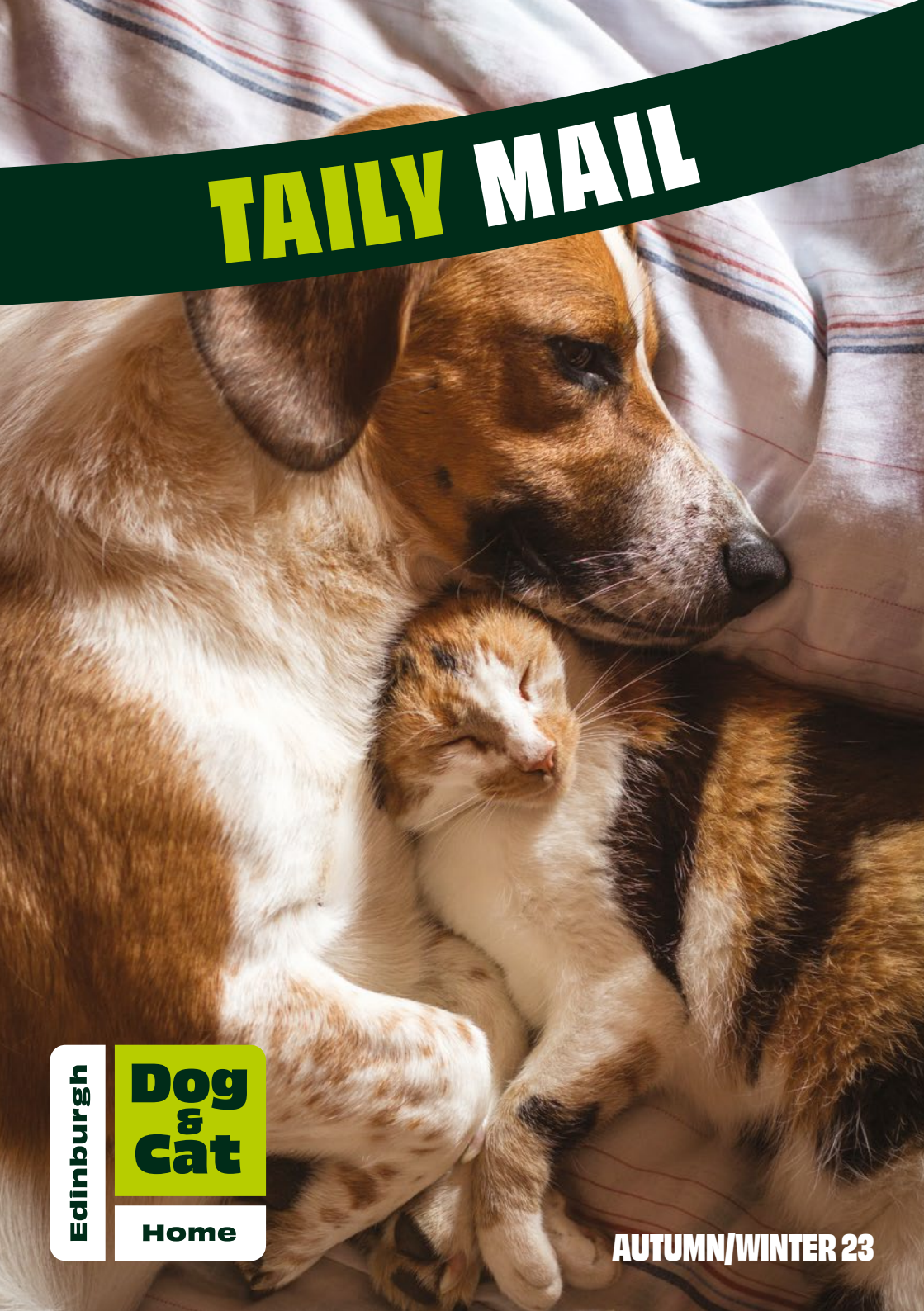


TAILY MAIL



Edinburgh

**Dog
&
Cat**

Home


AUTUMN/WINTER 23

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hello all and welcome to the Autumn/Winter 2023 edition of the Taily Mail.

In this issue, we're giving you a sneak peak behind the scenes as we discuss the training and enrichment activities that the animals in our care receive each day. (Personally, I'm partial to a sniff of the paddock or a nice beach walk with my sister Issey - when I'm not busy working in the office, of course!)

We're still hard at work supporting the community by providing pet food and resources to over 80 foodbanks across Edinburgh and the Lothians as well as offering dog training for ex-residents and Dog First Aid courses. Read on to learn more!



We also have some heartwarming rehoming stories to share with you. Find out about how Pixie and her kittens,



and wee Winnie the Yorkie found their forever homes. Stories like these always put a wag in our tails and remind us of why we do what we do.

