

THANK YOU - YOU ARE THE ANSWER AGAIN!

As a result of your continuing support, and fantastic generosity our 2024 Winter Appeal, "You are the answer" raised another fantastic total of £57,091!

While we always hope to raise a good amount, we are continuously amazed and grateful for the fantastic support which we receive. You really are the answer!

You are key to our efforts, and without your help, we wouldn't be able to continue helping the hundreds of animals we help every year. 97% of our funding comes from YOU, our supporters.

As we edge closer to our 50th anniversary, we continue to work to improve our facilities and enable us to help even more animals. Our new Cattery in Liverpool, helped an additional 221 cats last year. With a 50% increase in rehoming across both of our centres, we hope you agree this is a substantial increase. We are not stopping there! Continued improvements to facilities across Liverpool and North Wales ensures that cats, dogs, wildlife and the farm animals are all in the best possible position looking ahead for this year.

Our running costs increased, with the cost of utilities, animal food and vet bills all going up. Our vet

bills have increased by over 30% last year alone! The cost of living is also having an impact on society, and it is leading to so many difficult situations. More and more animals are being abandoned or neglected, as people try to meet the many different expenses within their lives.

The lack of funds is likely to be at the root cause of increasingly common issues like hoarding and cat colonies, where not getting cats neutered is causing significant problems - especially considering one unneutered female cat and her offspring can have **thousands** of kittens in only a couple of years! But thanks to your support, we can continue helping the animals most at need!

None of this - caring for animals in crisis, overcoming financial hurdles, or breaking adoption records - would have been possible without you. We want to thank each and every donor who answered our appeal. We consider you as much a part of the rescue team as we are. The funds you gave aren't just numbers on a ledger; they're **warm meals, healed wounds, wagging tails and joyful purrs.**



From all of us thank you for making "You Are The Answer" more than a slogan - thank you for making it a reality. You are the answer for so many animals, and we hope you will continue to be the answer in the days to come. Together, we are saving lives, one animal at a time.

Thank You - We Couldn't Do It Without You

Hoarding Situations - Freshfields to the Rescue.

We have faced an increase in challenging situations with requests to help with hoarding situations.

Many cats who are admitted from these heartbreaking situations find it difficult to settle, as they lack the 1-on-1 socialising which helps them to find a forever home. We tend to find them very anxious and sometimes semi-feral.

In February, our Wales Centre had to rescue 12 kittens from one property in Gwynedd. The tenant was on the brink of being evicted, and had to hand over as many cats and kittens as possible to remain in her home. Some, like Bonnie, were in a really bad way, but after medical treatment, gentle encouragement and lots of TLC, they are already showing signs of improvement.

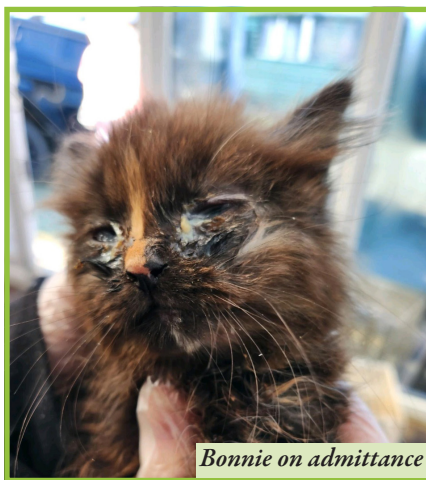
Sadly, situations like this are occurring more and more frequently. Our Liverpool Rescue has also had experiences of helping in hoarding situations over the past year, as we took in 20 cats in August and 25 cats in November.

Thanks to you, the cats rescued from these situations have now found loving homes, but the next phone call could come at any minute!

For every cat we rescue, the average cost of health checks, worming, flea treatments, microchipping, vaccinations and neutering is £300. When you multiply this by the 12, 20 or 25 cats in the hoarding situations, then the reality of how serious and overwhelming the

problem can be, really becomes evident.

The scale of these hoarding cases reflects the social issues which are very much part of our work with the welfare of animals and people. We continue to promote responsible pet ownership and proactive intervention, in the form of neutering. **Thanks to you**, we can remain committed to ensuring that every cat gets the chance of a healthier, happier and safer future.



Bonnie on admittance



Bonnie and her brother Bart now re homed together

Great News - Greyhound Racing Banned in Wales

We are truly delighted to say that the Welsh Government became the first UK Nation to agree to a ban in February this year.

While the details of the ban are still being confirmed, it has been announced that it will be a phased ban, to ensure and protect the welfare of the dogs who are still at the heart of this cruel industry.

