

# FOR PETS

The magazine for Blue Cross supporters

AUTUMN 2017

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## ROCKY START

DEATH'S DOOR PUP  
LANDS ON HIS PAWS

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PLUS

*Therapy pony comforts sick children*

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*Fat cat slims down*

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*JOIN US for Blue Cross Week!*

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Pets change lives  
We change theirs



# Struggling to cope with the loss of your pet?

Our Pet Bereavement Support Service is here to help.

**Call us on 0800 096 6606 or email us at  
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**Our free helpline (0800 096 6606) is open 8.30am-8.30pm every day, or you can email us at [pbssmail@bluecross.org.uk](mailto:pbssmail@bluecross.org.uk) any time.**

Find out more, and watch a video about this unique and important service at:  
[bluecross.org.uk/pet-bereavement-support](https://bluecross.org.uk/pet-bereavement-support)

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# Welcome

I'm sure you'll agree that we are a nation of animal lovers – but it's not always that we think about the hugely positive social and emotional connection pets have with our society. Pets bring us joy and laughter, even when we're feeling at our worst or are unwell. Turn to page 20 to discover how horse Dillon brought light to terminally ill children in their darkest hour. And they are family; you'll read about the difference a puppy with a sad past has made to his new owners' lives on page 4. Pets help people in so many ways, and they depend entirely on us; that's why, we've renamed our magazine to *For Pets*, as we're just as committed to pets now as we have been since 1897. And with your support, we always will be.

*Rachael Millar, Editor*



## ON THE COVER

### 4 A rocky start

Death's door pup lands on four paws

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## FEATURES

### 8 A to Z of happy, healthy pets

Keep your pet tip top

### 13 Abandoned in a shoe box

Dumped hamster safe now

### 14 How you've helped

Huge achievements thanks to you

### 16 Therapy pony

Dillon helps sick and disabled children

### 18 Buster and Harvey were never alone

Thanks to Home Direct

### 23 Lost for words

How to help those grieving for pets

### 24 Fat cat slim

Flora joins a weight loss programme

### 26 Blue Cross Week

It's coming. Get involved!

### 28 Volunteering

Something for everyone

## REGULARS

### 12 Take me home

These Blue Cross pets need a loving family

### 22 Ask the expert

Your questions answered

### 29 Pet postbag

Your letters

### 30 News

All the latest news from Blue Cross

### 34 Competition

Win a holiday with your pet

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# A ROCKY START

*He wasn't a Labrador, and he wasn't healthy*

Ten days before Christmas Eve, a couple purchased what they thought would become a much-loved pet; a Labrador puppy, fit and ready to go home, up for sale on a classified advertising website. They agreed to meet the breeder (or so they thought) in a car park. Money changed hands, and the wriggly ball of fluff named Rocky came home with them.

**W**ithin hours of bringing him home, Rocky, was flat, floppy and very ill. There was clearly something very wrong. He had vomited several times during the night and had an upset stomach too. He wasn't interested in food, and although he tried to drink water, he could not keep it down. Desperate for help, the owners rang the breeder, but there was no reply.

Less than 24 hours after he was bought, Rocky was at the nearest vet. He would need special intensive treatment if he was to survive. Caught totally unprepared for a very sick pet and unable to afford private vet fees, his owners rushed him to our Victoria animal hospital and made the heartbreaking decision to part with him, asking that we find him a new home should he recover.

## Deathly disease

"Rocky was at death's door when he arrived in our care," said Amanda Marrington, Blue Cross Animal Welfare Officer. "He was weak, emaciated and suffering from parvovirus and we didn't think he would survive the night."

Parvovirus is a highly infectious disease that can kill puppies quickly. It is entirely preventable with a simple vaccination. It is very contagious in unvaccinated puppies, especially where hygiene is poor, so sadly, the other puppies in Rocky's litter are likely to have suffered a similar fate.

The advertising of puppies online, before completing the sale at a public location, is an increasingly worrying trend, and more and more dangerously ill pets who have been bought in this way are being treated by Blue Cross vets.

Rocky needed intervention fast if he was to make it. We placed him in our isolation unit to keep others safe from the potential spread of infection, and to give him a quiet space to rest and recover.

Hannah Dennis, Veterinary Nurse at Victoria, was one of a team who made sure he found the strength to survive. She explains: "It was touch and go with Rocky. Puppies that young are at real risk of death from parvovirus because if they can't eat and are losing fluids, they aren't getting the vital nutrients they need to survive.

"Rocky needed encouragement to eat. We fed him by hand every two hours, little and often, to build up his strength without giving him too much and making him sick."

Hannah offered the youngster tiny mouthfuls on a fingertip and eventually he began to fancy eating from his food bowl on his own. This, and the fact he kept trying to chew through his drip, were positive signs that Rocky was on the road to recovery. And so, after nine days in intensive care, Rocky left the hospital and travelled to our Hertfordshire rehoming centre.

**Parvovirus**  
A highly infectious disease that can kill puppies quickly.



**Above:** Rocky was in a collapsed state when he arrived at Blue Cross.

*“He was weak, emaciated and suffering from parvovirus and we didn’t think he would survive the night.”*



Rocky gives Animal Welfare Assistant Sarah Miller a thank you kiss.





*“Rocky needed encouragement to eat. We fed him by hand every two hours, little and often...”*

Hannah Dennis,  
Veterinary Nurse



“Our job was to start Rocky’s education,” explains Sarah Miller, Animal Welfare Assistant, who began the pup’s training. “Because of his illness he was starting his training a bit later than he should have done and we noticed he was very mouthy, which is a sign he was probably taken away from his mum too early. We introduced him to lots of new experiences including going in the car, meeting dogs, and listening to household sounds.

“We also made sure he had lots of time to play, run around like a mad thing and sleep, and of course lots of cuddles!”

Learning how to cope with being around people and other animals, and about reacting to different environments and situations, is a process called ‘socialisation’. It sets a puppy up for life as a family dog, and should be started at around three weeks. Rocky’s breeder didn’t do this, but we began the process as soon as we could.

One sure-fire way of getting Rocky some experience of a home was to put him in one. So on Christmas Eve, our Volunteer Foster Carer, Becky Andrews, picked Rocky up and took him home to enjoy the festivities with her family – and he even enjoyed a little turkey dinner and the customary afternoon snooze.

Becky says: “Rocky truly was the best Christmas present I got. He had such a fuss made over him due to the circumstances of him coming to us. I had family over and they all fell in love with him. We put a little red ribbon round his neck on Christmas Day.

“Rocky was the fourth dog I had as a foster, so I had already been through them going into loving homes. Although it’s sad to see them go as you do get very attached, knowing that Blue Cross does appropriate checks does make it easier to let them go. In some cases a puppy really is just for Christmas.”

One month after Rocky came through our doors, weak and ever so poorly, he left us to become part of the Meadows family.

## Home at last

Tracy Meadows had grown up with big dogs, had always wanted one of her own and her son had shown a keen interest in getting one, but with work commitments it had never seemed like the right time.

We caught up with Rocky and his new family five months after he left Blue Cross, and he has proved he was worth the wait.

Tracy says: “I said to my husband Ian, ‘When I see the dog and look into their eyes, I’ll know it’s the right one.’ We went up to the centre with open minds, but when we met Rocky in the puppy play pen, he ran to me for a cuddle, then he looked at my husband and ran to him, and I saw my husband just melt!”

Rocky’s mouthing problem – brought on by his troubled early days – did continue into the home, but the Meadows were prepared to work with him to solve it.

“We knew that was going to be the case because he had no bite inhibition so he was a challenge, but we’ve trained him and had advice from the centre,” explains Tracy.

“He was terrified of everything in the kitchen, because he wasn’t brought up in a home environment and probably lived in a shed or something. We had a list of things to help him with and ticked them off. One week we’d focus on saucepans, next week it’d be the kettle.”

Rocky’s training is continuing in his new home and he’s found a love of exploring the great outdoors, enjoys swimming, and has brought the family together.

He lives an idyllic life alongside fellow Hertfordshire rehomed Nigella, a rabbit, a second rescue bunny Benson, and five chickens.

Tracy says: “He is a very affectionate puppy and is always on the go, and he really makes us laugh with the antics he gets up to.

Rocky is a central part of Tracy and Ian's family.



