Bristol TAils



ADOPT ME

SPRING 2026

Picture: Henry. Available for adoption at time of printing February 2026

BRISTOL A.R.C. ANIMAL RESCUE CENTRE

Heart warming rehomes, inspiring stories and community updates!

RSPCA BRISTOL & DISTRICT BRANCH

Hello Spring!



Ben Davies
Chair of Trustees
Bristol Animal Rescue Centre

I am absolutely delighted to have been appointed the new Chair of Trustees - thank you to everyone for the warm welcome.

This edition of Tails celebrates the incredible support from our community, shares some lovely animal stories from Dipper and Dani Bristol's inseparable lovebirds, Snowy the fantastically failed foster, and a sad but wonderfully reflective story of Gary that shows the true scope of care our team provides. My favourite section is the behind-the-scenes pictures; it's great to see the animals' personalities!

Thank you all for your continued support. We truly couldn't do this without you. I'm looking forward to everything that 2026 has to offer.

Leave a Lasting Legacy for Bristol's Animals

Leaving a Will is one of the most important things you can do to **protect the people you love** and ensure your wishes are clearly set out and followed. If you are over 18, having a Will gives you peace of mind while making life easier for those closest to you.

By remembering Bristol Animal Rescue Centre in your Will, you can also ensure that your kindness and love for animals lives on. Gifts left in Wills fund around 75% of our work, helping us care for **three in every four animals** who come to us in need.

We offer free Will writing services through trusted partners, with options to write your Will online, over the phone or in person. Find out more and request your **free** information pack at

FIND OUT MORE

Christmas Fair



Save the Date
Sunday 29th November 2026 @ Warmley Community Centre

If you bring together one dog show, two live music acts and three rooms of festive stalls and activities, what do you get? Our 2025 Christmas Fair!
We were so excited to bring it back, and it turned out to be a brilliant day.

In total, we welcomed **over 630 people** (and countless dogs) through the doors and raised an incredible...

£4,864!

Highlights



Teddy Adoption

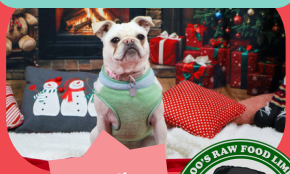
Blind Date with a Book





Raffle and Tombola

Festive Photoshoot



Kindly sponsored by BARFOOD'S RAW FOOD LIMITED – Raw Food For Healthy Hounds



OUR PAWSOME COMMUNITY

Get involved: **fundraising @bristolarc.org .uk**



Eloise raised over £160 with her 'guess how many treats in the jar' challenge. She also donated lots of dog treats and toys .



We had such a fun night at our pub quiz, raising over £500! A huge thanks to Lost and Grounded for hosting and donating amazing prizes for our 1st and 2nd place teams.



Our volunteers had a fantastic time visting Greville Smyth Community Bowls Club! Last year, the club raised an amazing £837.50 !



Thanks to the Dunelm Delivering Joy campaign, our rescue animals had loads of presents to open on Christmas Day!



The Orchard Inn raised an amazing £885 by selling their hilarious 2026 pub dogs calendar.



Sam from UWE set up a collection drive over Christmas, donating an enormous amount of pet items and generating online donations in the process!

In Memory

We would like to remember **Gloria Green**, one of our long-standing supporters. Gloria supported us in many thoughtful ways over the years, such as donating handmade Christmas cards, pet items and hampers. Following her passing, we were deeply touched to receive her remaining cards and Christmas decorations, which will continue to support our work. Gloria's beloved dog, Ruby (pictured), was her best friend, and we are comforted to know she has been lovingly rehomed with Gloria's close friends.

We are incredibly grateful for Gloria's kindness and generosity. She will be fondly remembered, and her support will continue to make a difference for animals in need.





