



BATTERSEA
HERE FOR EVERY DOG AND CAT

PAWS

SUMMER 2020

SUGGESTED DONATION £2

CARING THROUGH A CRISIS

How Battersea adapted to lockdown so we could keep caring for every dog and cat



**CELEBRATING 160 YEARS OF
CARING FOR DOGS AND CATS**



WELCOME

The past few months have brought home one very important thing for all of us here at Battersea: we simply would not be here without the ongoing kindness of our wonderful supporters. During these unprecedented times, we've been so very grateful to everyone who has opened their home to a rescue dog or cat, taken on a fundraising challenge for us, continued regular donations, or sent in heartwarming messages. It's thanks to you we've been able to continue providing vital care for the dogs and cats that need us.

The world around us may be ever-changing, but our commitment to be here for owners and their pets stays certain. Whether it's providing advice on how to care for pets during lockdown or opening our doors to emergency cases, read more about how our dedicated teams have been caring for our animals during the Covid-19 pandemic on page 10.

I am so proud of all my Battersea colleagues for the determination they have shown to ensure the care of our animals remains uncompromised. As is often the case in even the most challenging circumstances, our rescue dogs and cats are a ray of hope and countless people have come forward to tell us how their Battersea pets helped them cope with lockdown. Like so many others, I have adapted to a new life of home working and Zoom calls and, more often than not, one of my dogs or Pepe my cat will put in an impromptu appearance, much to everyone's amusement!

We've celebrated the joy and support our rescue pets provide in our new advert, Rescues to the Rescue, which is full of amazing footage sent in by proud pet owners like you. I hope you've had a chance to see it, but if not, you can find out more on page 22.

From all of us at Battersea, we send our best wishes. Take care and stay safe.

Claire Horton CBE, Chief Executive

Pictured working from home during lockdown with her Battersea dogs, Archie as 'desk buddy' and Pilot taking a more relaxed approach in the background.

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GET IN TOUCH

PAWS MAGAZINE

BATTERSEA DOGS & CATS HOME

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



On the cover:
Our dogs and cats
are still cared
for, even in
times of crisis.



10

CONTENTS

FEATURES

NON-STOP CARING 10
How Battersea has cared for its dogs and cats throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

COLLECTIVE KINDNESS 15
Our supporters have stepped up to ensure Battersea could continue to be here for every dog and cat.

RESCUES TO THE RESCUE 22
How our pets have helped their owners' mental health through lockdown and beyond.

ANTIQUAID AID 24
The intriguing story of how a collection of fine china came to play a part in helping our dogs and cats.

ASK THE EXPERTS: HOME AND AWAY 26
How to support your pets through having more people at home or ever-changing schedules.

STAY BUSY AND BAKE 28
Dog and cat-friendly recipes to keep you busy in the kitchen, plus puzzles to keep the boredom at bay.

ME & MY BATTERSEA PET 34
We catch up with the first animal to be rehomed through the Battersea Communities scheme.

REGULARS

WELCOME 02
Our Chief Executive Claire Horton CBE.

WHAT'S NEW 05
Battersea news and essential dates for your diary.

TAKE US HOME 16
Battersea animals looking to be loved.

LITTLE PAWS 17
Your selfies, quizzes, jokes, stories and a pull-out poster.

HAPPILY REHOMED 21
Dogs and cats enjoying their second chance at happiness.

PET GALLERY 30
Former Battersea dogs and cats show that you don't have to be a Dane to be great.

YOUR LETTERS 32
Heartwarming stories of happiness found at Battersea and fond farewells to beloved pets.



24



22



28



26

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(Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, registered charity number: 206394)


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PET DIVISION

WHAT'S NEW

ANIMALS | PEOPLE | NEWS | CAMPAIGNS



Our pets have helped us through these challenging times in all sorts of ways.

[WELLBEING]

RESCUE HEROES

OUR RESCUE PETS HAVE BEEN SUPPORTING US THROUGH LOCKDOWN

In May, research carried out by Battersea showed that 75% of Brits believed their rescue pet helped them cope during the nationwide lockdown – whether it was providing temporary relief from the news cycle, making an unscheduled cameo in their 10th video conference call of the day, or just being there for cuddles on the sofa when things got a bit too much.

To shine a light on the incredible power of pets during troubling times, more than 1,000 people submitted video clips and pictures of their rescue dogs and cats brightening

up lockdown for our Rescues to the Rescue TV advert, backed by Battersea Ambassadors Paul O'Grady and Amanda Holden.

Speaking about his own lockdown companions, Paul O'Grady said: "I would never have predicted I'd find myself locked down with six dogs, but I couldn't choose better company. I can always rely on them to put a smile on my face, no matter how bleak the news is. They've made my life a bit brighter while I've been in isolation and I'm thankful for that.

"There's something special about

the love you get from rescue pets – it's almost as if they know you gave them a second chance, so they pay you back with a bit extra and I think we all need that right now. I've seen for myself the difference Battersea makes to every dog or cat that comes through its doors – now they need our support so they can keep making that difference."

Watch the advert on YouTube/
Battersea and keep sharing your
photos and films with the hashtag
#RescuesMyFavouriteBreed

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[CAMPAIGNS]

SCOTLAND CLAMPS DOWN ON ANIMAL ABUSERS

We're thrilled to report that the Scottish government has delivered its promise to increase sentences for the worst animal cruelty offences from just 12 months to five years.

The new Animal and Wildlife Bill was finalised on 17 June and comes after Battersea and other animal charities campaigned tirelessly to raise Scotland's maximum sentences to five years, in line with many other countries in Europe. Battersea first launched its campaign to increase maximum sentencing in Scotland in 2017 and we are overjoyed by the Scottish Government's commitment to this change in law.

In England and Wales the maximum punishment for animal cruelty is the lowest in Europe at just six months; despite the Government first pledging its support almost three years ago to raise the penalties for such offences.

Battersea's Chief Executive,



Sparkle was found zipped inside a suitcase, abandoned in a park. With Battersea's help, Sparkle recovered and found a loving home, but not all animals are as lucky.

Claire Horton, said: "We have been campaigning for this change for a very long time alongside Scottish SPCA, other rescue organisations and many thousands of Scots who have written to their MSPs and called for this on social media. This change would not have

happened without everyone's support. Now we desperately need England and Wales to follow in the Scots' footsteps." To find out more about Battersea's campaign to increase animal cruelty sentences, please visit battersea.org.uk/NotFunny.

[RESEARCH]

CATS COMBATING LONELINESS

At Battersea we see first-hand the joy that animals can bring to people's lives. So it won't come as a surprise to anyone who has ever owned a cat that new research has confirmed our beliefs – our feline friends really can make a significant difference to people's lives.

The findings were published by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Cats (APGOCATS), a collective of MPs and animal charities including Battersea. The report was released to mark Loneliness Awareness Week in June, and found many benefits to cat companionship, particularly for those that may be dealing with feelings of loneliness or facing the isolation of living alone.

Loneliness is sadly becoming an increasingly common issue for people



in the UK, but companion animal ownership or interaction is not widely promoted by health and social welfare professionals.

The full APGOCATS report sets out a 'paw print' for future work on the potential for cats to help combat loneliness, including encouraging housing providers to allow more

renters to own or foster cats.

It also aims to give healthcare providers greater information on how people can benefit from the positive effects of spending time with a cat, whether by rehoming a pet of their own, fostering cats for a local rescue, or volunteering at a charity such as Battersea.