*“Rocky gives me hope, the thought of what he has been through drives me to pursue my dream of becoming a vet.”*

Tom Parfett

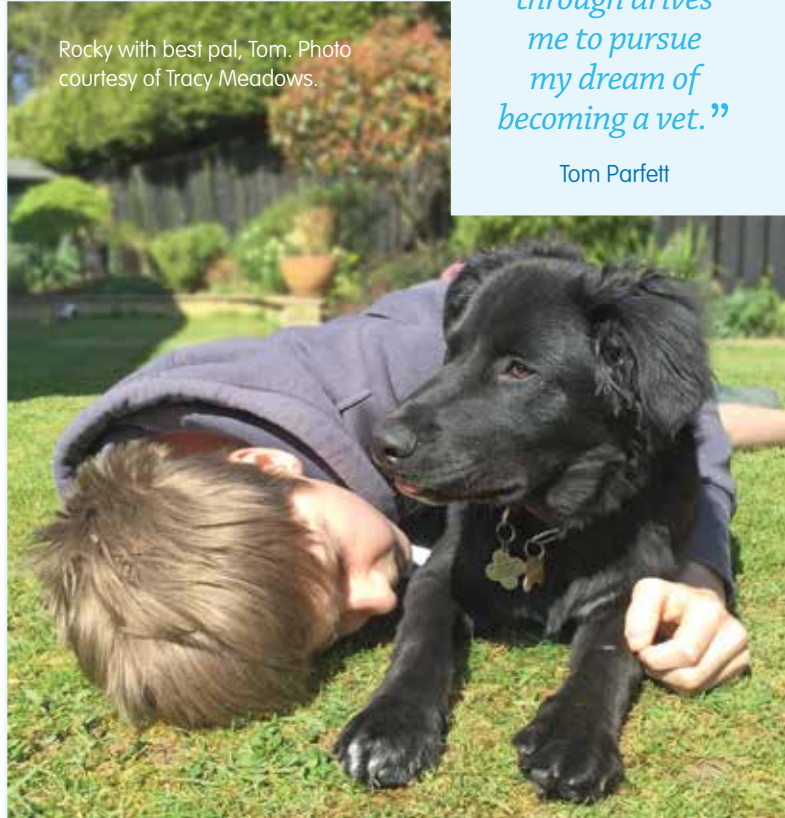
“We’re now out walking every night with him, and wherever we go, Rocky goes. He loves travelling in the car. Really he’s brought us all together; we’re doing more things as a family because of having a dog, so we’re exploring new places.”

And for 14-year-old Tom, who had spent years trying to convince his parents the family should get a dog, Rocky has become the motivation to work hard to achieve his ideal career in animal welfare.

Tom says: “Rocky simply means the world to me now, he has changed me for the better. He just seems to brighten up the day for me. I think digging deeper, the bond I have with him is unbreakable. It’s like he understands me and can cheer me up no matter what.

“Rocky gives me hope, the thought of what he has been through drives me to pursue my dream of becoming a vet. Now I have Rocky with me I can overcome anything.”

Rocky with best pal, Tom. Photo courtesy of Tracy Meadows.







## OF HOW TO KEEP YOUR PET HAPPY AND HEALTHY

*Did you know that pet owners visit the GP less often than those without them? Pets keep us active, they lower our blood pressure and brighten our moods. They help us, and it's up to us to help them. Here are our top tips...*

### **A** for agility.

Great exercise for your dog's body and mind, and will strengthen the bond between you too.

### **B** for boxes.

Cats love to play in boxes. Hiding in them also makes cats feel safe and secure. It is just one way that you can provide essential enrichment for your pet.





## **C** for company.

Some animals, like bunnies and guinea pigs, are sociable creatures who get upset if they are apart from their own species. Other pets, such as Syrian hamsters and most cats, are happiest in their own company.



## **D**ust baths...

make small furries happy. Chinchillas, degus and gerbils love wallowing in fine sand to keep clean.

## **E**ducation.

Training your dog to be well behaved will keep them, you, and those around you happy. Sit, stay, down, recall are good behaviours to begin with.

## **F**ive welfare needs.

Under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, UK owners have a legal duty to ensure their pets live in the right environment; eat a good diet; can exhibit normal behaviours; are housed with, or apart from, other animals suitable for their species; and are protected from pain and suffering.

## **G**runting...

snorting and wheezing continuously is not normal for pets; they are often signs of breathing difficulties, particularly in flat-faced dog and cat breeds. Get these vet checked.

## **H**iding places...

keep rabbits feeling safe from potential predators. Boxes or tubing with two entrances/exits are best for bunnies.

## **I**D tags...

etched with the owner's name and address are a legal requirement for dogs in public places, even if they're chipped.



## **J**oints.

Your dog will need regular exercise to keep his or her joints healthy. As they head into old age, exercise might need to be toned down to avoid any unnecessary strain on joints.





### ***Kitchens...***

can present a whole host of dangers to pets, especially to cats who like to jump up on the surfaces! Be vigilant with your pet around hot hobs, spillages and breakages. And watch out for cats sneaking into washing machines and tumble dryers.

### ***LOVE!***

#### ***M for microchip.***

These rice-grain-sized chips are your best bet for getting your pet back should they ever go missing – but only if contact details are kept up to date. It's a legal requirement for all dogs over eight weeks.

#### ***N for neutering.***

Getting your pet castrated or spayed while they're young means you never have to worry about accidental litters and provides health benefits too.

### ***Obesity...***

in pets is a growing problem so ensure yours is not eating more than they should. Like in humans, being overweight can have lasting consequences for pets and can even be fatal.

### ***Pain...***

can be hard to detect in pets as they can't tell us how they're feeling. A change in behaviour, a loss of appetite or a reluctance to play or move around are all signs that your pet may be uncomfortable, so make sure you get them vet checked as soon as possible.



### ***Quiet time...***

is something we all need, and our pets are no different. If your pet wants a nap, leave them be.

### ***Rehoming...***

is so rewarding. You're giving an abandoned or unwanted pet a second chance at happiness and with Blue Cross, you'll get advice and support for life.



## *Saying goodbye.*

Pets are family and it's extremely upsetting when it's their time to go. Discuss options with your vet, and call our pet bereavement helpline for confidential support\*.

## *T is for treats.*

Whether with food, toys or a good old fuss, rewarding your pet for good behaviour is the best way to encourage them to do it again.

## *Understanding.*

Reading up on pet body language will help you recognise what your pet is trying to tell you. For example, arched backs could mean your cat is worried and if a dog's tail is between their legs, they could be scared.

## *V for vaccinations.*

Preventing dangerous diseases saves lives.

## *Walks...*

Keep dogs healthy and happy. But it's not just dogs that need daily exercise – it is essential for any pet, whether that's a rat running round a wheel or a cat chasing a toy.



## *Xylitol...*

is often found in chewing gum and is one of a wide number of potential poisons to pets. Know the dangers and ensure food, drink, medication and household products are kept out of the reach of greedy paws.



## *Yearly vet checks.*

Should be in each and every pet owner's calendar. During these vital check-ups, your vet will check your pet's weight (monthly for horses), heart rate and general health, as well as giving any booster, flea treatments and worming medication.

## *Zzzz*

Getting enough sleep, rest and alone time lets pets recharge their batteries.

***For more top tips for all pet species visit [bluecross.org.uk/advice](http://bluecross.org.uk/advice)***

\*Turn to page 35 for contact details.

# COULD YOU TAKE ME HOME?

*Can you give any of these Blue Cross pets a place in your heart and your home?*

## NOVA AND BEAR

Hello, I'm Nova and I'm looking for a home with my best pal Bear. I'm full of character and mischief.

We love to play with toys and explore our tunnels and boxes. Could you give us a loving home?

**Tiverton 0300 777 1560**



## PHILIP

There is so much to tell you about me! I love being out and about on long hikes. I'm a friendly sort with people and dogs I meet, I'm a whizz on agility equipment and I'm looking to share adventures with my partner in crime.

**Southampton 0300 777 1530**



Hundreds of pets are just waiting to meet you



## MISSY

My name's Missy. I'm a fun and energetic girl who loves people loads. I'd be a dab hand at agility, and I'd keep you entertained. Take me home?

**Hertfordshire 0300 777 1490**



## COMFY

Hello everybody, my name is Comfy! I'm a quiet natured feline and I must admit I'm not so keen on lots of fussing and fiddling, and would rather sit calmly alongside you. Do you have a garden I could explore?

**Epsom 0300 777 1930**

## KESTREL

I had a terrible past but Blue Cross has helped me overcome my fears. Everyone says how pretty I am and I'm very affectionate. Could you help me continue to grow in confidence?

I just want to be happy. I have so much potential.

**Burford 0300 777 1570**



## ROSIE

My name is Rosie. As you can see, I am a beautiful long-haired girl and I do love to be groomed. My purrfect home is one where I will enjoy lots of attention. Could you be my new best friend?

**Paignton 0300 777 1939**



Find your new best friend at [bluecross.org.uk/rehome](https://bluecross.org.uk/rehome)



# SAVED BY A SQUEAK

Thank goodness he squeaked. If he'd have stayed silent, we may never have known a tiny, helpless hamster was inside the pile of rubbish dumped on our hospital doorstep, and his potential fate doesn't bear thinking about.

Kickers is a happy and healthy Syrian hamster now, who lives a cushy life with new owner Sam Murray. She says: "I was so sad when I heard that this little guy had been dumped in the street; it was such a cold morning and anything could have happened to him. As soon as I saw him I just wanted to help him and give him a loving, warm home. He's such a character and very clever. I'm glad I've been able to give him another chance at being a wonderful pet."

