



RSPCA Bristol and
District Branch
Registered Charity No. 205858



WINTER
2016

Newsletter

NEWS FROM BRISTOL DOGS AND CATS HOME AND RSPCA BRISTOL CLINIC

Support our Winter Warmer Appeal

PLUS

- Going the extra mile
- Catch up with Buddy, Stella and Star!
- Find out how you can make it onto our supporter wall of fame

...AND
HELP US KEEP
TOES TOASTY
AND TUMMIES
FULL THIS
WINTER!



HERE FOR BRISTOL'S ANIMALS IN NEED

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Welcome to our Winter Newsletter!



IF, LIKE ME, you are looking at too many grey skies and feeling the dip in temperatures then pop this date in your diary – Saturday 3rd December – when we'd love to see you at Kathy's Christmas Coffee Morning! This is a really fun event to support our animals during this season and will brighten any cloudy day.

If you can't be with us, why not support our Winter Warmer Appeal?! With shorter days and darker nights this time of year is always the hardest on our residents and it takes a lot of extra warmth and care from our dedicated team to help each animal through. Your donation to our Appeal will help make that crucial difference to keep our animals' spirits (as well as their weight) up during this difficult time. If you have one of our past residents at home helping with the Christmas preparations this year, we would love to hear your news of them and see any festive pictures! You can email them to info@rspca-bristol.org.uk or post them to 'Pet News' 48 Albert Road, St Philips, Bristol BS2 0XA. On behalf of all the animals and team here, thank you so much for all your support – we could not do this without you.

Warmest wishes,
Victoria Chester, CEO

Sign up to our e-newsletter via our website to receive regular news and stories, and to hear about our upcoming events!
www.rspca-bristol.org.uk

Happy ever after tails!

CATCH UP with some of our special rescues.

BUDDY The Jowett Family adopted Buddy back in July of this year, we caught up with them to see how Buddy has been getting on. "Buddy is doing just great! He is very happy these days, and he has been putting on weight, and he is ever so good. It's like he's always been part of our family".



Buddy

ZILLA The awesome Zilla found his perfect forever home with new owner Mrs Clover, who said that Zilla has settled in really well and is enjoying his new vivarium and family life.



Zilla

STELLA The gorgeous Stella left us for her new life with devoted owner Mr Hulme. Stella was one of our slightly longer staying residents... But as we always say, these things happen for a reason as she met her perfect match with her new family. The Hulme family had this to say "Stella has settled in wonderfully. She has a beautiful temperament and is so relaxed around everyone, including other dogs in the park. She loves her walks in Leigh Woods and Blaise, bouncing through the trees like Tigger. She has become one of the family and we all love her very much". Tom, Maria, Ellie, Lili, Martha & Jude Hulme



Stella and the Hulme family

We have lots of loving pets all looking for their loving new homes – please visit our website if you are interested in adopting: www.rspca-bristol.org.uk or pop in to see us.

UPDATE ON ANIMALS IN OUR SPRING EDITION



Star

We are pleased as punch to also let you know that our very own little Star found her perfect forever home at last – along with fellow longer stay residents Panda, Buster, Smokey, Ruby and Daisy Duke – all in October (a very busy month at the Home).



Rescued heron

So far this year we have rescued and rehomed 510 dogs, cats, small animals and reptiles in need! We have also reunited 333 lost pets with their owners and our pawesome team of specially trained vets and nurses have carried out over 12,000 procedures and operations to help care for and save the lives of Bristol's animals in need.



Sam and puppy

Help us give Little Ronnie and all the other pets in our care a happy, healthy and warm winter.