52% of Stray Dogs in Bristol Are Unclaimed

Hundreds of stray animals arrive at Bristol Animal Rescue Centre, each year, highlighting the need for responsible pet ownership.
In 2025, the centre took in 214 stray dogs, 111 cats and 12 ferrets, with more than half never reclaimed.

Recent figures show 37 dogs had no microchips, making it impossible to trace their owners. Many strays were found in areas such as Lawrence Hill, Clifton Downs and across Hartcliffe and Withywood, sometimes tied to trees without food or belongings.

“These figures aren’t unusual, this is the reality of animal rescue in a big city,” said Penny Sandford-Hughes from Bristol A.R.C., stressing the importance of microchipping, neutering and responsible ownership.

Peaches, a five-month-old pug cross (pictured) found at Bristol Bus Station, has since been rehomed. Microchipping dogs and cats is a legal requirement, abandoning pets is a really stressful start to recovery.

To adopt, foster or donate, visit

Dipper and Dani

Bristol's Inseparable Lovebirds

Love is truly in the air at Bristol Animal Rescue Centre, thanks to Dipper and Dani, a bonded pair of lovebirds who are inseparable. As their names suggest, these two share a deep bond and spend their days cuddling, flying, singing, and enjoying life together.

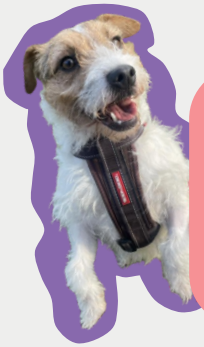


Both birds came into our care when their previous owner could no longer look after them. They are used to free flying around the room and enjoy exploring their environment together.

Both love their perches, swings, and toys, and are an absolute joy to watch. They can be vocal and enjoy a little chat with the staff, adding even more charm to their already inseparable partnership.

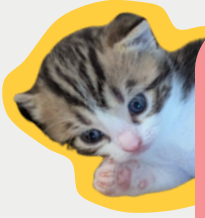
Strange but true: Lovebirds show affection by regurgitating food into each other's mouths. It looks alarming to humans, but for them, it's a sweet bonding ritual. Bird romance at its finest.

Who's Ready for Their Forever Home?



Rupert
♂
1

Coming Soon!



Kittens
♀ ♂
<1



Brandi
♀
9

Maya
♀
4





Nibbles
♀
<1



Dipper and Dani
♀ ♂
6

Chutney
♂
>1



Duke
♂
2



Three Legged and Three Times as Sweet

Meet Gingerbread

Not the buttons... not the gumdrop buttons! This little gingerbread may have lost her leg but she is still as cute as a... button!

Gingerbread came to us after straying and having suffered a suspected road-traffic accident that left her with a badly broken leg. Sadly, the leg couldn't be saved and had to be amputated. But don't worry, this resilient little sweetheart hasn't let it dampen her spirit!

Gingerbread is incredibly affectionate, confident, and friendly. She loves exploring, sniffing around, and playing with toys, especially ones with bells. After she's had her little adventure, she'll trot back to you to curl up on your lap. She's also wonderfully vocal and will happily chat away when she wants your attention.





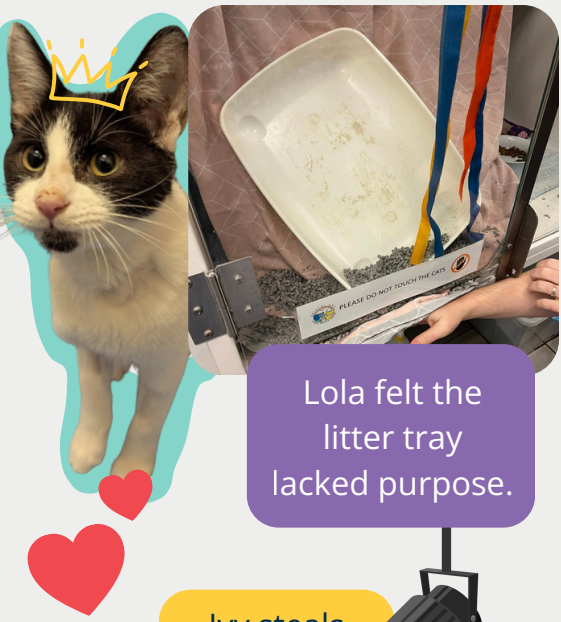
Flame our Clinical Nursing Assistant had been caring for Gingerbread as she adjusted to her new 3 legged life said

> **"She is such a devoted, cuddly companion with a big heart and a brave spirit."**

Gingerbread has now successfully been adopted into her forever home and is enjoying a perfectly sweet life!