Kickers is named after the branded shoebox he was placed in, inside an exercise ball. The box was wrapped in a plastic bag, which thankfully insulated him from the harsh frost of that cold January morning. The sweet little thing was discovered by Blue Cross Veterinary Nurse Tracey Parnell right outside our Hammersmith hospital in West London on her way in to work.

Tracey said: "We are all shocked someone abandoned him as he could have easily escaped or got hypothermia or died from the freezing temperatures.



Kickers on arrival at our Hammersmith hospital

"He was very stressed and was squealing when I opened the ball up to see what was inside as I thought it was a bag of rubbish. It's unusual for a hamster to make this noise and they only do in the most threatening or stressful of situations."

We warmed him up and he started to eat straight away. Once settled he was examined by our vet and found to be fit, healthy and friendly, despite his ordeal. Kickers was the second rodent within a week to be dumped outside a Blue Cross animal hospital inside an exercise ball, after rat Vivienne was found outside Victoria hospital just days before.

Kickers is now happy and loved. He's being treated for mites when we visit him, so his ears look a little crusty. His Blue Cross Vet, Seb Prior, says the stress of being abandoned is the likely cause of the pesky pests increasing in number, and he'll be just fine with treatment. This hamster's tale has a happy ending, and it's all thanks to our wonderful supporters for making this possible.



Kickers is now happy and loved

# ALL BECAUSE OF YOU

Last year we helped more sick, injured and homeless pets than ever before, and we'd like to say a huge

## THANK YOU

to our kind supporters.

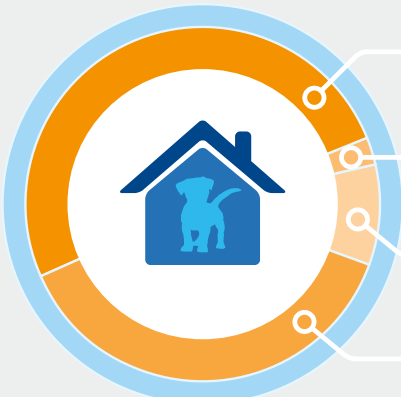
We receive no government funding and simply couldn't have been there for the almost 43,000 dogs, cats, horses and small pets we treated and found homes for without you.

Not only do we look after pets, we look after your donations too, and work hard to ensure they are spent wisely.

### Here's how we used your donations in 2016...

**10,991** pets helped  
by Rehoming Services

9,160 pets  
helped in 2015



**5,557** CATS



**285** HORSES

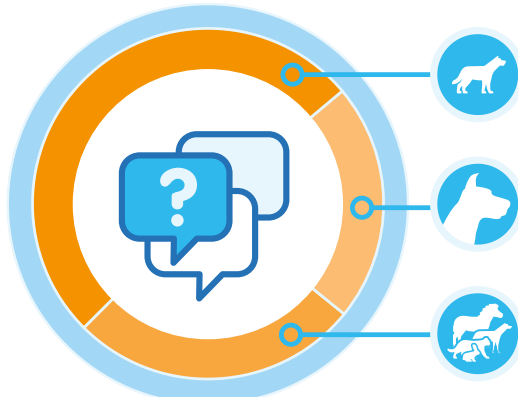


**978** SMALL PETS



**4,171** DOGS

**86,116** people helped through  
2,224 talks by our Education Team



**71 pence** in the pound  
spent on charitable activities

68p in the pound in 2015

**31,990** pets helped  
by our Veterinary Services

29,549 pets  
helped in 2015



**15,315** DOGS



**1,078** OTHER



**4,816** EMERGENCY GRANTS



**10,781** CATS





68,913 people  
helped in 2015

**1,146** DOG SAFETY

**486** RESPECTABULL WORKSHOPS

**592** GENERAL ANIMAL WELFARE



**6,503**  
**consultations**  
**and assessments**  
by our Behaviour Team

6,108 consultations and  
assessments in 2015

**5,852** grieving people helped  
by our Pet Bereavement Support Service

6,163 people helped in 2015



**5,162** CONFIDENTIAL CALLS



**1,936** EMAILS

## YOUR PRIVACY IS IMPORTANT...

Thanks to your kind support, we are able to make a real difference to the lives of thousands of injured and abandoned pets every single year.

We believe it's really important that we're open and honest with you about how your donations are spent, and of course, we love sharing with you the wonderful stories of the animals we've been able to help all because of you.

We want all our valued supporters to feel happy about the communications received from us. We want to share with you the achievements we have made and challenges we face.

We know data security is something that supporters are concerned about.

We keep your information secure and we will never sell your data or share it with third parties for their own marketing purposes. We may use your information to better understand what you like to receive and what is most relevant to you.

More details are available in our privacy policy at [bluecross.org.uk/privacy](http://bluecross.org.uk/privacy)

**If you would like a printed copy of our privacy policy or to change the way we communicate with you please**

call **0300 790 9903**  
(Monday to Friday 10.00am-5.00pm)

email [info@bluecross.org.uk](mailto:info@bluecross.org.uk)

or write to us at:

**Freepost BLUE CROSS FOR PETS**



# HERO PONY

HELPS SICK AND DISABLED CHILDREN

**W**hen Dillon instinctively comforted a terminally ill child whose dying wish was to meet a pony, it was clear that there was something very special about him.

Since then, the former Blue Cross pony has gone on to help hundreds of youngsters – and even inspired his owner to set up a dedicated riding school for children with disabilities and special needs.

Dillon, 24, was rehomed by paediatric chiropractor Alison Ramseier 16 years ago and she first noticed his magic touch with children when her young patients would walk past his stable and light up.

“I had treated a few kids with disabilities and they couldn’t raise their hand, but the second they

walked past Dillon’s stable, which was next to the chiropractic room, they would be able to. That’s when I first started to think about equine therapy,” she said.

Then, seven years ago, Dillon, who started life as part of a herd used for animal vaccine research, was invited to visit Worcester Children’s Hospital dressed as a reindeer to help Santa deliver presents – a trip that certified the pony’s incredible affinity with youngsters.

“We didn’t know what would happen when we first took him there. But when we arrived the staff brought out a little girl in a wheelchair with drips hanging everywhere. I recall she had leukaemia and possibly not long left with her family but her dream was to see a pony,” Alison explained.



"At first, Dillon took a step back and snorted, and I just thought: 'Oh no'. But then the girl put her little fragile hand out with a treat, and Dillon just knew."

"He walked up to her wheelchair, took the treat and started nuzzling her cheek. I believe she died a few weeks later but Dillon had at least been there to make one of her dreams come true."

Dillon, who arrived at Blue Cross in 1997, went on to become an annual celebrity visitor to the hospital.

"When we got to the hospital he would be so excited that he started shaking and then his bells would start jingling and the children would just love it. He gave his all to every one of those kids. Sometimes he was a little worried by the machinery, but he understood his job and still offered kisses and cuddles, bringing a smile to their face at Christmas, and a tear to all those watching."

At the ripe old age of 24, Dillon has hung up his hooves on the hospital visits as travelling is difficult for him – but he continues to help children at the equine therapy school he calls home in Staffordshire.

Dillon and his companion, fellow Blue Cross pony Sky, take on a range of roles at Parklands RDA (Riding for the Disabled Association), depending on the needs of the children they are helping.

"They do therapeutic and sensory work for those with more advanced disabilities; this can involve the children feeling the horses and grooming to working with those on the autistic spectrum who are ready to learn a bit more responsibility and will help with mucking out and handling the ponies," said Alison.

"Dillon does a little bit of riding but is an old boy now, so not much. He does most of the groundwork."

Trying to pinpoint what makes Dillon such a talented therapy pony, Alison, who is a former international show jumper, said: "When he needs to be calm around a child he senses that, and will be really calm. But when the children are a bit bubbly like him, he picks up on that and his cheeky side comes out, which they relate to. He will nibble at their pockets, for example."

And the benefits that Dillon, along with the other RDA ponies at the centre, bring to children are huge – the treatment has even been lauded by one patient's hospital consultant.

Alison said: "We have kids that can't walk very well, but the movement in the pelvis that horse riding can bring means they build up strength, developing their core and find their centre of balance."

"The movement, as well as the contact with the horse, also stimulates oxytocin (a hormone alleviating anxiety) in the brain which calms children."

"We've had a child with Down's Syndrome with no inclination of walking or anything. Now he's managing to pull himself up on the sofa which is a huge milestone for him."

Sally Foskett, Horse Welfare Coordinator, said: "It has been lovely to see the difference Dillon has made to so many children's lives. We are very pleased that Alison has taken ownership of him and that he will stay with her for the rest of his days continuing to help children." When Dillon and Sky are not doing therapy work, they play the role of 'grandma and grandad' to other younger ponies at Alison's stables – they include cobs Ernie and Rummy, who have recently been rehomed from Blue Cross and are now in training for therapy work to follow in their footsteps.



