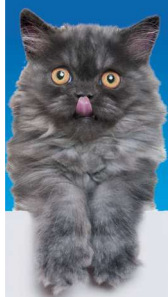


IT'S ADOPTOBER!



THIS month the RSPCA has launched a new rehoming drive called Adoptober, to raise awareness of some of the animals in the charity's care who desperately need a forever home.

WHAT DOES THE RSPCA DO?

The RSPCA rescues and rehabilitates animals in need who have been poorly treated or abandoned, or are in desperate need of care.

Each year, the RSPCA rehomes more than 44,000 animals. While many of those animals are snapped up by new families within just a few weeks, others can spend much longer patiently waiting for their fur-ever home.

Sam Gaines (above, right), head of the companion animals department at the RSPCA, said: "As part of our rehoming drive this October – called Adoptober – we want to shine a light on all of the animals in our care and encourage people to adopt instead of buying a pet. All the animals in our care have lots of love to give and we have a huge variety of animals waiting for homes, of all ages, shapes, sizes and breeds."



MEET AVA AND KITTEN ZOIEY

Ten-year-old Ava took a chance on Zoey, a young kitten who had been badly injured when she suffered a dog bite, and thankfully was saved by vets. "Zoey has always made my day by meowing or just being there for me even in tough times," said Ava.

Zoey, an eight-month-old ginger kitten, came into one of the charity's animal hospitals in March with severe injuries to her face. Luckily the vets at the hospital were able to help Zoey get the care she needed.

Ava said: "When we took her home, she ran out of her basket and fell in love with her new home.

"Every time I get home from school she's waiting for me. We have lots of cuddles and fun together.

"I want to say thank you to the amazing staff that work at the RSPCA for helping my little baby on her troublesome journey.

"Her personality is very bubbly and joyful and I hope she stays that way forever! Zoey makes me feel overjoyed and as warm as a fresh waffle."

Ava is also no stranger to the responsibilities that come along with being a pet owner and the messier side of caring for a kitten!

She added: "One of my favourite memories was when she went for a poo and pooped on the wall; it was so funny but I had to clean it up! It was so smelly!"



Ava and Zoey

IT'S NOT JUST CATS

All kinds of animals come to the RSPCA for rehoming. Check out these cool facts about some of them.

Rabbits do eat their own poo!

Rabbits eat large amounts of low-quality food, so in order to get the most nutrients out of their diet, they eat a certain kind of droppings called 'caecotrophs', which provides them with even more nutrition!



Guinea pigs are born fully formed!

Unlike other animals who may be born deaf and blind or without fur, baby guinea pigs are born fully furred, with their eyes open and their teeth properly developed. Pups begin to eat solid food from the day they are born, although they still need mum's milk for about three weeks.



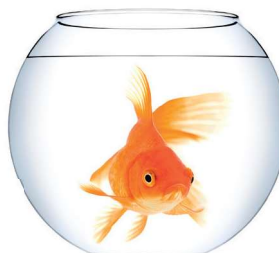
Dogs can hear FOUR times better than humans!

At certain frequencies, dogs can detect sounds up to four times quieter than humans can hear. They can also hear in ultrasound, which is sound with a frequency greater than the upper limit of human hearing.



Goldfish can live longer than most cats and dogs!

A common myth about goldfish is that they live for about five years and grow to about 12cm in length, but they have been known to live for up to 25 years and reach more than 40cm!



See the animals looking for new homes at www.rspca.org.uk/findapet

If you are not in a position to give a pet a home this October, you can still help thousands of animals in our care by donating at www.rspca.org.uk/donateadoptober

Questions on: 'It's Adoptober'



Part A: Find and explain the facts

- A1.** What is Adoptober?
- A2.** Write a summary explaining what the RSPCA does.
- A3.** Who are the following people?

Sam Gaines	
Ava	

- A4.** Fill the gaps in order to complete the sentence.

Ava took a chance on a young _____ who had been badly injured when she suffered a _____ bite. Zoey came into one of the charity's animal hospitals in _____ with severe injuries to her _____. Luckily, the _____ at the hospital were able to help Zoey.

- A5.** Identify the animal being described and explain the clue.

Clue	Animal being described	Explanation
It eats its own poo.		
It is born fully formed.		
It can hear four times better than humans.		
It can live longer than most cats and dogs.		

Part B: Deduce and infer information

- B1.** Suggest why the RSPCA have used the term "Adoptober."
- B2.** If the RSPCA rehomes more than 44,000 animals each year, then why is Adoptober necessary?
- B3.** What do you think Ava means when she says that Zoey makes her feel "as warm as a fresh waffle"?
- B4.** Why is the story about Ava and Zoey included in this report?
- B5.** Why do you think that the RSPCA felt the need to include a section with the sub-heading "It's not just cats"?

Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation

- C1.** How is language used in order to appeal to *First News*' young readership?
- C2.** Why are so many pictures included with this report?

Part D: Writing task

"Pets should always be adopted instead of bought from a breeder or pet shop." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.