

# PAWPRINT

Changing the story for pets in need

SPRING 2017



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## MIRACLE BABY

FOAL OF ELDERLY  
ABANDONED HORSE  
BORN HEALTHY  
AGAINST THE ODDS

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PLUS

*Kitten Eddie tackles life on three legs*

*Why buying a pet is a risky business*

*Top dog-friendly beach walks*

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

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AMC-11824-0117

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**ON THE COVER**  
**4 A fairytale ending**  
 Miracle survival tale for Cinderella and foal Princess.

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# Welcome

We've been thinking a lot recently about how our pets complete our lives. Life would be very boring without them! Thanks to you, our rehoming team helped 10,991 dogs, cats, horses and small furies last year, and we treated 31,990 poorly pets who needed us – from newborns to golden oldies, we're there every step of the way. It's so easy for people to buy pets without much thought these days and too many animals are suffering a sorry start to life. We're working hard to change this through education, by campaigning for better breeding and sales regulation (see page 18), by being there for expectant mothers (page 4) and by helping poorly and desperate youngsters get back on their paws (turn to page 16). In 2017, we hope to help more pets than ever thanks to our new rehoming service in Newport (page 31) and new veterinary projects. It's going to be a bumper year!

*Rachael Millar, Editor*

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MC-11112-0316

# A FAIRY TALE ENDING

*Elderly and heavily pregnant horse Cinderella arrived at Blue Cross in one of the worst welfare cases we have ever seen, but both mother and foal proved to be survivors*



When Cinderella arrived in our care, the horse and her unborn foal were days – if not hours – away from death. Shockingly emaciated and heavily pregnant despite being far too old to be in foal, the elderly girl had been left to starve in a saturated field beside an industrial estate.

With nearly every bone protruding from her frail body and her dehydrated skin covered in scabs, it was one of the most appalling cases of neglect that Blue Cross has ever seen.

On her arrival at our Burford rehoming centre in Oxfordshire, following an emergency rescue, Cinderella had a body condition score of just 0.5 – on a scale which rates one as emaciated and five as obese. Any nutrients from food she had managed to scavenge from the sodden ground had gone to the foal growing inside her, as she desperately tried to keep them both alive.

We weren't sure if the thoroughbred cross, aged between 25 and 30, would make it – and, if she did, it was to be a miracle if her unborn foal survived, too. "I have worked in welfare for more than 10 years and have witnessed so many tragic sights, but I have never seen a horse in such a pitiful state as this," said

Vicki Alford, Horse Manager at Blue Cross Burford. "Thankfully her foal was wriggling and kicking so we knew we had a chance to save them both, albeit a slim one."

Over the following weeks, Cinderella was put on a special feeding plan and gradually started to build up strength, gaining some flesh to cover her bones.

#### Against all the odds

Despite the unimaginable ordeal she had endured, she trusted our team with her life from day one.

Even when she developed a potentially fatal infection of the placenta days before giving birth, she didn't give up – and allowed our team to nurse her through the pain around-the-clock.

And, against all odds, Cinderella went on to give birth to a healthy foal named Princess, three months after arriving at Blue Cross. Just like her mother, it was clear the skewbald filly foal was a fighter.

"We were all ecstatic when Princess arrived," said Vicki.

"I have helped with many foalings but I have never worried as much as on this occasion. We all willed Cinderella to get through it safely and thankfully she did. She is an incredibly resilient mare.

"I had many sleepless nights checking on her so the relief when Princess was born safely was



#### CINDERELLA'S STORY

*"I was close to giving up, but knew I needed to keep fighting for the little one growing inside of me. Although I was wasting away, feeling her wriggling about and kicking gave me the strength to carry on. We deserved the chance to live; it wasn't my fault I was in this state. I can't tell you the relief I felt when the folks at Blue Cross took me in. It's thanks to them we both made it."*



#### PRINCESS'S STORY

*"From the moment I was born, I kept being told how special I was. 'You're a miracle!' my mum and the team at Blue Cross would tell me. Well, you'll be pleased to know that I haven't let that go to my head – but I do enjoy all the attention! It makes me sad that it wasn't always that way for my mum. But we're happy now, and I love nothing more than galloping about with my best pal Hiccup."*



Above Princess with new owner Jo Byrne and her daughter



“THE RELIEF WHEN PRINCESS WAS BORN SAFELY WAS OVERWHELMING”



**“CINDERELLA IS THE BEST MUM. SHE’S FIERCELY PROTECTIVE OF PRINCESS”**

Cinderella, Princess and orphaned yearling Hiccup



overwhelming, and we are all over the moon that they are both doing so well. I’m very proud of the Horse Unit Team for giving so much to a horse that so deserved to live.”

After more than two months at Burford, the mother and daughter found a loving home where they can continue their journey together – alongside an orphaned yearling, called Hiccup, who became firm friends with Princess at the centre. These days the trio can be seen galloping around fields, without a care in the world.

#### **A happy new home**

New owner Jo Byrne followed Cinderella’s story from the beginning because a welfare organisation we work closely with borrowed her horse box to rescue the stricken mare and transport her to Blue Cross. So when she found out the pair were ready to find a home, she knew it was meant to be.

“I kept my eye on their progress at Blue Cross, and when they came up, that was it. We’ve always had Blue Cross horses and we have the space, so I knew I could give them the home they deserved. With Princess so young, I knew it would be such a great project. And then I ended up getting Hiccup as well – we couldn’t have left her behind!”

The inseparable yearlings occupy neighbouring stables, always wanting to be in sight of each other. “All three of them came

in convoy,” said Jo, who has five other horses at her Wiltshire home. “Princess needed a foal to grow up with and none of mine were young or boisterous enough for her. Cinderella had been defensive with other horses around Princess, but had accepted Hiccup, so it just made sense. She just leaves them alone to play, but keeps a check on them.”

Cinderella has proved to be one of the most outstanding mothers to have come into our care. Jo said: “I’ve dealt with many mares and foals over the years and she has been the best mum I’ve seen by far. She’s very protective of Princess. It’s the fiercest protection I’ve seen, but then you can’t really blame her after what she went through. Cinderella is very defensive over food as she’s spent her life fighting for it, but shares beautifully with Princess – she’ll let her have the first bite of anything. She always puts her first.”

And the pair, along with Hiccup, who is described as “the cheeky one”, have proved to be a wonderful addition to Jo’s family. “I’m so pleased we took them on,” she said.

Blue Cross Horse Welfare Coordinator, Jennifer Hubbard, who regularly visits the horses, added: “We’ve delivered a lot of foals at Burford but Cinderella and Princess’s story is a really special one that touched a lot of people. It was touch and go from the start

### **HOW BLUE CROSS REHABILITATES HORSES**

*Although Cinderella’s case was one of the worst we’ve ever seen, stories of neglect like hers are sadly not rare. Each year Blue Cross rehabilitates many horses and ponies that have had endured pitiful conditions. While every case is different, it’s the patience, care and expertise of our horse teams that give every one of them a fighting chance. With emaciated horses, feeding is a careful consideration. As they have been starved, we have to slowly re-introduce food into their systems. Our vet also gives any new arrivals a full health check to assess their needs, and we provide treatment if needed. But while health problems can be nursed better with medication and TLC, mental scars are harder to heal. Many horses and ponies that come to us are frightened of humans. Our Horse Unit Team and dedicated volunteers work to gradually build up their trust in people. For some horses this can take months, sometimes years, but seeing them in a happy new home afterwards makes it all worthwhile.*

whether or not Cinderella would make it but there were so many people willing her on. This is the most rewarding part of my job, to see Cinderella in a home for life, where she and her foal never have to worry about anything again. Cinderella’s just so settled and relaxed, which is wonderful to see, and Princess has a very bright future ahead of her.”