**Opposite page:** Dillon with owner Alison

**Top:** Dillon with one of his young patients

**Middle:** Dillon on one of his annual visits to Worcester Children's Hospital

**Bottom:** Dillon with fellow Blue Cross Pony Sky

NEVER ALONE

Buster snuggles  
on the sofa  
with Beverley





# HEALING BROKEN HEARTS

*When Buster and Harvey's beloved owners died within 10 months of each other, the dogs simply couldn't cope. Their owners' daughter decided that the only way to help mend their shattered souls would be a fresh start, and found our Home Direct scheme a 'lifeline'...*

"Saying goodbye for the last time and watching them drive away was just heartbreaking, but I knew I had done what was best for the boys, not me," said Rebecca Shaw of her late parents' beloved dogs, Buster and Harvey.

The inseparable canine friends had enjoyed a life filled with love and adventure with her mum and dad, Ralph and Elaine Sellwood, but when the couple passed away within 10 months of each other, the dogs' world fell apart.

Despite her own grief, Rebecca didn't think twice about stepping in as she too loved Buster and Harvey dearly. But after three months it became clear that they were struggling more than ever to adapt to life without her parents, and in April 2016 she was faced with a devastating decision.

"They were mum's sidekicks. She passed away in February 2015 and 10 months later dad went into hospital and he never came home. Buster and Harvey never stopped looking for him and mum. They would check every time they heard a car, the phone ring or a knock at the door."

Rebecca, who had just become a new mum, tried moving the best friends into her own home, but black Labrador retriever cross Harvey, now 11, didn't get along with her cat and she ended up back at her parents' house with the dogs in a desperate bid to help them settle.

"But things just didn't get any better," she said.

"At the beginning it was fair enough, but when it was still happening three months down the line I knew that it couldn't carry on.

Harvey had even started chewing all the fur off of his front legs as he was so distressed. I didn't want them dying of broken hearts."

After speaking to her vet, Rebecca, who had got Harvey as a puppy before leaving home, reluctantly decided that the best thing for the dogs was a fresh start in a new home.

"It took a long time to make the decision to rehome them. I was with the vet and I just sobbed and sobbed. I desperately wanted to keep them, but they were used to a lifestyle where my parents were at home all of the time and they had very active lives going out walking with my dad.

"I work full-time as a nurse so I just couldn't give them the same. It wasn't fair on them."



Buster and Harvey with late beloved owner Ralph

*"The Home Direct scheme was a lifeline as it meant that I was able to look after the boys as best I could for as long as I could, and see them through until they found the home they needed."*

Rebecca Shaw

## NEVER ALONE

But Rebecca was adamant that the dogs could not go into kennels while they found a new home.

Nor could they be separated, not only because they are the best of friends, but because golden Labrador Buster, now 10, is partially blind due to diabetes and relies on Harvey to show him the way in life.

"They really do look out for each other. They are the Laurel and Hardy of the dog world!" Rebecca said.

Thankfully, Blue Cross's Home Direct scheme – through our Thirsk rehoming centre – was there to step in, and allowed the dogs to remain with Rebecca until a perfect home could be found for them together.

"The Home Direct scheme was a lifeline as it meant that I was able to look after the boys as best I could for as long as I could, and see them through until they found the home they needed," added Rebecca.

And that home was with Beverley and Graham Adams, who had just lost their golden Labrador Ben, and

heard about Buster and Harvey's heart-wrenching story through social media.

The dogs are now thriving in their new life on the edge of the Peak District National Park in Staffordshire where they share the sofa with deaf black Labrador Barney, 12, who is a former Pets as Therapy dog, and cat Ziggy.

"It took Buster a while to find his way around because of his blindness but he settled in quite quickly. Harvey took a little longer; although, at the time we thought he was okay as we didn't know what he was really like. He was very subdued and quite on edge at first but we were so pleased when he stopped chewing his legs and the sores began to heal," said Beverley.

"Now we're seeing the real Harvey; he's a super dog and he knows that this is his forever home."

As ever, Buster and Harvey remain inseparable. More so since

Buster, who needs injections twice a day for his diabetes, had one of his eyes removed and finds it harder to get around.

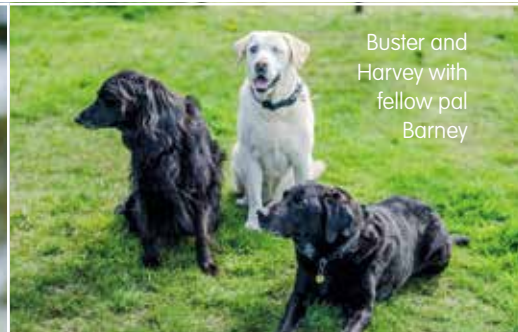
"Harvey is always looking out for Buster, it's lovely to see. If Buster wanders off too far, Harvey will go and get him and guide him back," said Beverley. "When Buster had problems with his eye, Harvey kept licking it and was really concerned. We call him Florence Nightingale!"

And Barney, who had missed the company of his pal Ben, has a spring back in his step thanks to the doggie duo. "Barney was lonely without Ben, but since we've had Buster and Harvey he has got his mojo back," said Beverley, who has two Blue Cross ponies called Hollie and Florence.

Harvey has also struck up an unlikely friendship with cat Ziggy, who he now enjoys playing with – and even barks to alert Beverley and Graham when his feline friend wants to come in at night.



Buster and Harvey remain inseparable

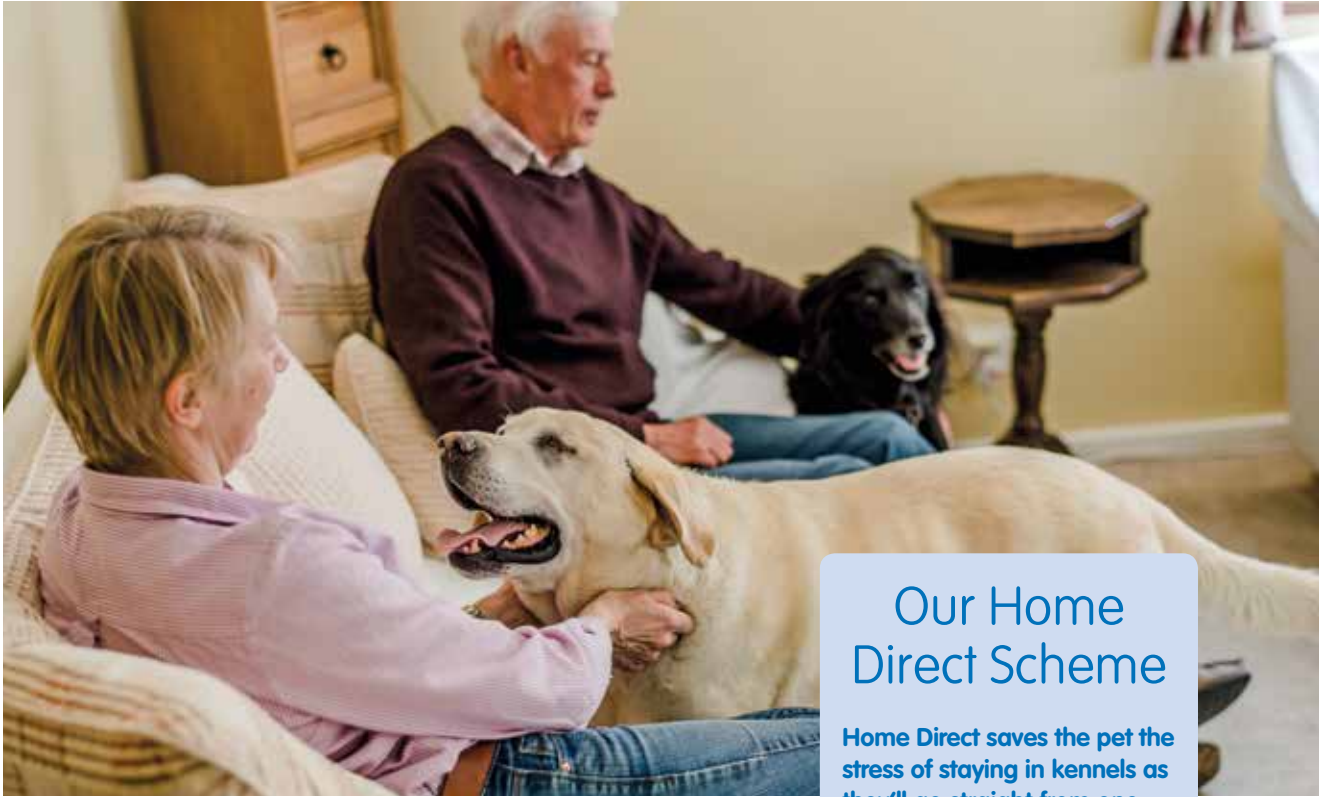


Buster and Harvey with fellow pal Barney



Harvey enjoys a cuddle





## Our Home Direct Scheme

**Home Direct saves the pet the stress of staying in kennels as they'll go straight from one loving home to another.**

**The pet – whether it's a cat, dog, horse or small animal – will stay with their current owner until we can find a new home for them, rather than bringing them to one of our centres.**

When we've found a potential new owner we'll arrange for them to visit the pet at home or for the pet to come to one of our centres for the introduction. We'll be there to make sure everything goes smoothly. If it's a good match, the pet will then be rehomed.

