

Newsletter

NEWS FROM BRISTOL A.R.C.
AUTUMN 2018



IN THIS ISSUE:

Behind the scenes at the Clinic

PLUS:

Saving Bristol's Staffies

**How can you help
support us?**

**Animals happily
rehomed**

 @Bristol_ARC

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 @Bristolanimalrescuecentre

WWW.BRISTOLARC.ORG.UK





Hello and welcome to our Autumn 2018 newsletter.

As the evenings draw in and the temperatures drop, our animals require extra support to keep warm on chilly days and nights. We are a refuge to straying animals – those that have been roaming the cold pavements searching for warmth and love. While our love is free, keeping warm comes at a cost! On an average day, the energy bill for our animal residents costs over £180 to keep up to 96 dogs, 50 cats, 60 small animals and 5 birds and 5 reptiles cosy and toasty. When the heating goes up, so do our bills, which is why we are appealing to you – our kind supporters – to help us through the winter. Please turn to page 20 to find out how you can help us.

Throughout September we were delighted to celebrate **#StaffieSeptember** – an entire month that we dedicated to celebrating this wonderful and often misunderstood breed. Four of our Staffie residents journeyed around Bristol and were photographed at iconic Bristol locations in the hope that the images would catch the eye of a potential new family. Turn to page 12 to see the photos.

Don't forget the many exciting events we have coming up in the next few months including our spectacular Christmas Fair on 18 November. Check out the back page for a small gift that will put a smile on our animals' faces this festive season.

Warmest wishes,
Victoria Chester, CEO

SPRING 2018

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Cover photo credit: Luke Salter

NEWS

New beds for every dog ▶

Last year we launched an appeal to raise £6,120 to purchase a new raised bed to give every dog in our kennels a better night's sleep. We were delighted to reach the target and the beds were rolled out in September. They're a big hit!



◀ Christmas Cards

We are delighted to be working with local Bristol artist Naomi Joy to produce three charity Christmas cards which will be sold at our Christmas Fair and on our receptions this season. Here's a sneak peek! Come along to our Christmas Fair on 18 November to make your purchase – all money raised from the sales will go back into supporting the animals in our care.



Longest stay dog desperate for a home ▶

Spuddy – our longest stay dog at over one year is still searching for his new home. Spuddy is a Staffie, estimated to be between 1 and 3 years. We are hoping to find him a home with adopters who are willing to build up a bond with him before taking him home. Find out more about this lovely chap here:



Find out more about him on our website: www.bristolarc.org.uk/rehoming/dogs/spuddy



We're really grateful to everyone who came and tested their knowledge at our Quiz Night in April, which raised a fantastic **£1,214.83**, and who came out to enjoy our very sunny Open Day, which brought in an incredible **£3090.77!** The total raised from these events could pay for the care of over 50 dogs for four days.

"We had brilliant support from 50 volunteers throughout our Open Day and we're very grateful to everyone who helped out or came along, we couldn't have done it without you!"



Taking the plunge with 14 stone doggy rescuers:

Our Newfoundland Water Rescue event on 15 September was a huge success raising just over **£4,000!**

A huge thank you to Newfound Friends who gave up their time to enable our amazing group of fundraisers to be 'rescued' by these gentle giants.

We're running this exciting event again in 2019 at Portishead Marina, so to experience your own amazing furry rescue, register your interest: fundraising@bristolarc.org.uk



Holding your own event for Bristol A.R.C.?

We rebranded in January as Bristol Animal Rescue Centre, and we're now looking to grow our awareness and share how we care for local animals in need with as many people as possible across Bristol. We need local people to help us raise vital funds and raise awareness - and you can have fun at the same time!

To find out more about fundraising for us please call: 0117 9803 901 or email: fundraising@bristolarc.org.uk

Dates for your diary

Bucket Collections

Clifton

– Sat 6 October

Yate Shopping Centre

– Sat 20 October & Sun 2 December

Willow Brook, Bradley Stoke

– Mon 17 December

Broadmead

– Sat 10 November & Sat 8 December

Christmas Fair

Sun 18 November 10am – 3.30pm

Quiz Night

Spring 2019

CAN YOU VOLUNTEER?

We're looking for people to spare a couple of hours to volunteer on any of the above dates to help us collect donations. If you'd like to be one of our collection heroes email fundraising@bristolarc.org.uk or call 0117 9803 901.

MOLLY PUTS HER BEST PAW FORWARD



Clifton Suspension Bridge



Weston-super-Mare



Bristol Docks



Bower Ashton



Temple Meads Station



Throughout the summer of 2018, long-stay dog Molly took on a huge challenge!