Just like the fairytale character she was named after, Cinderella has found the happy ever after she deserves with her precious foal. And it’s all thanks to your amazing support.



# STRANGE THINGS THAT YOUR PET MAY DO

Illustrations by Essi Kimpimäki

LEARN MORE ABOUT PET BEHAVIOUR AND READ LOTS OF TOP TIPS AT [BLUECROSS.ORG.UK/ADVICE](http://BLUECROSS.ORG.UK/ADVICE)



3

### WHY DOES MY DOG SNIFF PEOPLE'S CROTCHES?

*Dogs have 220 million sense receptors and sniff the faces and bottoms of other canines when first meeting to find out important information about them. Fortunately, most dogs won't greet people in the same way but some will spend longer gathering 'information' through sniffing and may head for someone's crotch, especially since it happens to be at 'head height' for many average sized dogs!*

1

### WHY DOES MY DOG KICK THE GRASS AFTER TOILETING?

Some dogs will kick their back legs vigorously after doing their business as a way of distributing the unique scent present in their toilet. Dogs will spend a great deal of time getting 'information' about another dog by sniffing areas they have toileted, so it might be that dogs who do this want to make more of an impact.

2

### WHY DOES MY GUINEA PIG WHEEK?

This noise, somewhere between a high-pitched squeak and a whistle, shows excitement, usually made by guinea pigs when they know they're going to be fed. Even the rustling of a bag can set this off.

4

### WHY DOES MY CAT TURN ITS BACK ON ME?

Although this can feel like a snub from your pet, it can be a sign of trust. Felines are instinctively wired to look out for danger, so one would never face away from you unless it was confident in your company. But if their tail is twitching and they've walked away during a fuss, they may be politely declining your affections.



5

**WHY DOES MY DOG CHASE HIS TAIL?**

Dogs are playful creatures and will – especially if they are a puppy – sometimes chase their tail. Some even learn that it's a great way of getting your attention. But in some dogs, excessive tail chasing can be a sign of medical or behavioural problems and should be discussed with your vet.



6

**WHY DOES MY CAT RUB HER FACE ON ME?**

*Cats have scent glands in their cheeks and it's thought that they rub their faces on people (or familiar cats) to 'mingle' scents, which helps to reinforce social bonds. They will also rub their cheeks on objects, inside and outside, to build up a unique scent profile of the area, which helps them feel secure and communicate with other felines.*

7

**WHY DOES MY DOG 'HUMP' THINGS?**

When a dog mounts another dog, someone's leg or a toy, it's not necessarily a 'sexual' act – particularly if your pet has been neutered. Dogs can also 'hump' when they are excited, stressed or confused. Talk to your vet if excessive mounting becomes an issue.



8

**WHY DOES MY RABBIT THUMP HIS HIND FEET?**

*As rabbits aren't very vocal, thumping is one of their ways of communicating. It normally means that they've heard or seen something they're unsure of, and is a way of warning other rabbits of possible dangers. Some pet rabbits may thump instinctively if they are taken by surprise or frightened by something you have done, like picking them up.*

9

**WHY DOES MY CHINCHILLA ROLL IN DUST?**

It may look like they're covering themselves in dirt but this is actually your chinchilla's version of a nice, hot bath. In the wild, the animals 'bathe' in fine sand as it absorbs any unwanted oil and dirt in their fur, leaving them feeling clean, fresh and relaxed! You should offer your pet a bath using special chinchilla dust for 20 minutes every day and after handling them.

10

**WHY DOES MY HORSE SNORT?**

Horses make many different sounds to communicate how they are feeling, but when they make a snorting noise with their nostrils it often means they are unsure or frightened of something.





# COULD YOU TAKE ME HOME?

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

## MOLLIE

Well, let me tell you, I just love to have fun. People tell me I'm very bouncy! But I'm five years old and need to find someone who shares my huge lust for life. Shall we go exploring together?

**Hertfordshire 0300 777 1490**



## SUKI

I don't suppose you know a neutered male bunny I could snuggle up next to do you? I'm eight months old and feeling a little lonely right now. I'm a confident and inquisitive girl.

**Hertfordshire 0300 777 1490**



## TOOTIE

Let's just say I'm a more mature lady (shhhhh, I'm 15), but that doesn't mean I don't still know how to play like a kitten. I love the finer things in life, like lounging in a comfy chair. Snuggles soon?

**Tiverton 0300 777 1560**



## RODNEY

I'm looking for someone to take me in as a companion horse. I'm eight years old and have had plenty of handling, but I can get nervous, so will need someone confident to help me feel secure.

**Burford 0300 777 1570**

## LYRIC

I've had a tough time. I only have one eye but don't let that put you off me. It would be handy for me to have a doggie friend to show me the way as I sometimes bump into things!

**Suffolk 0300 777 1480**



## LILY

I was one frightened girl when I first arrived, but now I'm feeling much more relaxed and can't wait to find a new home now I know how to make friends. Could we hang out some time?

**Southampton 0300 777 1530**



## PAWS FOR THOUGHT WITH CHRIS PACKHAM

*Naturalist, broadcaster and animal enthusiast Chris Packham waxes lyrical about his beloved dogs, Itchy and Scratchy*

### Who shares your sofa?

My sofa is about this much me [Chris holds his fingers very close together] and about that much my two black miniature poodles [Chris gestures arms as wide apart as they can go], Itchy and Scratchy. They're 13-and-a-half now and I've had them all of their lives.

### How did Itchy and Scratchy come to join your family?

My mother bought a poodle in 1980. Since then my life has been filled with poodles. They're very characterful, they're very strong willed, they're incredibly bright and easy to train, they don't shed their fur, I like the smell of them, they're full of beans; the poodle is the perfect breed for me. I obviously like all dog and cats – I like animals per se – but I wouldn't stray from the breed now.

### What's your favourite place to explore with Itchy and Scratchy?

The greatest ever run they went on was at a place called Maiden Castle, one February morning. Maiden Castle is on the south coast; it's an old Iron Age hillfort, so it's a big grassy area.

There were no sheep on it at that time but it does sometimes have sheep on it, so you do have to be careful with dogs off the lead. We were the only people there, it was pretty cold and blustery and I let them off and they were running through this long grass. I can see it in my mind and it was one of the happiest mornings of my life. I just loved seeing them running and jumping. They kept coming back to me just to check in, and then they'd just dash off again, it was brilliant, absolutely brilliant.

