

# **TAILY** MAIL



**Edinburgh**

**Dog  
&  
Cat**

**Home**

**SPRING /SUMMER 25**

# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

**Welcome to the Spring/  
Summer 2025 issue of the  
Taily Mail**

Hello,

Welcome to the Taily Mail! It's ruff-ly to be back and let me tell you, this issue has got me simply sneezing with excitement.

Find out what your amazing support helped us to achieve last year, take a sneak peek into a day in the life of Vicky the dog trainer, find out how Odin, the nervous pup, has been getting on in his forever home, and more!



We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who responded to the audience survey attached to our last issue.

Many of you shared stories of the pets you've rehomed from us over the years and we would LOVE to hear more!

Please email us at **media@edch.org.uk** or use the return envelope included to tell us about your cherished childhood pets and favourite four-legged friends!

**Woofs and scratches to all,  
Ziggy**

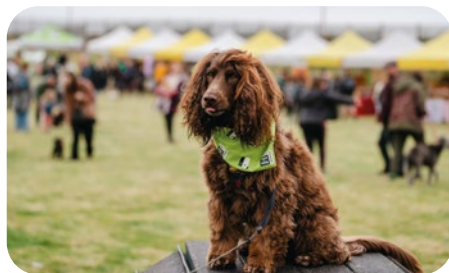
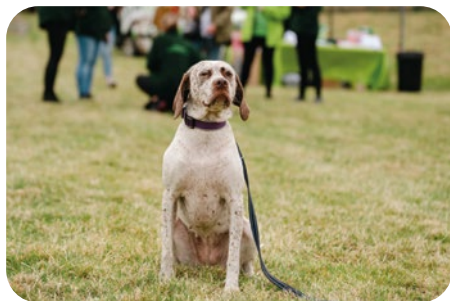
**RUN A LOVING HOME**

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR WONDERFUL SUPPORT!

Last year was a challenging year for us at the Home as we faced increasing demand for our support and record-high costs. But your unwavering support helped us to achieve wonderful things!

In 2024 we:

- Found loving, forever homes for **229 dogs and cats**
- Reunited **103 missing pets** with worried owners
- Distributed **44,960kg of pet food** to foodbanks and families across East and Central Scotland (this is more than the weight of a Boeing 737-800 airplane!)



- Our heroic volunteers contributed an amazing **2,830.5 hours of support**
- Answered **26,876 calls** on our helpline, offering support, emergency food packs and advice
- Provided a further **73,405 meals** to pets through emergency food packs
- Helped **250 attendees** to become certified in Dog First Aid

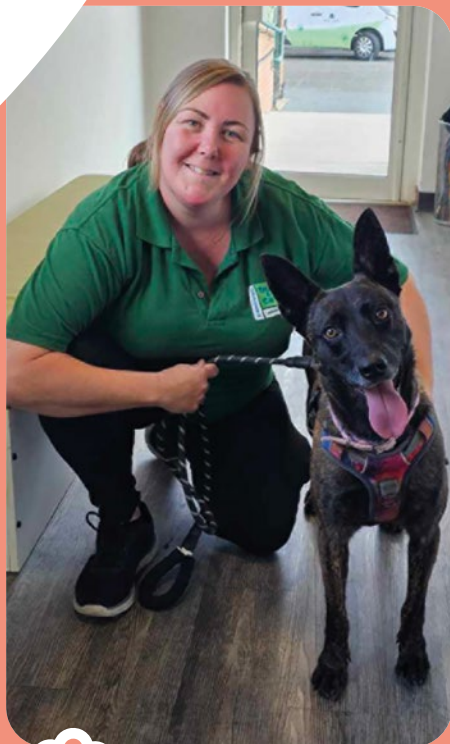
And finally, a huge and heartfelt **THANK YOU** to everyone who so generously supported our Winter Appeal.

Together, you helped us raise **£103,283** toward the care and protection of dogs, cats and their families.