Alongside her volunteer dog walker Robin, Molly visited every sculpture on The Grand Appeal's Gromit Unleashed 2 Trail. Molly journeyed by bus, train and paw to reach all 67 destinations – including Weston-super-Mare and Chew Valley Lakes. We hoped that the added publicity would increase Molly's chances of being rehomed after a long 10 months in kennels.

The plan worked! Just a day after Molly finished her challenge, Molly was reserved.

Ann and Phillip, Molly's new owners said: "Molly is wonderful. As soon as we saw her we thought she was so lovely. We couldn't understand why nobody had taken her home before. She is absolutely fantastic."

FLAT-FACE FEAR

With the French Bulldog set to overtake the Labrador as the UK's most popular dog by the end of the year, we investigate: Has the desire for fashionable flat-faced dogs gone too far?

What does brachycephalic (flat-faced) mean?

This is the word vets use to describe flat-faced dogs.

It includes any dog whose muzzle looks like it has been flattened.

Breeds include French Bulldogs, English Bulldogs, Boston Terriers and Pugs.



Why the concern?

Not all short-nosed dogs will face health concerns as a result of their breeding, but many will. The most common concerns include:

Breathing

Flat faced dogs may experience partial obstruction of their airway due to characteristics such as narrowed nostrils and abnormally small wind pipes. Hot weather can be deadly to these breeds as they cannot regulate their temperature through their tongue as efficiently as other dogs would.

Heart

Narrowed airways result in more difficulty breathing and so they struggle to maintain the oxygen in their bloodstream. This can sometimes put a strain on their heart.

Teeth

Dogs such as French Bulldogs have been bred to have a shorter upper jaw, however they still have the same amount of teeth as a Poodle or Staffie. This can result in overlapping teeth often leading to decay and disease.

Skin & Eyes

Deep skin folds on these breeds can often develop infections and become very sore. Prominent eyes mean that they are more likely to develop eye ulcers.

For potential owners:

If you are considering buying one of these breeds, it is important to remember that vet care as a result of their breed will be highly likely throughout their life.

Examples of 'flat-faced' dogs: Pugs, French & English Bulldogs, Boston Terriers

There is unfortunately also a likelihood that these breeds will endure an element of suffering throughout their lives. This all comes at a large expense, both financially and emotionally, so please factor this in when making your decision. Do your research to find a reputable breeder.



Bristol A.R.C. Clinic: Behind the scenes

We take you behind the scenes at our 24/7 veterinary Clinic by following the journey of a marvellous kitten named Milo.



Arrival

Milo was admitted to our Clinic on 18 September after his owners could no longer take care of him. It soon became obvious that Milo was struggling to walk on one of his back legs. We quickly arranged an X Ray.



Investigation

An X Ray showed that Milo had a serious deformity to one of his back legs. We arranged for an Orthopaedic Vet to look at the scans and he revealed that Milo had a growth abnormality to his hip joint.



Operation

A decision was made to operate on Milo to give him the best chance of living a normal adult life. The operation was performed by our Senior Veterinary Officer, Damian, to try and fix the abnormal joint. At the same time, Milo was neutered.



Recovery

Physio played a crucial role in Milo's recovery, repeating exercises three times a day to increase muscle strength in his weak leg. Ray, Veterinary Officer said: "We would expect Milo to live a completely normal adult life. He will continue his physio for several more weeks and will then be looking for a new home."



INTERESTED IN REHOMING MILO?

*Keep an eye
on our website:*

www.bristolarc.org.uk

SAVING BRISTOL'S STAFFIES

Throughout September we celebrated Staffie September.

During the month we had 17 Staffordshire Bull Terrier's or Staffordshire Bull Terrier crosses in our Rehoming Centre – all with the hope of finding a brand new home.

We took 4 of these dogs to 4 iconic locations in Bristol to photograph eye-catching shots

to celebrate the true nature of the breed.

Head to www.facebook.com/Bristolanimalrescuecentre to see what our supporters thought about these incredible photos!

With huge thanks to Luke Salter for the images.

Matthew at Clifton Suspension Bridge



Zeus at The Victoria Rooms



“ Throughout the month we showed the public that despite the unfair reputation that often precedes the breed, Staffies can make wonderful and affectionate pets. Any dog can be trained to be aggressive – irrespective of their breed – and sadly, sometimes Staffies can be the victims of irresponsible dog owners.

“Let’s champion them – they deserve a chance.”

We would like to remind potential adopters that despite the unjust reputation that Staffies can be unsafe, the majority can make the perfect family pet - they just need to be given a chance.