[REHOMING]

NOT PERFECT BUT WORTH IT

MAKING SURE EVERY ANIMAL GETS THE CARE THEY NEED

Battersea has always believed that every animal is unique. This has never been so true as the story of Missy, the rescue cat with no ears, who stole hearts across the world recently when her story was picked up online.

Three-year-old Missy, a beautiful tortoiseshell, was brought to our London centre when her owner's circumstances changed. Shortly after arriving, staff noticed she often seemed unhappy and was frequently



Missy has found a new home following surgery on her ears.

shaking her head.

Our vets ran tests and discovered both her ears contained polyp masses and were severely infected. After exploring all options, the decision was made to operate on Missy's ear canals and remove the outside of her ears.

When Battersea resumed the rehoming of our animals during lockdown, following Government-approved guidance, Missy was finally able to go to her new home in Lambeth.

Cattery Team Leader, Michelle Henry-Clement, said, "Beautiful Missy is truly one of a kind. Although she may appear 'earless', she can still hear perfectly well and she quickly became a much happier cat following her treatment.

"We've thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Missy during her time with us. We were sad to say goodbye to this unique cat but are excited for her to start the next chapter of her life."



A simple 'high five' can help raise funds for rescue dogs and cats.

[FUNDRAISING]

BE AN AT HOME HERO

Fundraising for Battersea looks a little different right now, but your support has never been needed more so why not help to raise funds for the animals in our care by being an At Home Hero for rescue dogs and cats? Think dog and cat-themed movie night, virtual quiz, or even an isolation birthday celebration. Big, small, tried and tested or totally original – every idea will make a massive difference.

And if your pet has helped you through the last few months, show your appreciation with a big high five in aid of the Battersea Pet Trick Challenge. Simply record your pet giving you a high five, donate £5 to Battersea, and nominate five friends to take on the challenge.

By fundraising for Battersea, you will help us to provide care for thousands of lost and abandoned animals that arrive at our gates every year.

Visit battersea.org.uk/be-home-hero and battersea.org.uk/pet-trick-challenge to take part.

[READER SURVEY]

HAVE YOUR SAY

To coincide with the 20th anniversary of *Paws* magazine, we'd like to ask you – our valued readers – what you like best about Battersea's supporter magazine. Let us know your thoughts via our online reader survey. It only takes a few minutes of your time and your feedback will enable us to keep bringing you the Battersea content that really matters. If you haven't already filled out the survey, please head to: battersea.org.uk/pawssurvey.



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BATTERSEA IN LOCKDOWN



Our dogs and cats have enjoyed more time outdoors and more one-on-one attention during the lockdown.



NON-STOP CARING

WHEN THE COUNTRY WENT INTO LOCKDOWN, BATTERSEA REMAINED BUSY CARING FOR THE DOGS AND CATS THAT NEEDED OUR HELP MORE THAN EVER.

In 1860, Battersea's founder, Mary Tealby, made a promise to never turn away an animal in need of help. During the 160 years since, we have helped more than 3.1 million dogs and cats and we work tirelessly every day to keep Mary's vision alive.

In March this year, Battersea – like the rest of the country – was faced with an unprecedented crisis. With the Government issuing a nationwide lockdown to fight the spread of coronavirus, we needed to prioritise the welfare of our staff and ensure we would

still be able to care for the dogs and cats already at our centres.

A dedicated drive on rehoming saw an incredible 160 animals rehomed in the week before lockdown (16–22 March). Our staff worked tirelessly to ensure that as many animals as possible could go home safely before tighter restrictions on movement came into place. Of those that hadn't yet been matched to a suitable new home, we called on our incredible network of volunteer foster carers. Many of our staff also stepped up to open their own

homes to animals in need, and a record-breaking 160 dogs and cats were placed into temporary foster homes with both staff and volunteers.

As lockdown came into force, for the first time in our history we closed all three of our centres, only remaining open for emergency cases where dogs and cats needed our help. This was not a situation we ever thought we would face, but with around 100 animals still left on site, our famous gates were shut to enable the team of skeleton staff remaining to care for our dogs and cats.



Henry the Lurcher leaving our Brands Hatch centre, once we were allowed to start rehoming animals again.

For the animals still on site, it was thankfully business as usual. With the majority of office and support staff working from home, social distancing and maintaining a focus on staff welfare was vital for the operations team.

Plans were put in place to ensure that the animals' routines remained unchanged, while also ensuring a safe working environment. Whether it was going for extra-long walks around site, playing in our paddocks, or simply having one-on-one attention and lots of strokes and cuddles, our dedicated key workers went above and beyond to make sure our duty of care was unaffected.

At the end of April, new guidelines were approved by the Government that allowed rescue centres to resume rehoming animals again. Adhering to strict codes of practice, such as video introductions and socially distanced

drop-offs, our animals that had been matched to new families but had not yet been able to go home were able to finally leave our centres or foster homes.

Animals such as Henry the Lurcher, who left our Brands Hatch centre to live with retired couple Mr and Mrs Granger. As one of the first Battersea animals to be rehomed under the new guidelines, it couldn't have come sooner for the two-year-old, who had been in our care since September. Two dedicated members of the rehoming team made the 198-mile round-trip to Oxfordshire to deliver Henry to his new family. He made himself at home by jumping in the pond to cool off.

Team Leader, Vicki Milner, says, "It was strange to be venturing out to work each morning during lockdown, driving along deserted roads and with no customers coming through our doors. But, for the skeleton teams of staff

who could safely be on site at all three Battersea centres, there was never any question of not going in. Everyone at Brands Hatch really pulled together throughout lockdown and Henry going home boosted all of our spirits. It gave us hope that things would eventually return to normal."

Ali Taylor, Head of Canine Behaviour and Training, adds, "The dedication of our staff has been amazing. Even in the most difficult circumstances, they've proved the Battersea spirit is as strong as ever. Their passion and commitment to caring for animals has shown every one of them to be a hero."

Coronavirus has hit all charities hard, and Battersea is no different. Now, more than ever, we need funds to enable us to continue to be here for every dog and cat. Not just those being cared for at our centres or in temporary foster care with our dedicated volunteers, but those who will undoubtedly need our help over the coming weeks and months.

We may all be living through unprecedented times right now, but one key belief will always remain unchanged for Battersea. We will keep Mary Tealby's promise, and we will continue to be here for every dog and cat.

REACHING OUT

In a time where looking out for the welfare of others is key, our help hasn't stopped with the animals inside our gates. Over at our Old Windsor centre, the team helped out by supplying the local food bank with surplus pet food donations. And, when a disabled pensioner from Brixton got in touch with Battersea, the London kennel team was determined to come to his aid. Mr Murray had contacted Battersea in a moment of desperation, when his pension payments had been delayed due to the

upsurge in benefit claims. This meant he was not only struggling to leave the house safely, but he was also running out of money to feed his beloved ex-Battersea dog, TJ. Seeing it as an opportunity to help a vulnerable member of the community and keep a dog in a good home, the team made plans to drop off some supplies. Mr Murray was ecstatic and thanked the team for saving the dog who, on so many occasions, had helped to save him.

DOGS AND CATS NEED YOU

To help Battersea care for dogs and cats, visit donate.battersea.org.uk



A record 160 animals went into foster care in the week before the lockdown started, while our dedicated staff have continued to care for those animals still in our centres.





A TOUCH OF KINDNESS

COPING WITH THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK WAS MADE JUST THAT BIT EASIER THANKS TO ALL THE KINDNESS WE WITNESSED FROM YOU, OUR SUPPORTERS.

Here at Battersea, we want to say a massive, heartfelt 'thank you' to each and every one of you for all your fundraising, donations and kind words throughout the coronavirus outbreak.

