

blueprint



**HAPPY
EVER AFTER
FAIRYTALE FINISH
FOR TINKERBELL**

**PAWS FOR TEA
BAKE A CAKE FOR PETS**

**BIGGER AND BETTER
BROMSGROVE CENTRE
REVAMP WILL HELP
MORE PETS**



**Friday
15 May**



**...to help sick,
injured and homeless pets**

**For a free Tea Party host pack,
call 08444 993 663 or visit
www.bluecross.org.uk/teaparty**



See this year's mascots on page 24

welcome

Welcome to the Spring 2015 edition of Blueprint. This year promises to be a great one for Blue Cross! You might remember that last issue we told you about our brilliant plans for a brand new rehoming centre in Suffolk. I'm delighted to announce that we've now broken ground! Plus, we're thrilled to tell you that refurbishment of our Bromsgrove centre is now in full swing. When these centres are finished, we'll be able to help twice as many pets in both areas. You can read all about these exciting projects on pages four and 14.

With ever more animals being abandoned we do face some challenges but our teams are always on hand to help. I've caught up with people from all across Blue Cross to find out how we're helping horses through tough times, and how we

cope when helpless young kittens come into our care.

Our Blue Cross Tea Party returns again this May and we want to make it the best ever.

Turn to page 24 to discover why we'd love you get involved.

It's been a pleasure to catch up with lots of pets who we've been able to give a happier and healthier future to thanks to your support. I hope you enjoy reading about them

Happy reading,
Rachael Millar

Editor



REGULARS

4 NEWS

Read the latest news from across Blue Cross.

8 HAPPY ENDING

A fairytale ending for Tinkerbell.

12 HOMES WANTED

Could you give a Blue Cross pet a happy home?



EDITORIAL

Editor Rachael Millar

Production Cat Prior-Holt

Print The Production Hub

Photo library Tracey Cooper

Design Laura Somers, Karen Hedges

Photographers Martin Phelps, Steve Bardens, Anthea Bevan, Stuart Wilde, SWNS, Peter Dewhirst, Bronte McConnell, Ian Kendell / A Dog's Life Photography, Stephie Millin, Aurélie Cassin

FEATURES

10 A PERFECT STORM

Hope for horses amid a worsening crisis.

13 WHATEVER HAPPENED TO..?

We catch up with some pets from the past.

14 THE FUTURE'S BRIGHT FOR BROMSGROVE

Rehoming centre refurbishment well under way.

16 SPRING IN THEIR STEP

Springtime advice from Petplan.

17 MEDAL OF HONOUR

Blue Cross Medal awarded to pet hero.

18 SUN COMES OUT FOR ANNIE

Orphaned staffie finds a home for life.

20 ALWAYS THERE IN A KITTEN CRISIS

Round the clock care for unwanted kittens.

21 IF YOU'RE FOR PETS, WE'RE FOR YOU

There's a volunteer role for everyone.

24 PAWS FOR TEA

Put the kettle on for pets in need.

OVER TO YOU

23 PET POST

Your letters.

25 GET INVOLVED

Find out what's happening at Blue Cross near you.

26 COMPETITION

Win stunning Pawprint jewellery.



Our vision: every pet will enjoy a healthy life in a happy home. **Our mission:** we find happy homes for abandoned or unwanted pets, and we keep pets healthy by promoting welfare and providing treatment.

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

No part of *Blueprint* may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means, either wholly or in part, without prior written permission from Blue Cross.

Blueprint is printed by The Production Hub, on Galerie PEFC-certified paper, meaning they come from well-managed forests.

EA-7546-1014

your news update

Rehoming successes and fantastic fundraising activity from our centres, teams and supporters across the UK and abroad



SAY HELLO TO SALLY

We're delighted to welcome our new Chief Executive Sally de la Bedoyere to Blue Cross.

Zair Berry, Blue Cross Chairman, said: "I believe that she is just the right person to steer Blue Cross to help more pets."

Sally joined the charity sector in 2010 after a 25 year career in media, marketing and communications.

She added: "I feel enormously privileged to have been offered the opportunity to be Chief Executive of Blue Cross. It is a fantastic charity with a legacy of helping to improve the health and happiness of thousands of pets for well over a century."

Sally lives in Surrey with her family, which includes two dogs, two cats, three ducks and three rescue chickens.

WALKIES DOWN THE AISLE

Arthur the akita cross was the guest of honour at his owners' wedding after the happy couple rehomed him.

The former stray joined Gina and Nathan Ford on their special day a year after they adopted him from our Lewknor rehoming centre in Oxfordshire.

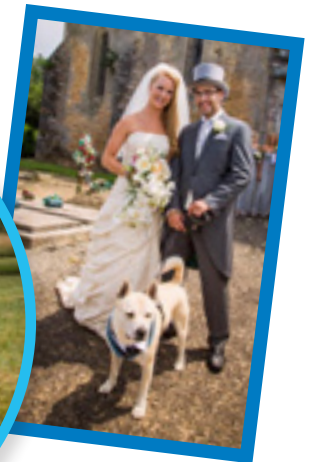
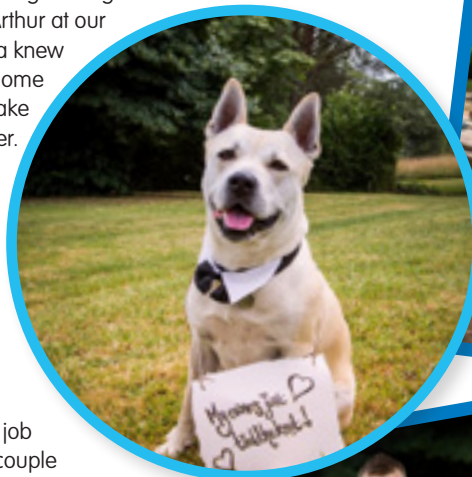
In our care for over 70 days, Arthur was our Lewknor centre's longest staying dog, but good things come to those who wait. The young couple had longed for a dog for a while but had waited to begin their search for the

perfect pet until the timing was right. As soon as she met Arthur at our rehoming centre, Gina knew she had to take him home – and Nathan didn't take much convincing either.

Gina said: "He is a gorgeous dog, very handsome and a bit unusual. He has a brilliant temperament and is very affectionate but also quite independent."

Arthur was trusted with the all-important job of ring bearer as the couple wed in France last summer, and he performed the task brilliantly.

Gina explained: "We put our rings in a little bag and attached it to his bow tie and our best man walked him down the aisle. He did really well, we were really proud of him."



TOP, LEFT AND BOTTOM: Arthur celebrates as his happy owners, Gina and Nathan Ford, tie the knot



VISIT US AT PETS AT HOME

We declare our first rehoming and advice unit inside a Pets at Home store officially open!

Animal lovers visiting the Swindon branch in Wiltshire will now be able to speak to Blue Cross experts for information on rehoming, pet care, and how to get involved with supporting the charity.

Blue Cross Chief Executive Sally de la Bedoyere said: "Thousands of loving and devoted pet owners shop for food, buy toys and treats and visit the vets at Pets at Home in Swindon every day."

This new venture will raise

awareness of rehoming and spread messages of responsible ownership, as well as raising funds for the pets in our care. Designed as a 'one stop shop' for pet tips, the new unit features a children's area, an interactive rehoming bar where people can browse details of our pets needing homes, and a consultation area for pet owners to discuss rehoming and pet care.

Homeless dogs being cared for at our Burford rehoming centre will visit the shop on a daily basis too, giving them welcome 'time out' from kennels and inspiring potential owners to take



"Pop in to our new Swindon hub and say hello – we'd love to see you."

a chance on rehoming one of our lovely pets. We'd like to say a huge thank you to Pets at Home and its charity, Support Adoption For Pets, for helping us as we find new and exciting ways to promote rehoming.

DERBY CLINIC OFFICIALLY OPEN

Blue Cross is thrilled to announce that our new consulting room at our Derby pet care clinic is now helping needy pets.

Thanks to a new partnership with The Scarsdale Veterinary Group at The Pride Veterinary Centre, we are now able to treat poorly pets in Derby for the first time. Our clinic aims to help over a thousand pets in need in the area each year.

To register, pet owners must live within the clinic's catchment area and bring proof of benefits to their appointments.

Kerstin Alford, Blue Cross Director of Service Delivery said: "We are delighted to have already provided charitable vet treatment for around 600 pets and we hope to see many more come through the doors of the new clinic."

