

# Newsletter

NEWS FROM BRISTOL A.R.C.  
AUTUMN/WINTER 2020



In this issue:

**Our Winter Appeal**

**Teddy's tale  
of courage**

Plus:

**Life through lockdown**

**Our new adoption process**



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[WWW.BRISTOLARC.ORG.UK](http://WWW.BRISTOLARC.ORG.UK)

RCN: 205858





## Helping, healing, homing since 1887

### Our Mission

To provide the best possible care for Bristol's animals in need, treating them with the compassion and respect they deserve.

### Contact us

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### A note from our CEO

This year has taken all of us on a journey that none of us were planning to make so it is good to be able to stop and ask

'how are you and your loved ones doing – both two and four legged?!' and to share some of our news with you.

All of us know the impact of coronavirus has been felt across Bristol, affecting our friends, families and pets in ways we could not before have imagined. For Bristol A.R.C. this has been felt on many levels but my heartfelt thanks go to our amazing team of staff and volunteers who enabled us to adapt so quickly to the guidelines that govern how we are all required to live and work this year.

I am so proud that throughout lockdown and every day since then we have

continued to take in animals in need of emergency treatment, care for those without homes and find their forever families when our adoptions restarted. Neither did lockdown stop us helping those animals and pet owners in greatest need as we continued to support our local food banks and provide basic treatments across the city through our outreach project.

Finding new ways of working here has also included finding new ways to fundraise with so many of our lovely events cancelled. This has hit our income hard – but you have encouraged us with your generosity, offers of help and by sharing your lockdown stories. Please keep them coming in, it has not been an easy time and the road ahead is unsure but with your much-valued support and encouragement, we will continue our vital work!

With very best wishes,  
*Victoria Chester, CEO*

### Thank you to our Regular Givers

We want to say a huge thank you to all of our new and existing Regular Givers. Without your ongoing support, especially during these challenging times, we couldn't continue to help, heal and rehome animals in need.

We work tirelessly day in and day out to care for Bristol's most vulnerable animals, and it is thanks to you that we are able to give love and shelter to these animals when they need us most.

Thinking about becoming one of our Regular Givers? It's easy to set up a regular donation:

You can do it online by visiting [www.bristolarc.org.uk/get-involved/donate](http://www.bristolarc.org.uk/get-involved/donate) and selecting the monthly donation option

**Email fundraising@bristolarc.org.uk** to request one of our direct debit forms

**Call us on 01179 803 906** for more details

A regular gift of just £5 a month will help us to provide safe and warm housing for dogs, cats and our small furrles, as well as all the love and cuddles an animal could wish for.



# Life through lockdown

The effects of Covid-19 have been devastating and have been felt right across the globe, including here at Bristol A.R.C.

Back in March as lockdown loomed our immediate focus was on protecting our animals and the essential staff that needed to be here to care for them. Unfortunately we had to ask our wonderful team of Volunteers to stay at home and our events had to be cancelled, some with very little notice. Members of our dedicated team

opened up their own homes to provide temporary foster care to animals who we knew wouldn't be able to cope with a prolonged stay in kennels, and other animal centres also stepped in to help. This ensured that we were able to continue supporting the people and animals that would be needing us more than ever.

**Thanks to your generous support, here are some of the things we've been able to continue doing during lockdown.**

## Foodbanks

We dropped off animal food donations to food banks across Bristol, to ensure those hit hardest were able to continue caring for their pets.



## Outreach

We adapted our Outreach Service to ensure that we could still support those people and animals who needed our help elsewhere in Bristol. This became a remote service expertly run by Vet Nurse Vic, who reassured the owners and their pets that we would still be here to help them. She was a friendly and caring ear to people who needed someone to talk to through these challenging times.

## Animals in our care

Our Animal Care Teams across site continued to care for dogs, cats and small animals during the tightest lockdown restrictions.



Throughout the lockdown period we took in and cared for over 900 wild animals, unwanted, abandoned or stray pets needing medical care, and animals brought to us by the RSPCA Inspectorate.

## Animal Emergencies

Our doors were open for cats like Sandra who came to us as a stray with a badly fractured jaw. After extensive treatment and a long recovery period she made a full recovery and was quickly adopted.