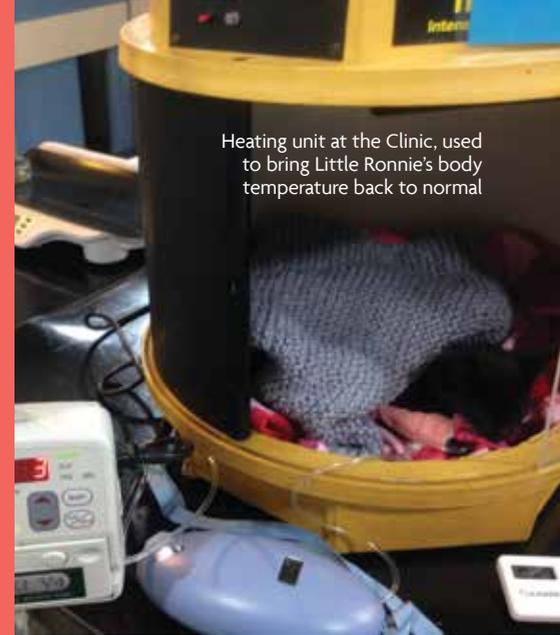
Help us keep toes toasty this winter

Winter Warmer Appeal

This winter show your support for the pets in our care by supporting our Winter Warmer Appeal

AS THE NIGHTS DRAW IN and the temperature plummets, we batten down the hatches and stock up our food stores to ensure we keep all toes toasty and all tummies full for the duration of the colder season.

Colder weather means extra food and extra fuel to keep everyone happy, safe and warm. Our medical bills also soar as pets are more vulnerable to illnesses in the colder months, especially those that have been abandoned and who are too old, too young or too weak to fend



Heating unit at the Clinic, used to bring Little Ronnie's body temperature back to normal

for themselves. Animals such as 'Little Ronnie' (pictured left) who was found after being abandoned and in desperate need of lifesaving heat therapy. Our washers and dryers are also on a permanent spin as we try to keep up with the extra demand for clean and dry bedding!

YOU CAN HELP US KEEP ALL OUR FURRIES NICE AND WARM IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

It couldn't be easier to make a donation towards our Winter Warmer Appeal. You can donate in the following ways:

Online: Visit our website to make a secure online donation, please ensure you leave a comment to say you are donating to the Winter Warmer Appeal in the comments box, or you can donate securely via JustGiving by visiting our page: campaign.justgiving.com/charity/bristoltdogs/winterwarmer2016

By phone: Call our fundraising team on 0117 300 3968 to make a donation over the phone by credit or debit card

By post: You can send a cheque (made payable to 'Bristol Dogs and

Cats Home') to us at: 'WWA', RSPCA Bristol Branch Office, 48 Albert Road, St Philips, Bristol, BS2 0XA
By text message: Text: 'COSY16 £5' to 70070 (or you can amend the amount you wish to

donate, e.g. 'Cosy16' followed by £1, £2, £3, £4, £5 or £10 to 70070) to make a donation via your mobile phone. Follow the text prompts if you are a UK Tax Payer and wish to Gift Aid your donation

In Person: You may also make a donation in person. Please ask for one of our donation forms at reception, (available at Bristol Dogs and Cats Home, our RSPCA Bristol Clinic and at our Branch office), and hand your completed donation form and your donation to a member of our reception team.



'Warm Hands' used at the Clinic to help keep patients snug!

Here are just some of the things your donation will help to pay for:



FOOD STORE

We ensure every tummy is kept full and have healthy and nutritious meal plans tailored to suit each individual pet in our care. With your donation we can buy twice as much food from our wholesalers – ensuring your money goes so much further for the pets in our care this winter.



LAUNDRY ROOM

Our staff and volunteer laundry assistants are kept especially busy in the wetter colder months, ensuring that every dog and cat has the clean and dry bedding needed to keep them snug as bugs in rugs. This means higher utility bills and lots more washing detergent!



HEAT

Extra heating is required to ensure the wellbeing of our older, younger and poorly residents – and of course the other residents, whether cat, dog or small animal, all appreciate a snug bedroom to cuddle up in after long winter's day. Heating is also essential for our RSPCA Bristol Clinic, it is vital to saving the lives and ensuring the safe recovery for many of the patients they care for each day.

