



BATTERSEA

HERE FOR EVERY DOG AND CAT

PAWS

WINTER 2019

SUGGESTED DONATION £2

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

Our new
Communities
project launches

How to keep your
pet healthy and
active as they
get older

Get crafting for
your pets

**SPREAD THE WORD:
RESCUE IS OUR
FAVOURITE BREED**



WELCOME

Here at Battersea, we are fortunate enough to meet dogs and cats of all breeds, shapes, sizes, needs and backgrounds. And, with our non-selective intake policy, we welcome all these wonderful animals with the love and care they deserve.

Now, we want to get the entire nation on board with how incredible rescue animals are. To enable more people to look beyond a pet's pedigree and embrace its personality. With so many loving dogs and cats still waiting in shelters across the country, it's time that everybody out there who has already opened their heart – and home – to a rescue animal stood up, loud and proud, and joined us in shouting it from the rooftops. Rescue really is our favourite breed. Find out what just a handful of people already doing so had to say on page 10 of this issue, including our fantastic ambassador, Paul O'Grady.

For those that are unable to rehome a pet of their own, however, there is still plenty that can be done to champion rescue animals. We're taking the word out onto the street by launching our first ever Battersea Community, a project to bring Battersea – and our animals – to all corners of the country. As part of the project, we're hoping to create a network of trained volunteers, who will look after cats or dogs temporarily until a permanent home can be found, as well as spread the word about rehoming a rescue animal within their local neighbourhood. Discover more on page 22.

With Christmas on the horizon, we are reminded of the hard work and dedication of volunteers who give their time to help dogs and cats who find themselves at Battersea. On page 24, read more about the amazing work our volunteers do over the festive period to help unwanted or abandoned animals feel loved. From all the humans and animals at Battersea, we wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Claire Horton, Chief Executive
(with Humphrey the Staffie, who has found his new loving home in time for Christmas)

THE PAWS TEAM

EDITOR

LUCY TORCHIA

CONTRIBUTORS

SARAH COPLESTON
MAISIE FAIRHALL
SEBASTIAN PRIOR
NINA SHISHKIN-SMITH

PAWS IS DESIGNED ON BEHALF OF
BATTERSEA DOGS & CATS HOME
BY IMMEDIATE MEDIA CO
IMCONTENT.CO.UK

GET IN TOUCH

PAWS MAGAZINE

BATTERSEA DOGS & CATS HOME

4 BATTERSEA PARK ROAD
LONDON SW8 4AA

0800 001 4444
PAWS@BATTERSEA.ORG.UK
BATTERSEA.ORG.UK

Patron HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, GCVO
President HRH Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO

ADVERTISING

COMMERCIAL@BATTERSEA.ORG.UK

CHANGE OF DETAILS?

FUNDRAISING@BATTERSEA.ORG.UK
0207 627 7883

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

OUR OTHER CENTRES

BATTERSEA OLD WINDSOR

PRIEST HILL, OLD WINDSOR
BERKSHIRE SL4 2JN

BATTERSEA BRANDS HATCH

CROWHURST LANE, ASH
KENT TN15 7HH

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



On the cover:
Paul O'Grady
tells us why he
loves rescue

CONTENTS

FEATURES

RESCUE IS OUR FAVOURITE BREED 10
Paul O'Grady has helped us to launch our brand new campaign, as we encourage everyone to think rescue first.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT 22
With our new Battersea Communities project we want to rehome more cats and dogs, and put smiles on even more faces across the UK.

THE GIFT OF LOVE 24
Some of our wonderful volunteers share what it's like to spend Christmas Day with Battersea's dogs and cats (spoiler: it's the best Christmas ever).

ASK THE EXPERTS 26
Top tips to help keep pets moving all the way into their golden years.

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS 28
Follow our simple step-by-step guides to making a cracking gift for your dog or cat.

ME AND MY PET 34
The story of Chris and Gorgeous George proves that rescue really is best.

REGULARS

WELCOME 02
From our Chief Executive Claire Horton

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

HAPPILY REHOMED 15
Dogs and cats enjoying their second chance at happiness

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

TAKE US HOME 21
Battersea animals looking to be loved

PET GALLERY 30
Former Battersea dogs and cats who are loving their lives in a new home

YOUR LETTERS 32
Heartwarming stories of happiness found at Battersea



YUMOVE[®]
active for life

UK's
No.1

Veterinary Joint
Supplement Brand*

get your £5
trial pack



Visit yumove.lintbells.com/battersea
to order your £5 trial pack today

★ Trustpilot

★★★★★ 4.9 out of 5



WHAT'S NEW

ANIMALS | PEOPLE | EVENTS | CAMPAIGNS

By joining up with StreetVet we can help even more dogs in need

[PARTNERSHIPS]

PARTNERING TO HELP PETS ON THE STREET

HELPING DOGS BELONGING TO PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS OR IN TEMPORARY HOUSING

Battersea is excited to announce a new partnership with StreetVet, a charity that delivers free veterinary services to dogs owned by the homeless and those in temporary accommodation and hostels.

The partnership will see Battersea give StreetVet operational and logistical support, including expert advice from its staff, clinical support, and kennel space for animals in urgent need of care. Battersea also plans to work with

StreetVet on a range of projects that will help the charity to reach more dogs in need. For example, providing advice and training to hostel staff to promote and facilitate hostels accepting dogs – creating more safe places to sleep for both dogs and their owners.

Battersea's Deputy Chief Executive, Peter Laurie, said, "I'm excited at the prospect of Battersea and StreetVet coming together for a partnership that aligns both organisations' strategic

values. Both of us care deeply about the welfare of dogs, particularly those most in need. StreetVet relies almost entirely on the support of a growing network of volunteers, including members of the Battersea clinic team, and is a great example of a volunteer-led organisation delivering significant impact on a wide geographical scale. By working together, we can increase our collective impact and help more animals in need."



Mike Webb, Head of Policy and Public Affairs at Battersea, with Ruth Davidson, MSP



[NEWS]

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BRANDS HATCH!

In 1999, we opened our third centre based in Brands Hatch, Kent, to enable us to help even more dogs and cats. And, in November, we're celebrating this 20-year milestone.

Surrounded by 12 acres of tranquil fields including a beautiful woodland trail, Battersea Brands Hatch provides a much calmer environment for dogs who struggle the most with life in kennels.

The centre's new dedicated outdoor space for cats, Collingwood Mews, also gives cats a chance to stretch their paws in an engaging – and fully protected – outside space.

Over the years, Brands Hatch has rehomed thousands of dogs and cats, so we would like to thank every single rehomer, supporter, member of staff and volunteer who has helped along the way. If you have a special Brands Hatch memory, why not share it on our Facebook page or write to us, paws@battersea.org.uk.



[CAMPAIGNS]

SCOTLAND GETS TOUGH

LONGER SENTENCES FOR ANIMAL CRUELTY GETTING CLOSER

In September, Battersea welcomed the Scottish Government's commitment to bring forward a Bill to increase maximum sentences for animal cruelty. The Bill was announced in the Programme for Government (PfG), which outlines the work the Scottish Government will carry out for the year ahead (2019–20).

The introduction of the Animal Health and Welfare Amendment Bill will mean maximum sentences will increase from the current 12 months to five years – consulted on earlier this year.

Battersea has been strongly campaigning for the maximum sentence for animal cruelty in Scotland to increase to five years since 2017.

At 12 months, the current maximum sentence for animal cruelty is amongst the lowest across Europe – with only five other areas having lower sentences for animal cruelty (including England and Wales).

Battersea's Chief Executive, Claire Horton, said, "We are very pleased that the Scottish Government has reaffirmed their commitment to tougher sentences for animal cruelty in today's Programme for Government. We hope this Bill will be laid out in Parliament as soon as possible as a priority. It will send a clear sign that the nation is no longer prepared to put up with a 12-month sentence for the most shocking cases of animal cruelty."



[NEWS]

PEDAL POWER FOR BATTERSEA

Earlier this year, James Middleton, entrepreneur and mental health campaigner (and younger brother of The Duchess of Cambridge), hit the headlines when his Babboe electric cargo bike was stolen in South West London. James regularly used it to transport his five dogs (Ella, Inca, Luna, Zulu and Mabel) around town. He took to Instagram to track it down and pledged to make a donation to Battersea if his followers spread the word.

