

PAWPRINT

Changing the story for pets in need

AUTUMN 2016

BRIGHT FUTURE

HOW AMBASSADOR DOG
PIGLET HELPS OTHER
DOGS OVERCOME FEARS

PLUS

Behind the scenes in A&E
Meet our Lord of the Manor
Sort pet fact from pet fiction

www.bluecross.org.uk



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www.bluecross.org.uk/pet-bereavement-support

Blue Cross is a charity registered in England and Wales (224392) and in Scotland (SCO40154)



Welcome

What a year we've had so far! We're absolutely thrilled to have opened the doors of our brand new rehoming centre in Suffolk. This new centre replaces our old site in the county, and means we can now help double the number of pets. Read all about this on page 17. Flick to page 4 to find out all about Piglet and how she is helping other dogs to find new homes. She's not the only pet to give back. Don't miss the rags to riches tale of Spike, who has gone from rehoming centre kennel to living in a grand manor house. This lad is a community favourite and regularly visits his local care home so residents can get their pet fix (page 18). We've also caught up with a whole host of precious pets who've found loving new homes, or are now feeling much better after a poorly spell, thanks to your support.

Do turn the page and read on...

Rachael Millar, Editor



4

ON THE COVER

4 Ambassador dogs

Meet the dogs helping dogs.

8 24 hours in A&E

Behind the scenes at Blue Cross Victoria.

10 Pet myths

Separating fact from fiction.

Editorial

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15

FEATURES

15 Celeb interview

Pam Ferris talks pet subjects.

16 You and Blue Cross

A word from our Chief Executive.

17 Open for business

Suffolk rehoming centre opens its doors.

18 Spike of the manor

Hero dog brings joy to care home residents.

22 Sound of silence

Training deaf dogs with sign language.

24 My little pony

Pony Perry and owner Charlotte.

28 For the love of cats

Meet dedicated rehomer Wendy.

REGULARS

14 Take me home

These Blue Cross pets need a loving family.

21 Ask the expert

Tackling pet problems.

26 What's on?

Get involved in a Blue Cross event.

29 Pet postbag

Your letters.

30 Bitesize

All the latest news from Blue Cross.

34 Competition

Win a holiday with your pet.

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WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM YOUR FRIENDS

All of our rehoming centres have tales of pets helping people overcome fears and insecurities. Now, Blue Cross has launched its pioneering Ambassador Dogs scheme, recruiting a squad of four-legged volunteers to help fellow pets come out of their shells





A “It’s so far beyond imagination to get a dog who is so in tune with everybody and everything in the way that Piglet is,” said Animal Welfare Assistant Ellen Myring. The caring Staffordshire bull terrier cross spent a little over a month at our Kimpton rehoming centre earlier this year and in that time – despite her own troubled past – helped 15 other dogs overcome their fears surrounding their own kind. Her support was so outstanding – and unique – that she has now been made one of the first Blue Cross Ambassador Dogs, meaning she will go on to help many more dogs in our care.

The Ambassador Dog initiative is believed to be the first of its kind in the country, and gives canine support to dogs that are either unsure of their own species due to not socialising or afraid of people because of a lack of human kindness or interaction.

Providing canine company

Stray dog Piglet’s past is a mystery, but within days of arriving at Blue Cross it was clear she was special. “We could see she was affectionate and had a calming influence on everybody around her, as well as being fantastic within a kennel

environment,” said Ellen. So our team started socialising her with more timid dogs, as well as turning to her for help with assessments for new dogs coming into the centre to check how they reacted to canine company.

How to play

“She helped bring the dogs that weren’t so confident around other dogs out of their shells. She has an understanding of her own kind that is incredibly rare – she can read other dogs and appropriate her behaviour for them,” continued Ellen. “Her greeting was so specific to each dog – it was amazing.

“Sometimes she would launch straight into play if she knew a dog was happy, but when she sensed a dog was more nervous she would just lie on the floor perfectly still and wait for the dog to approach her. She reads situations so beautifully that she was able to bring her calming vibes to these worried dogs, broadening their horizons in terms of what type of home they could go to.”

One of those pets was stray Jack, a six-month-old dachshund cross, who was worried about everything, including other dogs. But with Piglet’s help, he learnt to be in the company of his own kind

BUILDING THE CONFIDENCE OF AN EX-RACER

When greyhound Gabby came into our care, all she had known was living in kennels with others of her breed. She needed to learn how to adjust to life as a pet. She was nervous, but another greyhound called Wally helped to build her confidence. He soon found a wonderful home, but returned to the rehoming centre with his new owner to visit Gabby. Soon, Gabby was confident enough to try out a foster home with another greyhound, Pedro. But her foster carer couldn’t let her go, and Gabby found her forever home.



for the first time – and even went on to be rehomed with another dog. “Piglet warmed to him instantly. Although Jack didn’t quite understand how to ‘play bow’ and to initiate polite chase games, Piglet showed him calmly every step of the way. She taught him to chase and be chased, to give kisses and even a cheeky bit of play.”

Like Jack, Piglet is now in a happy new home with her adoring owner Alexandra Duffy. She is overcoming separation anxiety and will regularly visit the centre to help even more dogs.

"SHE HAS AN
UNDERSTANDING
OF HER OWN
KIND THAT'S
VERY RARE"



Above Piglet with
her new owner
Alexandra Duffy



24
HOURS
IN A&E

Opened in 1906, the Blue Cross animal hospital in London helps thousands of pets every year. We join veterinary staff at the front line



9.00am

As soon as our animal hospital flings opens its doors, vets have the first emergency case of the day on their hands. Little Tinkerbelle has been retching, licking walls and is off her food – her owner is understandably concerned, fearing that the white Chihuahua cross Jack Russell has something stuck in her throat. Our veterinary nurses think this is unlikely, so once seen by one of our clinic vets, the one-year-old dog is admitted as a day case so we can investigate what's to blame.

Meanwhile, a steady stream of patients flow through our clinic doors, from cats needing routine check-ups to dogs with injured legs.

11.00am

Up in the day wards, the team is getting our pets ready for their procedures. Alongside Tinkerbelle's kennel is Frank the seven-month-old bulldog, who is suffering from cherry eye – a condition inherent in his breed. The problem, caused when the gland in a dog's third eyelid becomes swollen, is one we're sadly seeing more and more at our hospitals. He's taken up to the operating theatre for his surgery.

1.00pm

The clinics might have paused for lunch, but it's all systems go behind the scenes. There's back-to-back surgery throughout the day, with Oscar the most serious and complex case. The eight-month-old crossbreed fell from a two storey window, fracturing the bones in three of his legs. It took two of our vets more than two hours to set this poor boy's broken limbs so that he can look forward to a future where

he'll eventually be able to run again. Had we not been there to step in, this major – and expensive – surgery would simply have been out of the financial reach of Oscar's owners.

3.00pm

As clinics reopen for the afternoon, it looks as though a little Pomeranian who has swallowed rat poison has come to us just in time. Our vet immediately gives eight-month-old Snowie an injection to make her sick, and she brought up all of the potentially fatal poison.

Had she got to us any later, she would have already started to digest the toxic substance.

Once she's had another injection to stop persisting nausea, she is taken home to rest. Meanwhile, Tyrian the cat is in a sorry state. He can't stop itching and is starting to lose his fur but there's no sign of fleas. He's sent home with flea treatment just in case, as well as a short course of steroids to bring his itchy skin under control.

