

News from Cheltenham Animal Shelter



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A very warm welcome to our latest newsletter

With summer drawing to a close, it's hard to believe how quickly 2025 is passing. This year the hot, humid weather has brought challenges for both our team and the animals in our care, but we're now looking ahead with great excitement to 2026, when we'll proudly celebrate 100 years of Cheltenham Animal Shelter.

As we prepare for this incredible milestone, it's inspiring to reflect on the thousands of animals we've helped over the past century. My team and I, and everyone who came before us, feel an immense sense of pride in being part of such a lasting and meaningful legacy.

Of course, none of this would be possible without you – our amazing supporters. That's why we're so passionate about keeping you informed about the work happening behind the scenes to improve life for the animals who need us.

In this issue, you'll read about the recent improvements to our dog rehoming kennels, including new roofs and plans to upgrade kennel hatches. Many of you will also be familiar with our growing education programme, which continues to expand its reach into local schools and communities to promote responsible animal care and welfare.

We've also had some wonderful rehoming successes recently, finding loving homes for some of our long-stay dogs – including Bear, Walter, Lilibet, Baloo, Jack Frost, and Rudy. Thank you for supporting their time with us.

Like many, we're feeling the pressure of rising costs. We're incredibly grateful for the support our new charity shop on Winchcombe Street is getting, and we're actively working to build new local partnerships to help sustain our work – more on that soon.

In the meantime, we hope you enjoy this newsletter.

With warmest wishes

Peter Newcombe, General Manager

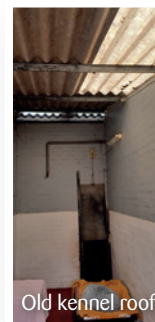


A year of progress at the Shelter

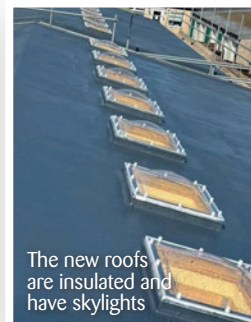
2025 has been a year of notable change at the Shelter, with building work progressing and new initiatives to support the Shelter and our community.

Better kennels for our dogs

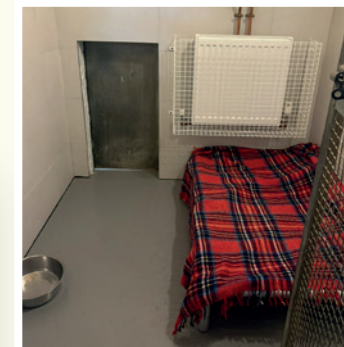
Thanks to a £115,320 grant from the **Pets Foundation**, we've replaced the leaking roofs on three of our dog kennel blocks. With extra insulation, dogs are cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter, and noise levels are also reduced. We are now working towards funding new hatches that link the kennel bedrooms to the kennel runs.



Old kennel roof



The new roofs are insulated and have skylights



Improved boarding facilities

The income from our dog boarding services support our charity. This year, we upgraded some of the kennels with new fittings, more efficient heating, and fresh decoration – creating a more comfortable stay for our canine guests.

A new shop in town

In February, we celebrated our new charity shop in **Winchcombe Street, Cheltenham**. Every purchase or donation of preloved items helps us care for more animals.



Celebrating 100 years in 2026!

Next year marks 100 years of caring for animals. If you have any memories or photos of the Shelter, we'd love to hear from you and share them with our supporters.

Share your stories at
www.gawa.org.uk/100-years

Cats corner

George

Three-year-old George came to the Shelter as a stray when he was found wandering alone in a local park.

Despite his unsettled start, he is an affectionate, friendly boy with a sweet nature and a love for playtime – especially when his favourite toys are involved!

George thrives on attention and is ready to find a calm, caring home where he can truly relax. If you're looking for a loyal, affectionate feline friend and can offer a peaceful environment, George might just be the perfect match for you.



Blossom

Eleven-year-old Blossom is an affectionate, gentle soul, who is looking for a calm home.

She is a very friendly girl who adores company and will happily receive fuss, love and attention whenever she can. She enjoys outdoor adventures, so she'll need safe outside access once settled in a new home.

