

We're on the road to keep pets and their people together

Rescues across the UK are full, and they're struggling to cope with the growing demand for pet rescue. We know there are common reasons why people feel they have no choice but to give up their pets. We believe that, with the right help at the right time, many of these situations can be prevented - which is better for pets, their families and rescues too. That's where Petmobile comes in.

The Petmobile is a mobile van travelling around Merseyside neighbourhoods, offering free, friendly and practical support to help people deal with problems before they become a crisis - and keep pets where they belong, with their people.

Our team: Amy, a Vet Nurse, and Natalie, a Positive-reinforcement Canine Behavioural Trainer, offer friendly, non-judgemental advice and support for dogs, cats and rabbits.

How can The Petmobile help?

- Free microchipping and updating your pet's contact details.
- Advice about pets and the law.
- Creating a Pet Care Back-Up Plan in case of an unexpected health, housing or relationship crisis.

- Pet health checks and personalised care plans.
- Help with neutering.
- Flea and worming treatment.
- Grooming advice.
- Food and practical support.
- Behavioural assessments and training plans, with follow-up behavioural support.
- Advice on choosing the right pet for your family.

Find out where we will be visiting next at Freshfields.org.uk, or simply scan the QR code.



Help your pet to never need a rescue space.

Training your pet helps them learn good habits, and can prevent problems developing giving them

the best chance of staying with you. If they ever do need rescue, good socialisation and training can also improve their chances of finding a rescue space and a new home.

Who could look after your pet if you suddenly faced a health, relationship or housing crisis? Having a plan in place can make all the difference.

Pets can come with unexpected costs. Find out what you might need to budget for, consider insurance and have a plan for unexpected vet bills. There is no NHS for pets, so being prepared can help avoid a crisis later.

Microchipping and keeping the details up to date can make the difference between a lost pet finding their way home and ending up in a pound.

And finally, look after their health. Knowing how to keep your pet healthy and spotting problems early can help prevent bigger - and potentially more expensive - problems further down the line.

Some problems really are unavoidable - but many can be prevented, or prepared for, with a little help at the right time. Together, we can help keep pets happy, healthy and safely where they belong - with their people.



Petmobile Team

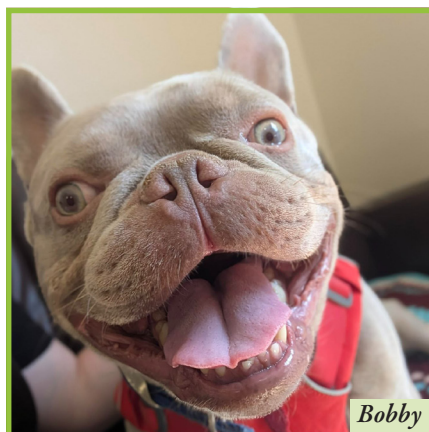
Is Bobby one of our unluckiest dogs ever?

In such a short time, this special boy has been through so much. Bobby, our French Bulldog wanted to tell his story in his own words. This is what he had to say:

"When I came through the doors of Freshfields in June 2025, I thought I would barely have time to unpack my suitcase before being snapped up again. Sadly, this has not been the case. On four separate occasions, I have come so close to finding my forever home, but things just haven't quite worked out for me. With my dashing good looks, I can't believe I'm still here. But I do try and take everything in my stride. I often spend time with one of our wonderful volunteers. She always gives me a glowing report, and says I'm the 'perfect' house guest.

Now I want to tell you a little more about my journey, I have quite a tale to tell so I hope you are sitting comfortably.

I've overcome a few health issues in the last 12 months. First, I had a strain to my back. I was relieved to find it wasn't serious. With pain relief, anti-inflammatory meds and a few weeks rest I recovered. Then came the lump on my leg, it was only small but grew and had to be removed. This was a worry, as



Bobby

having an operation could be risky due to my very small airways. They

had to use a cat tube for my breathing during the procedure to remove it, but I got the result I had hoped for, no further treatment was needed.

Sadly, my joy was short-lived - little did I know that just a few months later, I would be facing my biggest challenge.

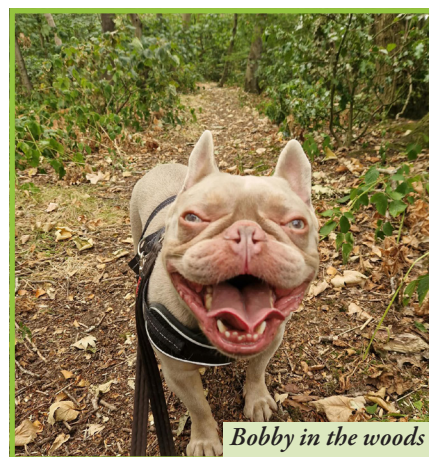


Bobby sitting

An area that is often overlooked but very common for flat-faced breeds like me is how I cope in warmer weather. I had always managed surprisingly well; however, as the weather is becoming much hotter and more humid, I started to find it a struggle. Not just out and about on walks; even when just relaxing indoors, the heat was affecting me, and I was breathing more heavily. In the recent heatwave, I had a scary time and had to visit an emergency vet. I didn't have heat stroke, but I did need to be cooled down quickly and kept under close observation. I wasn't allowed to leave until they were sure I was ok. Although I did recover from this incident, it was very clear that my breathing was not improving and

after a vet consultation, my worst fear - I needed BOAS surgery. Obviously, I'm nervous, but I know everyone wants the best for me and it will make my life so much better! My one wish is that after surgery I finally find the ultimate - a loving new family and home!"