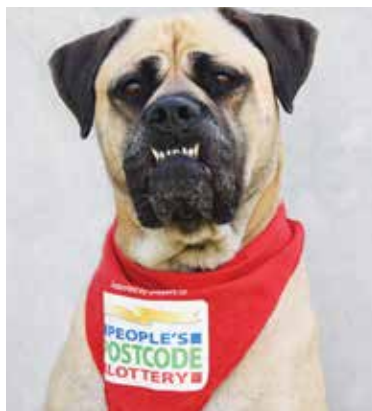
The post got 15,000 'likes'. Just a couple of days later it had been shared over 30,000 times and James was reunited with the £2,000 bike. In thanks, James doubled his donation to Battersea and took a trip into our London centre to donate the original bike once it had been fully restored. Now fully fixed-up and proudly parading the Battersea brand, the bike will make moving around site much easier for our some of our less-mobile dogs, or dogs recovering from surgery.

[NEWS]

MARKING A MILESTONE

This year, Battersea is celebrating five years of support from players of People's Postcode Lottery. Since 2014, we've received an amazing £2.9 million through the Postcode Animal Trust, so that we can continue to be here for every dog and cat. Support from players of People's Postcode Lottery has allowed us to change the lives of animals across our sites and beyond our gates, delivering expert veterinary care, campaigning to change the law, and supporting the volunteers we rely on to care for nearly 7,000 animals a year.

Catherine Miles, Director of Fundraising at Battersea, said, "We are incredibly grateful for the continued generosity shown to Battersea by players of People's Postcode Lottery. Over the past five years, we have cared for thousands of vulnerable dogs and cats, and the funding has been vital in helping us to do that. We look forward to continuing to share this journey with players."



[IN MEMORY]

TOUCHING TRIBUTE

At Battersea, we know that losing a pet can be one of the hardest things you can go through – after all, they're part of the family. That's why we recently set up Pet Tribute Funds; a special place where you can share photos and memories of your beloved friend while raising much-needed funds for the animals at Battersea.

Animal lover Sam set up a page after losing her cat, Pepper, to a sudden illness. She tells us, "I set up the page for Pepper because he was so special. He was, and always will be, my hero and my soulmate. I thought the page would be a wonderful way to let others know what an amazing boy he was, and it was fitting that he could continue to be a hero by raising funds for a very important and special charity."

You can read Pepper's story or set up your own Pet Tribute Page at pettributefund.battersea.org.uk.



[CAMPAIGNS]

REHOMING THE RESCUED

OUR NEW CAMPAIGN HITS TV SCREENS AND BILLBOARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

In October, we launched a ground-breaking new campaign, 'Rescue is Our Favourite Breed', to celebrate the inimitable characters and quirks of rescue dogs and cats. Battersea wants to encourage animal lovers to always think rescue first when it comes to finding their new pet, even if it may mean waiting a little longer to find the perfect match.

Every year, 250,000 animals are brought to rescue centres around the UK for all kinds of reasons⁽ⁱ⁾. Most are much loved pets that, through no fault of their own, find themselves without a home. They may be an odd mix of breeds, or not look perfect, but they have so much to give.

Battersea's research shows that whilst 92% of people say they believe rescue is the right thing to do⁽ⁱⁱ⁾, when the time comes, many choose to go online and search for a specific breed instead. In the last 12 months there have been on average 165,000 monthly searches online for 'French Bulldogs'⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾. A fifth of people who say they wouldn't consider rescue say they can't get the type of breed



they want from a rescue centre^(iv) and over half (52%) say the animals in rescue centres often have health or behavioural problems, and you don't know their full history^(v).

Claire Horton, Battersea's Chief Executive, says, "Battersea is setting out to increase the visibility of rescue animals, to show they're more common than you think, and are in homes across the nation. They're the most rewarding, responsible choice for a pet, and we're hoping to bring them front of mind – to get all generations of animal lovers to think rescue first."

If you haven't seen it on TV yet, view our new advert at youtube.com/battersea.

ⁱ Association of Dogs and Cats Homes <http://www.adch.org.uk/>

ⁱⁱ Behind the Scenes at Battersea campaign evaluation conducted by Future Thinking in 2018.

ⁱⁱⁱ Google Ads Keyword Planner.

^{iv} Morris Hargreaves McIntyre population survey for Battersea 2015 (base 300)

^v Behind the Scenes at Battersea campaign evaluation conducted by Future Thinking in 2018.

WHAT'S NEW



[FUNDRAISING]

MUDDY MARVELLOUS

As winter returns, it's time for Battersea's Muddy Dog Challenge team to pack down the inflatables until next year. Throughout the summer months, thousands of you across the country got well and truly stuck in to help our dogs and cats, by taking on one of our obstacle courses with – or without – a four-legged pal in tow. And, between the seven events hosted around the UK, you have raised an astonishing £840,913. A massive 'thank you' to all of those who took part and we look forward to welcoming you back next year!



[POGDOGS]

A VERY CANINE CHRISTMAS

We hope you've all been tuning in to the new series of *Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs*, Wednesdays at 8pm on ITV, to see what Paul got up to during his latest stint at Battersea. The end of the current series may be fast approaching, but Paul and some of his Battersea friends – two- and four-legged – will return at Christmas for an hour-long special. From puppies with poorly legs to agoraphobic Akitas, the episode's packed with stories from behind our gates. So, while you're curling up with your pets after dinner, show your support for the animals who aren't so lucky, and have your heart warmed by the magic that rescue dogs and cats can bring their new families.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

5 & 13 December 2019

Celebrate with us at St Luke's Church in Chelsea as we wrap our dogs and cats in the love they deserve this Christmas. Doors open at 7pm and as well as festive carols, mulled wine and mince pies, you'll be treated to a very special guard of honour and goodie bags from our sponsors, Pet Pavilion. Get your ticket at battersea.org.uk/support-us/events/christmas-carol-concert

BATH HALF MARATHON

15th March 2020

The Bath Half is one of the longest-established and most popular city centre road events in the UK.

The course itself is fast and flat, making it suitable for all abilities, starting and finishing in the heart of the city.

LONDON LANDMARKS HALF MARATHON

29th March 2020

This event takes runners through the streets of London honouring the culture, heritage and history of the capital. Join 12,000 other participants to take in iconic landmarks such as Nelson's Column, St Paul's Cathedral and The Tower of London (to name but a few) along the route. There are themed pit stops, and you can expect to see quirky historical cheerers along the way.

GREATER MANCHESTER MARATHON

5th April 2020

Famous for its flat, fast and friendly route, the Manchester Marathon is one of the UK's premier running



events. 2020 will see 20,000 people of all abilities taking to the streets of Manchester with a new central city route added for this year.

OWN PLACE CHALLENGE

Are you thinking of taking on a challenge this year? Why not raise money for Battersea while doing so? Email events@battersea.org.uk to find out more.

LONDON MARATHON

26th April 2020

Were you lucky enough to secure your own place in the world-renowned London Marathon? If so, you have the opportunity to run for Battersea's dogs and cats. This incredible challenge is often a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and you could take part in it, as well as raise money for dogs and cats in need.

TREKS

Take on the challenge of walking one of the most picturesque places in the UK. This is truly an amazing experience to share with friends. For more information contact: events@battersea.org.uk or visit: battersea.org.uk/support-us/challenges.



#8MONTHS OF EXPLORING



Up to 8 months' continuous protection against fleas and ticks.



Use Medicines Responsibly.

Seresto flea and tick control collar contains imidacloprid and flumethrin [NFA-VPS]. Further information is available from the datasheet at www.noahcompendium.co.uk or on request.
®Registered Trade Mark of Bayer AG, Bayer plc, 400 South Oak Way, Green Park, Reading, RG2 6AD. Tel: 0118 206 3000

1 GB MKT 12 2018 19477

Haggis is one of the faces of our new campaign



RESCUE IS OUR FAVOURITE BREED

FROM FIV+ CATS TO DOGS WITH A SLIGHTLY 'DIFFERENT' LOOK, MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ALL ACROSS THE UK ARE REHOMING RESCUE ANIMALS AND PROUDLY STATING #RESCUEISMYFAVOURITEBREED.

