

Bristol Animal News



BRISTOL DOGS & CATS HOME AND RSPCA BRISTOL CLINIC NEWSLETTER

Make a Big Bold difference with our Small Furry Appeal!

Bristol Dogs & Cats Home can house up to 70 small animals including rabbits, ferrets, birds, rats, degus, hamsters, gerbils and chinchillas.

Like all the animals in our care, many have arrived at the Home after being found straying or are just unwanted. While others have been neglected or abandoned by owners who can no longer cope, or no longer care - like the 40 emaciated and injured degus that were dumped in a small box near Kingswood recently.

Sadly, small animals are often overlooked and misunderstood. They do not always make good pets for young children and require commitment and regular attention for as long as they live, which can be up to 10 years for rabbits and 15 years for Chinchillas.



Your small mammal deserves the best possible care so make sure you consider their specific needs before giving one a home. For example, although a gerbil is a similar size to a hamster, this doesn't mean it can live in a hamster cage. Whilst some small animals love companionship, others must remain solitary. Diets can vary - did you know lettuce is actually poisonous to rabbits and their diet should be 80-90% hay? All small animals need stimulation which can be in the form of company, toys and an

exciting environment to live in. Did you know that many animals including hamsters, rabbits and ferrets can be litter trained? Each animal will also have their own specific health needs - whether it is a dust bath for a chinchilla, gnawing blocks for guinea pigs, vital vaccinations for rabbits or a good bush for long haired animals.

Appropriate exercise is extremely important. A rabbit needs as much exercise as a small dog so can you imagine how it must feel to be shut in a small hutch 24 hours a day with no company or stimulation. The National RSPCA has specific recommendations regarding the size of small animal accommodation. As a result we are currently planning vital works to re-develop our Small Animal Accommodation, increasing the size of the small animal pens to provide a higher standard of care during their stay with us.

This development will provide greater space to exercise and a more appropriate environment for all the small animals in our care. The new layout will also allow greater accessibility, giving them the best possible chance of being re-homed quickly, in turn creating space for other small animals in need. This essential new development is still in the planning stages but is set to cost us over £106,000.

**RSPCA WEEK 2009
IS NEARLY HERE**

Find out more on
page 5.

We believe that every animal, big or small, deserves the opportunity to live a happy life, free from pain and neglect and we work tirelessly to provide this for every unwanted animal in our care.



Please help us by joining the Small Furry Appeal. You can help make a *Big* difference by providing a little extra home comfort to our smaller furry friends. You'll also be giving the best chance to meet the person they have been waiting so desperately for.

You can make a contribution to the Small Furry Appeal, no matter how big or small, by completing a donation form, calling us on 0117 3003968, making an on-line donation at www.rspca-bristoldogsandcatshome.org.uk or by joining our Safe Haven scheme - providing a regular gift which will help us to maintain their new accommodation for years to come.

Please support our Small Furry Appeal today and make a big difference to the lives of small animals in need.

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL FUN DAY & DOG SHOW

Once again the biggest event in our calendar, the Fun Day & Dog Show, will be taking place at Ashton Court Estate (Church Lodge Entrance) on Sunday 20th September.

This popular annual event is a great day out for the whole family, both two legs and four! It will be a day full of attractions with market stall selling a host of gifts and crafts; a Kids Zone with inflatables, rides, face painting and traditional games; entertaining displays and demonstrations including dog agility; a selection of tasty refreshments; live music and of course the dog show itself with our regional 'Rescue Dog of the Year'.

So please come along with your canine companion and help us continue to care for local animals in need - you'd be crazy to miss it!

Doors open at 10.30am until 4pm and entry is free to all.

There is also free parking available.

For more information, please contact us on 0117 3003962 or email jill@rspca-bristol.org.uk



Why I Volunteer

by
Kathy Lowe



When did you start volunteering for the RSPCA Bristol Branch and Bristol Dogs & Cats Home?

I started volunteering for the Bristol Dogs & Cats Home back in July 1999 when I received training to become a volunteer home-checker and since then I've been involved in quite a few different areas of volunteering.

What different roles have you performed and what have they involved?

I started dog walking which I continued for about 6 years. Since I started I've been involved in fundraising events and street collections organised by the charity

as well as minding the on-site shop at the Dogs Home. I felt so passionate about the work of the charity I started holding coffee mornings back in 2001 to help raise money. They were so successful and such great social events that, thanks to the support from friends and fellow volunteers, they carried on.

