

Because every dog and cat deserves a loving home

paws

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#pogdogs returns

Behind the scenes of our
ITV series, *Paul O'Grady:
For the Love of Dogs*

In this issue...

Our Royal connections

What's involved
in adopting an
older pet?

A cat's chance

Meet Peaches, one of the thousands of cats and kittens
whose lives have been transformed by Battersea





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Paws is designed on behalf of
Battersea Dogs & Cats Home
by Immediate Media Co
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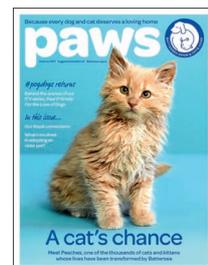
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Cover star: Peaches, a 10-week-old kitten handed in to us after being sold on Gumtree, was discovered by our vets to be almost blind. She has since found a very special home.

It was back in 1883 that Battersea first started taking in cats and, in that year, 787 stray cats were welcomed in to be cared for by our staff until new homes could be found for them. Step inside our state-of-the-art London Cattery these days and you'll discover a world-leading centre, with facilities designed for every cat's needs and staff working with the UK's leading researchers in cat behaviour to better understand our feline friends and, ultimately, find more homes for even more cats. A record 3,160 cats found new owners through Battersea last year and you can read more about how we are helping cats all over the country on page 10.

Earlier this year we were thrilled to announce our new Patron, HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, and we've taken a trip through the Battersea archives on pages 22 and 23 to reveal the Home's

enduring Royal connections.

Whether you've got a young dog full of energy or an older cat seeking a slower pace of life, we've got just the advice and activities for you in this edition of PAWS. You can find out all about our marvellous Muddy Dog Challenge events – remember there's still time to sign up to our upcoming event at beautiful Hever Castle in Kent. If you're one of the wonderful people who've taken on a golden oldie from Battersea, or are thinking of finding a place in your heart for an older and wiser companion, turn to page 28 for our Ask the Expert feature on older pets.

Claire Horton, Chief Executive (with Peaches)



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Home front

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Catch up with Battersea people, pets, events and campaigns



"Tango didn't want to get out of the ball pit! I almost lost my trousers going around the course and lost my shoe, but it's been absolutely brilliant!"

Amanda from Aylesbury with Tango, a rescue German Shepherd

"Our dogs loved dragging us around the course. Now we look like our dogs normally would!"

Matt Russell and Steve Robson from Lincolnshire running with Would-he, a Cocker Spaniel, and Otto, a Poodle

"Rosie loved the trampolines and wouldn't get off them!"

Libby from Nottinghamshire with Rosie the Labrador

Muddy Dog Challenge 2017

The Muddy Dogs are off!

There was plenty of mud glorious mud to be had as dog owners and their four-legged friends got caked in the stuff for our first three Muddy Dog Challenges of the year. Supported by LV=, they were held at Nottingham's Wollaton Hall Park, Windsor Great Park, and Stansted Park Estate, Essex.

Thousands of participants joined us for the events – some in costumes, some

with painted faces, and others incredibly managing to keep their clothes pristine – that is until they faced the penultimate obstacle, the Muddy Tunnels. Those whites didn't stay white for long as participants crawled on their hands and knees and then got stuck shin-deep in a lovely muddy bog as their dogs jumped across. Volunteer Donna Winfield at our Nottingham Muddy Dog Challenge told us

she saw at least 10 people lose their shoes.

They were not the only ones getting muddy for a great cause. Joining us at our Windsor event were Battersea Ambassador David Gandy (pictured with his Battersea dog, Dora) and celebrity supporters Rosie Marcel and Joanna Scanlan.

▶ **There's still time to sign up to our Kent event – see 'Events' on p8 for more details**



Award for Ali

Congratulations to Battersea's Head of Canine Behaviour and Training, Ali Taylor, who beat thousands of people to be crowned Animal Charity Employee of the Year in the Petplan & ADCH (Association of Dogs and Cats Homes) Animal Charity Awards 2017.

Star of #pogdogs Ali has dedicated 25 years of her life working at Battersea. She also helps out other rescues and tirelessly campaigns for the much-misunderstood breed, the Staffordshire Bull Terrier.

Battersea's Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Operations Peter Laurie said: "Ali has helped thousands of the country's most challenging and vulnerable dogs and it's wonderful to see the incredible work she does being recognised."

Compulsory microchipping – one year on

It's over a year since it became law for owners to microchip their dogs, yet almost half the strays that come through Battersea's doors are still unchipped. In the year since the law was introduced on 6 April 2016, Battersea took in 934 stray dogs across our three centres in London, Windsor and Kent. Of these, just 480 were microchipped – a rise of almost 10 per cent year-on-year from April 2015, but still not enough.

Battersea's Intake Manager, Steve Craddock, said: "We take in so many stray dogs with no way of tracing their owners. Luckily, we have found loving new homes for many of these dogs, but we continue to see the consequences of owners failing to chip their animals, or failing to keep the details updated."

Only **44%** of microchipped strays brought in to Battersea since microchipping became compulsory were reunited with their owners because contact details were not updated



One stop microchip shop

Battersea chips every animal in its care and offers free microchipping to all dog owners at its three centres. The charity also provides free microchipping along with health checks and behaviour advice at its One Stop Shop events, held in partnership with other animal charities and leading supermarkets. Three of these have already been held this year, and there are further events taking place in **Brixton on 25 August** and **Streatham on 17 September**. For more information, visit battersea.org.uk/support-us/events/free-microchipping-events

Pandora wasn't chipped so we couldn't trace her owner and she was rehomed on 8 April.

>> DOGS IN BRIEF >>



Chill out inside

Dogs at our London centre now have an amazing new space to chill out in as we've transformed two empty rooms into an incredible 'indoor garden'. The area offers great smells for inquisitive noses, such as cut grass, plus plenty of dog toys, and is a much brighter, more homely space for visitors to meet our animals.

Keep on running

Perfect for those dogs who want to let off a bit of steam by running up and down after a ball or their favourite toy is our brand new, specially designed 'Sprint Paddock'. The high energy dogs at our London centre are thoroughly enjoying this new area while they're with us.

Four-legged fans at Reading FC

Some of our Old Windsor dogs recently had the opportunity to be football fans for the day after they were invited to Reading Football Club. Pogo (Miniature Schnauzer), Barry (Jack Russell) and Alfie (Bichon cross) visited the Madejski Stadium to see how The Royals got on in their clash with Barnsley – raising around £400 for the Home in the process. Old Windsor long-stay Mable, a two-year-old crossbreed, was even featured in the official match-day programme and appeared on the big screen at half-time. Pogo also made the most of a photo opportunity with Reading FC's mascot Queensley (pictured). However, the four-legged fans weren't able to boost the team's fortunes as the match ended in a 0-0 draw. Thank you Reading FC for your continued support of the Home.



Battersea by numbers

1,665

The number of animals we reunited with their owners in 2016



FACT Startled cats fluff up their tails and their fur so that they look bigger



Who do you trust with your pet?

While we all look forward to taking a holiday, we want to know that our pets are being well cared for while we're away, which is where our new partner TrustedHousesitters, the world's largest house and pet sitting service, can help. Every month, TrustedHousesitters help thousands of pet owners connect with trusted and verified sitters who pet sit for free in exchange for a place to stay.

TrustedHousesitters recently offered a prize to a Battersea volunteer, to give them a chance to experience a free stay as a housesitter in a beautiful, rural farmhouse. Verity Smart (pictured above and below right) a volunteer cat socialiser at our Old Windsor centre, was the lucky winner and won a much-deserved rural retreat and an annual membership to TrustedHousesitters.

Her charge, a seven-year old Deerhound called Ellie (also pictured) – was rather larger than the cats she normally works with. Verity spent a long weekend attending to Ellie's every need at a rural farmhouse in Derbyshire. She told *Paws*: "Ellie and I had a wonderful time together. I think that being able to provide care for animals in their own home while their owners are away is a brilliant idea – and I loved my weekend away!"

▶ **TrustedHousesitters is offering *Paws* readers a special 25% off annual membership. Call 01273 358 769 or join now at www.trustedhousesitters.com, using the code **PAWS1**. For every new UK member, TrustedHousesitters donates £1 to Battersea.**



Did you know?
 Players of People's Postcode Lottery support our Volunteering & Fostering programme, enabling us to kit out our volunteers with all-weather uniforms



In loving memory

Sometimes, in lieu of flowers at a funeral or service celebrating someone's life, people request a donation to their loved one's favourite charity. We're always touched when that charity is Battersea. A donation to the Home is a wonderful way to commemorate the life of someone who loved animals, and we now have specially-designed 'In Memory' collection envelopes designed just for this.