### Do they have any bad habits?

How long a list do you want? They're pretty disrespectful really, they're just like young children. Poodles are bright and they constantly try things on. So although you've taught them that something is wrong, a little glint will come into their eye and they'll think, "Oh I'll just give Chris a test today".

### Have you ever been given any really great advice about dogs, and if so, by whom?

Yes, I was given some great advice once by a police-dog handler. He said, "I'll give you one tip: never call

your dog back when it's running away from you, because you've already lost it and all you're doing is reinforcing the fact that it's not under control."

### If Itchy and Scratchy could talk, what's the one secret you wouldn't want them sharing with us about Chris Packham?

It would probably be my movie choices. To be honest with you I quite like films that are principally made for – well, my partner says – 10-year-old boys; *Transformers*, *Pacific Rim*, *Mad Max*, all those sorts of things. And I love to watch them really loud, so I sit down in the middle of the room and have the massive sound on, and there's all this idiotic, stupid robot stuff going on. It's not terribly cerebral.

### Why are Itchy and Scratchy your pet heroes?

Life doesn't always run true and happily. There are times when we all get pretty depressed and fed up, but my dogs have always been there for me during those difficult times.

**Read the full interview now at [bluecross.org.uk/chrispackham](http://bluecross.org.uk/chrispackham)**

Photo by Paul Carter



# LIFE ON THREE LEGS

*Eddie the kitten survived a fall and the loss of a leg, but his new owners say he is just as playful and cheeky as any four-legged friend*

As he charges about the living room of his new home and pounces on anything he can get his paws on, it's clear that life on three limbs isn't holding little Eddie back. Just two months earlier, the mischievous kitten – then named Gus – came into the care of our Victoria animal hospital in central London. He had fallen from a three-storey window.

Our team of vets and nurses were relieved to find he had escaped the huge fall without any internal injuries, but were concerned to see him struggle to put weight on his right leg. X-rays revealed that he had a broken elbow which, if left to heal on its own, would have caused a lifetime of suffering. Our only option was to amputate his leg. Amanda Marrington, Blue Cross Welfare Officer, said: "He wasn't bothered at all by having lost a leg. He loved to play and charge around."

Eddie's owner was no longer able to care for him and asked us to find him a loving home once he had fully recovered.

He was soon snapped up by Emma Taberner and Jack Perkin, and hasn't looked back since arriving home with them in Witney, Oxfordshire, after a brief stint in Blue Cross foster care, which was arranged by our nearby Burford rehoming centre.

"He strolled straight out of his carrier and that was it, it was his house," said Emma. "He's quite happy to tell you what he wants and what he doesn't – he's a bit of a diva!" Apart from not being able to leap up to the lofty heights cats with four legs normally can, Eddie is just like any other kitten. "He can't jump up past sofa height, but it doesn't seem to stop him, he'll just dangle off things until he gets rescued," said Emma. "He's either charging around playing or passed out on your lap; it's polar opposites with him."

But the couple, who both grew up with cats, wouldn't be without him. "It's lovely to have him to come home to. He's a real character," said Jack.



## PROTECTING CATS FROM WINDOW FALLS

*To keep your cat safe, either install tip and tilt windows, which allow air into the room without offering access outside to a curious cat, or use wire mesh, netting or a screen across open windows to prevent a cat from getting out. If your cat does fall from more than one storey, he or she should be seen by a vet as soon as possible, even if they appear to be fine. Also, get your cat checked over if they fall from any height and seem unwell.*



# PROTECTING YOUR PET

*Blue Cross Vet Caroline Reay gives top tips for a successful and super summer*

**Is it ok to leave my dog in the car for a few minutes while I dash into the shop if I leave the windows down?**

**Caroline says:**

We would never recommend leaving a pet alone in a car at any time of year due to the risk of theft, but in the warmer months you also run the risk of heatstroke. Dogs can suffer fatal heatstroke within minutes and leaving the windows down won't do much to prevent this. Unlike humans, they can't sweat through their skin and so they rely on panting and releasing heat through their paw pads and nose to regulate their body temperature and keep cool. Imagine wearing a thick winter coat on a hot summer's day and you'll understand why dogs succumb to heatstroke so easily. Once a dog shows signs of heatstroke the damage is often already done. If your dog has collapsed or is panting or dribbling excessively, move them to a cool place, wet their coat with cool – not freezing – water, and contact your vet immediately.



**We're hoping to take our dog with us on holiday to France this year. What do I need to know?**

**Caroline says:**

Dogs need a pet passport to travel within the EU. Visit your vet at least three weeks before you go as passports only become valid 21 days after a rabies vaccination has been given. Also ask your vet about any diseases prevalent at your destination, or hazards you don't often meet in the UK, such as paw blisters from walking on hot surfaces. You'll need to visit a vet between one and five days before returning to the UK for a worming treatment, so search for one close to where you are staying before you go. Check your dog's microchip details are up to date, and add your mobile number to their tag if you haven't already. Does your pet insurance cover overseas trips? What breed is your dog? Many European countries ban certain types. Check local laws for restrictions on breeds or other requirements, eg muzzles. Prep your pet for a long journey – if they hate the car, consider a pet sitter instead.



**I'm going abroad this summer. What should I look for in a cattery?**

**Caroline says:**

Ask for recommendations and check the cattery is licensed by the local authority. Drop in without an appointment – you can tell a lot from an unannounced visit. Cat pens should have toys, a scratching post, somewhere to hide, a shelf, a large litter tray and cats who don't know each other should not be able to make nose, paw or eye contact. A good cattery will ask lots of questions about your pet and should insist that cats are vaccinated against flu and other diseases. Another option is a house sitter – cats are often most comfortable if they can stay on their own territory.



FOR MORE HOT TIPS TO KEEP YOUR PETS COOL THIS SUMMER, VISIT [BLUECROSS.ORG.UK/ADVICE](http://BLUECROSS.ORG.UK/ADVICE)

# BUYER BEWARE

*Our new report reveals that pet buyers are at risk as animal welfare suffers.*

*Find out what needs to change to protect pets and their owners*

**A**s a nation of animal lovers many people are surprised to hear that it is legal for pet shops in the UK to sell puppies, and for puppy farms to breed them. We deal with the fall out of pets being bred irresponsibly every day at Blue Cross. Our vets and nurses are frequently faced with sick puppies and kittens bought from irresponsible breeders and pet shops, and our rehoming teams pick up the pieces when pets have suffered from a lack of socialisation.

We're becoming more concerned about the welfare of pets being bred and sold in this country, so we researched the scale of the problem. Our report, *Unpicking the Knots: the case for a more cohesive approach to pet welfare legislation*, brings to light serious welfare concerns in licensed pet shops and breeding premises. These are recorded in inspection reports provided to us by local authority licensing officers (see the panel on page 20).

Local authorities are responsible for running a licensing system for pet shops and dog breeding establishments. However, a lack of personnel and appropriate training, together with slashed budgets within government agencies, has left many of them without the resources to deal with animal welfare legislation suitably and effectively. There are issues regarding clarity of duties and consistency, too. We asked licensing officers if they felt equipped to inspect shops selling exotic animals, and 35 per cent said no. Thirty-six per cent of local authority licensing officers surveyed said they had received no training on animal welfare at all, and 26 per cent of those that had said it amounted to a one-day course.