DO IT TOGETHER! If your school, workplace or club would like to get involved by raising funds for the Winter Warmer Appeal or by hosting a collection box, please contact us on 0117 300 3968 or e-mail fundraising@rspca-bristol.org.uk

You can find out more about our **Winter Warmer Appeal** online: www.rspca-bristol.org.uk

Providing a Safe Haven this winter

OVER WINTER, there is nothing we like to do more than come home and get inside and out of the cold. It is prime time to make things snug. Cosy blankets, roaring fires, hearty meals and hot chocolate can really make the difference to cheering us up on what might otherwise be a grey and dismal day.

We want the animals in our care to have an equally warm and inviting home until we find them their forever family. This is why winter is a great time to sign up to our Safe Haven scheme which allows you to sponsor one of our dog kennels, cat pens or small animal units through monthly donations.

Sponsoring an animal's unit allows you to support all the animals who pass through our centre every year and make sure their home is as

welcoming as yours is on a cold winters evening. With your help, we can provide pets with a safe and comfortable environment that will cheer them up throughout the winter and beyond.

We will recognise your generosity by displaying your name on a plaque at the Dogs and Cats Home in pride of place on our mural. We will also send you a Safe Haven certificate, car sticker and invitations to open days and events.



If you're stuck for a Christmas present for a fellow animal lover, why not set up a Safe Haven sponsorship on their behalf. We can put their name on the plaque and certificate to make a unique gift that will last longer than another pair of socks! This Christmas we are also offering you a choice of an adorable cuddly dog, rabbit or cat toy when you set up a Safe Haven sponsorship of £5 or more per month, as a gesture of our thanks. A present

that helps our animals is surely the perfect gift for that person who has everything!

FREE GIFT
 Every new member who sets up a sponsorship with a £5 a month (or more) donation can choose a free gift from our gorgeously cute collection of Living Nature toys!




Help provide a Safe Haven for dogs like Tiny



YES, I'D LIKE TO BECOME A SAFE HAVEN SPONSOR

For me As a gift

Title First name Surname

Address

Postcode

Telephone no (optional*)

Email address (optional*)

*We'd love to keep in touch with you. Any telephone number or email provided is not essential for processing your Safe Haven donation, but we would love to keep you up to date with our news, information and activities. RSPCA Bristol Branch and Bristol Dogs and Cats Home will not pass your details on to anyone else. If you agree to be contacted in the following ways please tick the relevant box(s): Post Email Telephone

If you are making a gift of your sponsorship please fill in your recipient's details below:

Title First name Surname

Address

Postcode

We will use the information you provide about your friend for no other purpose other than to send them their Safe Haven gift pack.

Details of sponsorship:

What would you like to sponsor? Dog kennel Cat pen Small animal unit

How much a month would you like to sponsor? £5 £10 Other £ per month

If you are sponsoring in memory of a pet please write their name and a short message below:

Please complete in block capitals:

Name of bank Address of bank

Postcode Name of account holder(s)

Your account no Your sort code - -

Please pay: Bristol Dogs and Cats Home the amount of £ monthly starting on (date) _____

(NB please use date at least one month later than today's date) and each month thereafter until further notice.

Signature Date

Bank use only

Please pay: Bristol Dogs and Cats Home, Barclays Bank, Account Number 30199559, Sort code 201342. Please quote our ref: SHNEWSL

Gift Aid it Gift Aid allows us to reclaim the tax that you have paid on your donation, at no extra cost to you.

Currently this is 25p for every pound you donate

I want to Gift Aid my donation, and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years, to Bristol Dogs and Cats Home.

giftaid it

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature Date

If your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax or capital gains tax, you can cancel your declaration by notifying the Branch Office: 0117 300 3968

If you are giving us a gift of £5 or more a month, please tick the box below to let us know which Living Nature plush toy you would like – as a little thank you from us to you! (If you are sponsoring a safe haven as a gift, your lucky recipient will receive this toy with their gift pack). Cat Dog Rabbit *One free gift per sponsorship

Please send this form to: RSPCA Bristol Branch Office, 48 Albert Road, St Philips, Bristol, BS2 0XA

Please do not send this form to your bank, we will send it on to them once we have completed our administration. To cancel your standing order please contact us and your bank.