BEHIND THE SCENES

Ever wondered what our day to day looks like? Here's a snapshot of some goings on at Bristol Animal Rescue Centre



Lola felt the litter tray lacked purpose.

Ivy steals the spotlight



Cheeky Lillibet



Had a great experience? Leave us a google review!

Truly an amazing experience, cannot thank Bristol A.R.C. enough!! We signed up last year to become foster parents... The level of care SHINES through, it's really heartwarming.

Google Reviewer, January 2026

Is that the spot Cody?



kind of

OUR SPRING CENTREFOLD



Gary

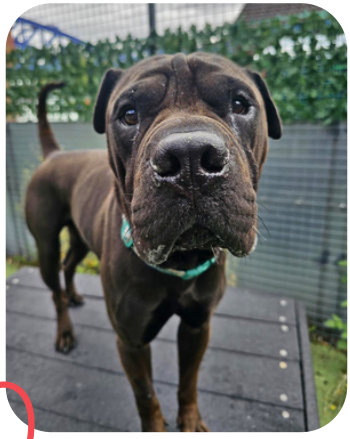
Gary, a six-year-old black Shar-Pei cross found wandering the streets of Fishponds, came into our care at Bristol Animal Rescue Centre in need of time, treatment, and love. During his stay, Gary underwent both ear and eyelid surgery to make him comfortable and get him healthy. Once healed, he was able to enjoy life without the constant irritation he had likely suffered from for a long time.

Gary was with us for 139 days, during which he received a scattering of interest from potential adopters, but none that ultimately led to a forever home. In the meantime, he became part of our family here.

Gary had been doing so well and all his daily observations were normal. One day Gary began to strain a little when going to the toilet, so our vets investigated. Sadly, they discovered something worrying: a large mass in his bladder, about the size of a large orange. While under anaesthetic, the kindest decision was made to let Gary go peacefully, stopping any future pain or discomfort. His close carers gathered to share their love, say their goodbyes, and ensure he made his way to the rainbow bridge surrounded by those who adored him.

Gary was a truly special boy. He loved his walks with our volunteer dog-walker, Robin, who described him as a "superb boy." He had a wonderfully cheeky side too; his carers would often laugh about how he tried to "mug us of our treats."

He enjoyed days out with staff, and one highlight was a mega adventure, where he explored nature, enjoyed a cheeky puppuccino, and true to Gary's quirky character, was absolutely not impressed by getting his paws dirty.



Although Gary came to us as a stray hoping to find his forever home, we focused on giving him the love, care, and joy he deserved every day. Not every rescue pet finds their perfect family, but Gary certainly found his people. And for Gary, that was all he ever needed.



THANK YOU FOR GIVING BACK TO ANIMALS WHO NEEDED YOU THIS CHRISTMAS

£21,228

Thanks to your extraordinary generosity this Christmas, our appeal raised an incredible £21,228, helping to give frightened animals warmth, safety and love when they needed it most. We are deeply grateful to everyone in our Bristol community who made this possible. At Bristol Animal Rescue Centre, we are caring for more animals in desperate need than ever before. Your compassion is changing lives and proving the power of community for Bristol's animals.







FANTASTIC FUNDRAISING

We're thrilled to share some exciting news from Bristol Animal Rescue Centre fundraising office. Our Fundraising and Communications team has been recognised in three categories for our hard work!

