

spring/summer 2024

animate

The magazine of the National Animal Welfare Trust

FOSTERING KINDNESS

Meet the people
caring for
homeless pets

RETAIL THERAPY

A sneak peek at
our new shops

FUNDRAISING SUPERHEROES

Meet our runners,
swimmers and crafters





Private Medical Cover

**Transfer & Save
or Start Today**

- > Your choice of hospital & specialist
- > Avoid NHS waiting list
- > Prompt treatment
- > Open to all ages
- > Claims settled promptly
- > Making a claim will not affect your subscription
- > Excellent UK based service

EXCLUSIVE OFFER[†]

for readers of

Animate Magazine

92% SAVED MONEY
transferring to HMCA*

*Based on data provided by members who joined HMCA between 1st January 2023 and 31st December 2023.
†Exclusive offer available to selected membership groups.

Call today for a no obligation quote on

01423 799949

or enquire online at www.hmca.co.uk/animate



Rated 'Excellent' by our customers on





Last year, I wrote in *Animate* about how the cost of living was impacting the animals we look after. Many of them arrive in need of veterinary care or have behavioural issues which mean it takes longer to rehome them. Both these issues affect our running costs when it comes to delivering our services and sit alongside other inflationary pressures such as food and wage bills.

A year on and I'm afraid not much has changed. In fact, it's becoming much harder.

There are many spinning plates at the moment, and we are trying very hard to balance them all.

One of my major roles is helping the charity find new ways to generate sustainable income streams from different sources.

Some of these are revealed for the first time here starting with the opening of two new charity shops close to our Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Centres. We also have plans to refurbish the Hertfordshire Centre which will be funded through a partnership with a developer.

So while we're spinning plates, I'd like to hope we are trying to maintain a structured approach to keeping them going in order to reduce the threat of any of them tumbling to the ground.

In spite of the many challenges we are facing and you are facing at home, it's a great comfort to know animal friends like you are supporting pets in need in whatever way you can. We hope you enjoy reading about those achievements within the pages of this issue.

Rob

Plans unveiled for Hertfordshire Centre rebuild



As many of our readers will know, our busy Hertfordshire Centre in Watford is in bad shape. The buildings are run down and costly to run and over the past few years we have looked at how to improve the centre for the animals and for the people that visit us and work there.

Last month we submitted a planning application to create a new centre to the south-eastern side of the site.

To fund the centre, NAWT has entered into a partnership with a developer to build some small commercial units on the north-western side of the site. This development will be phased so that the existing NAWT centre can continue to operate whilst the new centre is built.

Here is the artist impression of what the new NAWT Watford centre will look like. It will feature modern facilities for catteries and kennels and other ancillary buildings as well as new exercise and training areas for our dogs.

In addition, there will be space for staff accommodation and an administration block to house offices for NAWT staff and volunteers, as well as a community room for educational and local groups to use. Keep an eye on our social media and newsletters for further information.

Thank you for your support over Christmas

We want to thank everyone who supported us in our Double Donations Christmas Challenge Campaign at the end of last year. Thanks to your support, we've managed to raise a total of £66,552 across the whole charity which is a huge achievement given how hard the current climate is for so many.

A big thank you also to everyone who supported our centres' individual Christmas campaigns like the shoe box appeal. We would not be able to do what we do without you.



National Animal Welfare Trust

Tylers Way, Watford, Herts WD25 8WT
Tel: 020 8950 0177
www.nawt.org.uk

If you no longer wish to receive *Animate* magazine, please email supportercare@nawt.org.uk

Our cover photo is taken by Nicola Leach

Dogmatic®

Automatically leading the way



For Dog People by Dog People Because your dog deserves the **BEST**

REVOLUTIONARY HEADCOLLAR

Stops dogs pulling on the lead and **gives you back control.**
Life-Changing products for you and your dog!



'PRODUCT I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT'



**NO MORE PULLING • NO MORE RIDING UP • NO MORE RUBBING
NO MORE COMING OFF • NO MORE DISCOMFORT**



'Matching accessories in a selection of colours' with high quality workmanship and fittings.

Also available: Collars, Non Slip Leads and Gripper Training Leads offering added security and confidence throughout the winter months.

Call to join the ever growing number of people changing to Dogmatic **01952 245330** or visit us at **www.dogmatic.org.uk**

Endorsed by Dr David Sands BSc PhD CFBA Fellow of the Canine & Feline Behaviour Association

AWARDED 'Best Dog Collar Manufacturer 2020-21 - UK' and Most Innovative Dog Collar Manufacturers 2019

Say hello to Amanda!

We'd like to say a warm welcome to our new Director of Operations, Amanda Lovett. A former RSPCA inspector, Amanda has worked in animal welfare for many years – even running her own private boarding cattery while her children were young.

She will be bringing her experience to NAWT in helping the centres to streamline their operations as well as fostering greater links with other charities.

She said: "I've been out and about meeting volunteers and teams at the different centres and been very humbled by all the commitment and dedication I've seen in support of the animals."

Along with her husband and children, Amanda shares her home with two dogs and two cats and is rarely without a litter of kittens to foster.



What's coming up?