WE'VE GOT THE LOVE TO SEE THEM THROUGH

LOOKING AFTER the animals in our care is more than just providing food, shelter and walks; they need love.

Our Animal Care Assistants and Behaviourists know all about going the extra mile for the animals in our care. These hardworking members of our team know every animal as an individual – their likes and dislikes, their health and happiness levels, and where they like to be tickled! Here are just some examples of the countless things that they do for our furry friends:

Boredom Busting snacks – every dog gets something extra at lunchtime to stimulate and reward them. This might be a long

lasting chew, a stuffed Kong, a food puzzle, or even a handmade frozen treat. Our ACAs pay close attention to which treat each dog enjoys the most to make sure that they all get their favourite!

The same goes with **bedding** – some dogs like to curl up in a plastic bed and blankets, while others like a big duvet to spread out on! Personal preferences are so important to make sure everyone gets a good night's sleep!

We all like to be made to feel at home and that is definitely the case for any puppies we have in our care. As well as **basic obedience** and **socialisation** training, our Animal Behaviourists set up **multi-sensory home style environments** to introduce the puppies to the different textures,



objects, and noises that they might come across in a family home so that they have get the best chance of settling in with a forever family.

Speaking of home comforts, **story time** is not something that you might expect in a Dogs Home. However, our behaviourists make sure that our animals turn out as cultured beings! They scour Bristol's charity shops for audio books, listen to them to check that they don't have any scary parts, and then play them to the dogs as they have been proven to have a calming influence on their behaviour!

It's not just dogs and cats that need to be made to feel at home. Weird and wonderful environments are equally important. When some more unusual animals appear in the home, the team research what they like so we can simulate accommodation as close to what they would naturally experience in the wild. For example, the degus enjoy **foraging** and taking **dust baths** so our ACAs work hard to give them ample resources for all their exploring needs!

Please join us in saying a huge thank you to our team for their unfaltering dedication to the animals in our care. The love they show the animals each and every makes all the difference to their happiness.



EXCELLENT EXOTICS

Kennel Supervisor Joe looks after our exotics room, in which we recently housed an iguana, who has now been successfully adopted. He was recently inspected by the National RSPCA Team who commended his work and especially the fact that we are one of the first animal centre branches in the Society to take note of the plight of exotic animals. Well done Joe!



Multi-cat Households: Keeping the Peace

MULTI-CAT HOUSEHOLDS ARE ON THE RISE IN THE UK, and as an organisation that rescues and rehomes cats, you might think we would encourage people to have lots of cats, but in fact this isn't the case. In recent years, increased knowledge about cat social behaviour is leading us to understand that multi-cat households can cause welfare problems if not carefully managed.

That's not to say that several cats can't live happily together, but it's a delicate balance. This article explains why and gives tips to help owners to create a more harmonious home for their resident felines.

Why problems can arise

Cat social behaviour differs greatly from that of people and dogs. Just like their solitary living ancestors, many cats today are happiest living on their own. Sometimes, when there are lots of resources like food and space available, cats may choose to form a social group, but there is unfortunately no guarantee that this will happen when you put unrelated cats together. Cats that do bond are friendly with each other, but in contrast are aggressive towards or go to great lengths to avoid individuals they don't like.

It's therefore understandable that cats which live in a confined domestic environment can experience stress and anxiety from living with cats they are not sociable with, although this may be difficult to recognise unless it leads to health problems such as lower urinary tract



disease or behavioural disorders like over-grooming or house soiling.

How to get it right

The key to keeping the peace in a multi-cat household is to make sure there are enough resources and space for everyone. If each cat feels they have choices in terms of where to eat, sleep, toilet and play, life will be much happier. Here are some tips to keep feline stress levels to a minimum:

- **Feeding** Don't ask cats to share one community feeding area, as this can lead to stress if one cat bullies another at tea-time. Ideally there should be one food bowl per cat and each cat's feeding area may need to be in a separate part of the house. You also need to provide plenty of water bowls.
- **Litter trays** The general rule for litter trays is one per cat, plus one extra. You can have covered litter trays and open litter trays, with a variety of different substances available. Remember to put litter trays in quiet areas but make sure that they are easily accessible. The idea behind spreading food bowls, water



bowls and litter trays around the house is to stop one cat having control over a resource that all cats need access to, otherwise cats may feel constantly anxious about passing another cat in order to feed or toilet.

