new Vet Hospital



GET SOME PETS-ERCISE
FUN ACTIVITIES FOR YOU AND YOUR DOG
FRIENDS FOR LIFE
CATCHING UP WITH SOME HAPPY ENDINGS
CHIPPING IN
YOUR MICROCHIPPING QUESTIONS ANSWERED





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Front cover
Vet Steve with Tippy



12



27



20

FEATURES

- Frontline Care** 8
News of our brand new Vet Hospital – a Centre of Excellence
- Get Some Pets-ercise!** 12
We inspire you with some fun activities that you can do with your dog
- Friends for Life** 20
We catch up with some happy endings – tissues at the ready!
- Chipping in** 24
Microchipping your dog becomes law on 6 April – we answer your questions

REGULARS

- Claire's welcome** 1
- News** 2
- Dog gallery** 11
- Little Paws** 15
- Host the Pawfect Tea Party** 19
- Cat gallery** 23
- Me and my Cavvie** 27
- Letters** 28
- Ask the experts** 30
- Take us home** 32

Welcome

Claire Horton, Chief Executive

'We aim never to turn away a dog or cat in need of our help'

I'm extremely proud of the work we do at Battersea transforming the lives of thousands of animals. Our Home is not just bricks and mortar, it's our dedicated staff and volunteers; it's the time, care and love that we give to improve the lives of the animals we care for and most importantly, it's the dogs and cats who come to us frightened, confused and with nowhere else to go. We exist to give them hope for the second chance of happiness they so deserve. But we never sit on our laurels; we aim never to turn away a dog or cat in need of our help and our absolute determination to help each and every one means that the demand on our facilities is huge.

In this issue you'll hear about the work we are currently undertaking to create our new Vet Hospital and Centre of Excellence, which will be the largest of its kind in a

“Our new world-class facilities will help us provide the highest standards of medical care”

Claire with Battersea puppy Dorrie in front of the construction of our new Vet Hospital



rescue setting in the UK. Building work has started on this amazing project, but we still have a long way to go to raise the remainder of the £5.3 million to ensure we can achieve our goal and help many more animals long into the future. If you turn to page 8 you can read all about how our new world-class facilities will help us provide the highest standards of medical care.

Some of the truly delightful Battersea four-legged friends that have already stolen the hearts of their new owners are featured on page 20, where we get a glimpse of the heart-warming bonds that form – all because they made that important choice to rehome a rescue animal. And we are forever grateful that they made that life-changing decision.

I often try to understand how a dog must be feeling when its normal routine is turned upside down and it finds itself in our care, suddenly surrounded by strangers and unfamiliar sounds. A reassuring voice and a warm embrace can go some way to settling in any new arrivals, but we are acutely aware of the impact that kennel life can have on a dog. Over on page 30 you

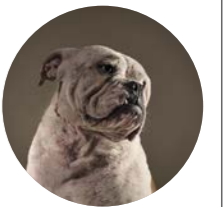
“A reassuring voice and a warm embrace can go some way to settling in any new arrivals”

can find out about the innovative and extensive steps we have taken to help combat dog stress in our kennels to make their home-between-homes experience as calm and enjoyable as possible.

Finally, as Easter is now upon us, it's a great time to get outdoors and stretch those legs. If you ever needed any inspiration to get active see our exercising with your dog feature on page 12. You can join me and my Battersea dog Pilot in this year's Muddy Dog Challenge extravaganza, which is a fun-filled way to get paws and feet wet in aid of the Home! In the meantime I hope you enjoy this issue and the many heart-warming stories within.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

NEWS



Ministers listen
An exciting update on our Backstreet Breeding campaign
p3

FEATURES



Building the dream
Read how our Vet Hospital vision is becoming a reality
p8

FUNDRAISING



Host the Pawfect Tea Party
News on this year's Battersea bakeathon and how to take part
p19



Clockwise from top Camilla Kerslake and Sue Barker along with other celebrities posed with our dogs

Battersea's starriest night

Our Battersea dogs once again stole the limelight on the red carpet at our annual fundraising Collars & Coats Gala Ball and greeted guests with waggy tails, shiny noses and a kiss, if they were lucky! A host of UK and international stars from the world of TV, music, film, sport and fashion including Little Mix's Leigh-Anne Pinnoch, Sue Barker, Nicky Clarke and Anthony Head, filled Battersea Evolution for our fundraising extravaganza.

They all had the opportunity to pose with our four-legged stars for photos and spoke of their great love of the Home, before listening to heart-warming stories of Battersea dogs that have been transformed thanks to the dedication and care of our teams. Dogs like Marjorie,

who suffered at the hands of backstreet breeders and German Shepherd Ralph, who had to be nursed back to health after months of neglect. They now all have bright futures ahead of them with their new owners who give them everything they could possibly want. Our Ambassador Dame Jacqueline Wilson and close friend of the Home, Craig Revel Horwood helped introduce roof-raising performances from classical singer Camilla Kerslake and music legend Bryan Ferry who topped off a wonderful evening. Everyone dug deep into their pockets and made the event the most successful fundraising night yet, raising thousands of pounds for our animals. We are forever grateful for their support and generosity.

Following in Mary Tealby's footsteps

Last year Battersea did our own *Who Do You Think You Are?* researching the family tree of our Founder, Mary Tealby, to see if there are any living descendants. Mary died childless, as did two of her siblings, but we were absolutely fascinated to discover a whole chain of relatives descended from her only other brother, some living in Australia and Canada, but many in the UK too.

Letters were sent off to these family members to tell them of their Battersea connection and in January we were thrilled to welcome Mary's great great grandnieces Jill Button and Jean Kennedy, and Jean's daughter Imogen, who coincidentally lives in Battersea. We treated the family to a special tour of our London centre and a look through our history files.

Imogen says: "My mother, Aunt and I were all made to feel so very special and we feel incredibly proud of our connection to Battersea. You all do such a fantastic job! It was really super to see the whole site and to look through all the wonderful archives." We know we've made some lasting friendships and Mary's legacy certainly continues at Battersea.

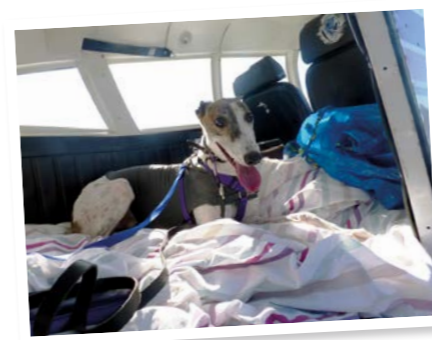


Mary Tealby's descendants at our London centre

Tearful reunion

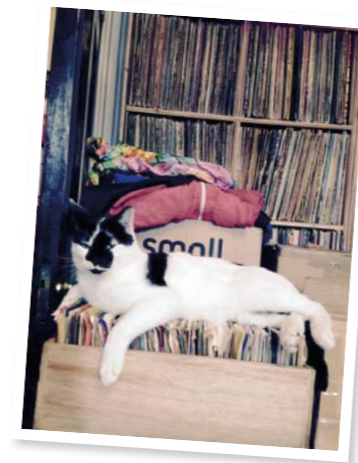
Lola the Jack Russell was found wandering on her own in Surrey by a member of the public and brought straight to Battersea Old Windsor. Staff scanned her and found a microchip and called a very surprised Janet Gwillim from Ashford in Kent, who dropped everything to collect her four-legged friend. Travelling the 60 miles from her home, Janet was over the moon to be reunited with her beloved dog who she explained had been stolen from her farm last September. Who knows where the four-year old had been all that time, but the pair got straight to work making up for lost time.

Rehoming news



PATCH

Not many pampered pooches can say that they've been flown by private jet! Well beautiful Patch the ex-racer Greyhound can. He finally headed off to his new Channel Island home in Jersey where he's now settled with retired couple Malcolm and Gail Hickmott. Patch, who was a long-stayer at Battersea Old Windsor, certainly won't be lonely with a family of 15 Greyhounds to keep him company! "Things are going really well. We can't understand why no one wanted Patch, he's such a wonderful dog," says Malcolm.



MOZART

FIV boy Splodge found a stack of LPs as his perfect snooze perch in his new indoor home at Soul Jazz Records in Soho. Renamed Mozart, (why, of course!) this four-year old stray has a bit of a musical streak as we heard from new owner Angela Scott that he loves nothing more than tinkering on the old ivories!

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



Marjorie was used for back-to-back litters before being abandoned in London

Success for our Backstreet Breeding campaign

Paws readers may recall the Government was moving towards supporting our calls to tackle backstreet breeding at the Conservative Party Conference event last October. Now the full extent of its plans and support has become clear. The Government has published a public consultation document arguing that the time is right to tear up the ineffective way that breeders are regulated and start again. Battersea and our supporters and partners made the case for change and the Government is listening.

We have been left in no doubt that the sheer number of Battersea supporters who have been contacting their MPs and asking them to press the case for change has been crucial. Across 649 out of 650 UK constituencies in the House of Commons, over 21,000 people have taken the time and effort to ask their MP for support. This is the first time Battersea has asked our friends and supporters to push for change for our dogs and cats and we have been taken aback by how many people really care for the victims of backstreet breeding.

We would like to see a total ban on the sale of puppies under eight weeks of age and a breeding licence to be required from the second litter. The Government has agreed that the loopholes allowing unsocialised puppies to be sold to dealers and pet shops and then on to the public must be closed. It has also agreed that the current system of licensing sets the threshold too high. There is also an offer to rewrite the standards for breeders,

which have not been properly revisited in many years. These measures, if adopted, can start to change the culture of dog breeding, from breeders to dealers and make the terrible cases of neglect and wilful abuse we have seen come into Battersea a thing of the past.

