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Chief Executive Report

It has been a busy summer with so many animals coming and going from the rescue centre. Kitten season was later than usual this year but we still saw the large influx of furry bundles that you can’t help but adore. The staff and volunteers continue to look after the animals so well and uphold the highest welfare standards.

The shops have had a tough trading year so far and we are certainly noticing the effects of the changing retail sector and shoppers’ habits. Our staff and volunteers work hard to maximise the income from shops but we remain in challenging times.

The past couple of years have been difficult for the charity sector with the collapse of certain high profile charities and reports of unacceptable fundraising practice, every element of charity activity and management has come under scrutiny. It is quite right that charities, their regulation, governance and ethics, should be both transparent and of the highest order, and we are doing all we can to uphold impeccable standards.

As a Charity, we are evolving and adapting to meet new demands, respond to the needs of our stakeholders and to the changing external environment. There are many challenges ahead to ensure that we remain effective, sustainable, relevant to new generations and continue to meet the expectations of our supporters.

One challenge is the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation in May 2018, which is the biggest change to data protection legislation in more than 20 years. As a result, organisations will need to overhaul the ways they obtain and use personal data, and adhere to new guidelines on how we make contact with our supporters.

We have had a packed summer of events around the region. We ran the dog shows at the Paignton Regatta and at Marldon Apple Pie Fair which were a great success. Thank you to everyone who attended for your support - it was great to see so many of our two and four legged friends.

We were so disappointed to have to cancel our Family Fun Day this year, due to waterlogged parking fields. We have set the date for next year’s Fun Day which will be June 24th – please put it in your diary!

In this edition you will read about Diesel, who showed true courage and loyalty in the face of danger, little Scrap who fought back from a serious injury and Cadbury who truly landed on his paws - how lucky we are to be a part of all these wonderful stories.

We still have many more homeless pets to help so if you are able to support us, you can find out more on page 23.

On behalf of the entire Animals in Distress team, I want to extend our sincerest thanks for your continued support. You make the work we do for the animals possible and make us proud to be part of the animal welfare sector.

Neil Thomas
Chief Executive
Puppies abandoned in box

It’s been all hands on deck at the rescue centre this September, as we have been hand-rearing a litter of 7 puppies. The one-week-old pups had been found dumped in a cardboard box outside a Torquay house by the rubbish bins - on bin day. Thankfully, a passing man heard the pups before the refuse collectors arrived - and half an hour before a big rain storm which would have killed them - and took them to the nearest vets.

The puppies need to be fed every few hours at this stage, throughout the day and night, so staff have been working round the clock to keep them alive.

The puppies all seem to be doing well so far, but it can be touch and go at their age because they were taken from their mother so young. Everyone is working so hard to care for them, and we hope that they will all pull through.

We will keep you updated on the pups’ progress.

Little Scrap battles for his life

Baby rabbit Scrap was brought in to the rescue centre by a lady that found him lost in her garden. He had a really big abscess on his head, as we think he may have been carried off by a cat or bird of prey, and dropped. We took him straight to our vet, and we were very concerned that he would not make it.

However, little Scrap has proved to be a fighter – he is doing amazingly well and his wound is healing nicely. He is becoming a confident and friendly little chap, always at the front of his pen when he sees one of us, and he loves to come out for a cuddle.

We are hoping that Scrap will make a full recovery in time, and we’ll keep you updated on his progress.
“I like to think it was his way of repaying us for rescuing him.”
Diesel had been found abandoned tied to a tree at 9 months old, and then spent several months with us at the rescue centre before finally going to his forever home with the Ash family. Then in the early hours of the morning on a Saturday in May 2016, the family were all sleeping peacefully when Diesel alerted them that something was very wrong. Diesel began burrowing and scratching at the duvet, barking and licking Jordan’s face – he was on a mission to wake him. Thinking that perhaps there was a burglar, Jordan got up and opened the bedroom door – to see a wall of flames half way up the stairs, only six feet away from him.

Jordan woke his Mum Tina and Dad Chris, and together they managed to climb out of a tiny window in their spare bedroom and down onto the kitchen roof. Jordan ran back to get Diesel, who was now hiding under the bed terrified. The whole upper storey of the house was now completely filled with smoke, and the fire was advancing quickly. Jordan almost fainted when picking up Diesel but managed to get himself together, and ran out with Diesel. The fire was so close as they ran past that Diesel’s whiskers were singed in the flames.

The house was completely gutted by the fire, which had been caused by their freezer catching fire. Everything was gone and the whole house had to be refitted.