However, more than anything I am a volunteer Home-checker. I feel this is a very important role, one which carries a lot of responsibility. Home-checking involves visiting potential new homes and ensuring that they can provide a suitable environment for the specific animals they wish to rehome. My jobs are sent to me from RSPCA Headquarters in Exeter and I have travelled to Bath, Cardiff, North Somerset and even as far as Bournemouth to visit potential homes. We then file a report with our findings to Headquarters who then pass it on to the animal home in question. We also carry out 'post-home checks' to make sure the animals are settling in well and that there are no problems. As a home-checker you have to try and see it all from the specific animal's point of view. I've carried out checks on new homes for dogs, cats, chinchillas, ferrets, rats, hamsters, rabbits, guinea pigs, birds (lovebirds, parakeets and budgies). It is just as important to home-check for the small animals as it is the dogs as they have just as many specialist needs and require just as much care. In one busy year I have carried out as many as 200 pre-home checks and 150 post-home checks.

Why did you decide to start volunteering?

I've always been passionate about animals and I wanted to do something that would benefit them. I had previously worked for another charity as a home-checker as well as a fosterer but I wanted to do more. A friend of mine told me about the RSPCA and Bristol Dogs & Cats Home so I started walking the dogs there and soon enquired about becoming a home-checker.

What do you enjoy the most about volunteering?

The friends I've made are marvellous. It's wonderful to feel that this place and the people here are like a second home and a second family to me. Socialising at the fundraising events is great and we always have a laugh; it's such a good atmosphere. I've made so many good friends here and it is amazing how much pleasure you get out of fundraising. When it comes to home-checking it is always such a rewarding feeling to know that you have helped hundreds of animals find a perfect, loving home and helped many new pet owners find true companions.

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 or visit our website.

Bronx

Our local RSPCA Inspectors, with the help of the Bristol Branch, made history last month with the first successful prosecution under Section 7 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006, which relates to the administration of poisons.

The dog Bronx, a mastiff-cross, was rescued by the Police in the middle of the night, after complaints that he was being beaten up by his owner. Officers arrested the man and called the RSPCA for assistance. RSPCA Inspector Barnes collected an extremely miserable-looking Bronx and brought him straight to the RSPCA Bristol Animal Clinic for veterinary attention.

On examination, Bronx had a wound on his head where he had been hit with a stick, and he had chronic untreated skin disease. But Mandy Stone, Clinic Veterinary Manager, was more worried by his behaviour and manner. She wrote on her clinical notes "dopey

demeanour", "droopy eyelids" and "ataxic gait" (this means in-coordinated walking). There was no obvious reason for these symptoms, and Mandy was concerned that the dog might have concussion from head injuries.

Bronx was kept under close observation by the vets and nurses all through the night and the next day. Come the afternoon, he had perked up considerably – his tail was wagging and his walking was normal.

It was only later when Inspector Barnes updated us on the investigation that we realised what had been wrong with Bronx. According to witnesses, Bronx's owner had given him a doggy-bowl full of strong lager and vodka, and Bronx, not knowing any better, had drunk the lot. What we had been dealing with was an alcohol-intoxicated dog.

Alcohol classes as an "injurious substance" under Section 7, so Bronx's owner had committed an Animal Welfare Act offence by encouraging Bronx to drink. There is no doubt that Bronx suffered from



fear, nausea and distress both while he was drunk, and during the "hangover" period.

With the help of Mandy's veterinary witness statement, Bronx's owner was prosecuted, both for beating his dog and for the poisoning offence. Bronx, who was elderly, sadly developed an unrelated and terminal disease shortly after the case came to court. We had no choice but to say our goodbyes to him, but safe in the knowledge that he had lived his last few months happily in our care, free from pain and neglect.

Charity Shop's 5th Anniversary



On the 29th November our Gloucester Road charity shop celebrated its 5th anniversary with a special Open Day. Previously the RSPCA Bristol Branch Office, it was converted into a charity shop in 2002, raising money for local animals in need.

The Open Day was celebrated with birthday cake, promotions on everything in the store and a visit from the Inspectorate, the RSPCA Bristol Branch General Manager and Hugo the dog! Thank you to everyone involved for making the day a great success.

