Croydon Animal Samaritans

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL



Your Impact This Year

PIPPA

CHARLOTTE'S KITTENS


MISCHA

Inside: Ronnie's Journey, Magpie's Miracle, and more...

12 HEART WARMING STORIES INSIDE!

Ronnie by Anna

The first time I met Ronnie was when he was 9 weeks old. His then owner hastily shoved him in my carrier and closed the door. She couldn't wait to get rid of him. The reason I was soon to discover was because Ronnie's back legs didn't work properly they wobbled. That didn't seem to matter because he wasn't in pain and could run about albeit in his wobbly way. However I was soon to discover that wasn't the worst of it he was also retentive and had to be manually expressed 4 or 5 times a day or he wouldn't empty his bladder or bowels properly. Time went on and Ronnie grew bigger and was healthy despite his disability. CAS agreed to pay for an MRI scan at a very well known referral vet.

It was discovered that he has a deformed spine which is the cause of his disability. Ronnie is now 9 months old and is in foster care with two wonderful people who have taken on the daily task of providing for all Ronnie's needs. He is such a loveable beautiful boy who doesn't know he is any different from the other cats he lives with. He is so full of life and has recently discovered the outdoors and enjoys a romp around the garden on a lead. We don't know if Ronnie can ever be repaired as it would be a tricky operation but we hope maybe one day it may be possible. Until then he is living his best life with Sam and Sydney his devoted carers who love him and have kindly said if he doesn't find a home he can have a home with them.



Food Bins- do we really need them?)

By Nina

DID YOU KNOW THE BINS FEED…

🐾 170+ cats in foster care for rehoming
(including almost 100 kittens!) — as of mid-October 2025.

🐾 120+ feral cats
across nearly two dozen feeding sites, plus long-term fosters on our permanent register.

🐾 Cats taken in during emergencies
For example, one woman called us in desperation when a "friend" threatened to dump eight black kittens in a local park after allowing her cat to become pregnant. Compassionate members of the public often step in to temporarily foster such cases, and we support them with food and litter until we can take over.

🐾 Hoarding and abuse cases
CAS responds to severe neglect situations—often alongside other charities such as CHAT—until the animals are safe. Some stories are too heartbreaking to print.

- Sutton: 20+
- Bromley: 11+
- Southwark (with CHAT): 40+
- Western Road, Mitcham: 40+

— all in 2025 alone.

Are there bin fairies? Well actually—no, there aren't any!

What we do have are dozens of dedicated volunteers (we call them our bin angels) who spend countless hours every year emptying, cleaning, transporting, recording, storing, and distributing the tonnes of food raised from nearly three dozen active bins (website map update coming soon).

Several other charities have now adopted our model and benefitted tremendously.

Without our bin angels—including the distributors—CAS simply could not afford to help the ~700 cats, 100 rabbits, and dozens of dogs we support each year.

We salute these welfare warriors… saving the world one cat at a time.

Please continue to shop at Sainsbury's and Co-op to help them help us.



Norman by Lauren



Norman (formerly known as Renzo) was surrendered to us back in May. Upon intake this older gent was found to have an enormous testicular tumour, chronically runny eyes and poor body condition. It's no surprise really seeing as he had been kept in a hamster cage all of his nine years of life and fed on a diet of hamster treats and bedding. His foster carer took excellent care of him and when I came time for him to find a companion one of our fosters was recently bereaved and needed a companion for her lonely bunny Effie. Norman now spends his days sleeping next to warm radiators snuggled up with Effie and snacking on dandelion roots. Due to his complex medical needs he is our first 'sanctuary bunny'. This means all his day to day needs and preventative care is covered by his owner but the rescue covers his vet bills for his existing conditions. We are thrilled Norman gets to see out his twilight years in a warm home with his attentive bun wife Effie.



New Rabbit Enclosures

We are delighted with the new enclosures at the rabbit rescue! These fantastic spaces give our rabbits the correct amount of room — 3 metres by 2 metres by 1 metre, all on one level — allowing them to behave naturally, move freely, and feel safe. Each enclosure is fully insulated and heated, ensuring comfort all year round.