Jordan Ash, Diesel’s owner said “I like to think it was his way of repaying us for rescuing him. Staffies have such a bad reputation but he has the most lovely, placid nature. Diesel undoubtedly saved our lives that night, without him I wouldn’t be standing here today and I will be forever grateful.”

We received the most wonderful news this year when we learnt that our hero dog Diesel, who saved his family’s lives during a terrible house fire, was to be awarded the prestigious PDSA Gold Medal. The medal, also known as the “Animals’ George Cross” rewards acts of animal bravery and exceptional devotion to duty, and is the highest honour for outstanding animal bravery in civilian life.

There was not a dry eye in the house when the medal was awarded to Diesel by Princess Alexandra in a special ceremony in London in June, and we were lucky enough to be there to witness it.

Hero dog Diesel awarded “Animals’ George Cross”

Diesel’s story

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A new patron for Animals in Distress

We are delighted to announce that Ray Reardon MBE has agreed to be a patron for Animals in Distress. Ray is the legendary snooker player who dominated the sport in the 1970s, winning six World Championships, and is regarded as one of the best snooker players of all time. We are already planning some exciting events for next year with Ray’s help and we look forward to a long and happy association.

In loving memory Mary Pierce

We were so sorry to hear the sad news in June of the passing of Mary Pierce. Mary was one of our most dedicated volunteers, and was instrumental in the growing of our charity retail chain.

‘Mary Pierce opened and ran the charity’s first Bovey Tracey shop in 2001. The shop was such a success that she helped set up and manage the second Bovey Tracey Animals in Distress shop in 2002, with a small team of very dedicated volunteers, some of whom still volunteer with us today.

Mary was a wonderful person and such a pleasure to know. She was a very warm hearted lady who would go out of her way to help any animal in need, and to do all she could for the organisation.

Mary and her husband Derek opened up their beautiful gardens for gatherings and parties to raise much-needed funds for the charity. She also worked closely with the rescue centre team to help with home-checking.

She will be greatly missed by everyone here at Animals in Distress.’

Kim-Marie Veasey, Head of Retail

Cats will be cosy this winter, thanks to Whiskas

We are delighted to have been awarded a grant of £5000 from Whiskas / Mars Petcare to install a new heating system in our cattery.

The one and only drawback to our lovely new cattery is that we have found it difficult to keep the cattery pens warm enough during the winter, particularly those pens with access to the outside.

Thanks to the grant we are now installing a cost-effective heating system in all of our cat pens in time for winter, which will change the lives of all the cats in our care.

Animals in Distress would like to thank Whiskas / Mars Petcare for their generous support.

Partners of Pets at Home Newton Abbot

We have just received the fantastic news that we are now partnered with our local Pets at Home store in Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to fundraise in the store and to advertise some of the pets in our care that desperately need homes.

We are looking forward to a really successful partnership with the store.

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Kim-Marie Veasey, Head of Retail

Richard Pyott-Cooper

We were sad to hear the news that our former Trustee Richard Pyott-Cooper passed away in September. Richard was a Trustee for Animals in Distress from 2005 to 2009, and served as Chairman of the Board for part of that time. Richard will be fondly remembered by all at Animals in Distress for his service to the homeless animals of South Devon.
Support Animals in Distress by joining the Hive Lotto and be in with a chance of winning up to £25,000 every month!

Plus every month there’s a bonus draw to win £25,000 (and if you win then we receive £25,000 too!)
We will receive 50p from every ticket you purchase
Go to www.hivelotto.co.uk today and search for Animals in Distress as your chosen charity

Get your copy today for just £3!

Dates for your diaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd December</td>
<td>Sponsored Christmas dog walk at Decoy Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th December</td>
<td>Christmas Giving Evening at rescue centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th December</td>
<td>Christmas Pet Service in Totnes</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th May</td>
<td>Spring Sponsored dog walk</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th June</td>
<td>Family Fun Day</td>
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Charity of the Night at tourism awards

We are happy to announce that Animals in Distress has been chosen as the Charity of the Night at the Herald Express South Devon and English Riviera Tourism and Hospitality Awards in November. We are really looking forward to the event, where we will join 250 influential people from the local tourism industry for the evening, and will have the opportunity to promote our work as well as run a prize draw and an auction.

Partnering with Marks and Spencer

We recently received the fantastic news that we have been chosen as charity of the year by Marks and Spencer in Torquay! We will be working with them to help them raise money for the rescue centre through sponsored events, bag packings, collection tins and many other ideas.

Support Animals in Distress by joining the Hive Lotto and be in with a chance of winning up to £25,000 every month!

