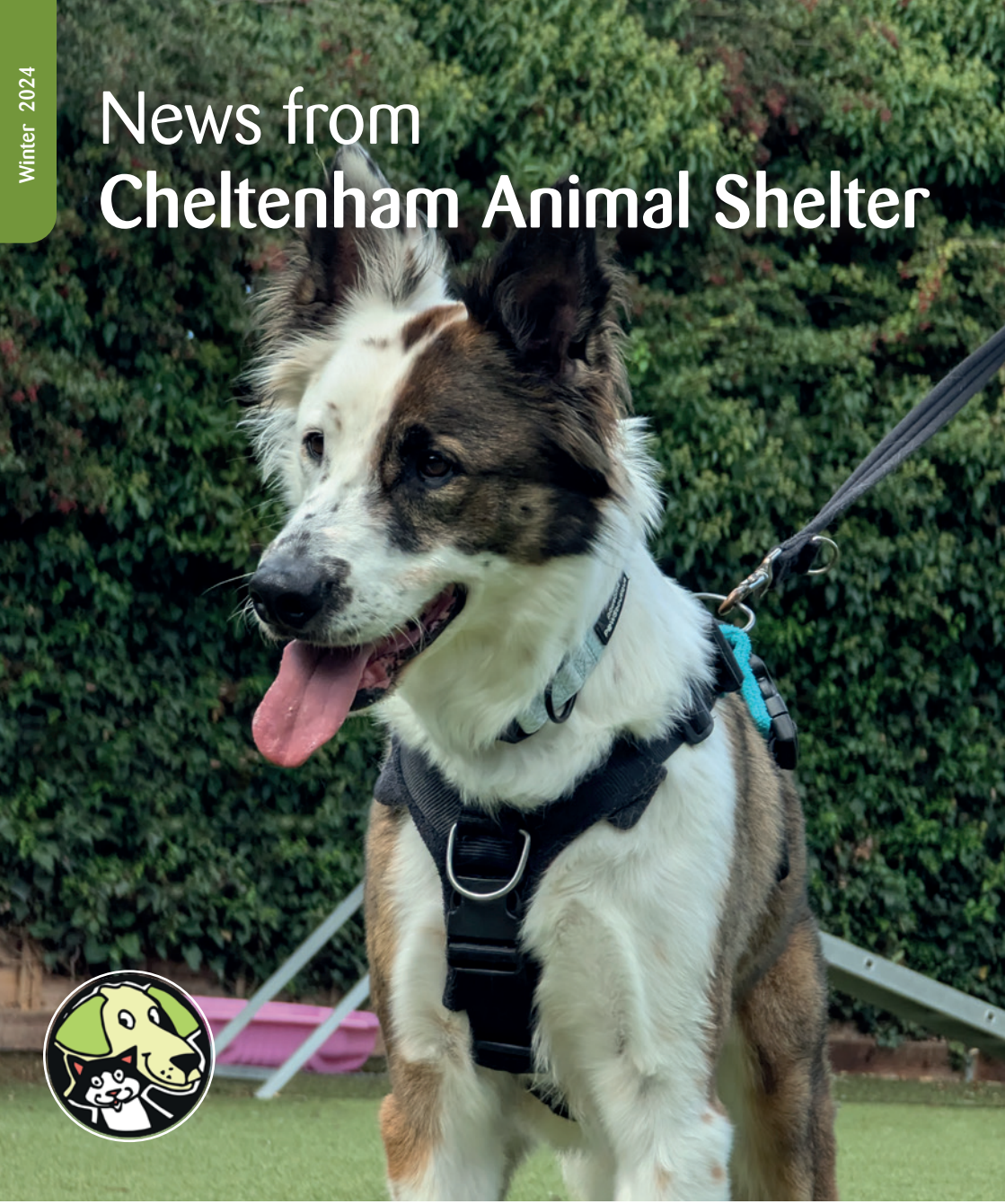
Winter 2024

News from Cheltenham Animal Shelter



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- Meet Felix, Toby and Baloo
- Shelter dogs, cats and smalls
- Shop and save lives
- Remember animals in your Will
- We all love a happy ending!
- Your support, our impact

Welcome to your Winter Newsletter

If you have visited Cheltenham Animal Shelter you will know that many of our buildings and facilities are quite old. As it is costly to replace much of this, we make a great effort to keep everything in order and fit for the animals who temporarily call this home.

Your support enables us to meet the animals' immediate needs, like veterinary care and food, while also helping us to cover essential costs like utility bills and Shelter repairs.