Shelter life has been a little stressful for Blossom, which may be affecting her tummy – though test results are clear, she's currently in a temporary foster home and on a special diet to help.



Max

Three-year-old Max is a sweet boy seeking an adult-only, pet-free home.

Having been abandoned in an empty property, Max needed some time to gain trust in the world around him. With the help of his carers, his confidence continues to grow, and he now enjoys affection and adores his food!

Max can become a little over excited in busy situations, so quiet interactions suit him best. He thrives with play and enrichment, so treat balls, snuffle mats, and puzzle feeders help keep him happy and engaged in a calm, loving environment.

These cats may have been adopted by the time you receive your newsletter, but there are plenty more who need homes.



Another chance for Evan

Two-year-old Evan was brought to the Shelter as a stray in January. After scanning for a microchip, we were able to contact his owner and reunite them. Sadly, Evan had been missing for several weeks and during that time his owner had taken on another cat and her three kittens. Evan did not settle with the new cats, so he was brought back to us for rehoming.

Evan was very shut down when he first arrived in our pens and it took a long time for him to start to trust our team. We knew he would need a patient and understanding owner who would allow him time and space to settle in his new home.



We were worried that because Evan was so shy and would spend most of his time hiding in his bed, he would take a long time to win over a new family. However, he surprised us all when Samantha came to visit another cat, and he decided to come out and make himself known. They adopted Evan, who is now called Benji, and recently sent us this lovely update:

"We came to meet another cat at the Shelter and Benji was in his pen looking at us, so we asked to meet him. We were told he wasn't very sociable and hadn't interacted much with the team but as soon as he came out, he rubbed against our legs and rolled over – he chose us!

We loved him straight away. When he came home with us he settled in really quickly and is the soppiest cat ever – he loves a lap, our beds, or even sprawling on the floor. He very kindly brings us regular gifts of mice, voles and shrews to show that he loves us!

He's very vocal and calls to us when he comes in through the cat flap – day or night. Chatting until he finds his person to cuddle with. He's an amazing addition to our family."



Make the most of your pet

We want to help you, and your pet get the most out of life together, so we have developed a range of resources that you can use to help strengthen good habits, create new ones and have fun with your pet.

Doggy boredom busters are a great way of getting your dog's brain to work hard

Find out how to make simple toys that your pets will love using household items



Advice for pet owners

Whether you've got a dog, cat, or small furry friend, pets thrive on routine, attention, and positive interaction. Little moments matter – from fun, enriching daily walks, scent games and gentle grooming, to settling in your new pet, dealing with separation anxiety, or creating good dental habits; our pet advice hub is a great place to find helpful information, tips and advice.

Visit www.gawa.org.uk/pet-advice

Free how-to guides

Do you want to do something special for your pet? Using our free how-to guides, you could make your pet a fun new toy or enrichment item to make their day more interesting. You could even make them some homemade treats, which are wholesome and made with love.

Explore all guides here:

www.gawa.org.uk/educational-talks/how-to-guides

Join fun, friendly dog training classes

For dog owners, nothing beats in-person training to build confidence and communication. We offer 1-2-1 behaviour consultations, workshops, and puppy training classes with our partners Puppy School. Learn commands, improve recall, and strengthen your bond – all while having fun.

To book a space or find out more, visit www.gawa.org.uk/dog-training-classes



Your pet's happiest moments are shared with you. Take the time to tune in, try something new, and enjoy the journey together – because every step taken together becomes a treasured memory.

Why quality donations matter

Cheltenham Animal Shelter's charity shops play a vital role in funding the care of hundreds of animals each year. Thanks to the generous support of our community, our original on-site shop has been a huge success, so much so, that we have now opened a second shop in Winchcombe Street, in Cheltenham town centre. Both shops continue to do well, but like many charity retailers, we're facing a growing challenge: a decline in the quality of donated items.

With the rise of online marketplaces, it's now relatively easy for people to sell good-quality clothes, books, and household goods themselves. While this shift promotes reuse, it has also led to fewer high-quality donations coming through our doors.

At the same time, we're seeing an increase in unsellable donations, items that are broken, stained, or simply not suitable for resale. These items not only take up valuable staff and volunteer time to sort but also cost the charity money to dispose of properly.