Just two hours can make a difference

Just two hours of your time could make a real difference to the lives of hundreds of dogs, cats, rabbits and guinea pigs.

We are currently looking for volunteers to help us with our collection box network, a role with completely flexible hours. Even if you only have two hours a month to spare, that would help us massively. All you have to do is pick up full existing collection boxes and replace them with empty ones, whilst also scouting out new places who would like to take our collection boxes. This can be in a location that is as convenient to you as you like.

If you are interested in helping our, please contact Esme Chamberlain, Community and Events Fundraiser on 01803 812121 or email esme@animalsindistress.uk.com
This summer saw the completion of our lovely new rabbit and guinea pig enrichment garden, which has made a world of difference to the lives of the rabbits and guinea pigs in our care, as Rabbit Manager Debbie Piper explains.

“What we first noticed when we began to put our longer-stay rabbits out into the garden, is that they were very frightened of being out in an open space after being indoors for so long. It took them a few times to get used to the freedom of being outside again.

Now when new rabbits come in, as soon as they have come out of quarantine they are introduced to the garden, and it takes them no time at all to start enjoying the freedom that the garden brings. This makes the rabbits easier to rehome, as they will not be so frightened in their new home, being more accustomed to the big wide world, the sunshine and the wind blowing.

The garden has really helped traumatised rabbits to come out of themselves. Rabbits such as Arna, who was very grumpy at being confined in isolation when she first arrived, and would bite the staff whenever she could. Now she is able to spend time outdoors running and jumping she is a different rabbit – it has brought out her true personality.

The guinea pigs too are really enjoying their garden, they love sitting on the grass munching, and playing in their tunnels.

I get the most out of seeing the rabbits enjoying their natural behaviour; it’s so wonderful to see their sheer joy as they run, dig in their sandpit, and kick in the air as they jump.”

This has all been made possible by everyone who so generously gave to our rabbit garden appeal. Thank you so much to each and every one of you.
Coco and Frosty are a sweet and adorable pair, who found themselves at the Rescue Centre when their owner could no longer care for them. They completely adore each other, and need to find a new home together. Coco and Frosty have been at the Rescue Centre now for almost a year and no one has wanted to give them a home. Staff at the Rescue Centre can’t understand why they have been overlooked for so long, as they are the sweetest pair and very cute. Coco and Frosty are really hoping that they will find their forever home soon. They are looking for somewhere with plenty of space to run and jump around. Could you offer this sweet pair the loving home that they are longing for? If you want to find out more about adopting Coco and Frosty please do get in touch.

**Terry’s miracle homecoming**

In May a lovely friendly ginger cat was brought in to the rescue centre as a stray. He had been hanging around a camping site for around two months, and the owners thought he may have been abandoned there by holiday-makers.

Junior, as we named him, had a severe limp, and when he was X-rayed our vet discovered that Junior had a leg fracture and shattered elbow which had fused together. He must have had an accident while he was straying, and had never received any treatment – he will always have a limp because of this.

Junior spent the next 3 months at the rescue centre. He turned out to be quite a character, waving to us at the door of his pen, and sitting on our shoulders whenever he got the chance! Then on August 8th, International Cat Day, we posted a video of him on our Facebook page, waving at us through the door as he loved to do. That afternoon we received a phone call from Kate, who had happened to see our Facebook post and had recognised him instantly – she was certain that Junior was her long-lost cat Terry, who had gone missing 11 months ago!

Kate came straight to the rescue centre with photos of Terry, and told us all about him - how he used to wave like that through the front door when the children came home from school, and how he would love to sit on all their shoulders. There had been such a big hole left in their lives since Terry had gone missing, 11 months ago.

“I still can’t believe he’s back – there was never a day that I didn’t think of him.”

It was a very emotional meeting as Kate and Terry were re-united once again. Kate said “I can’t believe it – I never thought I’d ever see him again, I really thought that he was dead.”

Terry has settled really well into his home again, and we had this lovely update from Kate: “Terry is doing really well – he knew his way around the house, and went to all the places he would be fed. He has started putting his paws on my shoulder again and tries to get onto my neck when I’m doing the housework (although he doesn’t fit there any more!)

I still can’t believe he’s back – there was never a day that I didn’t think of him. He is still a bit jumpy, and he looks slightly aged and though he has had a rough ride – but it’s definitely the same cat that would sit on my lap, nudge me for affection and give a little nip when he’d had enough!

We are all absolutely over the moon to have him back.”

