

TAILY MAIL

Edinburgh

**Dog
&
Cat**

Home

SPRING/SUMMER 23

A NOTE FROM ZIGGY

I don't live here at Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home. I come to work with my person most days at the Home and get lots of attention from people all day long. As well as looking after dogs and cats here, the people at Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home help keep pets with families like mine, who love them. Because when things aren't going well for pets, there are people in need too.

Us dogs are loyal. We love our people unconditionally. Rumour has it that cats do too, they just show it a bit differently. The people here at



Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home are the same with everyone who comes through the doors. They don't mind if you have four legs or two. And they don't judge you. They know it's heartbreaking if you're unable to keep your pet or pets with you. So they give all they've got to keep loving homes whole and keep pets with their families. Only when that's not possible do they take them in and love them just like their own. When that happens, they give every dog and cat the vet care, training, love, food, and toys to prepare them for their future family.

Love
Ziggy

RUN A LOVING HOME



GRINNING LIKE CHESHIRE CATS

In the last issue of Taily Mail, we asked you to help us continue to protect loving homes by supporting our winter appeal.

We know you're loyal supporters. We know you love dogs and cats as much as we do. But we could never have expected such an outpouring from you in such a difficult time.

£170,000 RAISED

Over **2,500** of you gave just under **£170,000** to help us keep loved animals, like John's cats, with their families. You had us grinning like Cheshire cats for weeks on end.



3,500 PETS HELPED

At our Home in Seafield, we can have up to **85 dogs** and **40 cats** stay with us at any given time. Our work to keep animals in their loving homes grew so much last year that, in December alone, **3,500 pets** were able to stay with their people through our food banks. If even **1%** of those pets had been surrendered to the Home, we'd be so full that we'd be turning animals away. Your support for our work to keep pets and people together also helps us to run a loving Home when an animal really needs to stay with us.

THANK YOU

TINA, ANDY AND CHRISTOPHER



Seven-year-old Christopher came to live with his dad, Andy, and step-mum, Tina, when his mum died suddenly and unexpectedly.

Tina and Andy live in temporary accommodation. Christopher stayed with them on weekends, but they hadn't planned or expected that he would need to live with them. Even less his two pet Labradors. Tina describes how important the dogs are to Christopher in his grief, how she came to our pet food bank, and how the family have been able to keep Christopher's dogs with them during such a challenging time.

It was important to keep Christopher and his dogs together, Tina says,

That's kind of the last link he's got to his mum and that last life that he had with her.

"And he still speaks about his mum all the time, in a good way. You know, he's actually handled it brilliantly. We'll get the dogs out later, Christopher can take his bike and we'll go for a nice walk. It's just spending more time as a family. I think it helped as well for us all to be together.

"We both had to cut down hours because of having Christopher and the dogs. So we've got less money than what we had before, and these two big labs - so they eat a lot. It was a big stress, you know, to keep them fed."

We were just scraping by to get the dog food. We weren't able to get all these other things that they should have. And I felt like I wasn't doing right by them. I just felt like I wasn't doing the best for them.



That's when Tina's mum found out about our local Pet Food Bank and suggested she go along. She took the dogs with her and was surprised to be given leads, new collars, as well as the food they needed.

"Just the weight that was lifted off me and Andy's shoulders. He just couldn't believe the amount of help that you just gave, you know, for people struggling like us. He still can't get his head over it."

Tina says that, without the Pet Food Bank, she does not know how she could have kept Christopher and his dogs together.

RUNNING A LOVING HOME REMEMBER ROMEO?



Speaking of loving homes, do you remember Romeo who was looking for his forever home back in our Autumn / Winter edition of Taily Mail 2021?

Romeo arrived at the Home exhausted, having been abandoned in East Lothian. Despite being young and in good condition, he did not trust people and struggled with the simplest tasks, like being handled. His past seemed to have left him with a lack of socialisation and fear of the outside world.

Over the next almost 21 months (637 days to be precise), Romeo became a beloved member of the kennel team, especially, Ainsley. Building a relationship with Romeo wasn't easy, and progress was slow. But with time and patience, Ainsley gained his trust. Together, they worked on his reactivity, confidence, and exposure to new environments, preparing him for life outside the kennels. The bond they built showed that Romeo was capable of trust, and he became a relaxed, happy, and affectionate dog at home.

LET'S TALK ABOUT...

Finding the right forever home took time. Placing Romeo in the wrong environment could have set him back. Last spring, Romeo found his new person. He's found a retired owner who lives alone in a quiet place outside of the city. Their last dog was a very anxious dog so they understood the time and commitment it would take to bond and build trust. They visited Romeo several times before they could even touch him, and even more before they were able to go home together. Romeo is now well-settled, and thriving in his new life.