RIGHT: Blue Cross and Pride Veterinary Centre vets celebrate the official opening



Find out more about the Blue Cross Derby pet care clinic by contacting Pride Veterinary Centre on 0300 777 1870.

BRAND NEW SUFFOLK CENTRE BREAKS GROUND



We're one step closer to opening the doors of our brand new rehoming centre in Suffolk after breaking ground on the £3million project. Our Felixstowe rehoming centre currently cares for around 400 pets every year, but as revealed in the Autumn 2014 edition of Blueprint, our new, purpose-built centre will enable us to double the number of pets we can help in the area when it replaces our outdated Felixstowe site. It's an ambitious project but an important one. We've been caring for pets in the area since the 1950s, but more animals than ever need us now.

Once complete, the new centre will include dedicated puppy and kitten areas, on-site veterinary facilities, and dedicated exercise areas for dogs to stretch their

legs, including 20 acres of neighbouring woodland for us to use.

Andrew Gillon, Centre Manager of Blue Cross Suffolk says: "Our phenomenal new facilities will allow us to reach the area's most needy pets and help even more animals find loving families, but we're still looking for donations to help fund the project. If anyone can help we'd love to hear from them."

Our fundraising campaign to raise money to build the new centre is now in full swing, and it's not too late to get involved. Keep up to date on our progress and find out how to donate at www.bluecross.org.uk/suffolkcentre or call our Supporter Care Team on **0300 790 9903**.

SPACE OF THEIR OWN FOR CAR PARK BUNNIES

Two rabbits who faced an uncertain future after being dumped in a supermarket car park have found happy new homes.

Adorable bunnies Skye and Bonnie were abandoned in two cardboard boxes, each with a carrot inside, in a Tesco car park in Surrey.

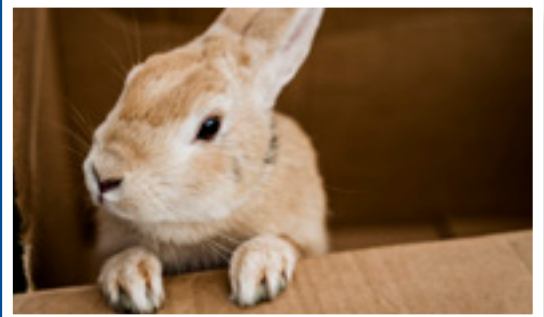
When a quick-thinking member of the public brought them to the Blue Cross Merton animal hospital in London, our vet team gave them a health check straight away.

Deputy Nurse Manager, Emmeline Macedo, said: "The people who found them tried to put them together in the same box, but they started fighting, so they were separated. We think it is likely

that they were put together as babies and then started fighting as they got older. Fighting is less likely to occur if rabbits are neutered when they are young but the best pair is a neutered male and female."

Although siblings and baby rabbits of the same sex will get on well when they are young, they are likely to squabble and fight as they mature. Neutering will help prevent this.

Once Skye and Bonnie had been neutered and microchipped and were ready to leave the animal hospital, we took them to our Burford rehoming centre. Both rabbits have now begun their new lives with their new families and their neutered bunny companions.



CALLING ALL HORSE OWNERS

We're sniffing out the health of horses

Have you registered for this year's National Equine Health Survey (NEHS) yet?

If you own a horse, pony, donkey or mule please help us to make it the most successful yet. NEHS aims to spot trends so that we can see the main problems affecting our equine friends, like lameness, obesity and respiratory conditions, in an effort to prevent them in future years. It's the only survey of its kind, and we want it to truly represent British horses and ponies - we can only do that with your help.

This year NEHS will run from 18-25 May but you can register any time at:

www.bluecross.org.uk/nehs

If you'd like to help us promote NEHS, please email us at NEHS@bluecross.org.uk



ONLINE PET SALES MONITORING PILOT SCHEME A SUCCESS

Over 100,000 inappropriate, misleading and illegal adverts have been removed from the UK's biggest classified advertising websites in the past six months, thanks to a hugely successful pilot scheme.

A puppy offered as a swap for a mobile phone and a cat in desperate need of veterinary treatment are just two of the adverts that were taken down after Blue Cross volunteers trawled websites and reported ads if they didn't comply with agreed Minimum Standards.

The Minimum Standards were introduced in 2013 to improve welfare and to protect people from the risk of ending up with sick, dangerous or even illegal animals. They are endorsed by Defra and supported by the Scottish Government.

The scheme was run in partnership with a number of other animal welfare organisations as part of the Pet Advertising Advisory Group (PAAG).

The huge number of adverts removed in the pilot study shows the level of commitment from the websites that have signed up to the standards, and that a positive difference can be made to the welfare of pets and protection of pet owners when PAAG and websites work together.

Unfortunately, despite the fantastic efforts of a number of the biggest UK websites, thousands of other websites continue to accept unscrupulous adverts. We're now calling on the public to join the fight against bad adverts and to report the advert to the website if you see anything suspicious.

Find out more at www.paag.org.uk

Blueprint competition winners

Congratulations to the winners of our Autumn 2014 Blueprint competition to win a KONG toy for their pet. For a chance to win beautiful Pawprint jewellery turn to page 26!

The winners are: **Mrs J Bevan, D Bowden, Mrs K Burke, J Burkett, S Crowe, Mrs B Fulton, Miss J Hall, JR Harrod, J Oldfield, F Patterson, M Potter, Miss L Rowland, R Taberham, Mrs P Watson, Ms L Westwood, C Woodward, and M Woodward.**

ABOVE: Dudley was given up after being bought online. His owners had only had him one day.



Tinkerbelle is just one of thousands of unwanted pets that we take in every year and find happy new homes for thanks to your amazing support.

ABOVE: Tinkerbelle was in a real state when she was picked up by the dog warden.

LEFT: Now happy and healthy Tinkerbelle loves her new home.

Welfare Assistant, says: "What initially would have started off as an infection that could have been easily treated was simply left to get worse.

"The surgery means that Tinkerbelle is now deaf on one side and she also almost lost the hearing in her right ear too, but fortunately our vets were able to treat it before it got too bad."

Once she had recovered from her operation at our Victoria animal hospital, Tinkerbelle was taken to our Lewknor rehoming centre to find a new family.

Lisa adds: "When she arrived, her fur was still long and she was in need of a good groom, which we gave her straightaway and she looked much better afterwards.

"She settled in really well, and has shown herself to be a gentle natured girl who is very friendly and affectionate."

NEW BEGINNINGS

It wasn't long before Tinkerbelle found a loving forever home with new owners Lynn and Keith Reveley. The recently-retired couple had wanted a dog for a long time but work and travel had always got in the way before. Now the time was right.

Keith had spotted an advert for Blue Cross pets needing new homes in a newspaper and had taken a shine to a Lurcher featured.

He clicked on to the charity's website to find out more, but as he scrolled down the page to find the dog he liked the look of, another dog caught his eye. She was a scruffy-looking thing and exactly the type of pet Keith and Lynn were looking for.

HAPPY EVER AFTER

If you believe in fairytale endings, clap your hands for Tinkerbelle

When teeny Tinkerbelle first arrived at Blue Cross she was in a very sorry state.

The little dog was handed into our care after being picked up by the dog warden and she needed urgent treatment.

Her left ear was so diseased that it had grown into a lesion, and had become so bad that our vets had to operate to remove her entire ear canal.

Lisa Kent, a Blue Cross Animal



Tinkerbell says

"For a while I thought people had stopped talking to me, but I soon realised that everything was just much quieter than it was before. That was back when all I could think about was how sore my ear was, but that seems like a distant memory. Now I've got my ball, and Lynn and Keith, who talk to me all the time. I've never been happier."

TOP AND ABOVE LEFT: Tinkerbell loves playing with her ball!

Keith says: "We went down to the centre to visit her the next day and on the way home I asked Lynn what she thought. We knew Tinkerbell had had some behavioural problems but after meeting her we knew we couldn't leave her there, so later that week we went back to pick her up and bring her home."

Lynn and Keith had the feeling that the match was just right for them during their first meeting.

Keith explains: "She had a little yap at us when we first met her, but we went out to the big outdoor exercise area and she played there with her ball and then came running back to us."

"She was still wary, but there was just something about her that made us say, 'right, we've got to have her'."

