

autumn/winter 2024

animate

The magazine of the National Animal Welfare Trust

**Pawsitive
futures**

Legacy pledgers
share their stories

**Fundraising
superheroes**

Three kind acts in
Bedfordshire

Pet's first Christmas

New owners discuss their plans





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Welcome



Our promise as a rehoming and rescue charity is that We Never Stop Caring. That, of course, means we will do our utmost for every animal in need of our help.

But recently, with the increasing numbers of dogs (and sometimes cats) coming to us with behavioural issues, the level of care we provide is being stretched to new levels.

So, this year we are addressing the issue with the creation of a full-time animal behaviourist who will help our animal care team with a suite of training tools and guides to help them handle the ever more complex cases coming through our doors.

This appointment has two benefits. First, it will help the animals by giving them more targeted training from the start which in turn will help them find a new home quicker. Second, it will provide more support to our animal care team, equipping them with more skills to help care for these animals.

Ultimately, we hope to develop a training framework that goes beyond our rehoming centres and out into the wider community, into the homes of people who've recently taken on a NAWT animal and even members of the public, who might be finding some aspects of their animal's actions challenging.

If our behavioural training can help people better understand their pets, and even prevent someone relinquishing an animal, then it could become a valuable resource.

We will keep you updated on progress in a future issue.

Rob

Titbits

All change for trustees



Our charity is guided by a board of trustees who are responsible for making sure we provide the best possible animal care and spend every pound given to us as wisely as possible.

This summer we welcomed four new members to the board: Kate Brown, Jess Duke, Tree Hall and Lucy Parker (pictured above), who all share a passion for animal welfare.

At the same time, we will be saying a fond farewell to long-standing trustees James Moore, Lynley Griffith and Laura Magee, who has been NAWT chair for over a decade.

Stepping into Laura's shoes is board member John Garratt, who said: "It's a great honour for me to be taking on the role. I am very grateful to Laura and the other retiring trustees for all that they have done and on behalf of the rest of the board wish them all the best for the future.

"The post Covid period and continuing cost of living crisis have undoubtedly presented the entire animal welfare and rescue sector with plenty of additional challenges to contend with and NAWT is no exception to that.

"However, with the public's continued support, I do believe that we are in a good position to continue our important work."

Cat microchipping comes into effect

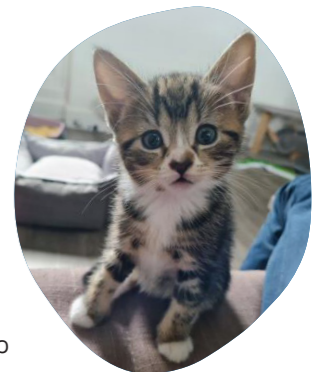
From June this year all domestic cats must be microchipped before reaching 20 weeks of age, with their contact details stored and kept up to date in a pet microchipping database.

Microchips are safe and easy to implant with an average cost of around £25 for microchipping and registration.

When an animal is found, the microchip can be read with a scanner and the registered keeper identified on a database so the cat can quickly be reunited with an owner.

It's one of the tasks we undertake at our centres when a lost or stray cat comes into our care. Over the years, we've successfully managed to reunite lost cats with their owners thanks to their microchip information.

If you know someone who is unsure about microchipping their cat, we are here to help, so please ask them to contact us.



National Animal Welfare Trust

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

Our cover image of Tania and school therapy dog, Nelly, comes with kind permission from HatchBox Photography - School Photography for Cornwall.

Read Tania's story on p6

Kittens given a healthy start this summer



The patter of tiny paws has been echoing across the centres this summer with the arrival of dozens of kittens.

NAWT works with other organisations and authorities to take in pregnant homeless cats to offer them and their litters the best start in life. Thanks to your support, we're able to reduce complications in birth when these mums would otherwise be under stress and not eating properly due to their precarious lives.

Sadly, some kittens arrive without a mum, often in a poorly state, like Rusty, who was found alone in a cardboard box in a park, suffering from fleas and malnutrition.

At Hertfordshire, where the centre has taken in 45 kittens already this summer, the team are very grateful to their growing network of kitten foster families.