▶ **If you'd like to find out more, contact specialgifts@battersea.org.uk or call 020 7627 9300.**



Five minutes with... Fiona Carter, Volunteer Dog Socialiser

Q: What's a typical day like?

A: I help out at our Brands Hatch site two afternoons a week. My colleagues and I take every dog for a lovely long afternoon walk in our fields, or for a good run and play in our enclosed paddocks. Then it's a bit of everything: laundry, cleaning, making meals, tidying up, along with prioritising anxious dogs for chill-out time, either in the kennel or outside if it's sunny. If a lucky dog has gone home that day, then we'll clean that kennel ready for the next occupant.

Q: What might people not realise about your role?

A: The variety. It isn't all about walkies. We learn lots of technical skills, such as understanding body language and clicker training. For those dogs that are struggling with kennel life, we learn TTouch gentle body massage and use essential oils to help calm them.

Q: What inspired you to become a volunteer?

A: I enjoy meeting new people and advocating the joys of owning a dog, so I couldn't think of anything more satisfying than spending my time with like-minded people, all working towards the same goal of making a dog's time with Battersea as happy as possible. I haven't regretted it for one moment. Battersea has a way of creeping into your soul and taking over your life and I wouldn't have it any other way.



Battersea visit makes Christine's day

One of *#pogdogs'* biggest fans is Christine Templeman, who never misses an episode. Sadly, Christine has a terminal illness and one thing she's always wanted to do is visit Battersea – and we were only too happy to oblige. Christine made the 147-mile journey from Louth, Lincolnshire, and was taken on a tour of the Clinic by our Head Vet Shaun Opperman, who regularly features on the show. Christine – who is kindly planning on leaving us a gift in her Will – also took Loki the Staffie for a walk and had cuddles with Little Tom in the Cattery.

▶ **To find out more about leaving a gift or legacy to Battersea in your Will, call 020 7627 9300 or visit battersea.org.uk/support-us/gifts-wills**

FACT Dogs can pinpoint the source of a sound in just 1/600th of a second

Top: Fiona and her Westie Lacey can often be found behind a Battersea stall at local fêtes in Kent

Events

Do something amazing and help raise much needed funds



course, which involves wading through mud, crawling under nets and walking over planks towards the finish line. So, if you'd like to get muddy with your dog for a very good cause, there's still time to register.

▶ battersea.org.uk/muddydog



Skydiving

Throughout 2017

Choose from one of three skydiving packages and take on the personal challenge of a lifetime, while helping the dogs and cats in our care.

▶ battersea.org.uk/skydiving



Royal Parks Foundation Half Marathon

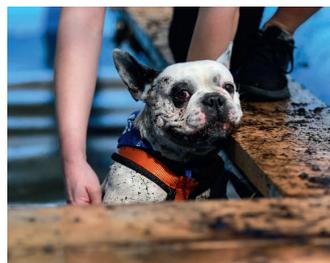
8 October

To celebrate this race's 10-year anniversary, we have 99 charity places up for grabs. This run is a beautiful way to start Autumn as it takes in four of London's tree-filled royal parks – Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, St James's Park and Green Park. As well as enjoying the colours of the turning leaves, runners will also get the chance to see some of London's most iconic landmarks including Buckingham Palace, the Houses of Parliament and the Royal Albert Hall.

▶ battersea.org.uk/support-us/challenges/royal-parks-foundation-half-marathon

runners in the splendid setting of Windsor Great Park, against the stunning backdrop of Windsor Castle, to raise money for our dogs and cats in need.

▶ battersea.org.uk/support-us/challenges/windsor-half-marathon



Muddy Dog Challenge, Kent

30 September

Our final Muddy Dog Challenge of the year is at historic Hever Castle, Kent – the childhood home of Anne Boleyn. Competitors can scamper, jog or walk a 2.5km or 5km obstacle

Annual Reunion

3 September

Come along to Battersea Park for our 23rd Battersea Dogs & Cats Home Annual Reunion and Fun Day. It promises to be a spectacular family event and welcomes all dogs, not just former Battersea residents. Visitors can expect a fête atmosphere with competitions, games and activities, and are encouraged to enter their canine friends in one of Battersea's infamous dog classes such as Golden Oldie, Handsomest Dog, and the hotly contested Best Battersea Dog.

▶ battersea.org.uk/support-us/events/annual-reunion-and-fun-day

Windsor Half Marathon

24 September

For the first time, we have 10 charity places available for this popular and picturesque half marathon. Join thousands of

Wear Your Whiskers

27 October

Here's a great way to help fundraise for the Home in your school or workplace. Gather a group together to wear or paint whiskers on your face on Friday 27 October and donate £2 to Battersea. You'll be feline fabulous and it's a purrfect way to show how much you love our animals. Anyone can get involved, wherever you live and however old you are – there's nothing better than wagging those whiskers and looking pawsome. Register for your free fundraising kit for lots of ideas and tips to help you enjoy a cat-tastic day!

▶ battersea.org.uk/whiskers

▶ Find out more by emailing events@battersea.org.uk or visit battersea.org.uk/getinvolved



FACT All dogs bark apart from the Basenji breed, which makes a curious yodelling sound

Happily rehomed

Dogs and cats getting their second chance of happiness...

Girl on the train finds next connection

There was a late arrival into Battersea on 5 February, when a worried commuter brought in an extraordinary Oriental Shorthair cat found abandoned in a carrier outside Battersea Park Station. The exquisite lilac Oriental Short-hair was not microchipped, so we were unable to find her owner. Staff named her **Roberta**, after one of the characters in *The Railway Children*, and set about looking for a new home for her. Fortunately, two-year-old Roberta didn't have to wait long for her next connection. The young cat found a home in Essex with Cherrill Rogerson, who said: "I'm so pleased I was able to give Roberta a home. I've always had Oriental Shorthairs and adore them, they're such amazing cats."



One very 'Lucky' dog

Sweet-natured crossbreed **Stewart** was brought in by a member of the public who found him wandering the streets in Sutton. His emaciated body shocked staff and he was so weak he had to be nursed in isolation to protect him from infections. Fortunately, Stewart pulled through and found a new home with Ellen and Ken Siega in Hertfordshire, who renamed him Lucky. Ellen says: "He's coming on in leaps and bounds and boy does he let you know if he is not being made a fuss of!"



Honey finally gets a home

With the enthusiasm of a Jack Russell and the sensitive side of a Chihuahua, eight-year-old crossbreed **Honey** needed an owner who would take their time to understand why she lacks confidence at times. After two years of seeing her kennelmates being rehomed, it was finally Honey's turn. She is now living with Joanne Steadman in Walsall, who says: "She has her little quirks, but it's working really well and I love her to bits."



Family picks long-stay Lurcher

Our Old Windsor team were pleased to see long-stay Lurcher **Flash** go home after 244 days in our care. The two-year-old arrived with a horrific skin condition, which left his belly, legs, and face red raw. Now rehomed with the Chaplin family in Warwickshire. Flash, renamed Jax, is thriving. Mrs Chaplin says: "Jax and his new friend Blue the Collie get on great. They love to play games in the garden and often curl up asleep together."



Cuddly Cubby's happy ending

Five-year-old Domestic Shorthair **Cubby Bear** was in a sorry state, with a severely damaged tail, which had to be amputated. Despite this, Cubby remained a most affectionate cat – regularly leaping up into people's arms for a bear hug. Cuddly Cubby now lives with Gill Kosbab in Esher, who reports: "He already thinks he owns the place. After patrolling the garden, he strolls back in and keeps me company in my home office. He's a sweetie."

The best for every cat

When it comes to caring for felines who sadly come into rescue centres, **Battersea is leading the way** in expertise, innovation and best practice

“When cats come into Battersea, and when they leave us for their new home, we don’t want them to just cope, we want them to thrive,” says Sue Hartley, who heads up Battersea’s new Feline Welfare Team. This is one of the Home’s new initiatives, which focuses on co-ordinating the latest research and best practice by the UK’s leading feline behavioural and welfare experts and channelling it into improving the experience of cats in rescue centres.

Battersea’s Feline Welfare team provides support to cattery team members, foster carers and volunteers at the charity’s three centres, which includes developing individual care plans for each cat. “It’s working really well,” says Sue. “We’re collaborating with feline welfare charity International Cat Care, other cat rescue centres, as well as

experts including clinical animal behaviourist Vicky Halls and Lauren Finka, a research and teaching fellow at the University of Lincoln.” Head of Catteries, Lindsey Quinlan, adds: “Our vision is to provide each cat with the best possible experience while they’re with us. We also place a strong emphasis on ensuring their new home is able to meet all their needs as individuals, to safeguard their quality of life for the rest of their days.”

