

TAILY MAIL



Edinburgh

**Dog
&
Cat**

Home

SPRING/SUMMER 26

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Spring/Summer Issue of the Taily Mail

Hello,

The sun has finally shown its face in Edinburgh, and we're feeling bright too! Our pups are looking forward to summer days splashing about on the beach, and the cats are already picking out their favourite sunbathing spots.

Read on for a peep behind the scenes as members of the team attended a dog sound bath session, hear how Dusty the cat has transformed into a shining star, and find out why we always rehome bonded pairs together. Our new Cat First Aid course teaches vital, life-saving skills like CPR and wound dressing. Attendees have told us

'This course was really useful and helped me understand what I can do instead of panicking and immediately phoning the vet'



and 'A full day with lots of useful information - I feel happier knowing how to deal with living with my boys now.' Flip to the back page for more details on how to book your spot!

If you love the Taily Mail and want more stories like Luna and Dusty's as well as regular updates, sign up to our monthly email newsletter, the Taily Digest at edch.org.uk/newsletter.

Thank you always for your continued support, we couldn't do what we do without you.

Best re-grrrrs,

Ziggy

LUNA'S STORY: LEARNING TO BE BRAVE

It took two months in her new home for Luna, the 3-year-old Pomeranian Collie cross, to find the confidence for an outdoor walk. She was terrified of everything, especially new people, other dogs and cars.

Thankfully, her new owner, Cath, had lots of experience with rescue dogs and she wasn't fazed by Luna's fears.

'The first time I visited Luna, she totally ignored me, she was chasing cars and lorries at the edge of the paddock.' Cath knew it wasn't going to be an easy road, but she was confident that she could give Luna a safe and loving home where she could learn to trust again.

Cath has worked hard to gain Luna's trust and after two months together, they were finally able to venture out for a woodland walk on the long-lead. Cath says, *'When we're out and about now, she looks at me for reassurance.'*

Cath's advice to anyone thinking of rehoming a rescue dog is, *'have patience'*.



'Patience is the best thing, and I'm reaping the rewards now. Sometimes I get frustrated that we're not moving faster, but then other times I look at her and I think, 'my God, you've come a long way.'

Luna now has a favourite nap spot, the back of the couch where she acts as the 'neighbourhood watch', and she loves nothing more than playing with her ball in the garden.

Cath tells us, *'She's here to stay.'*



GOOD THINGS COME IN TWOS: REHOMING A BONDED PAIR

Occasionally, a pair of dogs and cats will arrive in our care together, they may be siblings or previously lived in the same home.

Often, keeping them together in the Home is a huge source of comfort for them. Rehoming Operations Coordinator, Mhairi, says *'coming into a new place like this can be overwhelming for any animal so keeping pairs together gives them that familiarity. Having that companion to rely on gives them the security blanket they need.'*

When we have a bonded pair, like kittens Gin and Tonic who were found together as strays, or lurchers, Belle and Archie,

who came in when their previous owners were no longer able to care for them, we always rehome them together.

For Belle and Archie especially, staying together was vital for their wellbeing. Belle was terrified when she arrived and despite being nervous himself, Archie was her constant companion. He helped her navigate her new environment and stayed by her side as she grew to love and trust her kennel 'parents'.

Both bonded pairs, Gin and Tonic, and Belle and Archie, recently found their forever homes where they continue to be a source of comfort and joy in each other's lives.



INSIDE THE HOME: DOG-SOUND BATH AND MEDITATION



Recently we welcomed Elspeth from Pause to Be to lead a sound bath session for a few of our employee pups.

Elspeth is a mindfulness expert who previously hosted a session for humans as part of our 'Learning Wednesday' series, where team members receive training from colleagues or visiting experts. This time, the dogs were the stars and Elspeth came along to lead them in a sound bath meditation.

Executive Support Officer, Emma, attended with her dog, Pippin. She said, *'I was sceptical because Pippin's nervy about noises. But Elspeth had all these different instruments and I was so surprised, Pippin was totally relaxed! He totally flaked out and fell asleep!'*

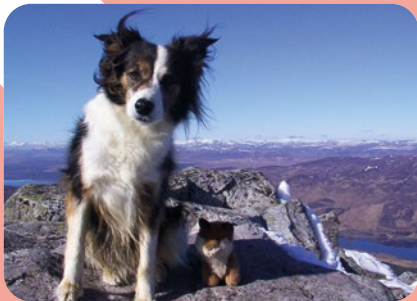
Five dogs attended the session, and all but one found it soothing and relaxing. Another attendee

said, *'For a little rescue Westie with sound sensitivities, Margot's reaction to the sound bath was a total surprise. She totally immersed herself in it and just let herself go to this little moment of bliss. Such a beautiful thing to see. Thank you Elspeth for your good vibrations.'*

The session was such a success that we're exploring it's potential as a method of stress relief to some of our kennel dogs!



SHEBA'S STORY: HONOURING THE MEMORY OF A VERY SPECIAL DOG



James and his wife, Elizabeth, are long-term supporters of the Home. Since 2017, they've given a monthly donation in memory of their beloved dog, Sheba, who they rehomed many years ago.

James shared the story of why they continue to support the Home:

'We were passing through Edinburgh in transit from Newcastle to our home in Perth, as we passed the Home, my wife suddenly suggested we went in for a look. We'd lost our last dog, an Alsatian Border Collie cross a few years before.

There were about five dogs in the kennels including a beautiful long-haired lurcher, but we could see

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and hear a small Border Collie in a run outside. She was quite vocal to say the least!

We took her home with us that day and named her Sheba. She was with us for roughly 12 years. I was a keen hillwalker and Sheba would come with me. Eventually she ended up doing well over 100 munros and roughly 90 corbetts.

We've never had another dog since she passed as I don't think any other could fill the gap she has left in our lives.'

Regular gifts like these help us to plan for our future and will help dogs like Sheba find happy homes for many years to come. Thank you to James and Elizabeth, for their continued generosity and to Sheba for being such a sweet and loving girl.



DUSTY'S STORY: DUSTY NO MORE!



When Dusty arrived in our care, she weighed a shocking 2.35kg. She was so thin you could feel her microchip under her skin.

Dusty had been lost, alone, and struggling to survive. Her dark coat was sun-bleached, covered in fleas, and dotted with bald patches across her back legs and abdomen.

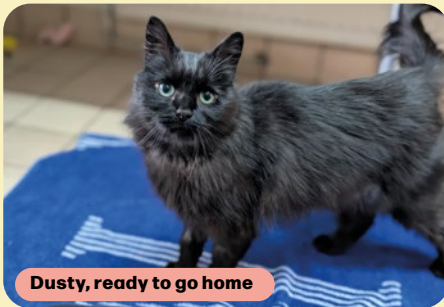
Dusty had a long road to recovery. She'd been fighting for her life for so long that it took her a while to relax into the safety of her cat pen. She hid away inside her carrier for the first few days and would hiss when anyone came too close.



Dusty when she first arrived in our care

With patience, proper food, and gentle care, Dusty slowly began to gain weight and grow in confidence. She started to venture out of her carrier and learned to love cuddles and attention.

By the time she was ready to go to her new home, Dusty had gained over a kilo in weight and her coat had grown thick, shiny and dark. Dusty is still a little flighty and nervous of sudden movements or noises but she's settling in well with her new family. They tell us; *'We're very in love with Dusty already!'*



Dusty, ready to go home



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

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