There is simply no denying it. The very fact you are reading this copy of *Paws* magazine right now confirms it. We truly are a nation of animal lovers.

Around nine million dogs and eight million cats are owned as pets across the UK. Rescue animals, however, are not always people's first choice. As consumer demand for puppies, kittens and designer breeds continues to grow, Battersea is making a stand against the trend.

By elevating and celebrating rescue dogs and cats in all their glory, our campaign is about getting people to think rescue first when it comes to

finding their new pet, even if it means waiting a little longer to find the perfect match. We're encouraging people to look beyond a pet's pedigree and instead embrace its personality. To look beyond age and see character. If you want a unique pet, there's only one breed for you: rescue.

Still another eight lives left

Sometimes, the animals who come into Battersea are in a bad way. But we firmly believe that every dog and cat deserves a second chance at happiness. We will do everything we can to be there for them, nursing them back

to health and happiness before they go off to their new homes.

Cricket was an extremely emaciated kitten, found inside a cat carrier with a note that read, "Help me please."

When the filthy, soiled carrier was brought into Battersea's London centre, vets weren't even sure if the tiny kitten was even alive to begin with. Estimated to be around five months old, weighing less than half the healthy weight he should and with two bowed front legs, it was touch and go for young Cricket.

After weeks of intensive care, shared between a dedicated team of expert foster carers from the cattery here

(continued on page 12)



Below When Hunter (formerly Cricket) was first found, he was extremely emaciated but he's now found a new lease of life.



Left: Tazzie proves that rescue animals deserve a happy ending.

Below: Paul with Bauble, Arfur's mum, during her time at Battersea.

FOR THE LOVE OF RESCUE

As our Ambassador and the public face of Battersea through our ITV series *Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs*, the TV star has – perhaps unsurprisingly – rehomed his fair share of Battersea dogs.

Recently, Paul chose to extend his four-legged family once more with the addition of Arfur, a puppy he met for the first time during filming. Arfur was born at Battersea in November 2017, and Paul was first introduced to the tiny Mongrel and his five siblings when they were just a few days old.

“With the amount of time I spend at Battersea, it’s no surprise I’ve ended up falling head over heels on more than one occasion,” says Paul. “Rescue dogs have such great personalities.

I’ve met rescue dogs with character, ones who never sit still, and others that jump on my lap at the first opportunity.”

Arfur settled in quickly to his new home and became firm friends with Paul’s other dogs, including Eddie, a Chihuahua cross who Paul rehomed from Battersea in 2012.

“For me, giving an animal a second chance at life is something we should all be proud to do,” says Paul.

“It’s like a badge of honour to own a rescue pet: you’ve not only done a great thing for the animal, but for yourself too. Rehoming a pet rather than nipping online to buy the first puppy you see is such a rewarding experience for both of you.”





Left Belle shows rescue dogs at their best in our new campaign.

Above Twizzle spent over 200 days in our cattery but eventually found the perfect home in Surrey.

Right Kora was brought into Battersea after she was found at the side of a road by Amie – who later adopted her.

at Battersea, Cricket pulled through and slowly started to gain weight, with some of his fur growing back. Although he continued to have bowed legs, he gradually became a playful and affectionate cat, who loved nothing more than cuddling on staff and volunteers' laps. Little Cricket survived because he was given the best care possible, 24 hours a day.

"Cricket was abandoned because his previous owner was clearly unable to care for him," says Battersea veterinary surgeon Claire Turner. "We'd encourage anyone who can't look after their pet to bring them into a rescue centre. Cricket was lucky to have been found in time for us to save him – it was a close call."

Luckily, Cricket's story has a happy ending. After falling in love with him at first sight, his new owner, Anna from Hampshire, took him home, renaming him to a more suitable name considering the fight he had put up just to survive: Hunter.

"Anna recalls, "When I saw Hunter on the Battersea website he looked tiny, with short cream hair. I thought he looked very cute. I wanted to rehome a rescue cat because I feel that they really

need your love and care having had a tough start in life."

It wasn't long before Hunter began to thrive in his new home and, unbeknown to Anna, he started to blossom into the magnificent cat he was always meant to be. She says, "I'd had him for a couple of months and his hair just started to grow and grow! His tail is so fluffy, long and upright that it actually touches his head. Much to my surprise, he grew into a beautiful Maine Coon with a mischievous personality."

Not perfect but worth it

Gentle giant Kora was left tied up by the side of a busy road in north London until she was found, hungry and petrified, by a veterinary nurse working nearby and brought into Battersea.

Upon her arrival, it was clear that poor Kora had been through a lot in her short life. Her ears and tail had been deliberately docked, to give her a more intimidating look. Shockingly, Battersea's vets believe her ears and tail could have been cut with a pair of scissors. But, despite her tough exterior, Battersea staff soon discovered that Kora was a complete softie.

In a surprise twist, Kora was adopted by Amie – the same vet nurse who found her by the roadside. Amie says she fell in love with Kora the day she met her and, when no one came forward to claim her, she was determined to adopt her. Amie tracked Kora down to Battersea and it turned out to be the perfect match for the gentle giant, who now lives with Amie in Harlow, Essex.

Amie is a life-long sufferer of fibromyalgia, a condition that causes pain all over the body. Although coping with the condition takes its toll, Kora has helped Amie and has become an emotional support dog thanks to her sweet and loving nature.

"I used to worry about going out in public with my stick," says Amie, "but when I have Kora with me, she gives me something else to focus on. If I ever feel anxious or worried, she supports me by giving me her paw which instantly makes me feel better."

Cane corsos are often a misunderstood breed, with people mistaking their size, large features and bouncy behaviour for something more aggressive, but Kora is proof that these dogs can also be incredibly



Battersea research shows:

92%

agreed that "rehoming from a rescue charity is the right thing to do".

(Behind the Scenes at Battersea campaign evaluation conducted by Future Thinking in 2018)

25%

of people own a dog or cat from a UK rescue charity.

(YouGov Profiles 07/19 (34,465 recent GB dog/cat owners)

soft and affectionate.

"Kora may not look like a stereotypical emotional support dog but she shows why people should never judge a dog by breed or appearance," says Amie. "She also shows that rescue dogs can do incredible things.

"People often think that rescue dogs are sad or difficult but, even though Kora has clearly had a rough start in life, she's so easy to be around and loves a cuddle. Kora shows how happy rescue dogs can be, but also how happy they make us. She has really changed my life and is my best friend."

Even underdogs can be top cats

Twizzle, an unlucky eight-year-old Domestic Shorthair, arrived at Battersea after a member of the public decided the stray needed rescuing. Despite being a lovely cat, Twizzle was overlooked time and time again by potential owners.

Cattery staff believed this was most likely because of his FIV+ status. Battersea rehomes FIV+ cats to homes with enclosed gardens to prevent cats from potentially spreading the virus. Although most cats who are FIV+ live a long life with no health issues, many

"IF I EVER FEEL ANXIOUS, KORA SUPPORTS ME BY GIVING ME HER PAW"

people can be put off adopting a cat such as Twizzle.

In a bid to help him find a home, staff threw 'Twizz' a birthday party which coincided with his 125th day at Battersea. The average length of stay for a cat at Battersea is 23 days. Although the birthday boy's face was splashed all over the papers and internet, Twizzle still couldn't find his perfect match.

Everything changed though when a potential new owner, Andrew from Surrey, contacted Battersea to say he would love to adopt Twizzle, who he'd been keeping an eye on via our website for months. With building works ongoing at his house, it was the perfect opportunity for Andrew to secure his garden alongside getting the house ready for its new resident.

Twizzle's patience eventually paid

off and, after spending over 200 days in the cattery, he said goodbye to Battersea before heading off to his new, happy home.

You don't have to be a Dane to be great

Among the animals to feature in Battersea's new campaign is beautiful Belle, a lively three-year-old Lurcher from Tonbridge, Kent. Her owner, Giovanna, said, "People may have reservations about visiting a rescue centre, thinking that all of the animals would have been given up for serious medical or behavioural problems, but dogs like Belle show that this couldn't be further from the truth. Sure, she can be a bit cheeky sometimes, but she also has a unique personality that makes my family and I love her even more. I'm proud to be a rescue owner and hope this campaign will show people that rescue animals are legends in their own right and have so much to give."