One of the biggest challenges for cats arriving at Battersea is finding themselves in a new environment. Sue explains: “Cats as a species are territorial, spending much of their time becoming familiar with an area, patrolling it, monitoring it to ensure it can provide all the resources ▶

“Each cat has enough space so we can understand them as individuals”

Sue Hartley, Feline Welfare Team Manager





Cattery Team Leader
Rosa Steele spends
time getting to know
10-month-old Wallace.

"We want to promote best practice in the care and quality of life for all cats"

Lindsey Quinlan, Head of Catteries

▶ they need, and defending it. Taking a cat out of its familiar territory is very stressful. Spending time in a pen-type environment, in close proximity to other cats, can also be difficult. It's very unusual for a cat to be so close to other cats who, in normal circumstances, would be considered as competitors for territory and resources, rather than allies."

There are various ways that the cat care teams put their knowledge into practice. The layout of the pen is important for a start.

Activity zones

Sue explains: "We create different zones for different activities – so food, water, scratching facilities and litter trays are in separate places. There are shelves at different levels, as some cats like to be up high, plus places to rest, relax and hide. Research indicates that providing cats with somewhere to hide is fundamental in helping them feel safe and secure. We can tailor the arrangement to meet the needs and priorities of each cat, as they're all unique."

The next step is ensuring predictability. Sue says: "Cats feel safer when their environment is predictable – they like to know what's going to happen, when and how. We often assign one member of staff to provide for an individual cat's needs to ensure things are provided for them in the same way, at the same time of day. This structure, consistency and routine helps a cat feel safer and more in control."

Cleaning is another important aspect. Sue says: "We carry out regular cleaning to ensure the highest levels of hygiene, while making sure that each cat's individual scent profile is maintained. Cats naturally mark their surroundings by rubbing round things such as chair legs and door frames with their cheeks to deposit feline facial pheromones. Maintaining scent profiles helps them feel safe and secure."

One of the first signs that cats are starting to feel settled, safer and more confident is when they show signs of wanting to interact. "For each cat, this must be allowed to develop at its own pace and be dictated by them so they feel in control," stresses Sue. "We never initiate or force interaction. Each cat has their own specific preferences in terms of how they like to interact with people, if they choose to at all. We give cats the choice to 'tell us' what they need, rather than us just deciding for them."

Cats have not evolved as a social species and so, unlike dogs, they haven't had to develop sophisticated ways to communicate with others face to face, preferring to communicate at a distance. They are also very good at masking when they're feeling stressed, ill or in pain. "It's a self-protection mechanism," observes Sue. "Unlike dogs, who are social and rely on the group for support, cats are, by nature, solitary and independent, and only have themselves to rely on. This is why they're very motivated to conceal weakness or vulnerability, and why they're sometimes described as having 'poker faces'. Their body language can be very revealing if you know what to look for as it can be very subtle. We spend a great deal of time observing so we're in the best possible position to understand and care appropriately for all our cats."

Solitary or social

Lindsey adds: "The more we understand cats as a species, the more we understand their sociability and how important (or not) it is for them to be around people. If a cat is not sociable, it will not be suited to life as a family pet. When this is the case, we look at alternatives such as country houses, farms and riding stables and work with various partners to find the right home. Of course, there must be things in place such as

Did you know?
The socialisation period for felines is very brief. If a cat does not spend positive time with humans between the ages of 2 to 7/8 weeks, the cat may grow up to be wary of people



Ralph's hi-tech help

Battersea cat experts have been using the latest technology – nest cameras – to observe the behaviour of cats 24 hours a day in an unobtrusive way. This approach enabled the team to complete an assessment of Ralph, a cat who wasn't well socialised to people, by observing his behaviour when people were in the pen with him, when they were nearby, and when he was alone in his pen at night after staff had gone home. Feline Welfare Adviser, Evy Mayes (pictured) reveals: "We quickly established that Ralph wouldn't be happy in a domestic setting and needed a different style of home. Once all our health and wellbeing protocols were met, Ralph was able to go to straight to his new home on a working farm, thereby avoiding an extended stay at the cattery which, for cats like Ralph who don't seek human interaction, can be detrimental to their wellbeing."



Right, clockwise from top left: Feline Welfare Adviser Evy Mayes, Feline Welfare Team Manager Sue Hartley and Head of Catteries Lindsey Quinlan; Rehoming and Welfare Assistant Sophie Ottley with Charlie; Ready for new arrivals – when there's spare capacity, Battersea welcomes cats ready for adoption from other rescue groups who haven't been able to find them homes; Roxy; Enzo with Sue – both Roxy and Enzo have been happily rehomed.



Battersea's Chief Executive, Claire Horton, says:

"We are now in the second year of our three-year Cat Strategy, which sets out a roadmap for continued growth in the Home's intake and rehoming of cats, along with continuous feline welfare and operational improvements. We are conscious that a much wider UK initiative, centred around neutering and health messages, is required. We are taking an active role in a Government advisory group tasked with looking at the breeding and sale of cats, as well as supporting the Cat Population Control Group in its efforts to increase understanding and awareness about early cat neutering and its benefits."



Battersea's top 5 tips for cat adopters

1. Meet basic needs: Provide food, water, a litter tray, a bed, several places to hide, places to get up high, cosy places to sleep, somewhere to scratch, enrichment inside and outdoors and veterinary care.

2. Create activity zones: Place your cat's resources and facilities, such as food, water, litter tray, scratching post, bed and hiding place, in different locations around the house, ensuring your cat can access them whenever they need to.

3. Encourage scenting: Use Feliway® to encourage your cat to scent mark their new space. Once things start to smell familiar, the cat will begin to feel safe and secure.

4. Set a routine: Not only do cats feel safe when they are surrounded by familiar things, they like their home and routines to be predictable and consistent. This helps them to feel more in control of their environment.

5. Let the cat make the choice: Stay still and let the cat approach you. Speak gently and offer them your hand (palm down) to sniff or rub against. If they rub against your hand with their chin or cheeks, try gently stroking around that area, but stop as soon as they move away. Focus on the chin and cheeks as this is where most cats like being touched. Some cats may prefer to play rather than be stroked, so try swishing a fishing-rod-style toy or throw some treats for them to chase.

warm, dry shelter and food and water provided every day, but in these scenarios, any interaction with humans is entirely up to the cat."

"Our approach focuses on understanding the species and what is likely to work and be of benefit for most cats," says Sue. "From here, we then provide each cat with enough space to show us who they are, so we can understand the individual cat in front of us. While we want to secure great new homes as soon as possible, it's important that this doesn't happen until we have an accurate picture of each cat.

Cat friendly homing

"We use all that information when it comes to introducing a potential adopter. When they come to meet the cat, we can explain what's important to them and what to keep in mind when they take the cat home. We can also provide ongoing support and aftercare

if required. This is part of our 'Cat Friendly Homing' initiative, a set of guiding principles that focuses on minimising the length of stay for cats in rehoming centres, while maximising the quality of care provided – from the way cats are managed and assessed, to when they're matched with suitable owners."

So, what do Lindsey, Sue and their colleagues hope for the future? Sue says: "We want to enhance the welfare and quality of life of all cats through education. We're in the process of creating a Learning and Development programme for all the staff and volunteers here, but we'd like to do more for cats beyond Battersea." Lindsey adds: "We want to raise public awareness and promote best practice in the care and quality of life for all cats, so we can positively influence the lives of the cats that come to Battersea, and those we will never actually meet." 🐾

Behind the scenes of #pogdogs

If you're a fan of **Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs** on ITV, then you'll be pleased to hear that a new series will be back on our TV screens very soon. Staff from Battersea Dogs & Cats Home reveal how Paul fits in during filming...

There's a tangible sense of excitement in the air – Mr Battersea himself has entered the building. For the next couple of months, camera crews will be busy capturing the stories of dogs who've sadly come into the Home through no fault of their own, aided, of course, by dog lover and passionate Battersea supporter, Paul O'Grady.

While there's lots of planning that goes on prior to filming, once it starts, nobody knows how each dog's story will unfold. Operations Project Manager, Carly Perry, explains: "The film crew likes to capture each dog's story right from the beginning – either when they're first handed in or come off a dog warden's van. So, the stories the viewers see really do play out as they happen – none of us can predict what the story for each dog will be."

After five series, staff at Battersea are used to having camera crews around the place. Hours of footage are recorded, with around two or three stories making the final cut for each programme. "Before I was involved in #pogdogs, I had no idea there was so much involved in making a TV programme," reveals Carly. "It's absolutely fascinating."