**THANK YOU**

# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DOG TRAINER...



***Every day is different, and you never know where you're going to get called!***

## **8:30am-10am**

I look after some of our dogs as well as training them, so the first thing each morning is cleaning kennels and feeding them.

## **10am-11am**

Today we had a press visit so I headed to the paddock with one of our dogs, Cooper, to help film. He kept trying to chew the fluffy microphones, it was very funny!

## **11-12pm**

Then it's back to check on my dogs. A few of them are being assessed, we take them into different environments like the office, training room or offsite to see how they cope. Today, we'll go into the office.

## **12pm-12:30pm**

At lunch, I take my own dog, Maisie, for a walk. I rehomed her a few months ago. It's been fantastic to see how well she's settled in since she came home.

**12:30pm-1pm**

Then it's time for some admin. All our dogs are graded according to their behavioural needs but these can change, so I go through our forms and check in with the team make sure everything's up-to-date.

**1pm-4:30pm**

Every day is different at the Home. Some days I may be hosting training sessions for members of the public and their dogs, or assisting with a rehoming visit, helping the potential owners understand what the dog is like and how they can continue to work with them at home.

Today's rainy so it's a good, quiet day to take our more reactive dogs down to the beach. This is my favourite type of training as it's challenging. You have to help them find a better way to cope with their stresses. It's rewarding to see their progress and I always look forward to these afternoons!

**WANT TO GET YOUR  
PAWS ON THE  
LATEST TRAINING  
TIPS AND ADVICE  
- VISIT US AT  
EDCH.ORG.UK**



**LOOKING FOR A HOME**



## **ADOPT HAMISH**

Hamish is a lovable 2 year old Border Collie who has been waiting patiently to find her forever family. Could it be you?

Hamish needs an understanding owner who has had experience with nervous dogs before. He is the sookiest boy who a cuddle and a tennis ball.

**SCAN THE CODE  
TO FIND OUT  
MORE ABOUT  
HANDSOME  
HAMISH.**





# 'HE MAKES MY DAY THAT WEE CAT, I'VE NEVER HAD A CAT LIKE HIM'



**Kevin was found abandoned in a carrier with a dried-out food tray and empty water dish. He was terrified and angry. Now, thanks to the sensitive care and attention of the Animal Welfare team, he's finally found the love he deserves with Linda.**

At first, Kevin would hide away in his pen, hissing at anyone who came near him. With space and patience, he grew more confident and would come closer for his favourite treats. By the time he was ready to go almost 100 days later, he'd transformed into a little lovebug!

Linda has rehomed many pets from us, and after her last cat passed, she found that her home was feeling empty. She came to visit Kevin: *'He just gave me a wee look and I knew I had to take him home.'*

Kevin and Linda are now completely bonded. She tells us: *'It just makes my day when I come in from night shift, he's always there, sitting waiting at the door.'*

Kevin is a different cat now from the scared little guy we first met. Thank you, Linda, for giving him the loving home he deserves!

**LOVE WITHOUT LIMITS**



# 3 SIGNS THAT YOUR CAT IS HIDING PAIN



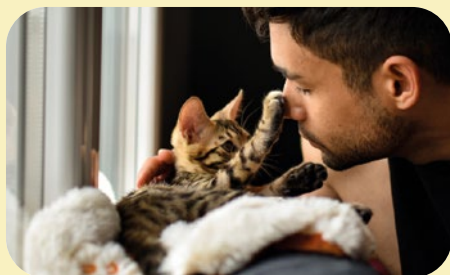
Cats are adept at hiding their pain. This may have once helped them to avoid predators in the wild, but now it just makes it hard to know when to call the vet. Here are three signs that your cat might be hiding pain.

## 1. CHANGES IN BEHAVIOUR

pay attention if your cat starts toileting outside of their tray, sleeping more or less than usual, refusing their food, or becoming vocal. Notice if a snoozy cat is suddenly restless, or if a cuddly cat is avoidant of touch. Any changes to behaviour are worth a closer eye.

