tails

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mayhew 140

still here for dogs, cats and communities

Welcome!

As someone originally from South Africa, I'll never stop appreciating that first glimpse of warm spring sunshine. There's something about lighter evenings and new life that feels full of hope – and here at Mayhew, that sense of renewal is something we see every day.

Spring is all about fresh starts and second chances. And, thanks to your support, that's exactly what you make possible.

Every day, dogs and cats arrive at Mayhew needing comfort and time to heal. They need patience, reassurance and often vital medical treatment – but above all, they need kindness. Whether I'm examining a nervous dog or helping to reassure a worried owner, I'm reminded that healing is about compassion as much as medicine. And that compassion starts with you.

This year is especially meaningful as Mayhew celebrates 140 years of helping animals and the people who care for them. Your unwavering support has been part of that story — allowing us to be here for generations of pets and their communities. As you read this issue of Tails, please know that every life changed, every happy ending has you at its heart.

But there are still many animals who need us.

With your continued support, we can provide vital veterinary care, safe shelter and compassion to those who need us most. If you're able, a gift this spring could help even more dogs and cats take their first steps towards a healthier, happier future.

Thank you for standing alongside us and for giving animals the chance to start again.

Samantha Aronson | Head of Veterinary Clinic

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Please give today

Please turn to your donation form, call us, or go to themayhew.org/tails or scan this QR code ▶

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You gave abandoned animals the chance to feel safe again

Last Christmas, we shared how many dogs and cats arrive at Mayhew frightened, vulnerable and in urgent need of care. Some have been left alone on the streets. Others come to us injured, unwell and in need of a safe place to recover. At a time when they had nowhere else to turn, **your kindness helped ensure they were met with warmth, compassion and the chance of a better future.**

Together, you raised an incredible **£67,000** for abandoned animals. Your support helped provide safe shelter, expert veterinary care and the time and patience needed to help each animal recover physically and emotionally.

Because of you, animals like Carla and Ryan were given the chance not just to survive, but to heal and move forward. Carla was able to safely give birth to her kittens and care for them, while young Ryan received the surgery and aftercare he needed to live comfortably and confidently on just three paws. Today, they are both enjoying the love and security of their new homes.

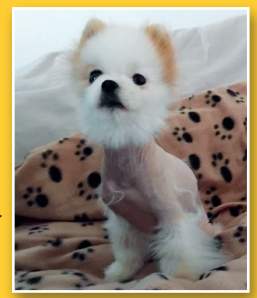
Your generosity came at a time when more animals than ever need support and the cost of caring for each one continues to rise. Most importantly, it meant that every frightened, injured or vulnerable dog or cat who arrived at our doors could be given the care, comfort and second chance they deserve.

From everyone at Mayhew – and from every dog and cat whose life you've helped change – thank you. Your support is part of every recovery, every new beginning and every happy home that follows.

Just £25 could help provide vital health checks and vaccinations for a new arrival – giving them the safe, fresh start they deserve. Please go to themayhew.org/tails to give what you can today.

Mayhew dogs and cats find love in their new forever homes

Luci



Luci was at home before she even stepped through the front door – she marched straight in without hesitation. We have two dog-friendly cats, but we weren't sure how Luci would react. Turns out we didn't need to worry at all, on the second day she was pottering around the house with them. She doesn't really 'play' and doesn't engage in toys, but after watching her cats rolling around on their toys, she started mimicking them by trying to do the same. Luci and her feline siblings seem to get along wonderfully. In fact, we suspect they may have teamed up to (unsuccessfully) attempt what we call 'The Great Fish 'n' Chip Heist'! Luci fits right in – there's a lot of characters in our family, and this tiny girl might have the biggest character of all. We couldn't be happier and she's absolutely adored, not just by us, but by our extended families (because she is impossible not to love). *Li-Anne & Tom*

Fig

I came across Mayhew as a teenager. It's near where my mum grew up so she told me about its long history. When I moved out at 19, I knew I wanted cats as I had grown up with them. I waited until I got my first little garden and got two female cats from Mayhew called Lula and Keloy. Frank and my latest kitten Fig are all from there too. There is an inexplicable moment when you meet 'your' cat. You just know. Rex my 13-year-old is a real cat whisperer and with both Fig and Frank he was the first to say, 'it's that one'. They chose you! We are still in the chaotic stage where she is climbing everything and interested in everything. As I type this out she is trying to walk on my laptop keyboard. She has integrated well with my two boy cats Frank and Simon but definitely annoys Frank a fair bit. She loves attention so sits on my lap when I'm watching films with the kids. She is such an angel and we all love her so much! *Fearne Cotton*