Between 2023 and 2024, our waste disposal costs increased by 30%, and we expect a further increase this year. This is partly due to new business recycling legislation and a collapse in the value of book and textile recycling, making responsible disposal even harder and more expensive.

Our shops still raise over £100,000 annually for animal welfare, but with more quality donations and less waste, we could do even more.

Next time you're thinking of donating, please ask yourself: "Would I give this to a friend?"

If the answer is yes, it's likely something we can sell, and every good item makes a real difference.

Thank you...



Small Furrries

Biscuit and Sprout

These two bright-eyed little boys are sweet male gerbils who arrived at the Shelter separately, but we're hopeful they might find a happy future together.

While they are available for adoption individually, our team will soon begin gently introducing them, with the hope they can be rehomed together as a duo.

Full of energy and excitement, they love to explore, dig, and tunnel to their hearts' content. With time and care, these little chaps could become the very best of friends in the right home.



Boo and Dennis

Meet Boo and Dennis – two beautiful bunnies currently being bonded by our team in the hope of finding a loving home together.

This sweet pair have captured the hearts of everyone here. Dennis is a cheeky, friendly boy who loves the company of his human friends, while Boo is a gentle soul whose confidence grows each day.

Both Boo and Dennis have a condition called E. Cuniculi, so they can only live with rabbits who share the same diagnosis. They're happy, well, and currently not on medication. We would love to find them a safe and caring home where they can continue to blossom together.

Timmy and Gus

Timmy and Gus are a bonded pair of adorable guinea pigs, looking for a quiet, loving home where they can feel safe and truly be themselves.

They may be a little shy to start with, but with gentle care (and a few sprigs of parsley!), their playful natures shine through. Whether they're exploring tunnels, rearranging their bedding, or popcorning with excitement, these two little boys are great friends and adore each other's company.

Timmy and Gus are full of charm and would love to find a safe and loving home to call their own.

These small animals may have been adopted by the time you receive your newsletter, but there are plenty more who need homes.



A bright future for Twiglet

Back in March, our team worked really hard to save the lives of 18 rabbits who were living in awful conditions, without appropriate accommodation, food or medical care.

A lady who had bred rabbits for many years reached out to us for help, as her declining health meant she could no longer provide the basic care her rabbits needed.

We took 11 rabbits and brought them to the Shelter for urgent care and medical attention and made a plea to our friends at the RSPCA, who rescued the seven remaining rabbits.

We named one of these bunnies Twiglet, and although she was only around seven months old, she was suffering from life-threatening dental problems that meant our vets had to remove her incisors to give her the best chance at a happy life. They also trimmed her nails and de-matted her fur, and our team made sure she had a nutritious diet to help her back to health.

Fast forward two months and Twiglet was ready to go to a new life with her forever family who have renamed her Daffodil (or Daffy for short). This is how she is settling in:

"We adopted Daffy as a partner for our boy bunny, Tulip. Daffy had been neglected so her front teeth had been removed, and her fur was still a little matted.

It was pretty much love at first sight between Daffy and Tulip. They bonded so easily which was such a relief. They love sitting next to each other, snoozing or will follow each other around the grass.

Daffy is so happy – she's still not a great fan of being brushed around her tummy but she'll let us pick her up and groom her (in return for a tasty treat!). Daffy is a lovely fluffy bunny – she is very feisty but also really friendly and you'll often find her hanging around in our house with us."



Daffy (Twiglet) is the fluffy, tawny coloured rabbit. Tulip is her adoring friend!



Dog tails

Two-year-old **Mowgli** is a lively little terrier with a big personality and a soft spot for cheese!

He is a charming and energetic chap, who loves nothing more than playing games, tussling with his toys and exploring the garden with his human pals!

Mowgli is eager to find a patient, understanding and experienced adult-only and pet-free home to support him with his training. He would do best in a quiet village or rural setting, to help him relax and find his paws in the safe and reassuring environment he deserves.



Nine-year-old **Eddie** first came to us as a stray in July 2021.