We proudly follow RWAF (Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund) guidelines, and we only rehome rabbits to adopters who commit to meeting these welfare standards. Our goal is always to give every rabbit the space, care, and environment they truly deserve.



🐾 GOOD NEWS: CHARLIE HAS FOUND HIS FOREVER HOME! 🐾

By Karen

Charlie came into our care at the start of the year under heartbreaking circumstances. We were contacted by the solicitor of a woman who had recently passed away. Sadly, Charlie had been left alone in the house for a long time while his owner was in hospital. Though carers were being paid to feed him, he was struggling—lonely, confused, and making a mess inside the home.

Thankfully, the solicitor was an animal lover. When he had asked the woman in hospital what should happen to Charlie, she had told him to have him put to sleep. But at just eight years old, the solicitor couldn't bring himself to do that. He tried many rescues before coming to us, but no one wanted to take in an older cat with ongoing toileting issues.

We were fortunate to find a kind and patient foster home willing to give Charlie the chance he so desperately needed. His poo troubles continued, and our vet helped us manage things as best we could with high-quality food and lots of care. Despite the challenges, his foster family adored him—Charlie's sweet and friendly nature shone through from the very beginning.

We posted Charlie for adoption, but for months we had no interest. His age and health problems sadly put many people off. When we finally had an enquiry, we were completely honest about his issues and explained that stress might cause some initial diarrhoea. Despite assuring us they were prepared, the adopter returned him the very next day without giving him time to settle. 😭

But we never gave up—and neither did Charlie.

We kept sharing his story and were beginning to wonder if the right home would ever come along... and then it happened. A lovely couple reached out specifically looking for an older cat. They weren't at all deterred by Charlie's quirks and fell in love with him the moment they met him.

Today, Charlie is living his very best life in a beautiful home with a huge garden to explore. He is absolutely the king of his new castle and finally enjoying the peace, comfort, and love he always deserved.
A huge thank you to his foster parents, whose patience and devotion helped Charlie heal and find happiness again. And to Charlie's new family—thank you for seeing the wonderful boy he is.
Here's to you, Charlie. Enjoy your kingdom. ❤️🐾





Dino's Story By Barbara

We recently had a call from a woman who wanted to "get rid of" her dog; a six-year-old Chihuahua named Dino, whom she'd had since he was a puppy.

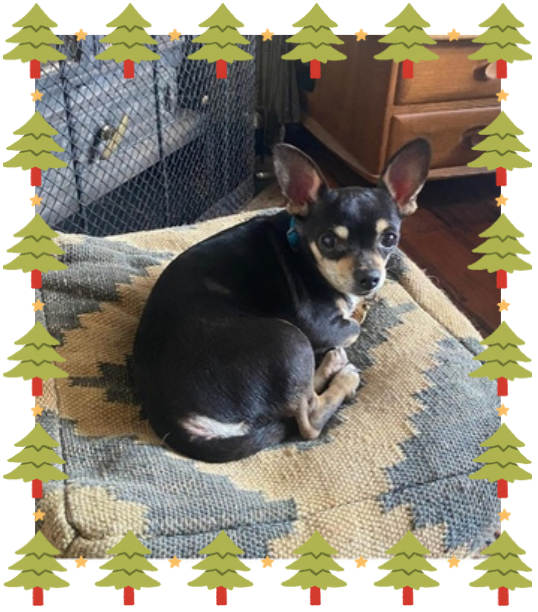
She told us she was disabled and couldn't cope with him in her flat.
When I arrived, it was immediately clear this wasn't the full story. She was younger than me and far fitter, and Dino's condition was shocking.

He looked as though he'd been attacked by moths, with large patches of missing fur, and he was severely overweight. Despite being under another charity's veterinary care for two years, he had only been treated with steroids.

Then she explained his lifestyle:
She fed him pizza, and he never went outside: he was made to use a litter tray.

We took Dino straight to our vets for proper treatment.
After just a couple of weeks on a healthy diet and several soothing baths, he looked like a completely different dog.

Today, Dino is in a wonderful home and living a happy, healthy life.





Flynn by Dawn

Flynn was abandoned in a rented property when the tenants moved out and discarded him; leaving him behind like unwanted furniture. He was found about 2 weeks later when the landlord discovered him without hay, water or food in a filthy, tiny cage full of sawdust.
He quickly provided hay/water and contacted Bunny Angels (a Rescue network) who contacted us and we agreed to take him in.