GET INVOLVED

Tag photos of your rescue pet online using the hashtag **#rescueismyfavouiritebreed**

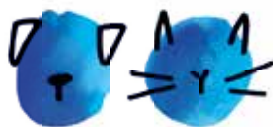


PROMISE TO BE THERE WITH A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

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

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

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



BATTERSEA

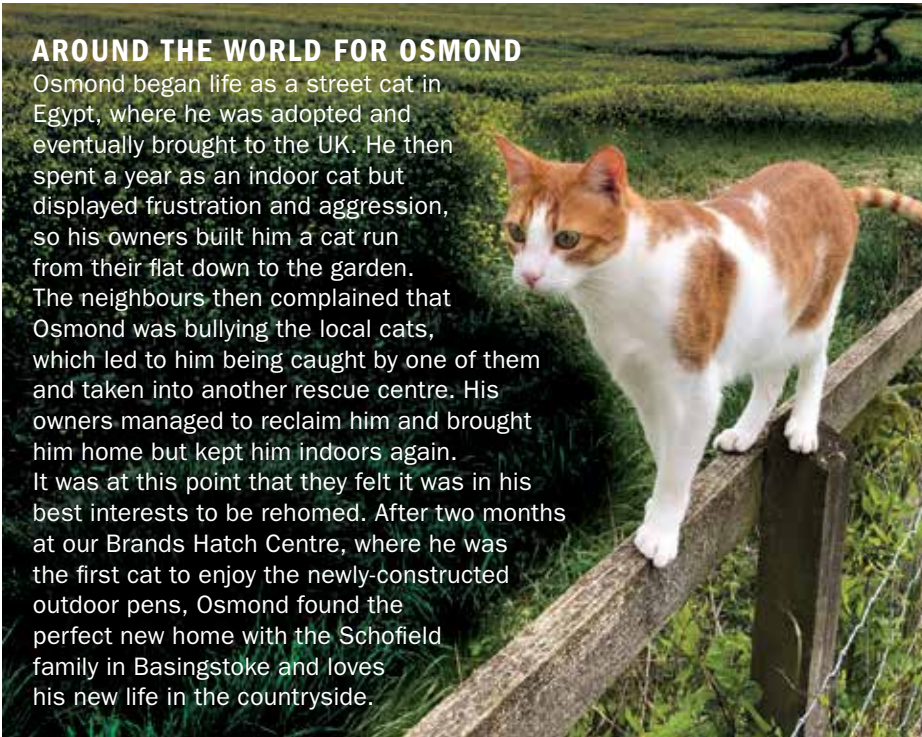
HERE FOR EVERY DOG AND CAT

HAPPILY REHOMED

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

AROUND THE WORLD FOR OSMOND

Osmond began life as a street cat in Egypt, where he was adopted and eventually brought to the UK. He then spent a year as an indoor cat but displayed frustration and aggression, so his owners built him a cat run from their flat down to the garden. The neighbours then complained that Osmond was bullying the local cats, which led to him being caught by one of them and taken into another rescue centre. His owners managed to reclaim him and brought him home but kept him indoors again. It was at this point that they felt it was in his best interests to be rehomed. After two months at our Brands Hatch Centre, where he was the first cat to enjoy the newly-constructed outdoor pens, Osmond found the perfect new home with the Schofield family in Basingstoke and loves his new life in the countryside.



A PIRATE'S LIFE FOR ARCHIE

Blind since birth, French Bulldog Pirate grew up relying on his hearing and sense of smell. He hadn't been walked in his previous home, so had limited access to sounds and scents. After two weeks at Battersea he found a home with the Saraceno family in Croydon. His new life coincided with a new royal baby, so he was renamed Archie.



DEXTER'S DREAM HOME

Dexter came to our Brands Hatch centre when his owners had a baby. Sadly, it took him a little longer to find a home, but after 62 days he was adopted by a couple in Croydon. Dexter, now Max, now spends his days dreaming on the sofa, and even brought in a live mouse (returned unscathed), so there's still life in the old boy yet.



LOVE AT FIRST SIGHTHOUND

Leon arrived at our Old Windsor centre as a stray. The team agreed that he'd benefit from living with an older sighthound to act as a role model, so Leon was matched with the Line family from Basingstoke and their two other dogs. Leon was an instant hit, particularly with their Whippet Lurcher, Sky, who he enjoys playing chase with.



THE FUTURE IS BRIGHTON

Alan came to Battersea as a kitten when his owners moved. He was very timid, but it wasn't long before he caught the attention of Ros, a staff member in our Cattery, who rehomed him in Brighton. Now four months old, Alan has been renamed Hot George and is the sweetest cat, who seeks out a hand and nudges for more strokes.

5 & 13 DECEMBER
ST LUKE'S CHURCH, LONDON
DOORS OPEN AT 7PM TICKETS £20 - £30

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

Join us for an evening of carols, mince pies and warming mulled wine.

For tickets visit battersea.org.uk/CarolConcert

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

Pet Pavilion

BATTERSEA
HERE FOR EVERY DOG AND CAT

FR Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

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



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

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

LITTLE PAWS



COOL PICS, JOKES, QUIZZES AND A POSTER!

YOUR EPIC PET SELFIES



Ada with Kaiser



**Annie with Ripper
and Pixie**



**Sadie
with
Arthur**



**Esmac-Jorja
and Mya-rose
with Vera**



WINNER!

Flynn with Gino



**Xavier with
Queenie**



**Lucy and Charlie
with Ted**

WIN!

This issue's lucky winner can choose either the Dogs and Puppies or Cats and Kittens board game from Laurence King Publishing (LKP) in partnership with Battersea. They are designed to raise vital funds, and to raise awareness of our dogs and cats.

HOW TO ENTER: Send a selfie with your dog or cat to littlepaws@battersea.org.uk





LITTLE
PAWS

Little **Bella**, a long-haired Chihuahua, came into Battersea when her previous owner unfortunately developed an allergy. Only six months old when she arrived, the playful puppy had staff and visitors falling in love with her straight away. After spending a few months working on her manners with other dogs and new people, beautiful Bella waved goodbye to Battersea and went on to her happy new home in Kent.

TOYS



HOW ARE DOGS AND CATS LIKE COINS?
THEY HAVE HEADS ON ONE SIDE AND TAILS ON THE OTHER



FUNDRAISING EFFORTS GO DOWN A STORM

Our London centre was recently visited by Storm Burgess: 13, animal lover, *Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs* superfan, and nominee for Young Fundraiser of the Year. Storm has raised over £26,000 for animal charities, including Battersea, and has won six awards, including the chance to attend an awards ceremony and meet Paul himself. At Battersea she met POGDOGS regular Ali Taylor and her dogs, Squirt, Olive and Betty, and got a behind-the-scenes tour.



WHAT KIND OF CATS LIKE BOWLING?
ALLEY CATS

REPORTING FOR DUTY

We love writing about all the animals at Battersea, and one clever young lady from London could be nipping at our heels for a job! Belinda, whose family fosters cats for us, wrote about it for a school project. In a fantastic article, she explained how important foster homes are for dogs and cats, and told the story of abandoned cat Holly. Her family gave Holly a safe place to give birth to five kittens. The story had a happy ending: all the kittens and Holly found new homes, including little Hecate, pictured, who stayed with Belinda's family.

MERRY QUIZ-MAS

Have a go at our festive quiz and find out how many animals we help at Christmas



- How many presents will be given to Battersea's dogs and cats on Christmas day?
 - 100
 - 300
 - 500
- Volunteers help make Christmas special for the animals. How many will come in to Battersea on Christmas Day and Boxing Day?
 - 30
 - 40
 - 50
- How many knitted toys will be left in Christmas stockings for Battersea's cats to play with?
 - 20
 - 200
 - 2000
- 'Twas the night before Christmas – how many dogs arrived at Battersea?
 - 3
 - 4
 - 5



WHY ARE DOGS BAD DANCERS?
THEY HAVE TWO LEFT FEET!