We have always been vocal about our opposition to animal exploitation and cruelty, and have always opposed racing animals for sport. Many greyhounds who are unable to race anymore are discarded like inanimate objects, and can suffer from exhaustion, malnutrition and risk serious injury every time they race.

This ban puts Wales at the forefront of animal welfare progress in the UK, setting an example for the other Nations. We continue to support the #CutTheChase coalition, calling for a ban across the UK.



Thank You - We Couldn't Do It Without You

Finally a Happy Ever After for a Loving Soul - Rio

Many of our supporters will remember Rio who originally arrived at the Liverpool Rescue back in 2017 as a 1 year old. We are OVER THE MOON to report that this lovable pooch has finally found his forever home!

Rio was brought in due to his owner no longer being able to care for him, we saw him become confused and unsure of who to trust. Finding himself in a rescue centre at such a young age was a huge hurdle for Rio to try to overcome.

After much hard work, and loving care from our Kennel staff, Rio began to adjust and slowly learned to trust the staff, letting them into his exclusive gang. However, the worry was always how he would react to new people, as his insecurities made him nervous of people he hadn't met before.

With your fantastic support, we were able to make good progress.

In more recent years the staff have worked really hard to get Rio back on the right path. This sensitive soul just needed guidance and under his tough exterior was a vulnerable lad who was really just scared and didn't know what to do.

Rio became a favourite with staff and volunteers, even ending up with his own fan club! It was so brilliant to see him begin to settle,

and his personality soon began to shine through with his signature wiggle and tap dance becoming a highlight for many of the staff and volunteers. Rio also loved his sofa, his closest friends would be given access to enjoy it with him! Rio began to spend time with different people and we are so proud of how far Rio progressed. All this effort was soon going to pay off.



Then we had the devastating news Rio was diagnosed with a mast cell tumour, our vet said that he may only live for another 6 months in the Kennel environment - but if we could find him a loving home, he may have a chance of extending his life expectancy up to 2 years! With this in mind, we pushed on and tried everything to find Rio a new home.

Step forward Liv and Liam: this amazing couple read Rio's story online, and knew they were the answer! Starting in September, the couple began regular visits to bond with Rio, and the relationship was immediately heartwarming and

loving. Rio even began letting us know when they arrived at the Centre, despite being nowhere near the front door, which we felt was a great sign of a beautiful bond developing!



To our great joy, in December Rio went happily to his home with Liv and Liam! Rio's going from strength to strength at his new home, he spent his first Christmas with the pair, as well as being spoilt rotten for his 9th birthday, the first ever birthday in a home!

A special heartfelt thanks to Liv and Liam for taking a chance on this lovely lad, putting in the time to get to know him and giving Rio what he so truly deserves.... a life in a real home. (They will never be able to get on their sofa again).



Fledglings (Young Birds) and how to help

With spring upon us, we feel it's the perfect time to revisit and remind everyone of the advice when it comes to Young birds - fledglings, and when they should be helped.

Fledglings are young birds who have left the nest that day, they just need some time to figure out how to fly and then they will be following mum and dad around learning how to feed themselves. They are commonly found outside of nests and sometimes may look lost. However, sometimes looks can be deceiving.

Every year around this time, we become inundated with phone calls, or visits, from concerned members of the public who've found a Fledgling, only for them to turn out to be absolutely fine. While well meaning, it's unfortunate that these healthy fledglings are being taken away from their parents too soon, and their development then suffers as a result.



Woodpigeon Fledgling



Woodpigeon Chick



Finch Fledglings

When a fledgling is learning to fly, they can be seen hopping around a garden or in a space, and they may even appear to be disorientated, however please be reassured that their parents are somewhere nearby keeping a watchful eye on them, even if you cannot see them. In this instance, please DO NOT intervene.

If the Fledgling has any visible injuries, has been there for over a day, or is in fact a chick and too young to be alone, that is the time to intervene. Please, if you want to help, contact us before doing anything if you are unsure, and our expert Wildlife staff can advise further.

If you see a tiny chick on the ground, please keep it safe and warm, and contact the rescue as soon as you can. This little one will not survive long without help. These will be mostly skin or all fluff, no feathers, and the eyes may not be open yet.



Blackbird Chick



Blackbird Fledgling

Fledglings is the stage in a young bird's life before they can fly. They are generally between 10 to 21 days old, but this can vary from bird to bird.

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Freshfields Liverpool: Head Office & Fundraising: East Lane, Ince Blundell, Liverpool L29 3EA, Tel. 0151 931 1604
Freshfields Wales: Bryn Melyn, Lon Pant-y-Gog, Nebo, Caernarfon LL54 6EA, Tel. 01286 880808
Charitable Incorporated Organisation 1160348

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