

# Newsletter

NEWS FROM BRISTOL A.R.C.

**SPRING 2021**





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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 @bristol\_arc

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 bristol-animal-rescue-centre

Register Charity Number: 205858

Image credit: Zita Polgar

## A note from Fabienne, our Kennel Supervisor

The start of this year has had a very different feel for all the staff here at Bristol A.R.C. The pride we have for the work we do is ever-present, but this past year has shown us that we are needed now more than ever to be here for Bristol's animals in need.

Our teams across all departments are working together more closely now than ever before (despite the physical distancing challenges!), and we've all had to make changes to ensure we can continue to provide the best care for our animals. For example, our Rehoming Centre team has taken a more pro-active role at the Clinic, to assist our veterinary team with delivering our out-of-hours emergency service to provide help and advice for stray or injured animals 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (you can find out more about the out-of-hours service on pages 6-7).

There is little I can say to express the gratitude we all feel for every single person who has supported us. The response we've had from our



For us, getting through this pandemic has been fuelled by two major factors; the dedication and hard work of our staff, and of course the generous support and compassion of our wonderful supporters.

recent appeals in particular has been astonishing and on behalf of all the humans and animals at Bristol A.R.C., we say a huge thank you.

We still face many challenges in the months to come, and are starting to experience the effects of lockdown pet buying, with several animals being abandoned or signed over to our care in the last few months. With the funds raised from our Winter appeal, we have been able to accommodate several new arrivals in our Small Animals Unit since

the beginning of December, including 3 ferrets, 12 rabbits and 2 guinea pigs. As we expect more arrivals of cats, dogs and smallies in the months to come, your support will be essential in helping us care for these animals, so thank you once again, and we hope you enjoy reading our Spring Newsletter.

*Fabs x*

*Fabienne Gould, Kennel Supervisor*

## Dates for your diary

May:

**From Sat 15<sup>th</sup> May:** Virtual Open Week

July:

**Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> July:** Coffee morning

**Fri 9<sup>th</sup> July:** Kennel Break

September:

**Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Sep:** Open Day, including a new special challenge: Cat Cabin Lock-in

November:

**Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Nov:** Festive Fair

We've got all our fingers, paws and claws crossed that these events will be able to take place, even if we have to run them a little differently to normal. Please keep an eye on our website and social media channels for the latest updates.

### Take on a Virtual Challenge

Are you missing the great outdoors? Why not take on a virtual challenge to support the animals in our care.

**Climb the stairs as many times as it would take to reach the top of Mount Snowdon, or go large and tackle 'Virtual Kilimanjaro'!?** Perhaps a sponsored silence is more your thing? The possibilities are endless.

Fundraising online is super easy. Just set your fundraising target, then create a fundraiser on Facebook or JustGiving - it's that simple! And don't forget to tell everyone what you're up to - it won't be long until the support and donations come flying in.

There's all sorts of virtual events that you can do, and we're here to support you every step of the way. Get in touch with us on [fundraising@bristolarc.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@bristolarc.org.uk), we'd love to help you plan your virtual event.

**Mount Snowdon, Wales**  
No. steps: 7,120

**Kilimanjaro, Tanzania**  
No. steps: 38,680

## Mews and Pupdates

### We're getting a new adoption centre

We're over the moon to announce that we have been awarded a special grant of £15,000 from Battersea Dogs and Cats Home to go towards building a new Adoption Centre, which will allow us to rehome more abandoned and unwanted animals each year. This grant from Battersea enables us to convert the ground floor of our Admin building and use this great space for our rehoming activities. There are so many benefits for us in doing this, from increasing the numbers of adoption appointments we can offer at any one time, to providing a better, safer and less stressful environment for our people and pets. The whole team at Bristol A.R.C. are thrilled, and very grateful to Battersea Dogs and Cats Home for their support.



### Maddie gets the all clear

Do you remember our gorgeous girl Maddie? We asked for your help back in September last year to raise £2,000, so she could have an operation on a ruptured cruciate ligament. Of course you, our fantastic supporters, rose to the challenge and we smashed our target in less than a month! We're delighted to say that Maddie's operation was a success and she has a new family waiting to welcome her home.



### Happily rehomed

Nothing makes us happier than getting updates on our previous residents in their new furrever homes...

#### Wexford

"Wexford is doing really well and is now completely settled with mum. We have renamed him 'Houdini', as his whole aim in life is to escape from the garden - every time we block up one hole he finds another!"



#### Meeko

"Meeko seems to be happy living here and I love having him around. He is entertaining to watch!"