The scheme also frees up more spaces at our centres and with our pet fosterers so we can take in more pets that have been found as strays, abandoned or suffering from neglect.

It's not just Buster and Harvey's lives that have been turned around, Beverley and Graham's have too.

Beverley added: "They've brought so much fun, love and laughter with them. They make us smile every day and everyone thinks they're adorable.

"And Buster, despite not being able to see, has such a good quality of life – he doesn't stop wagging his tail. We love them both, they get lots of hugs and they give a lot of love back too."

Meanwhile, Rebecca finds comfort in regular updates on Buster and Harvey's progress, and feels that her parents would have been "proud" of the decision she made.

"They are fantastic dogs and I really do miss them – I've had some heartbroken weeks," she said.

"I so desperately wanted to stay in touch. So when I get the updates it brings a tear to my eye but also reassures me that I did the right thing. It means I can also help with any medical history questions.

"Although they're not my dogs anymore, I still feel like they're part of my life."

Rachel Gudgeon, Home Direct Coordinator at Thirsk, added:

"It was an extremely difficult decision for Rebecca to rehome Buster and Harvey and we stood by her throughout this process. We had some highs and lows when finding them both a home but when Beverley and Graham showed interest we were over the moon. The day they went to their new home was very emotional for everyone; Buster and Harvey's story will never be forgotten by everyone involved."

# PROTECTING YOUR PET

*Our animal welfare experts answer your questions to help your pets through the cooler, darker months...*

## Should I bring my guinea pig inside during the winter?

**Laura Crofts, Blue Cross Small Animal Unit Manager, says:**

Bring them inside if you can, or in to a shed with daylight. If your guinea pig needs to stay outside, help keep them snug as a bug in their hutch by covering the front with an old blanket or sacking and adding extra bedding.

Hutches should be positioned so that wind, rain, snow or sleet can't blow in. Check their water bottle regularly because the little ball freezes easily, and give them lots of good quality hay to nibble on as cold guinea pigs need more calories to keep warm.

They still need to exercise during the day so consider letting them exercise indoors or in a shed.



**It's my kitten's first Bonfire Night, how should I prepare? My dog hates loud bangs so I'm dreading firework season already.**



**Claire Stallard, Blue Cross Animal Behaviourist, says:**

Before fireworks season begins, get your pets microchipped and, if they already are, check your contact details are up to date. This is really important as it gives you the best chance of being reunited with them if they become spooked and get lost amid the bangs and crashes. If your kitten is used to going outside, make sure you keep them indoors at night during the weeks around 5 November, block up the cat flap and provide a litter tray.

As you know your dog is no fan of fireworks, talk to your vet about calming medication and pheromone products that might help them. It's also worth considering sound therapy, which slowly desensitises your pet to the zips, whizzes and bangs of fireworks. You'll need to

begin this between three and six months in advance of the season. Your vet will advise you.

Both stressed dogs and cats should be allowed to pace around or hide if they wish to while the displays go on around you. Although it's difficult when it's obvious your pet is stressed, try not to let them know you are worried as it may make the problem worse. Stay calm, act normally and give lots of praise for calm behaviour. It's okay to cuddle and stroke your pets if it helps them relax, but if they prefer to hide under your bed, then let them do this instead.

Closing the curtains or blacking out windows will help to block out the sight of bright flashes. Switching on the TV or radio helps to muffle the noise, but make sure it's not too loud. Best of luck.



# WHAT TO SAY TO SOMEONE WHO HAS LOST A PET

*When a pet is lost, finding the right words of comfort can make all the difference...*

The bond each of us shares with our pets is a unique and special one. They give us love and companionship, bring joy and make us laugh, and comfort us when we're feeling down. Pets enrich our lives and become part of the family.

So it's therefore no surprise that when a pet is no longer part of his or her owner's life – whether due to death, being lost or needing to be rehomed – people can experience the same level of grief as they would at the death of a close relative. Unfortunately, not everyone understands this grief, and it can be a very lonely experience without the right support.

Life, once filled with the love and friendship of a pet, may suddenly seem very empty. Feelings of despair, loneliness and even depression can be overwhelming. There may also be a strong sense of guilt and self-doubt, particularly when a decision has been taken to euthanise or rehome a pet. These feelings are normal and a testimony to the special bond between people and their pets.

## A sympathetic ear

But there are simple things that friends and family can do to help others when they are grieving for a pet. It may help you in providing support if you have experienced the loss of a pet yourself, but many people find it difficult to know what to say and worry about getting it wrong. Either way, it will help to bear in mind these tips above right.

Show you understand what they are telling you

Tell them about our Pet Bereavement Support Service, which offers free and confidential support to those who have lost a pet

Try and see things from their perspective, not your own

Do not suggest getting another pet. They will mention this if they feel ready to. Their pet was unique and cannot be replaced, in the same way a human family member couldn't be.

Take time to listen and allow them to talk

Encourage them to share happy memories of their pet. They might also find comfort in writing a tribute to them in the memorial section of our website.



Remember that everyone grieves in different ways, and for different lengths of times – between weeks, to months and in some cases, years. Being there for them when they need you will be a huge help.

For free and confidential emotional support, call our Pet Bereavement Support Service on 0800 096 6606 (8.30am – 8.30pm every day) or email [pbssmail@bluecross.org.uk](mailto:pbssmail@bluecross.org.uk)

# BEATING THE **BULGE**

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*An obese cat has found a home where she can continue the weight loss journey kick started during her time at Blue Cross.*



*“Flora is just lush, the best cat ever...  
... so loving and a purr monster.”*

Amanda Marrington



**P**oor Flora arrived at our Victoria animal hospital in early January after her elderly owner sadly passed away and there was nobody to care for her.

Although she was otherwise healthy, the eight-year-old tipped the scales at just less than 7kg – some 50 per cent heavier than the average domestic shorthair cat.

So our team had to put her straight on a slimming programme to prevent any future health problems from developing.

Amanda Marrington, Animal Welfare Officer, said: “When a cat is this overweight it can have problems grooming properly, as well as arthritis due to pressure on the joints and heart problems.

“Diabetes and respiratory problems can also develop, and cats of this size tend to be less active, sleep more and have difficulty moving around.

“So it was therefore vital that we started helping Flora to shift some pounds before it started to affect her health.

“This needs to be gradual weight loss otherwise it can cause problems with the liver, but she’s been making brilliant progress so far.”

Flora, then known as Tubs due to her bulging waistline, was put on a diet specially tailored to her needs by our Veterinary Team.

This involved one wet tinned food meal a day and roughly a handful of dry biscuits – to be gradually reduced until her bodyweight falls under the ideal of 5kg.

Once her diet was up and running, Flora went to stay with one of our Blue Cross foster carers to keep her as active as possible.

In the first month she lost 200 grams, making her ready for our Cambridge rehoming centre to find a permanent home.



Paul and Flora

Cuddly Flora got snapped up straight away by Christine and Paul Wildman, who are continuing her weight loss programme – and she has shed an incredible 1kg in six months.

Paul said: “We fell in love with her straight away at the centre and we wouldn’t be without her now. We’re really motivated to get her weight down, and always look forward to her weigh-ins at the vets to find out how much she’s lost. It’s rewarding to see the progress she’s made.”

Amanda added: “Flora is just lush, the best cat ever – so loving and a purr monster. It’s so great that we could help her after her owner passed away.”



## KEEPING CATS IN SHAPE



Whatever you decide to feed, all cats need a constant supply of fresh water, which should be changed daily



Cats need exercise to keep them fit and healthy. Indoor cats need encouragement and toys to play with.



If your cat has had more treats than normal one day, reduce the amount of food given that day to compensate



Lean cats live longer, have more energy and are much less prone to disease than a cat that is allowed to become overweight



WE NEED YOU THIS...

# BLUE CROSS WEEK!

**Blue Cross Week is coming, and everyone's welcome to join in the fun!**

From 2 to 8 October, animal lovers up and down the land will take on challenges or host fundraising events to raise money for sick, injured and homeless pets. Plus, the week will end with a grand finale that the whole family – including dogs – can enjoy in beautiful forest locations.

## **So, what's Blue Cross Week all about?**

Every month, thousands of cats, dogs, horses and small pets rely on our charity to make them better when they've been hurt or are feeling poorly, and find homeless pets loving new families to belong to. We couldn't do any of this without generous donations from our wonderful supporters, because we don't receive any money from the government. Pets rely on us, and we rely on kind support to make sure our doors are open to pets and their people.

That's why, this October, we're asking you to get involved with Blue Cross Week, when we'll be celebrating pets and the difference they make to our lives by giving back to pets in need.

*This October, give back to pets in need by digging deep and raising funds...*





## GET INVOLVED

There's something for everyone to get involved in during Blue Cross Week.

We'd love you to join those who all across the country will be holding their own fundraising events and attempting daring challenges.