Lockdown put some parts of our work on hold here at Albert Road. Government restrictions meant that we were unable to rehome the animals who were with us, or who came into our care during those months. Our Team went above and beyond throughout this time, coping like all of us with their own concerns about the outside world to ensure that they were able to provide round the clock love and care to the animals on site. Thankfully, our animals were none the wiser as they remained in their routines. An upshot of lockdown (we had to find a positive!) was that it brought a special peace to site. With no members of the public walking around throughout the day the animals became noticeably calmer, and the barking all but ceased. Thankfully we were able to still continue to walk our dogs and many benefitted from the

roads being quieter too. Our Animal Care Team had more one on one time with the animals, and were able to provide extra exercise, training, games and cuddles!



**Here's a tail of recovery:**

## Kevin

Kevin is a Rottweiler who came into our care in April. He had very little trust in people and didn't want staff near him at first, growling whenever anyone approached his kennel. Due to the lockdown, we had the time to work consistently with him every day at his own pace, gradually getting him used to us being around his kennel, and then getting him out. Because we were able to give him a predictable routine, Kevin soon learned to trust his carers and became less stressed and defensive. He is now a very affectionate, cuddly, and playful dog, who is always eager for staff to come and say hello.



**A special thank you.**

**Despite one of the most challenging years we have faced in living history, our brilliant team, Volunteers and supporters continue to amaze us with their love and dedication. You are all animal heroes in our eyes...**

## Tails from the Home

*Apollo and Diego!* Just before the country went into lockdown, these Degu boys were adopted. Just shy of their one year stayiversary!



One of our snakes gave us the run around, or should we say slither around, after miraculously finding a way to escape her vivarium! Not once but three times, giving us all a bit of a shock! We could not find where she was escaping from. Lovely Sweetcorn was adopted as soon as we opened up our adoptions after lockdown.

*Nala the dog* had a good grooming session and we pretty much nearly created a whole other dog from all the hair! However there could only ever be one Nala! Now called Noomie and living her best life in Wales with her adopters.



*Dorothy* found her own unique way of cooling off through the summer months whilst playing 'treat bobbing' in the paddling pool. Such a character who has landed on her paws in finding herself a great country home down in Devon with a wonderful family.



And our funkiest hairstyle award goes to..... drum roll please.....it's Bounce!! Yes, this little beaut is still available for rehoming on our website!

*Colby and Ramsey* were a little confused when they were given a small pool of water to play in. The boys loved it and made the most of splashing about and bobbing for toys. These two amazing ferrets were adopted in early September and joined previous Bristol A.R.C. ferret residents in their new home.



*Gee the budgie* became a firm favourite with staff and very much enjoyed sitting on their shoulders as they caught up on paperwork, in a secure area of course! Things like this made lockdown so much easier for all the staff.

We probably should have known that worming time would turn in to using the staff as an adventure playground #perksofthejob



We think *Winslow* may have been plotting something in this picture - we wonder what he was thinking about?



Who doesn't love a selfie with a dog! And what better dog to do one with than Tilly. Such contentment in those eyes - both person and dog!



## Teddy's tale of courage

Teddy the Chihuahua came into our care in October 2019, after tragic and unforeseen circumstances. He was brought in by the police, who had found him not wanting to leave the side of his suddenly deceased owner.

Understandably, poor Teddy was completely shut down and traumatised by his horrifying ordeal, hiding in his carrier and trying to bite in a desperate attempt to protect himself from further trauma. But with gentle care and compassion, Teddy was eventually transferred to one of our kennels, where our staff began the journey of making him feel safe and happy once again.

### The road to recovery

For days Teddy refused to leave his bed or even eat or drink. Our staff tried to comfort him by spending time sitting in front of his kennel, reading stories to him and tempting him with tasty morsels.

Over time he began to recognise his carers and realise that he was safe. He started accepting treats and when no one was looking, would enjoy full meals.

He would leave the comfort of his bed to peer out of his kennel and say hello to the people passing by. However, he'd still scurry back to his bed and hide as soon as anyone opened his kennel door.