They help cats like Yasmin who arrived as a stray with her five newborn kittens. After a vet health check, the furry family were collected by their fosterers who looked after them for the next eight weeks. Now Charley, Dodge, Dora, Dorrit, Olly and Pip have been happily adopted while their mum is being cared for at the centre while she waits for her forever home.

Over in Cornwall, kitten season started in May with the arrival of heavily pregnant mum Flora who went

on to give birth to five kittens a few days later.

Just as Flora's happy brood were ready to move into their new homes, another 20 kittens arrived in late July. All named after Cornish businesses by supporters following an appeal on Facebook, the lively bunch have kept the team busy while new homes are lined up for them.

We'd like to thank everyone who has helped us with our numerous appeals for extra supplies of cat litter and food. You've all helped to make this busy time run a little bit smoother.



Champion Greg's kind gift to NAWT



Greg Rutherford re-opening our Woburn Sands shop in 2022

Olympic gold medallist and sports star Greg Rutherford won more than £6,000 for NAWT when he chose us as his charity for his appearance on BBC TV's The Weakest Link Olympics Special in July.

Greg competed against seven other sports personalities including Sally Gunnell, Rhona Martin and Tessa

Sanderson before going head to head in the final with paralympian table tennis player Will Bayley. As the winner, Greg raised £6,400 for NAWT.

We'd like to say a big thank you to Greg for choosing NAWT and for all your continued support for the work we do.

What's coming up?



Paws in the Park

When: 29 September 2024

Where: Camborne Cricket Club, Camborne TR14 8PS

Bring your two and four-legged family members to a fun dog show and car boot sale to raise money for the NAWT's Cornwall Centre.

Treat yourself to some yummy food and browse the stalls.



Pumpkin Hunt & Crafts

When: 30-31 October 2024

Where: NAWT Berkshire Centre, Trindledown Farm, Wantage Road, Great Shefford RG17 7DG

Take your little ones for a pumpkin hunt round the farm and enjoy a whole range of spooky fun-filled activities. There's a prize for the best Halloween costume.

Light an animal's path to a new home



Last year, NAWT experienced an enormous increase in energy prices, which is something we're sure will resonate with many *Animate* readers.

In one year, the cost to light and heat our rehoming centres leapt from £76,000 to £202,000, surpassing even our veterinary fees, for the first time!

Additional to this was an unexpected and very unwelcome water bill that arrived at our Bedfordshire centre for £21,397! It transpired that a leak had occurred underground sometime the year before, but the water company didn't make us aware of the problem before delivering the eye-watering invoice. To tackle increased utility costs throughout this expensive winter season, we're focussing our annual Double Donations campaign on raising funds for an expense that isn't often spoken about but is integral in supporting neglected, homeless and abandoned animals.

Once again, we are seeking pledges of £100 or more to help us build a 'pledge pot', which we will combine with a donation of up to £20,000 from a Champion Funder (if our application is successful). The pledge pot will be used to double all donations the charity receives in the week from Giving Tuesday (3rd December 2024).

If you'd like to take part as a pledger to the campaign, please find the pledge promise form enclosed with your magazine. If you're unable to support as a pledger, but would still like to donate to the campaign, please mark 3rd -10th December in your diary, when all donations will be doubled!



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A Pawsitive Future

For many of us, writing a will - or updating an existing will - is something we end up leaving till last on the to do list.

Yet without the kindness and generosity of those who take the decision to pledge us a gift in their will, the NAWT simply wouldn't exist today.

Fundraising manager Alex Spurgeon said:

“Over the years, generous legacies of all sizes have amounted to more than half our annual income. This means that animal lovers who chose to support the NAWT in this way have transformed the lives of more than 600 homeless animals each year.”

When we decided this summer to contact some of the supporters who've recently pledged a gift to NAWT in their Will, we were humbled by the enthusiastic response and to hear their reasons for pledging support in this way.

Tania

“Although I now live close to NAWT's Cornwall Centre, I was born a Watford girl and our family ties to the NAWT go back at least 30 years. Back then my nan rehomed a Staffie from the Hertfordshire centre, and called her Tyler, after Tyler's Way where the centre is based. Then as an adult, I adopted two cats from the Hertfordshire Centre - brothers called Disney and Weller - named by our children.