- **Scratching posts** Marking is one of the functions of scratching and some cats may not want to share a scratching post. Each cat will have a preference when it comes to where, when or how they scratch, for instance some prefer horizontal scratching and some vertical scratching. Provide multiple scratching posts of different types around the house.
- **Resting places** Is there one chair in your home that has become the favourite and causes bickering over who gets to sleep in it? Providing a variety of resting and hiding places around the house can give each cat their own quiet place. It needn't be costly – you could use cardboard boxes and line them with fleecy blankets. Cats seek high up areas when they feel anxious, so make sure these resting areas are all at different heights.
- **Cat flaps** Most people only have one entrance to the property for the cats, often via a cat flap. Unfortunately this gives one cat the ability to guard the cat flap and bully other cats. If possible, install multiple

cat flaps and let cats in/out manually too.

- **Your time** Most cats find it important to spend time with their owners and you should try to have play and cuddle time with each cat you own. Some cats attention-seek which pushes other cats out of the picture, so you may have to separate the cats in order to spend quality time with each individual. You should provide a mixture of toys and make toys exciting and novel by rotating them on a daily basis.
- **Introductions** The way cats are introduced to each other can make a difference to how comfortably they can live together. If you just put cats in together to work it out you will set them up for failure. Introductions must be gradual – it could take a week or several months and it is important to be aware that even with careful introductions some cats may never adapt to group living..

Owning a cat is such a pleasure, it's easy to understand why people want to keep multiples, but it's important to consider whether you can meet all their welfare needs before filling your house with furry friends.

Dr Mandy Stone

Looking for their perfect home!

THESE LOVEABLE PETS have all been looking for their forever home for far too long. Help them get a cosy warm home to call their own this winter! Friends, family and workmates might just be looking for their furry best friend – so be sure to spread the word about these beauties in our care!



MIA

MIA was rescued after being abandoned by her previous owner. Despite this she has blossomed into a beautiful, affectionate dog whilst in our care and always aims to please! Mia has good basic obedience and has started learning tricks which she enjoys. She would like a home as the only pet, with older children, and would benefit from an experienced home where her adopters are happy to continue the training and dog socialisation which she has started here with us.



YOGI

Poor YOGI ended up at the Home as his owner no longer had the time for him. As an older boy he is finding life quite stressful in the kennels and really wants a home to call his own again. Yogi has learnt to trust his carers and plays with toys and really enjoys long walks getting out and about. Yogi is looking for a quiet home where he will get all the home comforts he is missing and would love for someone to be able to keep him company and vice versa.



TILLY

TILLY is a playful and friendly dog who is finding kennel life hard. She is looking for an active but patient home with someone who is able to provide a consistent daily routine. She also needs help with building her confidence and further training. Tilly is a beautiful girl who needs to be the only pet and in an adult only home.

BEAUTIFUL BUNNIES

A few months ago we took in 15 baby bunnies in one single day! Each bunny needed special TLC and support to ensure they grew into happy healthy bunnies, we are pleased to say that all of our animal carer's hard work and loving care has paid off, and we are now looking for some superduper rabbit mums and dads to come forward – all of these rabbits need to be homed in pairs, as they love company. For further details please contact our rehoming team on 0117 9776043 or pop in and see us!

Have a look at our website: www.rspca-bristol.org.uk/rehoming to see more dogs, cats and small animals all awaiting their new family. You can also call our friendly reception team at Bristol Dogs and Cats Home for further details, or come and see us Tuesday – Sunday from 10am till 12 noon, and from 2pm till 4pm (please note we are closed on Mondays).