We will keep Paws readers up-to-date on any new developments on our backstreet breeding campaign.

Read more at battersea.org.uk/endbackstreetbreeding



Cats on the agenda

MP for Sherwood and campaigner for animal welfare, Mark Spencer, popped into Battersea in January and visited the Cattery to get a real sense of the welfare challenges and key issues facing us every day. Mark, an animal lover and an advocate for cats, has secured debates in Parliament on various cat issues including extending the sentences for animal cruelty in relation to crimes involving deliberate cat poisoning with anti-freeze.



Claire Horton accepting the award on behalf of Battersea

Everyone's a winner

Thanks to generous players of People's Postcode Lottery, Battersea has been awarded £200,000 which in part will go towards recruiting new foster carers who will look after the most vulnerable and stressed animals in our care. Dogs like four-year-old Staffie-cross Lucy are already benefiting from time out in a loving temporary foster home. She quickly stole the hearts of staff with her sweet and gentle personality, despite arriving at the London centre in a sorry state with extensive hair loss on her back, bad teeth and in need of a knee operation. With this award, individuals and families fostering a Battersea dog or cat will receive a fostering pack, branded t-shirts and uniforms plus a rucksack filled with everything they need to care for the animal including leads, bedding, blankets, toys and food.

This vital funding injection from the People's Postcode

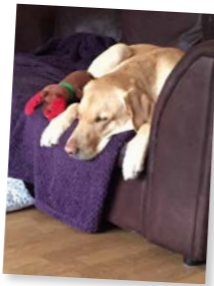
Lottery will also be used to recruit hundreds more volunteers who will support all areas of the Home – from socialising our animals to walking our dogs and answering calls from the public.

Battersea's Head of Volunteering, Charlotte Fielder, says: "This incredible funding will give our volunteering and fostering work a real boost and allow Battersea to continue its dedicated work helping thousands of dogs and cats that come through the Home's doors every year. We encourage our volunteers to get involved in all that we do here at Battersea and we truly value their breath-taking commitment in the extraordinary things they do for us. We simply couldn't do what we do without them."

If you would like more information on how you can be involved, visit battersea.org.uk/foster or battersea.org.uk/volunteer

YOUR TERRIFIC TWEETS @BDCH

We love seeing pictures of your four-legged friends on Twitter, especially when they're relaxing at the weekend along with their owners! #SleepySundays



"Alfie is managing to take #SleepySundays in his stride!" @sturdygirl76



"Our ex-Battersea resident enjoying her #SleepySundays. Mind you every day is a sleepy day for her." @colinwebster56



"Chrysta our Golden Retriever relaxing with her babies!" @Seasideboy1968



Left Chris with dogs Willow and Whippet



Marley and me

Michelle McFetridge from Peckham was overjoyed when she was reunited with her Staffie, Marley, after he had been missing for two months. Marley was found sitting on a doorstep looking very lost and confused and so was brought into our London centre at the end of January, where our Lost & Found team scanned him for a microchip.

The following morning a surprised Michelle arrived to be reunited with her four-legged friend and Marley was very excited to see her too!

Michelle says: "I'm stunned he's at Battersea; I thought I was never going to see him again. He's been on a bit of a journey too it would seem, having ended up in Westminster."

The new compulsory microchipping law comes into force on 6 April and Michelle's story is a great reminder of why all owners should make sure their dog is chipped and that their information is up-to-date.

See page 24 for more information on the new microchipping legislation

Buckets of love

Our volunteers asked commuters to dig deep in their pockets at Richmond station and that they did in bucket loads – a whopping £1,103 was raised! Foster carer Chris McLean was joined by volunteers Richard Snell, Michael Kay (and his dog, Barry), Ben Fairthorne, Leah Milner, Rachel Edwards and Andrea Conway for the fundraising drive. Thanks to everyone involved.

Rehoming news



HARRY

Mongrel puppy Harry arrived at our Battersea centre in early December as his owner became homeless. His boundless energy and heart of gold quickly won everyone over, including the Carter family from Chessington, Surrey, who fell head over heels in love and brought him home. "He's gentle with our 17-month old son and they are a comedy act together. It feels like we've always had him," says Emma. Judging by this photo, mischievous Harry enjoys a mud bath on his walks too!



AMELIA

Poor Amelia (formerly Ophelia) didn't much like cattery life and spent most of her time hiding at the back of her pen. That was until Stephanie and Tom Kalber came to visit her. "She purred when I leaned in and stroked her, so we gave her that chance," says Stephanie. "Within two minutes of opening the carrier at home she shot out and under the sofa. But by the end of the first evening she had completely claimed her kingdom!"

She can be found wherever there is a radiator, a cupboard, or a mirror as she loves to look at herself."

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

Events

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

Tough Mudder

From 30 April 2016

The Tough Mudder 12-mile (19km) obstacle courses are the ultimate hardcore challenge and have been designed by the Special Forces to test your strength, stamina and mental grit. You'll face obstacles including fire walks, ice baths and electric shocks, so it's not for the faint-hearted! Events run throughout the UK in 2016, starting in London on 30 April.

To find out more visit battersea.org.uk/toughmudder



BOW Fun Day

2 July 2016

Save the date for our annual fun day at our Old Windsor site. Taking place on Saturday 2 July, this family day out includes games and competitions for humans and dogs alike, food stalls and children's games.

Email events@battersea.org.uk or call 020 7627 9339



Muddy Dog Challenge

7 & 21 May 2016

If you enjoy competing with your dog over obstacles and relish the opportunity to get caked in mud for charity then this event is definitely for you! There are two specially-designed courses of 2.5km or 5km in length at London's Brockwell Park on 7 May or Windsor Great Park on 21 May and you can enter as a team, as a pair or by yourself. Last year's fun and frolics raised a whopping £40,000 for the Home so sign up now to help us smash this record in 2016.

Register at battersea.org.uk/muddydog

Tea Party

27 May 2016

Why not bake up a storm and hold your very own Ruff 'n' Ready or Purr-fect tea party in aid of Battersea? Take part at home, or recruit your work colleagues and make your lunch hour the biggest cakefest ever!

See more about this event on p19 or visit battersea.org.uk/teaparty

Skydiving

All year round

Jumping out of an aeroplane at 10,000 feet and freefalling at 120mph is music to the ears of an adrenalin junky! There are three types of skydive that you can take part in to help Battersea: Tandem, Static Line or Accelerated Freefall, depending on your ability, level of training and minimum sponsorship. Do you dare?

Email events@battersea.org.uk or call 020 7627 9339

Good luck!

Good luck to our teams in the Brighton Marathon on 17 April and the London Marathon on 24 April. We are so proud of all your hard work and can't wait to see you on the day! If you want to take on a running challenge for Battersea we have places available in the Royal Parks Foundation Half Marathon.

Find out more at battersea.org.uk/royalparkshalfmarathon



Dexter saved the life of his owner

Super dog Dexter

Former Battersea Brands Hatch resident Dexter the Patterdale Terrier is being hailed as a hero after saving the life of his new owner, Iain Rowland. They were both out for their morning run in the park when Iain was stung by a bee, which resulted in him going into anaphylactic shock and collapsing unconscious. Courageous Dexter swung into action running back and forth and barking frantically to help draw attention, which thankfully didn't go unnoticed by a passing dog walker who was able to call for an ambulance. Luckily Iain made a full recovery.

Dexter's heroic act came just three months after he'd been rehomed to the Rowlands. Iain says: "We are so proud of Dexter and we have a lot to thank him for. He has more than demonstrated his loyalty to us and we are so glad we decided to come to Battersea Brands Hatch to rehome another rescue dog – Dexter is now the third we have rehomed from Battersea since 1995."

LIKE!
 We brought to your attention the plight of loveable Bud, a seven-year old Greyhound Collie cross, who has spent two long years in our care waiting for a new home.

"He looks like a lovely chap, can't understand why he has been overlooked; paws crossed for a lovely home soon."

"Gorgeous boy. Hope he finds the perfect home soon, bless him."

"Poor baby – I'd have them all if I could! Give him a loving home please, they all deserve the best."



In memory of Stella

Battersea supporter Lisa-Marie Stairs marked a year since the loss of her dog Stella by climbing London's O2 Arena along with her friend, Rachel Edwards who volunteers at Battersea Old Windsor. The adrenalin-fuelled duo raised a fantastic £810 towards our work, which exceeded the amount of donations they had hoped to receive. Lisa says: "We're looking at our next challenge for this wonderful, deserving cause. Miss you Stella Bear; that one was for you!"



It was a trip down memory lane for Mrs Stephenson

Battersea bond

For most people it's hard to imagine what our Battersea centre used to look like in the '50s, but Mrs Stephenson remembers the place well; back then her father David Bond was Head Keeper and she used to visit him at work as a child. She recently travelled from her home in Hertfordshire to take a look around and reminisce with her family and was taken aback by how much the London site has changed.

A nice surprise for Mrs Stephenson was seeing a photograph from the archives proudly displayed in our café which features her father. Her journey wasn't just a trip down memory lane as she also registered her details with our Rehoming Department in the hope of finding the perfect doggy match.