There have been many memorable moments – one that Carly recalls clearly is when Paul fell for a white Boxer called Carmine. Carly recalls: "He loved that dog and was

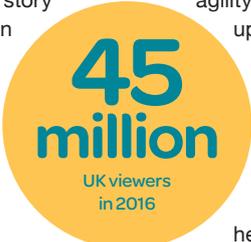
always looking for him to give him a cuddle. But Paul's always like that. If there are dogs he's particularly attached to, or he notices a dog he wants to meet, he's off to see them, regardless of what we're supposed to be filming next – there's no guessing what Paul will do!"

Double-act

Ali Taylor, Head of Canine Behaviour and Training, and famous for her comedy double-act with Paul agrees: "Paul is naughty and we spend so much time laughing. I'll never forget when he took rescue dog Frank to do agility at Crufts. He'd slipped dog treats up his sleeve. I remember thinking, 'he's going to get me into so much trouble!' Paul is a natural when it comes to dogs – he just has a rapport with them and I can't think of anyone better to present a show from Battersea. We all enjoy it when he's around."

Head Vet Shaun Opperman, who has also appeared with Paul throughout all the series, adds: "Being at Battersea is a bit of rollercoaster ride and when Paul's here he rides it with us. I think it's fantastic that the TV show portrays the real world of life in a rescue centre and shows how much effort goes into each animal to make them rehomed."

"The programme has done wonders for the Home as a charity and for raising awareness about the plight of rescue dogs." 🐾



Paws for thought The O'Grady effect

Our profile boosted
The 2016 series and Christmas episodes of #pogdogs, allowed us to reach into the nation's homes. 45 million people viewed it in the UK.

Supporter numbers up
Many more people across the UK have now been introduced to the work that Battersea does. This has really helped the charity, with more people choosing to donate or remember Battersea in their Will. It's wonderful when we hear from people all over the country who write to us or call us to tell us how they have been affected by particular stories and how they want to help us care for more animals.

More new homes found
The series is increasing interest in rescue animals nationwide and inspiring people to visit their local shelter when they're thinking of getting a new pet. The number of Battersea animals rehomed was three times higher than average – 1,511 when the last series was being broadcast.

"As well as his obvious passion for dogs, Paul's great with people who come in too, especially if they're upset about having to hand a dog in."
Ali Taylor, Head of Canine Behaviour and Training

Now filming series six, Battersea is like a second home for dog lover and Battersea Ambassador Paul O'Grady, pictured here with Willow.



TV highlights

Paul's top dogs



Paul just couldn't resist tiny puppy Eddie. "I took him at the very last minute of the last shoot of the first series. We went in to see this litter of puppies and I'd been told they'd all been rehomed except for Eddie. He was the runt. Rachel, the Head Vet Nurse, was really worried about him so I said, 'Oh give him here!' He's feisty now, a real character."



"Carmine was definitely my favourite of all the dogs, I really do rue the day I didn't take him home with me. I loved that dog and we just clicked. He's got a great home now, but he came back to visit a year later and as soon as he saw me he was like a maniac. He's changed his name to Elvis!"



Paul always flies the flag for Staffies and lovely Tulip almost made it into the O'Grady clan. "I love Staffies. There have been so many that I've been mad for, especially Tulip. Unfortunately, Eddie took great exception to her, so she had to go back to Battersea."

Take us home

From the sweetest Staffies to the most gorgeous Greyhounds, your perfect companion could be waiting for you at one of Battersea's three centres. Just take a look at these guys and girls...



SALLY
3 years old

✉ rehoming@battersea.org.uk

Stunning Sally is quite small for her breed but has a big personality. Being an ex-racer, her alter ego being 'Lybes Supreme', Sally still loves to work up a speed so will need a secure garden to zoom around in. But, like all greyhounds, she'll enjoy nothing more than to curl up for a good cuddle afterwards.



KEZZIE
7 years old

✉ bbh.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

Having been at our Brands Hatch centre for almost two years, soft and sensitive Kezzie is still looking for active new owners who have experience of the Collie breed. Kezzie does have some insecurities, which will take some time and understanding, but once she lets you in, she will never leave your side.



BARNABY
8 years old

✉ bow.rehomers@battersea.org.uk

A little overwhelmed by kennel life, Barnaby is a true gentleman who will make the perfect companion for a family with older children. A real peanut butter fiend, Barnaby is not quite ready for retirement yet and – although he enjoys a peaceful pace of life – one glance at a tennis ball proves he's still young at heart.



SWEETIE
2 years old

✉ rehoming@battersea.org.uk

Sweetie by name and nature; this sensitive girl has bundles of energy and would love to join a family home with teenagers that she can charge around with. Once the energy's burnt off, Sweetie will surprise you with her curious side – in fact, she's such a clever clogs she's even been known to open doors!



GIZMO
10 years old

✉ rehoming@battersea.org.uk

Gizmo has been at Battersea for over 100 days now and is looking for an extra-special owner who can understand his unique personality. Although he can be slow to make friends, when he does deem you worthy of a stroke, Gizmo will give you his full love and attention.



DEE-DEE
6 years old

✉ rehoming@battersea.org.uk

Delightful Dee-Dee is patiently waiting for a new home in which she can settle this summer. Brimming with affection, this soppy girl is always looking for an arm to snuggle up in. Could you be the comfort blanket that Dee-Dee needs and equal the cuddly softness of this loveable girl?

Little Paws

Kids pull-out section

this is your bit of the magazine. Grown-ups, hands off!

Cool pics, quizzes & a poster!

Ellie with Stacie

WINNER!
Patrick with Rosie

Kiran with George

Your epic pet selfies...

Grayce with Herbie

Leon with Binx

Keira with Ginny (AKA, El Poocho)

Did you know?

Cats spend around two-thirds of every day sleeping. As hunters, they use short, intense bursts of energy and need lots of sleep to recharge

Imogen with Red

Win!

Personalised stickers and iron on labels!



Battersea has partnered with My Nametags to create 12 special sticker and iron-on label designs that you can personalise with you or your pet's name!

Find them at: mynametags.com/battersea-dogs

HOW TO ENTER: Simply take a super selfie with your family dog or cat and email it to littlepaws@battersea.org.uk.

Little
paws





Alfie

Age 3 years old
Breed Domestic Shorthair

Alfie came to Battersea after his original owner had another baby and felt there wasn't enough room for him and his brother Chase. Both cats have now found loving forever homes with new owners.



Your stories



Billie's love for animals

After raising £40 through cat-sitting for a friend, seven-year-old Billie came to Battersea to personally hand over her donation and was treated to a tour of the Home where she met some of our adorable animals looking for homes, including Labrador Othello.

Did you know?
Unlike humans, dogs sniff things 'in stereo'. They smell separately with each nostril to work out exactly where interesting whiffs are coming from!

Sweet success

Star bakers Caroline and Ella kindly held a cake sale to help raise money for Battersea. Giving them a helping paw were Peanut and Truffle, two Dachshunds who served tirelessly as 'barkers' for the day to attract customers. They also licked up every crumb to ensure no litter was left behind! Caroline and Ella's scrumptious homemade cupcakes, brownies and sweets raised an impressive £198.70. Here is the cake sale team visiting Battersea to hand over their generous donation, while receiving some well-deserved cuddles from Archie.



Pawfect sewing

Animal lover Phoebe (pictured on the right) has kindly donated some hand-sewn blankets to our lucky dogs here at Battersea. Phoebe, who hopes to become a vet when she grows up, said she was inspired to make the donation after watching #pogdogs. She spent two months at her Surrey home sewing paw-themed creations for our furry friends. We're pleased to say they absolutely love them!



Pet quiz: test your knowledge

1. Is the domestic dog a:

- carnivore?
- omnivore?
- herbivore?



3. Who has better hearing:

- a human?
- a dog?