5.00pm

Upstairs, Tinkerbelle and Frank are waiting to be collected. X-rays showed no obstructions in Tinkerbelle's throat and no obvious sign of illness, so she's sent home with worming tablets and put on a bland diet.

7.00pm to 9.00am

Clinics are now closed for the day, but our hospital team work round the clock to ensure our overnight patients are safe. Tonight, this includes a seriously ill elderly cat that has already given birth to one stillborn kitten and now needs a life-saving caesarean to deliver the rest.

Emergency cases will continue to roll in throughout the night – we're available 24 hours a day for sick and injured pets. We will also be on hand to ensure Oscar gets the pain relief he needs to stay comfortable.

HOW TREATMENT IS FUNDED FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HELP

Our Victoria animal hospital opened its doors in 1906 and it's believed to be the oldest animal hospital in the world.

During the First World War we cared for the pets of soldiers away fighting, and carried out operations by candlelight during the Blitz. Today, thousands of ill and injured pets still turn to us for treatment every year at our flagship hospital in central London, as well as at our three other animal hospitals and pet care clinics around the country.

We help the dogs, cats and small pets belonging to owners who can't afford private veterinary fees and we ask only for a contribution towards the cost of treatment. Blue Cross does not get any money from the government or local authority and we rely fully on donations to run our veterinary services. So any donation you've made, however small, is helping sick and injured pets to recover.

“There's back-to-back surgery throughout the day, with dog Oscar the most complex, serious case. He fell from a window and fractured bones in three of his legs”



WATCH
OUR BEHIND
THE SCENES
VIDEO AT WWW.
BLUECROSS.
ORG.UK
/24HOURS



FACT OR FICTION?

Can you teach an old dog new tricks? Do cats really hate water? Do rabbits live on carrots? Read on to discover the truth about these and other animal myths



Illustrations by Marié Franchi



DOGS CAN ONLY SEE IN BLACK AND WHITE. FALSE. Although they can't see the world in full technicolour like we can, dogs can see some colours. But their eyes detect fewer colours than ours, so their perception is similar to humans with colour blindness.

SPAYING OR NEUTERING MY PET WILL CHANGE THEIR PERSONALITY. FALSE. Personality is not all about sex hormones – except perhaps in some teenagers! But some unwanted behaviours may be reduced, such as roaming, mounting, fighting or urine spraying.

FEMALE DOGS FEELS 'EMPTY' IF THEY DON'T HAVE A LITTER. FALSE. While hormones can affect the way the animal feels, dogs do not have the capacity to feel broody.

CATS ONLY PURR WHEN THEY ARE HAPPY. FALSE. Cats do purr when they're happy, but that's not the only reason they produce this noise; they can also purr when they're frightened, feeling unwell or in pain in order to provide comfort to themselves. Cats also purr to comfort their young. The jury's out on why cats purr.

ALL CATS HATE WATER. FALSE. Most domestic moggies are not big fans of water, but there are some exceptions – as anyone who has watched videos of cats swimming will attest. Scientists think the reason most cats hate water is because their coats don't dry very quickly, which can leave them feeling pretty uncomfortable and possibly cold. The weight of the water is also likely to weigh down the usually-agile

animal, which means they can't escape perceived danger as quickly. Another reason is that cats' original descendants evolved in desert areas, where the land is barren and has very little rain.

HORSES ONLY SLEEP STANDING UP. FALSE. When standing, a horse can lightly doze – possibly thanks to a locking device in all four legs preventing them from collapsing. However, horses do need periods of deeper sleep and cannot achieve this while standing. They'll only need to lie down for a couple of hours every four to five days, though, to get enough sleep.

HORSES HAVE EXTRAORDINARY MEMORIES. TRUE. They say elephants never forget, but studies have shown that horses also have extraordinary powers of memory. We all know they are highly intelligent creatures, but research has shown that they can remember human friends after long periods of separation and also have the ability to recall complex, problem-solving strategies for 10 years or more.





DOGS HAVE THEIR OWN UNIQUE 'FINGERPRINT'. TRUE. Only this unique print is not found on their paws – but on their nose. This noseprint is as unique as a human fingerprint, and is so distinct that it can actually be used to identify them.

RABBITS MAINLY EAT CARROTS. FALSE. Feed carrots as occasional treats, but rabbits don't naturally eat root vegetables and fruits. Bunnies need hay and/or grass, some leafy greens and small amounts of rabbit food.

TWO OR MORE MALE GUINEA PIGS CAN'T LIVE TOGETHER. FALSE. The most suitable pairings are two females or a neutered male and a female. But males can live together without causing conflict.

DOGS CAN FALL IN LOVE. TRUE. They don't call it puppy love for nothing. Science shows that a dog's brain releases oxytocin – the love hormone – when it

interacts with humans and dogs, just the same as a human brain does when we hug or kiss.

CATS CAN SEE IN COMPLETE DARKNESS. FALSE. Cats are much better adapted to seeing in low levels of light than us, but they can't see in the dark.

YOU CAN'T TEACH AN OLD DOG NEW TRICKS. FALSE. Puppies' brains soak up new information like sponges and they learn quickly but, while it takes a little longer, you can train an adult dog.

RABBITS ARE BAD LUCK AT SEA. FALSE. This centuries' old seafaring superstition dates back to a time when a rabbit being carried on board a ship for food bit through the hold of the vessel, causing it to sink and killing hundreds on board. Although it's just a superstition, some ferry companies still uphold a ban on rabbits being taken on board.

BLACK CATS ARE UNLUCKY. FALSE. Black cats have been the subject of myth and folklore for centuries – in some countries they are considered unlucky, while in others, black felines are said to bring good fortune. In Japan, it's thought to be good luck if a black cat crosses your path, but in much of Europe and America, a black cat is often considered a bad omen. In reality, the only supernatural powers black cats bring are that of unconditional love and affection, just like any cat.



I NEED TO SHOW MY DOG WHO'S BOSS BY BEING THE PACK LEADER.

FALSE. Dominance based dog training is based on studies of captive wolves in the 1970s, which popularised the theory that 'alpha' wolves become the leader of the pack by being aggressive towards other wolves. But science has moved on and this theory has now been debunked.

DOGS AND CATS ARE LEFT OR RIGHT HANDED.

TRUE. Most pets use one of their front paws more, in the same way humans are left or right handed.

RABBITS HAVE NEAR TO 360 DEGREE VISION.

TRUE. With their eyes placed high and to the side of their skull, bunnies just have a small blind spot directly in front of their face. In the wild, this remarkable field of vision allows them to quickly detect predators approaching from almost any direction.

DOGS ONLY EAT GRASS WHEN THEY ARE SICK.

FALSE. Dogs eat grass because it's tasty.

CATS ARE NOCTURNAL.

FALSE. But they are instinctively crepuscular – which means they are most active at dawn and dusk, when hunting opportunities are rife and there's enough light for them to see well.

DOGS AND CATS HATE EACH OTHER.

FALSE. Although dogs and cats are often portrayed as enemies, if introduced carefully, they get on well.

**I WON'T BE ABLE TO SHOW MY PET IF I HAVE THEM SPAYED OR NEUTERED.**

FALSE. Changes in the Kennel Club regulations mean that neutered pedigree dogs can be shown.

CATS ALWAYS LAND ON THEIR FEET.