**£15** could provide night-time stories and relaxation tools in the cattery

**£25** could provide night-time enrichment treats for all our small furrries and play time for all our ferrets

**£50** could pay for 30 dogs to have late night wee-walks before being tucked in to bed for the night

**£100** could provide a safe space and emergency vet treatment for a cat injured at night

## Keep our nightlight burning

We make no secret of the fact that the pandemic has hit us hard.

Along with many other local businesses and charities, we've had to adapt to a wildly new world that lays before us. Although we've had to make some tough decisions, we've also been able to take advantage of new opportunities.

From March, we're partnering with a Bristol veterinary practice to provide emergency support for animals out-of-hours, whilst also extending the hours that our Animal Care team work in the evenings, to ensure that the animals in our care have more time for cuddles, walks and much needed attention before bed. We're excited about this new focus for our site, and the opportunity to be able to do what we do best – look after the vulnerable animals in our care.

We continue to support animals round the clock, but have had to slightly change the way we do this to ensure that we're still able to deliver our core charitable purpose. By partnering with a local veterinary provider to cover out-of-hours emergencies, we can focus our resources on providing the best care to the animals at Albert Road. We'll have a team onsite until late, providing all the comforts and care an animal could want – **but we need your help to keep our nightlight burning.**

Please support our appeal today with a donation. You can donate online, over the phone, or by completing a donation form. Thank you for making a difference to Bristol's most vulnerable animals.



*"From the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, our animals will get to enjoy the company of their wonderful humans until 10pm each evening. The staff will be able to tuck them in each evening and ensure that everything is in order before leaving for the night. By increasing the amount of staff we have working in the evenings alongside volunteers, we will be able to do more of what we do best: care for the animals. Extended hours mean will be able to safely exercise dogs who require toilet breaks, socialise with our smaller furry friends, spend precious one-to-one time with nervous animals who are undergoing rehabilitation and ensure that those on late feeds are monitored closely."*

**– Jodie Hayward, Animal Home Manager**

### Join our volunteer family!

We're looking for individuals to help at the Animal Home between 5pm – 10pm with tucking the animals in and making sure they're cosy at night.

To find out more visit 'Volunteering', under the Support Us tab on our website.



## How you have helped

Despite the struggles we all faced in 2020, we were able to achieve amazing things **thanks to you.**

**Our emergency appeal raised over £70,000, ensuring we could continue to help animals in need.**



We microchipped **207** animals – helping to keep more pets and owners together

We reunited **209** lost animals with their owners

We neutered **294** pets



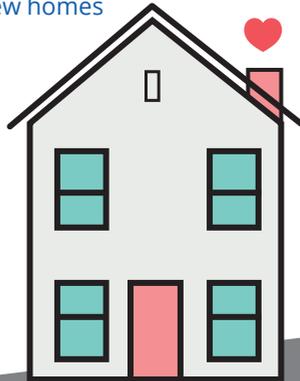
We welcomed **147** animals into our care that were signed over for rehoming

We rehomed **222** animals to loving new homes



We cared for and treated **1,198** injured or ill wild animals

We took in and cared for **424** stray animals



We provided support to **115** Outreach clients, providing **123** free pet health checks, **561** free consultations with our vets, and sent out over **360** free treatments (like wormers and flea medicine) to over **200** pets, ensuring pets and people in need continued to get the support they needed.



## Helping pets cope with change



Our amazing Senior Behaviourist Zita shares advice for pet owners about how to cope with changes in routine.

Lockdown gave us the chance to pause and review how we run the centre from a behaviour and welfare point of view and we were able to see how being a closed site would affect the animals in our care. We found that more consistent routines, increased one-on-one time, and a quieter site has reduced the stress levels of the animals in our care. Fearful animals have been able to come around faster and gain confidence without being distracted by unfamiliar visitors or sudden changes in routine, while older or injured animals have been able to rest more peacefully. Staff have also had more time to do focused training with the animals that need it the most.

Thanks to the fantastic response we had to our emergency appeal in April 2020, we were able to provide additional equipment, treats and games for the animals longer than usual stays and to continue their socialisation and training. Your support meant that no animal had to go without during this period, so a huge thank you once again to each and every one of you who supported us.

The sudden changes that have come with Covid-19 restrictions and lockdowns are not just difficult for animals living in shelters, but for pets at home too. Changes in routine and increased time with owners in the house can all cause stress for our pets.

**Here are some of my top tips for helping your pets cope with changes in routine:**

 **Stick to a predictable routine for the important parts of your pet's day.** Making sure that the things your pets value the most (feeding, playtime) continue in a predictable way, is one of the most effective ways to reduce stress.