2. What is a group of kittens called?

- a kindle
- a bunch
- a mew



4. How many whiskers do cats have on average?

- 14
- 144
- 1,044



ANSWERS: 1: Omnivore. Dogs can eat a range of foods including grains and vegetables and against an object, a cat can work out its exact location, size and texture, even in the dark! grow on a cat's muzzle, above its eyes, on its ears, jaw and forelegs. By brushing its whiskers than those that the human ear can detect. 4: 144. Whiskers are highly sensitive hairs that don't need to rely just on meat. 2: A kindle. 3: A kindle. 4: 144. Dogs can hear sounds four times further away

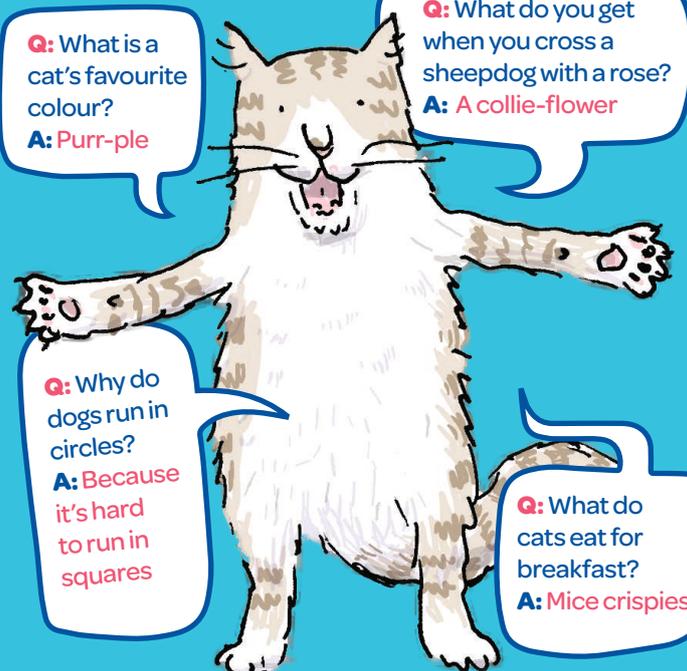
Joke corner

Q: What is a cat's favourite colour?
A: Purr-ple

Q: What do you get when you cross a sheepdog with a rose?
A: A collie-flower

Q: Why do dogs run in circles?
A: Because it's hard to run in squares

Q: What do cats eat for breakfast?
A: Mice crispies



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Our Royal c

Battersea has been supported by members of the Royal Family ever since Queen Victoria set up an annual subscription to London's Temporary Home for Lost and Starving Dogs, as Battersea was then known. *Paws* dips into the archives to reveal more...

Patron,
H.M. THE KING.



1865

On 16 December 1865, Queen Victoria sent her private secretary, Sir Henry Ponsonby, to investigate the 'Temporary Home for Lost and Starving Dogs', which had been established in 1860 by Mary Tealby. Sir Henry reported back that the dogs were "comfortably housed and well treated". The charity then received a letter confirming that The Queen would subscribe £10 yearly. Soon after, Victoria agreed to become Patron. Her support was a signal for the rest of London's high society to follow suit. Aristocrats, politicians and famous actresses became fundraisers for the Home – a trend that continues to this day.

1879

The Prince of Wales, the future Edward VII, became Battersea's first Royal guest when he paid a visit to the Home in 1879.

1884

Five years' later, Edward's youngest brother, the Duke of Albany, was the first member of the Royal Family to rehome a Battersea dog, a Fox Terrier.

1901

Following the death of Queen Victoria, her son, King Edward VII, consented to be Patron. After he died in 1910, Royal Patronage was continued by his son, King George V, until his death in 1936.

1956

On 18 May 1956, Buckingham Palace confirmed that Queen Elizabeth had agreed to become the Home's Patron. After a 20-year gap, a sovereign was once again Battersea's most important supporter.

1975

Following mammoth fundraising efforts, in 1971, the Home bought a 4,100-square-foot piece of land adjoining the railway arches from British Rail. Almost immediately, the most ambitious building programme the Home had yet seen got under way. On 16 October 1975, Princess Alice, the Duchess of Gloucester, cut a length of ribbon to open the new building – with modern Kennels, a new Cattery, a pharmacy and stores – that had been named in her honour.

1984

Prince Michael of Kent becomes Battersea's President.

Connection

Battersea's Chief Executive, Claire Horton, says:

"The Royal Family has been closely connected with Battersea for well over a century. We feel immensely honoured to have had The Queen's patronage for so many years and are thrilled that the Royal connection will continue with HRH The Duchess of Cornwall. Royal patronage helps ensure our vital work and our contribution to society is fully recognised on the world stage and is something we're hugely grateful for."



1986

In December 1985, almost 100 years after Queen Victoria had offered her first donation, a letter bearing the Royal coat of arms arrived at the Home. The letter explained that Queen Elizabeth II would very much like to visit the Old Windsor centre when she was next at Windsor Castle. Despite its long links with the Royal Family, no reigning monarch had ever visited a Battersea centre. In April 1986, crowds gathered as The Queen toured the Kennels, taking her time to look at all the dogs and to talk to staff.

1991

Five years after visiting Battersea's Old Windsor site, Her Majesty came to see our iconic south London centre. On Wednesday 27 February 1991, a fleet of limousines swept over Albert Bridge, past Battersea Park and in through the gates of the Home. The entire staff had gathered in the main courtyard as the motorcade pulled in and the Queen emerged to cheers. Buckingham Palace let the Home know that Her Majesty had been "most impressed by everything she saw."

1996

In October 1996, Battersea opened new facilities for its dogs and cats, named in honour of the Home's President – and cousin of The Queen – Prince Michael of Kent. The Prince is the proud owner of a Battersea dog – a handsome black Labrador named Shadow.

2010

As the charity celebrated its 150th anniversary, Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Cornwall, opened Battersea's brand new Cattery. The Duchess returned in December 2012, accompanied by her two ex-Battersea dogs, Beth and Bluebell, to see the Home's work first hand.

2015

Accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, Her Majesty opened the Home's newest intake kennels at Battersea. The Mary Tealby Kennels are playing a vital role in supporting the charity's canine residents during their early days at Battersea.

2016

In September 2016, Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Cornwall, the proud owner of two Battersea dogs – Bluebell and Beth (adopted in 2011 and 2012) – opened the new Veterinary Hospital and Centre of Excellence.

2017

Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Cornwall, is announced as Battersea's new Royal Patron. After being greeted by a dogs' guard of honour, The Duchess toured the Catteries and Kennels and met staff working at the Veterinary Hospital she'd opened the year before. The Duchess said: "I hope I will be Patron of Battersea as long as I am standing. I want to thank the walkers, staff and volunteers who do such a wonderful job."

Transform Battersea Old Windsor



Help us rebuild the **Pippin Kennels** at Battersea Old Windsor to give stray dogs like Mable a second chance of happiness

We don't know what happened to Mable before she arrived; she was nervous, highly sound-sensitive and her teeth would constantly chatter through stress. She was too anxious to be housed near other dogs, so the only option was to put her in the Pippin Kennels until a foster carer could be found. These are Battersea's oldest kennels and, sadly, as the years go on they have begun falling into a state of disrepair.

Now, Battersea is seeking to raise £3million to demolish and completely rebuild the Pippin Kennels. This ambitious project will have a radical impact on the level of care we offer dogs who simply have nowhere else to go. Our vision includes spacious, sound-proofed kennels, a maternity unit, chill-out rooms and multi-sensory paddocks for training and play. To make this dream a reality, we are drawing together a circle of major benefactors who can make a special gift to help dogs like Mable, now and long into the future.



If you'd like to hear more, we would love to show you the plans and discuss how your donation could be best used. Please get in touch with Katherine Hart on k.hart@battersea.org.uk or call 020 7627 9330.

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Animal cruelty sentencing is *#NotFunny*

Paul O'Grady, Ricky Gervais, Harry Hill, Sue Perkins and
Tracey Ullman call for tougher sentences for animal abusers



These famous comedians know better than anyone how to make people laugh – but they've joined Battersea to proudly declare that sentencing for animal cruelty is a joke, and it's **#NotFunny**. Stand-up legends and animal lovers Paul O'Grady, Ricky Gervais, Harry Hill, Sue Perkins and Tracey Ullman have lent their support to the Home's campaign for tougher sentences for animal abusers.

By now, you've probably seen their posters on social media and in major transport hubs and bus stops across the country. They're helping us spread the message that England and Wales' current six-month maximum sentence for animal cruelty offences is just not good enough. We're calling for the sentence to be increased to five years for the most severe offences, which would bring us in line with the rest of Europe, Australia, the US and Canada.

We're so grateful for their help and we're so overwhelmed by all your support. Since the last issue of *Paws*, when we first told you about the campaign, it's gone from strength to strength. On 20 February, we launched in Parliament

and so far, more than 30,000 people have emailed their MP. Every constituency has been contacted, which means our campaign has reached every corner of the country.

Keep fighting for our animals

These are huge achievements and it's so important we keep fighting for our animals. Here at Battersea, we see so many happy endings, but we continue to take in dogs and cats who have suffered heart-breaking abuse and neglect. It's these animals – like Stewart, a four-year-old crossbreed who came to us so emaciated, he looked more like a puppy than an adult dog – that we're campaigning for.

We can't thank you enough for helping us to change the future for thousands of the country's dogs and cats. We'll keep you updated on where the campaign takes us – and look out for our comedian friends at stations near you. 🐾

Join us to change the law

👉 Visit battersea.org.uk/notfunny

✉ Email your MP using our online form

"I can't stand by and watch while those responsible for the most terrible suffering are unlikely to get more than a few weeks in prison"

Paul O'Grady, Battersea Ambassador

Adopting an older pet

The older animals at Battersea sometimes get overlooked in favour of puppies and kittens. But senior dogs and cats are less demanding than youngsters and can make wonderful companions, as long as you know what you're taking on

Meet our experts



Sam Barry

Cat Rehomer, Old Windsor



Laura Howard

Dog Team Leader, Battersea



10-14 years

is when a cat is classed as a senior. Those aged 15+ are classed as geriatric. The first two years of a cat's life is calculated at 24 human years, and every year after that is equivalent to 4 years

Q What are the biggest challenges with taking on an older animal?