Lynn adds: "You could see she was timid and not very courageous, but I think she's got a big heart so that's why we settled on her."

"We played with her, had a walk

with her, and that was it – she came back with us."

A FRESH START

Tinkerbell's life is now full of fun and her ear is much better. She loves nothing more than to play with her ball – which really shows how far the little terrier cross, who once didn't know how to play, has come.

Lynn explains: "The first thing she does in the morning when she sees her lead is go to her bed and pick her yellow ball up. She has a special step on the stairs where she keeps it during the day!"

It's clear that Tinkerbell is well and truly part of the Reveley family and has made herself at home.

Lynn says: "When she comes back from a walk she will take her ball



ABOVE: Keith and Lynn Reveley have made her feel right at home.

upstairs and goes and sits with her ball on the bed – burrs, grass and everything, dirty feet – the lot! In fact being on the bed was one of the first things she did that we said we weren't going to let her do.

"We had a long list of things that I said she couldn't do when she came, but she's ticked them all off!"

Keith agrees: "She wasn't going to be allowed upstairs, or on the settee. Then it was on the settee but only on her bed, but that didn't happen either. She certainly knows how to charm us!"

"When we saw her we knew we couldn't give her up. She'd had a really bad life so we thought; let's give her a good one."

And Lynn confirms: "This is her home for life – there's no doubt about that."

A PERFECT STORM

Hope for horses amid a worsening welfare crisis...

Crisis it's a word that's all too often used, but it describes perfectly the situation facing the country's horses today.

There are an estimated 7,000 horses in the UK who are at risk of suffering. This is putting a huge amount of pressure on charitable resources but we're finding ways to cope and using donations to help as many horses and ponies as we can.

Irresponsible and uncontrolled breeding, the horse meat scandal, the high cost of keeping horses and the rising cost of living have combined to create a perfect storm for horses to be abandoned.

WITHOUT A CARE

There are now simply too many of our four-legged friends for the number of good homes available, and sadly, many are being bred with very little thought given to their futures and how they will be cared for.

Kerry Taylor, Blue Cross Education Officer, explains: "One of the reasons we often hear given for why someone had bred from their mare is so the foal can

be sold for profit, but with around 15,000 horses currently being advertised online – many in foal – and sold for as little as £5, it's clear that the market is saturated and the value of horses has decreased.

"It's really difficult for our teams to understand how an animal can have such little personal value to someone."

During 2014 just under half of our horses were under the age of four, many just yearlings. We also took in an increasing number of pregnant mares.

Many of the young horses that come to us have been bred with no consideration of their health or wellbeing. Most have had very little, if any, handling and need lots of help from our grooms to build their confidence just to get them ready to meet the farrier for the first time.

The level of neglect that horses in our care have been subject

ABOVE: Three-year-old pony Tizzy was taken in by Blue Cross when her owner became too ill to care for her. **BELOW:** Picture of Young when he first arrived at Blue Cross.

to in their previous homes means that sometimes they do not even trust our grooms to give them routine treatment, such as worming and vaccinations, when they first arrive. We regularly see horses suffering from preventable ailments such as lice, rain scald, thrush and mud fever due to lack of management and care.

TOO MUCH TOO YOUNG

When Young arrived at Blue Cross he was emaciated and covered in lice. It was clear that he had never been handled as he was extremely nervous around people.

Tamzin Boyd from our Rolleston rehoming centre in Staffordshire says: "Because Young was so nervous of people we needed to wait until he felt safe and secure before he could be fully checked





ABOVE: Young now, happy and healthy.

by our vet. While he got used to stable life we watched him closely for signs of further illness or changes in his behaviour."

Once Young had settled in at Blue Cross we introduced him to a yard environment. He started to take an interest in visitors and his personality began to shine through, and he was soon able to be rehomed as a companion on a short term basis.

Tamzin adds: "Young gained valuable experience in his loan home and matured into a beautiful pony with a lovely temperament."

Young has now returned to our centre for the next stage of his training and we think he will make a super riding pony in the future.

Gaining and building the confidence of these horses takes many, many months, but the joy of seeing the change in a once-terrified horse makes it all worthwhile.

WHAT IS FLY GRAZING?

Fly grazing is the practice of leaving horses or ponies to graze on private or public land without getting permission from the landowner. Horses are often left without any care in unsuitable areas such as playing fields, gardens or verges at the side of the road or by industrial areas. It is common for them to be left alone and in large groups.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

When the needs of fly grazed horses are not met they can suffer significant health and welfare problems. Although fly grazing is illegal, the current law makes it difficult, costly and time consuming to remove horses from land they shouldn't be on, and a lack of identification means that irresponsible owners can't be held accountable. Horses that are fly grazed in open spaces are also a human health risk as they can wander on to roads.

FANNING THE FLAMES

Right now, an estimated 3,000 horses across England are suffering from the effects of being fly grazed. While the Welsh government has already taken steps to address this problem, politicians in Westminster now have the chance to make a real difference too, and we're pushing for change.

Our Public Affairs Team is working with politicians across the political divide and a number of other animal welfare organisations to help introduce practical and effective measures that will work together to improve the welfare of horses. We've advised MPs on a Draft Bill and are confident that our voice will be listened to. Engaging owners who practice fly grazing is essential in tackling this ongoing problem, too. Our Education Team works alongside other equine welfare organisations to offer help and advice.

To try and improve the lack of identification of these horses, Blue Cross has taken part in a number of 'equine

link' days. These days offer discounted passports and microchips to the gypsy, traveller and urban horse owning community.

Our Education Team also has a stand at Appleby horse fair each year, where we chat to horse owners about health and welfare concerns and give advice on worming, strangles and many other horse health issues.

The path to a change in the law is a slow one, but we're confident that politicians are now listening to us and we'll keep pushing them to make horse welfare a priority. We will continue to promote responsible ownership and keep working hard with horses like Young and Evan to make sure they know human kindness and find them the loving homes they have never known but deserve so much.

EVAN SAYS...

"Hello, I'm Evan and had you met me when Blue Cross took me in 2012, you wouldn't believe I'm the same horse.

Me and my friends were abandoned. Being a group of young lads with no training, we did a bit of roaming around and I admit I didn't think much of people. My nosy nature caught me out though, and I started wondering if the people at the stable were actually on my side. Turns out they were, and they had some fun ideas.

I learned lots really quickly, and they found me a great new home. I'm learning loads now, and I love to trek through the countryside and like a spot of jumping too. And I'm trying my hoof at showing – well, when you're as beautiful as me, why not?!"



take me home

Can you offer any of these Blue Cross animals the companionship and attention they deserve?



MAISIE

Torbay rehoming centre
0300 777 1550

I am a fun loving girl who likes the finer things in life. Don't let my 15 years fool you. I still have the energy of a young cat and love going outside to explore. If you could spoil me with attention, I'll be your best friend.



FANTA

Burford rehoming service
0300 777 1570

Hello, my name is Fanta and I'm 11 years old. I'm a spirited girl and would love an experienced handler to help me continue my education in my new home. I love people, and I'd like to be a companion to a laid back horse.



MINNIE

Burford rehoming centre
0300 777 1570

Hi there. I'm a lively degu who enjoys exploring my cage and running in my wheel. After all, exercise is important! I'd like a nice, neutered male as a boyfriend. If you could set me up with a new friend you'd make my life complete.



BERNIE

Lewknor rehoming centre
0300 777 1500

Hello, I'm Bernie and I'm a shy and gentle natured chap. I love being made a fuss of and, when I roll over, you're very welcome to rub my tummy. Hint, hint! I'd like to live indoors with a new family who will play lots of games with me. Could I be the cat for you?



GIZZY

Tiverton rehoming centre
0300 777 1560

Hi, I'm Gizzy! I love people. In fact, when you are at home I will follow you around, play with you and curl up on your lap. I'm looking for a quiet home where I can relax in comfort after a spot of exploring. I could make you smile every day.



CYRIL

Felixstowe rehoming centre
0300 777 1480

When I think about my ideal new home I get so excited! I absolutely love toys, and I don't mind sharing. So there'd be toys, a nice quiet neighbourhood for gentle strolls, and people to love. Could you give me a second chance?

OUR ANIMALS ONLINE

To learn about all our pets available for rehoming, visit www.bluecross.org.uk

Whatever happened to..?

Blue Cross revisits some familiar faces from the past to see how they're getting on now...