When he arrived he was skin and bones, severely malnourished, dehydrated, shut down and barely moving; weighing just 1.3kgs. We made him comfortable overnight, but weren't sure if he'd make it. The following day we took him to our wonderful rabbit savvy vet, unsure if we'd be bringing him home as he was so poorly and seemed resigned to what he thought was his fate.
After a thorough check up, and some sub-cutaneous fluid, we agreed a plan of action. I agreed to foster him and he took up residence in my spare bedroom where he still resides today.
Because he had been starved (we think he had been eating the sawdust he was living on), I initially had to be very careful how much food I gave him to avoid refeeding syndrome. He was allowed unlimited timothy hay/water and in addition I syringe fed him high fibre/calorie food every 8 hours (day and night). The amount was slowly increased each day for the first week during which he spent most of the time sitting on a heat pad.
After a week we took him for another vet check before we slowly began to change his feeding regime. Our vet felt he was stable enough for blood tests so that we could see if starvation and dehydration had caused any issues which needed addressing. Thankfully the blood tests didn't reveal any serious damage.

I continued to increase the amount of liquid feed he was given and slowly introduced pellets to his diet. He began to put on weight, groom himself, his eyes seemed brighter and he just seemed happier. By the end of the second week with me he weighed almost 1.9kgs. His personality began to show, as did his requests for food, which translated into him rattling the bars of his pen at 3am demanding snacks! Six weeks after he arrived he weighed just over 2.5kg and was castrated. He'll be ready to find his forever home with a friend or two soon.

He's a delightful bunny who full of personality who loves his food and hay. He always comes over to say hello he's also very tidy and always uses his litter tray.
It never fails to amaze me how forgiving these little beings can be. Having been totally let down and failed by humans who thought it was okay to abandon him, he now trusts me and wants to come to say hello and ask for a head rub (or treats). It's been a privilege to watch this little chap grow stronger and learn how to be a bunny again.





Poor Magpie's Fight for a Second Chance – Please Help Us Save Her 💔

Magpie, a young female cat with the gentlest soul, was found in South Croydon after being hit by a car. A concerned resident spotted her hiding in a bush and reached out for help; but heartbreakingly, two major animal charities declined to come out and help.
For two long, freezing days, Magpie lay injured and alone under that bush... until a dedicated CAS volunteer found out about her situation and rushed to the scene at 6pm to bring her to safety.

At Anne Nelson Vets, the full extent of her trauma became clear:

- A fractured pelvis
- A fractured tail
- Severe hind-end injuries from being dragged under a car wheel
- Unable to walk, dangerously cold, and in need of urgent specialist intervention

Following emergency treatment, Magpie was transferred to Moores Orthopaedic Clinic in Basingstoke, where she was examined by leading surgeon Andy Moores, with Chris Jordan performing the surgery. Miraculously, her nerves appear intact—meaning she can recover with the right care.

Her life-saving surgery included:

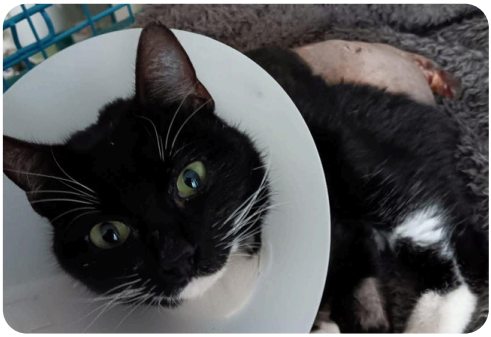
- A metal plate fitted to one side of her pelvis
- A metal pin inserted into the other side
- A likely tail amputation still to come

Despite everything she has endured, Magpie remains the sweetest, most affectionate little cat; still seeking love, still trusting, still fighting. But now she needs our help.
The total cost of her surgery and recovery is around £4,500–£5,000.

❤️ Can you help give Magpie the future she deserves? ❤️

Every donation, no matter the size, brings Magpie one step closer to a full recovery and a life free from pain. With your support, she can heal, thrive, and one day find the loving home she's always deserved.