#### **Authority licensing officers need support**

Our investigation found that enforcement officers are relying on the expertise of licence holders rather than seeking independent veterinary advice, and when our panel of veterinary experts reviewed welfare-related comments on inspection reports obtained using freedom of information requests, 82 per cent of breeding premises and 87 per cent of pet shops were found to be of serious concern.

Becky Thwaites, Head of Public Affairs for Blue Cross, said: "We were really shocked by the number of welfare concerns we saw in the inspection reports. It is clear that local authority licensing officers need much more support and regular training to be able to carry out their duty and ensure that pets' welfare needs are met."

While our analysis of inspection reports reveals serious welfare concerns about some licenced premises, we're worried about the scale of unlicensed activity, which is hidden from view. Estimates from

*"We're shocked by the number of welfare concerns we saw in the inspection reports. We're also worried about the scale of unlicensed activity"*

FOR MORE ON THIS SUBJECT PLEASE READ OUR FULL REPORT AT [BLUECROSS.ORG.UK/UNPICKINGTHEKNOTS](http://bluecross.org.uk/unpickingtheknots)



Battersea Dogs and Cats Home suggest that as many as 88 per cent of puppies born in Britain are bred by unlicensed breeders. And tens of thousands are believed to be imported annually from abroad.

The popularity in online sales of pets has changed the nature of breeding and sale, with the practice taking place behind closed doors. Without a visible high-street presence, sellers remain out of sight and out of reach of the authorities. Few will disagree that the world has changed considerably from the time before Queen Elizabeth II's reign. You might be surprised to learn that the law that still governs the sale of pets today came into effect before she took the throne – and it makes no mention of internet sales.

The UK's biggest pet shop is the internet, and this is where we think a robust law should focus. Working with other pet welfare organisations, Defra, trade organisations and veterinary bodies, we've been moderating classified websites on a voluntary basis, with six of the biggest sites agreeing to take part.

**Mandatory codes of conduct required**

We learnt from our pilot scheme and now want to see mandatory codes of conduct applied to all sites advertising pets for sale, with each site required to educate owners before they buy to prevent impulse purchases and weed out bad breeders. Becky added: "At the moment, pets' welfare is suffering and buying a pet is a gamble depending on where you live. The government needs to offer more support to local authorities, empowering them with the resources and knowledge to ensure sellers and breeders of pets maintain high welfare standards in order to obtain a licence."

We urge politicians to work together to introduce effective legislation that enables enforcers to tackle the large array of pet related issues. What we need is a robust and efficient system where all breeders and sellers must register on a central database that can be easily checked by those wanting a family pet, and inspected by a trained workforce that is empowered to revoke or deny a licence on animal welfare grounds.

**EIGHT SHOCKING INSPECTION FINDINGS\***

**PET SHOPS**

**Dead animals**

1. Dead animals not removed causing maggots in water

**Environmental deprivation**

2. Baby snakes in small boxes with no UV provision

**Evidence of disease/sickness**

3. Discussed two complaints about puppies sold with parvo

**Signs of stress**

4. One of the canaries had damage on its wings ... caused by self-mutilation due to stress. The bird was euthanised

**DOG BREEDING**

**Lack of food/water**

5. I never saw any water bowls

**Cruelty/unnecessary suffering**

6. The room was unventilated and unheated. The pups and bitch were kept in ... cages unsuitable for dogs

**Illegal activity**

7. Vaccinates their own animals using a vaccine which is manufactured in the US and bought online... this is illegal

**Environmental deprivation**

8. No stimulation was available for any pup to play and they sat in cages, bored, no typical inquisitive puppy behaviour



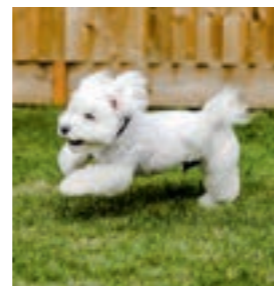
**SCAMPI'S STORY**

*Today Scampi is a happy chappy in a much-loved home, but he began life under very different circumstances.*

*Scampi was a pet-shop pup, bought on impulse and handed into our care when his owner couldn't cope with his behavioural issues.*

*Ellen Myring, Blue Cross Animal Welfare Assistant who cared for him at our Hertfordshire rehoming centre, said: "The shop assistant told the buyer that the puppies were between the age of 10 to 12 weeks, meaning that Scampi and his littermates would have spent a period vital to socialisation inside a shop environment. They missed out on a crucial learning period that should have prepared them for later life."*

*New owner Joanna Pratt saw Scampi's shyness as a challenge. "To see how far he has come in the six months since I've had him is amazing. I can't imagine life without him now. It's like he's always been part of the family," she said.*



\*Statements from inspection reports of licensed UK dog breeding establishments and pet shops



**SPONSOR A PET**

Give a gift that will change a life

When you sponsor a Blue Cross pet, you will help unwanted and abandoned animals in our rehoming centres to find loving new families. Give the gift of sponsorship from just £3 a month, and you'll help pay for cosy beds, tasty food, and fun toys as well as vital health checks and behaviour support. It's the perfect present for animal lovers, or treat for yourself.

**How sponsorship works**



**Choose a pet**

Choose a pet you'd like to sponsor and a monthly amount



**Stay in touch!**

Receive a certificate and monthly email updates from your pet



**Help another pet**

Once your pet has been rehomed you can choose another pet to help

Visit [bluecross.org.uk/sponsorship](https://bluecross.org.uk/sponsorship) to sponsor a pet today.

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

Blue Cross is a charity registered in England and Wales (224392) and in Scotland (SC040154)

# FUN IN THE SUN

*Not all coastlines are geared up for our four-legged friends so here are our team's top beach recommendation for dog friendly, seaside fun during the summer months*

## 1. Harbour Cove, Cornwall

Why Billy loves this beach: "There's a huge expanse of sand, at low tide almost a mile-and-a-half, plus it is relatively quiet even in summer – so there's plenty of space for me to run and play ball!"

**Facilities:** car parking.

## 2. North Beach, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear

Why Bramble loves this beach: "There are loads of dogs, always someone to play with, but the beach is so huge that it still looks empty. If you want a big, clean beach and the chance to nose around rock pools next to the lighthouse, then you can't beat it."

**Facilities:** café/restaurant, toilets, disabled facilities and promenade.

## 3. Holkham Beach, North Norfolk

Why Sunny and Annie love this beach: "There is so much space for running here – the beach is a whole mile deep when the tide is out and the pine woods along its edge are the perfect place for cooling off on hot days. There's also plenty of wildlife to spot, including seals and birds."

**Facilities:** car parking.

## 4. West Beach, Whitstable, Kent

Why Alfie loves this beach: "I'm not a fan of sand so the pebbles here suit me. There's lots of space for running and the sea stays shallow a long way out, great for dogs with little legs like me! The people are

friendly, too and there's always a water bowl with fresh water outside the cafés and shops."

**Facilities:** café/restaurant, toilets, beach hut hire, pub.

## 5. Cuckmere Haven, East Sussex

Why Mary loves this beach: "Boy, is this place spectacular! The beach is where the South Downs meet the English Channel, and I just love the white cliffs in the background (apparently, they're called the Seven Sisters). We like to walk beside the river to the pebble beach. There's even a nature reserve nearby."