FALSE. More often than not, cats will land on their feet when they fall from a height due to their 'righting reflex'. But it's not always the case, and every year Blue Cross vets treat cats that have been hurt falling from heights.

NEUTERING A MALE DOG WILL 'EMASCULATE' THEM.

FALSE. Removing a dog's testicles does not make them female. In fact, it reduces the risk of some cancers and makes them less likely to show aggression towards other dogs.

RATS ARE DIRTY ANIMALS.

FALSE. Because rats can live in sewers in the wild, many people assume they are dirty animals. Actually rats are fastidious groomers and therefore one of the cleanest pets you can own. They are intelligent and make wonderful pets.





COULD YOU TAKE ME HOME?

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

ORCHID

I don't like to think about my past. I was very nervous but now I'm much more confident. If you're patient and are looking for a potential riding pony, please pick me!

Rolleston 0300 777 1520



RALPHIE

Do you like walks? I do; I am an exercise nut! Once I'm worn out I love to crash out and cuddle up. If you're an active family, I'd love to become part of it.

Hertfordshire 0300 777 1490



ALFIE

Can you think of anything more awesome than playing with a football? No, me neither!

I guess belly rub time comes a close second. We could be best friends!

Thirsk 0300 777 1540



MISSY

I am a very sweet little lady who will sit on your lap when I'm in the mood and won't mind if you are looking for someone to chat to. I'm a great listener!

Southampton 0300 777 1530

ROSE

If you want some razzle dazzle in your life then I'm the kitty cat for you! I can be mischievous but I guarantee I will make you laugh. I do enjoy a good cuddle, too.

Tiverton 0300 777 1560



FRANK

I love being around people and other horses; in fact, I hate being alone. If you could give me a loving home where I can continue to learn things, I am the boy for you.

Burford 0300 777 1570





PAWS FOR THOUGHT WITH PAM FERRIS

Pam Ferris, Blue Cross Ambassador, and star of TV favourites Call the Midwife, Rosemary and Thyme, and The Darling Buds of May, tells us all about her dogs Stan and Elsie

Who shares your sofa?

A long legged lurcher stretches out on half of the sofa with a small Jack Russell curled up at the other end. My husband and I take turns squeezing in between them.

Describe your pets in three words

Stan is elegant, athletic, lazy. Elsie is excitable, fireless, passionate.

How did Stan and Elsie join your family?

We rescued Stan from a local charity. He'd been dumped with his two sisters at nearly a year old. He was just a scabby skeleton when we first saw him – now he's so beautiful he stops the traffic. When he had settled in we wanted a friend for him, so we got Elsie as a puppy. I had a few months off filming and wanted to be home to help her integrate. Now they get on well despite a big size and temperament difference.

Where's your favourite place to go with your dogs?

Holidays at Holkham beach in North Norfolk. Miles of sand and woods and no roads.

Why do you love your dogs?

Oh so many reasons! Maybe the most important is seeing the world through their eyes when we're out walking. The joy they experience is simple and profound.

What's the most extravagant thing you've bought for them?

Matching memory foam dog beds – they love them.

What's the best thing about having pets?

The love.

What are Stan and Elsie's worst habits?

Stan sings with excitement when we put our boots on for a walk – it's so loud you can't hear yourself think! Elsie tries to keep the garden free of pigeons.

Why did you choose a rescue pet?

A brief search on the internet shows how many people are selling puppies for profit and how many beautiful dogs are left unwanted. The numbers are huge. Getting a rescue animal is a no brainer.

Have you ever worked with animals in a role?

Yes, lots. I worked with Holly, a darling three legged terrier, twice. Once in *Rosemary and Thyme* and again in the film *Children of Men*. I fell in love with a deerhound on *Harry Potter*, and a piglet during *The Darling Buds of May*.

What's the best pet advice you've been given, and by whom?

Great author Henry James said: "Three things are important in human life – the first is to be kind, the second is to be kind and the third is to be kind." He wasn't talking specifically about animals, but it's good all round advice.

Over to Elsie and Stan...

What's the best thing about being Pam's pet?

Elsie: She throws the ball a lot a lot a lot – until her arm hurts.
Stan: She cheers when I run like the wind round and round the football field.

Tell us a secret about your owner!

Stan: She has names for all our toys, and they all start with "Mister".
Elsie: There's Mr Monkey, Mr Snakey, Mr Tenny Ball etc – it's so embarrassing.

THANKS TO YOU

Your support enabled us to help almost 40,000 pets last year. Everyone at Blue Cross would like to say thank you, writes Sally de la Bedoyere, Chief Executive

I want to say a huge thank you for all your support. Because of you, 29,549 sick and injured pets got the treatment they needed last year, and because of you, we helped more than 9,000 homeless dogs, cats, horses and small pets. We also reached 69,000 children and young people through educational workshops and helped more than 6,000 bereaved pet owners through their grief. Without you, none of this would have been possible as we don't receive any money from the government.

You may remember I wrote to you last year about our Supporter Charter and to reassure you about our fundraising practices. Our Charter outlines our commitment to everyone who makes a donation to us, and you can read it on our website at www.bluecross.org.uk/supportercharter or write to us at our usual address to request a copy.

We never take your support for granted and we do our best to make sure your donations go precisely where they are needed. They are helping abandoned and unwanted pets in our rehoming centres and ill and vulnerable pets in our animal hospitals around the country right now.

It's really important to us that we show you how your generous gifts are helping pets in need every single day so we love to keep in touch, and we're always delighted to hear from you. I'd also like to reassure you that we will never share any of your details with other charities or organisations. And, remember you can make changes to the ways you hear from us at any point by calling **0300 790 9903** or emailing info@bluecross.org.uk.

And don't forget!

Without you, we wouldn't have been able to open our brand new Suffolk rehoming centre – please see the story on the facing page to find out how much we've already been able to achieve, thanks to you and your support.





COME ON IN!

Our brand new Suffolk rehoming centre is officially open. Find out how much more care we can provide for dogs and cats in need with your generous support

Thanks to you, we have begun to help more unwanted and abandoned dogs and cats in the Suffolk region. Our new purpose-built centre near Ipswich is much bigger and designed to modern animal welfare standards. Before, we could help 400 pets a year, but now – thanks to your donations – we hope to double that number.

Andrew Gillon, Centre Manager at Blue Cross Suffolk, said: "Our new centre has been designed to reduce the stress pets often experience when they come into a rescue environment. We've already helped around 300 pets since we've been here!"

The facilities include bespoke puppy and kitten accommodation, an on-site veterinary clinic for centre pets and dedicated exercise areas, including 20 acres of neighbouring woodland where staff and volunteers can walk our dogs.

"We didn't have a dedicated puppy facility at our old centre so it's a vast improvement for us and for the pets we care for. The unit offers spacious, comfy kennels that are located next to our team room. This means when our staff and volunteers are in there, they can open the room up and socialise the puppies in our care. We'd really like to thank all those who have donated, we couldn't have done it without them."

FOUR MONTHS AT SUFFOLK

*In the first four months since opening, our dedicated team has already accomplished so much to help pets. Here's what we've achieved in numbers**



132

DOGS HELPED



169

CATS HELPED



11,352

BOWLS OF DOG FOOD EATEN



17,576

BOWLS OF CAT FOOD EATEN



5,676

MILES OF DOG WALKS



6,609

HOURS VOLUNTEERED

*Average figures from mid-February to mid-June

Spike of the manor

Spike, rehomed with the McGonnell-O'Neill family a decade ago, is a regular at Mount Vale Care Home, spreading happiness with every visit



He looked up at me, the two of us locked eyes and that was it," says Kate McGonnell-O'Neill. "It's been a love story ever since."