If you are interested in volunteering at our Charity shop, please call 0117 3003968

A Spring Celebration!

Come and celebrate the arrival of Spring with us at our fun family event!

The annual Spring Fair will be taking place at Bristol Dogs and Cats Home on Saturday 4th April. With its excellent Easter feel there will be seasonal fun and crafts for the kids, face painting with even the chance that the Easter bunny may hop by to say hello. While the children are kept entertained there will be plenty of opportunity for the adults to relax with tea and cake, pick up some bargains at one of the many stalls, not to mention the traditional games which are great fun for both the young and young at heart. There really will be something for everyone!

Doors are open from 9:30am – 3pm and entrance to the event is 50p for adults and children get in for free. So please, come along and have a great day out whilst helping to make a difference to the lives of animals in need. For more information, please call 0117 3003968 or email rusti@rspca-bristol.org.uk.

Winter Food Appeal Update

Our Winter Food Appeal did extremely well this year and we couldn't have done it without the tremendous support of the public. We have received significant monetary contributions totalling £4,105.26 towards the appeal and our kitchen is now looking a little healthier with food piled up on the shelves - so the dogs, cats and small animals will certainly be well fed over the cold winter months thanks to all of the organisations and individuals who kindly donated to our appeal.

However, the need for food does not stop there and we are grateful for food donations, whatever the time of year. We will also be collecting again during RSPCA week at Tesco stores around Bristol, so any contributions will be gratefully received.

Animals On-line!

We are delighted to announce the launch of our new website that will enable people to search for a new pet on-line and learn more about the work of the charity before making a visit in person.

The new site has an updated, fresh look with plenty of new information and features such as our animal adoption information, help and advice pages and the ability for people to make donations on-line.

You can look through a selection of the dogs, cats and other small animals which are looking for loving new homes as well as learning

more about what you need to consider before taking on a new pet. There is also advice about what to do if you find an animal in distress or have lost your pet.

The RSPCA Bristol Branch is independent from the National RSPCA and we are funded entirely by public donations. We therefore wanted to make it as easy as possible for people to support us. You can now make donations on line and purchase 'Gifts that Give Again', an alternative gift for the family member or friend who has everything! You can also learn more about how the Animal Clinic and



Dogs Home were founded and how they work together to care for thousands of unwanted and injured animals every year.

The website is a great way for people to learn about responsible pet ownership and be able to get involved and make a difference to animals in need. So please, visit our new site now at www.rspca-bristoldogsandcatshome.org.uk.

Pepe's Plight

In late July 2008, 11 year old Pepe was removed from her house by RSPCA Inspector Barnes pending a Court case against her owner.



It was the worst case of neglect Inspector Barnes had ever seen. Pepe had been locked in the same room, which was knee deep in rubbish and excrement, for over five years. Pepe had never been taken for a walk, never been let out and was forced to sleep on the draining board to avoid the mess. Her owner would sometimes throw bits of food through the small gap in the door but it was nowhere near enough to sustain poor Pepe. There was also no sign of a water bowl and no source of water; it was a miracle she survived for five years.

The emaciated and timid dog arrived at the RSPCA Bristol Branch Clinic; her ribs and pelvic bones were very prominent and the vets were able to determine this was purely due to neglect. Not only was she weak due to malnutrition but also because she had been trapped in one room, without exercise for the past five years. We also discovered cancerous mammary tumours which we removed costing between £600-£700.

In her rehabilitation, Pepe was put on a special diet that started in small portions so that her digestive system could build up a tolerance to food. She ate ravenously, not sure when she would get her next meal. Pepe's progress was monitored and we were able to build up her trust and confidence. Lucia, an animal carer at the Clinic recalled, "When Pepe arrived she didn't seem to have much personality. She was in such awe of everything around her that she didn't know what to do. Every time I took her outside for a walk she was confused; she'd never been outside and wasn't used to it but the more time we spent with her, the more she opened up, becoming more friendly."

When Pepe arrived she weighed 9.25kg. In just 3 weeks her body weight had increased by 56%! Due to the diligent work of staff at the RSPCA Bristol Animal Clinic and Bristol Dogs & Cats Home, Pepe has become an affectionate and friendly dog despite all she has been through. After spending so much of her life alone, she now loves the

company of other animals. Seven months after escaping her old existence, Pepe finally found the loving and attentive home she had waited so long for.