Paws in the Park

When: 5 May 2024

Where: Hayle Recreation Ground, Hayle TR27 5AL

Bring your dogs and the family to a fun dog show and picnic in the park to raise money for the NAWT's Cornwall Centre. Stop for a delicious slice of cake and browse the stalls selling everything from face painting to pet accessories.



Fun Day & Dog Show

When: 12 May 2024

Where: Plough Corner, Little Clacton CO16 9ND

Treat your pet and yourselves to a totally pawsome time at the Essex Centre's popular annual event. Attractions include a novelty dog show, animal displays, have-a-go hurdle competitions and plenty of scrummy stalls.

Bookmarking the need for volunteers

With two new charity shops opening this year (see p15), we're on the hunt for more volunteers to help us.

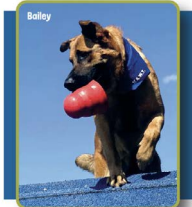
To help find them, we launched a new recruitment campaign in January called *Take Me & Place Me!* Hundreds of printed bookmarks have been made available in our centres and shops with a message saying, 'Take me & Place me!'. The bookmarks provide information about the charity and our appeal for shop volunteers. Supporters and visitors can pick up bookmarks from their local centre or shop, and place them in local areas such as doctor's surgeries and coffee shops in a bid to spread the word.

The bookmark campaign is already making a difference with several new recruits signing up to help in our shops this Spring.



Take me & Place me!

Take me and place me in a spot where I will be found by amazing people who can join our team of Charity shop volunteers.



Home Direct celebrates another milestone

Next month marks the second anniversary of our home direct scheme, a service which helps owners needing to rehome their pet to keep their pet until a new home is found.

Suitable for animals that are not in a welfare compromised situation, NAWT has helped 65 pets through the scheme over the past year.

One recent example is five year old Belgian Malinois Bruno. He came to our attention because he was living in a household with four young children and not getting enough exercise to fulfil his needs. Belgian Malinois are highly intelligent which is why they are commonly used as working dogs in the police and other forces. When he first arrived as a rescue, he was living with two adults but as the family expanded, it was becoming harder to give him the stimulation he needed so his family took the responsible step of asking NAWT for help.

A new home was found for Bruno and we're pleased to hear he's settling in with his new family well.





A sense of belonging

What happens to the nation's pets is often a reflection on what's going on in wider society. With the number of pets needing new homes rising steeply, rehoming charities like NAWT are assessing how they can do more to help.

If you follow animal welfare charities on social media, then you'll often see appeals for foster homes from rescue charities.

Kennel and cattery space is at a premium now - economic pressures and post-pandemic changes to lifestyles mean rehoming charities are struggling to cope with the rising numbers of animals needing to come in.

One of the ways this challenge is being met by NAWT is through boosting its fostering operations.

NAWT's Director of Operations Amanda Lovett said: "Fosterers play such a vital role for charities like ours. For a start they can offer something for animals who would otherwise find kennel life upsetting. We also have the potential to help even more animals if we can find more foster homes."

Currently each centre is reviewing how it manages foster care and improving the support it offers to foster families. Amanda added: "No two fosters are the same because every animal's needs are highly individual. For example, you might have some dogs that are good with other dogs and then others who are not. It's why we need a wide range of available homes.

"Dog fostering is probably the hardest area to sort for charities like ours as you have to be sure everyone is safe, taking into account everything from the dog going into the home to the fosterers looking after them.

"Lockdown has sadly brought with it a perfect storm we have under-socialised dogs who were taken on by inexperienced owners and many of them have ended up coming in to us with behavioural issues. This is also where fostering can help as some of these dogs might not be able to cope so well in kennels."

Ideally fosterers will need experience of owning pets, particularly the case with dogs, and have bags of patience in order to give the fostered animal a chance to acclimatise and settle into unfamiliar surroundings.

In exchange for taking an animal on, the charity will fund the food and medical treatment required right up until a new home is found.

For many fosterers, it's a chance to experience having a pet without some of the usual responsibilities.

"You get all the benefits of animal companionship, even free kennelling fees if you end up going on holiday during the time you have a pet. I guess the biggest reward for many is helping an animal on their journey towards a forever home," said Amanda.

Of course, there are those who sometimes end up as 'failed fosterers' as they choose to adopt the animal themselves which is occasionally an inevitable part of the process.

"It's another reason why we are always on the lookout for more foster homes - it's lovely when a new home is found, but it's also why we always want more fosterers."

Faye Allan - new dog fosterer

When I lost my Ronnie, a Rottweiler/German Shepherd cross, in July 2022, I really took it badly and so did my 12-year-old son as he had known her practically all his life. I wasn't ready to get another dog but a house isn't a home without one in it. I've been volunteering with the dogs at the Hertfordshire Centre which has really helped so much with my mental health and it was Jackie, the Centre Manager, who asked if I could help foster a blind eight-year-old Chihuahua called Edie, who was really struggling in the kennel environment. She came to us six weeks ago and was very nervous of her surroundings at first.

Here it is peaceful, and she is coming out of her shell. My son can't wait to greet her when he comes home from school, and it's given me so much satisfaction to know we are helping her. I'm not used to little dogs, so I've found it sweet how she comes and cuddles next to me.