Spike arrived in the McGonnell-O'Neill family's lives shortly after the sad loss of miniature schnauzer Fritz at the ripe old age of 17. Kate's husband, Mike, had worried initially about a repeat of the heartache caused by Fritz's death, but for Kate, who has been surrounded by dogs her whole life, the house felt empty without a canine presence.

Spike, who is now 14, needed help to find a new home from our Thirsk rehoming centre in North Yorkshire 10 years ago, when his owners could no longer care for him or his brother. Despite the passage of time, Jenny Day, who has worked at Thirsk for many years, remembers the sweet lurcher well. She says, "Spike was a quiet little soul who was struggling with being in the kennel environment. This meant he was shy and nervous, which might have been why people were put off offering him a home. He was with us for around three to four months before Kate gave him a home. I'm delighted that he's doing so well."

Working magic

Spike had always been a gentle and placid lad, who loved being around people, so when Kate spotted an ad asking for volunteers on the vet's notice board, she knew Spike would fit the bill.

"At the time I was missing nursing, but the kids were so young that I couldn't go back to it unfortunately," Kate explains. "I thought, what a great way to help. If the vet thinks he's good, and I'm a nurse, that'll let me keep my hand in, go and see the residents, and we'll come as a double act. He absolutely loved it, and they loved him, and that's been us ever since."

Spike has been volunteering at Mount Vale Care Home in Northallerton for eight years now. Once a fortnight he pops in to visit the residents for a chat, and carefully makes his way around each room; making sure no one is left out. We joined Spike on

one of his regular visits to find out what the residents and their families enjoy so much about his company.

"I look after him when he comes in," says Joan Bailey, wife of Bill, a resident of Mount Vale. "I always give him a biscuit. I absolutely love him. He's so good natured." Spike has the exact location of the cupboards in which residents keep the dog treats well and truly sussed! "He's so well behaved," says resident Frank Grant, before leaning down to whisper to Spike: "You're a cracker; you really are."

Health benefits

The smiles that spread across the faces of the residents, their families and the staff when Spike enters the care home are a sure sign that his visit is welcome, but it's not just anecdotal evidence that suggests canine therapy is beneficial to human health.

Scientific studies have found significant decreases in agitated behaviour in dementia patients following regular contact with animals for just three weeks, and research has shown simply stroking a dog will lower the petter's heart rate.

Dr David Hughes, a resident and former anaesthetist, says Spike's presence is simply wonderful and he looks forward to each visit, especially now that he can no longer keep his own pets. "We've always had dogs at home, and I used to do a lot of riding too. I enjoy just seeing an animal. It's just lovely seeing Spike. Just him being present is relaxing. We all love

"I always give Spike a biscuit. I absolutely love him. He's so good natured"



seeing him. Believe you me, things are very similar day by day and to have a little change like that makes all the difference in the world.”

Some of the elderly residents at Mount Vale suffer from dementia and can often become upset and confused, but a visit from Spike can calm the most distressed patient and bring a smile to their face. “Even if he’s just seen two people, other residents pick up on the fact that they have calmed down, and then they calm down. It’s like a domino effect,” says Rebecca Clark, Activities Co-ordinator at the home. “Some of our residents can’t speak



“Some residents don’t have family who live near, so they’ll look out for Spike”

and dementia means that some don’t respond to much at all, including people, but we do have residents who will almost wake up and become much more alert when Spike enters the room. It’s amazing to see.”

“Some residents don’t have family who live near, so they’ll look out for Spike,” Kate adds. “You don’t think that just five or 10 minutes with a dog would make a difference, but to see their faces light up shows it really can.”

Local celebrity

Mount Vale hosts residents who need supported care, and has a dedicated wing called ‘memory lane’ for those with dementia needing specialist care. Last year, after more than two years of fundraising, the staff opened a new sensory room, designed especially to help residents who are unable to speak or communicate very well.

The residents were asked who they would like to officially open the new room – perhaps a local politician, celebrity or footballer. But it was Spike who was unanimously chosen.

Kate was flattered that Spike was asked, and she is delighted with the warm welcome he receives on each visit and by how he is remembered by families.

“I have received several letters from families of residents who have sadly passed on, and they’re always addressed to Kate and Spike. I have kept them all,” she explains. “One daughter wrote to tell me what a difference Spike made to her mother’s life and she sent a pack of Smackos. It makes me very emotional, but I am so proud of Spike.”

WORKING DOGS

Labrador Riley was given up at nine months old for being too bouncy. He’s channelled all that energy into helping new owner, Ella Watson, who suffers from osteoarthritis, which makes everyday tasks impossible. After being put through his paces by charity Dogs for Good, he was matched with Ella. He helps her with physical tasks and has freed her from social isolation.

Dog Dizzy is now fighting crime on the streets of London. Ryan Neile, Blue Cross Animal Behaviourist, said: “It’s unusual for the Metropolitan Police to take rescue dogs and it’s even rarer for one to make it through the challenging training and assessment.” In less than eight months, Dizzy had qualified and one of his first jobs was stopping a robber in their tracks.





PROTECTING YOUR PET

Blue Cross Vet Caroline Reay and Senior Animal Behaviourist Ryan Neile tackle Alabama rot, fleas and clicker training

What is clicker training?

Ryan Neile says:

Clicker training is a training method that uses positive reinforcement to reward an animal for the behaviour you want. Your pet learns to understand that the sound of the click means “that’s right” and that something really good is coming.

Once the dog has learned that they can get a click by behaving in a certain way, they’ll start repeating it, giving you, the teacher, the opportunity to shape and develop these behaviours. Clicker training can be really fun for your dog, so it’s something you both can really learn to enjoy.

TOP TIP: The click must be an absolute guarantee that your pet will immediately get a reward. So the golden rule is: every time you click, give your pet a treat, even if you clicked at the wrong time. Find out how to get started at www.bluecross.org.uk/clicker

www.bluecross.org.uk/clicker



I’ve heard a lot about Alabama rot. What is it and how can I stop it?

Caroline Reay says:

Alabama rot is a disease that damages blood vessels in the skin and kidney. This can lead to kidney failure, which can be fatal. The actual cause of Alabama rot is not known.

The majority of dogs who have been treated for it in the UK have been walked in muddy and/or woodland areas and more cases are reported between November and May than between June and October.

Although the source is unknown, there are things that may reduce the risk to your dog. Check their body once a day for skin sores or lesions. These are most commonly found on a dog’s paws or lower legs, but they can also be found on the face, mouth or tongue, or on their lower body. Call your vet if you are worried. The earlier you catch it, the greater your dog’s chances of survival.

I’ve treated my cat and dog for fleas but I’m still seeing them. What can I do?

Caroline Reay says:

It is common for disappointed owners to complain that flea control products do not work. But they may not realise that, although products can ‘work’ for many months, this does not mean that they instantly kill every single flea. Some do kill within a couple of hours, and some dog products are flea repellent. But fleas are widespread and easily picked up outside, so treated pets may come home with a live flea, even if the product may prevent that flea from laying living eggs. Fleas are not the only threat. Dogs are also at risk from lungworm, which can kill, and ticks, carrying diseases to which both dogs and cats are susceptible. Many flea products tackle these too, but there is no single product will deal with all. Talk to your vet – they know the risks locally.