We have been awarded Highly Commended in the "Awareness Campaign of the Year" category at the Access Impact Awards 2026, recognising the creativity and impact of our much-loved "Snip Happens" campaign. We have also received a nomination for Charity of the Year at the Bristol Life Awards.

This was a highly competitive category, and while we weren't selected as a finalist this time, the judges felt the campaign deserved special recognition for its originality, humour, and powerful message around responsible pet ownership.

Launched around Valentine's Day, Snip Happens offered the public a playful yet meaningful way to channel post-breakup feelings into something positive. Participants were invited to donate towards the neutering of a dog or cat in honour, or dishonour, a less-than-faithful former flame.

As if that wasn't enough, we're also delighted to announce that Bristol Animal Rescue Centre has been shortlisted as a finalist in the "Fundraising Campaign of the Year" category at the Access Impact Awards 2026 for our Calm Amongst the Chaos campaign; raising awareness of the building work that is currently surrounding the site and the measures we are taking to reduce impact of this onto on site animals.

This is a huge achievement in a closely contested category, and a testament to the passion, creativity, and hard work of our team. Voting has closed (at the time of printing!) so fingers crossed we have won!

SUCCESS STORIES

Coco



After **325** days in our care, Coco's happily-ever-after has finally begun. Just in time for Christmas, she's settling into family life - enjoying adventures in the Brecon Beacons and discovering her favourite cosy spot by the fire. Her adopters are gently building her confidence with recall training and plans to work with a trainer, with off-lead walks ahead when she's ready.

Coco is loving going to work, enjoying lunchtime treats, and winning hearts wherever she goes. We're absolutely over the moon to see her so loved and supported in her forever home. .



Onyx

Onyx, a striking silver Bengal mix with a short tail, arrived at Bristol A.R.C. as a fearful stray after weeks in the Brislington area. Although never suited to a traditional home and still uncomfortable with handling, he made steady progress with patience and consistency, learning to trust staff in his own way through play and treats.

Onyx has now begun a new chapter as a church cat at Downend Baptist Church, where a warm, quiet space, secure outdoor access, and a dedicated care team will allow him to live comfortably on his own terms. His story is a wonderful reminder that success doesn't always mean a conventional home, just the right one.

Who's Living Their BEST Life?

We love seeing our animals enjoying their forever homes! Take a look at our Happily Rehomed page to see all the pets who are getting the love they truly deserve. Have one of our rescues at home? Share their story!

SCAN ME!

SNOWY: FROM FRIEND TO FAILED FOSTER

At first, Snowy hid. He hissed when overwhelmed. But underneath the fear was a gentle soul who loved his food and had never shown true aggression, he was just afraid. He tolerated people from afar, especially if snacks were involved, and slowly settled into a routine. He was struggling in the cattery so it was decided to place him in a foster home with George and Brooke. This changed everything.

When Snowy went into foster care, his carers were prepared for a challenge. They were told he might never enjoy touch or affection. But what they discovered was not a difficult cat just a scared one. With time, patience, and consistency, Snowy began to feel safe. His walls didn't come down all at once, but day by day.



"The cat who once hid and hissed transformed into a boy who sought out affection. Snowy learned to trust. He became cuddly, confident, and eager for human connection." Said George and Brooke. What was meant to be a temporary foster placement became his forever home; a proud failed foster!

Kayleigh, Foster Coordinator at Bristol Animal Rescue Centre said 'Snowy's story is a powerful reminder of why fostering is so important. Fostering gives animals the chance to show who they really are outside a stressful shelter environment. It helps cats transition, builds their confidence, and in many cases, completely rewrites their future.'

By fostering, you're not just helping one animal you're freeing up space so more can be rescued, supported, and given a second chance.



Bristol Animal Rescue Centre is the working name for RSPCA Bristol & District Branch (Registered Charity No. 205858)

RSPCA BRISTOL & DISTRICT BRANCH

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR