

The Mayhew Animal Home comment on proposed Care Homes and Sheltered Accommodation (Domestic Pets) Bill

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March the proposed Bill regarding domestic pets being allowed in care home and sheltered accommodation will have a second reading in the House of Commons.

The Mayhew Animal Home backs the launch of MP Nigel Waterson's Private Members Bill in December 2009 to increase the opportunity for domestic pet owners to keep their pets with them if they have to go in to sheltered accommodation and care homes.

The Mayhew Animal Home, and other rescue centres up and down the country, deal daily with a constant influx of unwanted and abandoned pets from many sources, some sadly coming into us when their original owners move into sheltered housing or residential care homes that presently do not allow the keeping of domestic pets . This is doubly distressing when sometimes the domestic pet is the only family that person may have.

The Mayhew provides a range of Community Animal Care Programmes in London, which includes a scheme for taking some of the animals from the Home on visits to residential care homes for the elderly and sick.

There is plenty of evidence available nowadays to support the benefit animals give to people in such environments and the enjoyment, comfort and stimulation many of the residents get from The Mayhew animals is a delight to see. So much so, that some of the care homes we regularly visit have gone on to adopt animals from The Mayhew, thereby helping The Mayhew find a new, loving home for an animal and providing the residents with a faithful companion.

Caroline Yates, CEO, The Mayhew Animal Home