If your pet is allergic to flea bites, you need something that kills quickly. Repeat treatments at the minimum, not the maximum, recommended interval – many lose effect with time, or with bathing. Ask about treatment for all your pets. Treat the house, and car or shed, as appropriate with a product that stops egg development. Be prepared for a campaign lasting several months.



VISIT WWW.BLUECROSS.ORG.UK/ADVICE FOR MORE TOP TIPS



COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Young staffie cross Elsa is deaf but this hasn't proved a barrier to training or finding a happy new home

Staffordshire bull terrier crosses are tough enough to find homes for at the best of times – but the task becomes all but impossible when the dog is deaf.

Eleven-month-old Elsa found herself in need of our help to find a new home after being discovered straying. It was obvious the young Staffordshire bull terrier cross had received very little training in her young life, so our team got stuck in and began teaching her some sign language commands.

Pamela Barlow, Blue Cross Animal Behaviour Coordinator, explained: “Because she can’t hear us if we call her, we have to use our hands to get Elsa’s attention and ask her to do cues or behaviours. The signs that Elsa knows are ‘sit’, which is a sign moving your fist from out by your side to your chin, ‘touch’, which is holding your flat hand out to your side, and she’ll touch it. The most important signal that she knows though is a ‘thumbs up’, which is our marker signal for her – much like you would use a clicker for a dog that can hear.”

Four senses to work with

Although people may worry that deaf dogs could be difficult to train, they only have one of five senses missing and are able to learn all the behaviours that hearing dogs can.

Pamela said: “Deaf dogs make wonderful pets and they learn just like any other dog does. What’s really nice about them is they’re usually not bothered by noises that other hearing dogs might. Just like any other pet, they make wonderful companions.”

Jay Cruikshanks, Rehoming Centre Manager at our Tiverton rehoming centre in Devon added: “It’s amazing what a difference our training has already made to Elsa’s behaviour, just being able to make sense of the world with the help of some hand signals has made her a lot calmer.”

We transferred Elsa from our Tiverton centre in Devon to our Burford centre in Oxfordshire to increase her chances of finding a home. After 129 days in our care – 100 days longer than the average pooch takes to find a home – Elsa went to live with a loving family.

ALL QUIET ON THE REHOMING FRONT

Although they are completely adorable and full of fun, no one wanted to take Glacier, Goldie, Gumdrops or Greta home because they are missing one of their senses. We usually have waiting lists for puppies, but these six-week-old girls were still facing lonely lives, without anyone to love them, because they are deaf.

Maria Steel, Manager at our Northaim rehoming centre in East Sussex, said:

“Some people are worried that they might be too difficult to train and can’t be called back but a deaf dog only has one of the five senses missing and can make up for this much better than you might imagine.” Finally, four families who could see beyond their lack of hearing gave each of the girls a happy home.



“Deaf dogs are only missing one of five senses and are able to learn all the behaviours that hearing dogs can”

HAND SIGNALS



SIT
Move your fist from out by your side to your chin



STAY
Hold out your hand with the palm facing your dog



GOOD DOG
A thumbs up will show your dog you are pleased



TOUCH
Hold your flat hand out to your side



PONY PASSION

*How Blue Cross pony Perry
has helped young Charlotte
regain her confidence and
get back in the saddle*



An encounter with a previous pony knocked eight-year-old Charlotte Adshead-Curnock's confidence. However, since rehoming Blue Cross Perry eighteen months ago, the horse lover has jumped at the chance to get back in the saddle.

"I do a lot of dressage competitions, and we're going to start going back to a bit of jumping competitions; only low though," Charlotte explained when we caught up with the pair at the stables. "I want Perry to be a movie star. He is well behaved and he has a really big jump in him," she added.

The pair competes in competitions held by the Pony Club; a national organisation for young people that encourages children to ride. "The best thing I've done with Perry is either BYRDS (British Young Riders Dressage Scheme) camp at Hartpury where we met Olympic gold medallist Carl Hester or Pony Club camp," Charlotte said.

Just like Cub Scouts or Brownie Guides, Pony Club members are encouraged to work towards badges, which are awarded when they can show they have learned a lot about a subject. Charlotte's Pony Club uniform is covered in badges. "I've got stargazing, fundraising, points of a horse, mucking out; that took a whole day. I'd love to work towards the Blue Cross welfare badge," Charlotte said (see below for more on this and the Pony Club).

Charlotte is in no doubt that taking on a horse from Blue Cross is a brilliant idea. "It's important to have rescue ponies to make sure they all have a home." We can't argue with that!

WORKING TOGETHER

We are celebrating a decade of working with the Pony Club, an international voluntary youth organisation for young people interested in ponies and riding. We encourage Pony Club members to learn how to care for a horse and the children can work towards completing the Blue Cross Equine Welfare Merit Badge. This special badge and certificate may be awarded to any Pony Club member who passes 10 achievement badges, which focus on horse welfare.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Here are some great examples of ways that people have raised money to help Blue Cross pets



JUST JUMP!

"I got talked into it," says Clare Archer of why she made the decision to jump from a crane with a rope tied to her feet. "But it was worth it to raise much-needed funds for pets at Blue Cross." If, like Clare, you've always fancied doing something daring like a bungee jump but weren't quite sure how to do it, why not start by getting in touch for a Blue Cross fundraising ideas pack? There are lots of thrill-seeking challenges to choose from, and raising funds for a good cause is a great way to spur yourself on and push out of your comfort zone.

DRESS DOWN FUN

Pupils from Edith Moorhouse Primary School in Carterton, Oxon, who are passionate about pets had great fun taking part in a 'dress down Friday' to raise money for homeless animals. The four to 11 year olds raised a whopping £300 at their mufti day, and also got the chance to learn some top tips on caring for pets from Blue Cross experts. Anthea Wright, a teacher at the school, told us: "It was really interesting and the kids absolutely loved it. We decided to choose Blue Cross as our charity this year and it's been really enjoyable raising money while helping the children and teaching them all about caring for animals." Sound like an idea?

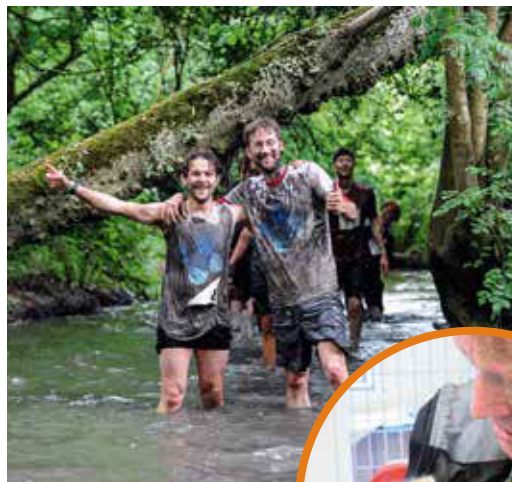


STEPS FOR PETS

When 80-year-old Mary Anderson discovered Steps for Pets, she jumped at the chance to raise funds and get fit alongside her dog Suzie. Our Steps for Pets event encourages people to take on a fundraising challenge of hitting a target number of steps across one month. "We are so pleased with what we have achieved," said Mary.



Visit www.bluecross.org.uk/fundraising-ideas for more inspiration



COME AND JOIN IN!