**photos: Lucy D Photography**
At Easter this year, a lovely black and white cat was dumped on the driveway of the rescue centre, in a box with no information at all. We are always sad when an animal's previous owners don't come to reception and sign their pet over to us properly, as it means the pet then has to live in a stray pen or kennel for a minimum of 7 days until it becomes legally ours to rehome. It also means that we don't have any information about the animal, such as its name, likes, dislikes, medical history or any problems there may be. All this information helps us to better help the animal, and to find them the perfect new home more quickly.

We knew nothing about our new arrival, but we decided to give him a lovely new Easter-themed name – Cadbury – and we didn’t know it, but Cadbury’s name was to seal his fate and determine his happy future life!

Wendy and Ian were looking for a new addition to their family, and when they saw Cadbury, they knew it was meant to be! Wendy explains:

“I am a chocaholic - there, I’ve said it!

Ian and I got married May 2015 and we had a chocolate themed ‘hand fasting’ wedding in Lustleigh orchard. I made my dress out of Cadburys chocolate wrappers, which took five months to make! Ian was dressed as Willy Wonka, and my little dog Havoc was dressed as an oompa loompa and gave me away!

As soon as I saw Cadbury at Animals in Distress I knew he was meant for us. We immediately fell in love with him, and a week later we brought him home. Cadbury has settled in very well and we love having him around. Cadbury has really landed on his feet in his new life, and we are all so happy for him.

If you would like to help us help more pets like Cadbury please consider giving a regular gift – see page 23 for more details
It’s not only the staff at Animals in Distress who do an amazing job looking after the animals in our care – some of our rescue dogs go on to become very special helpers and have a life-changing effect on the other homeless dogs in the kennels.

Charlie came to the rescue centre as a puppy in August 2016, and as she was too young to stay in the kennels she went straight into a foster home with Animal Welfare Assistant Liz. Liz explains “When I took Charlie home that first day, I really hoped that she would fit well into my family, as I’d already fallen in love with her and knew I didn’t want to bring her back! She fitted in so well – and even made friends with our cats – so we decided to adopt her permanently. We are so glad we did – Charlie is adorable and makes our family complete.”

Liz continues to foster dogs for Animals in Distress, and Charlie has helped each one to adapt to a home environment, teaching them the rules of the house and giving them confidence when out walking. “Charlie plays with the other dogs a lot, and helps them to really come out of themselves and enjoy life again,” says Liz.

Charlie has also become our main canine helper and mixing dog at the rescue centre. Kennel Manager Clare explains: “Charlie is the first dog that new arrivals to the kennels meet, and these interactions help us assess dogs for rehoming. Charlie is a lovely calm girl, and she really helps dogs who are nervous, anxious or unsocialised to become more comfortable in the kennels, and less fearful around other dogs. Without the help of canine assistants like Charlie, we wouldn’t be able to do the work we do here with the dogs.”

We are all so pleased for Charlie, as she now has it all – a wonderful loving home, and a fantastic job too!”
Queen Mab

Queen Mab (formerly Radish) came to us as a stray in July last year. She was skinny and almost bald, and she had a very sensitive stomach and issues with toileting. Queen Mab was in rescue for 4 months before Helen and Gary came along and fell in love with her, and welcomed her into their family.

Being in a loving new home has completely transformed Queen Mab into a healthy and happy cat. We are delighted for Queen Mab and we were so pleased to hear how well she is doing in her new life.

"Mab was very timid at first, and did not like being on her own at all - she followed us around the house so she was with one of us all the time. She even slept with us at night and would wake us up in the night to get some attention.

However Mab is completely settled now and in the last two months has really relaxed and become an unbelievably chilled cat!

She is much more adventurous now, and with the weather being lovely, is outside a lot more. The garden is full of greenery she can hide in and watch those birds she is fascinated by. She is small but quite fierce – she does not allow any other cats in her garden!

Mab is totally adorable; very loving and playful. She loves a lap to sit on, and she loves to sleep on the sideboard by the window, wrapped up in a curtain!

Her toileting issues are non-existent now, and we have even changed her food from the prescription diet as her digestion is completely normal. We are all so glad we took that chance and brought her into our home."

Helen and Gary

Charlie

In May we appealed for a very special home for Charlie, an adorable rabbit who sadly had just lost his devoted partner Doofus, and was all alone. We are really happy to let you know that Charlie went to live with Susan and Sam and their family, where he is very happy. Susan gave us this update:

"Charlie is doing great, his personality is really coming out and he really fits in with our family. Our cat Lucy and Charlie are friends, he picks out which toys she can play with out of her toy box, and then picks out what he's going to play with. His favourite is a green ball that lights up, and loo rolls which he likes to put in his water bowl! He hates being groomed so runs around the bed, and it's become a game!