When we moved to Cornwall, we rescued another cat called Jinx from NAWT and then we got the first of our Dogues de Bordeaux, Beasley.

Beasley was the start of our love for the breed and although he wasn't from NAWT, we still wanted to do some fundraising for the charity.

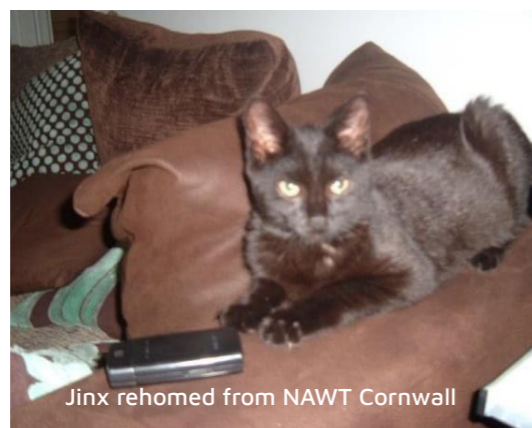
Beasley had his own Facebook and Twitter pages and he raised money for Chico, a Dogue/Mastiff cross, who the Cornwall centre team were caring for so well as he struggled to find a home.

We always keep in touch with the charity - and have done other fundraising like shoebox appeals - so when an email came through about updating my Will, I thought the timing was right. I have to say, the service was brilliant and pain-free.

I'm very proud of my family's connection to the charity and our love of animals in general. When our eldest child buys his first home, he says he's going to get a rescue Staffie just like his great gran, and so the tradition will live on.”



Tyler the Staffie - Tania's nan named her after the NAWT Watford



Jinx rehomed from NAWT Cornwall



Beasley
Dogue de Bordeaux Beasley popped along to the NAWT Cornwall Centre to donate £200 and Waggs dog foods following a successful fundraising auction.



Tracey & Colin at NAWT Bedfordshire

one way or another ever since - from home checking to fundraising - you'll find either my husband or me there most weekends.

My employer is very supportive of the charity as my boss loves animals too.

We stayed involved with the charity because we believe in giving back. We're really pleased

to see how the centre is flourishing with a lovely new building and modern facilities. Our dogs are our family as we don't have children, so when we saw the Will writing post, it coincided with our own thoughts to update our Wills. We both feel strongly about pledging a gift to the centre, because of the vital role it plays in the community.”

Tracey and Colin's current dogs Bernie and Murphy (who was rehomed from NAWT)



Siobhan

“I really wanted to do some volunteering at a local sanctuary and that's how I came across the NAWT Essex Centre. While reading one of the social media posts I saw this offer of free Will writing. It was just the prompt I needed.

I decided to pledge a gift to NAWT in my Will because I read the charity's history and all the amazing work it has done for animals down the years.

It gives me a lot of comfort to think I'll be able to help animals even when I'm not here.

Since doing this, I've looked at other ways I can support NAWT and have cleared my wardrobe to donate to the shop. I hope one day you'll meet me volunteering at Clacton too.”

Tracey and Colin

“We first came across the Bedfordshire centre 20 years ago when a family member needed their cat rehoming - back then it was known as HULA. None of the family could offer a suitable home at the time because we all had dogs, so we contacted the centre, and they were very helpful.

Following that experience, I started volunteer dog walking, along with my husband. Colin and I are passionate about dogs and over the years we've adopted three from the centre - Indy, a German Shepherd Labrador cross, Lola, a corgi Jack Russell cross, and our current dog, Murphy, a Patterdale JR cross.

And we've stayed involved in



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My Life in Walks and Cuddles



Hilary with Mabel

Meet Hilary Young, a former nurse and foster carer, who now pursues her passion for dogs by volunteering at our charity shop in Hayle.

Tell us how you came to volunteer at the charity?

We live in Hayle and we knew the charity from having rescue dogs in the past. One of our most recent ones was an old boy called Stanley, a greyhound-cross, who'd had an abusive past. We were fostering children at the time and one of the lads who came to live with us struck up such a close bond with Stanley, it was a real pleasure to watch.

Animals have the most amazing ability to calm and reach someone who is finding it hard to communicate or express their feelings.



Stanley

What they give is unconditional love - and Stanley was able to provide such comfort, he was so lovely.