The simple fact is that we wouldn't be able to do what we do without our amazing supporters. We've been touched to witness just how much you have all been thinking about us and our animals.

PUTTING THE 'FUN' IN FUNDRAISING

On 26 April, the day the London Marathon was meant to take place,

a virtual event was launched in its place – The 2.6 Challenge. The London Marathon is the biggest annual single-day charity fundraising event in the world, and so many charities, including Battersea, lost out on vital funds when April's event was cancelled.

The idea of the 2.6 Challenge was to take part in challenges based on the numbers two and six, and we loved seeing all the fun and creative challenges people came up with to raise money for Battersea. There were some fantastic fundraising ideas, including 26 random acts of kindness, 26 push-ups

for 26 days, and even a 26-hour non-stop film marathon (all films had to be dog- or cat-related, of course!)

We've been blown away by everyone's uplifting, creative, and often hilarious fundraising ideas. The 2.6 Challenge has so far raised over £5,500 for Battersea and we are so grateful to everyone who took part or donated.

GIVE A DOG A PHONE

Battersea has been very fortunate during this time that some of our teams have been able to adapt to the new ways of working. Some of our staff members



Lola with her kittens, which were born in their foster home during lockdown.

who usually work in offices have been working from home, but we have been determined to keep in touch with our supporters.

In many cases, it was simply a case of getting on the 'dog and bone' (phone). It's been wonderful to be able to speak directly to our supporters.

The heartwarming messages and stories we received were relayed among our key workers and really lifted the spirits of those still going into Battersea centres to care for our animals.

One message came from a couple that were both recovering from symptoms of Covid-19 and were unable to walk their dogs. Luckily, a neighbour, who is also a dog-walker, took the lead and made sure their beloved pets received their daily exercise. The helpful neighbour refused to accept any payment, so the couple decided to give a donation to Battersea instead. We are pleased to hear they are both now fully on the road to recovery.

Another supporter called to commend our staff members going in to

care for the animals. She had originally phoned in the hope of rehoming a dog but we had already suspended rehoming in line with the Government's advice.

We were pleased to hear that this was not a deterrent for her. In fact, it made her all the more determined to wait until lockdown was lifted so that she could rehome a rescue dog once it was safe to do so.

We also spoke to many friends of Battersea who have been generously donating for years, many of whom called to increase their monthly donations. Uplifting, positive stories like these really helped our staff during some tough days, so we thank you.

FANTASTIC FOSTERERS

Not knowing how long lockdown was going to last was a worrying time. We were concerned about managing animals left at our centres while keeping staff safe and able to socially distance. The option of being able to call upon our army of volunteer foster carers was invaluable.

We thank every household who came forward to foster a dog or cat. Many of our animals thrived thanks to the benefits of a foster home. And it allowed our skeleton staff to ensure the animals still on site received focused care.

We received an overwhelming number of requests from people wanting to foster our animals and – even though we were unable to accept and train new applications before lockdown – we were grateful for every offer. Thank you.

COMMUNITY SPIRITS

Wandsworth-based Doghouse Distillery turned its focus from making spirits to hand sanitiser during lockdown. As nearby neighbours, the company decided to kindly donate a few of their new products to Battersea, which were used to help clean the vans that played a vital part in taking our animals to their foster homes or permanent new families once restrictions were lifted.

Rehoming & Welfare Co-ordinator
Natalie with the hand sanitiser.



Here are just some of the kind words we've received from you:

"I'm just phoning to wish you all the best. Keep safe and in good health, and give my love to all the animals. Take care and thank you all very much."

"I hope this email found you and your families well and healthy. Sending my prayers to you and to all the beautiful souls that you are caring for."

"Dear Battersea, thank you for all the e-mails you send me on how the animals are doing, I am continuing to support them for as long as I can. Wishing all staff and animals to stay safe and well. From myself and my animals."

ON GUARD

Battersea's London centre was treated to a whole range of delicious snacks delivered by the Army Horse Guards on behalf of The York Family (The Duchess of York and Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie) and HomeMoveBox. The gift package was a small thank you for all the work Battersea does and boosted the spirits – and sugar levels – of the staff on site caring for our animals.

TAKE US HOME

VISIT
BATTERSEA.ORG.UK
TO SEE MORE DOGS
AND CATS LOOKING
TO FIND A HOME

THESE BATTERSEA DOGS AND CATS STILL HAVE EIGHT LIVES LEFT TO LIVE. COULD YOU PROVIDE A LOVING HOME FOR THEM?



ZARA

8 months old

rehoming@battersea.org.uk

Beautiful Zara is a little shy at first but soon warms up to new friends. During her time at Battersea, her cute dance moves around cattery staff's ankles have put a smile on everyone's face. If you'd like a sweet and loyal companion, Zara may well be your perfect match.



JASPER

12 years old

bowcat.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

This distinguished gentleman may have a few years under his belt, but he's still got plenty of love to give. He may take some time to settle into his new home, but once he's identified the cosiest lap to curl up on, he'll stay for hours enjoying a fuss.



BAILEY

4 years old

bbh.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

Bailey is a cat who enjoys his own company. He can feel quite overwhelmed if he is overcrowded or touched and handled when he isn't quite ready for it, but once he's built up trust with his new owner he'll be sure to stick by your side for life.



JAMES

3 years old

bow.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

James is a charismatic live wire who is looking for a home where he can burn off his energy and then rest his paws with his new family. He is a bouncy bundle of fun who thoroughly enjoys human interaction and will thrive from continued training.



STRYDE

1 year old

bow.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

Stryde is an affectionate young dog that makes friends quickly, forming strong bonds with his humans. This Shar-Pei cross is a smart dog, so is looking for experienced owners who will help him put his brain to good use and help him to become the best dog he could be.



SHARKY

1 year old

rehoming@battersea.org.uk

With his adorable overbite and lovely nature, Sharky is looking for a family to love and care for him just as much as we have at Battersea. Sharky's new owners should continue with his training and give him the reassurance he needs to mature into a confident boy.



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

LITTLE PAWS

SHARE YOUR PICTURES!
 SEND PHOTOS OF YOU AND YOUR PET TO:
 LITTLEPAWS@BATTERSEA.ORG.UK



COOL PICS, JOKES, QUIZZES AND A POSTER!

YOUR EPIC PET PICS



Maisie with Joe



Harriet with Barney Rubble



Jemima with Nora



Keira with Snoops

WINNER!



Joseph with Harry Houdini




Maya with Tiger

WIN!

This issue's lucky winner can pick either of these charming A5 notebooks, decorated with adorable drawings of debonair dogs or curious cats of all shapes and sizes.
HOW TO ENTER: Send a photo with your dog or cat to littlepaws@battersea.org.uk.



A black cat with a blue collar and a rainbow tag is lying on a patterned rug. The cat's eyes are yellow-green, and it is looking towards the right. The background is a light-colored rug with a dark, abstract pattern.

If you're flying rainbows of support from your windows, why not add this poster of gorgeous rescue cat **TJ** to your collection? Not only will it raise a smile for people walking past, but also you'll be showing your support for Battersea's key workers who continue to care for the dogs and cats that need our help.

#RESCUEISMYFA



BATTERSEA

HERE FOR EVERY DOG AND CAT

FAVOURITE BREED

WHY ARE CATS BAD STORY-TELLERS?