His favourite treat is French lettuce from our garden. Having Charlie has made our fur baby family complete, and Charlie will have a loving forever home with us till the end."

Susan and Sam
One of our longer stay cats this year was Pickles, who was at the rescue centre for a whole year before she found her forever home. 10 year old Pickles had a big character, and could often be feisty, which was off-putting to some potential rehomers! However, Pickles’ “moodiness” did not deter Geoff, who came to the rescue centre one day to offer Pickles a loving home.

Geoff has worked wonders with Pickles, and once she began to settle into her lovely new home, she quickly became a different cat. We were over the moon to hear how well Pickles is doing when we received this lovely update from Geoff:

“You said Pickles was a bit moody – well she is - or rather she was, but each day she gets better. For the first 3 to 4 weeks I had as many as 14 bites and scratches, but I have had none since. She settled in very quickly and as soon as a few friends came round she made straight for their laps!

Pickles is now much more relaxed, and there is no biting or scratching any more. She likes to go out and spend time in the garden sitting in the sun. She sleeps by snuggling up by my feet. Pickles has made herself very much at home, and is happy here.”

Pickles truly has found her happy, forever home, and it was well worth the wait!
“When we rescued Thomas from Animals in Distress it was the first time we had ever had a rescue dog, and it was the most amazing thing we have ever done. He is the most loving, caring and amazing dog. His personality is quite interesting, from carrying 6ft long sticks down the park making everybody laugh and being a great poser with the camera. All he needed was lots of cuddles and even more exercise. We will now always get a rescue dog.” – Kerri

“I was volunteering at Animals in Distress when Trampus came in as a stray, and he came with me as a mascot on a sponsored walk I did to raise funds for AID. We fell in love with him immediately, and that was that! He is an absolute star and so much fun, we used to do agility, which he was amazing at. We have moved around the country quite a bit and Trampus loves going in the car on any adventures. We now live up in Northumberland where he has a beach just over the road for him to chase the waves every day, and have a swim with his favourite toy.” – Caroline

“We adopted Parker and Bailey from Animals in Distress where they were born, and they have a lovely life. Parker (tabby and white) loves to sit in the kitchen sink & drink from the tap! He also loves playing in their cat tunnel and sitting in his favourite cardboard box. Bailey really loves to be brushed, and as soon as he sees the brush he runs over! He has his favourite place to nap, on top of a pile of boxes in our lean-to, often in the sun.” – Naomi

“Pepsi was born at Animals in Distress and was adopted with her brother Max. She loves nothing more than chasing her ball on the beach and sunbathing in the back garden.” – Amanda

“Lily Bear and Beau are happy and settled in their new home. They love spending time out in the sunshine in their run.” – Emily
“Cedric is rather a feisty and mischievous little chap, but his loyalty and loving nature more than make up for any of his misdemeanours! Cedric enjoys squeakies, sunbathing, lie-ins, paddles in the river, caravan holidays and rough and tumble with Walter his doggy companion. We truly can’t imagine life without him.” – Kate

“We adopted Hobnob a year ago to befriend our female bunny Crumpet, and they are the best of friends! His favourite treat is broccoli and he can often be seen binkying around the garden and munching on the grass.” – Emily

“We adopted Jessie in December. She is a very loving and chilled girl, who loves cuddles and her agility lessons.” – Brenda

“Bobby was born at Animals in Distress. At first Bobby was a terrible tease, and would steal anything I put down and shoot outside to dance around the garden with it, tossing it in the air, whether it be my slippers, my glasses or a plastic plant pot (with my favourite plant in!) I hadn’t a hope of catching him! However, he is the most affectionate and loving dog. He always makes me laugh, and I adore him.” – Leslie

“Pip is a lovely piggy, he settled right in and spends every evening with us playing on the floor or running in his tunnels, and then he likes to sleep on my lap which is his favourite pastime! He is very inquisitive and a chatty little chap and very much part of the family.” – Tracey

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Thanks to several popular selling websites, many people are now choosing to sell their pets for cash rather than handing them over to a charity, and can often make a quick sale rather than possibly waiting for a rescue space to become available. But this way of rehoming pets does not guarantee a happy ending for the animal involved, and it can also be bad news for the buyer, as this article explains.

There are many genuine reasons why people have to give up their beloved pets for rehoming, and it can be the most heart-breaking decision a pet-owner has to make. If you find yourself in this predicament, we know that you want to find the best possible new home for your pet, so please consider handing your beloved pet over to a genuine rescue organisation before advertising them online.