**Facilities:** café/restaurant, toilets, shop.

## 6. Fistral Beach, Cornwall

Why Buster loves this beach: "Forget surfing, it's all about running at this beach – as fast as you can. The only trouble I have is remembering to stop, the sand goes on forever! When I'm out of breath, I'll dip my paws in the sea and watch the waves rolling in."

**Facilities:** showers, toilets, car parking, café/restaurants.

## 7. Milford on Sea, Hampshire

Why Oz loves this beach: "I have an absolute blast when I come to this beach, everyone's so friendly and I can always find another dog to run about with. My owners love it here too, as there are two dog-friendly cafés on the seafront with brilliant views. If you fancy a change

of scenery, there's also the nearby New Forest to explore too."

**Facilities:** café/restaurant, toilets, disabled facilities.

## 8. Barmouth in Gwynedd

Why Oscar loves this beach: "I may be nine years old but as soon as my paws touch the sand, I feel like a puppy again. There's a small section of the beach where I'm not allowed between April and September, but it's three miles long so there's still plenty of space!"

**Facilities:** café/restaurant, lost child centre, promenade.

## 9. Clachan Sands, North Uist, Outer Hebrides

Why Stan loves this beach: "My owner tells me this place is about as remote as you can get in the UK. The beach has the whitest sand I've seen and the sea is crystal clear. There's plenty of space for me to run free and feel my ears flapping in the wind."

**Facilities:** benches, parking.

## 10. Weston-super-Mare, Somerset

Why Gordon loves this beach: "Blue Cross took me here while I was waiting for a home. It was the first time I'd been on sand. I walked on my tippy toes before running around in circles with excitement! Dogs are welcome here all year round, as long as they stay in the bits between the Grand Pier and Knightstone Island and from Royal Sands to Uphill."

**Facilities:** toilets, café.





Kaye Martin works with children from George Green's School in east London



## CHALLENGING PERCEPTIONS

*Blue Cross Education Officer Kaye Martin tackles myths and teaches children how to behave around dogs*

**E**vil," says one. "Savage," adds another. "That we don't care about anything," a third suggests. Blue Cross Education Officer, Kaye Martin, is visiting George Green's School in east London. She's asked the class to shout out what the press prints about young people their age, and none of what is said is positive. Teenagers get a raw deal from the media. It's a similar story for dogs, and these widespread misconceptions are what Kaye is myth-busting today in a bid to keep the schoolchildren safe.

Kaye shows the class photos of several different dog breeds and asks them to vote on which of the dogs could hurt someone. The poodle and springer spaniel are dismissed as friendly, some believe the German shepherd is scary, but most are adamant the Staffordshire bull terrier is very dangerous.

"Any of these dogs are potentially dangerous," Kaye reveals, and faces of confusion and surprise look back at her. Despite what the papers say, staffies are not more aggressive than other breeds. Today is all about challenging perceptions and giving young people the facts they need to make informed choices that will keep them safe.

### Empathy for dogs

A volunteer is needed, and half of the class is keen to be involved. After asking permission, Kaye wiggles the young lady's nose, touches her chin and ears, and ruffles her hair. She then asks if doing so made the girl uncomfortable.

She is too polite to say yes, but Kaye can tell by her face that it did. She then stands to her side and places a hand on

her shoulder and the volunteer says that is much more comfortable. "Would me touching your face have been less weird if I was your mum?" Kaye asks. "Yes, because she's my mum and I know her!"

As the volunteer takes her seat, Kaye explains that having a total stranger touch your face feels invasive for a dog, just as it does for us. Being touched on the shoulder was less intrusive, and a dog feels more comfortable with being stroked by someone they don't know on the shoulder too.

Putting yourself in a dog's position is a great way to understand how your action might make them feel. "And how would you feel if you were playing with your Xbox and someone took the controller away?" Kaye asks the group, and an enthusiastic young gentleman replies: "I would literally be like, 'Why are you doing that?!'" Similarly, snatching away a dog's toys and waking them from a peaceful slumber are occasions that can cause a dog to get annoyed.

### Should the worst happen

Unfortunately, there are irresponsible owners out there and while Blue Cross does its best to help young people avoid confrontation with dogs by speaking with over 65,000 11-25 year olds a year, we're pragmatic about the fact that they do need to know how to protect themselves if the worst happens.

"Make a cross with your arms and turn away from the dog to protect the parts of your body that you need to live," explains Kaye.

I caught up with some of the young people at the end of the session to find out if Kaye's words had created an impact. She had clearly made a positive impression that will keep them safe.

"I learnt what to do if a dog comes up to you in the park," said Michelvi Wamba. "You shouldn't judge a dog on what it looks like."

**Book a free education talk for your school or club at [bluecross.org.uk/education](http://bluecross.org.uk/education) or call 0300 111 8950.**

### KNOW THE SIGNS: DOG BODY LANGUAGE



#### GO AWAY

**Tense:** I am bold and stand my ground. The hairs on the back of my neck stand up and my body is tense.



#### I'M NOT SURE ABOUT YOU YET (PLEASE KEEP AWAY)

**Unsure:** I am moving away from you with my head lowered, tail tucked between my legs and possibly glancing sideways showing the white of my eyes. I might yawn to show you I am still not sure about you.



#### HAPPY TO MEET YOU

**Relaxed:** My body is relaxed, my ears are forward and my tail and body are wagging.



## HAVE FUN AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

*There's a Blue Cross fundraising event for everyone, and each one helps sick, injured and homeless pets*

### Virgin London Marathon

**Sunday 23 April**  
Got a ballot place for the country's most famous race? Then run for pets! Get in touch if you could run for us.

### Vitality London 10,000

**Monday 29 May**  
The 10km event begins in glorious St James's Park. Runners pass many of London's famous sights, including Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace.

### Trek Fest The Beacons, Saturday 3 – Sunday 4 June; The Peaks, Saturday 2 – Sunday 3 September

Register now for the ultimate endurance challenge that will push you to your limits!

Choose to complete 25km or 50km through the stunning British landscape.

### Morrisons Great North Run Sunday 10 September

The Great North Run through beautiful Newcastle is Britain's biggest participation event. Join our team and 56,000 other runners taking part in this iconic half marathon.

**Parachute jumping Whenever, wherever!**  
If you want to jump out of a perfectly good plane we won't stop you – in fact, we'll even help you achieve this once in a lifetime adrenaline rush!

**LOCAL CENTRE EVENTS**  
Visit [bluecross.org.uk/events](http://bluecross.org.uk/events) or call 0300 777 1974 to find out what's

happening and how you might get involved. Events for your diary could include open days, dog shows, show jumping and much more.