THEY ONLY HAVE ONE TAIL



ANIMAL AUTHOR

From his dog-themed bedding to his toys, 10-year-old Oliver from Durham says he is “crazy about dogs”. It’s no surprise one of his favourite TV shows is *Paul O’Grady: For the Love of Dogs*. Earlier this year, Oliver wrote and illustrated a story (about dogs, obviously) selling copies locally with his dog Skye in tow, and donating £2 from each sale to Battersea. This fantastic fundraiser has raised an incredible £174 so far. After sending a copy to Paul, he received a lovely letter from his hero in return. From everyone at Battersea, thank you Oliver!



WHAT DID THE DALMATION SAY AFTER ITS DINNER?

THAT HIT THE SPOTS!

NO MORE TEARS

Obi spent 282 days waiting for a special owner to help manage his unusual eye condition. The eight-year-old mongrel can’t produce tears and needs regular drops. But, after going to his new home, Obi found himself surrounded by tears when his new family’s grandfather sadly died. This loving boy comforted his new companions, cuddling up for hours with the young girls, Faith (pictured above with Obi) and Olivia. Although Obi can’t produce his own tears, he stopped theirs, and he proves what an amazing amount of love rescue dogs can give.



WHY IS A FOREST LIKE A DOG?

THEY BOTH HAVE A LOT OF BARK

BEST FOOT FORWARD

When Janae was set a school project of designing a sports shoe, there was only one subject she wanted to use as inspiration: her Battersea Lurcher, Monty. The budding artist set about designing a shoe that showed off the message ‘Rescue Is Our Favourite Breed’ and featured a hand-drawn version of our logo. Janae tells us, “We rehomed Monty from Battersea in 2018. He was very shy, thin and quiet, but with patience, training and love he came out of his shell. Now he’s a healthy, fun-loving dog who adores cuddles! He’s getting there and trying his hardest.”



WHERE DO KITTENS GO ON SCHOOL TRIPS?

MEW-SEUMS

KITTEN CUDDLES

During lockdown, some of our dogs and cats went to stay with foster families. This meant they could be looked after in a home environment instead of staying in kennels or the cattery. But, for one foster family, they had the added bonus of welcoming this adorable litter of kittens while the pregnant mum cat was staying with them! Pictured above is Daffodil (on the right) with his sisters Primrose, Poppy and Tulip, enjoying a much-needed group hug after a hard day of playing, drinking milk and getting tummy tickles.

HAPPILY REHOMED

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



BRILLIANT BELLA

At nine years young, Bella the stray was always full of beans during her time at Battersea, particularly when she was bouncing around in the London offices. Now that she's been rehomed,

we're pleased to report things haven't changed. The Staffie cross's new owners are completely smitten and tell us she's still "so brilliant, so full of love and affection and so well behaved."



PALOMA HAS FAITH

Paloma was found wandering the streets as a puppy, but she never let that dampen her spirits. The one-year-old Staffie was brought to our London centre last October and found a new home in just a few weeks. Paloma went to live with Lizzie in Leyton, who says she has settled in amazingly and has added 'roll-over' to her bag of tricks.



POPPY IN FULL BLOOM

When Poppy first came to Brands Hatch as a frail Lurcher named Jemima, she was incredibly thin and needed a lot of hard work and care before she could start a new life. Since being rehomed in Chatham, Kent, Poppy has come on leaps and bounds and enjoys accompanying her owner to work, where everyone spoils her with treats.



HERMIONE'S WORLD

Domestic Short-hair Hermione was the pick of the bunch for Regine and Jacques when they were searching for a feline friend last year. They told us about her new interests: "She participates in activities, from DIY to arranging flowers. She tries to help, but more often acts as inspector to ensure work is done to the highest standards."



CAPTAIN CAT SPARROW

Captain Cat Sparrow was shy and overweight when Becky adopted him from Battersea just over two years ago. After being brought in when his owners got a new kitten, it wasn't long before Captain set sail for his new home, where Becky says he has blossomed. Having lost weight, Captain's now feeling ship-shape and loving life.

RESCUES TO THE RESCUE

HOW THE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE THAT PETS PROVIDE CAN
HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON OUR MENTAL WELLBEING.



In recent months, many people have been making unprecedented changes to their way of life. Uncertainty about work and the future, added to concerns for our own wellbeing and that of our loved ones, were just some of the anxieties much of the population were suddenly faced with.

For those isolating alone throughout the coronavirus pandemic, these feelings could be amplified. Luckily, for some, the mental and physical advantages of owning a pet proved to be especially pertinent during this potentially stressful time.

As part of our recent Rescues to the Rescue campaign, Battersea carried out research that revealed how 75% of Brits believed their rescue pet was helping them cope during the nationwide quarantine.

We also heard countless stories of people who were coping with quarantine thanks in no small part to the companionship of their rescue pets. People such as Deborah Tillett from East Yorkshire. Deborah, who is battling brain cancer, adopted Staffordshire Bull Terrier Lacey (affectionately known as Poo-Face) from Battersea in 2010.

She says, “Over the past eight weeks, I’ve had days when I felt down, have missed my human friends and family, been frustrated and just a little bit angry at the world. But I’ve not once felt lonely because I know that I’m loved by this slightly stinky beast. Because I know that if I need a laugh, she will do something daft and make sure I giggle. Because I know that she will sit and give



Deborah says Lacey has stopped her feeling lonely during lockdown.



Potato has helped new owner Naomi by giving her children some much-needed friendship and consistency.

me her undivided attention while I tell her all the reasons why I’m feeling the way I do.”

It’s a sentiment that Rob Young, Battersea’s Head of Centre Operations, wholeheartedly agrees with.

“Owning a pet can have many rewarding health benefits,” he says. “They offer unconditional love and can help ease the feeling of loneliness. They really do become a loving best friend and a part of the family.”

But it’s not just over the past couple of months that pets have proved that their unfaltering companionship and comfort knows no bounds. Several studies have shown that pets have a positive impact on their owners’ mental health.

Pets are a great motivator – dogs especially are great at encouraging their owners to get out and take regular exercise, in turn socialising with other people they may meet on walks. This can be particularly beneficial for those with depression or feelings of loneliness.

Stroking, sitting next to or playing with a pet can also have a calming effect on those people who may struggle with anxiety, as it provides a chance to relax and take your mind off any worries.

Caring for a dog or cat also gives many people a sense of purpose and value in their daily lives, plus a sense of achievement from the fact that they are valued and needed by their pet.

As we all try to find a path through uncertain times, pets have been one wonderful constant in the lives of many. Helping to ease our fears, lift our spirits and comfort us in a crisis, our pets have

proved to be the unsung heroes of the hour.

Naomi Hannah, whose family adopted Potato, a Mongrel, from Battersea in 2017, says, “Now we’re in lockdown, Potato is loving having us all around. He’s a great distraction from the news cycle and it’s amazing for the kids. My stepson has special needs and Potato is like his therapy dog. It’s been hard for him to adjust to what’s been going on, but Potato has provided some consistency for him.”

She adds, “For anyone who is struggling with things in life, pets can provide such valuable support. The children are so proud to say Potato is a rescue dog. We were there for him and that’s an incredibly valuable lesson for children, to teach them about their responsibility to animals and their place in the world.”

We rescued them and now they’re rescuing us – the message really is that simple. There are so many dogs and cats helping their owners to cope both physically and mentally right now, but there are many more still waiting for their chance in rescue centres across the UK.

And now, more than ever, we need your support. One day, it could be any one of us needing the love and companionship of our dog or cat more than we’ve ever needed it before.

Visit [battersea.org.uk](https://www.battersea.org.uk) to find out how you can support us, or join the growing community of rescue lovers by using the hashtag #RescuelsMyFavouriteBreed online.