So, when I took semi-retirement a few years ago, it felt like a natural step volunteering in the shop in Hayle, and I do that every week now.

What does the work entail?

I do a bit of everything. Sometimes I will be serving customers and talking to our regulars and handing out little treats to their dogs, other times I might be helping to sort the donations coming in.

I used to work as a nurse at the local hospice, so I have spent a lot of my life meeting people from all walks of life. I think that's also why I like working at the shop because you get to meet so many different people.

I think that's what's most interesting, we're not just there to support the centre but we're a sort of hub in the community too. Because some of our visitors are looking for more than a place to shop.

A recent example was a lady who came in to drop off some washed and ironed clothes. The shop was quite busy, but I had a sense these clothes were very important to her, and then she told me they belonged to her late husband. I could see she wanted to talk so I was able to sit with her and have a chat.

Have you got any pets of your own?

Our current dog is Mabel. When Stanley the greyhound passed away, we wanted to have another dog for the young lad living with us. We chose Mabel, the Great Dane, and we're known

in our village for being the people who moved into the smallest cottage with the biggest dog. She actually has her own bedroom at our house! And at 58kg, our walks consist of wherever Mabel wants to go, her favourite place being the beach at Porthkidney.

I have four children and



four grandchildren and have encouraged them all to have dogs, so there's usually at least one of the children's dogs staying with us too.

How would you describe volunteering to someone who might be interested?

If you're an animal lover there's so much you can do to help. You can walk a dog or groom a cat or if you prefer to be more public facing then there's reception as well - or you can come and have a good laugh in the shop with us.

We're not just fundraising, we're having a good time doing it.

Happy Tails

Dotty



Rehomed: April 2024
Centre: Cornwall
Breed: Pug Chihuahua cross
Adopted by: Ivor Trewern

Life's been tough for Ivor these past two years. First, he lost his beloved wife Lynne, and then their dog Ty passed away 18 months later.

"Lynne and I didn't have any children, so our dogs have always been our kids. It was bad enough when Lynne died as I retreated into myself with only Ty for company, but when he passed away, I just couldn't stand being in the house. It wasn't a home anymore and I'd have to go out on long walks, just to get away from that feeling."

Six weeks after losing Ty, Ivor decided to visit the Cornwall Centre to see if they could help him find a new companion.

"Lynne and I used to visit the centre every so often, and we used to donate all our loose change that we'd collect in a jar. They knew me there and gave me a very warm welcome. I was so overwhelmed at first that I couldn't even fill out an adopter form, so I took myself off for a cup of coffee. When I went back a little later, the team told me they already thought there might be a dog for me and introduced me to Dotty.

"I thought I'd probably get another boy dog like Ty and a terrier type, so I was a bit surprised when they introduced me to a female pug cross. But of course, as soon as I met her, we bonded very quickly. Within a few weeks, she was home with me and to be honest she's completely changed my life - she's given me a sense of purpose again."

Ekko



Rehomed: January 2024
Centre: Bedfordshire
Breed: Domestic Short Hair
Adopted by: Laura Bowles



Lone kitten October was so tiny when he was brought into the Bedfordshire Centre, he had to be hand-reared for several weeks.

And when it was Laura's turn to take over the hand-rearing, little did she know she was going to adopt this small and wobbly bundle of fluff.

Her existing cat Jinx was not overly impressed by the kitten's presence at first, but in time she warmed to him. So much so that she took on some mothering duties of her own.

Now called Ekko, the young boy is growing fast and is completely settled in his forever home. Laura said:

"None of us can imagine life without him. He loves his food and will do just about anything for a treat. He has even figured out that if he goes straight round to our neighbour's house, he will get a second breakfast. However, he's still not learnt to use the cat flap despite watching Jinx use it every day."

Sally and Cleo



Rehomed: March & June 2024
Centre: Essex
Breed: Domestic Long Hair & Sphinx
Adopted by: Caroline & Tony White (Sally), Morgan Mitchell (Cleo)

Before arriving at Clacton, black and white long-haired cat Sally was found living in a cage in a house where Cleo had also been living. Both cats were under-nourished and in need of some support. Cleo was rehomed in March to Essex staff member Morgan where she is loving life in her new home.

