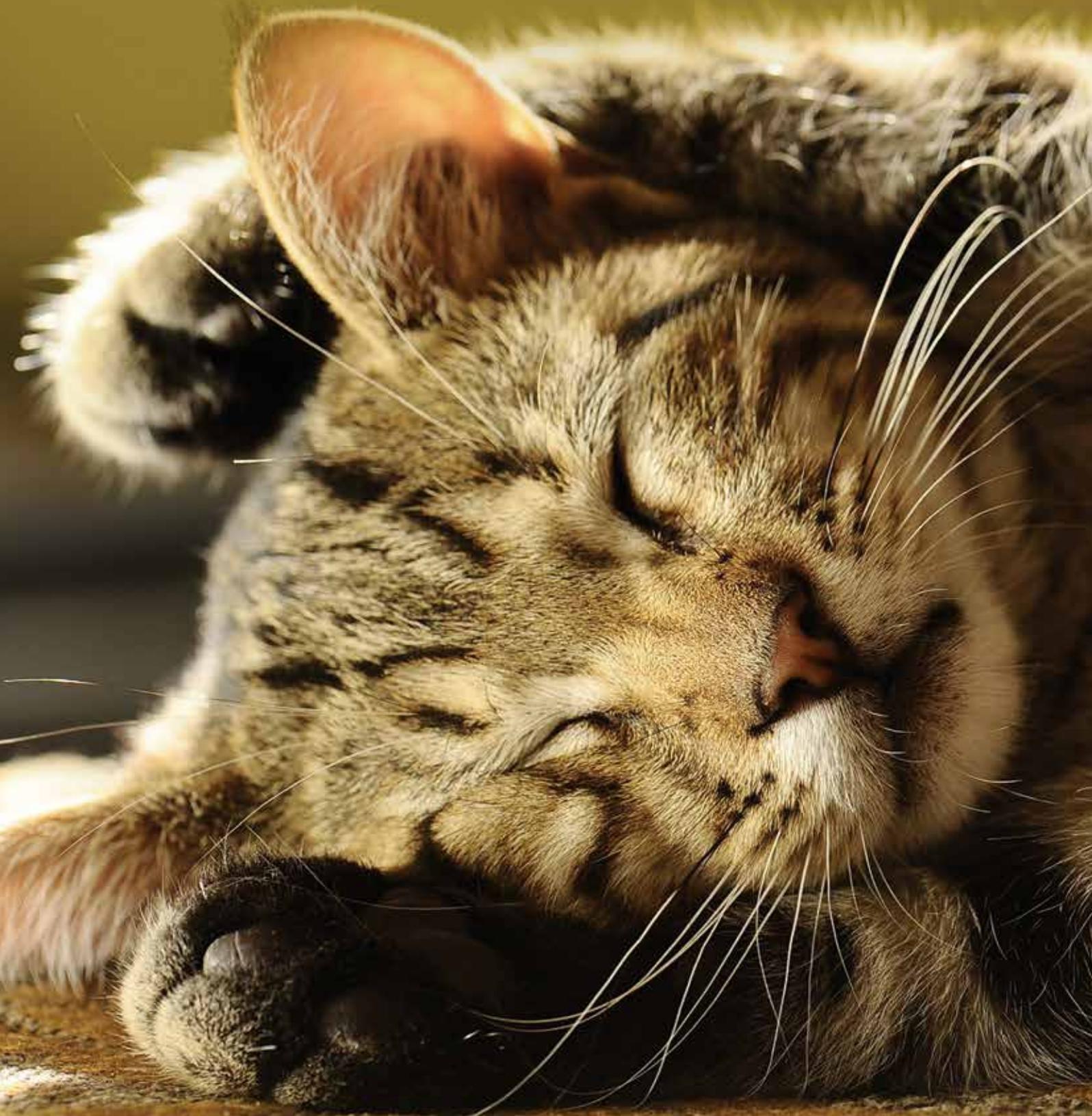


Annual Review 2014



Bath Cats and Dogs Home is committed to the welfare of companion animals; to rescue, rehabilitate and re-home pets who are unwanted and far too often neglected or mistreated and to promote responsible pet ownership through education.

Where we are

Although we often take in and re-home animals from further afield, this is our official RSPCA Branch area where we raise awareness and funds.



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Rescue is my favourite breed...

Here at Bath Cats and Dogs Home, we hold no prejudice against breeds but it does affect our daily work.