I've been taking Edie to the centre every week for health checks and told the vet about a limp I'd recently noticed so they are investigating before Edie is put up for rehoming.

We know it's only temporary while we have Edie and so are having to prepare ourselves for her moving on. We are very pleased to be helping Edie on her journey to finding a new home.



Nicola Leach – family fosterers

While my role at the Bedfordshire Centre keeps me more on the administrative side, fostering animals at home gives me the best of both worlds. Last year we had the joy of hosting an energetic 8-month-old Lab named Liuda, and more recently, we kicked my husband out of his home office to house something much funnier – kittens!

With three young boys we've got a busy (aka chaotic!) household and committing to a pet permanently isn't feasible for us right now. However, offering short term care has been such a pleasure. It's fantastic for the animals as they are able to experience a home environment and living with children adds another appealing aspect for potential adopters.



On the flip side, it's teaching my kids kindness and responsibility and showing them it's sometimes hard work having a pet!

I'm always a bit apprehensive bringing a new animal into our home. How will they react to the kids? How will the kids react to them? Will they chew the furniture? Do I really need someone else to clear up after? Yes, jigsaw puzzle pieces have been eaten... I'm looking at you Liuda. Yes, it's extra work at times, but when the exhausted street cat purrs on your lap whilst you watch *Winter Watch* or the confused puppy missing her

family barks for joy at a game of football in the garden...it's so, so worth it.

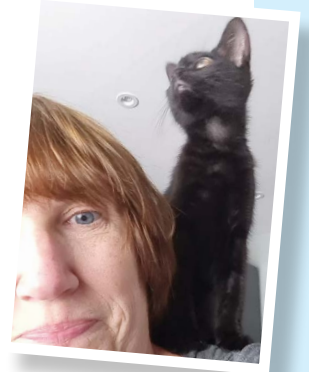
The kittens we're currently fostering who were born at our house don't bat an eyelid when my toddler empties the kitchen cupboard and the saucepans clatter to the floor... in fact they're more likely to try and climb in one!

Of course, not every animal in need of NAWT's help would suit our home environment (some days I'm not sure I do either) so having a variety of foster homes for us to approach would be the most ideal situation for the centre.



Erica Young – kitten fosterer

In the two years I've fostered for NAWT, I've looked after 39 cats, most of them kittens. This includes week-old newborns (my first ever fosters), wall climbing ferals and even playing midwife to a litter of seven born at my home.



I love having them so much that I've already telephoned the centre to tell them when I'm back from my holiday so they know when to send me the next litter.

I also volunteer for NAWT's Watford charity shop and Macmillan, so when I'm not at home, my partner and my daughters will muck in if anything needs doing. One of my daughters helps me weigh the kittens which we do every day. Weighing a wriggly kitten in a glass-bowl is a challenge but my daughter's very good at remembering which is which and has photographs against their names on the chart. My favourite bit is having them all cuddled up on my lap.

Being in a home environment means the animals get used to all the normal sounds like hoovers, washing machines etc. I have a pet dog and cat too and while they don't mix with the kittens, they do get to hear them so it really helps them to acclimatise to what their new lives will be like. If I wasn't doing this then I guess they'd be starting life in a cage so this has got to be better for them.



If you'd like to find out more about fostering, please contact your local centre or visit www.nawt.org.uk.

Why have a stairlift when you could have a real lift?

A Stiltz Homelift will help you continue living in the home you love.

Stairlift? No Thanks

A Stiltz Homelift is an ideal and affordable alternative to a stairlift. You can now safely travel between the floors in your home while keeping your stairs the way they have always been.

Neat & Discreet

A Stiltz Homelift can be installed into almost any room in your home. A Stiltz is uniquely compact with the smallest model taking up just over half a square metre – now that IS discreet. The homelift plugs directly into a standard domestic socket and uses less power than boiling a kettle. The homelifts run on self-supporting rails so there is no need to drill into walls and the motor is fully self-contained within the lift car. Neat.

Your Forever Home

While some Stiltz customers have an immediate need for a homelift, others are looking to future-proof their existing home for when the stairs do eventually become a challenge. Don't go through the unnecessary

expense and emotional upheaval of moving house or the disruption of adapting your home for downstairs living. Save money instead; live comfortably and independently in the home you love for as long as you want, with a Stiltz Homelift.

"We've had our lift for 2 years and were so impressed with how it was fitted from our hallway to our landing in what at first appeared to be an impossible space. And in such a short time."

Mr. Eames

Peace Of Mind

Stiltz are proud to be rated 'Excellent' by their customers on Trustpilot. They use their own teams of expert installers, so you can choose a Stiltz Homelift with complete peace of mind, knowing you and your home are in a safe pair of hands.

"Excellent product installed by polite and very competent tradesmen. Fits perfectly into my home. Made a huge difference to my ability to live independently."

Mark via Trustpilot



"The installation guys were very clean and masters of the vacuum cleaner... As for the lift, it's the best thing since sliced bread."

Mrs. K, April 2023

Free, No Obligation Survey

A Stiltz Homelifts Consultant can visit your property to help you plan the best location for your homelift.

They can also answer any questions you might have, as can any of the friendly, UK-based phone team.

So, why not give your lifestyle a lift with Stiltz. Call FREE today.



The UK's No.1 Homelift

- Rapid service
- Cost-effective
- Small footprint
- Freestanding design - no wall needed
- Wheelchair model available
- Manufactured, installed and fully guaranteed by Stiltz
- 3-floor travel available
- Finance options available*

* ask an adviser for details

For a FREE brochure or no obligation survey
Call FREE on 0808 303 7487
or visit www.stiltz.co.uk

StiltzTM
Homelifts



2020

My life in walks and cuddles



Stacey Sheppard

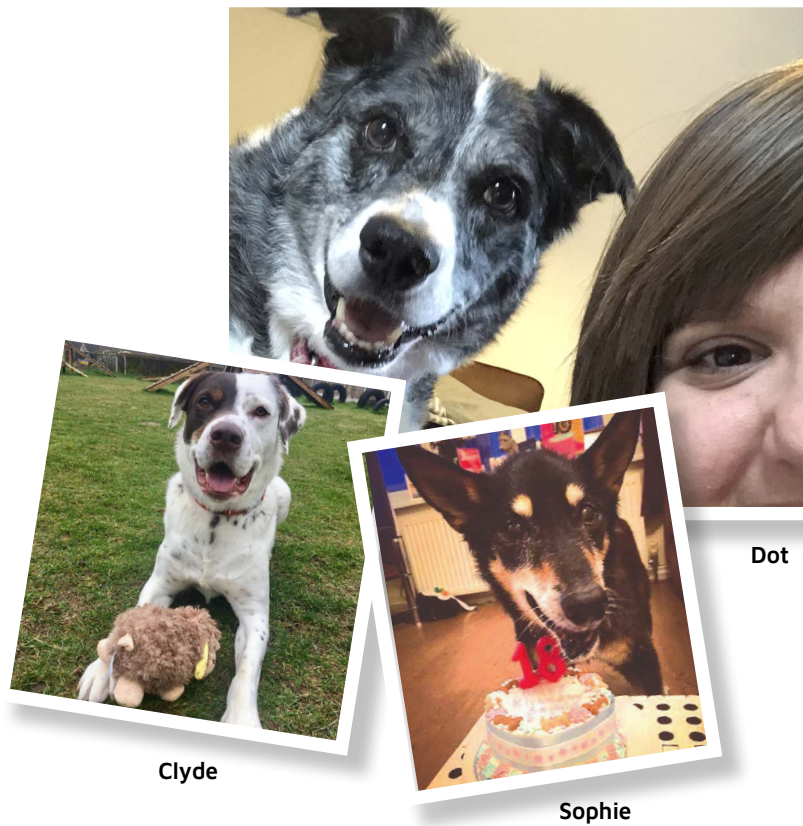
Tell us how you came to work at the charity?

I joined the NAWT nine years ago after previously working for another rehoming charity. I always knew I wanted to work with animals and initially thought I'd go down the vet route but in the end, I did a degree in zoology. I tried working at a zoo but moved into rehoming soon after. We always had pets growing up and I think it was one dog in particular, Bella, a Dalmation, who gave me the bug. She was terrified of the world but we gained her trust and helped her navigate through life. I saw how we made such a difference to her and it was so rewarding.

Tell us what a supervisor does

I'm there to support the whole team to make sure we give the best care to the animals and provide the best service to the people who are either relinquishing their pets or wanting to rehome them. It involves training our team by taking them through the rehoming journey as well as supporting them with carrying out the volunteer induction process.

Working in rehoming can be an emotional rollercoaster at times because we are sometimes dealing with animals that are really down on



Clyde

Sophie

Dot

MEET STACEY SHEPPARD. SHE WORKS AS A SUPERVISOR AT NAWT'S ESSEX CENTRE

their luck. I'm proud of the team here for what they do every day.

The support we get from volunteers and the public is massive. We are helped in so many ways and I think that's such an important message to get across. Whether it's donating some blankets or giving up time to volunteer, whatever anyone can do to help us, is really appreciated.

Have you noticed any changes to the sorts of rehoming cases you and the team are dealing with?

I've seen lots of changes and of course lockdown, financial pressures and the cost of living crisis are where we're seeing the biggest effects. There are lots of animals coming in with untreated medical issues, some have behavioural issues due to lack of socialisation.

You must have worked with hundreds of animals over the years. Are there any who captured your heart?

There have been many and probably too many to mention but some do stand out. One of them was Clyde. He was a big mastiff cross who stayed with us for a long time before he found the right home. I played a big part in

his rehoming journey and when he went to his new home, the owners kept in touch with us right through until he passed away and then came back and took another dog on. I've also fostered some of the animals over the years like Dot, the collie who had kidney problems and had me cooking her all sorts of food so she that she could eat something. I didn't mind it though as she was a lovely dog.

Fostering seems to come with the territory when you work in rescue. Have you had any failed fosters?