Community spirit

Until she felt that she had become too unsteady to care properly for an animal, Irene Adgie always had a dog and a cat – her last pet being an Irish Water Spaniel named Mitzi. Her great love of animals prompted her to leave a half share of her estate in her Will to Battersea, a charity that she had "great respect" for, to which we are completely honoured.

Mrs Adgie's husband died in 1975 and the couple did not have any children, nevertheless she had many friends and was a pillar of her local community being active in the church and helping the children to read at her local primary school. On her retirement from the Probation Service, she delivered Meals on Wheels to those in later life until driving became a burden.

As Executor of her Will, Judith Kennard and her husband John were invited by our Legacies team to Battersea for a special guided tour and a plaque in Mrs Adgie's memory will be put up on site.

For information about remembering the Home in your Will or appointing Battersea to act as your Executor, call 020 7627 9300 Alternatively visit battersea.org.uk/giftsinwills



Irene Adgie as a young girl with her family dog

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Proudly Supporting



(Registered Charity No. 206394)



Frontline Care

Battersea has seen real transformation since 2010. Through generous supporters' help we have unveiled a new cattery, intake kennels and now we are in the process of building a ground-breaking Vet Hospital.



Battersea aims to never turn away an animal in need. Our non-selective intake policy means we don't cherry-pick the animals we want to help or discriminate on breed, behaviour, health or age, meaning that we are so often the last chance for many neglected, sick, abused and injured lost souls.

If only the 8,500 distressed and confused bundles of fur that arrive at Battersea each year could understand that they have come to the right place, where love and compassion go hand-in-hand with dedication and expertise. We will never give up on them, we will treat them with respect and we will give them the best possible care they deserve, when they ask for so little in return.

“Our new facilities will be the first place that many animals experience at Battersea”

BUILDING HOPE

With thousands of dogs and cats coming through our gates every year frequently with health problems, the ever-increasing level of demand on our modest London clinic means we are working beyond our limits. The Home's 32 veterinary staff who care for each animal as if it was their own, struggle with the lack of space in consulting rooms and just two operating theatres where they perform around 70 operations a week. Without a dedicated dental suite, these types of procedures take up valuable time in the operating theatre too.

The animals' health and wellbeing is always our utmost priority, but the existing recovery wards are vulnerable to infections such as kennel cough and cat flu and are also noisy and overcrowded. Something had to be done urgently and so we set out our vision to build a brand new Vet Hospital

How you can help

£10

will help pay for a specialised blanket for our sick animals to snuggle into and feel comforted

£25

will feed an orphaned kitten nourishing baby milk for seven weeks

£50

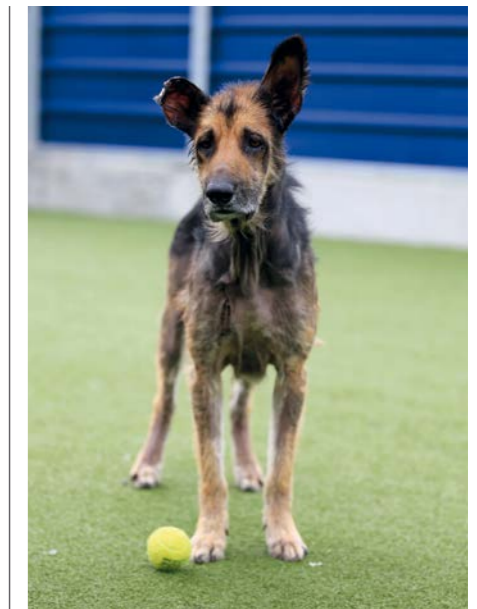
will pay for eight digital thermometers, giving our vets an accurate and early sign that an animal is sick and needs treatment

£100

will go towards a Bair Hugger unit which helps to keep an animal's body temperature warm during surgery, speeding up recovery time

If you would like to speak to the team about how your support could help the hospital, please call Supporter Services on 020 7627 7883 or visit battersea.org.uk/vethospitalappeal

Left Veterinary staff involved in a routine spay
Below An architect's impression of the new Vet Hospital's entrance



Ralph the German Shepherd arrived in a sorry state

which would be the largest of its kind in a rescue centre in the UK.

Our new facilities will be the first place that many dogs and cats experience at Battersea. Dogs like poor Ralph; he was found wandering the streets of London in a really bad way with almost all of his fur missing. Despite suffering from pyoderma, a nasty bacterial infection which made the skin on his emaciated body dry and inflamed and very sore to touch, this four-year old German Shepherd's sweet and trusting personality still shone through.

If his skin condition wasn't bad enough, Ralph also had to contend with major ear problems. We can't even start to imagine the amount of pain and suffering he must have endured before being scooped up and cared for by Battersea's staff who worked hard to get him back on his feet. Thankfully Ralph has found his happy ending and has been rehomed by his foster carer in Orpington.

“The animals' health and wellbeing is always our utmost priority, but the existing recovery wards are vulnerable to infections and are noisy and overcrowded”

BIG HEARTS

Construction work on the new Vet Hospital started in early 2015 on the South London site, but there is still a long way to go to fund the rest of the £5.3 million to ensure that Battersea remains the standard bearer for animal care long into the future. With no Government funding, we are fully reliant on our generous supporters, fundraisers and benefactors to help build our dream and allow us to treat more animals like Ralph (pictured above).

This exciting project will see three top-spec operating theatres with 33% more space for us to perform over 100 →





procedures a week, along with a dedicated dental suite to care for the 80% of animals that arrive with problem teeth.

Shaun Opperman, Battersea's Veterinary Director for the last 24 years, says: "The new dental suite is something we are really excited about – we currently have to do dentals in the same area we anaesthetise our animals. When you're prepping up a dog for sterile surgery on the next table it's not ideal to have that sort of contamination."

There will also be a dedicated laboratory for in-house tests and an imaging suite to speed up diagnosis and treatment. "We have to perform a lot of x-rays alongside ultrasounds and endoscopies here, not least because most of the animals come in without a history," adds Shaun. Brand new sound-proofed recovery wards with separate space for dogs and cats, four isolation kennels for dogs with highly contagious viruses such as parvo and dedicated cat flu wards and intensive care areas will transform the lives of the animals in our care.

ROUND-THE-CLOCK CARE

Hygiene and infection control is vital in the new Vet Hospital so a medical-grade hospital finish on the walls and floors will help with infection control. A new specialised ventilation system with temperature control means we can keep animals warm when they are under anaesthetic as they lack the ability to control their own body temperature.

Every aspect of this brand new facility is designed to speed up treatment and recovery and give each and every rescue dog and cat a chance of a new life as quickly as possible. Shaun says: "Length of stay is critical, so I hope by having this new Hospital we'll be able to help more animals."

Animals like Matilda the tabby cat. She was just one of the 1,025 stray felines that find their way to Battersea each year and needed our veterinary attention. Although she had survived three weeks on her own roaming back gardens before being brought to us in a cardboard box, she



FACTS AND FIGURES

4,728

Operations took place at Battersea London and Old Windsor last year, of which 3,058 were neuters

74

Average number of dentals per week

70

Average number of operations per week

39

Veterinary staff work across the three centres

Above A mock-up of what our new Clinic Hub will be like in our new facility
Below Golden oldie Matilda needed our expert care on arrival at Battersea



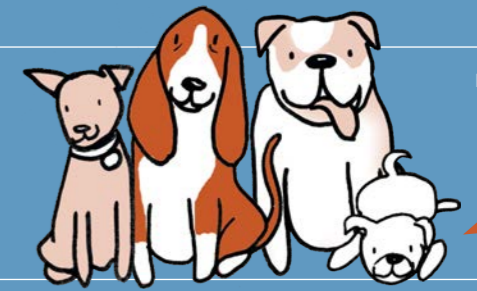
was underweight and suffering with bad teeth, matted fur and had battle scars on her nose, but more concerning were the tumours on her neck, chin and paw.

Despite the discomfort she must have been in, and being a little hard of hearing, the Clinic and Cattery staff were taken aback by her affectionate and gentle personality – Matilda still craved human company and just wanted to be loved. Estimated to be around 11 years old, she recovered from the operations she badly needed, although blood test results showed that she had the early stages of kidney disease and would need renal support for the rest of her life.

Matilda deserved a special indoor home and after 38 days in our care, she found that with a couple in London. Without the Clinic's specialist care and persistence, Matilda might not have been so lucky.

Changing the lives of dogs and cats for the better is what Battersea does best and with your support we will be able to help even more with our first-rate facilities. What's for sure is that exciting times lie ahead. 🐾

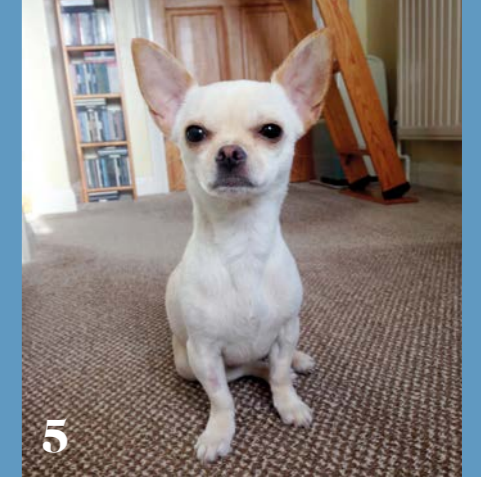
Dog gallery



PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

waggle
pets

Snoozing, playing and sunbathing – we all know that dogs do it best – and here's just a few photos to prove it! You can read many more Happy Endings at battersea.org.uk/doghappyendings



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Get 50% discount on your first month's membership by using code 'PAWS50' at wagglepets.com



- 1 Scruffy, from Sarah Woodward
- 2 Prince, from Alistair Smith
- 3 Jed, from Katy Stephens and family
- 4 Molly, from Sally Tiernan
- 5 Lola, from Rachel Currie
- 6 Charlie, from Eloise Bachelet

Please send us your high-resolution pictures by email (minimum 1MB in size) 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.



