

# Bristol Animal News



BRISTOL DOGS & CATS HOME AND RSPCA BRISTOL CLINIC NEWSLETTER

## Winter Food Appeal

The Winter Food Appeal runs every year from November to January. Its aim is to provide enough food to sustain the hundreds of new and existing unwanted animals at the Home during the cold winter season.

We are in particular need of good quality tinned dog food to feed the 100 dogs on site at any one time. With so many hungry mouths to feed, our annual food bill would total a staggering £32,000 without this appeal and we are now urging all animal lovers to donate a tin of food, or make a monetary donation towards our Winter Food Appeal and help make a real difference this festive season.

All you need to do is drop a tin of food into your weekly shopping basket and then leave it at one of our many collection point boxes around Bristol. Alternatively, as we sometimes have a problem with expiry dates (as the wonderful response to our annual appeal can result in months worth of food donations) and because we also have a lot of small animals to feed, we would be delighted to receive any financial contributions to the appeal. These can be sent directly to us, allowing us to buy food from our suppliers at a discounted price.

Food collection boxes for anyone interested in donating tinned food during the course of the appeal are situated at key locations around Bristol, including some Co-op, Tesco, Somerfield and Sainsbury's supermarkets; Jolleys, Longwell Green; Bristol & West in Temple



Oliver asks for help

Quay; Rowe Veterinary Group, Bradley Stoke; Pets Palace in Bedminster; Wilkinson's in Kingswood & Union Street and Staple Hill Stores among others and of course at the Home itself.

Bristol Dogs & Cats Home, an integral part of the RSPCA Bristol & District Branch, provides care, shelter and a re-homing service for nearly 2,000 unwanted dogs, cats and small animals every year. Along with the work of the Home, the RSPCA Animal Clinic treats over 12,000 animals a year and provides a 24 hour veterinary service for lost, sick and injured stray animals, subsidised veterinary treatment for people on a low income, a first aid centre for wildlife casualties and 'well dog' clinics for the animals of homeless people.

Although affiliated to the RSPCA, the Bristol Branch Clinic and Dogs Home are independent charities and

receive **NO** funding from the National RSPCA, Government or Lottery. We therefore rely on the support of the community to raise the £4,000 a day it costs to rescue, shelter and care for local animals in need, giving them a second chance for a happy life, free from pain or neglect.

If you work for a supermarket, shop, veterinary practice or other business in Bristol or the surrounding area and would like to get involved by hosting a Winter Food Appeal collection box, please contact us on 0117 3003968 or e-mail [rusti@rspca-bristol.org.uk](mailto:rusti@rspca-bristol.org.uk)



The Christmas Fair, held at Bristol Dogs & Cats Home, will be taking place on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. With carols around the Christmas tree and the big man himself taking time out of his busy schedule to join us in our Santa's Grotto, this festive fair will be fun for the whole family. Doors open at 9.30am and entrance to the event is 50p for adults and children get in for free. Mulled wine and mince pies will keep the cold at bay and there will be opportunity to find the perfect gift at the many stalls, plus games for both the young and young at heart! Please come along and help make a difference to the lives of animals in need. For more information please call 0117 3003962 or email [jill@rspca-bristol.org.uk](mailto:jill@rspca-bristol.org.uk).

# Dog Show is a Barking Success!

Our thanks go out to all of the hard working volunteers and visitors that helped to make the 2008 Dog Show a massive success.

This year's event was held at Ashton Court Estate on 20th July and thanks to some lovely weather and good attendance we managed to raise £1055 for animals in need.

The Dog Show is a popular annual event, with over 120 dogs entering the various classes including a 17 year old Lurcher, Barney, who not only won the Best Veteran category, but who also won Best in Show.

The Dog show is not just a great day out for your dog, there are plenty of stalls, games, refreshments and entertainment for the whole family. There was a dog agility display from 'Agility 4 Dogs' who not only showed us how the professionals do it, but also let people put their own dogs through their paces. All of this and so much more, in the beautiful surroundings of Ashton Court Estate.

Thanks again to everyone who helped make the day so special and we hope to see you all next year.



Some of the proud winners from the day

## A Charity Concert for All

The RSPCA Bristol Branch and the Bristol Dogs and Cats Home are proud to present a charity concert, courtesy of the Redland Wind Band on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November at the Redgrave Theatre, Clifton.