Pepper and Pancake

(formerly Chip and Dale)

As part of the team at Mayhew, it was only a matter of time before a cat or two came home with me! Pepper is a sweet, purry boy who loves to knead and dribble with happiness. He's also very patient when Pancake inevitably bundles in to leap on the toy he's been patiently stalking! Pancake is happy-go-lucky and loves sleeping on your lap, as well as cuddling up with Pepper. They're both so affectionate and we feel very lucky to have them. *Jen & Sam*

Boo & Lumi (Mila's Kittens)

They have grown a lot and they are not shy anymore. They are very playful, it's a joy to have them with us, they bring us a lot of love and a lot of entertainment. *Nancy*

Mila (Boo & Lumi's Mum)

Mila came to stay with us in November.

Although she is the third cat we have adopted over the past 16 years, it was all very much wait and see if she would settle in and get used to her new environment.

We can report that she (and we) passed the test with flying colours and it is a delight to have her as part of our family. Mila settled in very well. She shows a keen interest in the outside world and constantly pops in and out through the cat flap to go off and explore.

She loves to strike up "conversations" with the local birds and she is a bit like a guard dog, constantly surveying the garden to keep neighbourhood cats at bay.

She may be a small cat, but she is very courageous. *Agnes*

Holly Angela

Holly is settling in well and seems very happy in her new home! She has become queen of the sofa and loves all her blankets.

Leo

A look back at 2025...

2025 was another challenging year for Mayhew. With the number of abandoned and vulnerable animals in our care increasing by 15%, we found our own costs continued to soar. But thanks to the commitment of our supporters, like you, we have continued to reach animals and communities facing some of the greatest challenges.

Here's just some of the impact you helped make possible in 2025.

We rehomed **444 cats**

We found forever homes for **82 dogs**

We delivered **2,952** parasite control treatments

We vaccinated **3,078** dogs and cats

We reunited **11 dogs** and **33 cats** with their owners through Pet Refuge

We microchipped **1,300 dogs and cats**

We helped **2,232** new people through TheraPaws

Overseas, we vaccinated **7,583 dogs** against rabies

We supported **79 pets** and their owners in homeless shelters

In Afghanistan and Georgia, we neutered **6,038 dogs**

We trained **77** vets, vet techs and vet students

We gave out **2,414kg of pet food** to local foodbanks

As Mayhew enters its 140th year, we remain steadfast in our mission to tackle the root causes of animal suffering, while supporting vulnerable pet owners across our communities. We will keep on giving vital support and care when its needed most – from working with homeless shelters and food banks – and continue to find loving homes for the dogs and cats who come into our care.

The challenges we face are growing. We need your support now more than ever. If you are able to make a donation in celebration of our 140th anniversary, please go to themayhew.org/tails

Fundraise your way

May for mayhew

What will you do this May for Mayhew?

You know that feeling when May rolls around – longer days, flowers blooming, and two glorious bank holidays. **But for the dogs and cats who rely on us, this May could mean something more .**

We're asking our amazing community (that's you!) to come together and raise money your way, helping vulnerable dogs and cats get the love, care and second chance they deserve.

Here are just a few ways you can get involved:

- Bring joy to your office with a sponsored 'Bring Your Dog to Work Day'
- Get making and baking with a craft or bake sale
- Have a spring clean and sell pre-loved items donating the proceeds to Mayhew
- Enjoy the warmer weather and take on an outdoor challenge
- Wear purple for the day at your school or place of work

So, pop the kettle on, gather your friends and start planning your May fundraiser. We've got free fundraising materials and plenty of ideas to help you get started.

To find out more, just visit: themayhew.org/may

A day in the life of a Foster Carer

Laura with her dog, Eric.

We were delighted to talk to Laura Aikman, one of our wonderful foster carers. You may recognise Laura from the popular BBC sitcom Gavin & Stacey, but away from the screen she plays another important role – helping nervous or vulnerable dogs settle, build confidence and feel safe again.

