

Assembly Resource

Read through the information about the work of the RSPCA and the Battersea Dogs and Cats Home charity and pets that have been bought over the past year. Do you think that there should be more restrictions when buying a pet?



Who are the RSPCA?

The RSPCA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) is the oldest animal welfare charity in the UK. It was founded in 1824 - nearly 200 years ago!

Their aim is to protect animals with the vision of living in a world where all animals are respected and treated with compassion.

As a charity, all the work they undertake is paid for by donations from the public.

The RSPCA have animal shelters that take care of pets who are no longer able to be cared for by their owners.

Who are the Battersea Dogs and Cats Home charity?



Established in 1860, Battersea Dogs and Cats charity are one of just a few animal rescue centres that run a non-selective intake policy. This means they accept any breed of animal, at any age, including dogs or cats with serious medical and behavioural problems.

They aim to never turn away a dog or cat in need of help, caring for them until their owners or loving new homes can be found, no matter how long it takes. Their expert team of dog trainers and veterinary staff give the animals in their care the best possible chance of a fresh start in a happy new home.

Why have more people decided to get pets in the past year?

It is thought that there have been many people feeling lonelier during recent lockdown periods, particularly elderly people and those who live on their own.

Vet and author Dr Muller says the companionship of a pet can offer a solution to this, "It's not only the unconditional love pets offer but the feeling somebody accepts us for who we are and not how people want to see us."

Research by pet food company Natures Menu has found almost one in three of new owners regret buying their pet during the first lockdown and Battersea Dogs and Cats Home predicts the number of dogs looking for new homes over the next five years could increase by around 27%.