For cats, it's healthcare. Older cats often have pre-existing medical conditions, which may exempt them from pet insurance policies. There's more care involved, in terms of things like regularly checking their claws, as older cats don't scratch as much, and watching out for hair balls, which can cause problems due to reduced digestion function. Their toilet habits may change too, and they may need full-time litter trays. Sometimes, people are put off if a cat is say 10 years old, thinking they might not have them for long – but lots of cats live for many years, some up to age 20, and still have a lot of love to give. **SB**

Above right: Ricky, aged 10, was brought in to Battersea when his elderly owner passed away.

Opposite page: George, a nine-year old Terrier. Both George and Ricky have now been happily rehomed.



Health is also an issue with older dogs and, if they are suffering from pre-existing conditions, they will be exempt from insurance. It means that anyone taking on a dog with health issues must be prepared to provide financial backing to support the dog in terms of vet's bills and medication. **LH**

Q What other issues are there to contend with?



As cats get older, they have reduced ability to smell and taste food and often their appetite dips. You may find you need to tempt them with tastier food, and even feed them by hand to encourage them to eat. Just like humans, senior cats have reduced hearing

and immune function and a reduced tolerance to stress. This is why they're not really suited to families with small children. **SB**

 If, when we assess an older dog, it exhibits undesirable behaviour – such as jumping up at people – it can be more challenging to work with them to change it, particularly if it's something they've been doing for years, but it's not impossible. It just takes lots of patient training. **LH**

What are the main benefits of taking on an older pet?

 Older cats are considerably calmer, so they're good for elderly and less active people as they won't be running around their legs like kittens do. And their personality is established – so when the adopter comes to meet them, they have a real sense of the cat they're taking home. Older cats often come to us because their owner has passed away or gone into hospital, and they're used to having a loving, affectionate relationship with a human and they really enjoy lap time. They're also less active, sleep for longer and hunt less – which makes them a good choice for people who don't like prey being brought into the house.

They can also cope if a person is out all day at work, which makes them suitable for younger working people who want an affectionate pet to greet them when they get home and to enjoy interaction and cuddles with in the evening. **SB**

 Mature dogs have great potential to slot happily into their new lives with a new family as all the hard work of puppy training and socialisation has already been done. All they want is someone to provide them with love, food, a comfy bed, some gentle walks and companionship. We always advise families with children who are getting their first dog to think about rehoming a more mature dog that knows exactly what's involved in being a family pet. A puppy or young dog will require a lot more training and socialisation time. **LH**

What are the most common mistakes that people make with older pets?

 Sometimes people forget to give older cats time and space to settle in. It's all new to them, which is very stressful to cats, and they're often still dealing with the grief of losing their owner. They need time to get used to a new home, so it feels familiar and they start to feel secure and confident again. People may also not realise that older felines with stiffer joints find it harder to climb up stairs or get up onto a high spot, which many cats love, so they need to think about adapting the environment to make it easier for an older cat to get about and access everything they need. **SB**

 We do see people who at first are reluctant to take on an older dog that's come from another family as they think it won't love them like it did its old family. We reassure them that dogs live in the present and deserve that second chance. Finding themselves in kennels after being a family pet is a bewildering experience for dogs. All they want is another cosy home to rest their paws and a family to love. Also, if you take on a puppy, you have no idea how it will turn out. With an older dog, their personality is established, so you know exactly what you're taking on. **LH**

Got a question?

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

What's your advice for people considering an older pet?

 Without a doubt, some things are more challenging – such as managing their health care and adapting their environment – but there are so many benefits to owning an older, calmer feline who's well practiced in the art of being a companion cat. Younger cats need more attention, training and activities to keep them fulfilled, whereas older cats are content with affection and a warm lap to lie on. They just need that second chance. **SB**

 I would say it's important to be realistic about your expectations. All dogs are individuals and settling in any new pet takes time and patience. Some dogs will settle in straight away. Others are a bit of a work in progress and, if the right home comes along with people who listen to all the advice we offer and continue to work patiently and consistently with the dog, the outcome will be brilliant for both parties. And we're always here to offer advice and support. All of us at the Battersea kennels, eat, sleep and breathe dogs and put our all into achieving a successful rehoming for each dog. It's also important to keep in touch with the latest advice on behaviour and training as it's constantly developing and we're continually growing our knowledge and understanding of dogs. We're more than happy to share our expertise to ensure all dogs live happy and fulfilling lives that enrich those of their owners. **LH**


8 years

is when a dog is classed as older. This is when greying of the muzzle and slowing down of the body begins. From aged 10, dogs are classed as senior and from aged 12, geriatric. How a dog ages depends on the breed and their life experience





Tommy, from Charlotte and James Lindner



Pet gallery

Every former Battersea dog and cat is special – just look at this little lot. It'll be hard to pick your favourite!