Romeo shows that every dog and cat that comes to us is cared for and given the support and time - weeks, months, or even years - they need to find their forever home.



In response to what we're hearing from you and the things you most want to know more about regarding your pets, we've launched an educational workshop series.

At just £20, our 90-minute sessions will cover things like separation anxiety, body language, pet exercise and wellbeing, and 'thinking of getting a pet?', advice workshops for people thinking of taking on a new pet; as well as expert talks from author and animal rights campaigner Marc Abraham OBE and other guest speakers.

To see upcoming talks, visit edch.org.uk/edtalks



IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF DOG TRAINERS



Our trainers are passionate and dedicated to giving the best possible care to every dog that comes through our doors. We're overjoyed when dogs find loving homes. But a trainer's work also comes with its own set of emotional challenges, like frustration and disappointment when a dog doesn't respond as expected. As Vicky and Jan share, the rewards of training dogs outweigh the difficulties.

Vicky has been a trainer since since 2018. Working in the kennels before this, with dogs who needed a better understanding of their behaviour, she developed a love for training. Vicky honed her skills by reading, attending training, and learning from the dogs she's worked with.

Jan, with us for almost 8 years, volunteered for a year before joining the staff team.

She loves to enrich and enhance the lives of the dogs in the Home. Her day is focused on working closely with the dogs, making sure they're well cared for until they can find their forever homes.

A typical day for our trainers starts with cleaning and walking the dogs at 8am, followed by checking emails and to-do lists. Vicky and Jan each work with around 8 to 10 dogs every day. And the length of time a dog spends on a training plan can vary from a few weeks to several months.

Vicky describes one of the hardest parts of the work as "seeing dogs who have been so badly damaged from their past that they may not be able to be helped". But, the most rewarding part of her job is seeing any progress, even if it's small.

Both Jan and Vicky share experiences of training the same animals for five to six months. Kylo and Max were both nervous around new people and reacted to dogs and bikes when out. Through daily training, Kylo can now walk past other dogs and bikes and has been meeting new people.

Max made similar progress but still found busy areas very stressful. He's now been adopted, and his new person lives in the countryside, which means he's living in an ideal place for his needs.

As Jan says,

Without the training, a lot of dogs would struggle, which would impact their health - so their time in kennels would be longer.

Some dogs are with us for several months, or even years, before they find their forever homes. Some have complex issues and need the most suitable home to thrive in. Our trainers and rehoming colleagues work closely with potential adopters to find the people most prepared to continue the investment put in by our trainers.



FINDING LOVING HOMES

ADOPTION ISN'T ALWAYS CHALLENGING...

SOX FINDS HER FOREVER HOME

Sox, the 6-year-old feline featured in the last Taily Mail, found her forever home with an experienced cat lover. Having grown up with cats, her new person felt there was something missing at home.

Drawn to Sox's affectionate nature, as soon as they met he felt that she was the perfect addition.

Since her arrival in October last year, Sox has quickly adjusted to her new surroundings, making herself right at home. Her personality has blossomed. She's taken over as the ruler of the household, especially at 4am when she demands cuddles.

She purrs right in my ear to wake me up so I can cuddle her. I don't know what I did without her!

"When I brought her home she instantly decided what places she wanted to sit, play and sleep. I call my boiler cupboard her bedroom because she sometimes wants some privacy."

Sox' new owner is clear that she's a beloved member of the family, even with a partner who has a cat allergy, thanks to the blessing of antihistamine.



LOOKING FOR A HOME



We get quite emotional when we hear how well an animal is settling in. Finding loving homes for dogs and cats is a special part of our work. And making the perfect match means their story doesn't end once they're rehomed. To share your pet's adoption journey, email fundraising@edch.org.uk

TED (AGE 5)

This gorgeous boy is searching for his forever home. Ted is a charming big boy who loves meeting people and being fussed over. He has lots of personality and is very cuddly, but also cheeky, which has made him a real favourite with our team.

Could you be Ted's new person?
edch.org.uk/pet/ted





MILLIE (AGE 4)

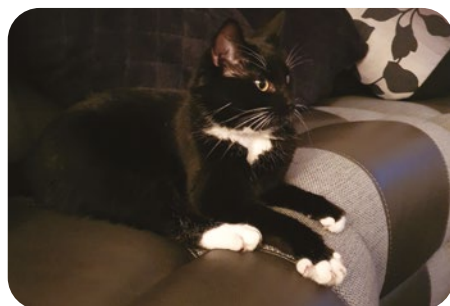
Millie likes to play with her toys and have company, so would like to have someone home most of the day, in a quieter area away from loud noises. Millie can be shy at first. But she's very affectionate when she gets to know you, and purrs away.