 **Feeding your pet through a puzzle feeder** or having them sniff out their dinner in various locations can make a big difference in an animal's mental wellbeing.

 **Provide new enrichment items** and activities to keep your pets both physically and mentally engaged throughout the day.

 **Make sure your pet has a safe space they can go to get away.** This is especially true for animals that may be used to having the house to themselves during the day.

If you're concerned about your pet's welfare or behaviour, speak to your vet or a certified behaviourist. Head to our website to find more ideas and advice.

## Our remarkable fundraisers

We'd like to say a huge thank you to our fundraisers for their incredible efforts throughout lockdown. Here's a few of our recent heroes...

### 6-year-old Sam's charitable giving

After a challenging year, Rob wanted to do something positive whilst introducing charitable giving to his 6-year-old son Sam.

Rob explained "I knew that fundraising alone during the pandemic would be difficult, so we thought that as a community, we would have a better chance of raising money". To their amazement, they quickly had the support of 17 local vegan businesses donating goodies for their virtual raffle.

**Their original target of £250 was reached within 8 hours, and they raised a whopping £1,210 within 2 weeks!**

When we caught up with Rob about their journey he said *"After this mad year, the love & positivity of this community has really lifted our spirits."*



### Matilda's sponsored silence

9-year-old Matilda, proud adopter from Bristol A.R.C., adores her furry friends and loves to talk. She decided to challenge herself to a 24hr Sponsored Silence to raise funds for the animals still waiting for their furrever homes. Matilda was so committed to the cause that even the arrival of a new guinea pig to the family during her Sponsored Silence didn't stop her from completing the challenge. Matilda's mum shares *"She is very strong willed & we couldn't be more proud of her raising £502"*.



### Interested in fundraising?

Get in touch with Maisie on **0117 980 3906** or email **fundraising@bristolarc.org.uk** today to get your hands on our Fundraising Pack.

## Meet Legacy pledger Helen

We spoke to Helen, one of our legacy pledgers and dedicated volunteer to find out more about her connection to Bristol A.R.C.

I'm Helen and I've lived in Bristol for over 20 years now with my husband, Jake, and our cats Willow and Gertie, and our rabbits Basil, Tiggy and Pearl (three of the ten rabbits we have adopted, mostly from Bristol A.R.C., over the years).

I've always been a huge animal lover and we had many furry family members growing up. Over time, we've had four dogs and three cats, including Sooty the cat who, during my very young childhood, would rattle the letterbox to be let indoors. I also had various small furries - three guinea pigs, many hamsters and mice - and goldfish. When I moved away from the family home, I could not imagine my life without at least one furry companion so much so, against all the rules, I ensured I always had mice or a hamster in my student accommodation.

Having been in Bristol for a few years, my lifestyle enabled me to have the time to dedicate to volunteering at Bristol A.R.C., and I have now been volunteering for around 12 years. I've been involved in all parts of the charity, from dog walking, to shop collections, helping at events, and now I also support the Fundraising & Communications team around my NHS work.



Animals bring so much joy and richness to my life and have become essential family members, and so becoming a legacy pledger at Bristol A.R.C. was a very natural progression for me. I've seen first-hand the most amazing care and rehabilitation given to hundreds of lost, stray and vulnerable animals every year, and the team work so hard to either reunite lost pets with their families or work towards finding them the most appropriate new home.

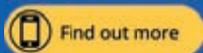
I am looking forward to seeing how the work and the care provided by Bristol A.R.C. continues and develops in the coming years, and I feel privileged that I will be leaving a gift in my Will so that this valuable and crucial work is able to continue for many more years to come.

To find out more about leaving a lasting legacy to Bristol A.R.C., please request a free legacy pack by emailing us on **fundraising@bristolarc.org.uk** or calling **0117 980 3906**.

# This Easter, sponsor a bunny from 20p a day



This Easter, sponsor one of our small animal pods and make a difference from just 20p a day. Your gift could help provide the bunnies in our care with full bellies, cosy hutches, treats and vet check-ups. We've had a huge number of rabbits handed in to us during this lockdown who need your help, so please head to our website [www.bristolarc.org.uk](http://www.bristolarc.org.uk) to find out more, or scan the QR code below.



You can choose to give the gift of sponsorship as an Easter treat, and we'll send you a certificate and a small gift for you to present to the animal lover in your life.

If you're not raving about rabbits, then you can choose to sponsor one of our dog kennels or cat cabins, as well as our animal behaviour work instead! However you choose to support us, your furry, feathered, two and four-legged friends at Bristol A.R.C are always very grateful.