I have mainly fostered puppies in the past which is usually short and sweet before they head off to the rest of their lives. Having said that, I fostered an older dog called Sophie. She was a collie-cross who came into the centre aged around 13 years old. Her mouth was in a bad way and all her teeth had to be removed. However, in spite of her age and her dental work, we managed to find her a new home to go to. But it didn't work out and she came back to live with me. We enjoyed another four years together before she passed away. We even celebrated her 18th birthday with a cake.

The last puppy to go home

Apollo

Rehomed: January 2024
Centre: Cornwall
Breed: German Shepherd
Adopted by: The Baigents



Apollo when he first arrived at NAWT Cornwall

Apollo was one of five young German Shepherds who arrived at the Cornwall Centre from the dog warden around Christmas time. All such lovely characters, the only issue with the dogs seemed to be their condition as they all looked a bit worse for wear. Homes were quickly found for four of the five dogs but Apollo's new chapter took a little longer to start.

Enter Lee and Zoe Baigent who were contemplating taking on a second German Shepherd to keep their own dog, Poppy, company following the death of Lollipop, their Chihuahua.

Having found out about the young pup with the shaved coat and beautiful eyes, they set off from their home in Wiltshire to make the eight-hour round trip to visit him.

After a second trip, involving a lively introduction to Poppy, the couple returned home with Apollo on board.

Two months on and the youngster is thriving. His beautiful coat is growing back well and he's put on weight thanks to loving his food. New pal Poppy has taught him to love puddles and to find the best places to sleep around the house.

Zoe added: "His favourite hobbies are either dismantling stuffed toys to 'kill the squeak' or play fighting with Poppy! 60kg of German Shepherds playing together definitely shifts the furniture!

"Apollo's going from strength to strength and is an absolute superstar and it was a great choice to bring him into the family group."



Apollo and new pal Poppy

Padron (Olaf) and Pepper (Gabby)

Rehomed: January 2024
Centre: Hertfordshire
Breed: Domestic Short Hair
Adopted by: Helen Slaymaker

Brother and sister Padron (Gabby) and Pepper (Olaf) were six-month-old kittens left in a basket at the gate of the Hertfordshire Centre with a note asking NAWT to take care of them.

It didn't take long for the pair's fortunes to take a positive turn and the two cats have quickly settled into their new home.

Owner Helen Slaymaker said: "We are very happy that we chose to adopt these two wonderful kitten siblings, they have brought joy into our lives.

"It's been so lovely watching them together, they're never far from each other whether playing or sleeping. We're slowly introducing them to the garden, but Pepper isn't too keen on wet grass!"



Caesar

Rehomed: October 2023
Centre: Bedfordshire
Breed: Mastiff cross
Adopted by: The Higginsons

Kerri and her husband Dowie had been looking for a four-legged companion for a little while before they came across Caesar's profile and fell in love with him instantly. Having both grown up with big dogs, the couple were saddened to learn how Caesar's size had meant it taking a little longer to find him an ideal home. This didn't bother them and the bouncy and loveable dog was soon on his way to his new home.

Kerri said: "Caesar loves rough and tumble play and tug of war. However, you will frequently find him curled up on the sofa as close as humanly possible to one of us. It's not unusual for him to sit on you despite not being a typical lapdog size!

"We're so grateful to the lovely people at NAWT Bedfordshire for making the whole adoption process from beginning to end a pleasure and for helping us find the perfect companion."





Bella and Betsy

Rehomed: January 2024
Centre: Berkshire
Breed: Rabbits
Adopted by: Katherine Brown

Ten-year-old Emily had been pleading for a pet rabbit with her mum, Katherine, for ages. So, when she finally agreed, Emily and her brother found Bella and Betsy's profiles online and it was love at first sight.

Every morning the children race out of bed to ensure they feed and play with the bunnies before school. They can often be found in an evening sat in the rabbit pen.

Emily said: "Betsy is a very adventurous girl and is always looking for new things to do and comes hopping up to us whenever we come in. She also loves her food."

Bella loves her cuddles and is also very funny. She is the more energetic one - always the first to start a race around the run through the tunnels."

Both children have informed their mum rehoming the rabbits is the best decision she's ever made!



Dudley (Mikey)

Rehomed: December 2023
Centre: Essex
Type: Cockerpoo
Adopted by: Chris & Linda White

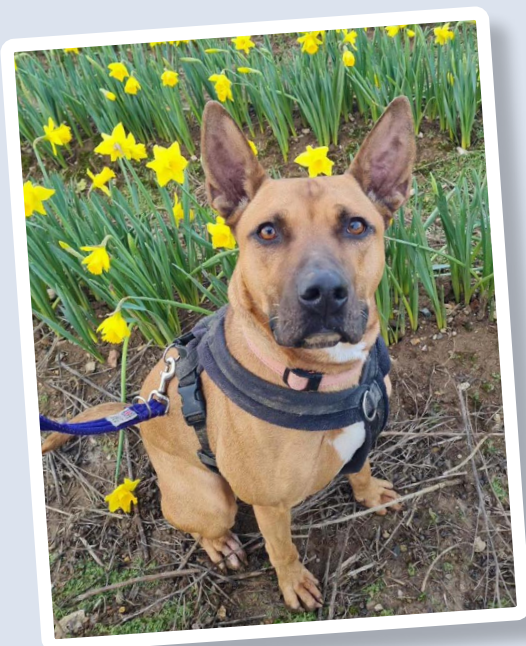
Dudley arrived at the Clacton Centre as one of five Cockerpoos in need of a new home. Kennel life was a struggle for the anxious dog, so Dudley was fostered while a new home was found for him.