Pepe's story is a great reminder of why we are here and illustrates how the RSPCA Bristol Branch Clinic, Dogs Home and National Inspectorate work together to help local animals in need. It is through your support that we were able to help rescue, rehabilitate and rehome Pepe, giving her a second chance for a happy life, free from loneliness and neglect.





Working for local animals

RSPCA Week 2009 is just around the corner, and together with all of our four legged (and some two winged) friends, we would like to invite you to get involved and help us provide a happier future to thousands of unwanted and neglected local animals!

RSPCA Week is a national event aimed at raising funds and awareness for the work of local independent branches and animal homes just like us. Nearly 2,000 unwanted, stray and neglected animals come through the doors of the RSPCA Bristol Branch and Bristol Dogs & Cats Home every year; our staff and volunteers work tirelessly to provide the best care and veterinary treatment possible, with the ultimate aim of finding each and every cat,

dog and small animal a new and loving home.

With so many animals depending on us, we need over £27,000 a week to continue our important work and although affiliated to the National RSPCA, we do not receive any financial help from them, the government or lottery. We therefore rely entirely upon the support of the community through donations, fundraising and bequests in order to give every animal the chance for a brighter future.



There are many ways you can get involved in RSPCA Week. You can sign up to take part in the Sponsored Mutt Strutt that will be taking place at the Bristol Dogs Home on Saturday 2nd May, volunteer to help at our city centre street collection on Saturday

25th April or one of the many collections taking place outside Tesco stores around the city, throughout the week. And don't forget, if you pass one of our volunteers, please pop a coin in their tin!

You can also make a big difference by organising your own fundraising activity, whether at school, in your workplace, with a group of friends or simply an individual challenge! The only limit to what you can do is your imagination – remember, the wackier the better! You could:

- ◆ Hold a crazy sports day at school
- ◆ A dress down day or even a dress up day if you prefer
- ◆ Cake sales and coffee mornings are oldies but goodies
- ◆ A quiz, car wash or sponsored silence
- ◆ Absolutely anything else!!

We have a free fundraising pack available which contains lots of useful information to get you started, along with hints, tips and ideas to help you reach your fundraising goal.

So go on, really put the FUN into Fundraising!

A Dog Worth Waiting For

Duke, a black Labrador cross, arrived at the Home in December 2008 and was lucky enough to find a new home with Jo Hamilton and her family in only a couple of months. Now renamed Dylan, he is clearly flourishing with his new family.

Dylan settled very quickly with all our other animals and has made himself right at home - currently snuggled up and snoring away with our other dog Mac. He is a lively and loving dog and his favorite activities are eating (we have to hide all his food in a food bin so he can't nibble on the sly!) and being taken for long walks to chase balls across the countryside.

After a trip to the Devon coast for a few days last week, we also



discovered his love for jumping the breakers on the beach... although he couldn't quite make out the sea. He was not too sure what it was! We are wondering whether we might try his paws at some dog agility, I think he would love it!

He has proven to be very good off the lead, although still needs a bit

of training as expected for a young and very lively dog!

He has very much become a part of our family very quickly and we can't imagine what life was like before having him. Choosing to adopt was one of the best things we could have done - we struggled to find the right dog for us at first but patience is a virtue as they say and the wait has definitely paid off!

We'd like to say a big thank you to all at Bristol Dogs and Cats Home who put up with us week in week out and all the support and advice you have given - a thoroughly positive and rewarding outcome, we couldn't have asked for more from our new little guy!

Community Animal Action Days

Clinic staff recently joined the local RSPCA Inspectors for their Community Animal Action Days. The idea is to target a neighbourhood that has been identified as an area of animal welfare concern, then visit the estate with a professional team offering pet care advice and practical help to the community. For this project, several Branches of the RSPCA worked together with the Inspectors, Dog Wardens and local Housing Officers, with the aim of really making a significant difference to the health and welfare of pets in the chosen area. The RSPCA Bristol Clinic team was heavily involved, providing the veterinary expertise for the days.

The Action Days in Trowbridge were a resounding success - we visited 202 houses, de-flea'd and wormed 106 animals, micro-chipped 63 animals, and handed out 47 free neutering vouchers. The scheme was well



received by the residents, who were extremely grateful for the advice and help offered, and it was lovely for Clinic staff and the Inspectorate to work closely together on such a positive animal welfare initiative.