MAKING A DOG'S DINNER (PLATE)

Animals at our Brands Hatch centre got a taste of the fine-dining experience when pupils from Mayfield Grammar School, in Gravesend, created wonderful dog and cat bowls for them. The Year 10 students made the bowls as part of their Design and Technology class, and staff at Brands Hatch had the tough job of choosing a winner. Luckily, our dogs and cats were on-hand to help, eating tasty treats from their new crockery, or, in one kitten's case, trying one out as a throne! The top prize went to a brilliant bowl designed to look like a cat, which our bigger dogs particularly enjoyed.

TAKE US HOME

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



OBI
7 years old
rehoming@battersea.org.uk
Obi may not be a Jedi, but he's a firm favourite at Battersea due to his lovable nature. He's looking for a home of his own, ideally with a private garden so he can potter about. He's had issues with his eyes, so his new owners will need to continue his treatment at home.



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

OTTO
2 years old
rehoming@battersea.org.uk
Otto is looking for owners who are experienced in dealing with nervous dogs. He's worried of loud noises so needs somewhere quiet, away from busy roads. His ideal new owners will have lots of time and patience to help Otto come out of his shell.



ROMEO
6 years old
Bow.rehomers@battersea.org.uk
This charmer loves being around people and will make a fantastic companion for his new family. Romeo has tested positive for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) so needs a cat proof garden. Don't worry if your garden isn't currently cat-proofed, we offer plenty of advice.



BRUCE
6 months old
rehoming@battersea.org.uk
Bruce needs owners with experience of working breeds, who can keep him mentally and physically stimulated, are keen on training and are around most of the day. With lots of stimulation and consistency Bruce is bound to blossom into an intelligent and loyal companion.



JAKE
12 years
rehoming@battersea.org.uk
Jake's looking for a home with a couple of warm laps and plenty of attention. He would prefer an adult-only home due to his love of the quiet life. He might be able to live in an indoor-only home, but would prefer owners who are around a lot, as he is very people-orientated.



BELLA
2 years old
rehoming@battersea.org.uk
Beautiful Bella has taken some time to build trust here, thanks to her sensitive soul. But underneath is a sweet and loving dog. Potential new owners should be familiar with, or research, Shar-Peis, so they understand their breed traits and associated medical conditions.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

HOW BATTERSEA'S EXCITING NEW PROJECT AIMS TO SPREAD OUR 'RESCUE IS BEST' MESSAGE, REHOME MORE CATS AND DOGS, AND PUT SMILES ON EVEN MORE FACES ACROSS THE UK.

For many people, Battersea is as synonymous with London as Beefeaters and Big Ben, having laid our roots in the capital almost 160 years ago. However, Battersea is not – and never has been – bound by city limits when it comes to helping dogs and cats. Ever since our beloved founder, Mary Tealby, first opened our gates to lost and abandoned animals, no matter their age, breed, size or needs, Battersea has in fact been rehoming dogs and cats all across the UK.

Now, alongside rehoming animals far and wide, Battersea has launched an exciting new project, working in communities where we don't currently have a centre. Along with local animal lovers, we want to help more dogs and cats, educate people about rescue and spread the benefits of pet ownership.

The first Community we're heading to is Guildford in Surrey, which played host to Battersea's Big Day Out event in September. The action-packed day

was filled with activities for all ages including 'have a go' agility and a fun dog show. But the event had a serious message, too. For pet owners, or anyone considering getting a dog or cat, there was lots of handy information and advice available from Battersea staff and volunteers.

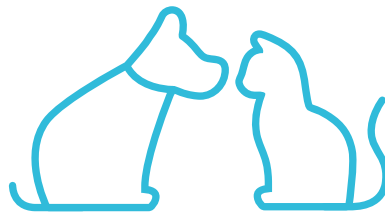
Emma Harrison, Communities Manager, said, "Battersea's Big Day

Out was a fantastic event and was the perfect launch event for our first Battersea Community."

"We're recruiting a network of trained 'Community Rehoming Volunteers' who will look after cats or dogs temporarily in their homes until a permanent home can be found. Our volunteers will also be out and about in the Guildford Community promoting the animals that they have available for rehoming."

"Battersea Communities will also hold and attend local events and develop partnerships with local charities, authorities and other groups. By doing so we can promote the benefits of owning an animal and talk to more people about responsible pet ownership."

Emma adds, "I'm really excited to be setting up and managing the Battersea Communities project. It's a fantastic initiative and I can't wait to rehome our first dog or cat from our Guildford Community."



Battersea is planning to establish 10 Communities over the next five years and hopes to rehome an additional 2,000 animals during this time.



GET INVOLVED

We are always on the lookout for Community Rehoming Volunteers who can provide temporary homes for our dogs and cats until they find permanent loving families, providing invaluable care for dogs and cats who need a second chance.

So, if you live within the Guildford postcodes of GU1-12, GU14-17, or GU21-24, and love animals but are not able to have one full time, becoming a Community Rehoming Volunteer for Battersea might be right up your street.

Community Rehoming Volunteers will play an active role in finding a home for the animal in their care. This is likely to involve taking photos and videos of the animal, attending organised events to promote rehoming, sharing social media posts, talking to members of the public about the animal in their care, displaying rehoming flyers at suitable locations and completing customer registrations for individuals interested in rehoming.

We ensure that our Community Rehoming Volunteers receive ongoing support and behaviour training. In addition, we provide you with everything your Battersea animal will need, including food, equipment and any necessary veterinary treatment.

For more information on how to get involved, visit battersea.org.uk/about-us/battersea-communities.





Roz and John enjoyed their Christmas Day at Battersea so much last year that they're volunteering again this year

THE GIFT OF LOVE

CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR GIVING, AND THAT DOESN'T JUST MEAN PRESENTS. EVERY YEAR, BATTERSEA'S INCREDIBLE VOLUNTEERS GIVE THEIR TIME DURING THE BUSY FESTIVE PERIOD TO HELP MAKE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL FOR OUR DOGS AND CATS.

Festive cheer is never in short supply at Battersea and, as always, our animals are a top priority. While nothing can replace having a home of their own, staff and volunteers are on hand at all three of our centres to ensure that the dogs and cats have a very happy Christmas indeed.

On Christmas Day, each animal is provided with a special meal, including some festive trimmings and meaty treats. Scents like nutmeg and frankincense are misted around the kennels to create an extra cosy atmosphere. The dogs and cats also receive presents generously donated by our supporters, which can include toys, treats and Christmas-themed blankets.

Husband and wife Roz and John

Inglis are retired teachers who volunteer at Battersea Old Windsor once a week, Roz in the cattery and John in the kennels. Last year, they spent Christmas Day at Battersea, helping to make it extra special for the dogs and cats who, through no fault of their own, found themselves at our centre.

Roz says, "It was the best Christmas morning I've ever had! There were lots of people in the cattery who were all regulars – both staff and volunteers – and we were singing carols and wearing silly hats. We all have a shared sense of humour and the atmosphere is very

friendly, so it was a riot."

As well as doing their usual duties, on Christmas Day last year volunteers were able to give each cat their very own stocking filled with pet-friendly goodies.

Roz says, "The cats don't know it's Christmas of course, but it feels like the true spirit of Christmas lives in the cattery and we can transfer all of the love and affection that the day creates to the cats, as well as sharing it with each other."

Over in the kennels, John was also having a jolly time. "One thing I love about Christmas Day at Old Windsor," he says, "is that all

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON VOLUNTEERING WITH US, VISIT: [BATTERSEA.ORG.UK/SUPPORT-US/VOLUNTEER](https://www.battersea.org.uk/support-us/volunteer)



Our network of dedicated foster carers will also help to ensure that our animals have a happy Christmas this year



“IT WAS THE BEST CHRISTMAS MORNING I’VE EVER HAD!”

the kennel staff and volunteers take a dog out to The Medes, a large meadow area by the side of the River Thames, just outside Battersea’s back gates. It’s a great opportunity for the dogs to explore a new place and experience new sights and smells. This is a big outing we all do together, and it’s great to look around and see a huge flood of dogs out having fun with their handlers, many of whom dress up in Christmas-themed attire.”