We have seen an increase in the 'designer breeds' – crossbred dogs given fanciful names such as cockerpoo and jack shih. We can see the paperwork and adverts have been manipulated to fit the desirable names and that the puppies are bred for profit only, often in puppy farms. They can cost over £1000 yet not seen a vet; they are under-socialised and with no life experience. The overwhelmed owners turn to us for help.

We know that, while breed may affect needs and care, every animal is an individual. Each animal here at the Home has their own profile and care plan.

There is an alarming rise in swapping and selling animals online – groups on Facebook, Trade-It and Pre-Loved give animals away cheaply or for free. Often sellers lie about health and temperament for a quick sale, putting the new owners and family in danger and with steep vet bills. Those who have been caught out turn to us for help.

All of our animals have a temperament test and are matched to suitable homes so both pet and owners are safe and happy.

Stray animals and the failure to microchip continues to be a problem – nearly 40% of our incoming animals are strays and it is predominantly cats that aren't microchipped. We are here to take them in and find them a new home.

All of our animals are microchipped before adoption, and we offer a free microchipping service.

We believe that every animal deserves a chance at a loving home. Dogs like Ollie, pictured here, who don't show themselves off well in kennels but go on to make tremendous pets. He is now the centre of his owners' world and his family are so proud of him. We love seeing stories from our adopters and share some with you (pages 4-5).

It reminds us too that we are here to save animals and give them a new life.

Thank you to all who support us and let us continue on.
Liz Oldroyd, Chair



Ollie the American Bulldog was with us for 6 years and benefited greatly from the quiet C Block arrangement. He was adopted in 2014.

Giving animals a second chance

Bath Cats and Dogs Home exists to give animals a second chance at a happy life. We take in strays, unwanted and abused animals, and those from families struggling to cope when tragedy and change affects their lives.

Many adopters keep in touch with lovely photos of our animals settled into their new homes – proving every day that a rescue animal makes a difference and really is one of the family.



Oliver was handed over to the Home as a puppy, when his owner became unwell.

"Safe to say Oliver has settled in well. He's loving having Ruby around to play with (Ruby was also from Bath Cats and Dogs Home); and now they have become the best of friends. Oliver is never far from her side and they like to pinch each other's toy while the other one is playing with it but they don't mind. They also love playing tug of war together!"



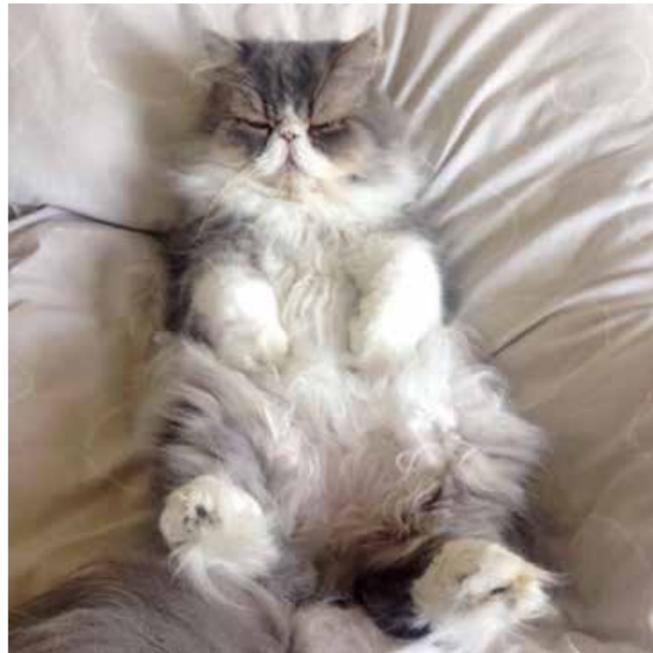
Riley came to the Home because of his owner's ill health.

"He has settled in so well and has become a much loved member of our family. We love taking him out in the woods for long walks and he has even been on holiday to Cornwall with us. He is a fantastic companion and is brilliant with our girls. They adore him and really enjoy playing with him in the garden. He seems really at home here with us and we feel very lucky to have found such a lovely pet."



Megan came to the Home as a stray.

"We've had a lovely life together. She was 'about 3' when we got her so she is 'about 16' now! I now don't walk to the beach with her, I drive to the car park and walk from there. She still loves her walks, loves food, and loves her 'boyfriend', Sammy, a 10-year old Golden Retriever. She is the light of my life and we have been so happy ('happy' isn't a strong enough word!) to have adopted her from you and are eternally grateful."



Harry came to the Home as his owner was allergic to his fur.

