

Welcome to our latest newsletter

We are heading into autumn already, the year is flying by. We have so much to share with you on what's been happening at the rescue, but most of all we want to thank you, our supporters. With you by our side we can continue with our vital work which means so much to us, and we know it means so much to you too!

KiKi

Kiki arrived at our rescue centre in a desperate condition, with the most severe allergies we have seen in years. She had to wear a cone, otherwise she would literally tear her skin to pieces because she was so itchy.

The Cattery staff, alongside our wonderful veterinary team got to work immediately, trying to identify specifically what Kiki was allergic to. This was a task that proved more complicated than we at first realised.

Initially we tried low-dose steroids



and antihistamines, which helped a little, but not enough. Then followed an elimination diet, using different proteins. Again, this had limited success. We then reduced environmental triggers as much as possible, including dust and pollen. We still hadn't got to the bottom of the problem - we were treating some symptoms, but not the root of the issue. Kiki needed eye and ear drops, steroids and antihistamines.

We then decided to go with Atopica, a treatment for chronic allergic dermatitis, a skin condition caused by the immune system's response to allergens. The results were amazing! Kiki was at last able to manage without a cone, and no longer needed any eye or ear drops.

We can't believe the difference in this lovely lady! The scratching has now stopped, she is happy, purring, and enjoying life. We are looking to reduce the dose over the long term; however, Kiki is probably going to need Atopica for life to manage her condition and maintain her health.



None of this would have been possible without expert, high-quality veterinary treatment. This is why we always need your support - to make possible transformations like this.

Every donation makes a difference to cats like Kiki. Without our help, she faced a very different future, and perhaps no future at all.

THANK YOU for giving Kiki her second chance at life!

Thank You - We Couldn't Do It Without You

Wildlife numbers continue to grow.

Our Wildlife Team are always at their busiest in the summer months. We become one large wildlife creche, caring for fledgling birds and sick and injured hedgehogs, who are being brought to us daily. The team often have animals at home with them overnight, waking up hourly for night feeds. It takes such dedication and determination from our wonderful staff and volunteers! It's often exhausting but so rewarding and joyful to see them released



back to their natural habitats.

We released our first group of ducks, who had been reared from ducklings, in early July. A group of 7 were taken to a local nature reserve, a site we had previously used. We were delighted to see them all together when we released a second family of ducks two weeks later.



The number of wild birds and hedgehogs we help has increased every year in the past 5 years.

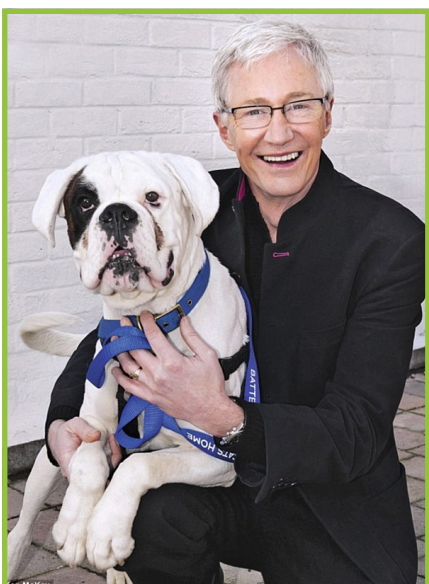
Demand for our services continues to grow, and our local community works with us to tackle the threats to urban wildlife.



We rely entirely on your kindness and compassion to support this work, and would not be able to save these beautiful creatures without you, our wonderful supporters, THANK YOU.

Paul O'Grady Tribute fund.

Last year we were honoured to have been chosen as one of just five



recipients of the Paul O'Grady tribute fund. Paul's passion for animal welfare helped enormously, shining a light on rescue animals needing a second chance at life. We were award £20,000 to help carry on his incredible legacy by allowing us to care, support and give medical attention to the rescue animals. This money is being used to extend our onsite veterinary facilities. We will be creating a new consult area, extending into old office space and making use of part of our barn, no longer in use after the farm animals moved over to the Wales centre. Work commenced in

August and we look forward to completion before the Winter sets in.