Simply put, without the support of people like you, Cheltenham Animal Shelter would not have been able to keep its doors open to animals in need for nearly 100 years. Thank you for donating, shopping with us, using our pet services, volunteering, and fundraising for us.

A wonderful way of supporting our work is to leave a gift in your Will, so that your love of animals will continue after your lifetime. In this edition of the newsletter, you can find out more about our free Wills services and how you can make or change your Will and include a gift to Cheltenham Animal Shelter.

You can also read about some of the cats, dogs and small animals we have recently looked after. Sadly, some of them are still with us, but by the time you receive this newsletter some will have been rehomed. If you think you can give one of our pets a loving home, please visit www.gawa.org.uk/adopt-a-pet

Thank you for being a friend of the Shelter, I hope you enjoy reading about the difference you're making.

Best wishes

Peter Newcombe
General Manager

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.

Pet Pen Sponsorship makes a great gift for yourself or the animal lover in your life.

You're never too old for a new start

Felix has won the hearts of everyone at the Shelter

Dear Felix, is a charming, older gent. At seventeen-years-old, he is currently our most senior resident, who came to the Shelter when his owner sadly became unwell and was no longer able to offer him the care that he needs.

Having spent his entire life with a loving owner, Felix has faced a significant adjustment adapting to life at the Shelter. Despite the change, he has shown remarkable resilience and handled the transition well. With plenty of comforting affection and reassurance from his carers, this sweet boy has settled in beautifully and has quickly become a beloved member of our Shelter family.

Felix arrived with us on a very special day – his seventeenth birthday! He is a very calm and friendly boy, who enjoys the quieter side of life. He loves the company of his human friends, and enjoys nothing more than a cuddle and fuss, and lazing on a warm and cosy lap.

Felix is very fond of having his coat brushed and will need ongoing help with this from his future family as he no longer grooms himself all over. He is also extremely hard of hearing, so will need patience and gentle reassurance, in his new home.

This older gent no longer has any teeth, however, he adores his food and will call very loudly for it when he is hungry! He eats a mixture of dry and wet food and is only too happy to accept a treat when one is offered his way.

We remain hopeful that Felix will find his forever home soon, but there are many other cats here who are also looking for their chance to be adopted.

Visit www.gawa.org.uk/adopt-a-pet to find out more.

Cuddles are a daily requirement!

Enjoying a comfy spot in the sun

Cats Corner

Wanda

One-year-old Wanda came into our care when her owner was made homeless. This sweet-natured girl is quite independent, and can initially seem a little nervous with strangers, but with time and patience, she soon builds trust in those around her and now loves a cuddle.

Having given birth to four beautiful kittens shortly after she arrived with us, Wanda now truly deserves to find a safe and happy home of her own.

Lola

Ten-year-old Lola, came to the Shelter after her owner sadly passed away, with no other family members able to care for her.

Unfortunately, Lola is finding her change in circumstances very unsettling and spends much of her day in her little hideout. Her carers are working hard to restore Lola's confidence, and she now peeps her head out to say hello in exchange for a tasty treat and a quick fuss!

Suzie

Four-year-old Suzie is a shy, but affectionate little girl. She went through several changes within her home environment before coming to the Shelter and is now looking for a calm and peaceful home.

We have discovered that Suzie is exhibiting early signs of HCM (hypertrophic cardiomyopathy), a common heart condition in cats, however she doesn't require any medication.

Suzie's favourite things are her little toy dog, cuddling up on a cosy lap, and playing hide and seek in boxes! She would love to find a loving family to call her own.

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

Shop and save lives: how you can make a difference this winter

Shopping with Cheltenham Animal Shelter is a simple yet impactful way to support animals in need, while picking up some fantastic finds. Whether you visit our pet shop, charity shops, or browse our online eBay store, every purchase helps fund our essential work in rehabilitating and rehoming vulnerable pets.

Visit our pet shop, located in our reception, for a range of unique high-quality items for your furry friends. Our range includes everything from yummy treats and tough toys to essential items like harnesses, training equipment, and Pet Remedy, all recommended by our expert team and tested by our rescue animals.

In our charity shops, you can discover a wide variety of pre-loved and new items, including clothes, homeware, books, and more. It's an eco-friendly way to shop for yourself or find unique gifts for loved ones during the winter season.

For those who prefer shopping from home, our eBay store offers a range of collectibles, designer clothing, and other treasures.

DID YOU KNOW?