We have all heard horror stories about dogs being advertised on selling sites only to end up as bait for illegal dog-fighting, and smaller animals ending up as a live dinner for someone’s pet snake. While we don’t want to be alarmist, there is no doubt that these things do occur - but there are plenty of other good reasons why it is better to rehome pets safely via a rescue charity:

- Your pet will be kept in accommodation that conforms to the highest possible welfare standards and looked after by experienced and devoted staff while he or she is waiting to find a new home
- Your pet’s needs and temperament will be fully assessed by animal welfare professionals before rehoming
- Your pet will be checked by a vet and receive any medical treatment needed
- New owners are interviewed and thoroughly assessed to make sure they are well-matched with their new pet, and home checks are carried out by experienced home checkers
- Follow up takes place to make sure that all is working out for the animal in the new home.

When handing your pet over to a genuine rescue organisation such as Animals in Distress, the service is free, and you can be assured that your pet has the best chance of finding that perfect, forever new home.

Adopt, don’t shop

If you are looking bring a new pet into your family, there are many reasons why it is better to visit your local rescue, than to look through the free ads. When adopting a dog, cat, rabbit or guinea pig from Animals in Distress you can be assured that:

- Every pet that comes through our doors is vet-checked, and receives any veterinary treatment needed before being given the all-clear for rehoming by our vet
- Before rehoming pets are all neutered, vaccinated and treated for fleas and worms, according to their species
- Every pet has been cared for and assessed by our team of dedicated animal welfare professionals, so that their needs and personalities can be best matched to the most perfect home for them
- Dogs with any issues are given training and rehabilitation at the rescue centre. You will be fully appraised of any issues, and given a training plan so you can continue working with your dog in the home
- After adoption, follow-up support and advice is on-hand if needed
- You’re unlikely to discover that your new pet has a behaviour trait or expensive medical condition that you weren’t informed about
- All this is assured for a modest rehoming fee, a fraction of what you would pay if you paid for all the routine veterinary procedures yourself.

The staff at Animals in Distress and other rescues like it have devoted their whole lives to caring for homeless pets, and ensuring that they end up in the best possible new homes with the best match of owners. For your own peace of mind and for the welfare of your pets, whether you are needing to rehome a pet, or looking for a new addition to your family, please use your local pet rescue service.
Helping cats find new homes –
Meet our cat socialisers

Every cat that arrives at the rescue centre has different needs when it comes to human attention. Some just want a bit of company and a fuss, while others can be terrified and need a lot of time and patience to get them used to feeling comfortable around people. We have an amazing team of volunteer cat socialisers who spend time each week grooming, stroking or even just talking to the cats, helping them to get ready to go to their new, forever homes.

Julie and Mary have been volunteering at the rescue centre twice a week for two years. Julie said “It’s the best job in the world, especially when ferals come in terrified and you can make a real difference to their lives, helping them to feel safe and happy around people. We also get to name them, which is fun! It’s so rewarding – we definitely get as much out of it as the cats do.”

Gavin and Gerry have been volunteering every week for 6 months. Gavin said “It’s not always easy as some of the cats are quite traumatised at first, but it’s very satisfying when they settle and you can see you’ve made a real difference to them.” Gerry said “I absolutely love cats, and I get enormous satisfaction from helping the shy ones to overcome their fear and get lovely new homes. Working with the cats is also very therapeutic for me as part of my recovery from cancer – it’s definitely a two-way street!”

Thank you so much to all of our amazing volunteer cat socialisers – we are so grateful to you for giving your time to help, and for the massive difference you make to the lives of the cats in our care.

VOLUNTEERING

Thank you Christine, and happy retirement

A sad good bye to Christine Carroll, who over the past 15 years has dedicated so much of her time to volunteering at our Brixham shop.

Christine has been with us through the many changes that have come our way over the years. Our First Brixham shop was opened in 2002 in a small side street to the main town centre, and Christine was part of the volunteering team from the start.

When the shop relocated first due to flooding, and then again in 2014 to our new shop on the high street, Christine helped move the stock and gave so much of her time to help set up the new shops.

Christine we are so grateful for all the time and hard work you have devoted to helping the charity over the years. You will be greatly missed, but from everyone at Animals in Distress we wish you all the very best in all your future ventures.

Kim-Marie Veasey, Head of Retail
Don’t leave it too late to write your Will

If like us you love animals then a gift in your Will for Animals in Distress can help us to find even more forever homes for hundreds of homeless pets every year.