As Easter is upon us and an array of chocolate eggs are bound to be consumed, it's time to get active... let us inspire you with some calorie-burning fun activities that you can do with your dog.

Get some Pets-ercise!

Dogs have a wonderful way of motivating us to exercise by reminding us when their 'walkies' are due. Come rain or shine, our responsibility is to keep our canines healthy and active with the upside it keeps us in rude health too.

Regular physical activity, even just a burst of 20 minutes a day, is known to reduce the chances of developing Type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, depression and dementia. As well as keeping our dogs' weight in check, a twice daily walk can provide them with mental stimulation and the chance to burn off all that pent-up energy.

JOGGING WITH YOUR DOG

It's always a good idea to build up your exercise regime slowly and to have an end goal in mind. For your first week, try combining a mixture of warm up walking for five minutes, followed by one minute of jogging and three minutes walking (the latter cycle to be repeated eight times each session), with a cool down walk at the end. By week five aim to be doing four minutes jogging with two minutes walking, with a warm up and cool down session.

For the more adventurous with a higher fitness level, there's Canicross

off-road running. Said to be the perfect exercise all-rounder, it involves attaching a specially-designed 2-metre bungee line from a waistbelt to a padded harness for your dog. Beginners are encouraged to join a local Canicross club and start with walking first (known as Canimarching) before progressing onto running at their own pace. When you've got the knack there's the opportunity to progress on to intermediate level – running a 5km route – up to advanced which is for those wishing to take part in organised longer distances with their canine partners. **Check out canicross.org.uk for more details.**

If you're looking for another challenge, how about this: Battersea's Muddy Dog Challenge 2016. It's the perfect way to raise much-needed funds for dogs and cats in our care, while having fun negotiating a specially-designed obstacle course that's guaranteed to get both paws and feet thoroughly soggy!

This year's events take place at Brockwell Park in London on 7 May, or 21 May at Windsor Great Park, Berkshire and there is the option to choose from a 2.5km or 5km route. As well as jumping over tyres and scampering up and over an A-frame, last year's inaugural London event saw 223 competitors and 161 dogs crawl under cargo nets and wade through mud pits. Their combined efforts raised money that is already being used towards helping the thousands of animals that come through our doors each year.

You can register and find out more by visiting battersea.org.uk/muddydog

DOG AGILITY

Battersea has proved that a rescue dog of any breed and size can thoroughly enjoy leaping through hoops, running through tunnels and weaving their way between poles against the clock. The Home formed an agility team nine years ago led by Ali Taylor, Head of Canine Behaviour and Training, which regularly competes at Crufts. One of the well-known former stars of the canine team is seven-year old Chihuahua Nancy who Ali rehomed after she was found abandoned in an alleyway suffering from severe sarcoptic mange, before being nursed back to health.

Agility has given several other former Battersea dogs a whole new lease of life, like Terrier Widget who was adopted as a youngster and has now been competing for the past six years, reaching agility grade six out of seven. Agility is a wonderful way of channelling a dog's energy into something positive and fun; an internet search will show if there are classes in your area.



Training tips with your dog

-  Wait until your dog is a year old before starting an exercise regime
-  Consult with your vet for advice on length of time and intensity of the exercise
-  Remember the amount of exercise a dog needs changes between breed and size
-  Slowly increase your regime if your dog is overweight or in their senior years
-  Always exercise at cooler times of the day and keep an eye on your dog for signs of fatigue
-  Take water for both yourself and your canine friend to stay hydrated during exercise

HEELWORK TO MUSIC

We all love a dancing dog, right? The rise in its popularity is partly thanks to *Britain's Got Talent* when Ashleigh and dog Pudsey danced their way into the nation's hearts in 2012, but three years before this a Battersea rescue dog had her five minutes of fame on the stage. Little Staffie-cross Tippy Toes danced with her owner Jackie Prescott and reached the semi-finals of the contest. If your dog responds to training commands and enjoys interaction and you like a bit of a boogie, give it a go! There are a number of training clubs across the country and if you get the bug you can always enter Heelwork to Music competitions.

Taking the heelwork element of competition to a whole new level is a new doggy exercise called rally. A pre-set course marked out by signs is defined along a route and dog owners have to demonstrate that their four-legged friend can stay glued to their side throughout. Competitors start each round with a perfect score of 200 points and deductions are made by judges for any mistakes. There are six levels to work through and range from heelwork, recall and commands, all set to help demonstrate the bond you have with your dog. Give some pets-ercise a go. It might be the start of something new. 🐾



YOGA WITH DOGS?!

A new world record was set in Hong Kong on 16 January where 270 canines and their yoga-loving owners gathered for a 30-minute yoga class.



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Little Paws

FOR JUNIOR SUPPORTERS OF
BATTERSEA DOGS & CATS HOME

STORIES
GAMES
FUN

LOVE AND ATTENTION

Just like you, we cats want love and attention too. Although we are often more independent than dogs, we still enjoy being stroked and fussed over so you should spend some time every day giving your cat some attention.

Keep all interactions with your cat short and sweet. Always allow them to move away if they want to - they should never feel 'trapped' by you.

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



TOP TIPS

Grooming or playing with your cat will help to make them feel loved and wanted - especially if you make it a pleasurable experience for both of you.

Try to give your cat attention and praise when they are being good. If naughty simply walk away and ignore.



Win a Battersea 100-piece puzzle!



Victoria and Rupert



Poppy and Tilly



Ruby and Alfie

Selfies Competition

Take a photo of yourself with your family dog or cat and send it to Little Paws and the best one will win a Battersea Jason Chapman illustrated cartoon puzzle! What are you waiting for? Get snapping! Send your selfies to littlepaws@battersea.org.uk



WIN THIS PUZZLE!

A fun, muddy obstacle race whether you have two or four legs

Muddy Dog Challenge 2016

Saturday 7 May
Brockwell Park, SE24

Saturday 21 May
Windsor Great Park, SL4

Sign up now at battersea.org.uk/MuddyDog
call 020 7627 9339 or email events@battersea.org.uk

Registered charity No. 206394 © Battersea Dogs & Cats Home 2016

Little
paws



What kind of cats like to go bowling?
ALLEY CATS!



Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs super fan Mya Best had a day to remember at our London centre when she visited with her parents and older brother. Six-year old Mya has been battling serious illness and spends a lot of time in hospital, so her Nana arranged the special day out so that she could meet some of our dogs and cats, cuddle some kittens in the cattery and enjoy some birthday cake! Here's brave Mya with Bernard the puppy and our gift of a giant teddy bear.



Emily Elderfield received one of our fundraising leaflets and was determined to raise money for Battersea Dogs & Cats Home. Clever Emily decided to decorate a selection of stones and she raised a fabulous £46.88 which she gave to her local centre at Old Windsor.

Reader thanks



Weird but true

DOGS HAVE TWICE AS MANY MUSCLES FOR MOVING THEIR EARS AS PEOPLE DO

Eight-year old Ellen Jenkins pictured here alongside volunteer Angela Briggs and Staffie Esmay, kindly saved up a month's worth of pocket money so that she could donate it to help care for the animals at our Brands Hatch Centre. Ellen paid the site a visit and brought with her a huge bag of dog and cat treats too!



THANKS GUYS!

Animal loving year 8 students from Hurlingham Academy School in Fulham surprised the staff at our London Battersea Centre with a hand-delivered donation for the animals spending time there over the festive period. The large hamper of goodies was filled with all kinds of treats and toys with a note thanking the staff for all their hard work throughout the year.

Little Paws Letters

CUDDLE MONSTER!

I didn't know we were getting a kitten to live with us in our new house until my mummy and daddy told me in the taxi to Battersea and I was really excited as it was only the day after my birthday! We chose Sprite (who we renamed Nima) and he was just nine weeks old. As soon as we got him home he started exploring immediately and settled in at once.

The next day I had my birthday party and afterwards I fell asleep with Nima in my arms. He likes to curl up with me quite often and purr loudly! Nima likes to bed hop in the night so we all get the chance to have him with us. Recently we took him to my little brother Phillip's nursery and showed him off - he was very popular! We love him very much.
From Alicia (aged 5)

Host the Pawfect Tea Party

Are you a dedicated doggy person or confirmed cat convert? We're calling on animal lovers who can't resist a slice of cake and a natter with friends to pick a side and host a RUFF 'n' Ready or PURR-fect Tea Party on the 27 May in aid of Battersea.

You don't have to be a baking expert to take part or the self-appointed King or Queen of the kitchen, as it's about having fun and raising money for our four-legged friends that count. Why not make an afternoon of it?

Battersea volunteer Tracy Axten who has three rescue Rotties: Freddie, Lottie and Dizzy Rascal, was inspired to hold a RUFF 'n' Ready Tea Party. "We are keen supporters of Battersea and we also love cake!" she laughs. "We planned an outdoor event where the dogs would be centre stage." Tracy put her thinking cap on and recruited her friends who run a canine training school and they encouraged their dog class attendees to join in. "They secured the venue for us at a local farm kennels so we had a fantastic environment for the dogs to play and take part in agility, scurrying and a fun dog show," says Tracy. "We also invited friends and family who supported the event and donated some fantastic raffle prizes. We were lucky to have the services of our good friends who are professional photographers and they took some pictures of the dogs on the day too."