Vet Nicola microchips a dog

Christmas Fair



Our Christmas Fair last year was a great success and we'd like to thank everyone who supported the event for helping us raise a massive £3,350 for animals in need. Everyone who came along loved the food, the atmosphere and the beautifully decorated stalls, which included the popular Teddy Tombola and Susan Coombs' hand made hampers. We would like to thank all the people who attended our event, our hard-working volunteers, the St. George Singers for their wonderful carol singing, Nat West Bank who donated £750 as part of their matched giving scheme, and to all the organisations who kindly donated prizes and decorations to our festive fair.

Sheila Castle - 50 Years On

Bristol Dogs and Cats Home was founded over 120 years ago. Over that time we have been lucky enough to receive the loyalty and support of many caring people from the Bristol area, without whom, we would not be here today.

One such supporter is Sheila Castle who, with her family, has been supporting Bristol Dogs and Cats Home for over 50 years.

It began in 1958 when her family visited the Dogs Home hoping to find a new companion. There they found Mac and quickly fell in love with him. Unfortunately, he had been involved in a car accident and they would not be able to rehome him until he had fully recovered. Sheila's father offered to pay for his veterinary treatment and visited Mac every day. One day Sheila recalled that her father left the house with carrier bags

full of treats, saying that he could not pass all the animals without giving them something. From that moment on he became a dedicated supporter to the Bristol Dogs Home.

On that Christmas of 1958 and every following Christmas, her father donated treats, biscuits and bones to all of the dogs at the Home. He did this every year without fail until he

passed away in 1974. Sheila has continued his good work by generously donating to us ever since. Her father had started a tradition that would continue for many generations. Sheila said "I realised the other day that we have been coming to the Dogs Home for 50 years, and what a fantastic place it now is. I am now 75 and my son has said he will carry on what my father started all those years ago."

Enter our SUMMER PRIZE DRAW

for a chance to win **£250** or one of many other great prizes! Tickets are **£1** and all proceeds will give unwanted animals a brighter future

Call 0117 3003968 or email
rusti@rspca-bristol.org.uk
for more information.

Thank You!

Here at RSPCA Bristol Clinic and Bristol Dogs 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 receive no financial aid from the Government or National RSPCA and therefore depend entirely on the generosity of people like you, whether through donations of money, goods or time, to continue our important work.

This is our opportunity to say a huge THANK YOU to all of our supporters and volunteers – without you, none of this would be possible. 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.

The Bedminster Spiritualist Church has made an amazing contribution of £1,000.00 to the Bristol Dogs & Cats Home after collecting pet food and money throughout September, raising awareness at their Harvest Festival and holding a fundraising psychic evening. Our sincere thanks to the Church President, Committee Members and everyone who gave their time and made it such a success.

Jessica Davies from Oldland Common, Bristol raised a massive £110 last November by completing a sponsored bike ride as well as a Bring and Buy sale which was gladly supported by the 1st Kingswood Bitton Guides and their parents.

Once again Julie Fletcher & Pauline Connor donned their blue suede shoes for a night of Rock 'n' Roll at their charity concert last November. The evening proved to be another huge success, selling out and raising a wonderful £780 for animals in need.



Jessica peddles for pounds

The 205th Stockwood Brownies collected lots of wonderful dog and cat food as part of the requirements for one of their badges while Mercedes Thompson raised £50 from holding various table top sales throughout the year.

Linn Gubbins, a volunteer at the Dogs Home, donated a generous £1,000 in memory of her late husband, Brian, in order for us to purchase essential equipment needed for our educational presentations.

St. Peters Church in Filton held a special pet service last year and invited one of our residents along to receive the £100 they raised from their collection.

Year 9 students at Monks Park School took on a challenge for animals in need with a sponsored climb raising a mountainous £325.

Staff at the branch office were stunned when an anonymous donation of £10,000 was delivered in January. Such a huge donation will make such a significant difference, so whoever you are, thank you very much!