There's a Blue Cross fundraising event for everyone, and each one helps sick, injured and homeless pets. On your marks, get set, go...

Wolf Run

Various Dates

You'll tackle a series of tough obstacles designed to test your mental and physical strength, skill and stamina on this challenging, exhilarating 10km wild run.

Skydive

Various dates

If you want to jump out of a plane, we'll help you achieve this once in a lifetime adrenaline rush!

Dalai Lama Trek

20 – 30 April 2017

Join us as we explore North India, on one of the best treks we can offer, through the foothills of the Himalayas. It's tough but so worth it!

Hadrian's Wall Trek

17 – 19 June 2017

One wall, one epic adventure, one weekend. This fantastic 25-mile route takes you along the most remarkable Roman monument in the country from Chollerford to Gisland.

LOCAL CENTRE EVENTS

There's lots to do at our rehoming centres. Do give your local one a call to see how you can get involved in the fun, which includes open days, dog shows, Christmas fairs, show jumping and much much more.

Burford

2 September

Show jumping evening. Call 0300 777 1570 for details.

Lewknor

3 December

Christmas cracker event including raffle, snacks, gifts and more. Call 0300 777 1500 for all the details.

Northiam

2 October

Fun dog walk. Call 0300 777 1510 to find out more.

3 December

Christmas Fair at Northiam village hall. Call 0300 777 1510 for details.

Rolleston

3 December

Christmas fun day. Call 0300 777 1520 to find out more.

FRIENDS DAYS

We hold Friends Days throughout the year at our rehoming centres and hospitals to thank our supporters and give them a unique, behind-the-scenes look at our work. They're a great chance to see first-hand how we're helping pets thanks to your generous support. We're hosting the final events for the year at the following centres:

Suffolk Friends Day

21 September 2016

Victoria Friends Day

7 December 2016

If you'd like to find out more about our Friends Days, please call our Legacy Team on **0300 777 1757**



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Meet Wendy, who gives cats a home until they find their forever families

When one door closes, another opens; and when a health condition forced Wendy Penfold to retire from her job, she knew animals would play a part in her future. Wendy says: "I've always loved animals. Even when I was working I often thought of opening a cattery."

Cocoberry, a cat who is having trouble finding a home because of his fur colour, is sitting on Wendy's lap. He's an affectionate soul whose owner could no longer afford to care for him. Having got to know this lad well, Wendy knows his ideal home would be one where he can explore outdoors. Today, Wendy is also caring for a group of cheeky kittens and brother and sister duo Nelson and Peaches, who will be going off to their new home at the weekend. Each of these cats and kittens are homeless, and without Rehoming Network Cat Rehomer Wendy, who knows what their fates would have been.

Our national rehoming network of volunteer rehomers looks after pets all over the country either inside their own home, or in purpose-built chalets, which are ideal for pussies who would struggle to cope in a large cattery at a busy rehoming centre. Thanks to them, in 2015 we were able to find homes

for almost 1,000 more pets than we would have been able to through our centres alone.

Wendy's health means it is difficult for her to leave her home, so offering cats a place to stay seemed the ideal solution. She has three cat chalets in her garden.

Commitment required

Rehoming is not just about cuddling cats, as Sakura Anderson, Blue Cross Rehoming Network Manager, explains: "Caring will take a massive amount of your time. People will be coming to your house to meet cats, you've got to do vet trips and record all the information, and more; it's a minimum commitment of a few hours every day. Wendy is amazing!"

For Wendy, the low moments are vastly outweighed by the highs: "You do get attached and in some ways it's like homing your own pets. I think the worst bit is after a cat has gone and you clean the empty pen, but you know they've gone to a good home. The upset is offset by the reward that I have helped the cat. And I love looking after them." Thank you Wendy and all our volunteer rehomers!

WANT TO
HELP PETS?
THERE'S A
VOLUNTEER ROLE
FOR EVERYONE!
[WWW.BLUECROSS.
ORG.UK/
VOLUNTEER](http://WWW.BLUECROSS.ORG.UK/VOLUNTEER)

PET POSTBAG

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

A lot of love for Edward

Ed's note: Lots of you loved hearing cover star Edward in the last issue. Here are our favourite comments.

Beautiful Edward, what heartbreak and injuries he has had to bear. I'm so pleased he is so loved now and was rescued by Blue Cross; such dedication by your staff and the many volunteers.

Heather Green

Little Edward run over and dumped. Yet now, after the dedication of Blue Cross to get him back to health, he has a forever home and family to love, and love him.

Barbara Tanner

Thank you for your dedication and hard work, enabling beautiful animals like Edward to have a second chance. It's wonderful to see him so happy. I have total admiration for all you do.

Patricia Powell



STAR LETTER

BECAUSE SHE'S WORTH IT

This is Sophie. We adopted her from your Lewknor Centre in 2009. She took quite a while to settle and we had to be very patient with her. She was very nervous and just wanted to hide. Now she is a happy and confident girl. Sophie rules our household and we love her to bits.

Mary Dawson

Wake up call

These are my two rescue guinea pigs, Sherlock and Chunk. They greet me every morning by chirping loudly until they have got their food and carrots and love nothing better than hiding under their hay and chasing each other.

Emma Price



Would you like to see your pet on this page?

We love to hear how your Blue Cross pets are getting on. Please email your letters and photos to editor@bluecross.org.uk or write to *Pawprint* Editor, Blue Cross, Shilton Road, Burford, Oxon OX18 4PF.

Find us on Facebook & Twitter

BITESIZE STORIES

ALL THE LATEST NEWS FROM BLUE CROSS



STARVING HORSE GIVES BIRTH TO HEALTHY FOAL

An elderly mare, found starving, abandoned and pregnant in a saturated field, has welcomed a healthy foal, safe in a Blue Cross stable. Princess was born just a few months after her emaciated mum, Cinderella, arrived in our care. Vets said Cinderella was just days away from losing her fight for survival, as she scavenged for food alongside other neglected horses in a boggy field beside an industrial estate.

After being rescued by the RSPCA in partnership with Blue Cross, Cinderella went on to give birth to a fit and well foal, despite being well into her 20s – the equivalent of a woman in her 60s having a baby. Vicki Alford, Horse Unit Manager at Burford rehoming centre, said: “Cinderella was severely underweight

when she arrived, and at over 20 years old, we were really worried about her and her unborn foal. We’re delighted that she found the strength to fight and survive.

“I’d like to say a huge thank you to our amazing and dedicated horse team, including wonderful volunteer Jane who spent hours grooming her and loving her. What a reward for so many sleepless nights!” We’re so thrilled this tale has a happy ending.

“Cinderella was just days away from losing her fight for survival”

IN MEMORY OF MUM

When animal lover Patricia Holtorp passed away peacefully last year, she left behind her much-adored canine companion, Milo.

Patricia’s sons set about finding Milo a new home. John Holtorp said: “Milo is mostly deaf, big, slobbery, smelly, a terrible thief and very lovely. At 10 years old and weighing over 40kg it takes a certain kind of person to take him into their home – a kind of person that Blue Cross’s Burford rehoming centre has undertaken to find.” To thank our team, John set up a fundraising page in memory of his mum, asking people to donate to Blue Cross. We send our heartfelt thanks to the Holtorp family for thinking of us at this difficult time.

To donate in memory of Patricia, visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Patricia-Holtorp.

If you would like to make a donation in memory of a beloved person or pet please visit our website.