### What you pick is up to you.

Love food? Why not get together with friends to host a Come Dine With Me themed week, where each person cooks a meal for others in a group for a night during the week.

Early riser? Have a big breakfast and rustle up a fry up for your family or colleagues, and ask them to donate the price they'd pay in a café. Bring and buy sales and car boots are always popular.

Or, if you're the adventurous type, take on an active challenge such as a 10k run or cycle, or even a skydive.

### Forest fun adventures

Sunday 8 October sees a week of fundraising fun culminate in a family friendly forest adventure.

Join us at one of two Forest Fun Adventures at beautiful Forestry Commission locations. Taking place at Sherwood Pines Forest Park, Nottinghamshire, and Alice Holt Forest, Hampshire, come along and take part in a five-mile treasure trail which will lead you along a route designed especially for the day.

You'll take in the sights and sounds of the open glades, pine tree forests, Gruffalo trails and oak tree alleys while following clues to find letters to complete our Blue Cross Week anagram. Follow the clues, find the letters, complete the Blue Cross Week anagram word and a prize will be yours!

As well as the treasure trail, there are lots of activities within the forest parks to get involved with back at base when you return, so why not bring the family, groups of friends and, of course, your dog – our Forest Fun Adventure is for everyone and we can't wait to see you all.

Blue Cross supporter Clare Archer is already looking forward to joining in. Clare says: "The entire family are so excited about this event! It's not often we can find things that interest the whole family; three hard to please children, a husband and a one-year-old Italian spinone, but this event sounds like so much fun and will get our competitive spirits going, while having some exercise and fresh air. Perfect!"

However you spend your Blue Cross Week, have a blast, and give back to pets!

Forest Fun Adventures entry fee: £5 per adult, £3 per child (12 and under).

### What will you do for pets this Blue Cross Week?

To find out more click: [bluecross.org.uk/BlueCrossWeek](http://bluecross.org.uk/BlueCrossWeek) or return the slip at the back of this magazine.

## SEVEN DAYS 7 IDEAS

We'd love for everyone to get involved, and how you choose to fundraise is up to you. Here are seven ideas to get you thinking...

### 1. Fancy dress day.

Put your glad rags on or choose a famous character to channel for the day.

### 2. Social media ban.

Can you go one week without logging on, for pets?

### 3. Bake sale.

Everyone loves a slice of cake. Ask friends or colleagues for a donation in exchange for a treat.

### 4. Quiz night.

Invite your pals to partake in a general knowledge challenge, perhaps with an animal theme.

### 5. Walk 10,000 steps a day.

Up your exercise and your step count by walking 10,000 paces a day for one week.

### 6. Wine & cheese evening.

Fundraising doesn't have to make you look ridiculous; a sophisticated soirée can help bring in the pounds for poundies.

### 7. Give up sugar.

Say no to sugar for a whole week and ask for sponsorship to spur you on.

# PETS NEED YOU!

If you've been thinking about getting involved in volunteering but aren't sure where to start, don't worry, our team of volunteers is so welcoming that you'll feel right at home as soon as you step foot in the door!

At our Newport rehoming and advice unit in south Wales, the majority of the team who find homeless pets new families are volunteers. Hands on, flexible roles allow everyone to get involved in the activities they'd like to do, from training dogs to social media.

For Georgie Riley, a Rehoming and Advice Volunteer who doesn't have pets of her own, volunteering at the centre provided the opportunity to get the animal fix she was missing out on. Georgie said: "I missed having my family pets around me, so this is a good way to spend time with pets, and I've been able to take a couple home to foster too."

Georgie helps keep the vet diary up to date and arranges for pets on our Home Direct Scheme to be vet checked, as well as helping with recruiting more volunteers.

Emily Bright, a Volunteer Dog Socialiser, wanted to seize the opportunity to develop the skills she had first learned on an animal management college course, but she's also been able to find a closer bond with her own dog, Pippin, thanks to the training on offer.

"The Behaviour Team gave us initial training and comes down regularly to do more sessions, and I've learned so much about different positive techniques you can use to train different dogs. It's amazing to see the difference it makes when you put them into practice with the dogs here," says Emily.

Roles at Newport are flexible, but tasks include admin and reception work, as well as dog walking and training.

Lauren Johnson, another Volunteer Dog Socialiser, says the variety of experience she has gained at Blue Cross has helped her to focus on a career after leaving school unsure of which path to take. She explains: "I left school last year and everyone was pushing me to go to uni, but I didn't want to straight away

because I didn't know what I wanted to do. I feel so much at home here. I'm starting an animal behaviour and welfare degree in September, and I wouldn't have thought to do that if I didn't come here, so I'm really glad that I've done it."

The team will miss Lauren when she heads off to university in the autumn, as they've become one big family since the centre opened in late 2016.

Chloe Sims, Volunteer Social Media Assistant, says that working as part of the team is one of her favourite things about volunteering at Newport, and while there are different personalities, they are united by a common interest in animals. "Everyone wants to help each other out," she says.

Chloe works hard to get publicity for homeless pets using Facebook as a tool to connect with the local community and give long-stay dogs a helping hand. "I want to go into the media, so this role is great experience for my CV, but I also love animals so it's two in one for me."



Above: Lauren Johnson with Labrador Holly; left: Emily Bright with greyhound Hugo



There's a volunteer role for everyone at Blue Cross. Visit [bluecross.org.uk/volunteer](http://bluecross.org.uk/volunteer)





*We love to hear from you  
please send us your news and pictures of your pets!*

## FAMILY VALUES

Hello, my name is Simba and I was born in Devon in 2004. I was rehomed by my mum, Brenda, from Torbay in 2007. We had a very special bond, I was a proper mummy's girl.

Sadly after eight years together, Brenda was told she had terminal cancer. As always, I kept my owner company for many days and nights. Her wish was for me to be looked after by her sister Hilary, in Enfield, London, who has a feline called Molly, aged 15.

I have been part of this family for just over a year now. Although Molly and myself are matured adults, we have learnt to get along.

We have a lovely garden to snooze in if we wish, or as I have always done, lying on the bed with my legally adopted auntie. I am very happy and well, with loads of TLC.

*Mrs H Poulton,  
on behalf of Simba*

ED'S  
NOTE

We're so sorry to hear your sister, and Simba's mum, has passed. Thank you so much for sharing Simba's story, and for giving her a loving home.



## OUR WONDERFUL CAT

I'm Bello. After being rejected twice from two families I was rescued by Blue Cross Kimpton centre in 2016. I loved being there as everyone was so nice and friendly with me but I was dreaming of having my own family, someone who could love me unconditionally and truly. My prayers were answered, I couldn't ask for better parents, they even threw a party for me when I turned a year old, with a cake with candles, tuna and even a present!

Thank you Blue Cross,  
it was a purrfect match!

*Beatrice Giacomini and Renato Marques*

## Would you like to see your pet on this page?

We love to hear how Blue Cross pets are changing lives. Please email your letters and photos to [editor@bluecross.org.uk](mailto:editor@bluecross.org.uk) or write to For Pets Editor, Blue Cross, Shilton Road, Burford, Oxon OX18 4PF.

Find us on Facebook & Twitter.

@The\_Blue\_Cross @thebluecrossUK



## JASMINE

Hi, I'm Jasmine and was really timid when I was adopted in June 2016; scared of my own tail, shadow and especially loud noise from the neighbours. So, my new mum plays music all the time. I love every genre from classical to progressive metal. I really am a musical cat and miaow loudly if the music stops!

"If music is the food of love, play on." I even know quotes from Shakespeare.

*Jasmine Pilbro*



## AN APOLOGY

Last issue we accidentally printed the incorrect name of Milo's owner. Lovely Milo is in fact a much-loved part of Jayne Roughley's family. We're very sorry for our error. We were delighted to hear about how well Milo is getting on at 12 years.

## BITESIZE STORIES

ALL THE LATEST NEWS FROM BLUE CROSS



## PART OF THE FAMILY

*When you see little Fred with his thick, preened coat in all its glory, it's difficult to believe that only six months before this photo was taken he had lost much of his fur due to appalling neglect.*

The Pomeranian was thrown into a garden over a fence before finding himself in the dog pound, alone and confused. Fred was underweight, struggling to see and suffering with a skin infection that had been left untreated for some time.

We suspect that he had been previously used as a stud dog before being discarded due to his deteriorating health. The seven-year-old arrived at Blue Cross soon after, where he was diagnosed with retinal degeneration which has led him to become partially blind – but it doesn't hold him back.

Life couldn't be more different for Fred now. His coat has fully grown back and he looks as proud as punch now

he lives with his doting new owners Andrew and Yvonne Hildred.

Fred's days are now spent lounging around on the sofa in between his feline friends and Andrew and Yvonne, and enjoying walks around the small, rural village he now calls his home. "He's a creature of routine!" said Andrew.

Life simply could not be better for this once neglected boy, and having him around has completed his owners' lives, too.

