

# TAILY MAIL



**Edinburgh**

**Dog  
&  
Cat**

**Home**

**SPRING/SUMMER 24**

# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

A very woofy welcome to the Spring 2024 edition of the Taily Mail!

Read on to meet some of the team behind the scenes who keep things going at Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home and help my fellow furballs find their forever homes.

As always, we have some heartwarming stories from happily rehomed residents. Hear about how tough Cookie beat the odds to find her person, and how sweet-as-syrup Honey's hard work and training finally paid off.



We're looking back and remembering some of the Home's history ahead of an exciting milestone later in the year.

And finally, we have another blast from the past as we hear a supporter's story about rehoming their feisty cat Cassandra back in 1997. We simply love hearing happy tales (or should I say tails...) about the beloved pets you've rehomed from us throughout the years - please write to us if you have one!

Once again, a huge thank you to everyone who supports our work, we hope you enjoy this issue.

**Waggiest regards,  
Ziggy**

**RUN A LOVING HOME**

# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR WINTER APPEAL!

Your generosity means that we can continue to be there for dogs like Bagel, who almost didn't make it, but will soon celebrate one happy year in her forever home, and people like Susan who would've had to give up her pets without the help of our pet foodbanks.

Demand for our support is rising dramatically. In 2023, our pet food banks distributed 414,316 meals between January and July, and in July we had a 236% increase in surrender requests from October 2022.

On top of this, more animals are coming to us with established behavioural issues or severe health problems. This not only drives up our cost of care but adds to the labour and emotional burden of our team.

It costs nearly £3 million to keep our doors open each year and we rely almost entirely on the generosity of our supporters.

**This year, the kindness of individuals and businesses helped us to raise over £100,000 in vital funds.**



We were delighted to welcome 138 new regular donors, and our hearts were truly warmed to receive £5000 from fundraising activities such as Christmas wreath making and school fairs.

Your continued support, throughout our Winter Appeal and beyond, is invaluable and allows us to be there for the pets and people who need us.

From our family to yours, thank you.

# BEHIND THE SCENES AT EDINBURGH DOG AND CAT HOME



**From organising events to processing donations, caring for our dogs and cats, and running our pet foodbanks, there's a lot of us keeping things going at the Home. Meet some of the team behind the scenes!**



## **EILIDH, EDUCATION LEAD**

I'm responsible for the development and delivery of our courses, talks and workshops. The best part of my day is that every day is different! Some days I might be visiting Primary children and hearing them talk about their pets,

other days I'm helping deliver a Dog First Aid course to a workplace, or out in the community supporting individuals and their pets.

My proudest moment has been setting up our Pet Care Clinics to support vulnerable members of our community. Sometimes providing pet food simply isn't enough so we now run monthly drop-in sessions providing advice and signposting to accessible veterinary, social and behavioural support.

Something I've learned is that anyone can be affected at any time by pet poverty and need our support, there's no 'one size fits all'.

## LOOKING FOR A HOME



### **OLA, SUPPORTER ENGAGEMENT OFFICER**

My role is all about making sure our supporters have the best possible experiences with us. Currently, the best part of my day is reaching out to new supporters to thank them and welcome them to our community. It's so heartwarming to hear how our work impacts people.

I'm a passionate animal lover so I feel proud every day to work in a place that supports animal welfare and does so much good for pets and their owners. ▶



### **STORM**

Storm is a playful 1.5-year-old Dutch Shepherd looking for her forever home. She's a smart girl who's just brimming with joyful energy.

Storm needs someone with experience with high-drive dogs as she can become easily frustrated and anxious. Her favourite thing is playing with the ball and she has buckets of affection for people who take time to earn her trust. Could this be you?

[edch.org.uk/pet/storm](https://edch.org.uk/pet/storm)

► It's hard to choose a favourite supporter interaction but recently I called to thank someone, we were having a lovely chat and they stopped me to say that they appreciated the call and upped their donation right there. I couldn't believe it!



## JAN DOUGLAS, DOG TRAINER

I help our dogs get ready for their forever homes by working with them on things like muzzle training or reactivity to people or dogs.

The best part of my day is getting to see little glimmers of dogs' personalities.

Many of them are nervous but as you build a bond with them you get to know what they're actually like.