HENRY

Handsome retriever cross Henry came through our doors shortly before Christmas in 2013.

At 12 years old he was very much young at heart and still had a spring in his step. He couldn't understand why he wouldn't be spending Christmas with his family as he had always done, but we were determined to make him feel right at home with us during the festive season. Henry's New Year got off to a great start when he was rehomed by Steve Royce in January 2014.

Steve says: "Henry has been a fantastic addition to the family and he really has come to life over the last year. He loves his walks, which are normally accompanied by Jimmy, a Heinz 57 from your Lewknor centre and Rufus, my mother's miniature schnauzer.

"Henry belies his age, he races about like a nut, has to meet and greet every dog he sees, and I think he is four not 14! We already cannot imagine life without Henry around. I would certainly encourage anyone to give an older dog a home; they pay you back over and over again."

SPENCER

When Spencer arrived at Blue Cross in the spring of 2011 he was riddled with worms and lice and was very skinny. We gave him the veterinary care he needed, as well as lots of handling each day to help him grow in confidence.

Spencer matured into a delightful pony and found a loving home in December 2013. His borrower says: "Spencer is doing absolutely brilliantly. He has really settled in now and has made new friends with the other boys and girls on the yard, he is a great pleasure to be around.

"Spencer has gained lots of trust in me and my mum, I only have to shout to him in the field and he comes running, sometimes with a little neigh. He gets very excited when he sees me; he is like my little shadow! It is like he has been with me for years."



ABOVE: Spencer is now happy and healthy in his loan home.

SOOTY AND TINKERBELL

Thirteen-year-old sisters Sooty and Tinkerbell came to Blue Cross to find a new home when their owner was evicted.

Because the cats had been used to the same routine for so many years, they found adapting to cattery life a bit tough at first, but our team spent lots of time building their trust and helped ease the sisters into their temporary home.

After over 200 days in Blue Cross care, Sooty and Tinkerbell were rehomed together to Rachel Spring. Rachel says: "It was Tinkerbell who first convinced me to adopt them when she went and sat on my nephew's lap. Sooty waited to see if our presence was significant before she came out of her igloo to say hello.

"I hope they are happy with me. I completely adore them.

No morning would be complete without Sooty coming and sitting with me at breakfast. And no evening goes by without the sound of Tinkerbell playing football for a good two hours after I've gone to bed."



TOP LEFT:

Henry loves long walks with his new family

ABOVE RIGHT: Sooty, who has a lovely new home with Tinkerbell.

The future is bright for **BROMSGROVE**



WORK IS WELL UNDERWAY AT OUR BROMSGROVE REHOMING CENTRE, SOON WE WILL BE ABLE TO HELP TWICE AS MANY PETS

The dogs waved a paw goodbye to their old kennels and welcomed the builders in as they made their way to temporary housing in another part of the centre. Homeless and abandoned cats and dogs will be able to enjoy the much-needed new facilities when the grand designs are completed later this year.

Neil Edwards, Bromsgrove Centre Manager, said: "We are excited to see the building work begin and can't wait for our new centre to take shape.



"We are sure all the dogs currently staying with us will be settled in happy homes by the time the new kennels are built, but there are many more who will need our help. For them, the new kennels will mean that their stay with us is as comfortable and stress free as possible."

As well as replacing outdated kennel and cattery areas with modern fit-for-purpose versions that have been designed to meet modern standards of animal welfare, we're thrilled to be building new facilities that pets at Bromsgrove haven't benefitted from before. Up until now, we haven't been able to take in pregnant bitches or young puppies as we haven't had anywhere to keep them, but a new purpose-built area will change all that.

The best place for a dog to be is in the home, but for puppies who don't have one we'll make sure they get the next best thing. Our special 'puppy den' has been designed with nursing mums and their

young pooches in mind.

The first few weeks and months of life are crucial for helping a pup grow into the family pet they long to be. Correct socialisation is really important for making sure puppies will be able to make friends with people and other animals throughout their lives.

For pets who have never heard a vacuum cleaner or washing machine, household noises can take a bit of getting used to, so building the puppy unit right next to the team room will help them feel right at home from the minute they come into our care. It also means they will be under the watchful eyes of our centre team all day every day, and will get used to people coming and going.

Our new cattery will provide brand new housing for cats, with plenty of room for them to climb and watch the world go by. There'll be a new kitten unit too for pregnant mums and their kittens so they'll feel safe until we find them new homes.

1 Admissions areas

All pets will stay in our admissions areas when they first arrive. Here we'll give them a full health check and assess behaviour so we can tailor care to a dog or cat's individual needs during their stay.

2 Isolation areas

With so many animals to care for at the centre we need to make sure sick dogs and cats are kept away from others so they can get better without passing on diseases.

3 Clinical suite

Modern on-site veterinary facilities mean we can care for ill pets and neuter them without the stress of transporting them. Local pets whose owners are on means-tested benefits will be treated, too.

4 Puppy and kitten units

Brand new specialist puppy and kitten facilities will allow nursing mothers and their litters the time and space they need to grow into happy, healthy pets.

5 Meet and greet

Saying hello to a potential new pet for the first time is best done in private, so new dedicated rooms will give people and pets the space they need to get to know each other.



We don't have surgical facilities at Bromsgrove at the moment, which means pets needing operations like neutering have to be transported back and forward to the vets. Our brand new clinical suite will provide these facilities on site, so the vet can come to us instead.

Demand for our veterinary help in the area is high, and our new clinical suite means we'll be able to care for even more pets in the local area whose owners can't afford private vet care.

Last year, we looked after over 600 homeless dogs and cats and treated over 400 pets in Bromsgrove, but when our refurbished centre is completed later this year, we'll be able help twice as many. Our fundraising appeal to raise the £1.9 million is now in full swing, but we'd be really grateful for any help you could give us to make our dreams a reality in Bromsgrove.



HENRY, PERCY AND THOMAS SAY...

"Kittens like us get a helping hand here, but dogs our age haven't been able to stay. That's about to change thanks to the super new puppy unit coming soon. They'll have the best start to life Blue Cross can give them here, we just know it."

Can you help?

Call our Supporter Care Team on 0300 790 9903 or visit www.bluecross.org.uk/bromsgroveappeal to donate and discover more.



Spring has sprung! For our pets, the excitement of new outdoor adventures to come is growing. Spring is a glorious time of year, but here Petplan reminds you of the importance of lifestyle changes and springtime dangers to be aware of...

SPRING IN THEIR STEP

Just as you pack away the winter wardrobe, your pets have lifestyle changes too, to accommodate the change in seasons. Give your pet a good old groom to get rid of any winter coat, mats and dead undercoat. Grooming not only gives pets their 'spring outfit', it has really important health benefits too. Brushing your pet removes dirt, grease, dead hair and skin flakes, and stimulates circulation.

The advent of spring also brings with it certain health checks you should implement for your pet. Fleas, ticks and parasites come out in force at this time of year, so make sure that you take the necessary precautions to prevent them. A routine health check-up with the vet can be a good idea, especially if any vaccination boosters are needed.

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

As you spring clean your home, think about doing the same for your pet's living space. After long winter days spent indoors it's a good

idea to clean your cat or dog's bedding. Their grooming habits change with the seasons, and the advent of warmer weather means thick blankets and fleeces aren't necessary. If you have washable and removable pet bedding, giving it a fresh launder (avoiding strong laundry detergents though) is always a good idea.

Spring is also a great time to replace or thoroughly clean your pet's food and water bowls and toys, to stop any bacteria building up. Clean with warm soapy water, or put them in a dishwasher if they are dishwasher-safe. The same can be done for any toys that look a little worse for wear. Just make sure, if any disinfectant or detergents are used, that the dishes and toys are well aired and you can't smell any fumes before giving them back to your pet.

FLOWER POWER

Your garden may be your Eden in the spring

and summer months, but it's important to be aware of certain household and garden plants and flowers that can be toxic to pets. Lilies are well known as a household danger, as they can cause kidney failure in cats. So although they may be your favourites, it's best to avoid them or at least place them out of reach. Some of the most common garden plants that can be toxic for your pet include tulips, snowdrops, lily of the valley, aconite, cyclamen, rhododendron, poinsettia and amaryllis.

For more ways of looking after your pet, visit the 'Pet Advice' pages on www.petplan.co.uk.