"He's turned me into a sappy one!" joked Andrew. "Fred has softened Andrew especially," said Yvonne. "He used to have me as the screensaver on his phone and now it's Fred!"

"He's just got such a hold over us, he's just lovely. We take him everywhere. We've got a caravan and so we're looking forward to the holiday season so that we can take him away with us. We couldn't be without him now, we love him so much."



## REST IN PEACE

Blue Cross is saddened at the death of long-time supporter and former Chairman of Trustees, Dr Andrew Edney.

Fellow former Trustee, Dr Alastair Porter, said: "When he finally retired from the Board, Andrew retained his connection with Blue Cross as an Honorary Member, faithfully attending AGM meetings, acting as an advocate for the charity at all times. We will miss those occasions, but above all we will miss Andrew. A valued friend and a dedicated subscriber to the ethos of Blue Cross."

Dr Edney was a great animal lover and respected vet, and so many sick, injured and homeless pets have been helped thanks to his advocacy for our charity. He will be missed.

## PETWISE MOTS

We have officially launched PetWise MOTs, in collaboration with PDSA. The new holistic health checks ensure owners get an opportunity to discuss other factors affecting an animal's happiness, such as loneliness or conflict with other pets in the home, as well as their physical health, at our animal hospitals and pet care clinics.

Dogs have over **220 MILLION** olfactory receptors in their noses. Humans have five million!





## BEHIND THE SCENES

Pets are always there for us, so at Blue Cross we're there for them. Caroline Oram, Bromsgrove Animal Welfare Assistant, gave homeless staffie Teegan a safe space when she most needed it...

“I have been so blessed to have fostered this beautiful girl. During her time with me she met my family and they adore her! She won them over with her lovable nature and beautiful temperament.

“When she arrived the team all worked hard at helping her settle as she was so stressed and did not cope at all in kennels. She had some issues being left on her own, which the team and I worked really hard at helping her with. She has been nurtured and loved and learnt to cope with things she couldn't cope with before. And now she is going to a family who will love her as much as I have.

“Tomorrow she has a wonderful family awaiting her lucky paws and all the oodles of love she has to give. My job here is done but I will miss her very much.

“Being able to foster is one of the reasons I do this job, being able to help create a safe, secure environment full of love allows dogs to be how they really need to be. Awesome! How can we not get attached a little? So even though I'm so happy she is going to her forever home, I'm a little sad at how much I will miss her gorgeous face every morning, and those ears!

Lots of love. Be happy, Teegan xxx”



## WHATEVER HAPPENED TO?

*Every year Blue Cross finds families for thousands of homeless pets. We've caught up with some familiar faces to see how they're doing.*



### Lyric

An accident meant Lyric was missing an eye when she came to us, and we struggled to find her a home with someone who could overlook her disability. But while she was with us, she was part of our Blue Cross family. Finally, the perfect owners came along and now she has a happy home of her own.

### Eleven

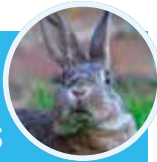
This tiny kitten was so frail when she was brought to our Southampton rehoming centre. She couldn't have been any older than four weeks and chances of survival alone would have been slim. We gave Eleven the medication and special food she needed and she grew strong. Now she is part of a loving family.



*Last year, your generous support enabled us to help 42,981 sick, injured and homeless pets.*

*Thank you.*

Rabbits can turn their ears 270 degrees



## FRIENDS INDEED

A group of thoughtful school children has raised £60 for Blue Cross by making and selling friendship bracelets at school. Seven-year-olds Bella Turnock, Ruby Sollis and Jessica Banks made and sold an impressive 300 bracelets during break times at school after being given permission by their head teacher.

They visited our Burford rehoming centre to deliver the money they had raised and were given a tour as a thank you. Lucy Grimshaw, Bella's mother, said: "We were so proud as parents. Such an encouraging thing to see at this age and it's for such a great cause I'm so happy that they feel passionate about raising money to help animals."



78% OF CATS we helped last year were not microchipped when they arrived in our care



## ELDERLY PUSS FINDS PURRFECT HOME

*An elderly cat who purrs so loudly that vets struggled to hear her heartbeat has found a second chance at happiness after she was dumped by the side of the road.*



Police brought the 18-year-old cat into our Victoria animal hospital in London and, after she was checked over, she was transferred to our Cambridge rehoming centre. We named her Happy Panda because she was so affectionate and due to her black and white colourings.

Hayley Wilson and her husband Jamie contacted us after seeing Happy Panda's story in the local paper. Hayley said: "When we saw Happy Panda and read her story we just knew we had to adopt her. I can't think how terrified she would have been locked in her carrier with all the noise around her in the dark.

"We just wanted to give her a nice sofa to curl up on so she can live out her final years in a loving home.

"She's a real sweetie. She's got a spot behind the sofa where she likes to take a nap when she's not following me around. She's very talkative and likes a fuss."

Clare Trippett, Blue Cross Cambridge Centre Manager, said:

"We're over the moon that Happy has found her forever home.

"Older cats can make great companions and Happy was such a loveable furball from the moment she came into us. We wish her all the luck in the world with her new family."

## NAIL-BITING ORDEAL FOR WORRIED DOG OWNER

*A greedy puppy found himself in need of life-saving emergency surgery after gobbling up a two-inch nail while he was out on a walk.*

Six-month-old Buddy was rushed to our Grimsby animal hospital after his worried owner saw him swallow what looked like a piece of metal.

Owner Elif Ozdemir said: "It all happened very fast. He looked fine, and wasn't showing any signs of sickness or pain, but I took him straight to Blue Cross."

X-rays revealed Buddy had eaten a long nail that was bent to a 90 degree angle – putting his life in grave danger.

"I was so worried, I thought he might die. It was terrible," she said.

We immediately operated on Buddy to remove the nail before it could do any damage to his internal organs and after four days with intensive nursing from our team, he was back at home with Elif, who was overjoyed.

Elif said: "I was so grateful and so happy to be able to take him back home. It was a tough time but he's fine now and is doing very well."





# HOME ALONE

Two rabbits have been rescued after their owners moved house and left them behind in the garden.

Council contractors found the bunnies in their hutch at the empty property in south London, and brought them to our Victoria hospital. Luckily, they were unharmed and just needed a trim for their very long nails. We named the pair Thelma and Louise, and transferred them to our Lewknor rehoming centre.

Rebecca White, Animal Welfare Assistant, said: "We do understand that people can't always keep their pets but if you're struggling to cope please contact a charity for help or advice. Leaving pets abandoned can put them in serious danger."



## CONFIDENCE BOOST

*A neglected pony once terrified of people has made a remarkable turnaround and has landed on his hooves with a new family who adore him.*

When Cam arrived he was in an appalling state – filthy, emaciated, infested with lice and suffering from a nasty respiratory infection, and extremely nervous.

Rehoming Assistant, Emily Lambert, said: "To start with he would become unsettled when something new was being done but his handler just quietly reassured him and persevered until he settled and accepted what was being asked of him. He would then be rewarded with a scratch in his favourite 'itchy' spots or with a small treat such as some nuts or a carrot!"

His remarkable transformation surprised everyone and in December 2015, Cam went to a new home as a riding pony with owner April Griffiths, her daughters Ella and Amber, and surrogate mum, pony Tess.

"Thanks to Blue Cross and all their hard work we have another member

of our family, like we have in Tess. I would rather sell my home and live in field with them both than be without them because no matter what else is going on in life, they always make me smile," added April.



## HELPING EVEN MORE PETS

We're excited to announce our Cwmbran pet care clinic is now open to sick and injured animals in need.

Our clinic offers veterinary treatment to those who need it most in a new location for our charity. We're pleased to be helping pets in Cwmbran for the first time.

And the doors of our refurbished Burford rehoming centre are now open, too. In 2016, the Oxfordshire centre helped more than 1,700 homeless dogs, cats, small animals but now we have improved facilities, we can find homes for even more.

Jenna Martyn, Burford Centre Manager, said: "It's wonderful to see the work completed and we have to thank all our supporters who helped make the new facilities possible."

The fastest horse on record was clocked running at almost **44 MPH**



# WIN! A DOG-FRIENDLY GETAWAY



**£300**  
DOG-FRIENDLY  
TRAVEL VOUCHERS  
UP FOR GRABS

Now you don't have to leave your furry friend at home when you go on holiday.

**PetsPyjamas has sniffed out the finest dog-friendly hotels, cottages and B&Bs that not only accept dogs but welcome them with open arms – and plenty of treats!**

**PetsPyjamas**  
*Where Smart Pet Lovers Go*

As a special treat, we're offering you the chance to win £300 of travel vouchers to spend on a dog-friendly getaway with PetsPyjamas.

Whether you fancy an escape to the countryside or heading to your favourite piece of coastline, or even a stylish city hotel for a weekend break – they have it all!

With a dedicated Pet Concierge team helping you to plan every bit of your holiday, it's never been so easy to book a holiday with your canine companion.