Shopping through Give as You Live this winter offers a simple way to support Cheltenham Animal Shelter when making your festive purchases. Give as You Live partners with thousands of retailers, including many popular online stores. When you shop via their platform, a percentage of your purchase is donated to a charity of your choice, such as Cheltenham Animal Shelter, at no extra cost to you. Visit www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/cheltenhamanimalshelter to find out more.

Give as you Live Online

Take on a challenge in 2025!

Participating in challenge events for Cheltenham Animal Shelter is a great way to combine fun with helping animals in need. Whether you join a charity run, take on an endurance challenge, or do something adventurous like a global challenge or a wing walk, you're supporting animals waiting for their forever homes.

Here's why these events are so rewarding:

Support a worthy cause
By participating in challenge events, you directly help fund medical treatments, behavioural training, and daily care, giving animals a better chance of finding loving homes.

A fun way to stay active
Challenge events are a fun way to stay fit. From beginners to experienced athletes, there's something for everyone. This year we saw a record number of individuals and teams participate in running events raising nearly £4,000, and our own staff member, Angie, took on a thrilling wing walk raising £1,700!

Join a supportive community
By joining these events, you become part of a community of animal lovers. Whether you participate solo or with a group of friends, family or colleagues, the shared sense of accomplishment in completing a challenge while supporting a great cause is fantastic.

Raise awareness
These events also help raise awareness of the Shelter's work. Every participant promotes our mission, reaching new potential adopters, donors, and supporters, which means even more animals can be helped.

Personal fulfilment
Completing a challenge provides personal satisfaction, knowing your efforts help animals in need. The experience, whether a race or an adventure, is incredibly fulfilling.

A personal goal such as a wing walk is a great way to challenge yourself and give to pets

Solo or in groups, raise donations your way and have fun!

Global challenges are an amazing way to raise much-needed funds by going on an adventure.

Meet Baloo: the Chow Chow searching for love

Two-year-old Chow Chow, Baloo, came to the Shelter in May, and is waiting patiently to find a loving home to call his own.

Having arrived as a stray we know very little about Baloo except that he is the sweetest boy. He is playful, very affectionate and eager for attention, and always greets his devoted carers with a cheerful disposition and a very waggy tail!

Understandably, it was an unsettling time for Baloo when he came into our care. Following a routine health check with our vet, we soon discovered an open wound on his side which was treated quickly and has healed very well. Despite all of this, he has adapted well to his new surroundings and is thriving from the ongoing love and gentle reassurance that he receives from his carers.

Baloo is very endearing and brings such joy to everyone he meets. He loves nothing more than playing with his toys, spending time with his human friends, pottering outside in the sunshine and sniffing out new adventures – he would love to find a secure home with a spacious garden where he can roam freely.

This handsome chap can be a little nervous of other dogs and young children, so would prefer to be the only pet in his new home with children aged 14+. Ideally, his new family will have some knowledge of the Chow Chow breed and will offer Baloo the patience and understanding that he needs to blossom and readjust to life in the home.

More dog tails to melt your heart

Socks – Collie X

Five-year-old Socks was signed over to us due to a decline in his owner's health. He is a gentle boy who can be a little shy with strangers to begin with, but he quickly opens-up and relaxes as he forms a bond with you.

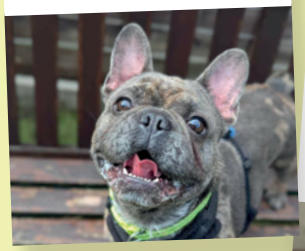
Socks has shown some signs of separation anxiety at the Shelter, so he would do best with an understanding family who can take things at his pace and who won't leave him alone for too long.

He will need access to a secure and spacious garden, which he can explore and bounce around in to his heart's content!

George – French Bulldog

Two-year-old George is an excitable little boy with a very big heart! He is very affectionate and loves nothing more than playing with his favourite cuddly toys, puzzle feeders, snuffle mats and receiving cuddles from his carers!

Stop press!
George has found a new loving home – thank you for supporting his stay with us. We all wish him and his new owners many happy times together.

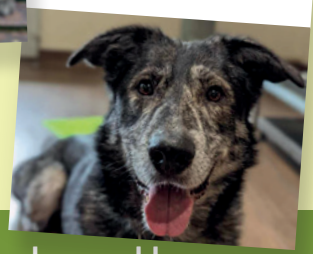


Teddy – German Shepherd

Endearing five-year-old Teddy is a lovely boy who's confidence is increasing every day in our care.

He can feel a little anxious in unfamiliar situations and is therefore looking for a patient family who can restore his confidence and help him to see that the world isn't as frightening as it seems.