A TALE AS OLD AS TIME

HOW THE MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF AN 18TH-CENTURY PORCELAIN COLLECTION CAME TO BENEFIT BATTERSEA DOGS AND CATS TODAY.



Some of the collection of porcelain that has now been returned to its rightful owners.

When people decide to include Battersea in their Will, they often choose to leave a certain amount of money or a percentage of their estate to help us care for dogs and cats in need. From time to time, however, someone may bequeath us something a little more unusual.

Recently, our Legacies team received an invitation to the Ministry of Culture in Paris. What followed was an incredible tale of royalty, theft and international intrigue.

In 1975, an animal lover named Charlotte Laceby kindly left part of her estate, worth several thousands of pounds, to Battersea in her Will. As she had wanted it to, her gift went towards the care of our animals. But it came as a surprise when, in late 2018, the Battersea Legacies team was informed that Ms Laceby's estate had also included a beautiful collection of 18th-century porcelain.

Sadly, these other items were only identified as being the rightful property of Charlotte many years after her death, as the porcelain had been looted from its original owner during World War II. It was only after many years of research by a team of genealogists that the rightful heirs of the treasures were located, including Ms Laceby and, subsequently, her beneficiaries.

The porcelain collection originally belonged to a fascinating lady named Lucy Jonquet, who led an extraordinary life during the late-19th and early-20th centuries. Born in London in the late 1870s, it wasn't until her second marriage to a Hungarian prince that Lucy rose to fame.

The new Princess of Colloredo-Mannsfeld acquired a taste for expensive jewels, holidays on the French Riviera and trips to Monte Carlo, before

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Over the years, Battersea has received many treasured items from people's lives. Some of the most unusual items have included:

- A ventriloquist dummy
- Teddy bears
- Model train collections
- Dolls
- Coin collections



The Prince and Princess Colloredo-Mannsfeld pictured in *The Times* in 1912.

settling in her new home, the Prince's palace in Prague – a far cry from her childhood home in Peckham.

Sadly, Lucy's fairy-tale love story wasn't to be, and the Austro-Hungarian court shunned her for not being of noble birth. Despite her royal marriage being dissolved, Lucy decided to keep her title of Princess Colloredo-Mannsfeld and continued to mix in high society across Europe.

The Princess was a colourful character and was not without the odd scandal, including a reported dalliance with a bankrupt captain and a legal battle to maintain her title when her former husband remarried.

In 1935, it was reported that jewels worth £7,000 (around half a million pounds today) had been stolen from Lucy while she travelled from London to Paris. Scotland Yard later recovered some of the jewellery, but other items, including rubies, diamonds and pearls are still missing to this day.

After such a high-profile crime, the Princess disappeared from public life. All we know is that at some point during building tensions across Europe, Lucy left Paris to stay in Rome, where she passed away in 1940.

By this time, World War II was under way. When Germany invaded Paris shortly after Lucy's passing, the Nazis looted the Princess' valuable collection of porcelain, which was being stored in a warehouse.

At one point it was believed the collection included plates originally belonging to King Louis XV of France, so

it would have been incredibly appealing to potential thieves with an eye for porcelain.

Many years passed, until eventually dedicated art experts and genealogists began to trace the rightful owners of many of the treasures and trinkets, to return them to their rightful owners. Lucy Jonquet's beneficiaries were traced instead, one of whom was Ms Charlotte Laceby, who had bequeathed part of her estate to Battersea. Sadly, Charlotte had already passed away, which is how Battersea came to be involved with this intriguing tale.

As one of Charlotte's beneficiaries, Battersea was invited to a special restitution ceremony in Paris earlier this year, where representatives gave a speech to thank everyone for their hard work in ensuring the last wishes of both Lucy Jonquet and Charlotte Laceby were fulfilled.

Due to the current pandemic, plans to value and auction the items have understandably been put on hold. No matter what the collection is ultimately valued at, the portion of the money that goes to Battersea from its sale is guaranteed to have a positive impact on the lives of our dogs and cats. Every single gift we receive, no matter the size, makes a real difference.

As an animal lover, we are honoured to be upholding Ms Laceby's wishes through this extra legacy she unknowingly left behind.

And we're sure that, given her Peckham roots, Princess Lucy would be happy to know that, hundreds of years later, her taste for the finer things in life is benefiting animals just up the road from where she was born.

LEAVE A LEGACY

Including Battersea in your Will is just one of the ways you can help give dogs and cats a second chance at happiness. You could honour the life of an animal lover by donating in their memory or creating a Battersea Tribute Fund, or celebrate the life of a beloved pet you've lost by setting up a Pet Tribute Fund.

Visit battersea.org.uk/support-us/legacies-memory to find out more.



HOME AND AWAY

BATTERSEA'S EXPERTS SHARE THEIR ADVICE ON HELPING YOUR PETS THROUGH LOCKDOWN AND EASING THEM OUT THE OTHER SIDE.

MEET OUR EXPERTS



Nathalie Ingham
Canine Behaviour & Training Manager



JoAnna Puzzo
Feline Welfare Manager

Up and down the country, pets have been seeing a lot more of their owners over recent weeks. But how will our dogs and cats cope now many of us are starting to leave them at home by themselves again? Battersea's resident behaviour experts are here with some top tips and tricks to help your pets cope with yet another adjustment to their routine.

ALL TOGETHER NOW

Your home may be busier than normal with family members home for summer or still not back to work as usual, so your dog or cat will need somewhere to retreat to if they're feeling overwhelmed by constant company. Dogs may prefer a cosy bed in a quiet corner, or their crate if that's what they're used to. If they have certain home comforts, like a soft toy or chew, ensure this is still easily accessible for them.

Cats may like to hide in a multitude of places: under the bed, in the wardrobe or even inside an empty cardboard box. If your cat does decide to hide, make sure they still have access to food and water.

BRAIN TRAINING

There are plenty of activities you can do with your dog in the home to keep their brain active if you're not able to get out for long walks as regularly as they may be used to, or when it's too hot. Brain games are a great activity and, for some dogs, the extra mental stimulation helps tire them out.

Try scattering their normal allowance of biscuits over the floor, around the house or in the garden to encourage them to use their sense of smell to find their food. As your dog starts to get better at using their nose, scatter their food over a larger area to make it more challenging.

Equally, if you think your cat is lacking some enrichment in their life, try dedicating a certain amount of time to playing with their favourite toy, or creating new things for them to explore, such as a cardboard box with food scattered inside.

BACK TO THE GRIND

Increase exercise gradually as you return to a normal routine. Dogs can become sore after exercise just like we can, so if you suddenly go for a much longer or physically tougher walk than

normal then they'll be tired and aching afterwards.

If you and your dog have been benefiting from increased exercise during lockdown then it's important to consider if you can fit this into your normal routine. If you can't, it may be worth looking into hiring a dog walker so your dog can still benefit from having more exercise.

It may be hard to predict how our pets will react when they are left alone for a period of time. Dogs will be more likely to experience or display separation anxiety, but, if you're still working from home, there's plenty you can start doing now to help them feel less stressed when you are no longer there all the time. Start trying to set your alarm for the same time you normally would and going through your normal morning routine, whatever that may be.

Try to set up your workspace somewhere you can close the door or maybe put up a child gate. Go through your morning routine like normal and then when you start work, give your dog any toys/food you normally give them when you leave, shut the door and try to leave them alone for a short period.

Don't feel disheartened if your dog cries or scratches; most aren't used to being shut in a different room and it isn't the same as the owner leaving the house entirely. Start small, even if that means you only close the door for 30 seconds at first. You can gradually build up the time again so that they're used to going and relaxing on their own when you're not around.