Plan your next dog-friendly holiday now at [www.petspyjamas.com](http://www.petspyjamas.com)

**J. Foster is the winner of the dog-friendly holiday voucher from PetsPyjamas in our spring 2017 Pawprint competition. Congratulations!**

## HOW TO ENTER

Answer the following question for your chance to win:

In our Bitesize news update on page 30, we told you the age of dog Fred when he was abandoned, but how old was he...? (please tick)

- seven days
- seven months
- seven years

Fill in your name and contact details and post to: \*

**Freepost BLUE CROSS FOR PETS**

Or, enter online at [bluecross.org.uk/forpets](http://bluecross.org.uk/forpets)

Closing date Monday 16 October 2017

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Postcode: .....

Telephone: .....

Email: .....

\*Strictly one entry per household.

Blue Cross respects your privacy and we will keep your information secure. We will never sell, rent or share your personal data with third parties for their own marketing purposes. We will contact you about our work and the different ways you can support us in accordance with your preferences\*. We may also use your data to better understand what you like to receive and what is most relevant to you. To see more about how we will use your information, visit [bluecross.org.uk/privacy](http://bluecross.org.uk/privacy). \*You can change your preferences at any time by contacting our Supporter Care Team on 0300 790 9903 or email [info@bluecross.org.uk](mailto:info@bluecross.org.uk)



# FIND US

*Discover your local Blue Cross*

## Our animal hospitals

- 1 Grimsby
- 2 Hammersmith
- 3 Merton
- 4 Victoria

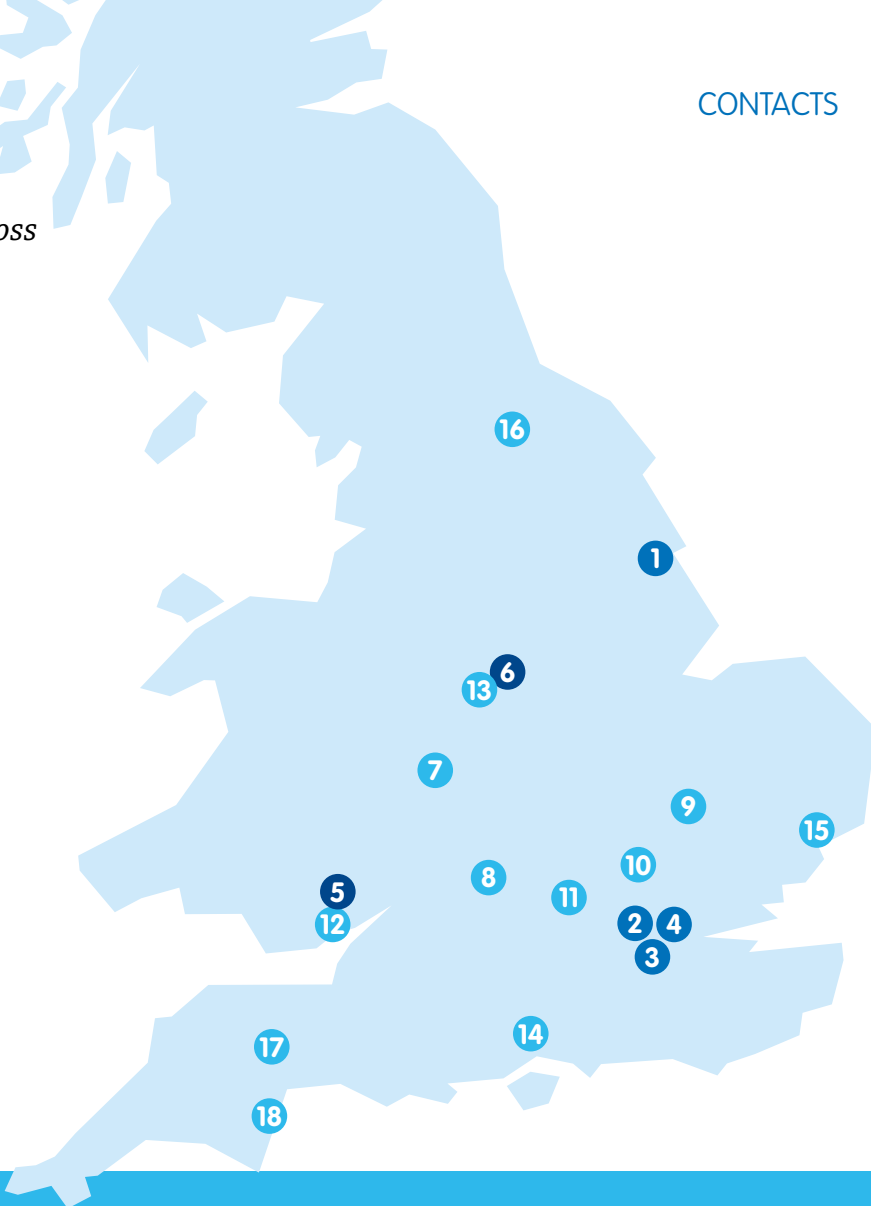
## Our pet care clinics

- 5 Cwmbran
- 6 Derby

## Our rehoming centres

- 7 Bromsgrove
- 8 Burford
- 9 Cambridge
- 10 Hertfordshire (Kimpton)
- 11 Lewknor
- 12 Newport
- 13 Rolleston
- 14 Southampton
- 15 Suffolk (Ipswich)
- 16 Thirsk
- 17 Tiverton
- 18 Torbay

We have 54 shops and 20 national rehoming network locations.



## Say hello, find your nearest Blue Cross or make a donation

**Call:** 0300 790 9903 **Email:** [info@bluecross.org.uk](mailto:info@bluecross.org.uk) **Visit:** [bluecross.org.uk](http://bluecross.org.uk)

**Write to us:** Freepost BLUE CROSS FOR PETS

### Book a free education talk

Animal welfare and responsible pet ownership workshops for children and young people in schools, youth groups and clubs.

**Call:** 0300 111 8950 **Visit:** [bluecross.org.uk/education](http://bluecross.org.uk/education)

### Pet Bereavement Support Service

Free and confidential support for anyone coping with the loss of a pet, for any reason.

**Call:** 0800 096 6606. Lines open every day, 8.30am to 8.30pm.

**Email:** [pbssmail@bluecross.org.uk](mailto:pbssmail@bluecross.org.uk)



Pets change lives  
We change theirs

# “What will I do without you?”



Pets change lives  
We change theirs



## Pets into Care

Put their future in our hands

Our Pets into Care Scheme gives you peace of mind by caring for your pet should they outlive you.

We understand how much your pets mean to you and how important it is that they are well looked after, no matter what happens.

It is free to register your pet onto the Scheme but to help us manage the costs involved we'd be very grateful if you would consider making a donation or leaving us a gift in your Will.

To find out more about our FREE Pets into Care Scheme please complete the coupon opposite and send to:  
**Freepost BLUE CROSS FOR PETS**

Alternatively, call or email us and quote: B217

**Telephone:** 0300 777 1757

**Email:** [legacy@bluecross.org.uk](mailto:legacy@bluecross.org.uk)

Sick, injured  
and homeless  
pets have relied  
on us since  
1897

### Please send me:

- more information on Pets into Care
- a free, no-obligation pack on making or amending a Will

Title:

First name:

Surname:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

If you are happy for us to contact you by phone, please tick\*

**Thank you for your continued support.**

**[www.bluecross.org.uk](http://www.bluecross.org.uk)**







# MOVING HOUSE?

Please don't forget to let us know if you have moved home recently. Updating us is really important, because without your new address, we are unable to claim Gift Aid on your donations, which is worth 25p for every pound you donate.

**Remember to update your pet's microchip details when you move, too.**

Call us on **0300 790 9903** or email **info@bluecross.org.uk** or fill in and return this coupon to:  
**Freepost BLUE CROSS FOR PETS**

Please note, we select our mailings up to 28 days in advance, so you may receive one or two more to your old address before the change takes effect. We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience.

## Old address

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

## New address

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

From time to time Blue Cross would like to contact you by phone and/or email with news about the pets you are helping and ways you can support us in the future. If you are happy for us to do this please fill in your details and tick as appropriate:

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Give your all for pets this Blue Cross Week! 2 – 8 October 2017 is Blue Cross Week

Please send me further information about how I can get involved in Blue Cross Week. For more information complete and return the form or email [events@bluecross.org.uk](mailto:events@bluecross.org.uk)

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\*You can change your preferences at any time by contacting our Supporter Care Team on 0300 790 9903 or email [info@bluecross.org.uk](mailto:info@bluecross.org.uk)

**Please return this slip in the post to: Freepost BLUE CROSS FOR PETS**

Blue Cross respects your privacy and we will keep your information secure. We will never sell, rent or share your personal data with third parties for their own marketing purposes. We will contact you about our work and the different ways you can support us in accordance with your preferences\*. We may also use your data to better understand what you like to receive and what is most relevant to you. To see more about how we will use your information, visit [bluecross.org.uk/privacy](http://bluecross.org.uk/privacy)

Registered charity no: 224392 (England and Wales) and SC040154 (Scotland).