I was proud to get my promotion to dog trainer. I first started reading about dog's brains and the way they learn when one of my dogs was diagnosed with lymphoma. I've been passionate about the topic ever since.

There have been many, but one dog who stole my heart was Lola the Rottie. She came in at 6 months old, completely undernourished. She'd been rehomed a few times and brought back because of behavioural issues. I promised I'd get her out of here and I finally did! She was rehomed a few years ago with the help of Fife Rottie Rescue and now she's living her best life.



**LOVE WITHOUT LIMITS**

# DOG BODY LANGUAGE

**Our Dog Body Language course is designed for any dog owner or pet professional who would like to gain a deeper understanding of their dogs.**

## **Learn About:**

- **Body communication**
- **Emotions including fear, stress, contentment and aggression**
- **Behaviours including displacement, play, dominance, resource guarding, pain and compulsive disorders**
- **Vocalisation**
- **Common misconceptions and myths**

**£35**  
**3 Hour Course**

**All funds raised support Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home's mission.**

[edch.org.uk/dog-body-language](http://edch.org.uk/dog-body-language)

Scottish Charity No: SC006914

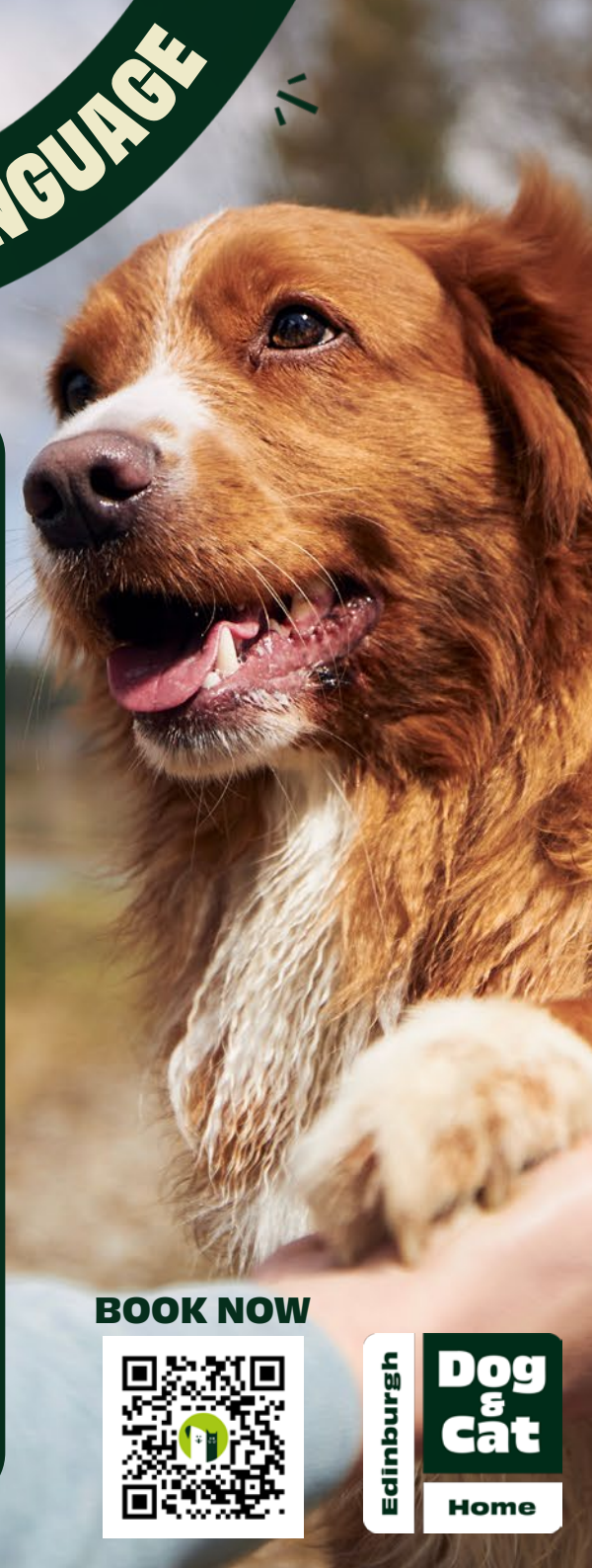
**BOOK NOW**



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# SWEET HONEY'S TRAINING PAYS OFF



**Honey the German Shepherd has come a long way since she first arrived with us as an anxious and reactive dog.**

Due to an assessment used to understand each dog and their medical or behavioural needs, we quickly learned that Honey was a sweet girl with a lot of fear-based behavioural issues.