Legacies form a vital proportion of the charity’s income. They not only help to cover our day to day costs but have enabled us to realise some of our bigger aspirations in the form of a new cattery and sensory garden as well as a much improved rabbit and guinea pig building... what wonderful gifts they were!

If you would like to find out more about leaving a gift in your Will to Animals in Distress please contact Nicola Moorhouse, Fundraising Manager on 01803 812121. Alternatively you can download our Guide to leaving a gift in your Will from our website.

What type of gift is best?
A residuary gift (the remainder of the estate once other gifts and payments have been made) is popular with many supporters because it takes care of your loved ones first; but some people prefer to leave a fixed sum of money, or an item such as a piece of jewellery or property to their favourite charity.

Any gift to Animals in Distress will make a difference to the lives of the animals in our care.

Can I leave a gift to be used for a specific area of work or project?
If you choose not to limit your gift to a specific area of work it can be incredibly helpful to us – we can use your gift wherever the need is greatest. However, if one particular area of our work is very close to your heart, then please contact us on 01803 812121 or email supportus@animalsindistress.uk.com to discuss your specific gift in more detail.

Do I need to draw up a new Will?
If you do not wish to alter the contents of your existing Will other than to include a gift to Animals in Distress you can amend your current Will by preparing a document called a codicil.

A codicil needs to be signed and witnessed in accordance with the same legal formalities as a Will and we therefore recommend that you consult a solicitor to ensure that the codicil is valid and your wishes will take effect.
Thank you!

This section is all about you, our amazing supporters

Bella’s Coffee Morning and Cream Tea Afternoon

Last year 9 year old Bella from Totnes raised £30 for the animals at the rescue centre with her lemonade and cheese scone sale – and this year she decided she wanted to help even more pets. In June Bella held a Coffee Morning and a Cream Tea Afternoon with the help of her Grandmother Heather, and raised an absolutely incredible £126.92 to help the kittens at the rescue centre! Thank you so much Bella for all your hard work, from all the kittens at the rescue centre and everyone at Animals in Distress.

Scott’s cake stall

In June Scott Sellars decided he would like to help the animals at the rescue centre, and with the help of his friends at school, he raised an amazing £21 for the dogs, cats, rabbits and guinea pigs in our care. Thank you so much Scott, from everyone at Animals in Distress, and all the animals - we are so grateful for your support.

Esther’s Mufti Day

As part of her Torbay Civic Award, Esther decided to hold a Mufti (non-uniform) Day at her school, in aid of the animals at the rescue centre. On Friday 26th May, the whole school wore their own clothes to school, and everyone brought a donation of treats or of £1 for the animals. The students collected many bags and boxes of food, treats and toys, and they also raised an incredible £117.55 for the dogs, cats, rabbits and guinea pigs at the rescue centre! We were so impressed by all of Esther’s hard work and commitment to helping the animals. Thank you so much to Esther, and all the students at Collaton St Mary Primary School.
Michelle and Kenny’s sponsored walk

In July Michelle and her dad Kenny - who has had a double hip replacement - completed a 14 mile sponsored walk from Starcross to Teignmouth and back, in aid of the homeless dogs, cats, rabbits and guinea pigs at the rescue centre.

Michelle said “We were very lucky to be able to adopt our 2 cats from Animals in Distress and we are so pleased we were given the opportunity to change these beautiful cats’ lives. They have certainly made our lives better too. We wanted to do something to help all the other animals at Animals in Distress.” Kenny and Michelle raised an incredible £335 for the animals. Thank you so much Michelle and Kenny - we’re in awe of what you have achieved for the animals.

Sue and Sylvia – our amazing knitters

Sue has been volunteering at Animals in Distress for over 15 years; she began working in the cattery and the rabbit section, and then carried out home-checks for us. For the last 7 years, Sue and her sister Sylvia have been very kindly knitting and crocheting blankets for all the cats at the rescue centre. With up to 100 cats at the rescue centre at any time, we always need more lovely soft blankets, and we are so grateful to Sue and Sylvia. Thank you so much to both of you, for all that you have done for the animals over the years.

Retired spoofers

The homeless pets at the rescue centre have received a generous gift from retired ‘spoofers’ Pete Hyett and Ray Hurd, who used to play Spoof at the Welcome Stranger pub in Liverton. Despite no longer playing, Pete and Ray still wanted to do something to help the homeless animals of South Devon, and have made a generous donation of £200. Thank you so much to Pete and Ray, for all your support.