Roz and John, who have two elderly

cats at home, enjoyed themselves so much last year that they have decided to spend another Christmas at Battersea this year.

We rely on our volunteers all year round to perform a huge range of roles across all three of our centres. It’s thanks to people like John, Roz and the other hundreds of people who selflessly give up their time to help our animals, that Christmas really is the most wonderful time of the year for Battersea’s dogs, cats and humans.

OTHER WAYS TO HELP

Battersea’s three centres are closed to the public on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, but there are other ways for you to get involved:

Santa Paws at Old Windsor: take your dog to meet Santa on 16 November.

Carol Concerts in London: due to popular demand, two concerts will be taking place, on 5 and 13 December.

Don’t worry if you can’t make it to a Battersea event, there are plenty of other things you can do, including donating Christmas-themed gifts for the dogs and cats via our website and raising money for Battersea by holding your own festive fundraising event.



KEEP ON MOVING

TOP TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR DOG OR CAT STAY MOBILE AND ACTIVE FOR A HEALTHIER, HAPPIER LIFE.

MEET OUR EXPERT



Seb Prior
Senior Veterinary Surgeon

Different factors can affect a pet's mobility. Age, weight, injury and disease can all play a part, but there are lots of different things that owners can do at home to keep their pets feeling supple and active. As always, it's important to remember that every animal is different, and you should speak to your vet about the best plan of action for your pet.

THESE PAWS ARE MADE FOR WALKIN'

One of the best ways to keep your pet supple is by making sure they're getting enough exercise. Senior Veterinary Surgeon Seb Prior says, "Making sure your pet is getting regular, good exercise has a huge variety of health benefits, including helping to keep your pet lean and promoting muscle growth, helping to keep your dog or cat active."

"The amount of exercise your dog needs will vary depending on their age; young dogs are still growing, so high-impact activities like running for a long time could be bad for their bones and joints in the long term. Likewise, older dogs may not need to go on very long walks or runs to keep them in shape. Dog owners should also be mindful

of what breed their dog is and how much exercise they will be able to cope with. Flat-faced breeds like Pugs, French Bulldogs and Boxers often have breathing difficulties so may struggle with vigorous exercise, especially in warmer weather."

Cat owners are also able to help ensure an active lifestyle for their four-legged friends. Seb advises owners, "Find something that they enjoy, like playing with toys or climbing cat trees to keep them mobile. Just as with dogs, your cat's age and breed will affect how much exercise they will need. Always consult your vet about your animal's exercise needs if you're in doubt."

THE RIGHT DIET

"Keeping on top of your pet's diet will have a huge impact on mobility," Seb explains. "The more overweight they are, the more pressure it puts on their joints, making it more difficult for them to move."

"How much food your dog or cat will need is entirely dependant on their individual needs, age, exercise requirements and any allergies or digestive issues. Consult your vet about what



The right diet depends on things like your pet's age, exercise needs, allergies and digestive requirements

kind of diet plan will be best suited to your dog or cat, and always be careful to keep off any extra pounds.”

GO LOW

“For some animals, a low-impact form of exercise will be more beneficial for their health, especially those with pre-existing conditions like arthritis, hip dysplasia or existing injury,” says Seb.

Swimming is a good low-impact form of exercise, it helps strengthen muscles, and improves circulation within joints. The water will also help support your pet’s bodyweight, making it easier for them to move more freely.”

“A great place to take your pet for a swim would be your local animal hydrotherapy centre, where experts will be on hand to help and ensure that your pet is getting the most out of their session. Dogs are likely to be more open to the idea of a quick dip than cats are, and it’s important to never force your dog or cat to do something that they aren’t comfortable with. If you’re interested in hydrotherapy for your pet, your vet will be able to direct you to the right place.”

STAYING SUPPLE

Sometimes, dogs and cats might need a little extra help to keep them flexible and many owners will think about introducing a joint supplement into their pet’s diet. Seb says, “Trying to decide whether to give a supplement to your dog or cat and which one to give can be mindboggling. There are so many different options to choose from that

it can be hard to know which, if any, will really make a difference to your pet. There are also some special diets with joint supplements built in to consider. The difference that any supplement can make is likely to be small in comparison to things like not letting your pet gain too much weight and giving them the right type – and amount – of exercise. I would always recommend talking to your vet in the first instance to discuss the different options and make the right choice.”



Swimming is a good low-impact form of exercise and can have a number of health benefits

WIN A YEAR'S SUPPLY OF YUMOVE FOR YOUR PET!

Earlier this year, our friends at YuMOVE launched National Dog Mobility Awareness Week to promote the importance of monitoring your dog’s mobility. To help owners identify whether their dog is experiencing joint stiffness or mobility issues, they created a handy ‘PAWS’ guide to check the four key areas where mobility changes could manifest.

Posture – Seen any changes in your dog’s body shape, muscle strength, or simply in the way they walk?

Attitude – Has your dog unexpectedly changed the way they react to you, your family, or to other dogs?

Willingness – Is your dog still up for walks, for games, for bouncing in and out of the car, and barking at every little thing?

Slowing down – Has your dog been slowing down lately, sooner than you hoped they might?

For over a decade, YuMOVE has helped over one million dogs with its range of natural joint supplements. Packed with unique ingredients, YuMOVE is clinically proven to work in just six weeks.*

YuMOVE are giving away a year’s supply to one of our lucky readers. To be in with a chance to win, email helo@yumove.com with the subject line #YuMOVECompetition, stating what type of animal your pet is, their breed and age.



*Study conducted by Royal Veterinary College. Data on file.

For more information, visit uk.yumove.com.

HAVE A CRAFTY

IF YOU WANT TO KEEP THINGS HANDMADE THIS CHRISTMAS, WHY NOT TREAT

DIY CAT WAND

1 You will need: an old T-shirt in two colours and some scissors.

2 Cut four long strips from your T-shirt. The longer and wider they are the bigger the cat wand will be.

3 Gather the four strips together and tie them into a knot to secure them at one end.

4 Turn the knot upside down and make two loops using the strips on the top and the bottom.

5 Pass the loose strip on the right over the top of the first loop and through the second loop.

6 Still holding everything in place, pass your loose strip on the left over the top of the first loop and through the second one.

7 Pull all four strips together to tighten the knot.

8 Repeat this process until you are almost out of material but leave yourself enough room to tie a knot at the end.

9 The cat wand is ready for your cat to play with!

10 Make sure you hold it at one end while playing so your cat doesn't catch you with their claws.



CHRISTMAS

YOUR PET WITH A NEW TOY THAT YOU'VE LOVINGLY CREATED YOURSELF?



DIY OCTOPUS RAGGER

1 You will need: an old T-shirt or jumper, a tennis ball and a pair of scissors.

2 Cut the seam off the bottom of the T-shirt and cut it in half to make two pieces. Set aside for later.

3 Cut a large rectangle out from the front of your T-shirt.

4 Place your tennis ball in the middle and roll up tightly in the material. Start from the longest edge and twist the ends to secure.

5 Using the strips you set aside earlier, secure the ball in place by tying double knots on either side of the ball.

6 Cut off the excess material on either side of the knots.

7 At each end of the ragger, cut six strips into the remaining material.

8 Make two plaits on either side of the tennis ball and tie a knot in the end of each one.

9 The octopus ragger is ready for your dog to play with!

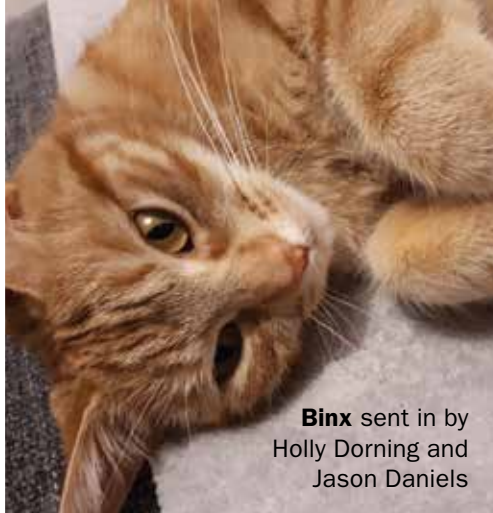
10 Make sure you use a sturdy material for this toy so that your dog doesn't rip it up too easily.