In the run up to Christmas, he was introduced to Chris and Linda who were looking for a companion for their current dog, another Cockerpoo called Elsie. After a couple of successful visits, he came home to his new family just in time for the holiday season.

At first Dudley found his new life quite scary but in time, and under the guidance of Elsie, his confidence has grown.

So much so, that he's learnt the best places to sleep and lie down are on his owners.

Chris said: "He's quite the heartthrob when he's out and about and is always happy to have a fuss when out on his walk."



April

Centre: Bedfordshire

Still waiting...

Will the change of season into Spring bring good news for April? This unlucky crossbreed has recently moved to our Bedfordshire Centre from Cornwall in a bid to offer her more chances of finding a new home. The two-year-old arrived as a stray and loves nothing more than human company. As a result she would prefer to be the only pet in her chosen house.

Her perfect owner will love taking her on plenty of walks in quiet places and be willing to continue her training. She loves to show off how well she can sit, give her paw and lie down.

When April is not out and about, her favourite indoor activity is to play with her teddies and squeaky toys.

To find out more about April, please visit www.nawt.org.uk

Fundraising superheroes

We can't thank you enough for all you do to show your love and support to NAWT. Your gifts, donations and fundraising help pets overcome the toughest challenges of their lives.



James Owen



Rosie Burgess

Marathon marvels



Taking the plunge



Jill Brown



Pat Lawrance

Making waves in Cornwall

Let's send good wishes to our two runners making strides for NAWT this Spring by entering the Brighton Marathon.

Rosie Burgess is a part-time Animal Care Assistant at the Bedfordshire Centre who is also studying bioveterinary science at university.

Rosie said: "I grew up around 13 rescue dogs so I've always had a massive love for rescues, and enjoy being a part of the animal's journey until they find their forever home."

Also relishing a challenge is James Owen, whose partner Louise, works at the Berkshire Centre. "I have always been extremely passionate about physical activity and its importance to our health. The Brighton Marathon seemed like a great challenge to prepare for physically and mentally. To be able to run for NAWT Berkshire, was as an easy choice as I have seen first-hand the amazing work they do in rehoming animals of all kinds.

If you'd like to support them, please visit our website www.nawt.org.uk.

It takes a certain strength of character to brave the cold waters of an outdoor pool on the day before New Year's Eve. But that's what 100 people did when they took the plunge at Woburn Lido raising more than £2,000 in donations.

Fundraising Officer Nicola Leach said: "The team from Woburn Lido were amazing for hosting the event.

"It was a really nice atmosphere and for many people it was their first cold water swim, so it felt special to share this experience with them."

Last Autumn, the Bedfordshire Centre was hit with an unexpected £23,000 water bill due to an underground leak the team had no idea was there.

Appeals to the water company – Wave Utilities – have been unsuccessful and the team are now trying to raise extra funds to foot the massive bill which is normally a fraction of that amount.

Pat Lawrance and Jill Brown have been fundraising for NAWT Cornwall right from the very start.

If you've ever visited a NAWT Cornwall stall over the years you are likely to have met at least one of them. Jill regularly sells our products at various fairs and is famous for painstakingly procuring donated dog biscuits and other treats and turning them into 600 hand-wrapped giveaways for the "Prize Every Time" stall which she runs every year at the Royal Cornwall Show.

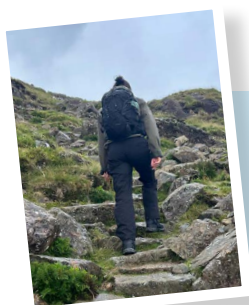
Jill said: "People love it because they don't come away empty handed, and their pets get a lovely treat. It sells out every year."

Pat has earned the reputation for crafting and selling marvellous creations over the years. She believes she's created up to 50 different item ranges – from canine bow ties to her current project – making 100 dog beds from laundered second hand duvets and duvet covers.

"My friends say if I can sew it, I'll give it a go. It's a win-win for everyone."

Both Pat and Jill have raised thousands of pounds over the years thanks to their dedication to the cause.

And of course, they've even brought some of the animals they've helped home. Pat currently has four dogs and Jill has one.



If the swimmers, runners or creative pursuits have inspired you to fundraise for NAWT, there are so many ways you can help. If you'd like to talk to our team, then either contact your local centre or call our head office on 020 8950 0177 (option 1). We can provide posters and leaflets as well as offer advice and tips on how to make your event go smoothly.

Make room for a groom

Regular grooming is an essential part of an animal's welfare, whether it's carried out by you or a professional.

Some of the animals at NAWT arrive here in poor condition, with long-haired breeds of all species, particularly susceptible. Take Gerald, who came with such badly matted fur, every time he moved, it pulled his skin painfully.

We had to sedate him to have his coat trimmed back. It's started to grow back and he's now flourishing in his new home (see photos below).