Marcus and Hope’s ‘Dragon’s Den’ Challenge

9 year old Marcus and 10 year old Hope from Stoke Fleming school were given £5 each as a starter fund to raise as much money as they could for charity, as part of a ‘Dragon’s Den’ style challenge. Marcus and Hope held a Woofastic Dog Show, with dog agility, and also a raffle and a cake sale – and they raised an absolutely incredible £240 for the animals at the rescue centre! Thank you so much Marcus and Hope from everyone at Animals in Distress. All your hard work has really helped the animals in our care.

Michelle and Kenny

Pete and Ray

Sue and Sylvia
Greenbow Running Club
Land & Sand Run

Greg Mimms and the Greenbow Running Club once again organised their Land and Sand Run on Exmouth sea front in May, and they raised an amazing £785.36 for the animals at the rescue centre. A big thank you also to Paul Baker, who did the run and raised £240 for the animals. Thank you so much to Greg and everyone involved in the run for all you have done for the animals in our care. The award-winning Land and Sand Run is a challenging 5k race, with 3k on the footpath and 2k on the beach. If you are interested in joining next year’s run, see www.greenbow.org for more details.

Bonios at the Clifford Arms

In August Mike and Linda Balster donated an amazing £117.70 which they raised from selling Bonios on the bar of the Clifford Arms in Shaldon. Mike and Linda have been supporting the dogs at the rescue centre by selling Bonios at the bar for many years, and have now retired from running the pub. Thank you so much to Mike and Linda on behalf of everyone here, for all your incredible support over the years. We are so grateful for everything you’ve done for the animals.

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If you would like to advertise in the Animals in Distress Magazine please contact Rowana on magazine@animalsindistress.uk.com

For advice on how to make provisions in your will for your pets or charities please contact Charlotte Rabbits or Martin Roberts who’ll be pleased to help

Call 01803 403403 or visit us online at www.boycehatton.co.uk

DART VALE VETERINARY GROUP
Proud to support Animals in Distress.
In this magazine you will have seen how important our work is for the homeless pets of South Devon, but with no government funding the rescue centre can only help more animals like Diesel the hero dog and Scrap the little rabbit with the support of wonderful people like you.

In 2016...

- **172** dogs were rehomed
- **297** cats were rehomed
- **65** guinea pigs were rehomed
- **79** rabbits were rehomed

That’s over...

- **600** dog, cats, rabbits and guinea pigs cared for and rehomed
- **600** animals who feel wanted and loved
- **600** animals who have learnt that it is ok to be happy
- **600** animals who never have to worry about being homeless again

It costs...

- **£1.5m** every year to run the charity
- **£285** minimum cost of a dog stay
- **£247** minimum cost of a cat stay

How can you help?

We are asking if you would be kind enough to support the charity today with a regular gift, so that we can continue to help more animals find their forever homes.

- **£5** per month provides a flea and worm treatment
- **£10** provides a set of vaccinations
- **£15** feeds a dog or cat for a month
- **£25** helps significantly towards our neutering costs
- **£35** pays for a dental treatment

Simply fill in the form overleaf and return it to the Rescue Centre address shown.
I would like to support
Animals in Distress

Torbay and West Country - Registered Charity No 1105487 - Company No 5171505

Support Animals in Distress by making a donation and help transform lives
If you would like to make a regular gift to Animals in Distress, please complete the form below

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other)*

Name*

Home address*

Postcode* Telephone Number

Email address

Please let us know if your circumstances or address details change so that we can amend our records

I would like to make a regular gift to Animals in Distress

To (name of your bank)

Address of Bank

Sort Code __ __ | __ __ | __ __ Account Number:

Please pay Lloyds Bank plc, 2 Palace Avenue, Paignton, for the account of Animals in Distress (Registered Charity No. 1105487) account number 27897168, sort code 30-88-04

The sum of £                       each quarter / month / year (please circle) Please start payment from (date)

Signed Date

I would like to make a one off gift to Animals in Distress

I enclose a gift of

Please make cheques payable to Animals in Distress

Please send me more information about leaving a gift to Animals in Distress in my Will.

Make your gift worth even more, without costing you a penny
Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate.
Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year.
Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below

I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Animals in Distress. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. Please notify the Charity if you wish to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address, or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and or Capital Gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you. You must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HMRC to adjust your tax code.

By submitting this form you agree to us recording your details on our database. We may contact you about how we can support you and how you can get involved. Your details will be kept securely and will not be shared with anyone else.

Signed Date

If you would like to receive further information from Animals in Distress, please tick this box

* Fields marked with an asterisk must be completed