👉 Please donate if you can, and share her story to help us reach more people.
Thank you for helping us fight for Magpie's second chance. 🐾💕
https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/MXAT3WM2LXVYS





Foster BunMum by Jade

When I first applied to foster, I honestly didn't think I'd go through with it. But as my conversations with Rachel and her lovely team grew more serious, things suddenly became very real. Before I knew it, I was standing in the home of one of Rachel's trusted fosterers, meeting her trio of buns and then another foster separately.
And somewhere in the middle of all that... I realised I wanted to be a part of this. 💖
Not long after, Rachel texted me one evening offering me a foster bun. That's when it hit me — I must have passed the test. I remember thinking, "BET," and I said yes within five minutes.
Over the past few months, it's been incredible watching the progress of the two buns I've fostered, and even more incredible forming friendships because of them. 💖
In the last 18 months of delving into this world, I've seen just how heartbreaking the scale of mistreatment is. Pets4Homes and Facebook rehoming groups really show what our buns are up against. But being immersed in Rachel's Rabbits — surrounded by the amazing team of women and the community she's built — has shown me the other side. The women I've met are truly incredible. 💖
I've gone from being a keyboard warrior on Pets4Homes and Facebook to someone who is actually doing something to help, and it feels like the absolute best decision I've ever made.
What I've loved most about my rescue journey is discovering that the rescue bunny world brings out the best in people (well... most of the time!). Both my fosters are so special. Before fostering, I'm ashamed to say I had a favourite breed, colour, or gender. But fostering has taught me that every single bunny is beautiful and perfect in their own way.
I'm so grateful to have learned that early in my bun-loving life. 💖
The biggest lessons fostering has given me this year?
Don't judge a bun by its cover.
Love and trust need no words.
And the tiniest creatures can change your life in the biggest ways.





OLIVIA'S STORY

by Barbara

We were recently called out by a lady who had been feeding a stray cat in her shed for some time. She believed the cat might be pregnant and had already approached a nearby centre of a national animal charity for help, but was unfortunately turned away.

When our volunteer arrived to scan the cat for a microchip, she immediately realised the cat's condition was far more serious than expected. A chip was found, but the details had never been registered.

Late that evening, the little cat—now named Olivia—arrived with our fosterer. Despite their own cats and dogs, she settled calmly in front of the fire as if she had finally found safety. A veterinary scan later revealed that Olivia has a liver tumour. Given that she is at least ten years old, we have decided, together with our vet, to provide her with palliative care and allow her to spend the rest of her life in comfort and warmth.

Olivia's story is a powerful reminder of the importance of paying attention to stray cats, feeding them, and seeking help until you can be certain they have a home. Without the lady who alerted us, Olivia may have spent her remaining days cold, alone, and in pain.

Instead, she will spend them loved ❤



Milo

Do you have room in your heart for Milo?

This adorable Jack Chi (Chihuahua Jack Russell cross) is not yet 3 years old and has already had multiple homes. He has been in foster since January.

When he first came in Milo was very reactive to other dogs when out walking. We have been working with a dog behaviourist over the last month & he is making amazing progress. If only his previous owners had taken the time to train him. He is such a wonderful little dog, he loves falling asleep on your lap & going for long walks.

We feel he could be homed with other animals, as he is currently being fostered with 2 other dogs & cats, or can go as the only pet.

He is neutered, microchipped & treated for parasites. He will need a home with a secure garden, home checks will be necessary.





A big thank you to The Big Yellow Self Storage Company for their support

Let's settle this once and for all — should you feed a stray cat? We say YES! Here's why 👇

by Karen

There's a lot of debate online about whether or not to feed stray cats. Some people argue it's "stealing" someone's pet or that cats should be left to find their way home. While a few owned cats do wander the neighbourhood collecting extra meals, the reality is that there are far more lost, abandoned, or feral cats who rely on kind humans just to survive. 💔

Many assume that most cats outside are owned, but in fact there are many stray and feral cats on our streets in the UK. Others may simply be lost and desperately need help.

Even when people call animal charities or vets about a cat hanging around—or a mother cat with kittens born in a garden or shed—they're often told not to feed them so they'll "go home." But most of these cats don't have a home to go to, and withholding food doesn't solve the problem—it just moves it somewhere else.