Tracy's RUFF 'n' Ready Tea Party raised a superb £500 in total from a £10



donation entry fee per person, donation buckets on the cake table and at each activity. She adds: "It was great to raise so much money. The highlight was seeing the dogs have so much fun, especially as so many of them were rescue dogs from Battersea."

Are your work colleagues dog lovers or feline fanatics? You could always hold a Tea Party at work and ask staff to vote on a cat or dog theme. Maybe Janet in the post room has a talent for making the best Victoria sponge or Craig in finance is a dab-hand at cheesecake. You'll never know unless you get everyone on board, send out invites and use your lunch hour as the perfect opportunity to hold the best Tea Party ever!

Register for your free tea party kit
battersea.org.uk/teaparty
020 7627 9327

Sarah Wilson, who organised a Tea Party for her team at work, comments: "It was easy to do and fun; all the staff got involved in baking and we held a raffle to raise some extra cash for Battersea. My highlight was asking everyone to vote on the theme. Dogs won, but I'm hoping cats will win the vote this year."

Once you've registered for your free Tea Party kit you'll be able to download our fun games such as 'pin the hat on the cat' to provide entertainment for your guests and you'll receive bunting and cake flags. You could boost your donations by holding a raffle or an auction and offer a prize for the best cat or dog-themed cake.

Every pound that you raise from your RUFF 'n' Ready or PURR-fect Tea Party goes towards caring for the thousands of dogs and cats that need our help every year. So what are you waiting for? Sign up and get ready to party like a dog or a cat for Battersea! 🐾



RUFF 'n' Ready

PURR-fect





Friends for Life

At the end of last year, Battersea launched the *Who Needs Who?* campaign to discover the mutual benefits of adopting a rescue animal. *Paws* catches up with some happy endings and finds out how the new owners' lives have changed for the better.

People want to adopt a new pet from Battersea for all sorts of reasons, but at the forefront of their minds is being able to give a rescue animal from their favourite charity that much-needed second chance.

There is a longing for the kind of companionship and forever love that only a four-legged friend can provide, knowing that no matter how bad a day they've had there is always a friendly face waiting for them at home. Nothing can raise the spirits quite as much as an excitable wag of the tail at the door and the nuzzle of a warm wet nose or indeed the purr of a contented cat; it's pure, unconditional love.

“Her unconditional love for me is amazing”

BEST FRIENDS

For Brother Barnabas-Francis MacPhail, getting a Battersea dog has been nothing short of life changing.

“My psychiatrist prescribed me a dog in November 2013 to help with my depression and anxiety and I eventually got round to adopting seven-year old Leila the Jack Russell on 15 September 2014,” he says candidly.

“Leila chose me and so my job is to make sure she has a loving, caring, healthy and supportive home with good food, lots of exercise and fun times.”

The pair became instantly inseparable. For Barnabas-Francis, having the responsibility of another living being to care for brought a new sense of life to his existence. “Pre-Leila, my flat was just somewhere I slept and hid from the world. Now it's our home where we are both safe and it's a base to go out and explore,” he explains.

The dark days are far from his memory now, since Leila arrived. Her important role is to get him out of the house every

day, regardless of his mood or emotional state – and she enforces this routine extremely well. Barnabas-Francis is up at 7am for breakfast, before heading out to the park via a friend's house to collect their dog, Buddy. Two to three hours are wiled away walking in the park, while the doggy twosome chase tennis balls, play with other canine friends and enjoy investigating interesting smells. Later on, Leila usually has an evening play-date with her other friend, Husky-cross Sirius.

Barnabas-Francis has not only discovered the mental health benefits of adopting a Battersea dog which has been crucial to his recovery, but also getting regular exercise has meant he's lost over four stone in weight. He adds: “My friends have commented on how they've seen a change in me. I appear more chilled and come across relaxed and less stressed. My fitness has improved and my body shape has changed for the better.”

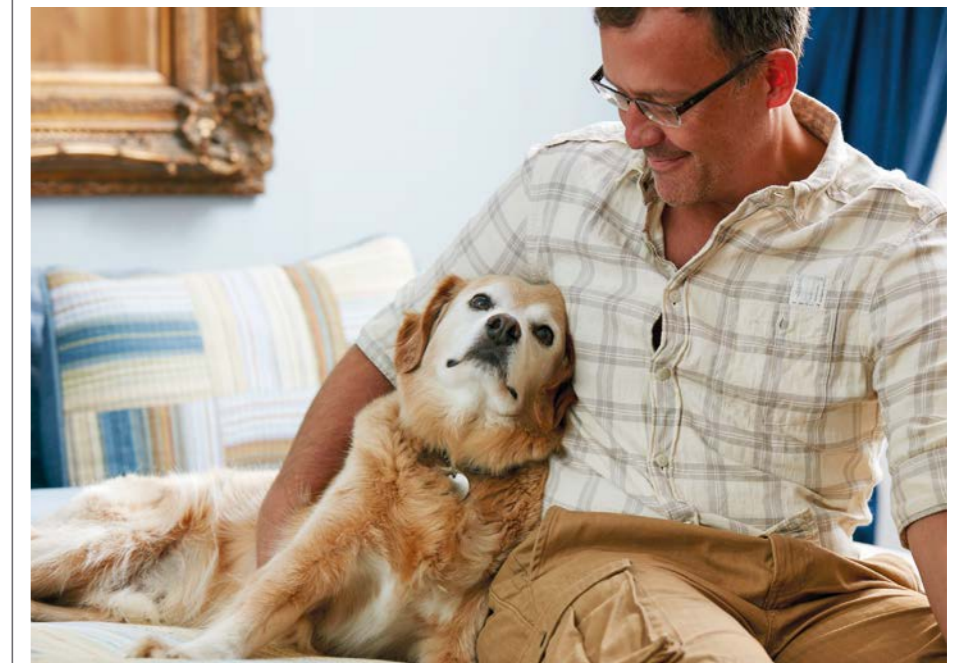
On the odd occasion that he goes out without Leila, there is always the same homecoming ritual. “I am allowed to put my bag down and take my coat off and then I have to sit on the sofa for about five minutes while she licks my face. Most afternoons we have a snooze on the bed and she cuddles up close too. Her unconditional love for me is amazing.”

THE PERFECT PAIR

After settling down and moving to a place with their own private garden in Queens Park, London, giving a rescue dog a new home was firmly on the agenda for Glenn Scrivens and Shaun Flanagan.

“I hadn't seen many dogs that I thought suitable after a year or so of monitoring rescue sites, so I wanted to visit Battersea to prove this point to Shaun, using the visit to bolster my argument to get a Golden Doodle.” Glenn was soon proved wrong!

One Sunday, on the way to dinner at a friend's house, they called into →



Above Brother Barnabas-Francis's life has been changed with the arrival of Leila
Right Shaun with laid back Benjy



Battersea. "Five hours and one cancelled dinner party later, we brought home two perfect, loving dogs!" he laughs; the ideal match being nine-year old mongrel siblings, Benjy and Juno. "They are a great team, but have completely different characters and evenly balance each other out. Benjy is a bit dopey, laid back and enormously clumsy, while Juno is smart, sensitive and agile. The basic joy of having them around and interacting in our daily lives is something that I cherish."

Having made the conscious decision to adopt two older dogs, Glenn and Shaun are more aware of making every moment precious. In the early days of ownership while hanging out in the local dog park they were confronted with their worst fears. "Someone had left the gate open and they escaped," remembers Glenn. "It was then we realised how attached we had become and how big our responsibility is to keep them from harm. I think in that moment we became parents!"

This gut-wrenching moment proved to Glenn and Shaun that their relationship with their dogs goes more than just skin deep – they definitely all need each other. After a long hard day at work Glenn comes home as Shaun returns from Benjy and Juno's afternoon walk and closes up his home office so they can all flop on the sofa.

"There's no better way to end the day than with their dopey loving faces asking for attention and to de-stress from the day's worries with cuddles. Benjy and

“ The basic joy of having them around and interacting in our daily lives is something that I cherish ”

Above Glenn and Shaun chilling out in the garden with their best friends
Below Jack the cat has settled quickly into his new life with the O'Sullivan's



Juno just make us laugh and put things into priority."

TWO'S COMPANY

The O'Sullivan family from South East London had really wanted some feline company for a while. When the opportunity arose to adopt sibling cats Jack and Clara from Battersea, they jumped at the chance. Children Conor, age 11 and Alec, age nine, felt that they were meant to be theirs from the first time they saw them. "They settled in so quickly, it was as if they'd always been here!" says mum, Jo. "They are good companions and always join the boys in the garden when they are playing – they're fun to be around and very chatty. Now we would feel incomplete without Jack and Clara."