Finally, we're getting ready to launch our Winter Appeal. We're gearing up for another hard winter with demand for our services increasing all the time. Read on to learn how your support can help dogs, like Bagel, who suffered severe neglect, to receive love and find a loving home.

A big thank you to all of you who read and support our work - we hope you love this issue!

**Warmest woofs,
Ziggy**

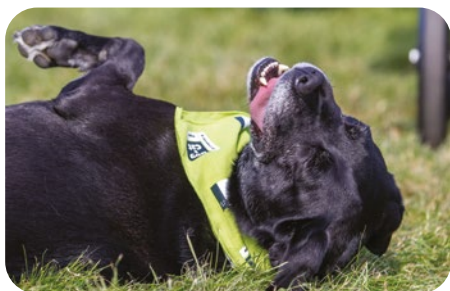
OPEN DAY 2023 WAS A SIZZLING SUCCESS



It was a surprisingly sunny September day for the Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home Open Day 2023. We were thrilled to welcome hundreds of people and pups for an afternoon of fun and games.

Pet owners enjoyed an array of market stalls, face-painting, educational talks and delicious food and drinks from Pizza Geeks and Wee Green Events, while pups tried their paws in one of our many competitions or in the famous Temptation Alley.

It was heartwarming to see such a great turnout of friends old and new – our kennel team had many joyful doggy reunions!



We're constantly bowled over by the incredible love and support of the community and this years Open Day was no different.

Despite being a free event, everyone's generosity helped us raise over £4500 in vital support towards protecting loving homes, finding loving homes, and running a loving Home.

A huge thanks to everyone who came along and all the volunteers who helped make the afternoon a success. We couldn't do what we do without you.



WEE WINNIE WINS LOVE AT LAST



Winnie's finally found her forever home and an unexpected best friend, Pickles the cat!

Winnie came to the Home in 2021 when her owner's declining health meant that they were no longer able to care for her properly. Winnie struggled with extensive eye problems, and she was becoming increasingly scared of the carers who visited the house.

Over the next 597 days of her stay with us, our kennel team fell totally in love with wee Winnie and, alongside our in-house vet, worked closely to build her confidence and treat her sore eye.



Ultimately, however, it became clear that her eye needed to be removed. Since the surgery, Winnie has been fit and happy. The total cost of her medical care during her stay at the Home came to a staggering £4,000!

Liz came to the Home often to visit Winnie, who was a bit anxious and spent time talking to our kennel team, getting an understanding of her medical and behavioral needs so that she was well aware of the responsibility she was taking on.

Thankfully, Liz was happy to work with her and so Winnie found her new home.



LOOKING FOR A HOME

Liz says, 'Winnie has really come out of her shell. We let her go at her own pace and we don't push her to do anything she doesn't want to do. She's still scared at times but she's pretty confident now.'

Winnie's favourite things are dog biscuits, trips in the car, snoozing in the sunny garden, and 'running around daft'. But, above all, Winnie loves to play and cuddle with her best friend, Pickles, the three-legged cat.

Winnie is still getting used to her new home and growing confidence everyday. Liz tells us:

She's very good at letting us know what she needs, whether that is cuddles or space. She's such a wee character, she makes us laugh. We're so glad we have her.



KYLO

Kylo is a 9-year-old German Shepherd/Collie mix looking for a quiet, loving home with a garden. Kylo will need time to build trust. He's eager to please and needs an experienced owner who's prepared to return for a few training sessions.

He will be a loyal and loving companion for the right owner.



DOGS AND CATS GO 'WILD' FOR TOP CLASS ENTERTAINMENT!

In the wild, animals are kept busy hunting, raising young and staying on high alert for potential threats.

Our pets are domesticated but they still have many of these natural instincts (as outdoor cat owners will know!), so to avoid boredom, it's important to keep their senses engaged.

High quality enrichment is as fundamental to an animal's wellbeing as food, water and clean bedding. So, we go the extra mile to make sure that the animals in our care get the mental and physical stimulation they need during their time with us.



DOGGY ENRICHMENT AT THE HOME

Every dog that comes to us receives a seven-day assessment when they first arrive to better understand their behavioural needs.

Recently, we've seen an increase in the number of dogs arriving with established issues such as separation anxiety and resource guarding tendencies. These dogs need a lot more enrichment and attention than others, so they are put on a regularly reviewed training plan according to their individual requirements.



For dogs with behavioural issues, it's important to reduce their frustration and help them adjust to people and different environments so they can be successfully rehomed.



Typical enrichment activities include:

- Daily off-site walks when possible
- Puzzle-feeders and games
- Playing in our large paddocks
- Scent work and mini-training sessions
- Off-lead walks
- Walks with their kennel friends

Each of our dogs enjoys a variety of enrichment activities, regardless of if they're on a training plan or not!