Petplan

You can also visit www.petplan.co.uk/bluecross to find out how having Petplan Covered for Life[®] insurance can help you cover the cost of any unexpected treatment.

Terms, conditions and excesses apply and may be varied on renewal. Blue Cross (Registered Charity No. 224392) is an Appointed Representative of Pet Plan Limited. Petplan is a trading name of Pet Plan Limited (Registered in England No. 1282939) and Allianz Insurance plc (Registered in England No. 84638). Blue Cross is not part of the Allianz (UK) Group.



MEDAL OF HONOUR

A cancer detection dog responsible for saving hundreds of lives has been awarded the Blue Cross Medal a century after it was first presented

ABOVE LEFT: Daisy proudly wears her medal. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Daisy and Claire have a special bond.

Ten-year-old labrador, Daisy, was honoured for her pioneering work in the field of cancer detection after sniffing over 6,500 samples and detecting over 550 cases of the disease.

Daisy is trained by the charity Medical Detection Dogs to use her acute sense of smell to pick out chemicals given off by malignant cells in samples of a patient's breath, skin or urine, and in 2009 she performed the ultimate act of loyalty and saved her owner's life, too.

Dr Claire Guest, Daisy's owner and Chief Executive of Medical Detection Dogs, explained how her beloved and hard-working pet alerted her to her illness: "Daisy kept nuzzling and pawing at my chest one day, which really alarmed me. I got it checked out and was told I had early stage breast cancer.

"Fortunately I was able to have it removed but if it wasn't for Daisy it would have gone undetected for much longer and could have been more serious."

Daisy now helps train a team of 12 dogs at the Medical Detection Dogs head office and is a senior consultant for the UK's first ever clinical trial using canines to detect breast cancer.

Dr Claire Guest adds: "I am absolutely thrilled that Daisy has been awarded the Blue Cross Medal. It's a huge honour and I am so proud of her. Working with dogs and using their incredible sense of smell to help fight cancer can make a real difference to the lives of so many people."

DESERVING DOGS AND CATS

Daisy is just one of many heroic pets to have received a Blue Cross Medal. They include a cat named Jim who in 1942 saved the lives of his family by alerting them to a house fire, and a Metropolitan Police dog called Jake who received the medal in 2007 after he cleared the scene at the Tavistock Square bus bombing and helped paramedics get to the injured quickly.

A huge thank you to everyone who sent in their nominations. Three runners up also received a highly commended certificate. They are a dog that was posthumously recognised for saving the lives of three children during a house fire, a dog that has helped her owner cope with life with autism, and a bomb detection dog responsible for saving the lives of soldiers in Afghanistan.



A BIT OF HISTORY...

Introduced during World War One, the first Blue Cross Medals were awarded to people who had offered 'distinguished services' to horses.

Major Meuthen of the King's Royal Rifles was awarded the medal for 'the gallant rescue of horses under shellfire', and Driver Frederick Butcher of the Royal Field Artillery in recognition of safely driving the same group of horses through several battles since the very beginning of the war. Sadly, Driver Butcher was killed in action before the medal could be presented to him and it was sent on to his family at home.

KNOW A PET HERO?

If you know a pet who has done something amazing, celebrate their achievement by nominating them for this award in 2015. Visit www.bluecross.org.uk/medal to find out how.

LEFT: WW1 Officer leads a horse and dog past fields.

SUN COMES OUT FOR ANNIE

You could have bet your bottom dollar that Annie would find a loving home



It's no longer the hard knock life for Annie, who was abandoned in a cardboard box and orphaned at only a few days old.

The tiny Staffordshire bull terrier cross puppy was just 10 days old when she and her siblings were handed over to us by a member of the public who said the dogs' mother had died. But because the littermates were very poorly and too young to be away from their mum, six of the pups passed away and left little orphan Annie all alone.

Amanda Marrington, Welfare Officer at our Victoria animal hospital in central London, said: "It's a sad story, but one we see here at Blue Cross all too often – litters of puppies and kittens being abandoned because their owners aren't getting their pets neutered."

Ideally, puppies should stay with their mother until they are properly weaned at around eight weeks old. Annie was cared for around the clock by our veterinary nurses, who fed her every few hours, day and night. She then went to live with an experienced foster carer until she was old enough to be rehomed.

HOME SWEET HOME

Now 10 months old, Annie is a happy and energetic girl who has fallen in love with the Huggins family – and they are besotted with her.

The family began their search for a new dog after their French Bulldog, George, sadly died at just over a year old.

Annie's new owner, Claire Huggins, says: "We got him from a website and he was only very young before he started to fit and we discovered he was epileptic. He had one fit, then two fits then three fits, and we had to have him put to sleep unfortunately."

It was a really tough time for the family, and a photo of George takes pride of place in the living room. He will never be forgotten.

Seeing a TV advert for a rehoming charity prompted Claire to visit animal welfare websites to see if she could give an unwanted pet a loving home. When Claire stumbled across Annie's



photo on the Blue Cross website, she had a feeling she could be the one but knew the cute pup would be popular.

Claire's 10-year-old daughter, Sophie, explains: "Mum showed me a picture of Annie on the internet. We both really liked her but Mum warned me not to be disappointed if we didn't get her because loads of people wanted her."

FAMILY PET

Claire and her husband Mark weren't put off by Annie's breed, despite the negative press they often receive, because Claire had grown up with staffies and knew they could make brilliant family dogs.

Claire says: "They're very loyal dogs and they're good with kids. My brother was five and I was eight when we got our first one and it was nice to just go and sit with them when you've got troubles. They're very 'people' dogs.

"She's settled in really well. She follows Sophie around everywhere; everywhere she goes. She likes cuddling up with you on the sofa.

"My other daughter, Chloe, is four but she was fine with her. I would never

leave both of them in the same room together because at the end of the day Annie is a dog and Chloe is a child."

While many people have stopped the family while out on dog walks to say how lovely Annie is, some people haven't been so kind.

Sophie says: "One lady just looked at Annie and turned her nose up at her and walked away."

Claire adds: "Yes, you do get some people who don't like the breed, which is a shame."

Because Annie was hand-reared by the Blue Cross team she has an even deeper love of people, and Claire says she never wants to be apart from the family.

"Because she's been brought up with a foster mother, she likes to be close to you constantly. She doesn't like to go into the garden on her own, especially when it's dark.

"She's very nosy and she likes nicking washing, particularly socks. She doesn't chew them, she just stays with them. You find them all on her sofa."

Annie is a sappy thing who loves to

LEFT: Tiny Annie fitted into a bowl when she first arrived

BELOW: Family pet Annie loves walks with Sophie and Chloe

play ball on walks and chew toys on her very own sofa, but most of all she loves cuddling up on the sofa with her much loved family and watching football.

The family is taking her to training classes where she loves to meet other dogs and, as well as all the basics, she has learned that the sausages keep on coming if she's a good girl.

Despite a very sad start to life, the sun has most definitely come out for little orphan Annie and will keep shining for many years to come.



RespectaBULL

Staffies make great pets, but many young people are getting dogs as status symbols without knowing how to look after them properly. And sadly, more of the general public are now reporting that they feel intimidated by dogs and their owners. The issue has

contributed to a huge rise in the number of bull breeds being abandoned too.

Negative stereotypes also mean it can be really tough to find homes for Staffordshire bull terriers and their crosses. In the past five years, we've seen an 85 per cent increase in the number

of unwanted staffies, just like Annie, needing our help to find loving homes.

To help tackle this problem, we set up the RespectaBULL project and run workshops that stimulate debate and discussion around the issues of responsible dog ownership, antisocial behaviour, and the law among young dog owners.

We run them for youth groups, probationers and prisoners to help reduce reoffending. It's also an ideal subject matter for PHSE and citizenship lessons in schools.

Could you become a Blue Cross Education Volunteer? Get in touch with our Education Team to find out more by emailing education@bluecross.org.uk or call 0300 111 8950.



LEFT: The pint-sized pup is hand-fed by Blue Cross nurses

THANK YOU

Our RespectaBULL workshops have reached over 16,000 young people since they began in 2011. They are entirely funded by donations and we couldn't run them without your support.



Three-week-old Squirrel was hand reared by our Torbay team.

INSET: Squirrel arrived at Blue Cross in a bucket

THANKS
TO YOUR SUPPORT,
WE FOUND HOMES FOR
1,564 KITTENS JUST LIKE
SQUIRREL, TABBY AND
VICTORIA IN 2014.