Despite our best efforts, no owner could be traced, so we began the search for a new home. Though gentle and friendly, dear Eddie can find the world a little overwhelming and needed a calm, understanding home – which he found in February 2022.

He enjoyed a loving life there, but sadly returned to us in May after his owner became very unwell.

Eddie may need some support to settle again, but we are hopeful that he will soon be in a new home.

These dogs may have been adopted by the time you receive your newsletter, but there are plenty more who need homes.

Nine-year-old **Buffy** is a beautiful, bright girl who came to us as a stray.

She has an independent spirit but forms lovely bonds with familiar people, and she adores being groomed!

Buffy is a clever girl who thrives on enrichment and never tires of playing with her beloved tennis balls. She can feel a little overwhelmed by other dogs and busy places, so she's looking for a quiet, pet-free home where she can enjoy gentle walks and relax while watching the world around her.



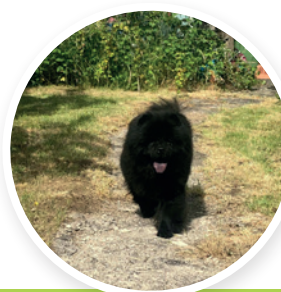
Lilibet – home at last after 552 days

Beautiful Chow Chow Lilibet came to the Shelter, aged two, because she was not getting along with another dog in the home.

She was very shut down initially and it took three months for our teams to help her settle in and get her to a point where she was ready to start looking for a new home.

Throughout her time with us, she suffered from skin conditions that caused painful sores and hair loss. Our vets thought that stress from living in kennels could be causing this so we were hopeful that once she settled in a home this would improve. However, her new family needed to be prepared to continue with medication and regular bathing if symptoms persist.

Lilibet is the Queen of her garden.



Finally, after 552 days in our care, Lilibet went to live her best life with new owners Julianne and Paul who recently shared this lovely update:

"Lily came to live with us after nearly 18 months in kennels. We had a slow introduction and travelled up from Somerset to meet her on numerous occasions to let her get to know us at her own pace.

Since being home, she has become the Queen of our castle! She loves her walks meeting other dogs and people with excitement! Our garden is her kingdom; she sits at the top of the steps like the Queen she is! She loves her cuddles and especially her belly rubs. We both love her to bits and look forward to being her loyal subjects for years to come!

In typical Chow Chow style, everything is going at her pace, but she has settled really well in a short period of time."



Admiring the view on her walk

We all love a happy ending!

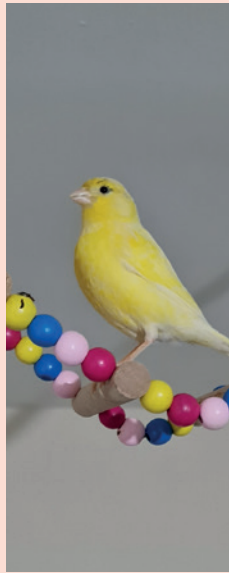


Billy

Five-month-old Russian Dwarf hamster, Billy, was rescued from a hoarding situation and brought to us for rehoming. *"Billy has settled really well, and he is extremely social. Anytime he hears my son's voice he comes out to see him and sits whilst my son reads stories to him. At first he wasn't too keen on any fresh food but now he waits patiently for some cucumber or cheese. For such a tiny animal he has quite a big personality!"*

Ducky

Four-year-old canary, Ducky, was abandoned with a neighbour when her owners moved away. *"Ducky has been getting on brilliantly since being with me. She has laid 2 eggs (the size of mini eggs!) and I've managed to get her on my hand a few times which I never thought would happen! I can't wait for her to come out of her shell more."*



Leo

Leo, was brought to the Shelter after his owner passed away. *"Leo is a 14-year-old Jack Russell but acts like a puppy! He has settled in so well and loves his walks around the park, trying to eat everything and walking with his new friends! He has been to Devon a few times – he's unsure of the sea but loves the caravan. Leo loves his own bed and sleeping under his blankets."*



Buddy

Five-year-old Boxer, Buddy, came to the Shelter when a family member developed an allergy to him. *"Buddy-butt is family – he is loving and loyal. He was a bit quiet when he first came home, but now he's full of beans. He can be a bit clingy, but we wouldn't have him any other way – he's just an all-round good boy! Buddy's our first dog and we wouldn't be without him."*