But it took a little longer for Sally, who was also found to be suffering from feline coronavirus. Unlike the human strain, this virus affects the bowels and means Sally is on permanent medication.

Sally's story touched the hearts of Caroline and Tony White, who immediately offered her a home and she came to live with them in June.

Caroline said: "She's a lovely cat and is settling in well. Tony brushes her hair and she's very good at telling him where she likes to be brushed best. Her favourite spot for dozing is a window sill in the lounge, where she can really stretch out."

Toby (Boris)



Rehomed: March 2024
Centre: Hertfordshire
Breed: Guinea pigs
Adopted by: The Thompson family

Young Boris arrived alone at Hertfordshire last December having found it hard to live with another male in his previous home. Since guineas are social animals, the team thought he might be better off with a female friend, so a date was set to have Boris neutered before a new friend could be found.

While Boris was recovering from his op, the Hertfordshire team received a call from a previous rehoming family looking for some advice about their lonely guinea pig Holly, who was struggling to get on with another female guinea pig in their herd.

With hopes set on a new match, Boris moved in with the Thompsons and began the process of meeting his new companion.

After a few weeks of living separately and admiring each other from afar, Boris - now known as Toby - and Holly were finally introduced to each other.

Owner Tracey said: "They are now very happy together; gnawing on carrot cottages through the winter and munching on grass in the summer."

Humphrey



Rehomed: May 2024
Centre: Berkshire
Breed: DSH
Adopted by: The Sexton family

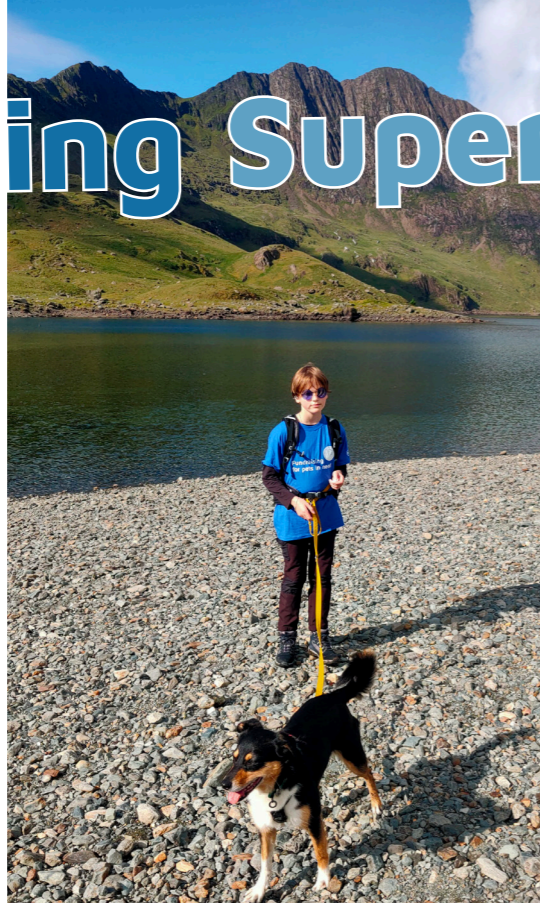
It was love at first sofa when 20-year-old Humphrey arrived at his new home. After spending a few days upstairs in the spare room, one evening while the Sexton family were watching TV they heard Humphrey's footsteps coming closer. Then he appeared in the lounge - and has never looked back.

Aside from badgering his new family for his favourite spot on the sofa, Humphrey enjoys chasing the red laser dot and lying on his new cuddly spider toy.

Mum Sarah said: "Humphrey has several nicknames now, Hump the Flump, Hump the Grump (reserved for when he begs for more food and doesn't get it) and John Wayne, due to his bandy front legs!

"Those of a certain age will remember 'Watch out, watch out there's a Humphrey about' which, now he is in his forever home, could have been written just for him."

Fundraising Superheroes



All five of our centres rely on a thriving community of supporters and volunteers who work so hard to support the animals in need. Here are three examples of the community rallying to support our new Bedfordshire Centre.

Tying the Knot

It's not unusual for newly-weds to circulate a wedding gift list when they tie the knot.