Aside from avoiding the problems that poor Gerald faced, grooming is a lovely bonding exercise for owners and their pets, even if it's just for a few minutes at a time.

From the vet's corner



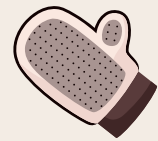
Brushing up on brushing

A dog's grooming regime is dictated by length of coat and fur type. For example, some terriers need their fur "stripping" by hand rather than normal grooming with a brush to remove unwanted hairs.

Key to successful grooming is getting your dog used to it. Young or old, all dogs will need some time to adjust so start regularly and start building a routine as soon as they come home.

It's worth chatting through what you need to do for your dog with your vet if you're unsure of what to do.

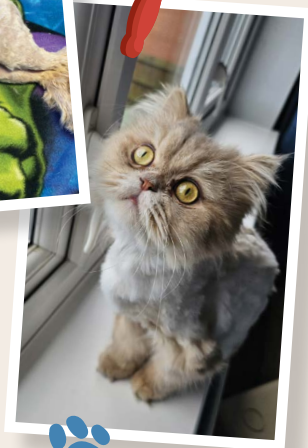
Another big issue for dogs is keeping their claws in check. Again, your vet will be able to offer advice, some people are able to do their own dogs, while others prefer the help of their vet or dog groomer.



Recently rehomed Dudley (see story p11) is looking fabulous after visiting the groomers



Gerald having his matted fur removed and now happy in his new home with his fur regrowing



Caring for cats

With a famously rough tongue, cats naturally spend more time grooming than dogs. However, you can still do this with your feline friend too, particularly if they have a long coat. Again, start building a routine slowly. Short bursts of activity is the best way to start. Cats prefer to be touched around the face to other parts of their bodies, so start your journey there before moving on to other places your pet likes.

Grooming small furries

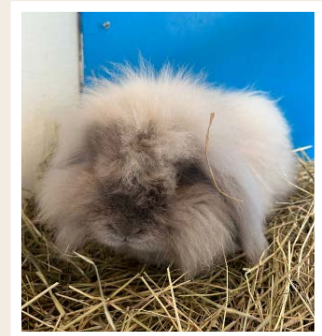
The main issue when it comes to grooming smaller animals is keeping their nails short as both rabbit and guinea pig nails grow continuously.

Most people choose to do this themselves but if you have any doubts, then refer to your vet. Be mindful of not cutting them too short as this will result in pain if the quick is exposed.

All rabbits need their fur brushing regularly and longer breeds like our Angora rabbit Ronnie, need it frequently to prevent matts. It's also important to check around their back end to ensure the fur in that area is clean especially if they sit in one spot for a long time. Occasionally you may need to trim your rabbit's fur to prevent it from overgrowing and getting matted.

Short haired guinea pigs need occasional fur brushing, and long-haired will need more plus the occasional haircuts to keep it neat, especially around their back end.

It is also important when grooming rabbits and guinea pigs, to avoid turning them onto their backs to groom them wherever possible as they are prey animals and it can be stressful for them.



Ronnie needs frequent brushing

A friend to rescues – remembering Sue

Sue Pennington's passion for rescue dogs lasted a lifetime. She was once the proud owner of two toy poodles and over the years, rescued at least another two dogs, including one from the National Animal Welfare Trust.



When Sue became poorly, she asked her ex-husband Len and his wife Carol to take on her last dog, a soft-natured terrier cross called Blitzen Bear. He joined them after Sue passed away in December 2021. Blitz, as he is known, shares his home with a long-haired terrier called Scruffy and the two rescue dogs have become firm friends.

Sue's kindness to rescue dogs extended beyond her lifetime as she left NAWT a gift in her Will for which we are extremely grateful. Gifts of this kind mean so much to the charity and help to give hundreds of animals the second chance in life they desperately need.



Blitz and Scruffy have become firm friends



Gifts in Wills

NAWT has partnered with the award-winning firm Farewill, the largest will writer in the UK, to offer a free will writing service that can be done online or on the phone.

Scan to find out more



Pedigree Pens

01684 299567
www.pedigreepens.co.uk

Extensions
Complete Buildings
Re-builds
Roof Upgrades
Accessories



THE ANIMAL HOUSING EXPERTS

Proud to Support
The NAWT



"The National Animal Welfare Trust do a fabulous job rescuing and rehoming a variety of different animals. Everyone at Pedigree Pens would like to wish them the very best for the future."

If you would like to discuss an upcoming project or would like more information on the cattery buildings we provided for the NAWT's site in Bedfordshire, please get in touch with us on: 01684 299567.



Sniffing out new ways to support NAWT

We're opening two new charity shops this Spring. Wendy Richmond finds out more

There's a buzz of excitement in the air at NAWT's Head Office as the retail team are putting the final preparations together for two new charity shops.

The first one in Leighton Buzzard will act as a community beacon for the Bedfordshire Centre while the second one, opening in Hemel Hempstead, will act similarly for the Hertfordshire Centre.



A shop where dogs are always welcome

The new outlets offer carefully selected pre-loved clothing and accessories, homewares, toys, games, and books, plus products for your four-legged friends to enjoy too.