But we weren't giving up! Staff moved

on to working with Teddy in his kennel, sitting near him and letting him approach and sniff on his own terms. They'd also speak softly to him and offer him treats, which he eventually felt confident enough to take from their hands. Soon after he was even willing to come into their laps and accept some gentle affection.

With time, Teddy was even comfortable enough to let staff place a lead on him. Although it seems this was to be a fashion accessory only as Teddy wasn't quite ready to go walking in the big wide world just yet. Once he was a bit more comfortable, Teddy allowed staff members to pick him up and carry him to different areas to meet new people – this was less scary for him than braving the world on his own four paws.

Teddy's confidence was growing and he even started popping his nose through the kennel bars and making friends with neighbouring dogs. He took a particular shine to Amelia, another nervous dog just like him. He and Amelia later got the chance to meet and even enjoyed several playdates together.

Although Teddy has come a very long way from the trembling shut-down dog that came in to us, he still has a long way to go. Teddy is fortunate to have found a loving foster home in a quiet rural hamlet, where he will continue his road to recovery.



## Our Winter Appeal – Carry on the kindness

In December 1887, our founder Edward T Parker found a lost puppy alone and cold during a bitter Bristol snow storm. He decided to help that little puppy get the food and shelter it needed, and 133 years later here we are! Edward T Parker's simple act of kindness has helped change the lives of thousands of animals in the Bristol area ever since.

Each year we take in countless animals that need a helping hand and this year (pandemic or not) has been no different. Despite the devastating financial effects Covid-19 has had on our charity, we're determined to continue providing our animals with the very best care during their stay with us.

However, as we're all aware, during the chilly winter months heating bills rise and on an average winter day, the energy bill for our animal rescues costs over **£180**. This includes heating our kennel blocks for doggy residents and patients, multiple catteries and our special care unit where we look after animals who are very poorly.

We've truly never needed your support more. **Please support local animals in need this winter by making a donation to our appeal.** We'd be truly grateful for any contribution you are able to make during these challenging times.

**Help us raise £6,000 this winter**

We are aiming to raise at least **£6,000** through our Winter Appeal, to help cover our increased costs, and to offer those animals that need us a warm and cosy safe place to stay.

Would you like to send a special message to the animals in our care this Christmas? Return our B.A.R.C. bauble with your donation and we'll hang it on our Christmas tree for all to see.



## Other ways you can help the animals



With this year's ups and downs we've never needed your support more. However you choose to support us, your donation will help us to care for the thousands of animals who need us every year.

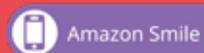
### Amazon Wishlist

Our Amazon Wishlist is the perfect place to visit if you'd like to donate a gift to our animals. We've got all kinds of items to help them feel more at home. Browse the list by scanning the QR code or by visiting [www.bristolarc.org.uk/get-involved/other-ways-you-can-support-us/](http://www.bristolarc.org.uk/get-involved/other-ways-you-can-support-us/).



### AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile lets you enjoy the same wide selection of products as the normal Amazon website. However, if you shop through the URL [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk), they'll donate 0.5% of the net purchase to us, yippee!



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### Celebrating your birthday soon?

Celebrate with us by hosting an online Facebook fundraiser! Since last November these have raised a staggering total of **£2,456.99** for the animals in our care.

Visit our website for more details.

### Host a virtual event

This could be anything from a quiz with friends and family, an online coffee morning, or even an auction!

### ebay – did you know we have our very own ebay shop?!

You can find all sorts of goods at our online shop, from new pet products, our official merchandise, to preloved and new goods for you!