Paul had a special connection to the people in Merseyside. It means a lot to know that the funding will be used to help animals close to his heart and his hometown too.

We are extremely privileged and touched to be chosen by his family and friends. We will make sure we do Paul proud and carry on his love and passion for the animals whilst creating a fantastic legacy in his name.

Thank You - We Couldn't Do It Without You

Farm success.

Last year, we told you about our decision to transform the lives of our farm animals, giving them the run of almost 19 acres of grassland in our rescue centre in the heart of the North Wales countryside. The animals have 3 times the space they had in Liverpool, not to mention some beautiful views! It has been a fantastic success for them.



First off to his new home was Ozzy, who we mentioned in our last issue. Our sheep crew of Jacob, Ned and Larry then left, together with Skye

the pig, and they are living the dream, very much loved by their new family. Jurgen left the rescue for his new life, when a lovely family came to adopt one of our rescued horses, and decided that Jurgen was coming home with them too! That's SO Jurgen! He has his very own orchard in which he can mosey around, and is happy to have tummy tickles - apparently, this is OK now he has stepped back from his celebrity life!



Hooper, the oldest of our pigs, will stay with us for the foreseeable future. He has been suffering from



arthritis and other medical issues, so it's likely that Wales will be his retirement home. Hooper enjoys the quiet life, has a daily peaceful wander around the fields, and we make sure that he has lots of attention and love from all the staff. More recently we have taken in pigs Captain and Hippo, followed by 2 piglets, Edith and Rupert. We are hopeful that they will be going to their forever homes very soon.

Is it ok to accept almost 600 dogs dying racing each year for entertainment?

No dog should suffer, become injured or lose their life for sport. But according to the Greyhound Board of Great Britain, over 26,000 injuries were suffered and 2,700 greyhounds died in England and Wales between 2018 and 2023. **Even one life lost is too many.**

For thousands of Greyhounds, every time they race it puts them at risk of serious injury or death.

We support the #CutTheChase coalition in calling for a ban on Greyhound racing in the UK. The UK is only one of 7 countries worldwide where it is still legal.

Please show your support and sign the petition.
freshfields.org.uk/cutthechase/



Cymro

You may remember Cymro, who was admitted last Summer with terrible sores on his muzzle. We were shocked to see his wounds. He had terrible sores on his lips and mouth and we were not surprised to hear that he hadn't been eating.

After many vet visits and blood tests, we were relieved to hear that there was nothing sinister going on. The damage was most likely caused by the sun and toxic burns from plants, such as St. John's Wort, buckwheat, perennial ryegrass and whiteheads. However, poor Cymro had obviously been suffering for some time. With love and care from our amazing equine staff, we were able to make a difference and quickly improve his condition, as you can see from these photos.

As with all animals, we take precautions to keep our horses and ponies safe in sunny weather. We use both sunblock and UV horse masks, to help keep our lighter coloured horses and ponies safe from the effects of the sun.



Horses with little or no pigmentation, such as greys, palominos, duns, or cremellos, are more prone to sunburn. Any areas with white hair or pink skin will be sensitive to sunlight. White face markings and legs can also be affected. Sunburn can be painful, and it damages the skin which may lead to secondary infections spread by flies or insects.

Typically, areas where there is no hair, like the muzzle and eyelids, are affected. Grey horses, those with a lot of chrome, or pintos with large sections of white coat, can also be more prone to photosensitisation. This is a serious skin condition caused by a hazardous combination of certain plants and ultraviolet (UV) light.

Some plants that cause primary photosensitivity are also known to induce liver damage, something that we suspected was affecting Cymro. After medication and Vitamin B12 injections his blood test showed his liver function close to normal.

Cymro has now been at Freshfields for a year. He is a happy, confident boy who is well integrated into his herd. We're delighted to see that he has a blossoming 'bromance' with his friend Sage, and they will play together in the fields.



It's heartwarming to see Cymro and Sage together, playful, without a care in the world.

Your Support has made that possible.

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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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