The cats have helped the children in so many ways. Jack likes to keep the boys company as they drift off to sleep and is extra-attentive when they are upset. Clara on the other hand often sits on their laps after school. In fact mum Jo has noticed that the boys fight less now as the cats are a good distraction – stroking and playing with them has a calming effect. "We need the cats as much as they need us," she adds. 🐾

The Who Needs Who? campaign has proved that the mutual benefits of adopting rescue animals are priceless. To find out more about rehoming a Battersea cat or dog, visit battersea.org.uk/rehoming

Cat gallery

We love seeing photos of your happy moggies relaxing, exploring and getting up to mischief in their new homes. We've squeezed in a few snapshots here, but you can see many more Happy Endings at battersea.org.uk/cathappyendings



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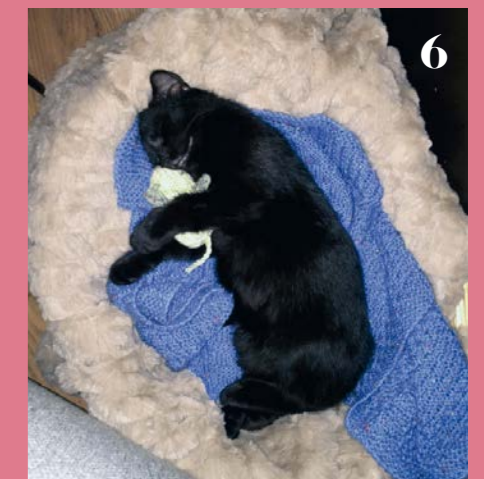
3



4



5



6

- 1 Issey, from Elizabeth Capper
- 2 Lola (was Grace), from Jeanette Tennant
- 3 Rey (was Quaker), from Jo Goodchild
- 4 Cristel, from Paula Jensen
- 5 Gretel, from Sybil Griffiths
- 6 Steve, from Felicity Thistlethwaite

Please send us your high-resolution pictures by email (minimum 1MB in size) 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.

Chipping in

By the 6 April of this year all dogs in England, Scotland and Wales must by law be microchipped. We speak to some experts to answer your questions.



All dogs rehomed by our charity are microchipped to ensure you and your new best friend are protected should you lose one another, and this simple procedure is offered free of charge by Battersea and several other animal charities to any dog owner.

Battersea reunited 1,134 dogs with their anxious owners last year, including Mary, a one-year old Jack Russell Terrier who arrived at our London gates as a stray on Christmas Day. To see the sheer relief on the faces of those owners and the excitement of the dogs jumping into their owners arms with a wagging tail is priceless. Yet, for hundreds of stray dogs in 2015 there wasn't that joyous reunion.

Sadly, 29% of dogs that come into Battersea aren't chipped, which seems incredible when it's not only a quick, simple and free procedure, but could mean the difference between finding or losing your beloved pet, giving peace of mind to owners.

Now, with microchipping becoming a legal responsibility for all dog owners, we asked our Battersea experts what the new legislation means, to help dispel some common misconceptions about microchips and to explain what the Home is doing to help ensure more dogs can be easily reunited with their owners.

Q I've moved since rehoming my dog, how do I update my details?

A Keeping your microchip details up to date is one of the most important things to remember. So many pet owners forget to do this when moving home and Battersea deals with hundreds of dogs who are chipped to an old address, so when we do get in touch by phone or send a letter we're told the owner has moved on and the new occupant often has no contact details for them.

Updating your details will cost a small fee and you can do this online, by telephone or by post. You will need to know which database your pet is registered to in the UK, then you can contact the database directly to make your changes. All Battersea dogs are registered with the PetLog database and you can contact

them on 01296 336579. At time of writing it costs £16 to update your details with PetLog but this single payment will allow you to make further changes throughout the dog's lifetime. If you've mislaid your dog's microchip number ask your vet to scan your pet.

Trevor Cooper, Solicitor and our Dog Law Specialist

Q I've heard that microchips can move around a dog's body. What happens if my pet can no longer be scanned positive for a chip?

A If a microchip has moved but can still be picked up by a scanner your vet will need to report it to the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (part of DEFRA) as being an 'adverse event'. However, if the scanner can't read the microchip then you will also have to get a new one implanted.

Trevor Cooper, Solicitor and our Dog Law Specialist

“It's still a legal requirement for all dogs to wear a collar with an ID tag”

Q What is the youngest age that a puppy can be microchipped?

A There is no minimum age stipulated in the Government's new microchipping regulations, but all puppies have to be microchipped and registered to an approved database by the time they are eight weeks old, unless a vet certifies that it's not in the dog's health interests. As a general rule at Battersea, we would wait until a puppy is at least six weeks old.

Shaun Opperman, Battersea's Veterinary Director

Q Will the new microchipping legislation prevent dogs and puppies being smuggled into the UK from overseas puppy farms?

A Sadly, there will continue to be people who flout the law and with the best will in the world, compulsory microchipping on its own isn't going to stop criminals who illegally smuggle puppies. Lawfully imported dogs should of course already be microchipped. The importer will have 30 days to have the dog's microchip registered onto a compliant database.

Trevor Cooper, Solicitor and our Dog Law Specialist

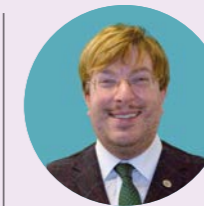
Q Do microchips remove the need for my dog to wear a collar with an ID tag?

A No, it's still a legal requirement for all dogs to wear a collar with an ID tag. There is also no substitute for visible ID. Tags provide a very simple and immediate way to contact you should someone find your dog. Your name and address (plus a telephone number is desirable) means that a finder can get in touch without the need to take your dog to a rescue centre or vet to be scanned. Battersea offers ID tag engraving at all its three centres, just ask at reception, or at many of its community events.

Trevor Cooper, Solicitor and our Dog Law Specialist



SHAUN OPPERMAN
Veterinary Director



TREVOR COOPER
Solicitor and our Dog Law Specialist

For Trevor Cooper's free video guide to the microchipping regulations in England visit doglaw.co.uk



The microchip which is inserted under the skin is smaller than a one pence coin

Q What is Battersea doing in local communities to help ensure the microchipping message gets out to harder to reach audiences?

A Last year Battersea's Community Engagement team chipped 546 dogs and 469 were at events held in London boroughs. Many people aren't aware of how easy it is to get your dog chipped. We can chip a dog in an instant, it's not a complicated procedure, and in doing so we're making sure that owners take their responsibilities seriously. We're lucky that with funding from players of People's Postcode Lottery we've been able to get out and about to even more communities with our new van, and in 2016 we are continuing this work, meeting more owners and spreading awareness of the importance of microchipping.

Battersea's Community Engagement team

469

DOGS CHIPPED AT 73 EVENTS IN LONDON BOROUGH'S LAST YEAR BY BATTERSEA'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM

The Community Engagement team's van was funded by players of People's Postcode Lottery



Q Will microchips act as GPS trackers?

A No, microchips cannot be traced by satellite trackers and need to be scanned by a handheld scanner. Once the unique 15 digit number is read, the microchip database will be contacted. Some owners are concerned about the nature of microchipping, equating it with some form of control. This is simply not the case, microchipping is concerned solely with the registration of animal and owner – it is not connected in any way to monitoring the activity or location of the dog.

Shaun Opperman, Battersea's Veterinary Director

Q What can I do if I do lose my dog?

A If you've lost your dog you must immediately contact your Local Authority and also report the dog as missing to your microchip database. In addition, call Battersea's Lost Dogs & Cats Line as soon as possible on 020 7627 9245. Alternatively you can fill in a Lost Animal Form on the Battersea website. The Lost Dogs & Cats Line will then enter your details onto the Home's database of lost and found animals. If they have a match they will tell you immediately. You could also contact your local vets in case a member of the public has handed your dog in to them or has notified them of a stray they have found. Lots more information can be found on the Battersea website including missing posters to download and print.

Battersea's Community Engagement team

Q I have a friend that hasn't got their dog chipped, where can they go to get it done?

A Rescue centres like Battersea, Blue Cross and Dogs Trust will chip dogs for free at their centres. Alternatively keep an eye out for local dog shows and community events where rescue centres may be attending and offering free microchipping. You can visit chipmydog.org.uk to find a list of these events around the UK. Alternatively your local vet surgery will be able to chip your dog for a charge. If you haven't got your dog chipped you could be fined up to £500 after 6 April, but more importantly you're greatly reducing your chances of finding your pet should it be lost or stolen.

Battersea's Community Engagement team



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Craig Revel Horwood with partner Damon as Sophie makes her TV debut

Me and my Cavvie

With Craig Revel Horwood

With his brutally honest comments and exaggerated catchphrases, Craig Revel Horwood is best known as *Strictly Come Dancing's* legendary judge. However, what few people realise is that behind the scenes, Australian-born Craig has carved out a very successful career on stage as an actor, singer and dancer, which began in Melbourne when he appeared in productions such as *West Side Story*. On moving to Europe, he performed as the principal singer in *Formidable* at the Moulin Rouge, then extensively in West End musicals such as *Cats*, *Miss Saigon* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Away from treading the boards, Craig has been friends of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home for five years and recently adopted two-year old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Charlie.

My love of dogs comes from my partner, Damon. He rescued Sophie a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and when we got together over two years ago, I grew to love her. Sophie is a golden oldie at 14 years old, which is very rare for the breed. Now we have extended our family with our new edition from Battersea, Charlie – yes another Cavvie! Thankfully they both took to each other immediately and have become the best of friends. If Sophie is

away for the day with her grandparents, (Damon's mum and dad) Charlie misses her immensely and on her return he gets very excitable. He has given her a new lease of life and she now walks with a spring in her step.

Battersea looks after all the dogs and cats that come to them in such a professional and sympathetic way. They fix them up and make sure they are placed with the right owners that can take care of all their needs. It works both ways – the animals get to have a choice too and I think that's fabulous. I have been involved with Battersea for over five years but

have never, until now, had a home that was suitable for a rescue dog. My London home was just too small and I was away a lot with work, but since moving to a bigger house in the country, it made adopting a possibility.