## 2. PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS

Look out for swelling of joints, limping, floppiness of their tail or if their third eyelid is showing, as these could all be caused by pain.



## 3. FACIAL EXPRESSIONS

Look out for outwardly rotated ears, squinty eyes and tension around the mouth and whiskers.



Sign up for our Cat First Aid course at [edch.org.uk/cat-first-aid](https://edch.org.uk/cat-first-aid) to learn more about how to recognise and treat pain in cats.

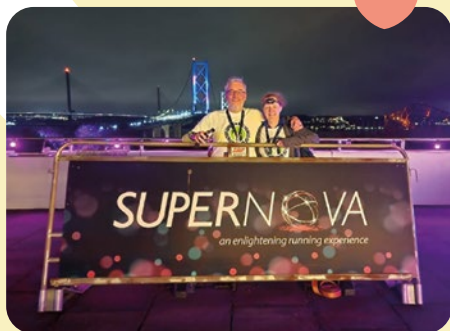
# CHALLENGE YOURSELF IN 2025 AND SPREAD THE LOVE

**Try something new and help cats and dogs in need at the same time.**

We have loads of fun challenges like the 2025 Kiltwalk or EMF 10k to get your paws into. Or think outside the box and create your own fundraising event!

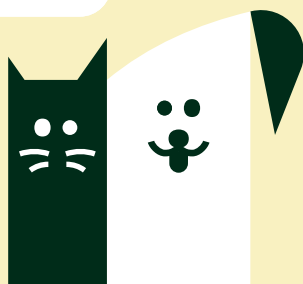
Supporters Laura and Euan took part in last year's Supernova Forth Road Bridge run. Not only did they have the amazing experience of running over this iconic landmark at night, but they smashed their fundraising targets. Well done guys!

We love hearing about all the different ways our supporters challenge themselves, and we're here to offer support and guidance every step of the way.



If you're considering taking part in a challenge event let us know at **[fundraising@edch.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@edch.org.uk)** so that we can support you on your journey!

Find out more at **[edch.org.uk/support-us/events/](https://edch.org.uk/support-us/events/)** or by scanning the QR code below.





# TO PUP-FINITY AND BEYOND...

**Last year our supporters took us to the stars (or close enough) when Dan and the crew at Sci-Fi and Beyond, a Scottish based Charity Fans Group, fundraised at the 2024 Scottish ComicCon.**

The whole team spent two days getting photos with eager fans and chatting to people about our work. They even managed to give an Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home bandana to Peggy the pup, who you may know from her role as 'Dogpool' in Marvel's 'Deadpool and Wolverine' movie.

In the end they raised over £1,000 and introduced hundreds of dedicated sci-fi fans to the work that we do. Thanks guys!

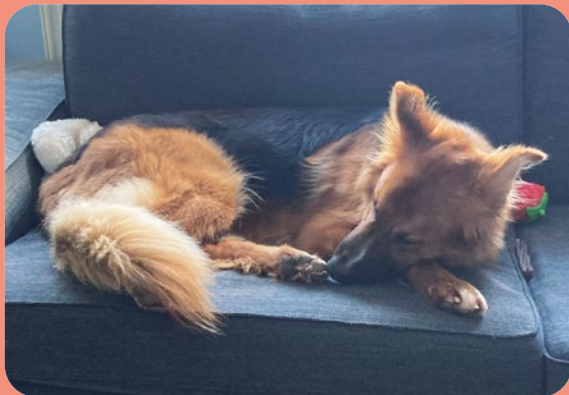
If you're hosting fundraising event, please let us know by emailing **[fundraising@edch.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@edch.org.uk)** so we can support you and cheer you on as you go!