MADE IN BATTERSEA

To watch a video tutorial, check out our Made in Battersea YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/battersea



Benny sent in by the Perry family



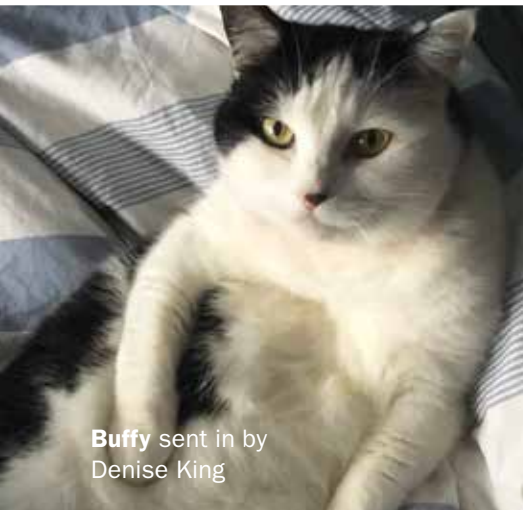
Binx sent in by Holly Dorning and Jason Daniels



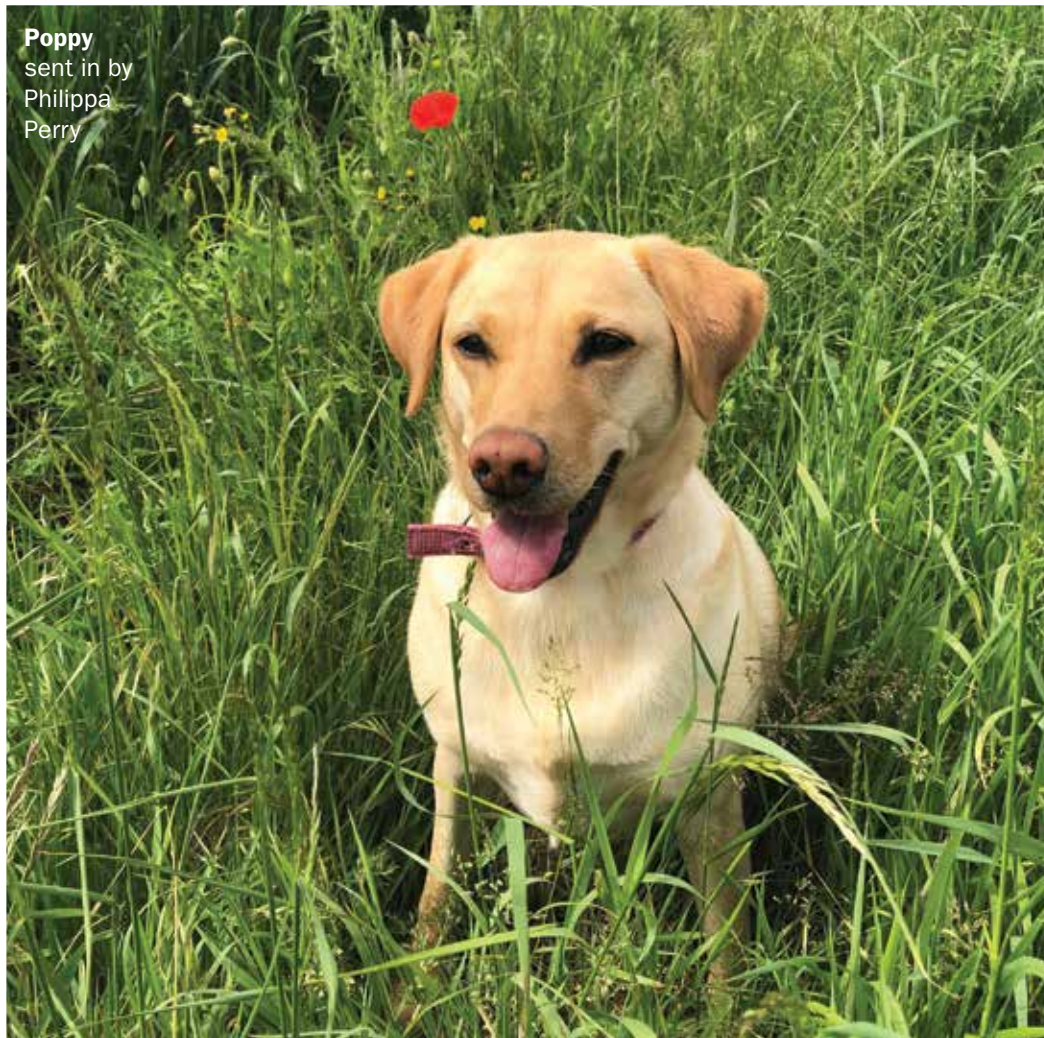
Branston sent in by Susi Thomas

LOVING LIFE

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



Buffy sent in by Denise King



Poppy sent in by Philippa Perry



Burton sent in by Waverley Grainger

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



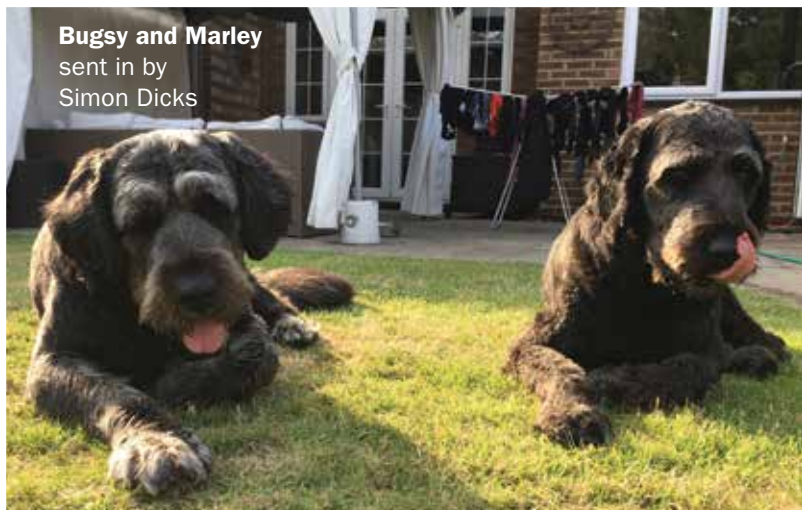
Sydney sent in by Lisa Flynn



Paapi sent in by Jane Whiteley



Roxy sent in by John and Marie Mogensen



Bugsy and Marley sent in by Simon Dicks



Milo sent in by the Hart family



Willow sent in by Penny Hales



Winston sent in by Emma Wetherill

YOUR LETTERS

SHARE YOUR SPECIAL PET MOMENTS WITH OTHER SUPPORTERS.



[STAR LETTER]

THE PERFECT MATCH

It's a year now since Aeryn (formerly Marigold) came home with me. When we first met in the cattery at Battersea, she was shy and came up for just one small chin scratch before retreating. I went to meet some other cats and, although lots of them were friendlier on the surface, there was something about her that called me back. The staff member said that the right owner would need to take a leap of faith with this one, and I decided that would be me. After all, it takes a while to get to know me, too. Now she has a garden to roam and reign over, and she loves to play with catnip and with her string toys. She curls up in my lap, loves to nuzzle her head

against me and other humans, and still loves chin scratches. She's tough and warm and entirely adorable. I'm so lucky to have been able to give Aeryn a home and get to know her, thank you for all that you do!
Naomi

Your prize

Can Battersea's Felicia find a home in time for the holidays? This heart-warming tale about loneliness, romance, and the importance of furry friends is the perfect book for this issue's winner to curl up and enjoy this winter.