Cats may also be a bit put out once their owners go back to work. Right now, many owners are probably leaving their back doors open or are at least on hand to open the door whenever the cat likes.

Once they go back to work, this won't be an option and if they don't have a cat flap this sudden lack of access to the outdoors may cause frustration for many cats. This could cause toileting issues, especially if the cat was used to

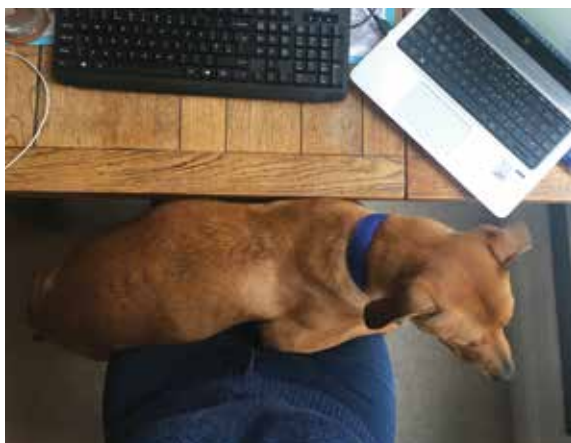


toileting outside. So that's something for owners to think about – it may even be an impetus to install a cat flap.

Many cats will have rather enjoyed the peace and quiet of not having visitors around. Once lockdown restrictions are completely lifted, it's important that owners allow their cat to retreat if needed and to make sure guests don't crowd their cat or force them into interactions.

Make sure your pet has some stimulation to keep their brain active when you go back to work.

For more advice on separation anxiety, brain games, or pets and coronavirus visit www.battersea.org.uk



WIN A TOUCH OF HOME COMFORT FOR YOUR DOG

To help your dog get the rest it needs, our friends at Sleeppeeze are giving one lucky reader a luxury dog bed.

Sleeppeeze explains:

"We have been at the forefront of bed-making since 1924 and we wanted dogs to experience the same level of comfort and cosiness. When designing the beds we thought of every little detail to help dogs get the rest they deserve: memory foam helps protect joints and relieve pressure points, while charcoal and bamboo in the fabric eliminates odours and absorbs excess moisture.

The beds are also the first on the market to be machine washable at 60°C. With four distinctive styles and a range of sizes and colours, there's a bed for every dog."

To be in with a chance of winning a Sleeppeeze dog bed of your choice, email paws@battersea.org.uk with the subject line 'Sleeppeeze bed draw' by 28 August.





STAY BUSY AND BAKE

FROM DOG AND
CAT-FRIENDLY
BAKED TREATS TO
BRAINTEASERS,
WE'VE GOT YOU
COVERED FOR LONG
SUMMER DAYS WHEN
BOREDOM STRIKES

HOMEMADE CAT TREATS

These homemade cat biscuits contain just three ingredients and are super simple to make. You should only give these to your cat as occasional treats, alongside a well-balanced diet. They're not suitable for cats with special dietary requirements.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tin of tuna in spring water (undrained)
- 1 egg, whisked
- 210g of plain or wholemeal flour

METHOD

1. Preheat your oven to 180°C/160°C Fan/Gas 4. Put the tin of tuna, including liquid, into a bowl. Add the whisked egg and blend until smooth using a hand blender.
2. Add the flour and stir everything together to form a dough. Divide the dough into four equal balls and put three of them in the freezer to use another time.
3. Roll out one ball of dough on a lightly floured work surface until it's about 1cm thick. Then cut out the biscuits using whatever shape you like. It's best to keep the biscuits on the



smaller side for your cat.

4. Cut out the biscuits. This part can get a little fiddly, so you might need to poke the dough out of the cutter using a cocktail stick.
5. Place your biscuit shapes on a lined baking tray and bake for 20–25 minutes.
6. Once they are crunchy and golden brown, remove from the oven. Leave to cool completely before giving to your cat.
7. These cat biscuits will keep fresh in a sealed container for up to one week.

SUDOKU

Exercise your mind by having a go at this sudoku.

7			1					
1	4						8	9
		8	3	4				
4	5			1		8	3	
			8		4			
	2	6		7			4	1
				3	2	4		
6	3						7	2
					1			3

Answer:

2	8	7	4	6	1	5	9	3
6	3	4	9	5	8	1	7	2
6	1	5	7	3	2	4	6	8
8	2	6	5	7	3	9	4	1
3	7	1	8	9	4	6	2	5
4	5	9	2	1	6	8	3	7
5	9	8	3	4	7	2	1	6
1	4	3	6	2	5	7	8	9
7	6	2	1	8	9	3	5	4

HOMEMADE DOG TREATS

Our quick and easy homemade dog biscuits are the perfect way to treat your dog to something special and can also be used as a reward for training. These treats should only be consumed occasionally and in small amounts alongside a well-balanced diet.

INGREDIENTS

- **1 banana**
- **60g sweet potato, mashed**
- **160g oats or oat flour**

Make the dough at least six hours before baking, or ideally the day before. This will allow the oats to absorb some moisture, which will stop them swelling in your dog's stomach.

METHOD

1. Preheat your oven to 180°C/160°C Fan/Gas
4. Peel and chop the sweet potato then boil in a saucepan of water for 10–15 minutes, until soft. Once thoroughly cooked, drain and set aside to cool completely.

2. Tip the oats into a blender and pulse into a

flour, or alternatively you can use ready-made oat flour.

3. Add banana to a bowl along with cooled sweet potato. Blend until smooth using a hand blender. Then add in your blended oats or oat flour.

4. Once the ingredients are combined, bring everything together with your hands to form a dough. Wrap the dough in cling film and leave in the fridge for at least six hours, or overnight.

5. Lightly flour your work surface and roll the dough out to about 1cm thick. Cut out the biscuits, using whatever shape you like.

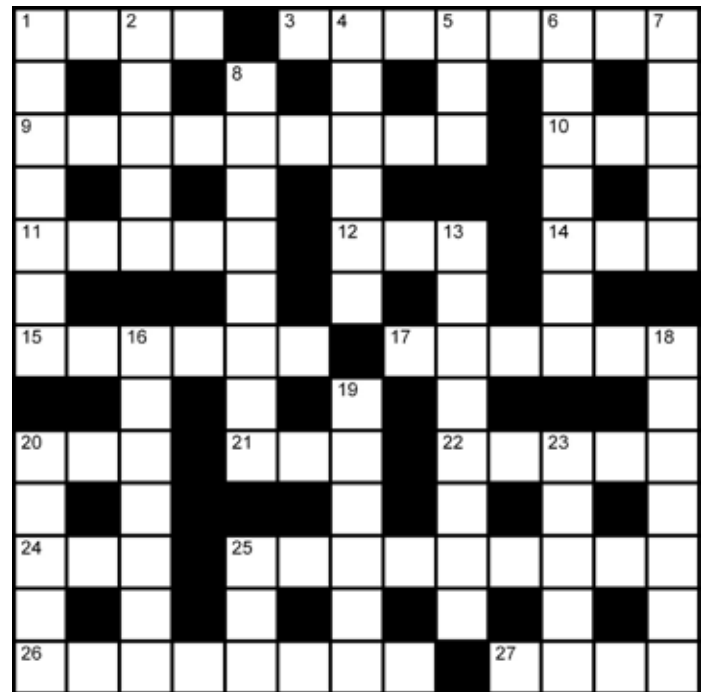
6. Place them on a lined baking tray and bake in the oven for 30–35 minutes. When they are thoroughly cooked through, remove them from the oven and leave to cool completely.

7. Once cool, they are ready for your dog to enjoy! These biscuits will keep fresh in a sealed container for up to two weeks.