This fantastic event will comprise of an orchestra of 50 members from all ages and backgrounds. Conducted by Steve Ellis, they play a "mixed repertoire, ranging from light entertainment (show and film selections, ballads), through marches and popular light classical pieces - as well as many exciting original wind band compositions."

This community wind band has been running for over 10 years, playing in venues throughout Bristol, Bath and even as far as Belgium and Budapest! They play for their love of music and for the joy of community



Animal Collection Officer and Senior Veterinary Officer examine the Gannet

## Goggles for the Gannet

We are used to all manner of wildlife patients coming through the doors, but it's not very often we see a gannet! One was brought in recently, having been found grounded in a residential area of Weston-Super-Mare. This was an unusual place and time of year to find a gannet, so we expect it had been blown off course in bad weather.

Gannets are large sea birds, which breed in significant numbers at only a few localities in Britain. It is an RSPB Amber List species, meaning its conservation is of critical importance. Luckily this one didn't have any injuries, so after a couple of days at the Clinic being fed mackerel bought specially from the fishmonger in St Philips, it was transferred down to RSPCA West Hatch Wildlife Hospital for rehabilitation and release.

Gannets have a very long pointed beak, and a peck which they are quick to use against well-meaning veterinary staff! We make sure we don full protective equipment, including goggles, before we examine these birds.

spirit. We are delighted that they have generously agreed to perform this concert, to raise money for the RSPCA Bristol Clinic & Bristol Dogs and Cats Home, giving animals in need a second chance at a happy life, free from pain or neglect.

Tickets are a bargain at just £5 per adult and children under 16 are free.

To order your tickets now call 0117 3003968 or for more information on The Redland Wind Band, visit [www.redlandwindband.co.uk](http://www.redlandwindband.co.uk)





Scanning for microchips

## National Microchipping Month

June was National Microchipping Month and the Clinic took part with a campaign to highlight the importance of chipping elderly cats.

Last year, of the 800+ lost and stray cats admitted to the Clinic, over 200 were elderly, and the majority of these weren't claimed, although in many cases we were sure they were someone's much loved friend.

Cats which are elderly and more frail are often brought in to us by concerned members of public, who think the cat must be a stray needing medical help. Cats suffering from age-related kidney or thyroid disease, even when they are under veterinary treatment, can look a bit thin and bedraggled. If they are out and about, people often assume that they are unowned or uncared for, although this can be far from the truth.

It would make such a difference if more of these cats were identified with a microchip, enabling us to quickly reunite them with their owners and save a lot of heartache. To encourage people with older cats to get them microchipped, we offered free chips to cats over 10 years old during microchipping month.

## Third Time's a Charm

June 2008 saw one of the most popular long stay residents leaving the Dogs Home with a lovely new family. Mitch the eight year old Basset cross has finally found a wonderful new home in Bath.

Poor Mitch came into us originally in May 2005 when he was signed over by his first owners who felt that they could no longer care for him. He was with us for the next eleven months before he was offered his next home. Sadly Mitch did not stay there as he was suffering from separation anxiety and the owner felt that she had no option but to return him to us.

Mitch then spent from April 2006 until June 2008 in Trym kennel being cared for by Anna, seen pictured here with him and his new adopters.

Thankfully Mitch has settled well into his new home and he is enjoying all the attention and walks that he receives.

Another lovely end for yet another of the long stay residents. Mitch has finally found the loving home that he deserves.

*If you have re-homed an animal from us and would like to share your story, please write to Rusti (with a photograph) at the Dogs Home or email [rusti@rspca-bristol.org.uk](mailto:rusti@rspca-bristol.org.uk)*



Mitch finds a new home

## Waitrose: Community Matters

Waitrose Stores have set up a new Scheme called Community Matters to benefit local charitable organisations. Each store will give away £1000 between three local good causes every month.

These three causes are chosen by you, the community using flyers that are available in store on which you write down your nominated charity. You then return your completed form to the Welcome Desk at your local Waitrose. The

charities for that month are selected out of these nominations. Customers are then given a token at the checkout that they can place into a box representing their preferred good cause - the amount of money each charity receives will be in direct proportion to the number of tokens customers allocate.