Retail Development Manager Jane Randrup said: "As well as offering a great range of products at great prices, our shops are becoming well known in the community for being dog friendly – we always offer a warm welcome to our four-legged friends with fresh water bowls and treats behind the counter."

"And, of course, all the profits from our charity shops go towards helping pets in need too."



NAWT's rehoming work is on show throughout the shops. There are displays and stories of the animals being helped to show the impact being made by every penny spent instore.

The new outlets also offer our rehoming centre teams a new space to promote centre news and share stories, along with pet tips and advice.



Charity shops are popular

In spite of the tough economic climate, NAWT's shops have had a successful year in 2023 which is another reason why the shops are expanding.

Figures from the Charity Retail Association reveal £387m in profits were raised for charities across the UK in 2022/23.

When times are tight, people look at ways to make their money stretch further, and charity shops will play an important role in the high street. Jane added:

"Aside from being able to offer cheaper, quality items such as clothing and home products, we are also seeing people really interested in buying more sustainably and would rather support pre-loved shopping."

"We've been getting some lovely donations in already and are really looking forward to welcoming people into our new shops this Spring."



Where to find our new shops:

Hemel Hempstead

135 Marlowes
Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1BB

Leighton Buzzard

1A, Exchange Parade,
Lake St,
Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1TR

Can't make it to our new shops?

Visit our eBay shop and NAWT online store or pop into one of our existing shops:

NAWT Hayle Shop

Suite 1-2 Foundry House,
Foundry Square,
Hayle, TR27 4HH
T 01736 759707

NAWT Watford Shop

2 New Road,
Watford, WD17 2EX
T 01923 227141

NAWT Woburn Sands Shop

41 High Street,
Woburn Sands,
Milton Keynes, MK17 8RB
T 01908 587401

Scan to
visit our eBay shop



Around the centres

Berkshire



So far the Berkshire Centre has spent most of 2024 under water due to floods. Many supporters have rushed to help us including our pal, TikTok star Good Boy Ollie and his brother Tato whose fans contributed a massive £7,000 towards our fundraising target. The pair had only recently visited us to drop off loads of Christmas presents kindly donated from their fans.

Among our new arrivals are mother and daughter donkey duo Dotty and Daisy – named by our supporters following a competition – with entry fee donations helping our flood fundraiser. Both animals are settling into their rural home nicely and we'd like to thank everyone for their support during these very wet times!



Bedfordshire

We started the new year by opening the doors to our community boarding services for local dogs and cats. We've received several bookings in already, some of which are from people who were not aware of our charity's local operations.

Cornwall



his brother Tony who was number 2,001. Milo became the 3,000th dog to come through our doors as a rescue.

This achievement really brings home what it is we do and why we do it. We couldn't have achieved this milestone without our amazing supporters who have enabled 5,000 animals in Cornwall to go on to live their best lives.

We want to thank every one of our supporters and our volunteers and all the staff who have worked so hard to give these animals the chance of a new beginning.



This January we celebrated a big milestone by officially helping 5,000 cats and dogs (not counting one tortoise!) at our centre.

This is Timmy, the three-month-old kitten who became the 2,000th cat to head off to his forever home together with

Hertfordshire



It's smiles all round here thanks to a generous £3,895 donation from Animal Friends Insurance to pay for dental equipment. This gift helps us carry

out expensive treatments onsite instead, not only saving money but also reducing waiting times and stress for the animals in need. Our new corporate charity partner, Service Innovation Group, started its 2024 charity of the year fundraising activities early when they pam-purred the animals with a delivery of 50 Christmas presents. We are so grateful for both.

Essex

We are very proud to be opening a secure paddock hire service to the Clacton community this Spring. We recognise there is a local need to have more places available to let dogs off to run in a secure environment and this will give more people the chance to spend much-needed quality time with their dogs. The paddock hire will also include the use of agility equipment and other enrichment activities to ensure every four-legged visitor has a pawsome time.

Aside from play, the paddock also provides space for people to work with their dogs on training and recall.

Prices start at £10 for 50 mins for up to 2 dogs. The paddock has capacity for four dogs with additional dogs being charged £2 extra per dog.

Keep an eye on our social media channels for further details of our launch date.

Visiting our centres

NAWT Bedfordshire

Glebe Farm, Salford Road, Aspley Guise, Milton Keynes, MK17 8HZ
Open daily 11am to 4pm (closed Tuesdays)
01908 584000

NAWT Berkshire

Trindledown Farm, Wantage Road, Great Shefford, Berkshire RG17 7DQ
T 01488 638584
Open Tuesday - Sunday 10am to 4pm

NAWT Cornwall

Wheal Alfred Kennels, Wheal Alfred Road, Hayle, Cornwall TR27 5JT
T 01736 756005
Open daily 11am to 4pm (closed Tuesdays)

NAWT Essex

The Street, Little Clacton, Essex CO16 9LG
T 01255 860062
Open daily 11am to 4pm (closed Tuesdays)

NAWT Thurrock

General enquiries
thurrock@nawt.org.uk

NAWT Hertfordshire

Tylers Way, Watford, Hertfordshire WD25 8WT
T 020 8950 0177 (Option 2)
Open daily 11am to 4pm (closed Tuesdays)