So, it was a very generous and lovely surprise when Bedfordshire centre's maintenance worker Martin and new wife Lisa, who also volunteers at the centre, asked their guests to donate to the NAWT instead.

The couple, their friends and family helped to raise £525 in celebration of their special day. They also invited the rest of the team to party the night away at their wedding reception.

What a wonderfully kind gesture to mark the start of their new lives together. Huge congratulations to Martin and Lisa from all of us at NAWT.

Reaching the Summit

Not many 12-year-olds set themselves a challenge to climb the highest peak in England and Wales, but this is exactly what Jasmin did.

Taking her family and rescue dog Bella along with her, Jasmin climbed Snowdon in June raising more than £800 for the charity. Perhaps surprisingly, Jasmin

reported that the hardest part of the challenge was walking to and from the base of Snowdon, not climbing the rocky part. The party were rewarded by good weather (not guaranteed) and excellent views from the summit. Bella did well to complete the challenge as she can be scared of people.

Jasmin chose to support the charity after she and her family rehomed some rabbits from the centre.

"I want to give other rescue animals a better chance at a good life," said Jasmin.

After her hard day's climb, Jasmin and her family tucked into a well-deserved takeaway before getting a good night's sleep.

A warm welcome from Leighton Buzzard

NAWT's new charity shop in Leighton Buzzard has kickstarted a wonderful friendship with some of the town's girl guiding units.

The young people are keen to raise money to help animals and NAWT was chosen because of its local links to the Bedfordshire community.

First, some guides attended the shop's grand opening to present a

donation raised by the pack.

Then, their kindness was swiftly followed by a group of Leighton Buzzard rainbows (four to seven-year-olds) who collected and donated second hand items to raise money for the NAWT through a charity sale organised by the group.

Bedfordshire Centre's fundraising officer Nicola Leach visited the pack to collect their generous donation and to share some of the stories of animals being helped thanks to their kindness.

"On behalf of the animals at Bedfordshire, we'd like to shake a paw in gratitude for all their generosity."

Whether it's a climbing challenge or quiz night, there are so many ways you can help our centres. If you'd like to talk to our team, please contact your local centre or call our head office on 020 8950 0177 (option 1). We can provide posters and leaflets as well as offering advice and tips on how to make your event go smoothly.

A Dog's First Christmas

How will you spend Christmas with your pets? Wendy Richmond asks new owners about celebrating with their latest arrivals.

After losing their beloved Labrador Buddy, the Dowling family decided that when the time was right to get their next pet, it would be a rescue.

And this year, after falling in love with retired greyhound Atticus's ears on the NAWT website, the family brought him home in May.

Mum Jenny said: "We have never rescued a dog before, but are so glad we did as Atticus is the best. We definitely made the right decision and he's now a big part of our family."

So this Christmas day will be Atticus's first and it will start with a family dog walk, before the two-legged family members take part in a 5K Christmas run.

Breakfast and present time will follow with plans already afoot to treat Atticus to his own stocking, complete with personalised name tag.

Atticus



Lurcher Penny joined Kelly Smith's household last year after her other lurcher, Pippin, was grieving the loss of her second dog, a Staffy cross called Poppy.

The two dogs have since become inseparable and are the centre of Kelly's universe which is why their first Christmas as a trio was extra special.

In fact, Christmas came very early for the dogs, as Kelly explained: "I'd ordered them some new squeaky toys and some natural treats. They arrived two or three weeks before Christmas, but I let them open them as soon as they arrived." Kelly works on a stud farm and sometimes works on Christmas day but last year she had the day off, so both she and her dogs went to visit her parents nearby where the dogs were treated to more presents and a proper Christmas dinner. "They are very spoiled and have the best time."

Penny



Once their dog, Nessie (pictured), had acclimatised to living on a boat after being adopted from the Hertfordshire Centre last year, Nick Savage and Kirsty Bishop wanted to find her a friend.

It wasn't long before Bear's picture popped up from the Bedfordshire Centre and in May this year, he stepped on board the couple's ark - which also houses seven rescue Degus. Since boat living is not suitable for crowds, Kirsty and Nick travel around the country to see their families at Christmas with their four-legged companions in tow.

Kirsty said: "When we are away, we stay in dog-friendly cottages and the dogs love spending time with their grandparents."