By opening her home, Laura gives each dog the time, care and reassurance they need to adjust to life in a family environment. Her support helps them take those important first steps towards a happy new beginning.

Can you tell us about how you first became involved with Mayhew?

I first got involved through Mayhew events, and I'd been keeping an eye on the dogs who were struggling to find a home. I remember seeing an older Frenchie called Flo and thinking, "She's so sweet — I don't want her to be overlooked." Someone else adopted her quickly, but when I asked about fostering, the team told me about Bessie, a big mastiff cross who'd been in kennels for months and wasn't coping. That was the beginning for me — and we've never looked back.

What does fostering a dog for Mayhew look like on a typical day for you?

We try to integrate a foster dog into our normal routine as much as we can. At the start, we slow everything down for a few days so someone's home and the dog isn't overwhelmed. Then it becomes: calm mornings, regular walks, and lots of reassurance. We also do things like gentle introductions to travel — even one stop on the overground — because those "real life" experiences can really help a dog feel ready for their next home.

What's the first thing you try to give a foster dog when they arrive in your home?

Stability — and that sense of "you're safe now." When they first arrive, everything is new, so we're really present with them: keeping things calm, giving them reassurance, and just being a constant. It's about helping them settle into a home environment and trust what's happening.

Is there a moment with a foster dog that really sums up why you do this?

With Bessie, it was how fast she changed once she was out of kennels. She'd been barking constantly and was clearly distressed — but within a few days at home, she was completely silent. You could just see that she needed a home environment to decompress. Moments like that make you think, "This is exactly why fostering matters."

What's been the most rewarding part of fostering so far?

Seeing their confidence come back — and watching the physical changes too. With Bessie, her stress behaviours eased, her routine settled quickly, and you could see her start to thrive. It's incredibly gratifying when people at Mayhew say, "Oh my gosh, they look amazing," because you know they're feeling better.

How does fostering fit around your work, family or other commitments?

It's always a bit of a negotiation around schedules, but we make it work. I'm an actor, so my work can be fluid, and my husband Matt is a writer/actor too — usually one of us can be at home if needed. We try to think a few months ahead when deciding whether we can take a dog, and we pause if life is too chaotic (we've got building work and I'm filming in Liverpool at the moment!).

Eric, with Bessie, who Laura fostered

If Laura's story has inspired you to help, but fostering isn't an option for you, why not sponsor one of our Cat Cabins or Dog Kennels? These provide vital shelter for animals in need, giving them warmth, food, their own safe space, with a huge helping of love and cuddles.

Sponsorship is just £2.50 per week and you'll receive a welcome pack and regular updates on our residents' journeys, so you can see firsthand the impact you are making to furry lives, every day.

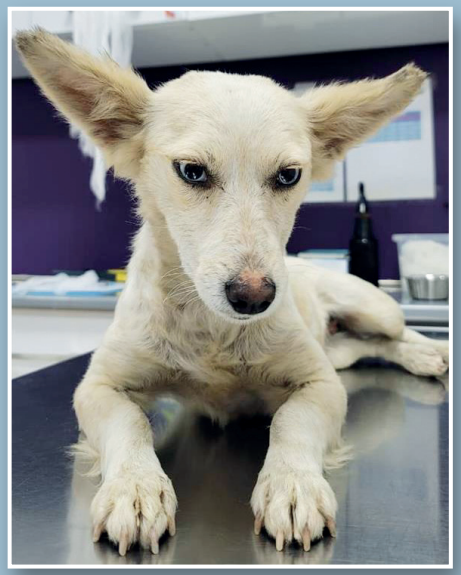
Scan the QR code or visit our sponsor page at

themayhew.org/sponsor

Mayhew International: World Spay Day and beyond

The first few months of the year bring two significant calendar days for those working in international animal welfare: World Spay Day, which is the last Tuesday in February every year and then World Stray Animal Day on 4 April.

World Spay Day highlights the importance of neutering in our efforts to reduce the number of dogs without homes around the globe. It has been proven that neutering ca. 80% or more of a roaming dog population in any targeted area will contain the population, preventing an increase in numbers and gradually seeing the population reduce. But neutering of "unowned" dogs alone will not solve the issue that many countries are trying to deal with.