Teddy would love to find a peaceful, pet-free and adult-only home, with a family who are able to be at home with him most of the time.



Baloo, Socks, George and Teddy may have been adopted by the time you receive your newsletter, but there are plenty more who need homes. Please visit www.gawa.org.uk/adopt-a-pet to find out more.

Remember animals if they have a special place in your heart

Like you, we believe every animal is truly special. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we're able to help hundreds of pets each year.

What many people may not know is that nearly 30% of our annual funding comes from supporters who have chosen to leave a gift in their Will to Cheltenham Animal Shelter. Without these extraordinary gifts, the work we do simply wouldn't be possible.

Beth's story

When Beth passed away, we were notified that she had left a gift in her Will to the Shelter. Her friends Jocelynne and Lindsay came to visit us to explain why their good friend had made this generous gift in the hope that Beth's story would inspire others to consider doing the same.

"Beth loved and cared for animals all her life. She was a proud cat owner, a skilled horse rider and a qualified Equine Bowen therapist and teacher. In fact, she also treated other animals, including dogs and pigs! It was her wish that she would continue to help animals after she had gone and her Will included gifts to help the causes she cared about. As her friends and executors, we were pleased to carry out her wishes and take comfort from knowing that her legacy will enable those causes, including Cheltenham Animal Shelter, to plan ahead and fund their work."

Beth's good friends Jocelynne and Lindsay came to the Shelter. They told us why it was important to Beth to leave gifts in her Will to the animals she loved.

Making your Will doesn't have to be costly or difficult

You may feel that you don't have much to warrant making a Will, but having an up-to-date Will is the only way you can be sure that your wishes are carried out and that your loved ones receive anything you intended them to. It is also the perfect time to consider including a gift to a cause you care about.

At Cheltenham Animal Shelter we have partnered with the **National Free Wills Network**, so that we can offer free Will services to our supporters. You will be able to make a Will free of charge with a local solicitor and whilst most people who use the service chose to leave a gift in their Will to the Shelter, there is no obligation to do so.

Throughout our nearly 100-year history, gifts in Wills have been key to our achievements. These special gifts, no matter how big or small help us plan for the future and care for the animals who need us today.

If animals have a special place in your heart you may wish to consider leaving a gift in your Will to help the pets at Cheltenham Animal Shelter. Visit www.gawa.org.uk/leave-a-legacy to find out more and request information or call 01242 548779.

NATIONAL FREE WILLS NETWORK

Request a copy of our free guide to leaving a gift in your Will

Small furries

Teddy

Six-year-old Teddy came to the Shelter when his owner was no longer able to offer him the care that he needed.

He is a very friendly chap, who is always happy to hop over to say hello and accept a tasty treat! His favourite time of day is when he finds a sunny spot to stretch out in, whilst munching on parsley – his favourite snack!

Teddy is looking for a special home, as he has a condition called E.Cuniculi which means that although he currently doesn't need medication, he can only live with other rabbits who have been diagnosed with the same condition. We hope we can find a loving family for Teddy very soon.

Milson & Wilson

Two-year-old best friends Milson and Wilson are in search of a wonderful indoor home together.

They are delightful little boys who are very closely bonded and enjoy scampering around their pen together and playing hide and seek under their favourite hides and houses. They are friendly and confident with their human pals, and always come over to say hello in the hope that one of their favourite treats will be offered as a prize!

These piggies are looking for a fun and loving family, and a big enclosure to share together indoors.

Baby bunnies

We currently have a litter of six beautiful three-month-old baby bunnies in our care! Five bouncy boys and one little female, who are all now looking for their forever homes.

We are keen to find caring families for these sweet babies as soon as we can, who can either be adopted in pairs, or individually, to be bonded with other neutered rabbits within the home.

Toby needed treatment to make him well again

Six-year-old Toby is an adorable and delightful boy who came to the Shelter in May because his owner was moving abroad.

Toby originally came in with his female companion Coco, and although it was an unsettling time for them both, they took comfort in each other and soon adapted to their new surroundings.

Sadly, Coco became unwell a few weeks later with a herniated bladder condition. Our vets worked hard to help Coco, but sadly she passed away. Toby was affected by the sudden loss of his friend and became depressed without her. His carers worked tirelessly to offer him the comfort and love that he needed and reassure him that he was safe and cared for despite now being alone. We are pleased to say that he has now adapted to life without Coco and enjoys spending time with his carers.