CROSSWORD

Test your knowledge of cats and dogs with this crossword puzzle



Across

- Dorothy's dog in The Wizard of Oz (4)
- Dog from a region of NE Canada? (8)
- Sitcom that had a dog called Brian (6,3)
- TS Eliot's 'The Theatre Cat' (3)
- Mau is the word for 'cat' in this country (5)
- Gift --- offers UK tax relief on charitable donations (3)
- Smallest of the poodle breeds (3)
- Canine that loves to sit on its owner? (6)
- Name of a dog that appeared in Heartbeat (6)
- Kindness, love and attention especially needed by rescue pets? (abbr.) (3)
- Polydactyl cats have at least one extra --- (3)
- Oo-er! That's put the cat ---- the pigeons (5)
- Gray, co-author of the Oi Dog! and Oi Cat! books (3)
- German Shepherd that starred in 1920s films (3,3,3)
- One of five cats in The Simpsons (8)
- Musical telling the story of the Jellies (4)

Down

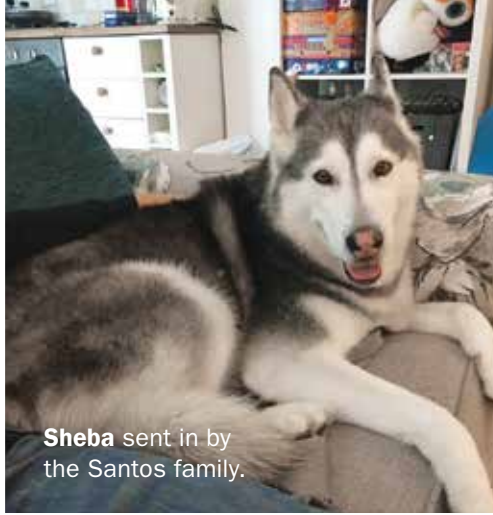
- Phil -----, cricketer nicknamed 'The Cat' (7)
- George's dog in The Famous Five (5)
- Hound with a long silky coat (6)
- See 25 down
- Another name for Sirius (3,4)
- the Rescue, a 2014 book "about shelter dogs and us" (5)
- Hallmark feature of this energetic Retriever (4,4)
- Historical region of Croatia, place of origin of 101 dogs? (8)
- Artist who painted a Dachshund called Lump (7)
- The last and least pleasing parts of things (3-4)
- Small shelter for a dog (6)
- Dogs of mixed breed (colloquial) (5)
- Antica, ancient ruins near Rome where stray and feral cats are found (5)
- 25/5 White male collie owned by Calvin Coolidge (3,3)

Crossword solution

Across: 1 Toto, 3 Labrador, 9 Family Guy, 10 Gus, 11 Egypt, 12 Aid, 14 Toy, 15 Lapdog, 17 Alfred, 20 TLC, 21 Toe, 22 Among, 24 Kes, 25 Rim Tin Tin, 26 Snowball, 27 Cats.
Down: 1 Turf, 2 Timmy, 4 Afghan, 5 See 25 down, 6 Dog Star, 7 Rusty, 8 Flat coat, 13 Dalmatia, 16 Picasso, 18 Dog-ends, 19 Kennel, 20 Tykes, 23 Osta, 25/5 Rob Roy.



Satsuma
sent in by the
Kent family.



Sheba sent in by
the Santos family.



Archie sent
in by Sylvia
and Ken.

LOVING LIFE

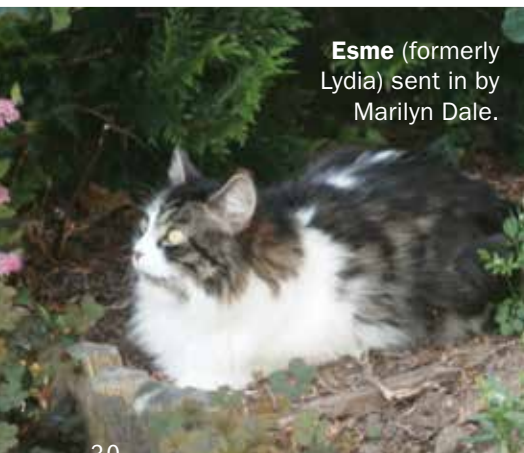
NOTHING BRINGS US MORE JOY AT BATTERSEA THAN SEEING OUR FORMER ANIMALS ENJOYING THEIR NEW LIVES AND PROVING RESCUE REALLY IS BEST.



Taco
(formerly
Almond)
sent in by
Steve and
Dominika.



Reggie
(formerly
Felix) sent in
by Amanda
Lockyer.



Esme (formerly
Lydia) sent in by
Marilyn Dale.

SHARE YOUR PICTURES! SEND YOUR BATTERSEA PET PHOTOS (1MB MINIMUM FILE SIZE) TO: PAWS@BATTERSEA.ORG.UK



Cheddar sent in by the Welsh family.



Raf sent in by Francesca Cockram.



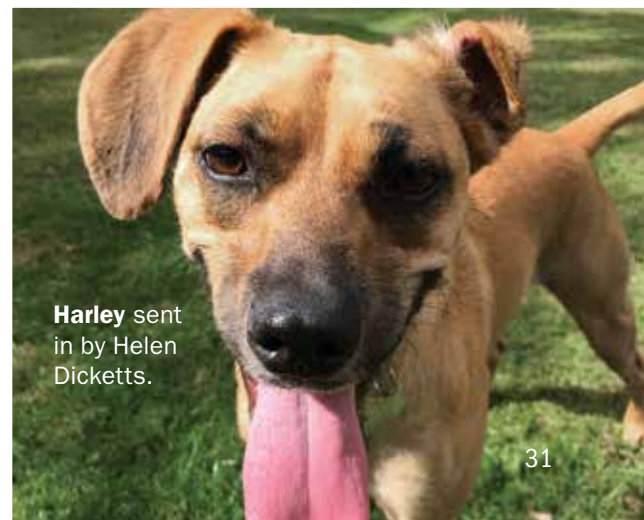
Salem sent in by Rebecca and Stephen.



Tawny sent in by Ed and Caroline.



Wendy sent in by the Willis family.



Harley sent in by Helen Dicketts.

YOUR LETTERS

SHARE YOUR SPECIAL PET MOMENTS WITH OTHER SUPPORTERS.



[STAR LETTER]

A TRUE FAMILY FRIEND

We rescued Daisy, our beautiful Collie/Saluki cross, in 2018 from Battersea Old Windsor, where all the staff were amazing and so friendly. We had a look at the dogs who were available and Daisy (not her old name) was reserved so we didn't think we would ever be lucky enough to have her. However, a home did not materialise with the family who had reserved Daisy and we were able to rehome her. She has made such a difference to our lives; she really is our adorable fur baby and we would not change her for the world. Having a dog in your life makes such a difference to your overall wellbeing and she is such a great friend and companion. Daisy is now seven years old and loves her toys, charging around the garden or the lounge, chasing squirrels or her own tail. Most of all, she loves cuddles and her treats. We adore her and we think she has really landed on her paws.

Thank you, Battersea.

Maxine and Kevin

Your prize

This issue's lucky winner will receive a pair of Regatta walking shoes of their choice, helping to ensure they are comfortable and well supported while enjoying a walk with the dog or exploring the coastlines and countryside.



OUR BOY BRUNO

We were just looking through our newest issue of *Paws* magazine and thinking about how grateful we are for everything Battersea does. You found us Bruno just over a year ago. He is the happiest guy in the world and makes us so happy too. The photo is from our honeymoon – Bruno was a ring bearer at our wedding this summer and got to come on the honeymoon road trip, too!