## WHAT OUR SUPPORTERS HAVE BEEN UP TO:

- **Dogs of Harrison Park Calendar** – proceeds from this pup-tastic project support dogs and cats in our care
- **Comedy gigs at the Stand** – funny bones helping us find happy homes
- **Ceilidh at the Stagger Inn** – old friends and new danced the night away in aid of our pups and kittens

# 'BRINGING ODIN HOME FELT LIKE IT WAS MEANT TO BE, WE KNEW HE WAS THE ONE!'



**When Odin first came to Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home, it took him a long time to warm up to anyone.**

Our Animal Welfare team dedicated time to get to know him and to help him with his anxiety and stresses. After 161 days in our care, Odin is now in his forever home, with Sam and Graham who fell in love with him immediately.

Odin's kennel mum, Emily, describes caring for Odin when he arrived.

***It took a few days before he seemed even remotely happy to see us. He was very stressed in the kennel.***

Odin grew to completely trust his kennel parents and loved going on beach walks with them, but he was still nervous around others.

***Everything's about Odin now. He just brings happiness, he really does. He makes us happy.***

But, to everyone's surprise, when new owners Sam and Graham first came to visit him, they hit it off right away! Sam recalls, *'He just fell in love with Graham, even more than me which I was miffed about! He still is!'*

Odin is a lot more confident now and getting braver every day, *'it has been five and a half weeks now and he's so full of mischief and fun. You can tell that he's really happy. The best thing is that in the morning when he wakes up, he tells us a wee story, it's like he's delighted we're still here!'*

Odin is working with a trainer as he still gets quite nervous on walks and Sam and Graham are committed to supporting him however he needs. At the moment, they're getting up early to take him out when the streets are quieter.

Sam says that rehoming Odin has *'brought so much joy to the house, everything's about Odin now. He just brings happiness, he really does. He makes us happy.'*



# GOTCHA DAY STORIES



## MAKO

Posted by Athene on January 21

One week of Mako...

Thank you EDCH for letting us re-home formally Mickey, it's been a fun week! He honestly makes me laugh every day!

He's come a long way already and as you all know, loves cuddles and playing with his toys, but he was also very nervous in new surroundings and any noise spooked him. But over the week with us this has improved massively. He's such a character, very chatty and wants to watch everything you do, he jumps like a kangaroo and loves running up and down the stairs to burn his energy. I've also started training him and enrichment which he enjoys and when not busy doing any of the above he's giving his best kitten eyes and cute face to get more food. He's a welcome addition to our family, we love him already.



## RIVER

Posted by Emma on January 28

3 and a half years tomorrow we adopted our beautiful girl. Thank you Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home. The best decision we have ever made. River will be my best friend forever.





## FREDA

Posted by Katy on January 26

Over 7 years since we brought Queen Freda home – happy gotcha day!



## COCO

Posted by Maureen on February 3

What can our rescue dogs bring us?

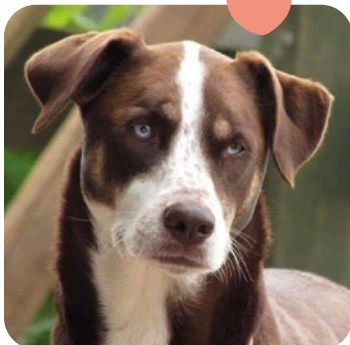
This is my amazing Coco aka freckles. Popped into to EDCH just for nose this time 12years ago... Came home with this girl. A young dog found and handed in. Omg I won the jackpot. Not just an amazing caring girl but she changed my life and career.

She is loving, calm, loves people and dogs. She stands out in a crowd and that for me is the best.

I moved into dog training because of her calm nature which allowed her to help nervous dogs. She made be the Accredited ABTC Trainer and on track to be Provisional Clinical Animal Behaviourist, were still both helping people and dogs.

If not for her I do not know where I would be to be honest. To top it all I've taken in another 3 rescue dogs. All with some issues to start with but all 4 are brill.

Rescue dogs take time to adjust so it worth giving them that time and they give you more in return.