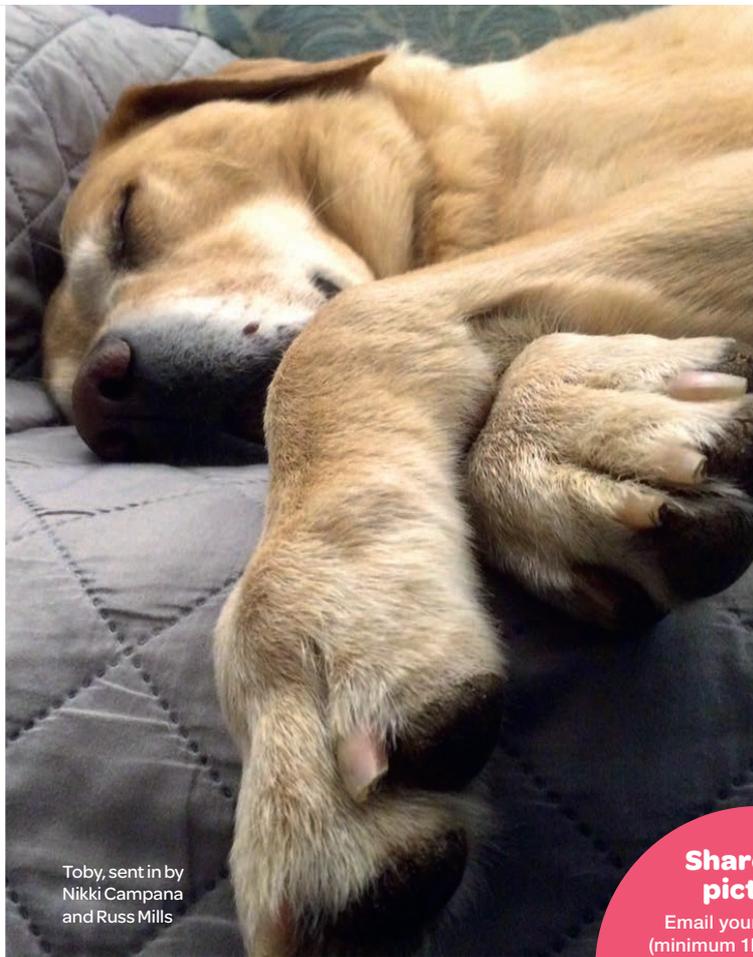
Harvey, sent in by Martin Wiseman



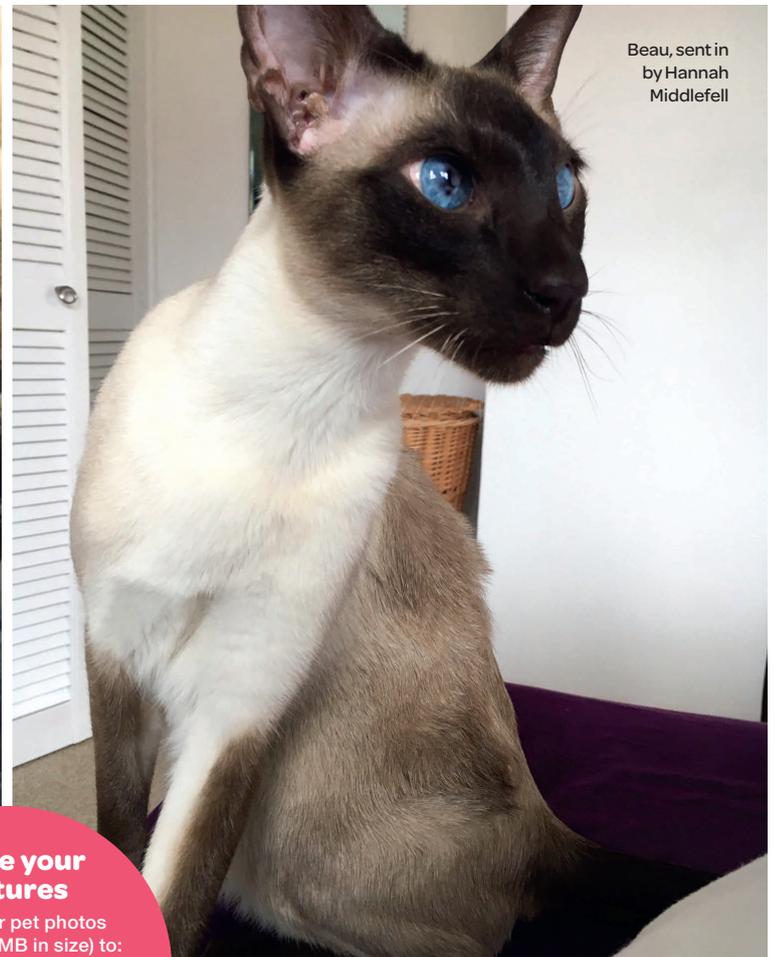
Reggie, sent in by Brian and Darius Shanks-Amini



Brandon, from Lauren Martin

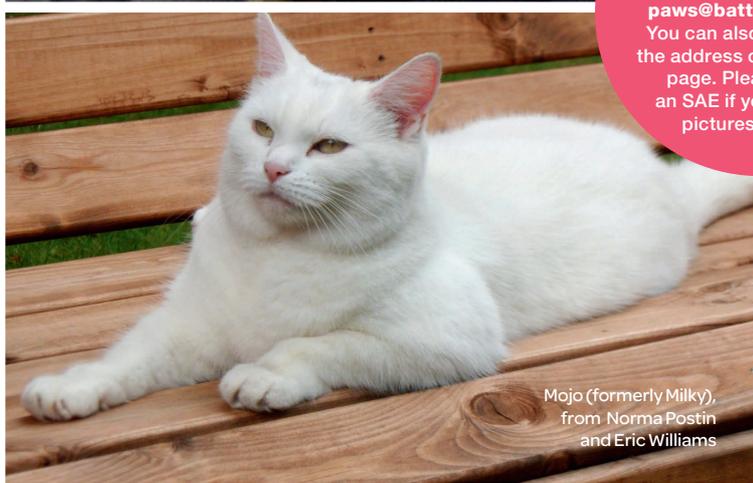


Toby, sent in by Nikki Campana and Russ Mills



Beau, sent in by Hannah Middlefell

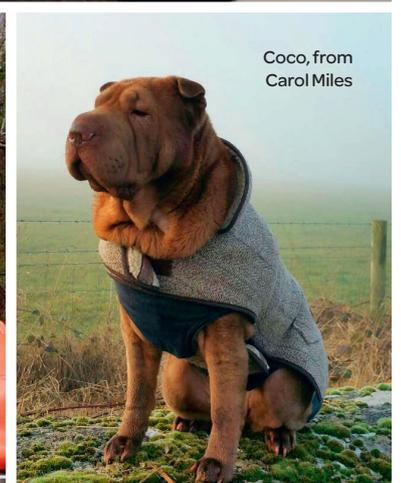
Share your pictures
Email your pet photos (minimum 1MB in size) to: paws@battersea.org.uk You can also post them to the address on the contents page. Please enclose an SAE if you'd like your pictures returned.



Mojo (formerly Milky), from Norma Postin and Eric Williams



Monty, sent in by Liz Cooper



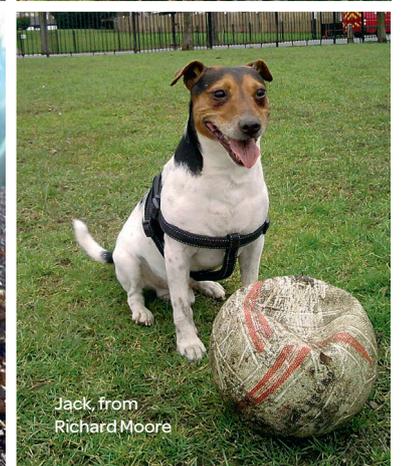
Coco, from Carol Miles



Bill and Ben, from Janet Birdseye



Jecca, sent in by Ruth Parkinson



Jack, from Richard Moore

Your letters

Share your special pet moments with other supporters

Keep in touch

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

Send us your stories and photos by email at **paws@battersea.org.uk** or by post to Paws Magazine, Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, 4 Battersea Park Road, London SW8 4AA



Pick your prize

Our star letter winner has the choice of Battersea books as their prize – either *Dogopedia* or *Catopedia* – both packed with fascinating animal curiosities!



Our friend for life

This is Dudley, a Staffordshire Bull Terrier we adopted three years ago from Battersea Old Windsor. He is an absolute treasure and we couldn't love him any more than we do. He steals the show while out for walks – from children who want to cuddle him, to curious non-dog owners who say he's beautiful. It's fantastic to see his progression from not wanting to step out into the rain, to becoming a puddle-braving, canal-paddling water dog. I had no idea that in such a short space of time I would have an amazing friend, full of life and love. Thank you so much Battersea.

Rebecca Goldie, by email



My special Valentine

In January I said my final goodbyes to my best friend Stella, a Staffie/Doberman cross, adopted from Battersea in 2003. My partner suggested we get another dog, but it wasn't until Valentine's Day that I spotted Millie on your website. We visited her at Battersea Brands Hatch and have never looked back. Stella will never be forgotten, but Millie is a blessing and we've helped another dog find happiness.

Kathy, by email



Little Miss Mischief

We had no idea how much joy and mischief Pepper would bring to our lives after adopting her in July 2011. She is the most endearing bundle of curiosity. If something goes crash, Pepper will have caused it! She is constantly playing tricks on our other cat, Cleo. We love her so much – thank you Battersea for allowing us to have her in our lives.

Jim and Rachel Ireland, Berkshire



Don't judge a cat by its fur

I wasn't looking for a black cat but, when I saw Ernie (previously known as Toby) at Battersea, I instantly fell in love. He'd spent much of his time hiding in his bed while staying at the Cattery, so had been overlooked. However, once introduced to us, he wouldn't stop purring and we couldn't resist taking him home. Ernie has since changed our lives for the better and I would encourage anyone choosing a Battersea cat to have an open mind, as we couldn't have picked a better match!

Rachel and Mike, by email



Picture perfect

I wanted to share this picture of our adorable Diesel (formerly known as Pickle), who we adopted from Battersea Old Windsor in February. He has made our lives complete and has settled into his forever home amazingly well. He adores everyone who comes over and even the postman has fallen in love with him. There is no such thing as Monday morning blues for Diesel! We really couldn't live without him now.

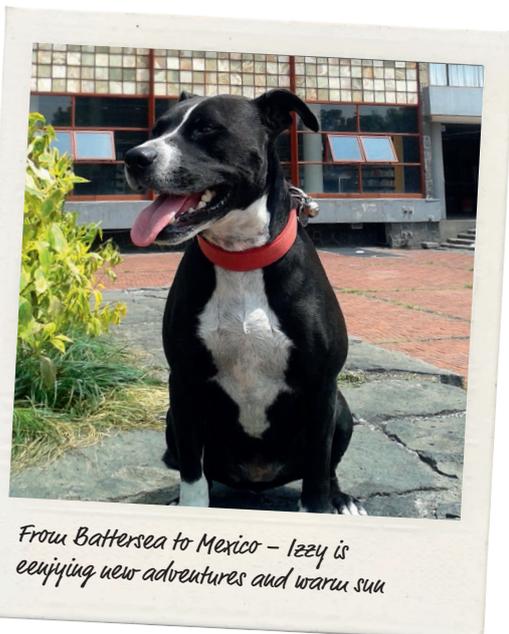
Brian and Heather Kennard,
by email

Alfie to the rescue

I rehomed Alfie from Battersea Brands Hatch in December 2015. He was an anxious boy who was a nuisance on the lead and even more of a nuisance with other dogs, and that's just the start of it. A year and a half later, he's a stable, confident dog and relatively indifferent to other dogs. He no longer has any separation issues nor, amazingly, any anxiety around children. The picture here shows him curled up with Molly, a Beagle Collie cross I adopted seven months ago – they're inseparable.

Alfie is training to be a part of Cambridge Search and Rescue with me and has his bronze obedience award, but more importantly he's well behaved, secure and a happy dog who loves nothing more than a cuddle and my bed.