Toby has a few health concerns, which will need to be managed by his future family. He is being treated for dental issues by our vet and requires ongoing effective pain relief. Despite this, he loves tucking into his food, especially his favourite leafy green treat of all, coriander!

Poor Toby has also suffered with an ulcer on his eye, which was initially treated with drops. Although the drops offered short-term relief, our vet decided to operate and place a contact lens in his eye to help aid his recovery. We are thrilled to confirm that the contact lens has been a huge success, and his eye has now healed very well.

Having been through so much since his arrival, we would love to find Toby the safe and happy home that he deserves. He will need a large enclosure, with a neutered female for company.

These small furries may have been adopted by the time you receive your newsletter, but there are plenty more who need homes.
For more information, please email our team – smallanimals@gawa.org.uk

Please visit www.gawa.org.uk/adopt-a-pet to find out more.

We all love a happy ending!

Norman the kitten

Dear little kitten, Norman, was only about six-weeks-old when he was brought to the Shelter by a concerned member of the public who found him abandoned in a box on a building site.

When he arrived, his little tummy was bloated with worms, and he was in quite a bad way with patches of fur missing. Our vets treated his intestinal worms and tested for ringworm as the cause for his bald spots. The test came back positive, so Norman was kept in our cat isolation pens while he underwent treatment which took several weeks.

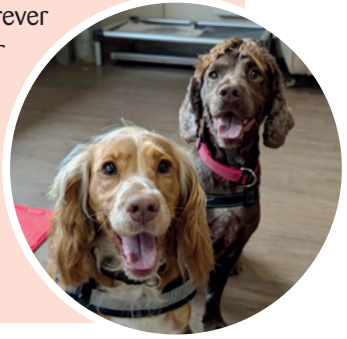
Once he was given the all clear he was ready to look for a forever home and he went to live with his new owner in October, three months after arriving with us.

Koko & Honey

Koko and Honey were two years old when they came to the Shelter due to a decline in their owner's health.

This energetic duo had not been exposed to many experiences outside of the home so were quite unsure about how to react to certain situations and needed a special owner to help them adjust.

It can take much longer to rehome pairs of dogs together but happily they went to their forever home after only six weeks in our care.



Theo and Charlie

Bonded guinea pigs, Theo and Charlie, were brought to the Shelter because their owner was made homeless. Theo was suffering from conjunctivitis in one eye but once he had been given a clean bill of health, both piggies went to their forever home with Grace and her two sons who are chuffed to bits with their new pets.

"All seems to be going well with Theo and Charlie. They have explored their new hutch, including the run, and seem to be settling in. They certainly like their food!"

Rexi & Adele

Rexi the rabbit arrived at the Shelter with another rabbit who he had failed to bond with. Rabbit bonding is a delicate process and isn't always successful, but we knew if we could find the right friend for Rex, he had every chance of bonding and having a happy life.

With the high number of rabbits currently coming into rescues across the country and fewer people looking to adopt over the summer, Rexi was with us for four months before catching the eye of new owner, Becky. After discussing Rexi's need for a friend, Becky adopted two rabbits from us – Rexi and a lone female named Adele who was also looking for a friend to keep her company.

"Rexi and Adele have made themselves at home and are loving life. They seem very settled already!"

Stilton

Stilton was living as a stray under the charity shop in our car park. We think she had been abandoned as she had been living around the site for some time.

One day in September, she finally came out to say hello to one of our staff after everyone had left for the day. It was then that we were able to move her into one of our pens and start caring for her. As soon as she realised she was safe, her friendly and playful personality shone through and it was only a matter of weeks before she embarked on her new life as a family pet.

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

Cheltenham Animal Shelter's Paw-sitive Impact!

There is more to Cheltenham Animal Shelter than you might think! Here are a few facts and figures that show how we have been working hard to make a positive impact on the lives of animals and their humans in the last 12 months.

440
pets helped at our site in Cheltenham. Hundreds more in the community

70
average number of homeless pets on site each day

30
stray pets reunited with their owners

58
the average number of days a dog or cat stays with us

1000
children reached with animal welfare messages, through classes, talks and courses

We also offer a range of services for pet owners including boarding facilities for cats or dogs, a dog grooming parlour and CASVet veterinary clinic.
For more information visit www.gawa.org.uk/pet-services

Find out how you can support our work at **www.gawa.org.uk/support-us**

Book a guided tour of the Shelter at **www.gawa.org.uk/event/shelter-tours**

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

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Call us: 01242 523521 Visit us: www.gawa.org.uk
Charity registration number: 1081019