We are therefore appealing to anyone who shops at either the Portishead store or the Westbury

Park store in Henleaze to pick up a flyer and nominate either RSPCA Bristol Branch Clinic or Bristol Dogs & Cats Home (they can only be selected once so by choosing the Clinic or BDCH we may get selected twice!). If we are successfully selected, don't forget to place as many tokens as possible into our tin – and get your friends and family to do the same!

# VOLUNTEERING

## ***Are you looking for an exciting and interesting way to make a difference?***

Every day people are volunteering their time, energy and talents in order to volunteer for RSPCA Bristol & District Branch and Bristol Dogs & Cats Home. Their support is vital and helps us in so many ways, all of which contribute to the rescue, care & re-homing of animals in need. Now you can be part of this vital team.

There are lots of ways you can get involved, and you don't necessarily need specialised skills or experience. Whatever your particular talents, we want to hear from you.

Our volunteers get involved in many aspects of the charity from dog walking and home checking to event organisation and fundraising. We have our own on site shop as well as a charity shop on Gloucester Road. Many of our volunteers have full time jobs but there is always something to fit any lifestyle.

If you are passionate about animal welfare, want to gain experience, learn new skills or just meet new people, then our volunteering programme maybe just what you have been looking for. It may even be the most worthwhile and rewarding thing you ever do!

If you would like more information about joining our volunteering team, please call 0117 3003962 or email [jill@rspca-bristol.org.uk](mailto:jill@rspca-bristol.org.uk).

## **Why I Volunteer**

*by*  
**Jean Rogers**



*Jean and basil*

### **How long have you been volunteering at RSPCA Bristol Branch and Bristol Dogs & Cats Home?**

I have been volunteering at the Dogs Home for 8 years now and have enjoyed every moment.

### **How often do you volunteer and what sort of tasks do you do?**

I dog walk every week and help at fundraising events that take place throughout the year. I also belong to the 'Volunteer Fundraising Group' which meets every month and we organise our own fundraising events to raise money for the Home.

### **Why did you decide to start volunteering?**

When I retired I knew I wanted to volunteer for a worthwhile cause. I saw an advert in the newspaper and as I have a strong passion for animals and their welfare it wasn't a very hard decision to choose the RSPCA, Bristol Dogs Home. As a volunteer you have the opportunity to be part of something good, something important and make a real difference. I support other animal charities but at the Home I can get more involved. It's hands-on, it's local and it makes me happy.

### **What do you enjoy the most about volunteering?**

The social life is amazing. I've made loads of friends who all share the same interests as me and we all socialise outside of the Home too. Walking dogs also keeps you very fit and more importantly it helps keep your mind active! However, the dogs are the biggest pull for me. I love getting involved in their lives and really getting to know them as individuals. Selfishly I can shed a little tear when they are homed, but really I couldn't be happier than when one of my babies finds a new loving home and is given the life they truly deserve.

*If you would like more information about volunteering at RSPCA Bristol Branch and Bristol Dogs & Cats Home, please call 0117 3003962 or email [jill@rspca-bristol.org.uk](mailto:jill@rspca-bristol.org.uk)*



### **Hendrix & his Ball**

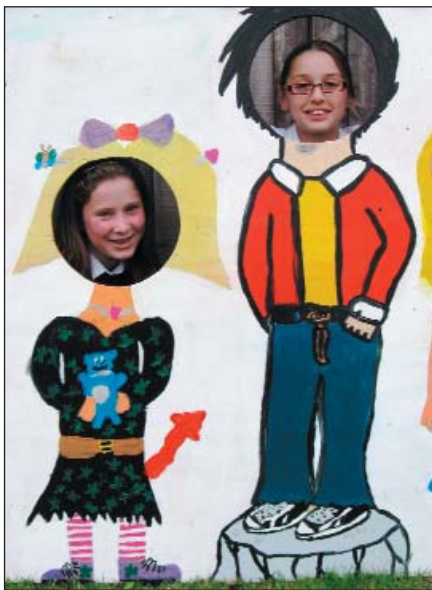
Hendrix, a young rottweiler who was recently re-homed from the Dogs & Cats Home, became a patient at the Clinic during his stay with us after a bit of an accident with his toy. Hendrix was playing with a "treat ball" – this is a toy that can be filled with dog biscuits, the idea being that the dog has fun and exercises himself trying to get the treats out. Unfortunately poor Hendrix was a bit too keen to get at the food and managed to get the ball completely wedged on his lower jaw, hooked over his canine teeth!