CAT SAVES TINY KITTEN'S LIFE WITH BLOOD TRANSFUSION

Little Diego Junior was so sick when he arrived at our Victoria animal hospital that he very nearly didn't make it. But thanks to a life-saving blood transfusion from another cat, he is now on the mend.

The kitten was just three weeks old when he was rushed into our care after falling critically ill. He had developed flea anaemia, meaning the parasites had sucked so much blood from his tiny body that it caused his red blood cells to drop to dangerously low levels.

Thankfully one of our nurse's own cats, Diego, was a blood match and a transfusion was given.

But just as Diego Junior started to regain strength, our team noticed that he had a swollen knee on his left hind leg and a swollen wrist – a subsequent X-ray revealed that his joints were badly inflamed. He was put on painkillers and anti-inflammatory drugs.

Amanda Marrington, Welfare Officer at Victoria, said: "Diego gave absolutely everything to this kitten, he is a hero. And Diego Junior has amazed us. He's a little fighter."

SURPRISE!

You won't believe what we found inside this dog's stomach

When dog Bobo was rushed to our animal hospital in a desperate state, his owner feared the worst. The nine-year-old Weimaraner was in pain, had been sick multiple times and was extremely dehydrated. Worryingly, Bobo had also stopped eating. "We gave him immediate care and ran early tests. The poor boy cried out in pain when vets examined his abdomen, so we knew we needed to investigate further," said Tracy Nicholson, a Veterinary Nurse at our Grimsby animal hospital. An X-ray showed he had a foreign body in his stomach, and needed urgent surgery to remove it. When our vets opened up Bobo's stomach, they found a yellow egg-shaped box. "The surgery team carefully removed the item and were shocked to discover not only had Bobo swallowed a Kinder Surprise plastic shell, but also that a Michelangelo Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle toy was still inside!" Tracy explained. "Foreign bodies can cause blockages inside a dog's gut, which can sadly be fatal if not removed in time," added Tracy. After his surgery, our veterinary team monitored Bobo and our nurses cared for him around the clock. Once he was well enough, Bobo was allowed to go back home under strict resting orders – and told to stay away from tempting chocolates!



Happy 90th birthday, your Majesty

Blue Cross pets joined together to wish Her Majesty The Queen many happy returns with the release of the world's first all-animal rendition of 'Happy Birthday'. The menagerie of sounds by dogs, cats, guinea pigs, rabbits, horses and chinchillas was recorded at Blue Cross rehoming centres across the country, and then remixed into the familiar song.

Watch our pets in action here <http://bit.ly/29hxsRg>



Unsafe place to be

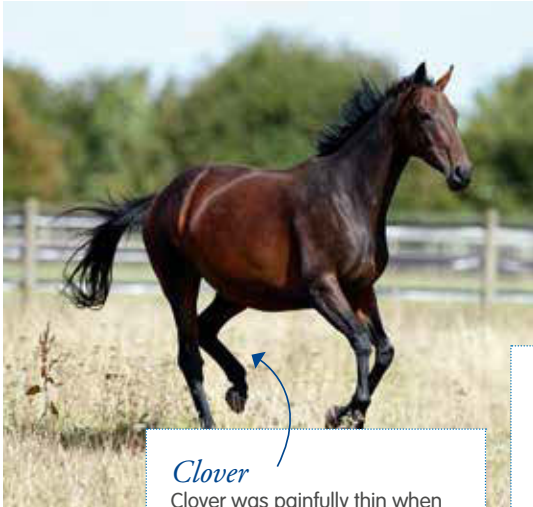
Poor stray puss Catnip needed our help after being found trapped under a car bonnet and suffering terrible burns to her neck and ear.

Karla Haines, Rehoming Supervisor at Northiam Blue Cross, said: "Cats do have a habit of climbing into small, warm spaces – Catnip was unlucky that the space she chose was next to the car engine. Happily she was found before any more damage was done and she's recovered really well." Once her burns had healed, we found her a loving home.



WHAT HAPPENED TO?

Every year Blue Cross finds homes for thousands of unwanted pets. We've caught up with some



Clover

Clover was painfully thin when we first met her. It's hard to believe anyone would want to hurt an animal, but her owner badly neglected her. She didn't know what it meant to roam happy or free, until we stepped in to help. It's thanks to you and people like you who care so passionately about the welfare of animals that we were there for Clover when she needed us most. Clover now has a new home where she is loved. She will never be neglected again.



Major Tom

Major Tom was one of four little surprises. When we took his abandoned mum in, we didn't know she was pregnant. But our team rallied round as soon as we knew she would need an extra helping hand. Major Tom and his sisters have all found loving new homes.

Bert

We got to Bert just in time. He was cold to the touch when, at four days old, he arrived at our Victoria animal hospital. Thankfully, Bert's a little fighter and he pulled through. After weeks of intensive care at our hospital and rehoming centre, we found Bert a loving home.



**LAST YEAR,
YOUR SUPPORT
ENABLED US TO
HELP 38,709 SICK,
INJURED AND
HOMELESS PETS.
THANK YOU**

KITTEN HAND REARED AFTER DOUBLE REJECTION

Not only was little Simon abandoned by his mum, the cat who adopted his siblings rejected him too. The kitten arrived at our Blue Cross animal hospital in Grimsby with his brother Alvin and sister Theodora, after being found in a garden shed. The trio – all named after cartoon characters the Chipmunks – were then put with a cat that was caring for one kitten in the hope she could become their adoptive mum. She accepted Alvin and Theodora but rejected Simon.

He was transferred to our Bromsgrove rehoming centre, where our team is now caring for the tiny chap. He will be looking for a family to live with once he is strong enough.

Blue Cross is experiencing our worst ever kitten crisis. There's been a 35 per cent rise in the number of kittens taken in so far this year compared with the same period last year. At time of writing, we are caring for nearly 150 kittens.





WORLD'S FIRST CANINE FUNDRAISERS COLLECT FOR BLUE CROSS

A team of dogs has become the world's first canine fundraisers as they lend a paw to raise money for sick and homeless Blue Cross pets.

'Tap dogs' Maverick the border collie, Cherry the lurcher, Ralph the old English sheepdog cross and Labradors Rosie and Smudge have shunned the traditional collection

tin in favour of a truly 21st century method.

They now sport contactless card technology in their specially-designed jackets. Anyone wishing to donate can simply 'pat and tap' the dog to make a donation using their contactless payment card Tracy Genever, Blue Cross Head of Education

Services said: "These wonderful dogs really are the best ambassadors we could possibly ever hope for. Our fundraising and events activities are so crucial to helping make sure the pets in our care can be healthy and happy, and we are incredibly grateful for every penny the public gives."

"Anyone wishing to donate can simply 'pat and tap' the dog to make a donation using their contactless payment card"



Six foot snake slithers out of toilet in charity shop shock

A Blue Cross charity shop volunteer was shocked to find a snake slithering out of a loo – before watching the slippery customer disappear back down the toilet bowl. Despite calling the RSPCA, there has been no sign of it since. Blue Cross is calling for effective regulation of the online sale of exotic pets, after our recent research found 120 species of exotic animals, including reptiles and primates, are available to buy at the click of a button.



Overrun with rodents

Eight-month-old Adrian is just one of more than 50 rats that called on us for help when things got a little out of hand for their owner. A health check revealed he had a small injury to his tail and had also broken his front left foot. To help him heal, we separated him from other rats. Once he was better, we found him a loving home.