BOAS surgery, is specialist, complex and costly, more than many of us can afford! Thanks to the wonderful support from the Freshfields Community we were able to raise the funds needed for Bobby's surgery. We couldn't do it without you. Thank You



Bobby in the woods

Bobbys health problems have been caused by humans and a desire for a dog to look a certain way! At the time of going to press Bobby was booked in to have his surgery. He is still waiting for the ultimate - a home of his own! Whatever the future brings we will always be here for him as long as he needs us.

Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome - BOAS

BOAS is respiratory distress experienced by dogs with a shortened facial structure. This is as a direct result of generations of breeding to create them with the specific look of squashed facial features.

Symptoms include: heat stress, exercise intolerance, snoring and snorting noises. As well as sleep apnoea, difficulty breathing and fainting. These can be subtle and, shockingly, some are even considered “normal” for the breed, such as the snorting noises that French Bulldogs commonly make when excited or exercising. These

noises are not fun or cute; they are actually a result of their upper airway and entrance to the windpipe being obstructed by excessive soft tissue.

The breeding for a flattened face has resulted in a shortened skull, but the same amount of soft tissue remains. This causes obstruction of the airway and creates resistance to airflow. The increased negative pressure, then causes secondary changes such as laryngeal collapse. The weakened larynx folds inward, obstructing the airway and making breathing difficult. BOAS reduces a dogs' quality of life and can be

life-threatening.

BOAS surgery is a combination of procedures aimed at improving their breathing. The goal is to widen the airways and remove obstructions. BOAS surgery can significantly improve the dogs' quality of life, in severe cases, it is the only thing to save their life. However, it is specialist, complex and costly.

Large-scale intake at our Wales Rescue.

In August, we took in 17 cats and kittens from a situation that had got out of control. We were told there were around 10 cats, including a few youngsters.

The reality was very different. There were 7 cats; none had been neutered, and 10 kittens, between six to fourteen weeks old. Many were suffering from cat flu, painful eye infections and other health concerns.

Food had been left out for stray cats. While the intention was kind, it created a place where unneutered cats gathered. They bred, their kittens grew and bred, and before long the situation became overwhelming. It happens much quicker than people realise. Sadly, this isn't the first time; only last year we took 10 cats from the same property.

If you feed cats that aren't your own, please think about whether they may be unneutered and



Kitten at Wales Rescue

contact a rescue for advice. Early intervention, particularly neutering, can prevent a handful of cats becoming dozens. There is never any judgement in asking, and it gives rescues the best opportunity to help the animals and the people involved before a situation reaches crisis point.

Seventeen cats and kittens represent thousands of pounds in

veterinary costs before a single cat is ready for adoption. Every vaccination, every neutering procedure, every course of medication and every emergency treatment has to be paid for. Like other rescues, we are seeing more animals needing help, while rehoming has slowed and resources are stretched further than ever before. Thankfully, these cats are now safe in our care and thanks to you, they are receiving the medical attention and loving care they need before starting their new lives in loving homes.

Responsible neutering and asking for help early are so important. They don't just prevent suffering-they also help ensure that rescues like ours can continue to be here for the animals that need us most.

Freshfields Animal Rescue and Merseyrail - Making a Difference Together

Everyone at Freshfields was delighted when we were selected by Merseyrail as one of their chosen Charities of the year.

Built on shared values of compassion, community and responsibility, both organisations work at the heart of our local communities to make a positive difference. Together, we can show the power of collaboration in supporting the abandoned, neglected and vulnerable animals who need us every day.

We have already met many of the individuals and teams who will help us to shine a spotlight on responsible pet ownership and animal welfare, at the launch event in June. It was wonderful to see how invested they are in our mission to make a great quality

We liaised closely with their enthusiastic and committed staff over the very busy weekend when the Open Golf Championship came to Royal Birkdale in July, raising funds at Hillside and Southport stations and meeting hundreds of supporters, long-standing and new, along the way.

For smaller, independent charities like Freshfields, partnerships like this are absolutely invaluable. Every donation, fundraiser and act of support makes a real difference. Having Merseyrail at our side strengthens our ability to get the message out there so that we can continue rescuing animals, responding to emergencies and giving a second chance to animals who have nowhere else to turn.



of life possible for all vulnerable animals, today and tomorrow.

By using Merseyrail's extensive network and community reach, more people have been introduced to our life-changing work. Throughout the next 18 months their staff will be running fundraising initiatives and raising awareness and funds so that we can carry on our vital work.



A big thank you to Merseyrail and we look forward to inspiring the people of Merseyside to come together and make a difference-one journey, one rescue and one act of kindness at a time.

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