Hendrix was very distressed about his predicament, whining and shaking his head madly about. At first we thought we were going to have to "knock him out" with a general anaesthetic to enable us to remove the offending article, but eventually one of the nurses managed to persuade him to stay still enough for her to gently manoeuvre the ball off. A quick examination confirmed that no damage had been done, and we were able to discharge Hendrix back to his Dogs Home kennel, a bit subdued but otherwise none the worse for his little mishap!

# Thank You!

Here at RSPCA Bristol Clinic and Bristol Dogs & Cats Home our dedicated team work tirelessly to ensure that every animal receives the quality of life they deserve, costing the charity over £1.4 million every year. We depend entirely on the generosity of people like you, whether through donations of money, goods or time, to give every animal a second chance for a happy life, free from pain or neglect.

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all of our supporters and volunteers – we are truly grateful! We are unable to write about everyone here, but thought you might like to read about just some of the individuals and groups that have helped animals in need over the last 6 months.



Katie and Rossella at their lunch hour

Katie Webb and the other members of HAIN (Helping Animals In Need), a group they formed to raise funds for animal charities, held a fun lunch hour at St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School in Redfield. Many of the pupils got involved, helping on stalls selling food, painting fingernails, selling raffle tickets, running games and generally having a lot of fun. Thanks to all their efforts and the support of the school they were able to raise £125.92 for animals in need.

Karen Helps & Alison Spiteri completed the Reebok Bristol Half Marathon in September while Damian Pacini took part in the Berlin Marathon raising funds for new cat pods in the Clinic.

Oliver and Christian Bright collected up some of their belongings and held a Car Boot Sale in June raising £103 – now at least they don't

have so much to tidy up in their bedroom!

This year Jean Goulder and her husband, Tony celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with a big party. Instead of receiving gifts from their friends and family they requested donations for the animals at Bristol Dogs & Cats Home and raised a wonderful £150!



Tony and Jean Goulder

The BDCH Volunteer Fundraising Group hold regular coffee mornings, the last of which raised a massive £343.36 which brings their grand total to £8,474.61 over the last few years – an amazing achievement!

The Bedminster Spiritualist Church held a Harvest Festival in October and the money raised was presented to the Bristol Dogs Home.

Sarah Caradine has been a regular dog walker for many years. Her employers, The Royal Bank of Scotland Group run a Community Cashback Award scheme through which they recognise the voluntary work of their employees by making

generous donations to the charities that they are contributing to as volunteers. In July Bristol Dogs & Cats Home received a donation for £250 from this scheme thanks to the voluntary work that Sarah carries out on our behalf.

Karen Williams' friends and family donated £168.36 towards animals in need in recognition of Karen's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday in September!

If you would like to receive a Fundraising Pack full of ideas and tips to help you raise vital funds for RSPCA Bristol Branch Clinic and Bristol Dogs & Cats Home, please contact Jill on 0117 3003962 or email [jill@rspca-bristol.org.uk](mailto:jill@rspca-bristol.org.uk)

## Did You Know?

The RSPCA Bristol Clinic and Bristol Dogs & Cats Home are both part of the RSPCA Bristol & District Branch which is actually an independent charity that receives NO funding from the Government, Lottery or National RSPCA!

## Other Ways You Can Help . . .

### Safe Haven

Consider sponsoring a small animal unit, cat pen or kennel for as little as £3 per month, and help give our animals a chance for a brighter future.

### Nominate us as your Charity of the Year

Encourage your employer, school or group to nominate us as their charity of the year. Raise as much as possible throughout the year by organising fun activities for everyone to get involved in. Employers may even match your fundraising total pound for pound?



### Collection Tins

Ask your employer or local shop if they would like to display one of our charity collection tins on their reception or shop counters

### Attend one of our Events

Support the Bristol Clinic and BDCH by attending one of our events – a day out that makes a difference!

### Volunteering

Volunteers are ambassadors for our charity and help in many ways from walking the dogs and running stalls at fundraising events to promoting the work of the charity within the community, bringing even more supporters to our cause. For more information see the article on page 4.