Helping more pets

We're thrilled to announce that we will be helping more pets in Wales this autumn. Our new rehoming and advice unit will allow us to take in pets in need and find them loving new homes.

WIN! A DOG FRIENDLY HOLIDAY

£250
DOG-FRIENDLY
TRAVEL VOUCHERS
UP FOR GRABS



PetsPyjamas
Where Small Pet Lovers Go

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!

As a special treat, we're offering you the chance to win £250 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

Karen Barber, Alyn Elvey, Miss Minchin, Lorraine Hardman, Betty Greensill, Curtis Whitehead, Judy Baker, N Cameron, R Blackwood, Mrs E Seaman are the lucky winners of LOGIC® EaseFlex for dogs and LOGIC® EaseFlex for cats in our spring 2016 competition. Congratulations!

HOW TO ENTER

Answer the following question for a chance to win:

In our Pawprint news update on page 31, we told you which birthday our pets helped The Queen celebrate this year, but was it...? (please tick)

- 70 years
- 80 years
- 90 years

Fill in your answer on this coupon, along with your name, address and telephone number, and post to: Pawprint Competition, 7 Hugh Street, London SW1V 1QG

Strictly one entry per household.

Closing date: **24 October 2016**

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

We'd like to tell you about the great work we do for pets and how you can help. If you are happy for us to contact you by phone and/or email, please fill in the details and tick the boxes above.

COPING WITH THE LOSS OF A PET?

CONTACT OUR PET BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICE
0800 096 6606 or pbssmail@bluecross.org.uk

The free support line is open
every day 8.30am-8.30pm

Share giving – simple and tax effective

Donating shares is one of the most tax-effective ways to give to charity. Normally, you won't have to pay capital gains tax on donated shares and you should also be able to claim tax relief. Blue Cross welcomes share gifts of any size.

They could help us to make a real impact for pets in need. So far, over £100,000 has been donated in support of pets in need by people donating shares to Blue Cross. To discuss, please contact the Philanthropy Team at

sharegiving@bluecross.org.uk or call 01993 825528.



PLEASE SEND ME FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING:

- RUNNING EVENTS UK TREKS
 SKYDIVING OVERSEAS EVENTS
 CHARITY CYCLE RIDES
 FUNDRAISING PACK

For more information on these challenges, please complete the form below or email
EVENTS@BLUECROSS.ORG.UK

Title _____

First name _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Please return this in the post to: FREEPOST BLUE CROSS FOR PETS

Blue Cross is committed to protecting the personal data of our supporters. Any details you give us will be added to our supporter list for marketing and fundraising purposes and held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Blue Cross is the owner of the information collected. We will not sell, share or rent this information to third parties. Registered charity no: 224392 (England and Wales) and SC040154 (Scotland).

FIND US

Discover your nearest Blue Cross centre

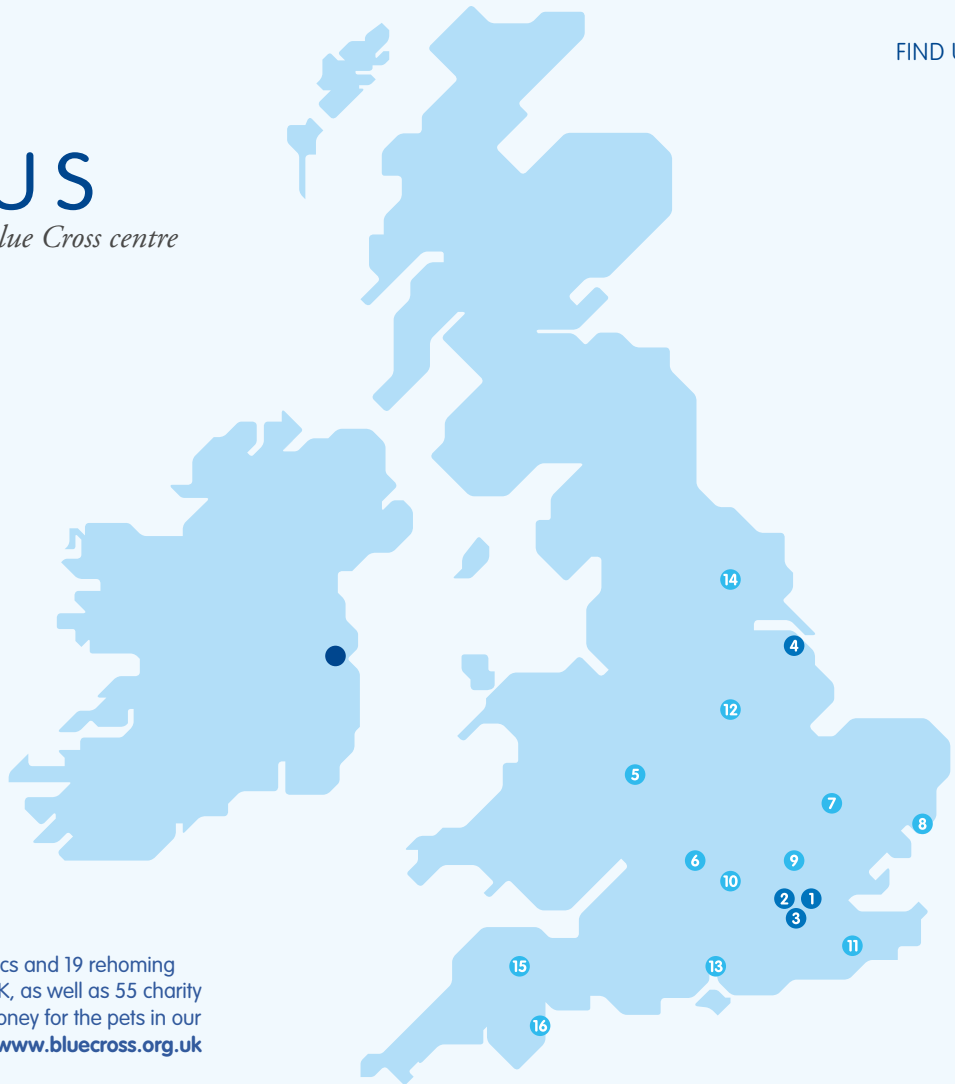
BLUE CROSS ANIMAL HOSPITALS

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

BLUE CROSS REHOMING CENTRES

- 5 Bromsgrove
- 6 Burford
- 7 Cambridge
- 8 Suffolk
- 9 Hertfordshire
- 10 Lewknor
- 11 Northiam
- 12 Rolleston
- 13 Southampton
- 14 Thirsk
- 15 Tiverton
- 16 Torbay

● Irish Blue Cross



Plus, we have five pet care clinics and 19 rehoming network locations across the UK, as well as 55 charity shops selling goods to raise money for the pets in our care. Find your nearest one at www.bluecross.org.uk or call **0300 790 9903**.

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.

Call our Supporter Care Team on **0300 790 9903**, email info@bluecross.org.uk or fill in and return this coupon. Thank you! Remember to update your pet's microchip details when you move, too.

Old address

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

New address

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

We'd like to tell you about the great work we do for pets and how you can help. Please tick if you are happy for us to contact you by

Telephone _____

Email _____

Please cut out this coupon and send it to the following freepost address:

Freepost BLUE CROSS FOR PETS

We select our mailing up to two months 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.