It’s about time that the breed’s good name was reclaimed. We would urge all proud Staffie owners to shout loud and proud about their fantastic qualities. Staffie owners are ambassadors for the breed. “

- Jodie, Rehoming Centre Manager

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.bristolarc.org.uk/rehoming to view their profiles or give us a call on 0117 9776043.



There is often a misconception that Staffies are hard, untrainable and unpredictable but they are actually very sappy, intelligent dogs who are just as capable as any other breed to learn commands and please their owner.

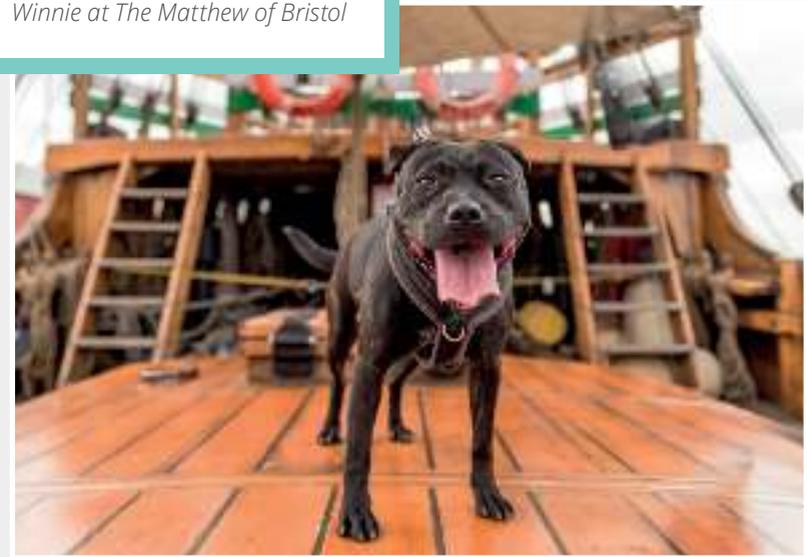
Why not consider adopting a Staffie if you are thinking about rehoming a dog?

“
From January to June 2018, we rehomed 15 Staffies
”

Lola at Bristol Cathedral



Winnie at The Matthew of Bristol



STAFFIE SUCCESS!

“Todd is now nearly 12 and a bit arthritic, living out his retirement in the Brecon Beacons. He has changed a lot of people’s perceptions of Staffies over the years. He’s brought us so much pleasure and laughter, he’s the perfect pooch!”

Todd at home



WE  STAFFIES

Fundraise for us

As an independent local charity, we don't receive any automatic funding from the National RSPCA, and rely completely on local support to continue our vital work.

The ways to raise money and help give local animals a brighter future are endless. Please contact us via email on fundraising@bristolarc.org.uk or call us on 0117 9803901, and whether you're raising money on your own, in school or through your workplace, we're here to help make it easy, fun and inspiring!

We're very grateful for all the fantastic support individuals, companies and local communities give to Bristol A.R.C.

RAISING FUNDS IN YOUR COMMUNITY:

Get a group of local people together or organise something yourself - from bake offs and coffee mornings to a fancy dress disco or karaoke night, we'll support you and provide materials to help make it a success, including a fundraising pack, balloons and collection buckets.

Other ideas include:

Game on: Hold a quiz night or race night in your local pub – add a raffle to raise extra!

Trash to treasure sale: Ask friends and family to donate unwanted gifts or items from their loft, cupboards or shed, and sell at a local car boot sale or fair.

Swap shop: Invite your neighbours and friends to swap the clothes they no longer want, for something someone else brings! Each person brings at least 3 items and pays a small entry fee.

Volunteer at one of our collections: Slots are 2 to 3 hours at local shops and areas around Bristol. Go to page 5 to find out when and where our collections are.



RAISING MONEY AT WORK:

It costs around £1,824 each day to give all the dogs in our care full tummies, a comfy bed, training and routine vet care. However big or small your workplace, whether it's a dress down day or having one of our collection tins at reception or on your shop counter, there's a way every local business can be an 'animal hero' including:

- Choosing Bristol A.R.C. as your workplace's Charity of the Year
- Signing up a team from work (or your building) to do a sponsored run, skydive or cycle
- Sponsoring an area of our work (food, equipment, kennels etc)



CHALLENGE YOURSELF!

Whether it's a sponsored walk, a local 5 or 10k or something longer (either on two feet or using two wheels), the money you raise from your run, cycle, hike or skydive all help your local animal centre to care for and rehome needy animals.

Niki ran the Bristol 10k in May for Bristol A.R.C. and raised over £300 which could help us provide routine veterinary care, a full tummy and a comfy bed for one of our animals for over two weeks!