Not only can you buy items from our shop to help raise additional funds, but you can sell goods and choose to donate a % of your choice to come to us too (and in doing so you get your listing fee refunded!) You can find our ebay shop here: [www.ebay.co.uk/user/bristol\\_arc](http://www.ebay.co.uk/usr/bristol_arc)

**Remember our friendly team is here for you every step of the way, contact us by calling 01179 803 906 or email [fundraising@bristolarc.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@bristolarc.org.uk)**

## Our new adoption process

When Covid-19 first hit we had several long months ahead of us with our adoptions being put on hold. As soon as it was safe to do so, we were delighted to start rehoming the animals in our care once more, but with some big

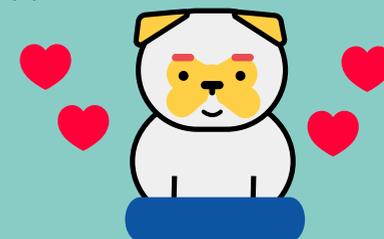
changes! Our top "dogs" spent a long time meeting and planning for a new process that was Covid-19 safe, easy and effective for animals and people alike and we think what we came up with is pretty pawsome!

### How does it work?



#### Looking for a new pet?

Head to the adoption part of our website. Read the information and fill out an application form. You can call us on 0117 9776043 if you need help with the form or would like it posted to you.



Our Rehoming Team will aim to find the pawfect match for you, or let you know whether a specific pet you are interested in is a good match for you and your lifestyle.

If we have a match you'll be invited to an appointment on-site to meet your potential new pet and allow us time to go through the finer details. Paws crossed, you will be able to put a full reserve and deposit on the animal or maybe even adopt, depending on previous communication and the species.



Reserved

On the adoption day the Rehoming Team will talk you through anything else that's needed and for our dog adopters you will get to take your favourite pooch home for a trial play date and return for the actual adoption. Other species can be adopted at the appointment and you can then head home with your newest family member!

It's important to remember only visitors with an appointment will now be allowed onsite as our Rehoming Centre is closed to the general public. For more detailed information about our new adoption process visit our website [www.bristolarc.org.uk/our-new-adoption-system/](http://www.bristolarc.org.uk/our-new-adoption-system/) or call us on **0117 9776043**.

## Rehoming Tails

Nothing makes us happier than hearing how our previous residents are getting on in their new furever homes. Here are some of our most recent happily rehomed tails...

### Gio

"Gio settled in very quickly, I had him out hanging out with me the day he arrived home. He has settled into a nice little routine where he will come out and eat his breakfast while I have my coffee before I head to work. He is obsessed with his reflection, so much that he has limited "mirror time" as he ignores food to go stare at himself, though his favourite spot when he isn't sitting on a human is to be on top of the mirror and talking to the wall."



### Percy

"Percy is a very happy and spoiled little boy. He sleeps through the night, and meows at my sister when he's done a poop to ask her to clean up! He also only likes to eat fish flavoured Wainwright's food!"



### Lucky

"I can't tell you how happy we are with Lucky, she has settled in so well. We are so grateful to you and the team at Bristol A.R.C., your dedication and love of the animals is wonderful."

Thank you all for looking after this special girl for so long. All your efforts have paid off and we are so fortunate that she has come to us."



### Elsie

"At home she is absolutely PERFECT. Quiet at night, sleeps on her daybed until it's time for a walk or a play. No stomach upsets or anything. So cute, affectionate and sweet! I love her TO BITS!!!"

Thanks again for training and looking after her so well! Best of luck with the rehoming in this difficult period, we did it at the right time I think."



## Your support means the world to dogs like Scrum

Talk about a transformation. This is Scrum, he came to us from the RSPCA in a very bad way. He was underweight and suffering from a bad skin condition that his previous owners had failed to treat, he needed extensive veterinary treatment and the loving care of our Animal Carers to restore his spirit and his beautiful coat.

Scrum has made an amazing recovery and is back to full health, thanks to the loving care and specialist treatment he received here at Albert Road, and now he's on the lookout for his pawfect new home!

He is a friendly and affectionate boy once he knows you, he is very playful and thoroughly enjoys a good game of 'tug-of-war'. Scrum has spent the majority of his life in a kennel environment, and so he is looking for adopters that are patient and experienced in owning and training dogs – you can read more about Scrum on our website.

**And their support means the world to us**

Many of us are aware of the physical and mental benefits of spending time



Before

After

Want to adopt Scrum?  
Get in touch!

with animals. They bring us joy and reduce stress, the unconditional love and friendship they offer has never been needed more. Whether being there for comforting cuddles, distracting walks or perhaps crash landing into our conference calls (providing some much needed light relief), our pets have been there for us like never before, supporting us when we needed it most.