Shelly and Chris



TIA IS TOP NOTCH

It is, amazingly, three years since Tia came to live with us and she goes from strength to strength. Her remaining back leg and her front legs are so strong that there is very little she can't do and she and her partner in crime, Georgie, certainly keep me on my toes!

They are such good friends, and, in fact, Georgie is very protective of her, which is lovely to see. Where you find one, you can generally find the other. The past three years have gone so quickly – it's hard to believe Tia is now seven – and we've enjoyed every moment of it.

Jenny Ashe



FUN WITH FURNANDO

We rescued Furnando (Nando) from Battersea in September and he has become such a funny cat. I see him in so many strange places: on the trampoline, in the cupboard, on the sink, in the bath, on the shelves! He likes to do 'cat yoga', stretching out to show his tummy with his paws to one side, his head to the other, and his cute little legs hanging in the air. He's so sweet and always makes me laugh. He is very loving, always brushing against my legs and sleeping next to me on the sofa. In the mornings, when it's time to go downstairs, he immediately runs to the cupboard where his food is. He is just hilarious and I love him so much.

Cicely Davies



ALWAYS LOVED, NEVER FORGOTTEN

SO LONG, SWEET HENRY

Back in June 2014 my wife and I adopted two kittens from Battersea: Henry and Lily. It had not been our intention to rehome so soon following the deaths of our previous two elderly cats, but my wife had clear signs of dementia and we thought it would be good to have furry companions again. Unfortunately, my wife's dementia advanced quickly and she had to go into a nursing home in 2016. Henry and Lily became even more valuable to me in their very different ways. Henry loved people and was well known in the neighbourhood. He would spend evenings on my lap, whereas Lily had 'the rights' to my bed and was prepared to enforce them. Sadly, five weeks ago Henry came down with



kidney failure (cause unknown) at less than six years old. I was devastated. Lily stopped eating for two days, but we have become closer since. Henry's ashes are now buried in the garden under a new lilac tree.

Dermot Paddon



PHOEBE

Phoebe was the most caring, sweet-natured dog, who always loved walks and food. Unfortunately, she was diagnosed with an aggressive nose tumour and passed away in October. She will be forever in our hearts and we are so thankful to Battersea for matching us with a perfect companion.

Octavia Neeves



PRECIOUS AMBER

Our wonderful rescue Staffie, Amber, passed away in February. She was our 'baby', our 'drama queen' our 'piglet'. She was with us for 10 years after being rehomed from Battersea Old Windsor. From the moment she arrived home, she found her happy place, laying alongside us on the sofa, her nose nuzzled into the warmest spot. She loved trips away in the caravan, running along coast paths and swimming in the sea. She was the most loving, perceptive and caring friend anyone could ever have and we miss her so. Thank you, Amber, for filling our lives with unconditional love, you will always be walking beside us.

Denise and Len Rogers

LUCKY'S FIGHTING SPIRIT

In 2005, my partner and I decided it was time to make the ultimate commitment and get a cat together. After our rehoming application and interview, we returned to Battersea ready to choose a cat. (Sorry, I mean: be chosen by a cat.) Lucky chose us as her perfect match and home we went. We nicknamed her 'Little Bear' and she quickly showed her skill as a food ninja, despite her mature age of seven. We recently said goodbye to her after being blessed with her playful spirit, loving soul, and ability to detect chicken through closed doors. She was 22 years old but kept her fighting spirit. She will be missed.

Sarah Claxton and Sean McDonnell



LUCY

Lucy was our third dog from Battersea over the past 35 years and gave us 13 years of love and devotion. She loved going on our narrowboat for holidays and had such a lovely nature. She loved all the family equally and we miss her so much since she passed away in April. Thank you for bringing her into our lives.

Rita, Ron & Simon Gilliham



We love to hear from you and catch up with how our rehomed pets are getting along in their new homes. 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.

PICKLE THE PIONEER

HOW STAFFIE PICKLE MADE BATTERSEA HISTORY BY BECOMING THE FIRST ANIMAL TO BE REHOMED BY OUR COMMUNITIES SCHEME.



Sara (pictured) and husband David welcomed Pickle into their new home as soon as lockdown guidelines allowed.

Back in January, nine-year-old Staffie-cross Pickle made history when she became the first dog to be placed in Battersea's new Community in Guildford. She came on leaps and bounds in Battersea's care and subsequently in the care of one of our dedicated Community Rehoming Volunteers. However, just as it seemed as though the end of her Battersea journey was in sight and a potential home had been lined up, the country went into lockdown.

Battersea worked closely with Defra (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) to find a way to continue to safely rehome animals. Once new procedures were agreed, patient Pickle became one of our first animals to be rehomed under the new guidelines and finally went home to join Sara and David Tossell in Great Missenden.

Sara recalls, "The lockdown started pretty much as soon as we had enquired about Pickle, so it gave us time to stop and think. Over the passing weeks, we realised how much we wanted to rehome her."

Following several successful introductions over Skype, staff were

able to use the new guidelines to safely visit the couple and drop Pickle off at her new home.

For the Tossells, there was never a question over whether they would choose a rescue dog. Sara says, "We lost our last dog, a lovely English Bull Terrier, a year ago and had been undecided whether to get another dog. But we missed having a dog in the home, so as we are big supporters of Battersea we decided to take a look at the website to see what older dogs they had available."

"Our dogs have all been rescue

dogs, ranging from dogs with behavioural issues to one that was born deaf. We think every dog deserves a chance at a loving home. There are plenty of people out there looking for puppies, whereas not so many want to take on older dogs. We actually prefer to have a dog whose personality is already fully formed – you know what you're getting and there's no worrying about house-training!"

It seems Pickle's perfect ending couldn't have come at a better time for the Tossells, who have been able to use the lockdown period to bond with their newest family member.

Sara says, "It has been lovely to have her here. She has settled so well and become a real part of the family very quickly. She loves her walks and her rolls in the long grass in the fields near us and seems very happy."

"The timing has been great because it has certainly helped by giving us something else to focus on, rather than worrying about when other parts of life will get back to normal. The fact that we are both at home all the time has meant she has been able to bond very quickly with both of us."

Battersea Communities would not be possible without support from players of People's Postcode Lottery. Since 2019, £250,000 of this funding, received through Postcode Animal Trust, has gone directly towards our Communities project. Battersea is planning to establish 10 Communities over the next five years and hopes to rehome an additional 2,000 animals during this time.

For more information, visit battersea.org.uk/about-us/battersea-communities.



PET TRIBUTE FUND

REMEMBERING THEM TODAY, AND EVERY DAY, WITH A SMILE

At Battersea we understand how hard the loss of a beloved pet is. But celebrating the joy they brought to your life can help to ease the burden a little.

That's why we've created Pet Tribute Fund. So you can share happy memories of your beloved pet, whilst raising vital funds for the dogs and cats at Battersea as they wait to find a home where they'll raise smiles every day.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT MORE:
[PETTRIBUTEFUND.BATTERSEA.ORG.UK](https://pettributefund.battersea.org.uk)





BE AN

AT HOME HERO

Fundraising from home might look a little different, but your support has never been needed more. That's why we're asking you to get creative and be an At Home Hero for rescue dogs and cats. We've put together a variety of ideas to inspire new ways you can continue to fundraise for the animals in our care.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT MORE:

[BATTERSEA.ORG.UK/SUPPORT-US/FUNDRAISING/BE-HOME-HERO](https://battersea.org.uk/support-us/fundraising/be-home-hero)