"It was hard work, but I'm pleased I've smashed the 10k. Bristol A.R.C. make a huge difference to their animals so it was obvious I would choose to support them."

- Niki, fundraiser

Animals looking for their new homes



CLOUD, FLIT, GOTHAM & ZION

Finches

They can often be found snuggling together on their favourite perch and love to have a bath after filling up their tummies in the morning.

They are looking for a large aviary to live together.



MILO

Crossbreed
1-3 Years

Milo is a young, active, friendly dog who can be boisterous at times. He is looking for a home where his adopters are experienced with energetic dogs and are confident to complete further training needs.

Milo also shows signs of separation anxiety, so he will require an understanding home to work on this.



POPPIT

Crossbreed
1-3 Years

Poppit is a sweet girl, who can be nervous at first. She is very affectionate once she gets to know you. Poppit is highly motivated by toys and food and has good basic obedience.

She enjoys keeping her mind active, so would benefit from an active home where she can play, learn and build in confidence.

Happily rehomed

BRONSON

"Bronson has settled well and is still full of mischief! He responds well to commands: sit, stay, shake paw and heel. It's a pleasure to have him as our pet."



HENRY

"Henry has settled beautifully into our lives and home. He loves his walks and is great with other dogs."



KEITH

"Keith has become Koby. He's happy and his fur is growing back lovely, and is enjoying his food! All is well."



BRUCIE

"We've had Brucie for just over a month now and he's settled in really well. Brucie is a wonderful cat, and we now consider him part of the family."



LILY

"I thought you might like some pictures of how well Lily has settled in she's such a sweetheart, everyone absolutely loves her. Thank you so much!"



TERRY & BUMBLE

"They are continuing to get more confident & friendly, showing their real characters - Bumble naughty and cheeky, Terry - quieter and more cautious."



Visit:
www.bristolarc.org.uk/about/adoption-procedure
to view our adoption procedure.

This information informs about the process of searching, matching, meeting and rehoming a new animal from Bristol A.R.C.

www.bristolarc.org.uk

Heating hearts appeal

Nobody likes to be cold. A shiver down your spine, teeth chattering, the ends of your fingers numb.

Luckily for us humans, most of the time we can sort these problems for ourselves. We can turn up the heating, put on a jumper, and find that snuggly blanket that has been tidied away since last winter.

But the animals in our care rely completely on us to provide that all needed warmth.

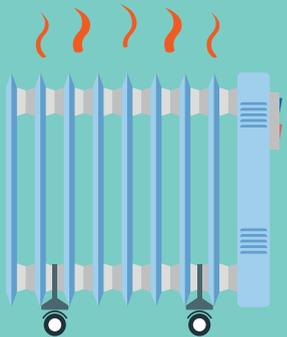
We look after hundreds of animals at any one time and they all need somewhere to keep warm.

On an average winter day, the energy bill for our animal residences costs over £180. This includes heating our kennel blocks for doggy residents and patients, multiple catteries, the isolation block where we look after animals who are very poorly, and our special small animal unit.

On top of this we ensure that the animals are supplied with snuggly blankets, and microwavable heat pads to keep the winter chill at bay.

You can help make sure that none of our animals have to worry about the winter cold. The rabbits will stay snuggly, the cats will be cosy, the wildlife can have a break from the chill of winter, and the dogs keep warm in their kennels.

Animals who are warm will be healthier and happier, and will be more comfortable as they recover or wait for a new home.



HOW YOU CAN HELP:

To give Bristol's animals the gift of warmth this winter, either return the enclosed donation form, visit our website, or text **HEAT18 £5** (or the amount of your choice) to **70070**.

All money raised from will go towards our energy bills...



2018 SO FAR...

We welcomed **444 animals** into the Rehoming Centre

That's an average of **2** per day!



Domestic animals adopted
(216)



70
Dogs



100
Cats



Wild animals cared for in our Clinic
(419)



78 **1**
Garden Birds Sparrow Hawk



86 **64**
Seagulls Pigeons



January was our **busiest** month for adoptions.