TAILS OF SUPPORT

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL for all the work that our amazing supporters do for us and we always love hearing about the fun and creative ways that they fundraise! Thank you for all your generosity – we couldn't care for Bristol's animals in need without you! We'd love to be able to publicly thank everyone who has helped us so far in 2016 – but we'd never have enough room on this page! Here are just a few of our fabulous fundraisers:

Massive thank you to the pupils and staff at St. Stephen's Junior School who held not one, but two non-uniform, or 'wooftie days' for us this year raising a brilliant £457.75!

Happy Birthday to you! David Fry asked for donations rather than presents to celebrate his 80th and raised a fantastic £350, and Sandra Bezzant collected an incredible £349.10 in donations at her party! Thank you to Sandra, David and all their generous friends!

Thank you to Jasmine Green who sold lemonade and popcorn as treats for her classmates at school and raised a tasty £47.45 for us!

Fundraising in your sleep! A luxury night's stay at a Hilton Hotel was up for grabs when Doubletree by Hilton raised a fantastic £369 for us in a raffle!

Isabel Hardman held a cake stall and raised an amazing £171.35. They must have been delicious cakes – thank you Isabel!

Big thank you to Ros Durrant who collected a wonderful £235 from a sponsored walk around Blaise Castle.



Can you see me?!

Thank you to our team of skydivers who faced their fears and jumped from a great height, to raise a massive £5099.50! We very much appreciate your brave feats!

We are incredibly grateful to Bradley Stoke Town council who donated a whopping £3637.65 raised from their carnival and fireworks night. Hope you had a wonderful evening!

Thank you to Debbie Hunt who organised a collection at her local co-op store during national RSPCA week which raised a brilliant £81.38.

Thank you as always to our hugely dedicated Volunteer Group who so far this year have raised £5,699.43 by hosting the bi-monthly coffee mornings, making and selling pet beds – as well as attending events across the Bristol area.

And last but by no means least – a super huge thank you to Natasha Lees, and her helpers, for the amazing Grand Ball that she hosted, raising a pretty pawesome £1937.48 for the animals in our care.

We had a fabulous night, and enjoyed dancing the night away all in the name of animals in need!



If you fancy taking on the challenge of a running event, nominating us as your charity of the year, holding a cake sale, selling arts or crafts, or even funding a specific project to help the animals in our care, then please do get in touch with our fundraising team – they'd love to hear from you! Call us on 0117 300 3968, email fundraising@rspca-bristol.org.uk or visit our website for further details and ideas to get you started.

Our events

KATHY'S CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

A Christmas twist on the bi-monthly coffee morning & sale at Bristol Dogs and Cats Home. With books, tombola, hand-made cards, home-made cakes, bric-a-brac,

affle & refreshments, why not pop along!

**Saturday 3rd December
10am – 12 noon
Free entry!**

2017!

2017 marks our 130th Anniversary! That's right, we have been here for the abandoned,

unwanted and mistreated pets of Bristol and the surrounding years for an incredible 130 years in 2017. Be sure to keep an eye on our events calendar and newsfeed available at www.rspca-bristol.org.uk to keep up to date with all the fun events, informative

displays and super-duper challenges we will be putting on to mark this very special mile stone in our history.



Please support Bristol Dogs and Cats Home's

WINTER WARMER

APPEAL

Help us keep toes toasty and
tummies full this winter!



Bristol and District Branch
Registered charity number 200889

We are always grateful for **monetary donations** as we can receive wholesale discounts, making your money go further.

Text **COSY16 £5** or another amount to **70070**

or visit www.justgiving.com/bristoldogs
and click on the Winter Warmer Appeal page

If you wish to donate **dog or cat food**,
we gratefully ask that donations are restricted to:

DOGS:

**Pedigree, Butchers,
Chappie, Winalot,
Cesar** or branded
'complete' dry foods.

CATS:

Felix or **Whiskas** in Jelly.



THANK YOU!

Bristol Dogs & Cats Home, 48 Albert Road, St Philips, Bristol, BS2 0XA

Tel: 0117 9714197 www.rspca-bristol.org.uk