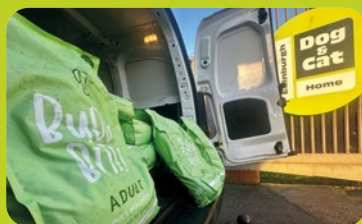
**'WE COULDN'T  
HAVE SAID  
IT BETTER  
OURSELVES!'**



# EDINBURGH DOG AND CAT HOME X BUDDY BITES



Buddy Bites dog food brand are on a mission to support dog shelters across the world. They've chosen Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home, and we are delighted to be their first UK partner!



Buddy Bites have pledged to give us 1kg of their premium kibble for every 2kg of food ordered in the UK, and they'll donate any unused bags to our 81 pet food banks across East and Central Scotland!

Buddy Bites are also offering a bag of food to each dog adopted from us, to avoid disrupting their diet and help them to settle into their new homes.

Chris Lee, Co-Founder of Buddy Bites said, *'By covering all the food needed for dogs at the Home and also providing food to sustain the pet food bank, we can free up much needed funds that can be allocated elsewhere.'*

A huge thank you from all of us at the Home.

**Main image:** Jamie Simpson, Chief Operating Officer (left), Chris Lee, Co-founder of Buddy Bites (right), and Corrie the dog (centre).

# 'WHEN I SAW THE AMOUNT OF PET FOOD OUR MEMBERS HAD COLLECTED, I COULDN'T QUITE BELIEVE IT!'

**Sing in the City choirs, and Chief Radio are sister organisations who put community at the heart of everything they do.**

Last year, they supported the Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home by donating almost 4000 meals for pets in need, alongside blankets, toys, treats and other resources.

Our Foodbank Coordinator, Kirsten, said, *'Without their help we wouldn't have reached so many pets in need and helped keep so many pets in loving homes.'*

Sing in the City and Chief Radio rallied their members and listeners across Scotland to support our food banks' urgent request for support.



Thanks to their incredible generosity, hundreds of pets and their families have been supported with vital pet food and resources.

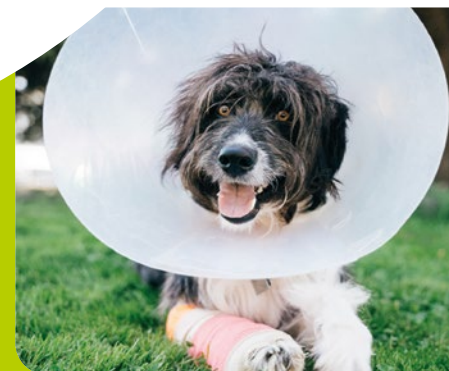
Their founder, Kirsty, told us, *'We've donated about £175,000 to community and charity over the last 14 years. It's all about doing what we can for whoever we can.'*

A huge thank you to Kirsty and all the members of the Sing in the City Choirs for their unwavering support!

## **DOG FIRST AID**

### **IN AN EMERGENCY, WOULD YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO?**

Our Dog First Aid Courses  
will teach you how to  
help your pet through  
life or death scenarios  
like choking, impalement,  
seizures and bites.

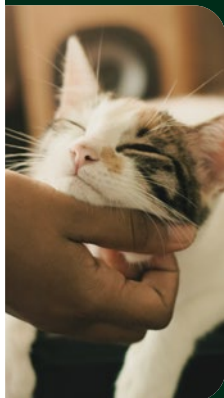


**SIGN UP  
TODAY  
TO GET  
PREPARED:**



### **LEAVE A GIFT OF LOVE WITHOUT LIMITS**

## **LOVE WITHOUT LIMITS**



Whether it's the beloved dog who's been with you  
through thick and thin, or the cat who greets you  
with an affectionate headbutt every time you  
come home, your pets are always there for you.

By leaving a gift in your Will to  
Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home, you  
will always be there for them too.

Email [fundraising@edch.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@edch.org.uk)  
or scan the code to find out more.



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