

# Blue Cross in World War Two

In World War Two (WW2) the efforts of 'Our Dumb Friends' League', later to become Blue Cross, were focussed on the home front although of course horses, pigeons, dogs and other animals were still very important in helping the war effort overseas.

## Panic

At the beginning of the war the government was very concerned about resources and food for humans. The government told people it may be better to have your pet 'destroyed' and if you gave food to a pet that was fit for a human then you could be sent to prison!

### How might you feel if that happened today?

It is estimated at the start of WW2 over 750,000 pets were put down.

## Kennels

We looked after the dogs of servicemen as they were away at war.

It was a dangerous business though and many of our centres suffered from bomb damage.

This sailor is being reunited with his dog.

### Can you describe how he may be feeling?



## Fostering, rehoming and veterinary care

During the war we did the things we still do today to help pets.

In 1945 we helped a record number of pets 208,437.

## Recognising bravery

Animals were really brave too during the war and we awarded Blue Cross medals to recognise this.

This dog is called La Cloche and he saved his owner, a French marine, from drowning.



## Fundraising

Our help was needed more than ever. This leaflet was used to raise money.

### Could you design a poster to raise money for Blue Cross?



## Rescue

Of course many pets needed rescuing after bombing raids and our volunteers were the last of the rescue services allowed on to bomb sites.

### Can you imagine how scary it was for pets as bombs were falling?

One dog was buried under rubble for six weeks surviving on drips of rainwater before being rescued!



## Stray cat problem

Many cats ran away during bombing raids and many people were evacuated away from the city and left their cats behind. There was a huge problem with the numbers of cats in need of help. We wanted the government to help by promoting the neutering of male cats to help reduce the numbers of kittens. We still ask the government to make things better for our pets.

### Can you think of a law that would help pets today?

### Wordsearch

#### Can you find:

Vet

Bravery

Rehome

Foster

Rescue

B	R	A	V	E	R	Y	X
H	I	E	U	L	F	E	R
F	T	F	S	U	N	A	E
O	R	E	H	C	P	K	T
V	H	V	B	X	U	G	S
U	R	E	H	O	M	E	O
B	E	T	G	S	A	C	F



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