CAT ENRICHMENT

The cats in our care also enjoy a mixture of activities from scratching posts and new toys, to hiding spots, puzzle-feeders, cuddle time and regular brushing.

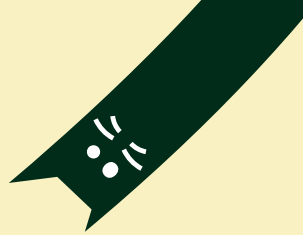
The cattery staff use a weekly chart to ensure that the cats get a different type of enrichment every day and keep track of each cat's personal preferences.

For example, some of them love a puzzle-feeder but others won't eat if they are given their food this way. Some kitties love to play with new toys, but others would rather snuggle in and enjoy a good brush.

Every animal is different, but they all need plenty of love and attention - which our team loves to give them! Regular, varied enrichment is just one of the ways we show our animals that we care and help them prepare for their new homes.



HAPPY FAMILIES FOR PIXIE AND HER BABIES



Pixie and her two kittens find a forever home together with long-time cat lover Kirsteen.

Pixie and Pudding are two young ragdoll cats who came to the Home when their owner was no longer able to care for them due to health complications. Pudding was quickly rehomed to a loving new owner, but we discovered that Pixie was expecting kittens, so she stayed a little longer to deliver her babies safely.

Kirsteen Ross and her husband are long-time animal rescuers and friends who have adopted many cats in the past, 'across the whole spectrum of behavioural needs from semi-feral to cuddly kittens' (her words, not ours!). Her two cats Jasper and Maisie are getting a little older, so they felt it was time to bring home a new family member.



They planned to apply for Pixie and one kitten, but when a litter of only two babies showed up, they knew they couldn't leave the other behind! Kirsteen made the drive from Fife to Edinburgh every week for three months until finally they were old enough to go to their new home last month.

She loved getting to know them all on these visits:

'To begin with, little Charlie was very nervous and a bit of a mummy's boy. But recently it's been great to see him coming out of his shell. Sylvie is full of confidence, she's very clever, and I suspect she will become the

LOOKING FOR A HOME

leader of them all. Their mum, Pixie, is more nonchalant, she likes a cuddle but she's usually happy to be left alone.'

Since arriving in their new home, the kittens have quickly settled in and love exploring their new surroundings. Pixie has been slower to settle but she's making good progress every day.

Kirsteen says that rehoming cats has brought her family great joy over the years. She told us, 'pets are like children in a lot of ways. They each have a uniqueness in the way they communicate with you and keep you company.'

You're never alone with your pets beside you.



GRAHAM

Graham is a 5-year-old Lurcher who's looking for a quiet home away from the city with an experienced owner.

He gets easily overwhelmed and needs a lot of patience and understanding. Graham is a big boy with an even bigger heart who loves to play with his toys. He has a lot of love to give to the right person.



VOLUNTEERS

MEET THE HEROES OF EDINBURGH DOG AND CAT HOME



Without the time, skills and expertise of our volunteers, we simply wouldn't be able to support as many people and pets as we do. We spoke to a few of them about what volunteering means to them.

DAVID

FOODBANK DELIVERIES

For the past year, David has helped us collect and organise foodbank donations. He got into volunteering

as a way to stay busy during his retirement (he also achieved a degree in French and DJ's at the weekend to name just a few of his passions!).

He told us that the biggest impact volunteering has had on his life is 'getting the sense that you're doing something good with your time' and being a part of the team. He says 'all of the staff are friendly and appreciative which is great, but it's also good to feel that you're helping the animals too.'



WENDY ADMIN SUPPORT

Another of our volunteers, Wendy, helps out in the office once a week, supporting our Individual Giving team to keep our database tidy. She chose to volunteer with us after having rescued a number of beloved dogs from the Home over the years. Most recently, her son adopted a husky-cross named Munro who she cares for regularly.

Wendy tells us that the best part of her volunteering role is 'working with the team and knowing that you're helping'. Her advice to anyone who's thinking of volunteering is:

Go for it! There are so many ways you can help and so many things charities need support with, even down to cutting the grass.



PIPPA OFFICE SUPPORT

Pippa helps us to process and update microchips for surrendered and rehomed animals. She was inspired to start volunteering by a work acquaintance whose philanthropic mindset encouraged her to reassess her own life and values.

Overall, Pippa credits volunteering at the Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home with helping her to 'feel more balanced' in her work, saying, 'it grounds me and helps me to take account of what I believe is important in the world. It's the one part of my week that makes my heart sing because I walk away really feeling as if I'm doing something that matters in the world'.