**Bromsgrove Saturday 13 May**  
Tea party and sponsored dog walk. Call 0300 777 1460.

**Tiverton Saturday 24 June**  
Summer fair and dog show at Willand village hall, EX15 2PL. Call 0300 777 1560.

**Rolleston Saturday 8 July**  
Fun day and open day. Call 0300 777 1520.

**Torbay Saturday 9 September**  
Open day. Call 0300 777 1550.



## 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 events at the following centres:

Grimsby – 15 March  
Tiverton – 12 April  
Southampton – 10 May  
Suffolk – 21 June  
Kimpton – 26 July  
Burford – 16 August  
Bromsgrove – 6 September

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

# PAWS FOR TEA

*Whether you're young, or young at heart, join our party and celebrate pets!*

Everyone's invited, so why not ask your friends, family, neighbours and colleagues to get involved? Boil the kettle, whip up a cake, bring out the bunting and host a Tea Party to help pets in need.

Pets are part of the family, and at Blue Cross we help prepare unwanted and abandoned pets for their new homes by giving them the life skills they need to succeed, and making poorly pets better. Whether that's helping an injured puppy to walk again, or giving a neglected cat the confidence she needs to trust humans, but we can't do this alone; we need your support. Every penny and every pound raised by our Tea Party goes to helping sick, injured and homeless pets get back on their paws.

### Planning your Tea Party

Hosting a Tea Party is simple. First choose a date, if Friday 12 May doesn't work for you, pick a date that does. Then decide on your venue; will you host at home or elsewhere? Next, invite your friends, family, neighbours and colleagues. Plan how many tea bags,

mugs and cakes you'll need to cater for everyone – will you have helper bakers, can you cope on your own, or will you take a trip to the shop? Finally, have a brilliant day and raise money!

### Fantastic help from our supporters

We couldn't have been there for the 35,000 animals we help each year without your support. No matter what their age, we're there for pets who need us. Help keep our doors open to them by hosting a Tea Party. It's simple to do, and we'll help you every step of the way. Our party planners are packed with tasty recipes, terrific posters and top tips to make your party a triumph. Simply visit our website – [bluecross.org.uk/teaparty](http://bluecross.org.uk/teaparty) – to download your host pack now or return your completed slip at the back of this magazine and we'll pop one in the post. Remember you can host your Tea Party whenever it suits you – we wouldn't want you to miss out on the fun!



Although it looks like this pup is tucking into tasty human treats, all food used was suitable for animals



DATE FOR THE DIARY!  
FRIDAY 12 MAY  
GET THE PARTY STARTED  
REGISTER NOW  
[BLUECROSS.ORG.UK/TEAPARTY](http://BLUECROSS.ORG.UK/TEAPARTY)



Left Marion Laurence,  
a Blue Cross volunteer



## YOU ARE NOT ALONE

*Losing a pet can be devastating but there is help and support available*

“Oliver was extremely special to me,” Marion Laurence recalls of her beloved border collie cross, who passed away at the grand old age of 15-and-a-half. “He had been with me through some tough times, including losing both of my parents within 18 months, and when he died I needed help.”

Marion turned to our Pet Bereavement Support Service, and now, 12 years on, is helping others cope with their grief. “The help I received from the helpline was brilliant,” Marion continues. “I felt that someone truly understood what I was going through. Friends and family might say, ‘Oh, it’s only a cat’, or, ‘Why don’t you just get another dog?’ But we know that the bond is special and losing a pet is terribly difficult.”

### Free and confidential support

Our helpline and email support is a free and confidential service that helps people who are struggling to cope with the loss of a pet. It is open to everyone experiencing loss, whether through death, or separation because of theft, relationship breakdown, or having to find a new home for a pet.

Grief affects everyone differently, and pet loss can be difficult to talk about with those close to you.

A home can feel very empty when a pet has gone, and it is common for bereaved owners to experience feelings of loneliness, despair and even depression.

“Sadness and guilt are very common feelings when someone loses a pet, and I want people to know that they are not alone. Blue Cross was there for me, and we are here to listen and support others,” says Marion.

For nine years, Marion has provided a sympathetic and understanding ear to comfort those who have parted from their pet, or are facing the decision about whether to euthanise their pet. Each week she and our team of trained volunteers take emotional and upsetting calls, but know the service they provide is vital. “It’s incredibly fulfilling, and I am supported by the team at HQ. And although I don’t do it for the thanks, I do like to know that I have been able to help someone,” says Marion. “If it wasn’t for Oliver, I wouldn’t have got involved, and now I can help others in his memory.”

**If you have lost a pet and need somebody to talk to please call our Pet Bereavement Support Service on 0800 096 6606.**

COULD YOU HELP OTHERS TO COPE WITH THE GRIEF OF PET LOSS? VISIT [BLUECROSS.ORG.UK/VOLUNTEER](http://BLUECROSS.ORG.UK/VOLUNTEER)

# PET POSTBAG

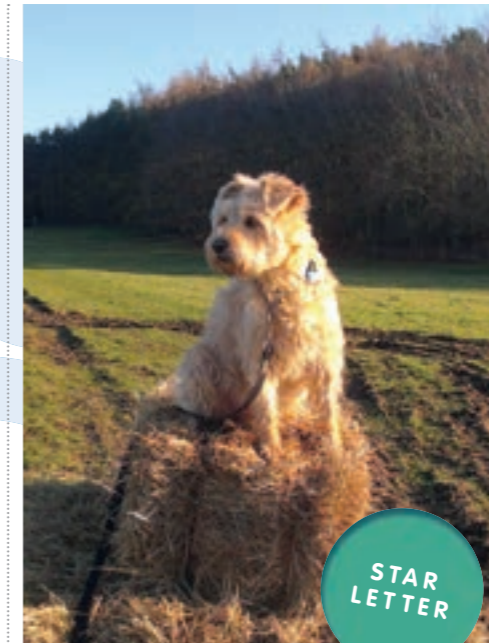
*We love to hear from you – please send us your news and pictures of your pets*

## HAPPY TIMES

Our dog Bicky Bix has sadly passed. When we got her, she was 10 years old. People are put off rehoming older pets due to increased vets bills and losing them quickly, but Bicky was 16.5 years old when she died and cost us less than all our other pets in terms of getting things fixed! I miss her very much and I hope to encourage other people to give older pets a chance!

*Emma Price*

**Ed’s note:** We are sad to hear about Bicky but hope your letter will encourage others to take a chance on an older pet. Thank you for giving her a loving home.



STAR LETTER

## Best Friend

I’m Teddy Hull. After being abandoned in 2010 I was rescued by Blue Cross and, within one week, adopted by my new mum who has just turned 90. My hobbies are playing in the garden, chasing the wind, meowing nicely for dinner and showering my family with love. I do hope you like my photo. I sat very still like a good boy especially for you.

*Teddy Hull*



## GOLDEN OLDIE

*This is Milo, a terrier cross that we adopted from Burford rehoming centre on 13 May 2005. Milo livened up our home from day one. He was initially nervous of the outside environment (cars, dogs, horses and the dark), however with patience and hardwork on both our sides, he soon became a more confident dog. He isn’t slowing down as he approaches 12 and is keeping us well exercised on his daily walks around the fields. Thank you to Blue Cross for our lovely dog.*

*Mary Dawson*



## Heart of gold

We got Clive from Bromsgrove Blue Cross almost four years ago. He has a heart of gold and his favourite trick is still running away with socks from the washing basket. A couple of years ago we moved to Norfolk and he has a growing fan base in the area. Best decision ever!

