

Thanks for your support

Here at Stray Aid, we are delighted to be bringing you our new-look newsletter, in what has been a busy few months for us as a charity, working across our four council areas; County Durham, Hartlepool, Darlington, and Middlesbrough, rescuing, reuniting and rehoming the lost, abandoned, abused, or unwanted dogs found on the streets of the North East. Covering such a large geographical area means that Stray Aid is now firmly established as one of the region's leading animal rescue charities.

Unfortunately, many of the dogs who arrive at our rescue centre are suffering from physical and mental health conditions, often due to abuse or neglect. However, we are here to help. Our on-site veterinary facilities sets us apart from many other rescue and rehoming centres, allowing us to offer immediate treatment when a sick or injured dog is brought to us. And thanks to our incredibly dedicated staff and volunteers, as well as working with other local and national charities, we are able to ensure that each dog gets the care, support, and rehabilitation they need.

Most importantly, we could not do any of this work without the support of people like you. We are incredibly grateful to all our supporters, whether that be donating via direct debit, donating goods for sale in one of our charity shops or use in our kennels, volunteering your time and skills, or simply sharing our Facebook posts. It all makes a difference and enables us to help even more dogs in the future.

Thank you.



Ginny waiting for her forever home



Children engaging with 'Paws in the Playground'

'Paws in the Playground'

In 2019, Stray Aid launched a new community engagement project called 'Paws in the Playground', aiming to educate children about responsible dog ownership, current dog laws, and how to stay safe around dogs. Working with local schools, we engaged with teachers and children through assemblies and workshops, helping them to gain a better understanding of dogs, their needs, and how to behave around dogs, particularly unfamiliar dogs. In doing so, children are taught how to recognise what a dog's body language means and how to understand how that dog might be feeling. This is done through interactive session in which children can get involved and ask questions.

'Paws in the Playground' has been a huge success, and great fun for all involved, engaging students and teachers with the benefit of interacting with dogs, including how dog walking can be a good form of exercise for everyone, as well as being mentally stimulating for dogs. Feedback from schools has been excellent, with the project being used to support learning standards in-line with the National Curriculum.

In 2019, we engaged with an average of 845 school children each month, helping them to get a greater understanding of dogs through interactions with some of the dogs in our care. However, to enable us to continue to reach as many children as possible within our local community, we need to continue to raise funds to support our expenses, such as insurance and transportation costs.

Wallace's Story

Every day, here at Stray Aid, dogs come through our doors in desperate need of our love, support and shelter. Unfortunately, some of those dogs need more than a safe place to wait until they find their forever home - Wallace's story is one such case.

In October, 10 year old German Shepherd, Wallace was found wondering alone, with no family insight, and therefore he was brought to us by a local dog warden. Upon arrival, it quickly became apparent that Wallace had suffered neglect, with an oozing, infected sebaceous cyst on his hip, and during the initial examination, further cysts were found across his body, on his neck and between his toes. One can only imagine how uncomfortable this must have been for Wallace, walking the streets without a soft bed to rest on. Thanks to our on-site veterinary facilities, we were able to start him on antibiotics, giving his skin the best chance of healing after the lengthy surgery required to get him back to health. Sadly, Wallace's coat had been badly neglected. On the day of his surgery, it took 90 minutes to shave off his knotted fur, with a total of 27 cysts being painstakingly identified and removed. In all, his surgery took 5 hours to complete.

After several weeks of post-op' monitoring and rehabilitation, he was ready to go up for rehoming. We are delighted to say that Wallace has now found his forever home, and has celebrated his first Christmas with his new family and best friend (a fellow German Shepard).



Wallace (front) in his new forever home

Here at Stray Aid, we work tirelessly to help over 1,000 stray dogs each year from across North East England. Work which would not be possible without the efforts of our generous supporters, volunteers and staff. There are many ways in which you can continue to support Stray Aid, whether its donating via direct debit, donating goods for sale in one of our charity shops or use in our kennels, adopting one of our dogs, or volunteering your time and skills - your support is greatly appreciated.



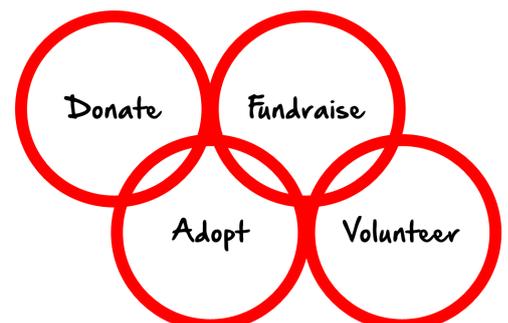
Fleas found on a puppy brought to Stray Aid

Vet's Topic - Fleas

With spring just around the corner, the fleas will soon be becoming more active, and with central heating in our homes, they can survive in our homes all year round. You should check your dog's coat regularly, looking for black specks of 'flea dirt' next to the skin. The above photo shows just a small sample of fleas, 'flea dirt', hair and skin recovered from a puppy brought to us in a poor condition.

Adult fleas feed on blood from your pet, producing up to 40 eggs per day. These eggs are laid on your pet, but with movement, are dropped into carpets and soft furnishings. These eggs can hatch within two days, but can take up to two weeks. Once hatched, the larvae appear white, almost see-through, and are approximately 6-7mm long. After a few days, they form a cocoon, which lives in the environment for a few days or weeks, depending on the conditions. These cocoons are sticky, so they can hide deep in carpets, on and under furnishings, such as between cushions and on top of skirting boards, and are not easily removed. Once the adult flea emerges, they need to feed on blood within a few hours, with the cycle starting again, living for up to a few months.

If you find fleas, their 'dirt', or eggs, remember to treat the whole house. Vacuum regularly, thoroughly washing bedding and toys in hot, soapy water. Use an environmental spray throughout the house. At the same time, treat all pets with an approved veterinary treatment. Closely follow all product instructions. If fleas persist, seek veterinary advice.



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