"We have adjusted our world including Christmas to include our dogs. Fortunately, they are both fond of a pub lunch. Although, this can be a bad look on the first walk of the day when we get dragged towards pub doorways."

Nessie & Bear



These pets are the lucky ones but this Christmas, there will be many more pets at our centres and in foster still looking for homes. If you'd like to support our animals at Christmas or want to find out more about some of the pets looking for homes, then please follow our social pages.

Around the CENTRES



BERKSHIRE



The wet weather this year has meant the persistent flooding at NAWT Berkshire only receded in June. We are immensely grateful to all supporters and corporate teams who've been visiting us over recent weeks to help us repair some of the damage caused.

A massive thank you to local supporter, Connor Pocock, who helped us cut and roll the flooded fields after months of disuse. Our two goats are now happy to be back in their home field, saying hello to all the visitors at the centre.



CORNWALL



We would like to say a huge thank you to a couple of true heroes from Star Linen Hire and Star Refuse Collection.

Director Stephen and manager Simon have not only sponsored two dog shows and the centre's new tablecloths for events, but they also make other generous donations such as new office chairs for the staff, 40,000 poo bags for the kennels AND handled

countless bags of washing when our washing machine broke! Their contributions meant everything to the centre and we wanted to take a moment to shine a light on these absolute.... Stars! And of course, the Star pugs Tom and Ollie!



ESSEX

Since opening our onsite pet boarding operations two years ago, we've had a steady stream of bookings, especially for our doggy friends.

Pet boarding has generated more than £17,000 in income for the centre since we started in 2022. Like all charities, we're always looking for ways to raise funds, and the profits made from this service go on to fund our vital rehoming work for the Clacton community.

Pet boarding is now available at all our sites with costs starting at £15 per day per animal. For more information, please visit our website.

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 Wednesday - 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)

HERTFORDSHIRE



A conversation with local artist and longtime supporter Lisa Baptiste led to the staging of our first ever art exhibition to raise money for the centre.

"Paintings for Paws" featured a selection of Lisa's one-of-a-kind framed, mixed media and canvas paintings, as well as printed merchandise available for pre-order. Lisa also pledged 50% of all her sales to NAWT.

Carefully pricing each painting in a way that showed what the donated part of the fee would buy for our animals really helped with the sales. Combined with refreshments and additional donations, we raised more than £800 in total and would like to thank Lisa for her creative contributions and generosity!

'Tis the season for giving

PAWFECT WAYS TO SHOP

If you're looking for your Christmas shopping to go a little bit further this year, then take a look at what's on offer at National Animal Welfare Trust.

Your support during the festive season goes a long way for a charity like ours. When you choose to splash out on Christmas cards and gifts with us, you're helping the animals who so desperately need it.

HERE ARE FOUR FESTIVE WAYS YOU CAN DO THIS:

1. Pop in to shop

Our charity shop team spends the whole year putting aside items - from gifts to decorations - that they think will make someone's Christmas truly special.

So, if you're near to any of our five stores, seasonal stock will be available from September onwards with gifts on shelf from early November, so please pop in for a browse.

Since much of our charity shop retail stock is kindly donated to us, our Christmas gift ideas are sustainable while also raising vital funds for animals in need.



2. Cards on the table

Every December, NAWT takes part in Festive Friday, an annual campaign to promote the importance of sending cards to friends, family and loved ones over the Christmas period.

So, if you're thinking of sending some seasonal wishes of your own, then our new range of Christmas cards - featuring new designs such as this cute NAWT puppy - is available online and instore from September onwards.



3. Online offers

If you can't visit one of our stores in person, then the National Animal Welfare Trust online shop and eBay shop is where you'll also find a selection of great gifts on sale.

In NAWT's shop, you'll find the cutest gifts and cards for any animal lover and even some for your favourite four-legged family member or friend.



4. Christmas donation gift cards

If you're stumped for ideas, then buying a Christmas gift to benefit a four-legged pal in need, could be the perfect alternative.

We have four Christmas donation gift cards available to purchase in lieu of a present. Priced at £10 and £15, each donation card will help keep a homeless cat or dog stay safe and warm this Christmas.



Use the QR code to see details of both our high street and online shops

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