BUNDLES OF FUN

We adopted our beautiful working/English cocker spaniel, Polo, just over three months ago. He was a stray and had a flea infestation. Due to this, he has a patch of fur loss on his back, but we fell in love at first sight. He's such a happy dog, always excited to see you. He has so much energy wherever we go, but also enjoys snuggles next to his humans on the sofa, as well as plenty of treats. Polo has grown more confident, loves people and is so happy to have a huge park and a garden to run around and explore. He can be a little vocal when it's time for walkies, but he's gorgeous and perfect. We love our Polo and hope to continue a happy family home with him.
The Tang Family



LOVELY LOUIS

It's been six months since we adopted Louis and we couldn't be happier. He is the friendliest and most loving animal we've ever known, with buckets of character. Battersea found the perfect match for us by pairing us with this lanky lad. Louis is more of a lap cat than expected but requires 100% of the attention on him – no phones or books allowed! When given the opportunity he will happily 'spoon' and snooze the afternoon away with you. We're so pleased we chose to adopt a rescue from Battersea and offer a deserving animal a second chance at life.
Joanna Irving



GOODBYE, PRECIOUS PIGGLET

When first we came to Battersea, we just couldn't find the right dog for us. That was, until the lovely staff member showing us around mentioned a more 'unusual' candidate. Enter Pigglet (formerly Skippy), who melted our hearts. Once home, he quickly settled in, enjoying long naps, regular walks and lots of fluffy blankets. Three years on, despite being 13 years old, he was still as active as ever, with an expanding wardrobe of jumpers, snuggle suits and pyjamas. We couldn't remember what life was like before Pig, it must have been so dull not hearing his paws click across the floor as he came in for a morning cuddle. Unfortunately, our precious Pigglet passed away a few months ago after a short illness. He was a wonderful companion until the end, which was peaceful and at home. He changed



our lives forever, and we've been lucky enough to rescue another Xoloitzcuintli named Jack. Pigglet proved that even older dogs looking for "retirement" home can bring so much joy. Thank you for bringing him into our lives.

Els and Matt



NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARMER

We adopted Bill from Old Windsor in February. Bill is our first cat and we absolutely love having him with us. He was very shy at first and spent the first month in his safe spot behind the couch. But, once he was allowed outside, he chilled out and is now enjoying life. He did get a bit 'cuddly' and we couldn't work out why, until we found out he was going in the neighbours' house and getting fed there every day, too! We put a stop to that and – although he was grumpy about it at first – he's now a healthier weight. We are very grateful to Battersea for giving us Bill, thank you for all the work you do.

Andy and Briony

LASTING MEMORIES

This is Casey the Lurcher, on the 1st Class stamp that was issued to celebrate Battersea's 150th year anniversary back in 2010. Casey sadly passed away recently at the



grand age of 15 and is sorely missed by his family, especially his Battersea brother, Ollie the Collie. Casey enjoyed 13 fantastic years in a loving home and, over the years, was a friend and role model to many Battersea foster dogs and puppies, including Ollie – who ended up staying much longer than planned! Casey was lucky enough to enjoy one last holiday before he passed away, where he took long walks on the beach and dipped his paws in the ocean. Thanks for the memories, Casey, you have left a very scruffy paw print on all our hearts.

Bob and Hazel Goodbody

ALWAYS LOVED, NEVER FORGOTTEN



MAX

We adopted Max from Brands Hatch in 2014, originally as an older, wiser companion for our Battersea girl, Millie. We soon became inseparable, and qualified as Pets as Therapy volunteers, visiting dementia patients in hospital. He was the most gentle, loyal soul – a true ambassador for Staffies. I miss him terribly.

Sharon Brown



ZIGGY

After 13 and a half wonderful years together, we said a sad farewell to our beautiful Ziggy. We knew we wanted to give an abandoned dog another chance, so visited Battersea in 2005, where we fell in love with a stray. Ziggy was never a pet; he was a fully-fledged family member. He gave us love, friendship and joy, and we'll miss him forever.

Paul Winter

FONDLY REMEMBERED

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

Visit battersea.org.uk/pet-memorials.

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.

BACK FROM THE BRINK

BATTERSEA VOLUNTEER CHRIS MCLEAN FROM SURREY DEDICATES HER FREE TIME TO SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT HOW RESCUE IS BEST, WITH NO BETTER EXAMPLE THAN HER GORGEOUS GEORGE.



Like most rescue dogs, George the Bulldog hasn't let a horrific start to life stop him from bringing joy to everyone he meets. Bred by unethical puppy farmers, George suffered many health issues and came to Battersea in a very bad state.

He had a physical condition that had made most of his hair fall out, and was found to have lots of injuries, too, including a broken jaw, which had left him disfigured with his tongue hanging out.

George had been bought at a railway station by a family with children, after having been advertised on a website. However, the family decided he wasn't what they wanted, so they decided to bring him to Battersea.

A team of Battersea staff and volunteers worked tirelessly to help him and improve his quality of life. As a scared young dog, George was not coping with kennel life, so he was fostered by volunteer, Chris. Together with her own dogs, Chris helped George begin to trust people and move forward physically and mentally.

She tells us, "Fostering George was a real challenge. I'd never seen a dog who was so shut down, scared and under-socialised. Every

small step and achievement was a joy to see. Progress was slow, but when he was medically fit for rehoming, my husband pointed out that George would really struggle with any change, and suggested we keep him. Hence George was rehomed by us and over the last six years I have continued to work on moving him forward."

George is now an official Ambassador for Battersea. Among other social engagements and duties, he visits the Chelsea Pensioners at the Royal Chelsea Hospital once a month, along with his owner and fellow former Battersea dogs and volunteers.

During his trips, George will potter around the grounds with some of the residents, visit those in the infirmary, and ultimately, put a smile on people's faces. The veterans love their regular dog visits and, although his permanent frown might not show it, Gorgeous George is pretty content with the way life post-rescue has worked out.

Chris says, "For me, rescue is definitely best. All my five dogs are rescues. The joy of seeing a dog settle into a new life and watch their true self evolve is so rewarding. Their love is unconditional, and I always marvel at the way they don't live in the past and are prepared to move forward with you."

George and his owner, Chris. George is now an Ambassador for Battersea.

Portrait of George courtesy of Oliver Dixon ©

SPONSOR A KENNEL OR CAT CABIN TODAY

YOU'LL HELP AROUND 10 DOGS AND 16 CATS A YEAR GET THE BRIGHTER FUTURE THEY DESERVE.

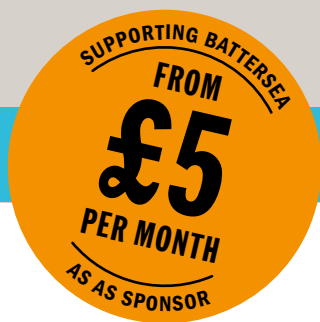
BECOME A SPONSOR TODAY SO WE CAN BE THERE FOR EVERY DOG AND CAT.

Your support will provide helpless animals with:

- Urgent and life-saving medical care.
- Expert training and individual care plans.
- A safe place to rest while they are waiting for their new home.

DID YOU KNOW?

Our expert staff ensure the animals staying in your Kennel or Cabin get all the love and care they need.



BECOME A SPONSOR AT [BATTERSEA.ORG.UK](https://www.battersea.org.uk) OR CALL 0300 323 1216

IN RETURN WE WILL GIVE YOU...

- A welcome pack which includes a certificate, sticker and a booklet with more information about your sponsorship.
- Updates every month via email.
- Our biannual newsletter, giving you a behind the scenes look at all the animals that have stayed in your Kennel or Cabin.



BATTERSEA
HERE FOR EVERY DOG AND CAT

Registered with
FR FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

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

DECK THE HALLS

EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR A BATTERSEA BLUE CHRISTMAS



SNOWMAN & DOG CARD **£5**



COSY CAT CARD **£5**



BOXED CHRISTMAS CARDS
£9.50



COUNTRYSIDE DOG CARD
£5



FAMILY 2020 PLANNER **£10**



2020 DESK CALENDAR **£8**



ADVENT CALENDAR FOR
HUMANS **£5.99**



DOG CHRISTMAS WRAP **£3**



FELT DOG DECORATION
'SAHARA' **£7**



FELT DOG DECORATION
'SPOT' **£7**



FELT CAT DECORATION
'MARMALADE' **£7**



FELT CAT DECORATION
'FELIX' **£7**

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE SHOP GO TOWARDS
THE DOGS AND CATS IN OUR CARE.

BATTERSEA.ORG.UK/SHOP



BATTERSEA
HERE FOR EVERY DOG AND CAT

Battersea Dogs Home Limited,
Company limited by guarantee: Registered in England no. 278802