Fliss

Fliss was heavily pregnant when she was brought to us. She gave birth to four healthy kittens and stayed with us until they were all ready to find new homes of their own. *"We adopted Fliss in April because our family cat had died in January, and we were very much missing having a cat. We felt sorry for her as her previous owner had died so we wanted to give her a new home. Fliss is doing incredibly well – she loves the garden and is very affectionate, although still a bit nervous of visitors."*

Margot

Margot was around four weeks old when she was brought to the Shelter after being found abandoned with her mum and sister. *"As soon as we met Margot, she was inquisitive and playful and stole our hearts. She has settled in so well, she loves playing with the soft Nerf gun bullets and has somehow taught herself how to fetch which is now her favourite pastime! She loves climbing and jumping and always has time for cuddles - she has truly made our house a home and we couldn't love her more."*



We would like to thank everyone who comes forward to adopt a homeless pet.

Corporate partnerships that change lives

Becoming a corporate partner gives your business the chance to support a much-loved local charity while building employee engagement and community connection.

Whether you host a fundraiser, sponsor a project, volunteer your time, take on a challenge or simply help spread the word – every action makes a difference.

We offer a range of opportunities and can work with your company to identify your specific needs

What's in it for your organisation?

- Helping Hands - these volunteer opportunities provide a chance for teams to come together at the Shelter and do some hands-on work!
- You can have a dedicated Shelter tour and presentation, so your team understands exactly how they are helping
- The positive publicity you receive from working with a reputable charity
- Try something new like helping at events and representing us to the public
- Updates and thanks for the funds you raise

We are open to ideas as we want our partnership to be mutually beneficial. Our team would love to meet with you and explain the animal and human work we do, so why not request a visit from us to find out more?

Visit www.gawa.org.uk/corporate-partnerships and complete the form – we'll be in touch!



PET PEN SPONSOR

Sponsoring a dog kennel, cat pod or small animal pen is a fantastic and rewarding way of supporting the work of the Shelter and will help make an animal's stay that little bit better.

You can choose to sponsor a cat, dog or small animal pen and will receive your personalised Welcome Pack and updates throughout the year about some of the pets your sponsorship has helped.

Pet Pen Sponsorship is a perfect gift for animal lovers, and you can choose where we send your Welcome Pack and updates.

You can sponsor a pen from £5 per month or make a one-off donation of £60 for 12-months sponsorship.

www.gawa.org.uk/sponsor-a-pet-pen



Your welcome pack contains information about your sponsorship, a personalised certificate and a photo of the pet you are currently helping.

Give in Memory – celebrate a loved one's compassion

Giving in-memory of someone special, whether a person or a much-loved pet can bring great comfort and is a meaningful way to support the animals at Cheltenham Animal Shelter. To find out more visit www.gawa.org.uk/in-memory

Memorial tag

Place a personalised engraved tag on *Bruno's Post*, our memorial post named after a beloved rescue dog. The post is at the heart of the Shelter and bears tags honouring people and pets, celebrating their lives.



Set up a tribute

If you've lost someone who had a lifelong love of animals, you can honour their memory with a MuchLoved Tribute Fund.

A tribute page is a personal, lasting space where family and friends can share memories, photos, and heartfelt messages. It's free to create, and any donations made in your loved one's memory will help support our work. This is a meaningful way to celebrate their love for animals and makes a real difference to vulnerable pets in need.

much  **loved**



Supporters' Wall

Add your dedication to our Supporters Wall at the Shelter. This enduring memorial honours loved pets, as well as people who have loved pets in their lives.

Legacy giving

You can also remember a loved one by arranging a gift in your Will, in their honour. Our free will-writing service helps you leave a lasting legacy for animals in need, ensuring your compassion and the memory of your loved one lives on.

To find out more about leaving a gift in your Will visit www.gawa.org.uk/leave-a-legacy



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

Cheltenham Animal Shelter, Gardners Lane, GL51 9JW

Call us: 01242 523521 Visit us: www.gawa.org.uk

Charity registration number: 1081019