ALWAYS THERE IN A KITTEN CRISIS

Despite the ever-increasing number of kittens needing our care, our doors are always open to them

Few sounds tug as hard at the heartstrings as the mewing of an abandoned kitten, and it's a sound that we are no strangers to.

Tiny kitten Squirrel was just three weeks old when she arrived at our Torbay rehoming centre in Devon in a bucket filled with hay.

She had been found near a farm and there was no sign of her mum or any siblings. The poor little thing was all alone. Although she was in good health, Squirrel needed constant attention because of her young age but we stepped in to fill her missing mother's shoes.

Animal Welfare Assistant, Jo Dempsey, says: "Over the next five days our team at Torbay took it in turns to take Squirrel home and feed her

throughout the night.

"Once she began putting on weight and feeding well she went off to her foster home."

During her time with a Blue Cross pet foster carer, Squirrel received regular vet checks and vital socialisation. Hand-reared kittens can be at a disadvantage socially and developmentally if they don't have their mothers or siblings to learn normal cat behaviour from, so we make every effort to keep them with their siblings or even to place them with a willing surrogate mother.

If this is not possible, our fosterers introduce them to different noises, sights and experiences within the household so they develop into well-adjusted adult cats.

Squirrel soon became a confident kitten and it wasn't long before she left our care for a new life as a much-loved pet.

Had we not stepped in to help Squirrel when we did, it's unlikely she would have had her happy ending.

DESPERATE MEASURES

When two tiny kittens suddenly became very poorly and weak overnight, their owner brought them straight to our Merton animal hospital in south London.

The tabby kitten was collapsed and barely responsive, while his grey and white sister was a little brighter. Their mother only had two teats

with milk, so it was likely that they were weak from hunger.

RACE AGAINST TIME

Emmeline Macedo, Deputy Nurse Manager, says: "Our vet rushed them into the treatment room where they had blood samples to try to find out the cause of the collapse. Were they anaemic? As they both had fleas, they could have become anaemic from losing too much blood to flea bites. Or did they have low blood sugar?"

Tests confirmed the tabby kitten did have dangerously low blood sugar.

He needed glucose and fluids injected straight into his tiny vein, and we placed him on a warm air blanket to gently bring his temperature up to normal.

Our nurses monitored him constantly; checking his temperature, blood pressure, heart and breathing rates.

Before long he was able to sit up and take a little milk. He also became much more demanding as he got his strength back!



ABOVE: Tabby enjoys his special kitten milk

Our team explained the situation to the kittens' owner. They would need to be hand-reared until they could be weaned in a few weeks' time, and that meant feeding every two to three hours around the clock.

The owner was not able to do this, so agreed to sign them over to our care. She also agreed to get the mother cat and another male cat neutered to prevent this from happening again.

The kittens were transferred to our Victoria hospital in central London, where the nursing team continued to give them the 24-hour care they needed.

Tragically, the grey and white kitten, who we discovered had neurological problems, went rapidly downhill and didn't make it. This was deeply upsetting for our team, who had worked so hard to give the kittens everything they needed, and we hoped that her brother would be ok.

Thankfully, he turned a corner and began to grow stronger. We named him Tabby, and once he was old enough and well enough, he was taken to our Lewknor rehoming centre and soon found a loving home.

Emmeline explains: "When people allow their pets to breed, they often do not think of the consequences if there is a problem, which are costly and heartbreaking."

We advise cat owners to neuter their pets to prevent unwanted litters and the heartache of pregnancy and birth going wrong, but when things take a turn for the worse, we do what's needed to help.

A DAY IN THE LIFE of Victoria, aged three weeks

// I am only little and get cold very easily, as I don't have my mum and brothers and sisters to snuggle up to for warmth. As I'm on my own I need to be kept warm and fed regularly around the clock!

"My bed is in a nice warm incubator which is kept at 25°C and I have soft blankets and a little teddy to cuddle up to. I also need help to go to the toilet because I don't have my mum to help me.

"Here is my routine for the next few weeks until I learn to feed myself and use my litter tray properly. //

6.00am: My special kitten replacement milk is prepared by the vet nurse and warmed to body temperature (38°C).

6.10am: I am fed with a special little baby bottle for kittens. I'm a bit mucky after feeding, so the nurse cleans my face, eyes and nose after every time I eat. Then I'm nice and sleepy, so I go back into my warm bed.

10.10am: Feeding time again!

12.00pm: Socialisation time – the nurses are getting me used to different sights and sounds, and lots of fun toys to play with. This will



encourage my brain development, social and hunting skills.

1.00pm: I am weighed on kitchen scales to make sure I am putting on weight and developing normally.

2.10pm: Lunch for me!

6.10pm: Dinner time! Toileting afterwards, then cuddles.

10.00pm: Feeding time again.

2.00am: Night-time snack.

6.00am: Breakfast time! The day begins all over again.

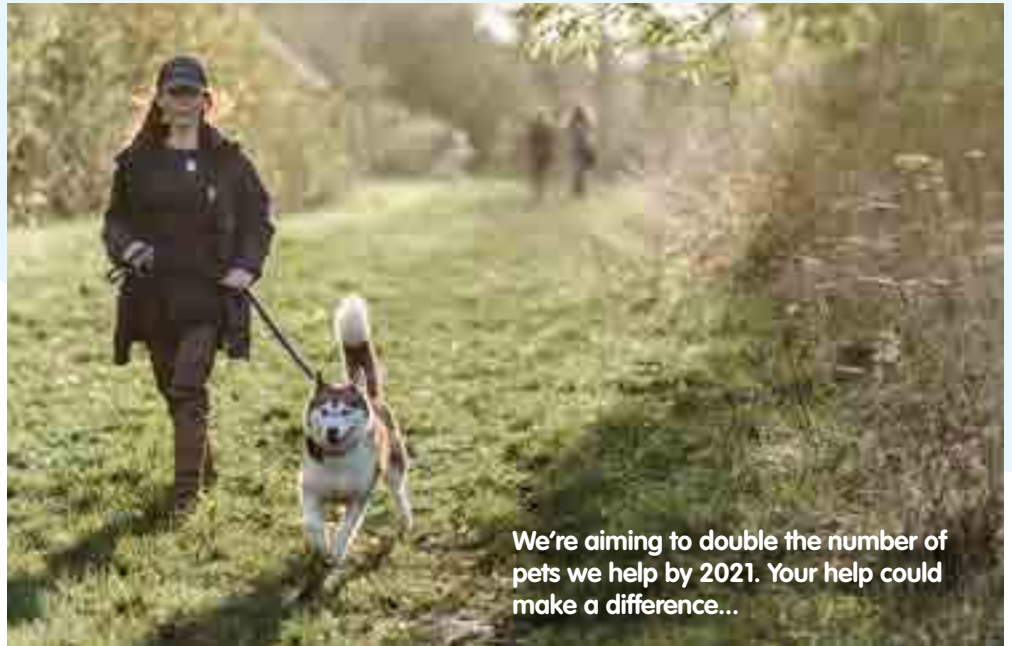
If you're for pets, WE'RE FOR YOU

As we thank our volunteers for their priceless support, we're also calling on others to give an increasingly valuable donation – time.

Did you know that just one hour of volunteering in one of our charity shops could raise the funds needed to give lifesaving vaccinations to a litter of eight abandoned puppies?

Community and at home volunteering positions really are just as vital for helping pets as those traditional hands-on roles and you don't even need to live near a Blue Cross centre.

We're recruiting now for a variety of volunteer roles including receptionists, pet foster carers and retail assistants. We also have opportunities such as providing education talks at schools and carrying out research from home; all are vital for helping sick, injured and abandoned pets.



We're aiming to double the number of pets we help by 2021. Your help could make a difference...



EVA'S STORY

Eva the husky found a loving home thanks to each and every member of our team. She explains: "I'm part of a family now, but without the whole Blue Cross team it could have been a very different story.

"When I first arrived at the rehoming centre I needed a full health check to make sure I was ok and injury-free after my time on the streets. So they drove me to the vet, who was very nice and gave me the all clear.

"I was looking forward to finding a new home, but kennels were not so bad. One afternoon, a timid young dog called Lucky arrived in the kennel next to mine. She hadn't had a decent meal in a while, poor thing, but I tried to let her know she was safe now she was here."

Volunteer retail assistants, like Janet, help raise much needed funds to enable us to care for pets like Eva.



Volunteer drivers like Don, who drove Eva to the vet, take lots of pets for their health checks and reassure them with lots of fuss.



Volunteer receptionists like Justine cover the phones and take calls from dog wardens about pets like Lucky.



Pets like Eva need people like you. Can you help?

If you want to meet new people, gain experience in new areas or have the opportunity to share your professional skills, all while knowing you're helping pets in need, please get in touch.

Visit www.bluecross.org.uk/volunteering or call 0300 790 9903 to find out more.

have your say

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



A WONDERFUL LIFE

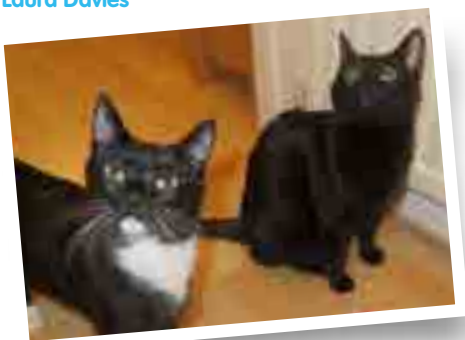
Dear Blue Cross,
I am writing to encourage as many readers as possible to adopt black cats! It is so sad that so many cats are overlooked for adoption purely because they are black, as some deem this 'unlucky' or 'scary'.

As the proud owner of two year-old adopted black cats, this couldn't be further from the truth! Alfie and Lola are a brother and sister pair who (in my opinion, a little biased maybe!) are beautiful, sleek, intelligent and incredibly loving.

Alfie behaves like a dog most of the time, fetching balls, following us around the house, snuggling when he is cold and generally behaving like a lunatic. Lola is the calmer of the two, a really loving lap-cat who is a perfect little princess.

At the time of adoption we were encouraged to consider black cats because they are so often ignored. I couldn't have been more surprised! Why wouldn't you want a gorgeous black cat in your home? I couldn't imagine living without my two.

Laura Davies



BEST IN SHOW

Dear Editor,
I just thought you might like to see my Blue Cross collie's trophy achievements in agility.

Lulu was nine years old in December and I got her from your rehoming centre in Southampton when she was six months old.

Lulu has been competing at agility for seven years. She qualified for Crufts two years ago in the novice category, but also does rescue agility, representing the Blue Cross along with other rescues. It is a wonderful event to highlight what rescue dogs can do.

I had done agility with German shepherds before Lulu, but she is the easiest dog I have owned. Collies really do need to go to homes where they have jobs to do, they thrive on it.

Anne Arbon

As writer of the star letter, Anne has won £100 of Love2Shop vouchers for her family, provided by Petplan, the UK's No.1 pet insurance provider. For more information on Petplan visit www.petplan.co.uk/bluecross



FIND US
ON FACEBOOK
AND TWITTER –
JUST SEARCH FOR
BLUE CROSS



A BIG THUMBS UP

Dear Editor,
Max says thank you for his Kong toy. He's very pleased with it.

Jan Kirkcaldy

Congratulations to the winners of our Autumn 2014 competition, we're so please to hear your pets are enjoying their prizes. Turn to page 26 to find out how to enter this issue's prize draw to win beautiful Pawprints jewellery.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE YOUR PET ON THIS PAGE?

Email a photo, along with brief details, to editor@bluecross.org.uk or write to *Blueprint* editor, Blue Cross, Shilton Road, Burford, Oxon OX18 4PF. We reserve the right to edit any letters as necessary.

GET INVOLVED

FANCY A CUPPA?

Paws for Tea is back and it's bigger than ever before. Each year we ask pet lovers across the country to host a tea party and raise money for the animals in our care. It's a really fun and easy way to help pets. Simply organise a party and ask your guests to donate for pets in need.

This year we're hoping even more of your friends and family will join in the fun, and we'll hand over to our tea party mascots to tell you why.



JOIN THE PARTY

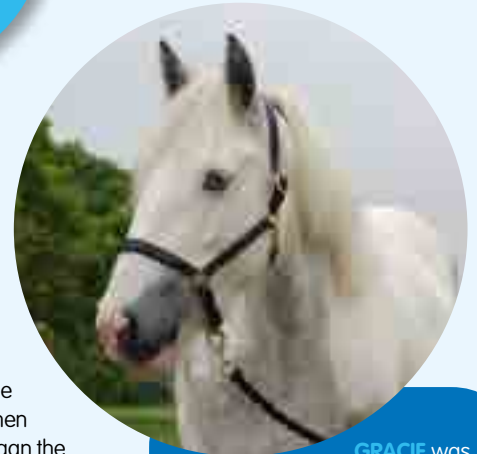
This year's Paws for Tea is on **Friday 15 May** and it's really easy to get involved. Order your host pack today by filling in the form at the back of *Blueprint*, or visit www.bluecross.org.uk/teaparty

MEET OUR MASCOTS



WORZEL, SALLY and SUE

were abandoned in a box in the woods as the tail-end of a hurricane lashed down around them. We gave them the treatment they needed and, when they were feeling better, we began the search for happy homes. Worzel says: "Me and my sisters were soaked right through and had the shivers. Luckily, we were found just in time. Holding a bake sale at your office and raising £30 could pay for a puppy like me to be cared for at a Blue Cross rehoming centre. Go on, put the kettle on!"



GRACIE was

nervous and afraid when she came to Blue Cross, but things soon changed for the better. Gracie says: "Hosting a tea party is a great excuse for a catch up with friends and family. Plus, it's super easy to plan with tips galore in the tea party host pack. You could raffle off some goodies or organise a quiz to give your event the edge."



At 17-years-old, **MOLLY** was suddenly homeless after her loving owner sadly died. It can be really tough for pets in their golden years like Molly to find new homes, but we didn't give up until we'd found her the perfect new family. Molly says: "I was sad, but I got all the fuss a girl could ask for at Blue Cross.

It costs just £2 a day to keep a cat like me safe and warm, so why not set up a stall and sell some cakes at school or your Brownie or Cub group for 10p each to help pets like me?"

We would love to see your snaps and updates from the big day. Join our Paws for Tea event on Facebook and tag your tweets and Instagram photographs with #pawsfortea.

If you're a blogger, take a look at our tea party website for everything you need to write about your event.

 [facebook.com/thebluecrossuk](https://www.facebook.com/thebluecrossuk)

 [#The_Blue_Cross #pawsfortea](https://twitter.com/The_Blue_Cross)

dates for your diary

From tea parties to treks, there's plenty going on at Blue Cross – so get your diary out and schedule some time to join the fun in 2015 to support sick, injured and homeless pets



TEA PARTY

15 May

Put the kettle on and help pets by hosting a Blue Cross tea party. Invite your friends, family, colleagues and school chums to join you for a slice of cake and cup of tea as a really fun and easy way to raise funds for sick, injured and homeless pets. To find out more or to order your free *Paws for Tea* host pack, fill in the form at the back of this magazine and return to us using the freepost address, or visit

www.bluecross.org.uk/teaparty



BUPA LONDON 10,000

25 May

Pull on your trainers and pound the streets of London in this famous 10k race.

SURVIVAL CHALLENGE

5 – 7 June

Find your inner Bear Grylls in this ultimate survival test in the wilds of Oxfordshire.

TREKFEST

The Beacons 6 – 7 June

The Peaks 5 – 6 September

These charity treks through the beautiful surroundings of the Brecon Beacons and the Peak District National Parks are no mean feat, but are great fun for those who love a hiking challenge.

NIGHTRIDER, LONDON

6-7 June

Experience the thrill of seeing the capital's sites at night as you cycle past Buckingham Palace, St Paul's Cathedral and the Houses of Parliament in the heart of London.

MORRISONS GREAT NORTH RUN

6 September

Join Mo Farah, Paula Radcliffe and the other one million runners who have completed the world's leading half marathon, to raise funds for pets in need.

GREAT WALL OF CHINA TREK

3 – 11 October

Wind your way across vast and beautiful mountain ranges along Imperial China's frontline defence.

SAHARA TREK

19 – 24 November

Conquer magnificent sand dunes, make friends with camels and sample nomadic life on this trip of a lifetime across the Sahara desert.

To find out more about any of these events, please fill in the tear-off form on the back flap of this magazine or visit www.bluecross.org.uk/activechallenges

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. This year we're hosting them at the following centres:

GRIMSBY: Wednesday 11 March

BURFORD: Wednesday 15 April

FELIXSTOWE: Wednesday 13 May

SOUTHAMPTON: Thursday 18 June

KIMPTON: Wednesday 15 July

TIVERTON: Wednesday 19 August

BROMSGROVE: Wednesday 9 September

VICTORIA: Monday 2 December

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



Fundraiser, Laura Davis, and her camel friend making a pitstop on our Sahara Trek

WIN!

PAWPRINTS JEWELLERY

We have three beautiful necklaces to give away this issue. Enter now for your chance to win! Pets leave pawprints on your heart and Blue Cross has designed a wonderful range of jewellery for you to cherish. Pieces from the collection also make the perfect gift.

For every purchase you make, you will be helping to give sick and homeless pets a better future. And, with our stunning gold and sterling silver Pawprints lockets, you can keep the memory of your pet close to you always.

Pawprints and Hoofprints jewellery is also available to buy at a number of stockists, including Amazon, Debenhams, Littlewoods and Jewellery Moments.



FIRST PRIZE

A classic oval locket beautifully crafted in nine carat gold with a sparkling diamond and special pawprints.

Worth
£119



THIRD PRIZE

This beautiful heart-shaped sterling silver locket features dainty pawprints on the front and a good luck cross on the reverse.

Worth
£29.99



SECOND PRIZE

Worth
£37.49

This lovely silver locket displays the message 'Precious Pets' alongside a dazzling white cubic zirconia stone for a touch of sparkle.

HOW TO ENTER

Answer the following question for your chance to win.

On page 10 we told you about the horse welfare crisis, but how many horses are estimated to be fly grazing in the UK today?

- 3 horses
- 30 horses
- 3,000 horses

You can enter online at:

www.bluecross.org.uk/blueprintcompetition

Please visit our website at

www.bluecross.org.uk for our full competition terms and conditions.

Alternatively, write your answer on this coupon, along with your name, address and telephone number, and send it to:

Blueprint Competition,
Blue Cross, Shilton Road,
Burford, Oxon OX18 4PF

Strictly one entry per household.

Closing date: **30 May 2015**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

From time to time we may wish to communicate with you by phone or email. If you are happy for us to do this, please fill in your details below.

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

find us

Locations of Blue Cross services

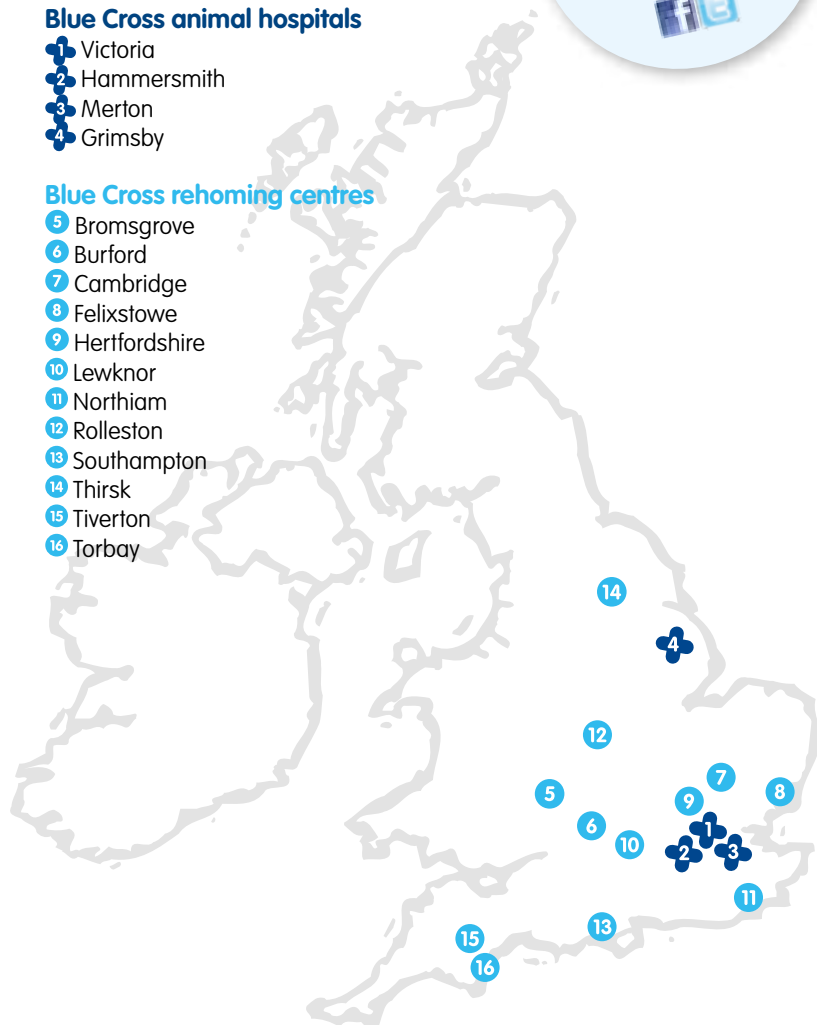
Blue Cross animal hospitals

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

Blue Cross rehoming centres

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

FIND US
ON FACEBOOK
AND TWITTER –
JUST SEARCH FOR
BLUE CROSS



We have five pet care clinics and 17 pet fostering locations across the UK, as well as more than 54 charity shops selling goods to raise money for the pets in our care. Find your nearest one at www.bluecross.org.uk or call our **Supporter Care Team** on **0300 790 9903**.

Coping with the **LOSS OF A PET?**
CONTACT OUR PET BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICE
0800 096 6606
pbssmail@bluecross.org.uk
The support line is open every day 8.30am-8.30pm

MOVING HOUSE?

Please don't forget to let us know if you have moved home recently or are in the process of doing so. Updating us in this way is enormously important because, without your new address, we would be unable to claim Gift Aid on your donations, which is worth 25p for every pound you donate. Giving us your new address also means we avoid the unnecessary cost of contacting you at your old address and ensures you continue to receive your copy of *Blueprint*.

To inform us of a change of address, please call our Supporter Care Team on 0300 790 9903, email info@bluecross.org.uk or fill in and return the coupon.

Thank you!

Make sure to update your pet's microchip details when you move, too.

Please write your old address below (including postcode):

Name

Address

Postcode

Please write your new address below (including postcode):

Name

Address

Postcode

Phone number (optional)

Email address (optional)

Please cut out this coupon and return it to the following FREEPOST address:

**Tracey Wood, Blue Cross
FREEPOST OF224, BURFORD OX18 4BR**

Please note that since we select our mailings up to two months in advance, it is possible that you may receive one or two further mailings to your old name or address before this amendment takes effect. We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience this may cause you.

SEND US YOUR SHARES TO HELP PETS IN NEED

Twelve million people in the UK own shares, with a combined value of £200 billion. If only a tiny fraction of these shares was donated to Blue Cross, it could make a huge difference to pets in need. Donating shares is one of the most tax-efficient ways to support us. Normally, you won't have to pay any capital gains tax on the shares you donate and you should also be able to claim income tax relief. We welcome share gifts of any size and we can turn your contributions into much-needed funds. For more information about how you can donate your shares, please complete the form overleaf, or contact **Helen Cox** at **Blue Cross, Shilton Road, Burford, Oxon OX18 4PF**, on **01993 825528** or by email at privategiving@bluecross.org.uk



If animals
have a place
in your heart...

...find a place for them in your Will

We've been dedicated to the health and happiness of pets since 1897. Abandoned or unwanted, ill or injured – we do what's needed to give every pet a healthy life in a happy home. We're a charity, so the more help you give us, the more help we can give pets.

**A gift in your Will can help secure the future for thousands of animals.
If you need us, we can also be there for your special companion.**

Thank you.



www.bluecross.org.uk

 Return the coupon or write to the address below to receive our free advice and information pack on Will writing.

Please send me your FREE advice & information pack on making or amending a Will and leaving a gift to Blue Cross.

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

Address

Postcode

Telephone No.

Send to: Natalie Farr, Blue Cross, FREEPOST OF224, Room B115 Shilton Road, Burford, Oxon OX18 4BR
For gifts in Wills enquiries, please call 0300 777 1757 or email legacy@bluecross.org.uk and quote B115

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