Are you Millie's forever family?
edch.org.uk/pet/millie

ANIMAL ADOPTION MADE EASY

Jackie had a warm, loving home and a space in her heart for a cat in need. So she decided to adopt from the Home. She looked at the cats ready for rehoming on the website and fell in love with Blue's big bright eyes and four white socks. Jackie filled out an online form, submitting a notice of interest for Blue.

Following her form submission, she was considered an ideal candidate for adoption and was called by a colleague here who gave her more information about Blue and asked





her a few questions. Jackie was then invited to the Home and felt an immediate connection with Blue when they met.

After completing some necessary paperwork, including insurance and medical information, Jackie took Blue home with her. They left the Home with a box of cat food and biscuits and some of Blue's personal belongings. The rehoming team was available for support and guidance if needed, and Jackie was patient as Blue settled into his forever home.

Blue is doing really well, so well he thinks he's the boss of the house. He's such a funny, loving, caring cat. So glad and happy that I was able to adopt him.

Blue quickly made himself at home, taking over the bedroom and venturing outside to the back garden. He has formed a strong bond with Jackie, patiently waiting by the door for her coming in from work, where he gives lots of affection - they have a great connection. Jackie says that we made the adoption process easy, offering support throughout the transition, which helped Blue settle into his new home.



THE GIFT OF LOVE

LOVE WITHOUT LIMITS



Pets offer unconditional love and unwavering devotion. But did you know that your love for pets can also live beyond your lifetime? Through a gift in your Will, you can make a lasting impact on the lives of pets and their people in need.

As we receive no government funding, we rely on people's generosity to keep dogs and cats in loving homes, find loving homes,

and run a loving Home. In fact, gifts in Wills fund around a third of all the work we do, enabling us to give love and care without limits. We simply could not support the thousands of dogs, cats, and people we do without them!

Through the Home's work in the community, thousands of pets were able to stay with their families in 2022. Gifts in Wills helped us

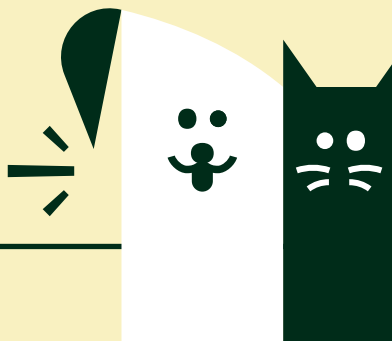
GIFTS IN WILLS FUND AROUND A THIRD OF ALL THE WORK WE DO, ENABLING US TO GIVE LOVE AND CARE WITHOUT LIMITS.

to offer pet care education, equipment, and pet food bank support to keep pets where they belong – in their loving homes.

As well as keeping families together, your support helps to find forever homes for pets in need. Last year, gifts in Wills helped find loving homes for 55 dogs and 30 cats who are now happily settled. Some pets need the Home's care and attention for longer, and gifts in Wills made it possible to give expert training, veterinary care, and support to 106 dogs and 43 cats while they waited for their forever homes.

With our free Will writing and review service, you can easily write or update a simple Will and include a gift to the home if you choose. So, why not consider leaving a legacy of love to Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home? You can make a lasting impact on the lives of pets and their families and continue to spread love and compassion long after you're gone.

To find out more about our free Will service and to chat with our legacy expert, Ella, call 0131 609 0621 or email fundraising@edch.org.uk



REMEMBERING OUR FURRY FRIENDS

Losing a pet is never easy. We understand the deep bond between pets and their people, and the heartache that comes with saying goodbye. That's why we've created a special place for you to remember and celebrate the lives of the furry friends who've touched your hearts.

If you've lost a pet, we want you to know that there's a way to honour them. Our reflection garden is a peaceful space where you can

come and reflect on the times you shared with your pets. In the middle of the garden are two beautifully crafted memory tree sculptures where you can add a leaf in tribute to your pet and keep their memory alive.

By dedicating a leaf in memory of your beloved dog or cat, their name lives on. The leaf you buy will hold your pet's name for a year, and you can review and renew it each year. A supporter dedicating a leaf last year shared this memory, "I miss her purring in my ear when I go to bed".

Dedicating a leaf helps us continue to protect loving homes, find loving homes, and run a loving Home for the animals that need us.

If you'd like to dedicate a leaf in memory of your pet, just get in touch with us on 0131 669 5331 or by email fundraising@edch.org.uk



Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home
26 Seafield Road East, Edinburgh EH15 1EH
0131 669 5331 | info@edch.org.uk

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