Jan, our trainer, told us, *'It took time to gain her trust and make her comfortable in a kennel environment. She was very wary of strangers but once she got to know you, she was a sweetheart. She would try and climb into your lap as if she were a much smaller dog!'*



Our trainers helped Honey with lots of off-site walks, time playing off-lead in the paddock with dog friends and other enrichment activities.

In time, she was ready to find a new home with someone experienced, patient, and willing to keep working with her. At the same time, Debbi was ready to welcome a new family member after the loss of her much-loved elderly German Shepherd the year before.





She and her Cocker Spaniel, Ollie, visited the Home multiple times to socialise the two dogs and find out if they would be compatible. **And thanks to all the great progress Honey had made in training, they were a match!**

Debbi described Honey's first few months at home: *'She settled into the house very quickly but was anxious about everything outside and constantly tried to get up to the window whenever she heard any noise.'*

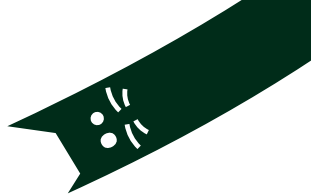


Debbi started working with a trainer to maintain and support the great progress that she'd already made.

She tells us, *'[Honey] loves her food and treats. She also loves her Kong squeaky tennis balls and tug toys which she'll bring to me if she's in the mood for a game. I work from home and she's become a well-known favourite with my colleagues too!'*

***I live on my own so my dogs are my constant company, I never feel lonely. It's also such a joy to see her come on, grow in confidence and enjoy her life.***

# TOUGH COOKIE FINDS HER HOME



Little Cookie was found as a stray in August last year. She was tiny, covered in fleas and frighteningly weak.

She was taken to the vet by the person who rescued her, where it was discovered that she was suffering from multiple serious infectious diseases including Parvovirus, Feline Coronavirus and Cryptosporidium (a type of parasite).

It was clear that she needed long-term care and expertise if she was going to have a chance to recover.

For a long time, there were no signs of improvement. We tried her on various diets, medications and probiotics, but she wasn't gaining any weight. We were very worried for Cookie.



But we kept trying and eventually, we found a food that she enjoyed and could digest, and slowly she began to improve. We couldn't believe it!

Tough Cookie never let her illness get her down. Even at her most unwell, she was playful, curious, and looking for cuddles.

When she was finally ready for her forever home, she found her perfect match with Thom who grew up with cats, and was ready for a new companion now that he works from home. Cookie, now named Sporrán, finally has all the attention she could want after months of isolation!

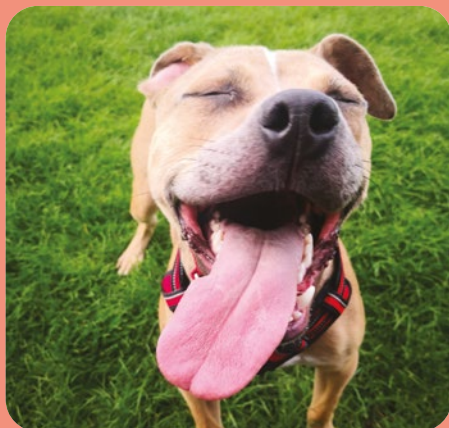
# LOOKING FOR A HOME

Thom told us, *'I'm amazed at how quickly she's settled in; she hasn't displayed any signs of stress at the move!'*

She is as fun-loving and curious as ever and Thom shared some of her favourite things:

***She loves watching the bird feeder and she'll always come and tell me when she sees a bird. She is very playful but my very favourite thing is that when she's done running around, she wants to hold hands. She'll reach her paw out and if I stop holding it, she'll reach back out again. It's adorable.***

Sporran has come a long way from the weak and malnourished kitten we first met, and we're so delighted that she's found a home where she gets the doting love and attention she deserves.