We attended Battersea's fundraising Collars and Coats Gala Ball in 2014 and spotted a Cavvie up for adoption in the doggy guard of honour, but it wasn't meant to be. We didn't have to wait long though before the perfect match was found! Charlie had been given to Battersea at no fault of his own. He has so much energy and loves people, investigating wildlife, chasing rabbits around the garden and birds. However, his favourite game is playing tug of war with his toys! We've got a soft spot for Cavvies as a breed – they

“ He has so much energy and loves people, investigating wildlife, chasing rabbits around the garden and birds ”

love cuddles and love being around adults and children. We find they are friendly and return the love in so many ways – they are cute and most of the time, obedient!

It's fair to say our pair live in the lap of luxury. They eat nothing but fresh fish and chicken and now turn their noses up at the tinned dog food variety. Everything that they eat is organic and made fresh daily – in fact they both eat better than us! At last year's Collars and Coats event we couldn't resist bidding on (and winning) a doggy summerhouse for them in the auction. They absolutely love it! They can rest during the summer in the cool of the shade and enjoy an outdoor heated space in which to play and rest that's close to the house. Come on... what's not to love? Wallpaper, carpets, windows, flowers, a dog flap, outdoor lighting and heating!

We can't take them everywhere with us – Sophie's not great at travelling long distances – but we did take her to the filming of *Strictly Come Dancing: It Takes Two* and she made a national star appearance and was immediately adored by the nation. Charlie's time will come hopefully in this year's *Strictly*. Watch this space! 🐾



Battersea dog Charlie has found his paws with new chum Sophie

Photo: Hannah Cammings

STAR LETTER

The Perfect Match

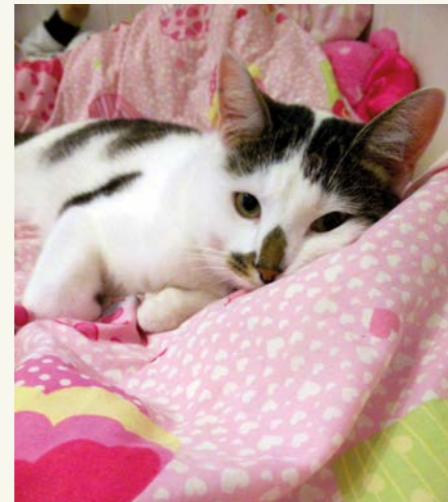


This is Chewie who we rehomed from Battersea about three years ago. We think he's a Tibetan Terrier/Shih-Tzu cross, but we're not sure – however he's changed our lives for the better!

It was our two sons David and Joe who persuaded us to get our first dog. We all went along on about six consecutive Sunday mornings and the staff quite rightly guided us away from dogs we liked, but which we weren't experienced enough to deal with. Then on our last visit we were about to leave when one of the staff remembered a dog had come in a few days earlier who they thought could be a match. The rest as they say is history!

Tim & JoJo Walby, London

“On our last visit we were about to leave when one of the staff remembered a dog had come in a few days earlier who they thought could be a match”



LAZY DAYS

Here is Billy (was called Charleston) Samba and Cha Cha's brother from the *Advent Animals* story in your *Paws* Winter 2015 issue. He likes to 'be more dog', shakes hands with people and runs to the door when you come home!

Salma Lone, London



LAP OF LUXURY

Here's an update regarding our cat Lola, originally named Sophie, who we rehomed in July 2015. She came in to Battersea with her sister, but they didn't get on.

Lola was very shy at first, but now she is the greatest joy to have around. She has become a member of the family and joins in on everything that we do – she even has her own bedroom! She makes us happy each day and I can't imagine life without her. Thank you, Battersea.

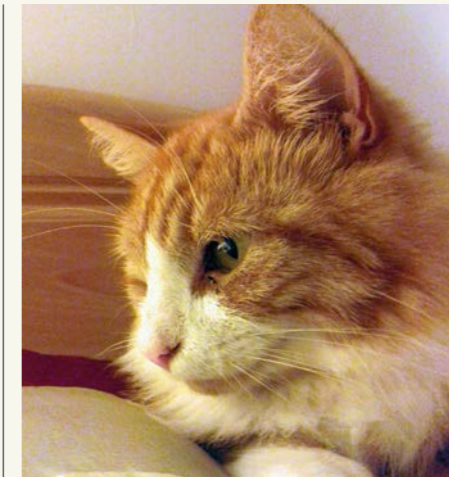
Portia Ragona, Basildon, Essex

JET SETTING FAMILY

Storm, now known as Vainilla, is doing great. She already uses the catflap and comes and goes as she wishes. She loves spending time in the garden, climbing up trees and on the fence. She loves – no demands – a cuddle, miaows very little (she's very quiet) and she's not at all aggressive, although too much fooling around with toys can get you scratched!

She loves running after a rubber ball and patting it with her paws and the other day in the garden she actually picked it up in her mouth and brought it to me! Vainilla has been a great source of calm for all. My wife and daughter (aged 12) moved recently from Chile and settling in has improved enormously thanks to Vainilla. She really is a lovely cat.

Fernando Ortiz De Urbina, New Malden, Surrey



GRATEFUL LILY

We are happy to report that our cat Lily, formerly known as Gladys, has settled in well. She's already given us a small gift of a mouse! She sleeps on the bed at night and goes out every day to enjoy the seaside and the fields.

Sophie Mason-Griffiths, Worthing, West Sussex

BEST OF FRIENDS

Former Battersea dogs Ice (who I've had for four-and-a-half years) and Freddie (for nearly two) live with me in Copenhagen. In fact English Bull Terrier, Ice was one of the first dogs that Battersea rehomed outside of England! Apart from a little arthritis, both are doing really well.

Ulla Munch-Petersen, Denmark



RULING THE ROOST

We rehomed our two beautiful Persian cats Ruby and Jemima over a year ago from Battersea Brands Hatch. They completely rule the household, but are so adorable!

The staff at Brands Hatch all loved them and I'm sure they will be pleased to see this photo of them relaxing. Thank you for letting us have them. They are much loved, intelligent and very happy.

Mary Gartside, Maidstone, Kent



Happy Memories

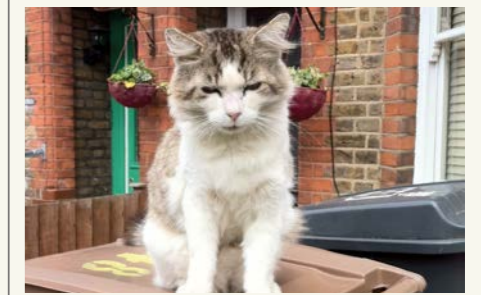
We got Milou from you on 21 January 2001 – he was then named Nesbit. He was quite a character and we loved him to bits! It was with a heavy heart that we had to say goodbye to him in July 2015. Of course we still miss him. Thank you for letting us have him all that time ago.

Genevieve Jousserand and family, London



Frank is currently stalking the clouds of feline heaven with a brand new set of pearly gnashers and enough leftover curry and lady cats to keep him stocked up for eternity.

Esther Deutsch, London



So sad to tell you that we have lost Peter our cat at 17. He settled down to the life of a country gent with us and enjoyed hunting and bird watching with intent. He was healthy, except eventually his eyesight deteriorated and he gave up going outside. Peter kept himself immaculate, his whites were white and his ginger fur bright. I was the great love of his life, only ever choosing to sit on my knee. I do miss him and we had a happy nine-and-a-half years.