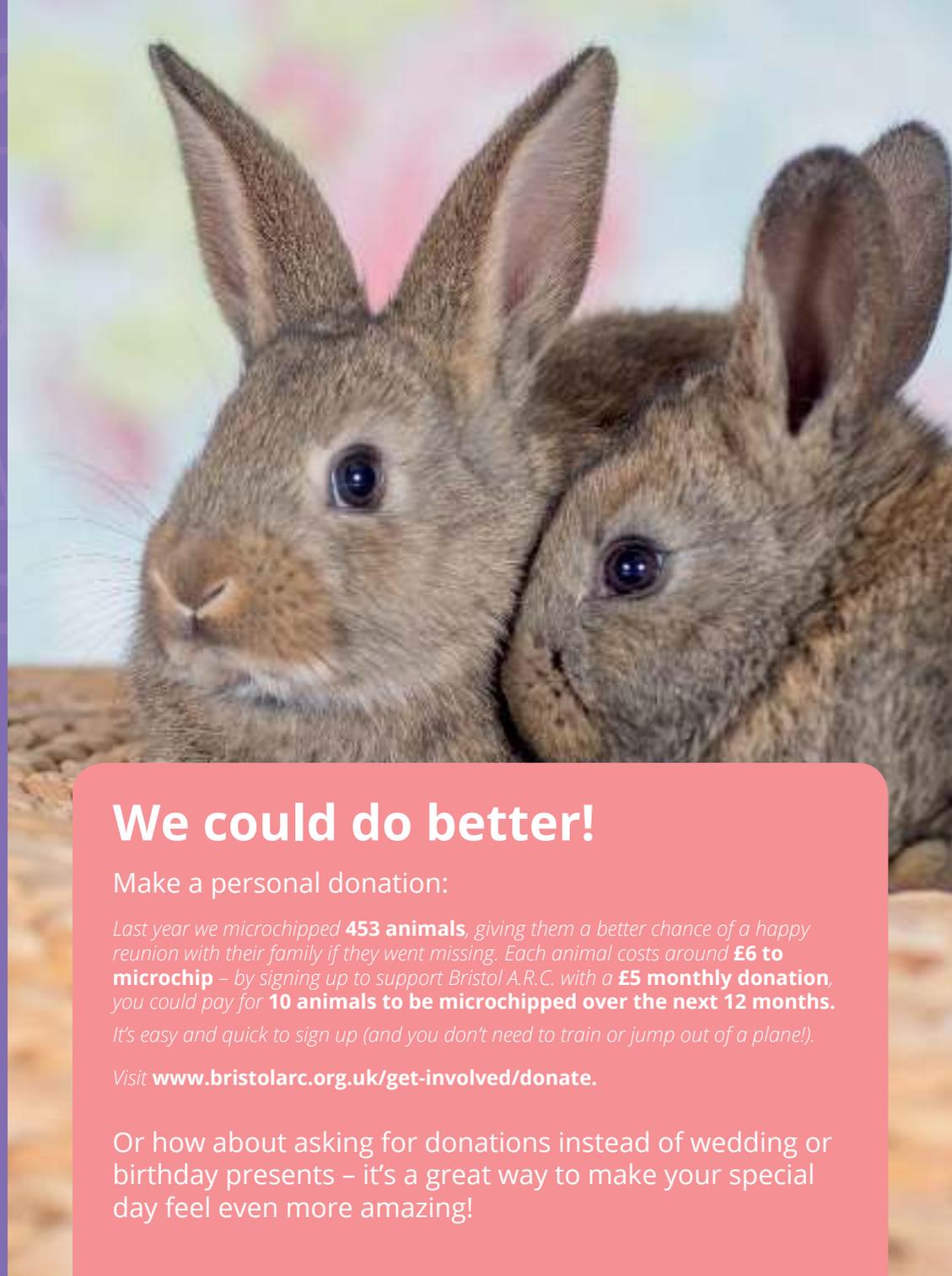
113 Strays returned to their owners.



21 people jumped into **Portishead Marina** for our Newfoundland Water Rescue Event in September. They raised over **£4,000!**



89 Animals arrived at our rehoming centre with **RSPCA** Inspectors as a result of **welfare concerns**.



We could do better!

Make a personal donation:

Last year we microchipped **453 animals**, giving them a better chance of a happy reunion with their family if they went missing. Each animal costs around **£6 to microchip** – by signing up to support Bristol A.R.C. with a **£5 monthly donation**, you could pay for **10 animals to be microchipped over the next 12 months**.

It's easy and quick to sign up (and you don't need to train or jump out of a plane!).

Visit www.bristolarc.org.uk/get-involved/donate.

Or how about asking for donations instead of wedding or birthday presents – it's a great way to make your special day feel even more amazing!



Donation decoration

Everyone likes a Christmas treat and at our Christmas Fair this year we will have a special donation tree where we will be raising money to buy gifts for all of the animals in our care.

You can get involved by using these donation decorations! Simply pop however much you would like to give inside the enclosed envelope and attach a ribbon. If you're feeling creative, why not add some Christmas colour and cheer to the decoration!

Then bring it along to our Christmas Fair on Sunday 18 November
(see details on page 5) and hang it on the tree for everyone to see!