## SIMON

1-year-old Bulldog cross, Simon, is looking for a home with an experienced owner. He's had a difficult start to life which means he's nervous and scared of new places.

Simon's person must be fully committed to helping him feel safe and working on his anxiety. They will be rewarded with the most loving and playful personality once they earn his trust!

[edch.org.uk/pet/simon2](https://edch.org.uk/pet/simon2)

# 140 YEARS OF THE EDINBURGH DOG AND CAT HOME

## A QUICK PAW



Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home has a long history of helping animals. Since we first opened our doors as the 'Home for Lost and Starving Dogs' in 1884 through to today, we've been there for the pets and people who need us.

**1884**

We first opened our doors in Comely Bank Gardens, Stockbridge.

**1926**

A new cattery was built and we became 'The Edinburgh Home for Lost and Starving Dogs and Cats'.

**1957**

After a 20-year search, we found our home on the Portobello Promenade in Seafield and we're still here today!

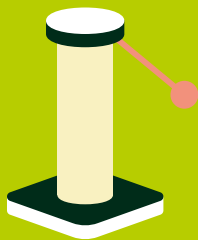


## THROUGH OUR HISTORY



**1982**

Princess Antionette of Monaco visited and rehomed two of our dogs, flying them back to the French Riviera with her.



**1989**

Another special visitor, legendary comedian, Ronnie Corbett, opened a new kennel at the Home.



**1994**

We opened our Whelping Unit offering specialised care and a quiet space for pregnant dogs.

**2000**

Mr Roy Connell, manager of the Home for 35 years was awarded an MBE for services to animal welfare when he retired.



**2008**

We launched our first website!



**2019**

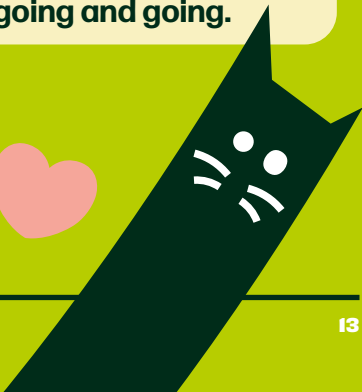
Our first pet food banks were opened, offering pet food and resources to pets and people in need.

**2024**

We're still here, with an updated look and a mission to keep finding loving homes, protecting loving home and running a loving Home for dogs and cats in East and Central Scotland.



**And we'll never stop.  
After over 140 years of  
hard work and dedication,  
day after day, year in, year  
out, we're still going and  
going and going.**



# IN MEMORY OF THE FEISTY CAT WHO FOUND HER FOREVER HOME



Recently we received a letter from a supporter containing a story so lovely that we simply had to share it.

Mr J G Taylor, now almost 90 years old, wrote to us to reminisce about his cat Cassandra whom he adopted from the Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home in 1997.

***She was nearly a year old and a large all-black cat with a white dot under her chin.***



*'You said that you had her for 3 months, but she was very vicious, having bitten everyone.*

*You had twice rehomed her, but she was returned, and money refunded as she had bitten everyone including your own keepers.*

***I have had cats and dogs all my long life and told you that I would tame her. You looked at me and predicted that I would bring her back within two weeks.***



**Well, to cut a long story short, my wife and I had Cassandra for 15 years before she slept away.**

Mr Taylor tells us that Cassandra never lost her temper but came to respect him and his wife and no one else.

Cassandra had the run of their home *'going and sleeping wherever she pleased'*. Mr Taylor says that she also enjoyed their garden and she never attempted to stray *'she seem to be too happy to go elsewhere'*.

Now approaching their 90s, Mr Taylor and his wife are unable to take on another pet but look back fondly on their time with the *'spoiled Cassandra'*. They enclosed a kind donation towards the care of our current animals.



This story shows how even the most difficult of animals can find love and happiness with an owner who's happy to respect their boundaries and give them space to be themselves.



**If you have any fond memories of beloved pets rehomed from us over the years, please do write in and share them. We are always moved to hear happy stories of the pets we cared for and loved ourselves.**



# PLAY **OUR** LOTTERY



**For just £2 per week you can help us to give our animals the love and care they need.**

**And be in with a chance of winning £10,000!**

**PLAY NOW**