Molly and Jock Scott, Cumbria



Write to us at the address on the contents page, or email paws@battersea.org.uk

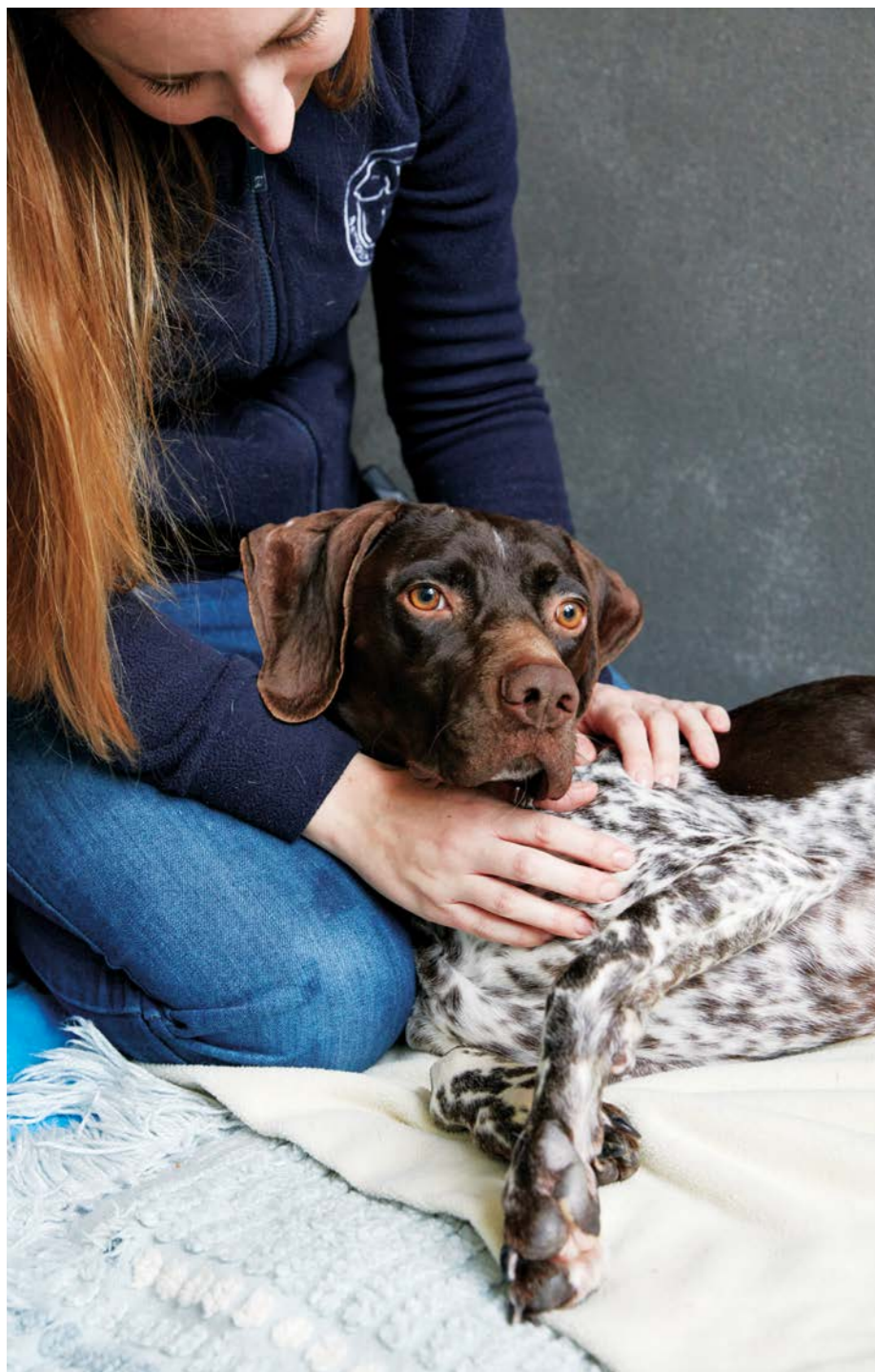
Ask the experts

Senior Canine Behaviourist Nathalie Ingham reveals how Battersea strives to keep stress levels down to a minimum in our kennels, as well as tips on what you can do to help your dog in the home.

Right Giving chews and Kongs full of tasty food helps to combat boredom and stress
Below left Canine Behaviourist and Training Advisor Helen Stone demonstrates Tellington-Touch



NATHALIE INGHAM
Senior Canine Behaviourist



Imagine you've just left home for the first time. The place you've decided to move to is unfamiliar and you don't know anybody in the neighbourhood. Starting afresh makes you feel rather apprehensive and a little anxious about the unknown. This scenario is not too dissimilar for dogs when they arrive here at Battersea, which is often their first experience of kennel life.

Most of the time they have come from a home environment where they are used to their own routine and the people around them, until suddenly their whole life is turned upside down. "Kennels are very difficult for dogs because of the lack of options available. It's restricted in the sense that their human interaction is reduced and they can't follow somebody around," says Nathalie. "Noises too can be very different to home. Their doggy neighbour might be barking for attention and at our London centre we have the sound of neighbouring building works and trains going past."

LEARNING TO TRUST

At the Home we look at each dog individually to gain an understanding of every new arrival's needs. Our aim is to help them settle in as quickly as possible and to make their home-between-homes stay positive and fun.

"When a dog arrives we will spend time getting to know them in the kennels to see how they react. Some will be all over us and want to interact, others will keep away which could indicate that they may be nervous or apprehensive," explains Nathalie. "With these dogs we will allow them to approach us and build a bond – it's very much on their terms. As the days progress, we start to put behaviour programmes in place to work on the issues they are not comfortable with to make them happier around people."

CALMING KENNELS

Our brand new Mary Tealby Kennels, which were opened by HM The Queen last March, are designed around the newest arrivals who are most likely to be stressed. These impressive facilities are sound-



proofed and have built-in technology to enable staff to play soothing music for a calming atmosphere.

The kennels have underfloor heating and plenty of natural daylight and have been structured so that dogs are not facing each other to reduce stress and anxiety. Equally they have the opportunity to burn some energy in the neighbouring all-weather paddocks with an off-lead game of throw and catch, or enjoy some time out in the offices on site.

Nathalie says: "We try and think about how we can structure a dog's day because if they're less stressed, they're less likely to get kennel cough. Doing things like giving them different ways of eating their food and being inventive with games helps to keep their minds occupied."

ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

As well as practical measures, Battersea uses specific stress-relieving tools such as zoopharmacognosy – a system whereby different essential oils are offered up to the dogs to encourage them to investigate,

sniff and self-select scents that are of interest.

"There is a lot of research on the benefits of this and some dogs really enjoy these sessions. Each oil has different properties and in theory is meant to help compensate for the things they might be lacking in their bodies," Nathalie explains. "We also do Tellington-Touch which is a form of massage and ideal for dogs who are a little more distrustful. This is a really nice gentle way of getting them used to being handled."

If a dog is particularly stressed and not adjusting to kennel life, Battersea can call upon an army of big-hearted dog foster carers – some 151 in total which include both external helpers and internal staff at Battersea from across all three centres. 🐾

In every issue Battersea's experts answer some of the queries Paws readers have about their pets. 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.

Challenges in the home environment

People have high expectations of what they think their dog should be able to cope with in the home, like dealing with lots of interaction while staying calm and well-behaved.

Tackling separation anxiety

- Try and identify the triggers. Is it the fact that your dog cannot physically be away from you, or they're bored and don't have enough activities to keep them occupied?

- Start teaching your dog some basic commands and reward them with a treat and praise when they respond positively. This will boost your dog's self-confidence.

- Put a food toy such as a Kong by your feet while you're watching TV. Start to progressively move this toy further away from you over the weeks so it is eventually at the opposite side of the room, then just outside the door. During this time you should still go in and out of the room as normal. This teaches your dog to settle down and engage in activities without you.

- To help discourage neediness, it can be beneficial to add baby gates throughout the house so that as you're moving from room to room, your dog can't always follow you.

- Think about the cues that indicate you're about to leave the house, like picking up your keys and giving your four-legged friend a big reassuring fuss! Consider diminishing the importance of these; for some dogs it's the anticipation of being left that triggers anxiety.

Signs your dog is stressed

There are a number of subtle signs that your dog could show to indicate that they are uncomfortable in a situation.



Lip licking



Ears pinned back



Paw raises



Yawning



Pacing



Excessive panting



Tail between the legs

Take us home

We're shining a spotlight on our canine long-stayers this issue who are still patiently waiting for that second chance and a home to call their own. Contact Battersea on **0843 509 4444** or via the centre email addresses below.



ALFIE

4-year-old Greyhound

✉ bow.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

If you're looking for a gentle companion, then look no further than the lovely ex-racing Greyhound Alfie. He has been at our Old Windsor centre for more than 100 days and has recently been in a foster home where he's settled well and loves a good nap! He enjoys a fuss and will lean into you for more.



MILO

1-year-old American Bulldog cross

✉ rehoming@battersea.org.uk

Milo is one big cuddly bear but doesn't realise how big and strong he really is and will try and sit on your lap! He is a sappy boy and can get worried when left on his own for long periods and so needs an understanding owner who is happy to work with his anxiety. Could you be the perfect match for this loveable chap?



BUD

7-year-old Greyhound/Collie cross

✉ bow.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

Bud has clocked up two years at our Old Windsor centre! We don't understand why because he's very friendly and has been the perfect house guest in his foster home where he enjoys cuddles, chasing toys, going out for long walks and food – of course. As well as trying to get away with sleeping on the sofa!



TEDDY

3-year-old Jack Russell cross

✉ rehoming@battersea.org.uk

Mischievous Teddy has a cheeky character and has shown a talent for agility! He's looking for someone who will keep his mind occupied with fun training and activities and continue his dog socialisation. Give him a tasty treat and he will be your friend for life! What's for sure, life will never be boring with Teddy around.



FUDGE

2-year-old Jack Russell

✉ bbh.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

Fudge is a typical busy Terrier and loves the outdoor life – he will spend hours investigating the fields and hedgerows if allowed! He can come across as being a bit aloof at first and so needs someone who has the patience to build his trust – then he'll come round. He really is a loveable character who deserves a second chance.



THEO

3-year-old Alaskan Malamute cross

✉ bbh.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

What's not to like about handsome stray Theo? This poor chap has been overlooked for more than a year and is waiting for a Malamute enthusiast who won't be able to resist his charms. He is a clever canine and full of energy – the way to his heart is definitely with food! He's now looking for a quiet home to relax in.

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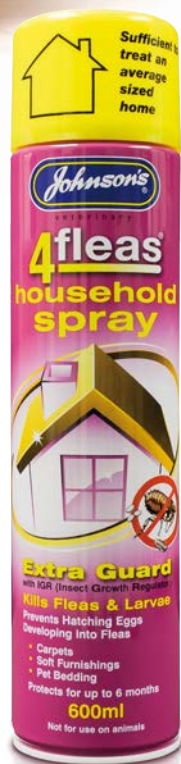
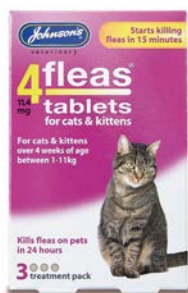
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