"He is the most gorgeous cat with heaps of character. I'm so glad I adopted him!"



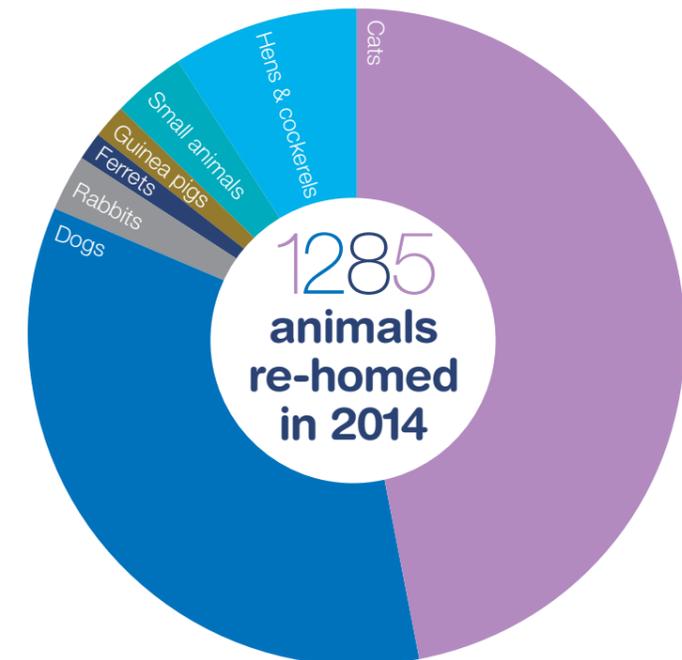
Stray Minnie came to the Home with two kittens.

"She has settled in really well!"



Maddi (was called Marri).

"I've finally met a girl who likes handbags as much as me!"



Trading, finance and publicity

Trading

New retail shop



The new Oldfield Park shop

Our second charity shop was acquired on Moorland Road, Oldfield Park in Bath. This busy street is used by local families and students, and has many independent shops. The shop – called Charity Emporium – was given a vintage theme which has made it stand out from other charity shops in the area, giving it an individual character.



Otis was one of the final adoptions of 2014

Thank you to the Trustees of The Muriel Jones Foundation for saving the lives of thousands of animals each year through their commitment to our work.

Staff

Maintenance team

Behind the scenes keeping our site running everyday are our maintenance team. Ivor and volunteer David here are getting advice from Hurlay Engines & Garden Machinery – the Bath-based company whose continued support helped us choose and acquire a much-needed ride-on mower for our grounds.



Our new mower

Financial

Incoming funds 2014

For every £1 raised,

83p

is spent on sheltering, caring for and re-homing animals in need.

Total incoming funds

£1,576,541

Total outgoing funds

£1,400,194

Our amazing supporters donated and fundraised £494,919 for the animals in our care

As always our thanks to the dedication of the Friends of Bath Cats and Dogs Home who gave £95,000 towards the costs of our veterinary care in 2014

Animal lovers left £625,288 as gifts in Wills so that we could rescue and re-home animals



Photo: Celia Marnings

Above Olympian Sharron Davies helped to promote the Home's places at the Bath Half Marathon.

Publicity

Ambassadors and celebrity supporters

Our first Ambassadors were recruited to help spread the message of our charity work. After visiting us, Double Commonwealth Gold and Olympics Silver swimming star and TV personality Sharron Davies MBE was thrilled to help promote our charity places for the Bath Half Marathon event. A few lucky runners met her for some advice at the photo call.

Voice actress Kate Harbour, known for her work on many children's programmes including the much-loved Bob the Builder, adopted one of our kittens and welcomed the opportunity to work with us. Kate helped promote our work to the next generation of pet owners. Her reading of a story at Weston All Saints' Primary School was greeted with enraptured faces as soon as she started speaking.



Actress Dani Harmer, known as the character Tracy Beaker to many children, was performing in a pantomime but took time out for a photo call with one of our dogs to launch our winter appeal.

Left Voice actress Kate Harbour.

Publicity

The Dog Rescuers

One of our rescue dogs was featured on Channel 5 television show The Dog Rescuers. The TV crew had followed Dino's story from when he was picked up by an RSPCA Inspector after being abandoned in an empty house and came to film on site. Dino also made a special trip to studios in Kent where he met presenter Alan Davies for the Christmas special. He was incredibly well-behaved for the whole journey.



Actor and television presenter Alan Davies offers a treat to a very well-behaved Dino on the Channel 5 show The Dog Rescuers.