### Make a donation in memory of a loved one

There are many ways to give in memory, such as making a donation instead of buying flowers for a funeral or donating on a regular basis, perhaps to commemorate a birthday or anniversary.

### Challenge Events & Half Marathon Runners

If you're looking for the challenge of a lifetime and want to make a huge difference to the lives of animals in need, then why not take part in an overseas challenge, skydive or running event?

### Recycling

Did you know that we can raise money by collecting used postage stamps, mobile phones, foreign coins and even certain printer cartridges? Just request a Freepost envelope to start recycling!



### Leave us a Gift in Your Will

By leaving a gift in your Will you can give hope to future generations of animals in need. Your generous gift will enable us to continue our important and valuable work for years to come and can transform our organisation. Legacies save lives.

### Gifts That Give Again

Do you struggle to think of a gift for the Great Aunt who has everything? Then why not give a gift that gives again! Each gift in our catalogue represents an essential part of our work and would make a great present for any occasion.

### Become a Trustee

We are currently looking for new trustees who share the ideals of our

organisation to help take the charity forward. Becoming a trustee is a worthwhile and important role, providing an opportunity to influence how we rescue and care for animals in need. The board of trustees meets monthly.

*If you would like to receive more information, please contact us on 0117 3003962 or email [jill@rspca-bristol.org.uk](mailto:jill@rspca-bristol.org.uk)*



*Don't Forget*  
**RSPCA WEEK**  
**2009**

RSPCA Week is a national event aimed at raising funds and awareness for the work of local animal rescues like us. In 2009 it will be taking place between 27th April – 3rd May so keep a look out for upcoming news and events taking place throughout the week.

There will be collections taking place at Tesco's throughout the week and a Flag Day on Park Street and in the Centre of Bristol on Saturday 25th April. If you would like to get involved and raise funds for animals in need, why not request one of our fundraising packs full of ideas and advice to make your fundraising activity a huge success!



Becky and Furball

## NO AUTOGRAPHS PLEASE...

### *famous feline coming through!*

It would seem that Bristol Dogs & Cats Home has a television star in the main cattery. Furball, an eleven year old ginger cat, is set to be featured on the TV program Animal 24:7 which will be shown in the next series.

Furball was the centre of attention whilst the TV crew were filming Inspector Rebecca Griffiths on her daily rounds. Furball was signed over to the RSPCA by his previous owner who had too many pets to care for, so he was removed along with 41 gerbils!

Luckily the fame does not seem to have gone to his head as Furball is still a lovely friendly cat. So much so that he found a new and loving home soon after arriving at BDCH.

Good luck for the future Furball.

## A Night at the Races

Join us at RSPCA Bristol & Bristol Dogs Home for a Race Night with a difference on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2009! This event promises to be an exciting and animated affair like no-other as wooden horses and knitted jockeys battle each other to reach the finish line! The roll of the die controls the race and the fate of each player; but beware! Any player runs the risk of falling into puddles, stumbling over jumps or just plain stubborn horses that won't move. Players and spectators, alike are able to make bets of at least 20p. The RSPCA Bristol Clinic and Bristol Dogs & Cats Home Race Night is guaranteed to be a winner for all! So, come along and chance a bet on one of our fleet-footed steeds and, maybe, you can come out a huge winner!

The Race Night will take place at the Bristol Branch Office. Doors open at 7pm. For more information or to book tickets, please call Rusti on 0117 3003968 or email [rusti@rspca-bristol.org.uk](mailto:rusti@rspca-bristol.org.uk).



National Flea Week saw the Veterinary Department at RSPCA Headquarters organise a competition for all RSPCA Branch Clinics and Animal Homes – the task was to create a display to encourage pet owners to be responsible and treat their animals regularly for fleas.

Sarah, one of our Clinic's veterinary nurses, took up the challenge and "mocked up" a sitting room in one of our consulting areas, complete with fireplace, armchair and carpet. She then demonstrated all the stages of the flea life cycle, with ping-pong balls as eggs, balloons as larvae and huge model fleas dangling from the ceiling! The display highlighted the horrors of having a flea infestation in the house, and educated pet owners about the importance of treating both the animal and the environment.