If you would like to receive a Supporter 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



Student at Monks Park School

Clinic cat ward improvements

The Clinic cat ward was built in 1995 with rather small cages, as it was only ever intended to house ill and injured cats that don't move about very much. However, because of the huge number of unwanted cats coming into our care, the Clinic cat ward often ends up accommodating cats who we have treated but are waiting for a re-homing space in the Animal Home next door.

We have wanted to provide these cats with more spacious accommodation, but it took a while to come to the top of the "wish-list". Happily, we have now refitted the cat ward with bigger and more comfortable cages for these "longer stay" cats. Many thanks to the volunteer fundraising team and Clinic staff who raised the funds for this essential work to be carried out.



Dates for Your Diary

Spring Fair, Bristol Dogs Home

Saturday 4th April, 9.30am - 3pm

A seasonal celebration that will be fun for the whole family. Easter themed crafts, gift stalls, bric-a-brac, raffle, games, refreshments and much more! So spring into action and you may even meet the Easter bunny!?

RSPCA Week

Saturday 25th April – Sunday 3rd May

A National week to raised funds and awareness for local branches and animals homes. Collections taking place throughout the week, concluding with the Mutt Strutt on the last Saturday (see below)

Sponsored Mutt Strutt

Saturday 2nd May,

Starting 9.30-10am

Put your best paw forward with our sponsored Mutt Strutt. Not only will you be able to stretch the legs of one of our residents but you also be raising vital funds to help give them the life they deserve. Places are limited so don't delay, register today!



Royal Bath & West Show

27th – 30th May

Come and visit our stand at the Royal Bath & West Agricultural show and learn more about the role of your local RSPCA Branch.

Coffee Morning, Bristol Dogs Home

Saturday 6th June, 10am -12pm

Saturday 1st August, 10am -12pm

Saturday 3rd October, 10am -12pm

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

Bristol Half Marathon

Sunday 6th September

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

Bristol Dogs Home Annual Dog Show & Fun Day

Sunday 20th September, 10.30am – 4pm

This popular annual event is will be taking place at Ashton Court Estate and will be a great day out for the whole family, both two legs and four! With gift and craft stalls, children's rides and games, entertaining displays, tasty refreshments and of course the dog show itself, you'd be crazy to miss it!

For more information on any of these events please contact us on 0117 3003968 or email rusti@rspca-bristol.org.uk

Making Your Donations Go Even Further

As a valued supporter of RSPCA Bristol Branch & Bristol Dogs and Cats Home, you will know how hard we work to ensure that every penny we raise goes as far as it can for animals in need. Through Gift Aid and Transitional Relief, you can help us make your donations go 28% further and it won't cost you a penny!

How does it work?

So long as you are a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid enables you to boost the value of your donations by 28p for every £1 you give (25p in Gift Aid and a further 3p in Transitional Relief). So, for example, if you decide to donate £10 to us, we will be able to reclaim an extra £2.80 from HM Revenue & Customs. It might not sound like a lot, but every penny really does count! What is more, if you are a higher rate taxpayer, you are entitled to claim tax relief on your donations, enabling you to reclaim as much as 25p from every £1 donated to charity!

What do you need to do?

To donate through Gift Aid, all you need to do is complete a simple declaration confirming that you are a taxpayer and that you are happy for us to claim tax relief on your donation. Just one declaration can apply to all donations that you have made to us over the past 6 years and to any forthcoming gifts you make, until you notify us otherwise. It is that simple.

So remember, don't let the taxman take it – *giftaid it*

To find our more contact us on 0117 3003962 or email jill@rspca-bristol.org.uk

Lonely Bachelor seeks likeminded Hens!



Sometimes we question whether to change our name to Bristol Dogs, Cats, Rabbits, Ferrets, Rats, Budgies and Cockerels Home! Just as we managed to re home our last cockerel, another stray is found five days later...lets hope his stay with us is considerably shorter than his predecessors five months.

Barney doesn't look like your average cockerel; he may not be as striking as some but this just makes him more special! We prefer to think of him as unique, with gorgeous black and white feathers that would really make him stand out in a crowd, that is, if he was part of one! He is all alone here which is making him forlorn – he simply longs for a harem of hens to take care of. Barney is a lovely bird and very sociable, but will need to be re homed to a farm or small holding where he will have plenty of space to strut his stuff.

If you or anyone you know has some lonesome, unprotected hens in need of a strapping but sensitive young beau, then look no further! Contact the Dogs Home on 0117 9776043.