There needs to be a multi-pronged approach including community engagement in understanding the root causes of roaming dog populations, legislation around breeding and responsible ownership of owned animals, access to preventative veterinary care and input from national and local authorities, NGOs and local people into finding sustainable solutions. Some of these areas are more challenging than others, no one agency can do everything and it must not be forgotten that dog population management is a long-term project.

When devising any programme, there needs to be a starting point. How many dogs are there in your targeted area? What is already happening in your targeted area to address this issue? What financial and personnel resources are available? What training is required for local agents etc.?

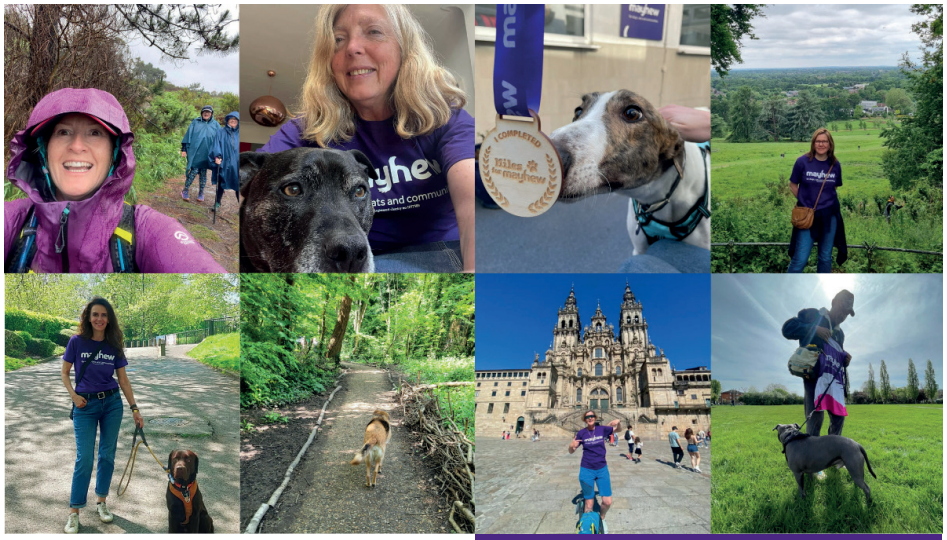
It is also important that the national and local authorities are on board with and contribute to any initiative to ensure sustainability. It is important to ensure that when an NGO goes in somewhere, neuters and vaccinates a certain number of dogs and then leaves, that capacity and competencies have been built with the local community to carry on with the work - animal population management is not a finite problem.

This is how Mayhew operated in Kabul, Afghanistan, negotiating the ending of culling, getting the authorities on board, getting them to contribute, monitoring and evaluating our progress each year to make sure we were on track with our objectives. And this is how Mayhew Georgia's wholly local team is working presently, adjusting our approach to Georgia's needs, environment and resources to enable a healthier, safer and more humane communities for dogs and people alike.

For this year's World Spay Day, our Mayhew Georgia Team worked intensively over 3 days and neutered and vaccinated 47 animals – 36 dogs and 11 cats.

To make a donation towards our vital work for animals overseas, please visit themayhew.org/overseas

Join fellow animal lovers and take on Miles for Mayhew this May!



Move your way. Make every mile count

This May, we're inviting you to join fellow animal lovers and take part in Miles for Mayhew. Whether you skip, run, cycle or spin, every mile you move helps raise vital funds for dogs and cats in need.

Simply choose your distance, complete it at your own pace, and take part wherever suits you.

Miles for mayhew

Sign up for free and receive:

- A Mayhew t-shirt when you set up your JustGiving page
- A water bottle when your raise your first £20
- An exclusive 140th anniversary pin badge when you raise £140
- A special Miles for Mayhew medal when you raise £200

However, you choose to move this May, do it for dogs and cats in need of a brighter future.

Sign up today at themayhew.org/milesformayhew

TheraPaws Milestone and a *Kind* Award for Lorraine and Thistle

TheraPaws is Mayhew's animal-assisted therapy programme, where specially assessed volunteer dogs and their owners visit a wide range of community settings to provide support to different groups, including the elderly, young people with mental health issues and patients in hospitals and clinics. These visits can bring moments of joy and create meaningful connections for people who may be going through challenging times – ultimately improving their health and wellbeing through positive interactions with dogs.