Jenni, by email



From Battersea to Mexico - Izzy is enjoying new adventures and warm sun

Adventures with Izzy

I proudly brought home Izzy (previously known as Hattie) in May 2011 after she spent a few months living at Battersea Old Windsor. For the last five years, we have explored the beautiful Black Park paths together. However, at the end of August, I decided it was time for our next adventure and took up a teaching job in Mexico. Of course, Izzy has come with me and we are both enjoying the warm climate. Here is a picture of Izzy soaking up the rays outside the town library where we spend most of our weekends catching up with friends.

Eva Panchen, Mexico

Always loved 
never forgotten



We recently had to say goodbye to our lovely cat **Joey**, who was with us for nine months.

He arrived as a scared and timid cat, however, it wasn't long before he became a cuddly and outgoing bundle of fur. He even started to venture outside into the garden and was so keen to explore. I just wanted to say a massive thank you to everyone at the Cattery at Battersea. We are so grateful for all the support you gave us throughout the re-homing process, and the aftercare too.

Laura and Kia, by email



I adopted **Scooby** from Battersea in 2005 when he was just eight months old. He lived

every minute of every day to the absolute maximum, but sadly lost his long battle with brain tumours a few weeks ago. He loved long walks in Windsor Great Park and swimming in the river. He was a truly heroic companion who has left a massive hole in my life.

Jonathan Burbidge, Maidenhead



After 12 happy years of **Sheba** being a part of our family, we sadly had to say goodbye to her at the

age of 14. During her time with us, Sheba had such a big impact on our lives – her name was our youngest child's first word. Over the years, she also helped numerous people overcome their fear of dogs. She was a remarkable hound and will be missed by everyone who knew her.

Gareth Lewis, by email

Sally & Bowser

Faced with the daily physical and emotional challenges of living with multiple sclerosis, Sally Deegan's life changed for the better with the love of a big-hearted English Bull Terrier

It was my husband Ciaran who found Bowser. He'd watched an episode of *Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs*, went straight on to the website and spotted Bowser. Ciaran had grown up with English Bull Terriers and always wanted one. We thought we'd have to wait until we retired, but fate had other ideas.

I'd recently been told by doctors that they didn't know what was wrong with me but I was unfit for any kind of work. Housebound, after my latest stay in hospital, I felt devastated. The next thing I knew, Ciaran was driving me to London. It turned out that we were making the 376-mile round-trip from our home in Scunthorpe to Battersea Brands Hatch to meet Bowser. We had our interview and then, in barrelled the Great White. It was love at first sight for all of us. His big character shone through and, once he was home with us, he fitted in like he'd always been here.

I was eventually diagnosed with multiple sclerosis – a cruel, life-limiting disease. I felt so depressed, but there's nothing like a dog to bring joy back into your life. Bowser made me want to engage with people and the world again.

Bowser has this amazing ability to know when I'm in pain or relapsing. He's so calm and steady and alerts me by licking my hands and arms, then he sits on my feet. I didn't know what he was doing at first, but I've realised he's easing the discomfort as it dampens the nerve pain. He's had no training in detecting medical issues or assisting with daily life, he just does it, which makes him even more special.

My great white knight

Bowser has even saved my life. We'd only had him three months when I suffered a relapse and fell unconscious on the sofa. He immediately ran out to the garden to get Ciaran's attention. Bowser takes such good care of me that it was one of the proudest days of my life when he was recognised for it at Crufts. We were also celebrating 12 weeks of pregnancy on the day of the award – something that Bowser had already figured out several weeks earlier! He was crowned the Friends for Life 2017 Champion. I couldn't believe that I was standing in the main arena at Crufts and they called out his name, but he so deserves it. Bowser is my great white knight and he continues to protect, support and save me every day. He's my hero. 🐾

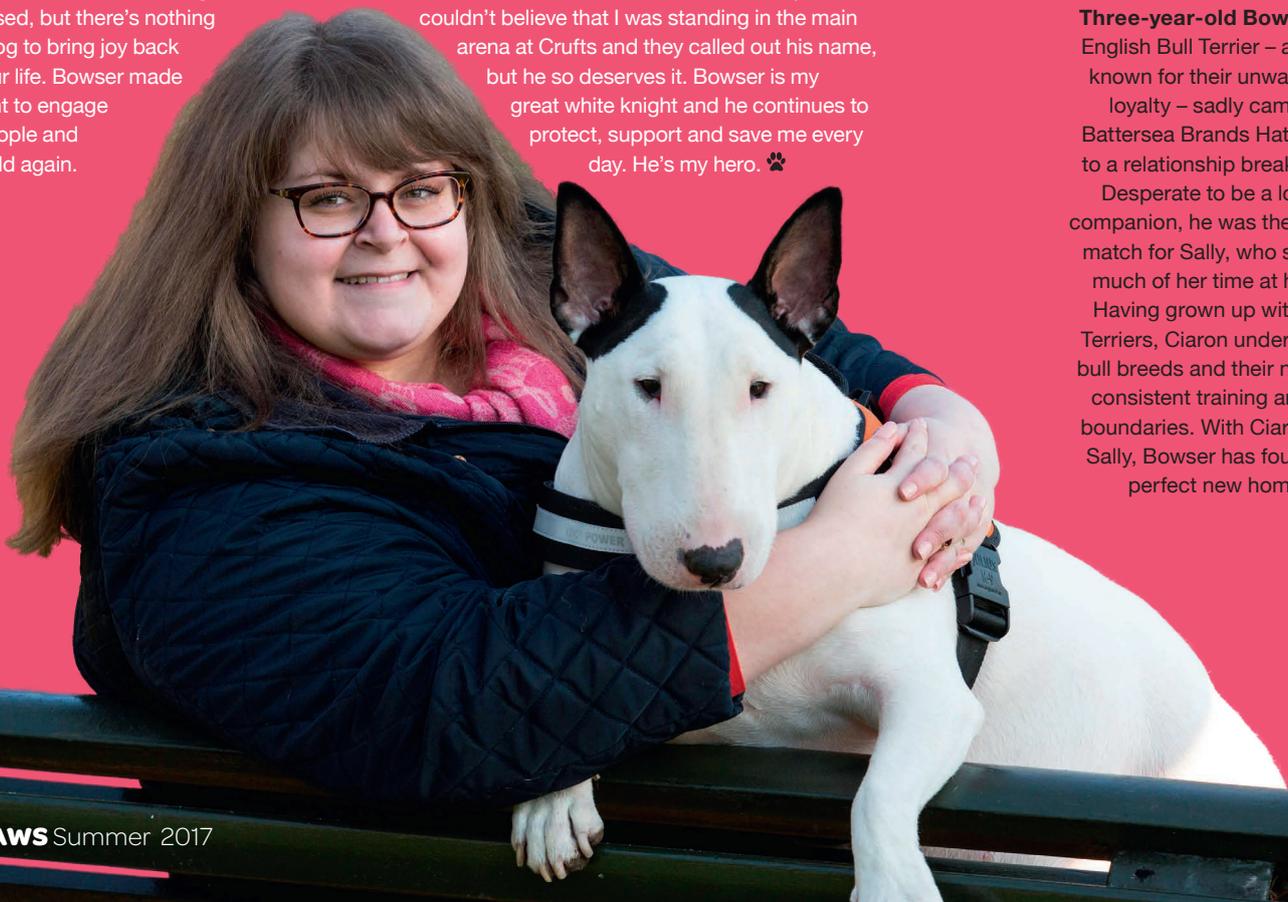
A perfect partnership



Sally Deegan and her husband Ciaran adopted big-hearted Bowser to help Sally cope with the physical and emotional challenges of living with multiple sclerosis. Bowser found the role in life he always wanted as Sally's constant companion, protector and faithful friend.



Three-year-old Bowser, an English Bull Terrier – a breed known for their unwavering loyalty – sadly came to Battersea Brands Hatch due to a relationship breakdown. Desperate to be a loving companion, he was the perfect match for Sally, who spends much of her time at home. Having grown up with Bull Terriers, Ciaran understands bull breeds and their need for consistent training and set boundaries. With Ciaran and Sally, Bowser has found his perfect new home.



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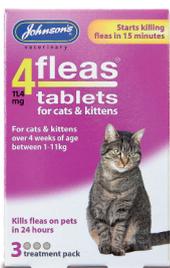
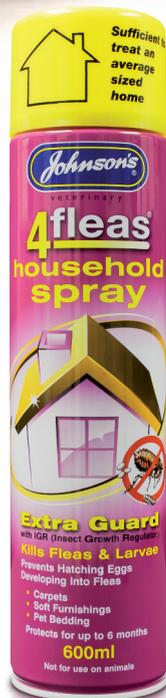
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