*Diane Westwood*

*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](mailto: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



**CAT'S SIGHT SAVED**

A stray kitten's eyesight has been saved thanks to a team effort from Blue Cross. Poor Baby was barely able to open her eyes, which were sore and crusty due to chronic cat flu. The abandoned youngster was given round the clock care and urgent medication.

Although her condition began to improve, she had developed a corneal ulcer in one eye, which caused scarring, meaning she was at risk of losing the vision in it altogether.

Thankfully, we had the equipment and expertise at our Victoria animal hospital to treat the condition. Baby was admitted for an operation known as a keratectomy – a procedure to peel the scar tissue off the delicate surface of the eye – and it proved to be a huge success. She went

on to make a speedy recovery and didn't waste any time in finding a new home.

Emily Holmes, Animal Welfare Assistant at our Lewknor rehoming centre, said: "Baby responded so well to the operation, and look at her now! She is such a playful and cheeky character, and her eye never put her off running around playing! It's such a great success story, and what's even better is that Baby has already packed her bags and gone to a new home."

*"We had the equipment and expertise at our Victoria animal hospital to treat Baby's condition"*



**BEETLEJUICE WINS HIS FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL**

*A lonely kitten found abandoned, cold and hungry in a cemetery has found a loving new home. Nicknamed Beetlejuice because of the state of his fur, he was discovered lying next to the body of his sibling, who had sadly succumbed to the cold night air. Our Hammersmith animal hospital team sprang into action to save the tiny puss.*

*Tracy Parnell, Veterinary Nurse said: "Beetlejuice was emaciated and his tiny body was suffering from the effects of being infested with fleas. His young skin was so thin and he had been fighting to keep going while struggling with anaemia caused by fleabites."*

*Our nurses treated his sore skin and hand-fed him to help get him strong again. Thanks to our round-the-clock care, Beetlejuice recovered, and our Suffolk rehoming centre found him a home.*

**BEETLEJUICE'S EMERGENCY APPEAL RAISED OVER £4,000! THANK YOU**



**NEWPORT DOORS NOW OPEN**

Hundreds of unwanted and abandoned pets in south Wales are set to enjoy happy lives after our Newport rehoming and advice unit opened its doors.

Dogs spend the day in the facility's comfortable 'home rooms', where they get one-on-one attention and care from the team of employees and volunteers and meet potential new owners. They spend the night in local boarding kennels.

As well as working closely with other local rescues to take in homeless pound dogs, we also run the Home Direct Scheme from the unit, which means we can help people in the local area find new homes for pets that need rehoming, without them having to come into the unfamiliar surroundings of kennels.

Our new unit was funded by a generous legacy left by Welsh animal lover Frances Mary Davies when she passed away in 2013 at the age of 93. Miss Davies was a supporter of Blue Cross for 25 years and kept many pets throughout her life that brought her great joy.

Miss Davies' legacy will help us care for 700 pets a year, and we are so grateful to her for thinking of us.

**VULNERABLE FOALS LEFT ALL ALONE**

Irresponsible and unscrupulous breeders may be dumping 'low value' foals as we're caring for an unprecedented number of abandoned youngsters. Foals are usually weaned from their mothers at around six to eight months of age, when they are capable of surviving on their own. Unfortunately this wasn't the case for Olympus, who was found dumped in a field with two other very young foals. Estimated to be no more than six-weeks-old, the little black and white colt was found clinging desperately to life when he was found. His two frail companions had sadly died. Jenna Martyn, Manager at our Burford centre said: "It's a miracle that Olympus managed to survive. We are concerned that the value of foals, particularly colts, is now so low that they are being dumped.

We are monitoring the situation." Thankfully, Olympus is now doing brilliantly in the hands of our expert horse team. We couldn't have taken him in without generous donations from our wonderful supporters. It costs significantly more for us to keep a foal than it does to keep an adult horse as they need a microchip, passport and vaccinations, which increase veterinary costs. They also require special foal feed and need more handling and care than an adult horse.



**Rescued rodents**

Fifteen gerbils were found dumped inside a black bin liner and left out with the trash. Brought to our Victoria animal hospital by their finder, we quickly set about giving them each a health check.

We discovered that five were female, and as they had been living with 10 males, put them on pregnancy watch immediately. All 15 were friendly folk and once we knew they were healthy, we began the search for loving homes.



**I'm feline good**

Feeling glum? It's well known that meditation can work wonders for our health. And, thanks to science, we now know that cat videos can reduce stress too. We've teamed up with mindfulness experts to create a 10-minute guided meditation video class using the soothing purrs of Blue Cross cats in need. "Owning a rescue cat can bring happiness and fulfilment to both owner and pet," said Laura Boyle, Manager at Torbay rehoming centre. **Find your inner calm at [bluecross.org.uk/karmakitties](http://bluecross.org.uk/karmakitties)**



## WHAT HAPPENED TO?

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

### Basil

Stray dog Basil was so nervous when he arrived at our Lewknor rehoming centre, but his confidence grew and grew as he put his trust in our caring team. Thanks to your support, Basil spent last Christmas in a home where he was loved. We think this was the first Christmas he ever enjoyed as part of a family.

LAST YEAR,  
YOUR SUPPORT  
ENABLED US TO  
HELP 42,981 SICK,  
INJURED AND  
HOMELESS PETS.  
THANK YOU



### Blossom

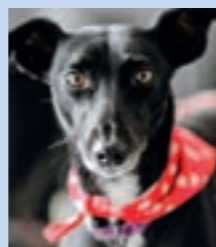
Abandoned, afraid and alone; Blossom's skin was red raw and she had no fur left on her body when she was found. We took her in, soothed her sores and got to work on building her confidence. Able to trust people again, Blossom has a new home where she is loved.

### Katie

Katie's owner was getting old, and she was finding it difficult to care for her beloved pet. She knew she had to be strong and make the difficult decision to rehome her. She turned to us for help and we found Katie a smashing new home.



### NERVOUS MAGGIE WINS HEARTS



Maggie was so unsure of human company that she avoided any kind of interaction. Although her background is unknown, we suspect that Maggie had never lived in a home or experienced human kindness before arriving at Blue Cross as a stray. Now, she jumps onto the sofa, nuzzles her new owner and then rolls over to ask for a tummy tickle. It's a sight that was unimaginable a year ago.

Rebecca White, Animal Welfare Assistant at Lewknor rehoming centre, said: "We were amazed to see how much her personality changed. She started to become interested in play and became a lot more confident."

Six months passed, and Maggie became the longest standing resident at Lewknor. She was constantly overlooked due to her anxiety issues. That was until Nicola and John Barone came along. Nicola says: "Maggie has brought us so much joy. We're so glad we took the chance on her."



## EMERGENCY SURGERY SAVES STAFFIE SEABASS

A horrific accident left Seabass's owner wondering whether his beloved dog would survive – let alone walk again – but he's back on his paws. The 10-year-old Staffordshire bull terrier was struck by a van and dragged along concrete for 20 metres as he sunbathed in front of his owner's cycle repair shop in an arts and retail complex in south London.