So, what should you do if a hungry cat visits your garden?

💡 Use common sense: If the cat looks healthy and not too hungry, it may be owned—so ask your neighbours first. But remember, cats can look healthy even when they are lost or stray.

📜 Friendly cat? Try a simple paper collar with a message. Instructions are easy to find online.

📡 Check for a microchip: Contact volunteer microchip scanners (like Scan Angels or a local rescue). Vets should scan for free. And don't listen to advice telling you to put an unchipped, unneutered cat back where you found it—that won't solve the ongoing cat crisis and it certainly won't help that cat!

🏥 Too nervous to approach? Keep feeding and contact a local rescue. Regular feeding routines are essential for rescuers to trap, neuter, and care for feral cats. This helps prevent endless cycles of kittens being born only to be killed by predators or form large, unmanaged colonies if they survive.

Finally, ask yourself: if your own cat went missing, wouldn't you want someone kind to feed her, check for a microchip, and help her find her way home? ❤️

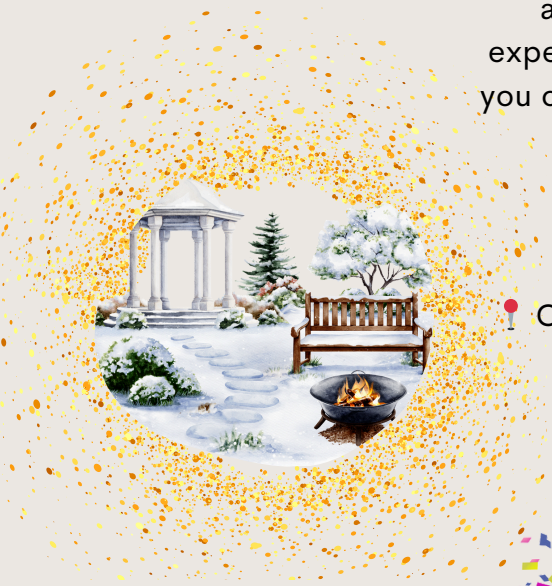
Feeding a stray cat isn't just about giving food—it's about giving hope, safety, and a chance at a better life.



We'd love to see you there!

CAS Cat Fostering Afternoon

Join us for our CAS Cat Fostering Afternoon — a welcoming session for current fosterers and for anyone interested in learning more about fostering. Come along to meet the team, chat with experienced fosterers, and discover how you can make a real difference in the lives of the cats in our care.



📅 Saturday 24th January
🕒 3:00 PM
📍 Christ Church Purley, Brighton Road, Purley, Surrey, CR8 2BN



Rabbit Rescue NGS Open Garden, come and visit the beautiful garden and the rabbit rescue. Cream teas, plants and other crafts for sale.

11th & 12th April 2026
2-5pm
11 West Hill, Sanderstead CR2 0SB.

Save the Date

Gift Aid

However you donate to Croydon Animal Samaritans, please consider giving Gift Aid; if you pay income or capital gains tax it will cost you nothing but the exchange of a few emails with the treasurer. HMRC accepts an email trail as proof that you have agreed to Gift Aid.

Standing Orders

If you would like to make a regular donation by standing order please send an email treasurer@croydonanimalsamaritans.co.uk and we will send you a standing order form.

Legacies

As a charity, Croydon Animal Samaritans depends on legacies.
You may qualify to pay inheritance tax at a reduced rate of 36% if you leave 10% of your net estate to charity. Please leave a gift to Croydon Animal Samaritans, reg charity 1067498 . There is no limit on the amount gifted, contact the treasurer.

Cat Amazon Wish list
Scan here to donate food, treats and more to the many cats in our care.





Rabbit Amazon Wish list
Scan here to donate food, treats and more to the many cats in our care.

Remember to use the Easy Fundraising app when doing your Black Friday shopping and you can raise money for Croydon Animal Samaritans at the same time as you shop!



Mouse News



Thanks to Shan, Margaret, Jeanette, Pat, Sheila, Caroline and to all the kind Vets who sell them for us. Up to the end of November we have distributed 2775 mice, raising £2793.
By Jennie

A big thank you to Laura for creating this fantastic newsletter.