We're delighted to celebrate a special moment for our TheraPaws programme as we mark our **140th TheraPaws engagement so far in this year of our 140th Anniversary** — and recognise one of the wonderful volunteers who helps make these visits so meaningful.

Our volunteer **Lorraine,** together with her Tibetan Terrier **Thistle,** was recently presented with the **Kind Award** at Charing Cross Hospital in London. Lorraine and Thistle visit the hospital every Friday, bringing comfort and smiles to patients across several wards including oncology.

Hospital staff say Thistle's gentle presence brightens the room wherever she goes. Doctors and nurses look forward to their weekly visits just as much as the patients do, often sharing how a few minutes with Thistle can lift spirits during difficult times.

The Kind Award recognises those volunteers who always introduce themselves, have a smile on their face, step in to help, make time for meaningful interactions and show real empathy with our patients and staff

We couldn't be prouder - volunteers like Lorraine — and therapy dogs like Thistle — are at the heart of what makes the TheraPaws programme so special.

If you think your dog might have the right temperament to become a TheraPaws dog, we'd love to hear from you. Visit our website for more information themayhew.org/therapaws

Working Together to Care for Pets: Thank You, Pets Foundation

For the second year running, we're delighted to have the support of Pets Foundation in helping to fund Mayhew's veterinary clinic. Their generous partnership is helping us continue to provide essential care for cats and dogs who are sick, injured or in need of treatment.

Thanks to the Foundation's generosity, our dedicated vets and nurses can deliver vital medical care, helping pets recover, stay healthy and remain with the families who love them. Support like this makes a real difference in our community, ensuring that more animals receive the care they need when they need it most.

We're incredibly grateful to Pets Foundation for standing alongside us and helping to make our work possible, so that more pets can enjoy happy, healthy lives at home.

Pets Club

We're also grateful to have recently started a Community Partnership with our local Pets at Home store in Greenford, London. This partnership will connect Mayhew to a community of pet owners and animal lovers – we're excited to get to know everyone!

If you live nearby, do look out for us in store over the coming months, and don't forget, if you're a regular Pets at Home shopper – either instore elsewhere or online, by joining their Pets Club, you can choose Mayhew as your chosen charity. Not only do you get discount on your spend, Mayhew will also receive vouchers to use to buy the cats and dogs in our care all the things they deserve to bring them joy – like toys, blankets, food and treats.

A huge thank you to our supporters

Filthy Hounds Pet Parlour

Tanya and the team at Filthy Hounds organised a fantastic festive fundraiser, complete with tasty treats, face painting, raffle and more. Bringing together lots of local pet owners, they raised an incredible £987. A heartfelt thank you to Tanya and everyone who took part.

Jackie, Millie and Susy

Jackie, Millie and Susy, employees at Bregal Milestone, embraced the mud to help dogs and cats in need! They took on a Tough Mudder challenge and raised a fantastic £685. What an amazing achievement, thank you so much.

Earlswood Junior School

Last summer, teacher Caitlin adopted two kittens from Mayhew – Korra and Roku. Wanting to give more dogs and cats a brighter future, she organised a sponsored walk with her Year 6 class at Earlswood Junior School. Together, they raised an amazing £306.99. A huge thank you to Caitlin and her wonderful students for their support!

It's our birthday!

mayhew 140

still here for dogs, cats and communities

For 140 years, Mayhew has opened its doors to pets and their people, offering care without judgment to those who need us most. What began in 1886 as 'The Home for Starving and Deserted Cats' has grown into a community lifeline — supporting people experiencing crisis, championing animal welfare, and keeping pets and families together. Our anniversary year celebrates the past, honours the present and looks ahead to a future where compassion is accessible to everyone.

Write your Will for FREE with Mayhew and help us be there for the next 140 years

For 140 years, Mayhew has supported dogs, cats and the people who love them. By leaving a gift in your Will, you can help ensure we're here for the next 140.

Thanks to our partnership with the National Free Wills Network, you can write or update your Will free of charge with a local solicitor.

NATIONAL FREE WILLS NETWORK

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