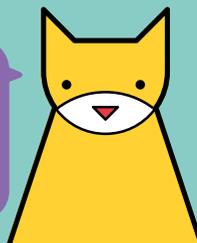
There have been many studies proving just how much our pets can help us. A recent UK study reported that "91% of dog owners, 89% of cat owners and 86% who owned other pet species felt that their animals helped them cope emotionally with the COVID-19 situation. [Vet Times, September 2020].

**Your continued support ensures that we'll always be here for animals in need!**

## How your support helps

Your generous donations help over 10,000 vulnerable animals in Bristol and the surrounding areas each year. In 2019, thanks to your support, we...

Microchipped 321 animals, increasing the chances of reuniting lost pets with their owners



Neutered 586 animals, helping to reduce the number of unwanted puppies, kittens and other species.

Found fantastic new homes for 523 animals – giving them a second chance of a happy life with loving new families.



Were able to help 1188 injured or unwell wild animals



Provided 6,000 treatments and health check-ups for pets through our Outreach Clinics

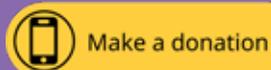
It is only with the on-going support of you, our amazing supporters, that we are able to be here for animals when they need us most.

You can help make sure there's always somewhere safe for animals in need by joining our Regular Givers club. A gift of just £5 a month helps us provide full tummies and warm clean beds to over 400 abandoned, unwanted or stray dogs each year.

Setting up a monthly donation is quick and easy, you can...

- **Head to our website** to set up a monthly donation of your choice.
- Call our friendly team on **01179 803 906** or email **fundraising@bristolarc.org.uk** to request a Regular Giving leaflet.

Or scan our QR code:



## Healthy, happy lives

From gym memberships to having your five a day – we do all sorts to keep our bodies in tip top condition, but what about our pets?

Obesity can cause serious problems for our furry friends and drastically shorten their lifespan. Alarmingly, many pet owners don't realise that their pet is overweight, vets estimate that nearly half of dogs in the UK are overweight.

### What you can do

Don't worry, there's lots of things you can do to ensure your pet is healthy and fit.

You can control your dog's weight with diet and exercise. Try to squeeze in another 15-minute walk around the neighbourhood. If you have a pet that can't be walked, like a cat or small animal, increase your playtime with them – find a toy they enjoy and get them whizzing around after it.

Keeping on top of your pet's diet will have a huge impact on their mobility and long term health. The more overweight a pet, the more pressure it puts on their

*'Eat less,  
move more'*

– this simple formula really does work.

joints, making it harder for them to move. Your pet's diet depends entirely on their individual needs, factors like their age and exercise requirements are really important, so we highly recommend consulting your vet.

It's a good idea to familiarise yourself with your pet's ideal body shape and recognise when it changes. Speak with your vet if you have concerns with your pet's weight or shape.

### Winter Woes

Winter is coming and so are all the yummy treats that go with it. But that selection box or leftover Christmas pudding could be deadly if your pet gets its paws on it. If you're ever concerned that your pet may have eaten something they shouldn't have, call your vet immediately.



### Tilly's battling the bulge

Tilly is a little on the larger side so she's working hard to make herself a bit smaller. She's been exercising by going up and down stairs, playing with toys and going on long walks. We're happy to say she's already lost a whole kilogram, go Tilly!





# Leave a lasting legacy

## with a gift in your Will

A gift left to Bristol A.R.C. in your Will is a truly incredible way to celebrate your love of animals. By remembering us you'll help ensure that animals in need always have somewhere safe to go, where they will be loved and given a second chance at happiness.

Animals just like Teddy. Teddy was found by police, alone and traumatised at the side of his owner who had sadly passed away. Thankfully we were able to give him the love and care he needed to recover.

To find out more about leaving a gift in your Will to Bristol A.R.C. **visit [www.bristolarc.org.uk/get-involved/leaving-a-gift-in-your-will](http://www.bristolarc.org.uk/get-involved/leaving-a-gift-in-your-will)** or call our team today on **01179 803 903**.

**WWW.BRISTOLARC.ORG.UK**

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