The display attracted great interest from our clients and we were delighted when it was announced that we had won the first prize of £150, so well done Sarah!

## A farewell to the Chief Inspector

After 37 years with the RSPCA, we are bidding a fond farewell to Chief Inspector Richard Masling who will be retiring at the end of 2008. During his time with the National charity, he has encountered many serious cases but has also had his share of triumphs and laughter. Here Richard shares with us his top 'silliest' call outs:

A lady called who was convinced a swan was stuck, struggling on a nearby roof. After a closer inspection,

it turned out to be a carrier bag swaying in the wind.

A member of the public called out the RSPCA when they found a tortoise in their garden. The tortoise in question was in fact a stone statue.

Most recently, a two-foot crocodile had been reported with feathers in its mouth in someone's garden. Two armed police officers rushed to the scene prior to Richard's arrival and roads were closed for public safety. When they arrived they noticed the



creature was not moving and after a closer look, they discovered its true identity – it was simply a stuffed toy!

# Dates for Your Diary

## Janys' Quiz Night

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October** - 7.30pm start

An evening to test your trivia, taking place at Wesley Memorial Church, Bryants Hill, St. George. Janys' quiz night is sure to satisfy your thirst for knowledge and feed your hunger as a Ploughman's Lunch is included in the price! Only £5.00 per ticket.

## A Charity concert by the Redland Wind Band

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November** - 6.45pm for 7.30pm start

The concert conducted by Steve Ellis at the Redgrave Theatre, will contain a varied programme of music, ranging from light entertainment (film and show selections) to marches and popular classics, as well as many original wind band pieces.

£5.00 per adult, under 16's are free.

## Christmas Fair, Bristol Dogs & Cats Home

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November** - 9.30am – 3.30pm

A festive celebration that will be fun for the whole family. Christmas gifts & crafts, Santa's Grotto, music, games, refreshments and much more!

## Coffee Morning, Bristol Dogs & Cats Home

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December** -

10am -12pm

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February,**

10am -12pm

Bi monthly coffee morning & sale - books, hand-made cards, home-made cakes, bric-a-brac, raffle & refreshments!



## A Night at the Races

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February** - Doors open 7pm

This is a race night like no other! Come along and chance your luck with our wonderfully woolly jockeys and their sturdy steeds. Fantastic fun, bets to be won and all for a very worthy cause.

## Nationwide Bath Half Marathon

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March**

If you would like to take part in one of the most popular half marathons in the UK whilst raising vital funds for animals in need then why not consider running the Nationwide Bath Half Marathon on our behalf. We have 3 places up for grabs so put on your running shoes and help make a real difference.

For more information on any of these events please contact us on 0117 3003968 or email [rusti@rspca-bristol.org.uk](mailto:rusti@rspca-bristol.org.uk)



## Put your Best Paw Forward

If you would like the opportunity to burn off some of those Christmas calories and help raise vital funds in the process, then strap on your running shoes and look no further! The 2009 Nationwide Bath Half Marathon will be taking place Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March and we have 3 charity places to give away to anyone who would like to take part and raise money for animals in need.

The Bath Half Marathon is one of the longest established and most popular city centre road events in the UK. It is also one of the largest charity fundraisers in the South West. The course itself is fast and flat making it suitable for all abilities. It covers a two lap 13.1 mile (21.1km) traffic free course straddling both sides of the River Avon, starting and finishing in Great Pulteney Street, in the heart of the World Heritage City of Bath.

Whether you're a runner, spectator or resident, if you would like more information please get in touch by email [rusti@rspca-bristol.org.uk](mailto:rusti@rspca-bristol.org.uk) or call 0117 3003968

## Lolly the Lonely Lovebird

Lolly the Lovebird is looking for a handsome male companion with whom to feather her nest. Lolly seeks a kind hearted bird that shares similar interests to her own, such as eating and flying.

Suitors must have a good sense of humour, their own feathers and the ability to pick seeds from their own beaks.

If you have a lonely lovebird that needs a companion like Lolly, please get in touch and we can see if love is in the air...or in the cage.



## New Website!

Switch on your computer, dust off your mouse and visit the exciting new window into our work! Keep your eyes peeled for the launch of RSPCA Bristol Branch & Bristol Dogs & Cats Home's new website, coming soon to a computer screen near you!