PREVENTING UNTHINKABLE DECISIONS

We might be best known for rehoming dogs and cats around Edinburgh, but our pet foodbanks and community work have fast become an integral part of our services, forming part of our mission to protect loving homes.

In 2019, we launched a series of foodbanks in and around Edinburgh to help and support

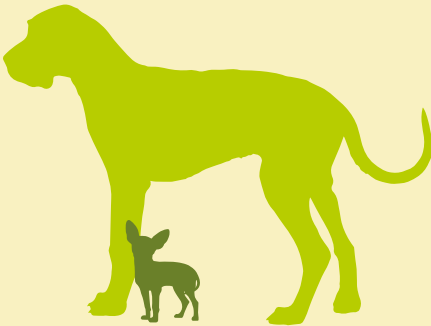
pet-owners who are going through a tough time and are at risk of having to surrender their pets. We now support over 80 foodbanks with pet food and supplies, helping hundreds of animals each week.

One service user told us: 'I can't put into words how much it means to have my dog with me at this difficult time, she is my baby!'

Thanks to the Home pet foodbank I am no longer taking food from my plate to feed her. That is a big worry that has been lifted.'

Alongside our education work, we aim to provide a proactive and preventative layer of temporary support which helps to keep pets in loving homes through difficult financial times.

Between January and July this year alone, we distributed 99,998 kgs of food.



This is the equivalent of 1,374 average sized great danes or 49,500 average sized chihuahuas!

Our support meant that 986 animals received food each week. If we had to take in just 10% of those animals, we'd be at capacity and forced to turn animals away.



As anyone who's known and loved an animal will understand, a pet is not a luxury item but a companion, a member of the family, and in some cases, a lifeline. Our pet foodbanks keep these lifelines intact when they're needed most.

These foodbanks are operated entirely through public donations and volunteer support. We're currently in urgent need of dry and wet cat and dog food. Help us keep our shelves stocked and beloved pets in loving homes and donate via our Amazon Wishlist or by dropping into one of our donation points.

**DONATE TO A
FOODBANK**



**FIND A PET
FOODBANK**



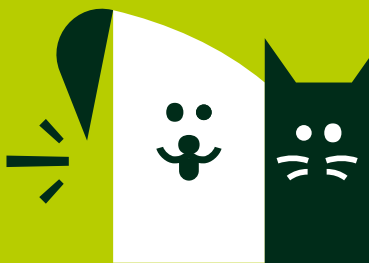


URGENT WINTER APPEAL



WITHOUT US, AND WITHOUT YOU, WHERE WOULD THEY BE NOW?

In July we had the highest number of surrender requests we'd ever recorded, a staggering 236% increase from October 2022.



**We have rehomed 81 cats
and 167 dogs this year**
(until end of Aug)

On top of this, demand for support from our pet foodbanks continues to rise. Between January and July, we distributed 98,998kg of food to people in need. One user told us: "I was so worried about how I was going to feed my cat as I was so short of money. My cat is my only companion, I'm so grateful for this help'.

There are many reasons why an animal might find themselves in our care. Sadly, we also see upsetting welfare cases such as Bagel, who was found next to some



bins and arrived in such shocking condition that it's clear she's suffered years of chronic neglect.

Bagel was totally emaciated with anaemia caused by malnutrition. Deep corneal ulcers and inflammation had left her blind and at risk of a ruptured eyeball, and she was deaf due to severe infections.

It didn't seem like Bagel was going to make it. But our in-house vet, Bridget, worked tirelessly to deliver the life-saving care that she required. Bagel made an incredible full recovery and, heartwarmingly, Bridget decided to take her home.

Bridget told us: 'It's been a joy to watch Bagel recover. She's even started to play and do zoomies, it is incredible to see her gain the energy and newfound confidence to enjoy life. We are all completely in love with her.'

Your support has kept our doors open for 140 years, given Bagel and hundreds like her a safe place to recover and find love, helped us to rehome 248 animals already this year, and supported many foodbank users through some of the hardest days of their lives.

Thank you for being there for us.



THANK YOU

EX-RESIDENT DOG TRAINING

INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS



Reward-based training delivered by our experienced trainers. Supporting you to train and build a bond with your new dog.

£40 PER SESSION

BOOK 0131 669 5331






FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [EDCH.ORG.UK/ SERVICES/EX-RESIDENT-DOG-TRAINING](https://edch.org.uk/services/ex-resident-dog-training)



DOG FIRST AID

All money raised from these courses goes to funding the Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home and to caring for our animals.

-  Delivered by our expert staff
-  Approved by vets
-  Regulated by SQA accreditation

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [EDCH.ORG.UK/ SERVICES/DOG-FIRST-AID](https://edch.org.uk/services/dog-first-aid)

BOOK NOW



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