When the vehicle eventually stopped, Seabass emerged from beneath its wheels covered in cuts and with

his right hip dislocated. Owner Sam Lewin said: "When the accident happened the noise was horrific, I've never heard anything like it in my life and will never forget it. Seabass was just screaming out in pain."

When he arrived at our Victoria animal hospital, Seabass was in a bad way. Senior Vet, Seb Prior, explained: "The ligaments holding the hip into its socket are really tight so when it gets dislocated, they often tear." Our team decided on an operation where the ball joint at the

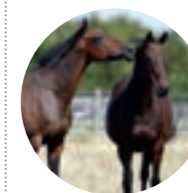
top of the thigh bone is removed and held in place by the muscles surrounding it. Seb explained: "The muscles surrounding the joint heal and scars form which results in a kind of false joint." The op went well and Seabass was home after 10 days in our care. "It's incredible, he has full movement of his leg. He's walking on it fine. We're so grateful that his leg could be saved, he wouldn't be walking without this treatment," said Sam, who is now fundraising for Blue Cross.



### Sister act

A pair of sister cats have taken on responsibility for co-parenting their litters together. Siblings Tallulah and Star arrived at our Southampton rehoming centre in Hampshire with 11 one-month-old kittens between them. They were found in a garage and we couldn't tell whose kitten was whose. All 11 youngsters are being brought up by their mum and aunt.

Lara Alford, Rehoming Centre Manager at Blue Cross Southampton, said: "Tallulah and Star are lovely cats and they are very relaxed about feeding and caring for any of the kittens. They are really close, so once all their kittens are old enough to be rehomed, we hope to find a home for Tallulah and Star where they can stay together."



### Pledge to help homeless horses

We're delighted that horse-feed specialist Dodson and Horrell has pledged to feed all our horses at our rehoming centres. We are totally reliant on public donations, and we're extremely grateful to Dodson and Horrell for their generous support, which will make a huge difference.



£250  
DOG-FRIENDLY  
TRAVEL  
VOUCHERS UP  
FOR GRABS

# WIN! A DOG FRIENDLY HOLIDAY

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

**N**ow 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!

And as a special treat to you, we're offering 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, 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)

**R Howell is the winner of the dog-friendly holiday voucher from PetsPyjamas in our autumn 2016 Pawprint competition. Congratulations!**

## HOW TO ENTER

Answer the following question for your chance to win:

**In our Pawprint news update on page 33, we told you how emergency surgery saved dog Seabass's leg, but how long was he in our care for...? (please tick)**

- one day
- five days
- 10 days

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

**Pawprint Competition,  
Blue Cross,  
7 Hugh Street,  
London  
SW1V 1QG**

**Strictly one entry per household**

Or, enter online at:  
[bluecross.org.uk/pawprint](http://bluecross.org.uk/pawprint)  
Closing date: **24 April 2017**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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. Please circle as appropriate if you are happy to be contacted by phone: **yes no**  
email: **yes no**

If you would like to hear more from PetsPyjamas, please tick this box

Photo by Neil Wood

# FIND US

Discover your nearest Blue Cross centre

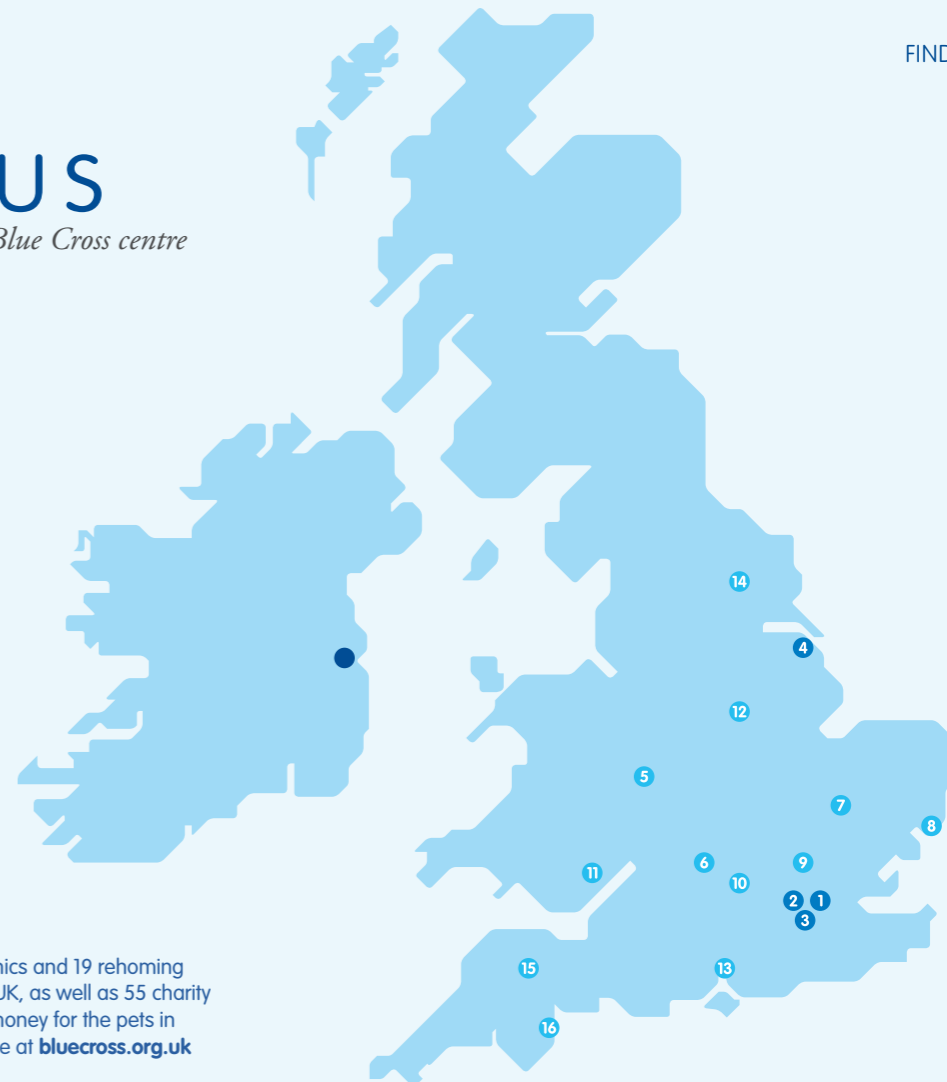
## BLUE CROSS ANIMAL HOSPITALS

- 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 Newport
- 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 [bluecross.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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.



**BLUE** FOR  
PETS  
**CROSS**

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

# “Remember me in your Will”

If pets have a place in your heart, please  
find a place for them in your Will.

A gift in your Will can help secure the  
future for thousands of pets.

Order your FREE information pack on making or  
amending a Will and leaving a gift to Blue Cross  
online at [bluecross.org.uk/gift-your-will](http://bluecross.org.uk/gift-your-will)

Or complete the coupon opposite and  
send to: **Freepost BLUE CROSS FOR PETS**

**Thank you for your continued support.**

Title:

First name:

Surname:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Alternatively, call or email us and quote room no: B117

**Telephone:** 0300 777 1757

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

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

