



## Betty's story

This activity is suitable for five to eight-year-olds and relates to 'sequencing'; a skill that children of this age are taught in English. All of the resources needed are attached below.

### Activities

1. Show the picture of grown up Betty
2. Read Betty's story aloud, stopping to explain any words that your child(ren) may be unfamiliar with
3. Explain that today's activity is going to be based around Betty's story. We have a number of pictures that show Betty's story from being a puppy in a Blue Cross rehoming centre to being a fully grown dog in her new home. Your child(ren)'s task will be to put the pictures in order and, if they are able, write a short explanation of the picture underneath so that Betty's story is told again. Read Betty's story aloud as many times as they need to get the order right.
4. Once ordered, ask your child(ren): "Are there any places where not quite having them in the same order doesn't matter too much? Are there any pictures where it really matters where the picture is placed in the sequence?"
5. Extension ideas
6. Finding the right home for a puppy is so important. At Blue Cross we ask questions to the people who would like to adopt a pet to make sure their home would be right for that pet.
7. What do you think we ask? What do you need to know? Write some questions you might like to ask someone who would like to rehome a pet. Would they be different types of questions for different pets?

## Betty's story

I was born in a Blue Cross Rehoming Centre in Southampton. My mum was thrown out of her home when her owners realised that she was going to have puppies. They didn't want to have to find a home for more Staffie puppies so she had to wander the streets until a kind person found her and brought her to Blue Cross. I can't remember any of that though – that was before I was born. The first thing that I can remember is being snuggled up with my sisters in a nice warm bed.

To start with I just spent a lot of time with my sisters, but as we got older the Blue Cross team wanted us to be prepared for living in a home, so lots of new experiences were given to us.

We were taken for walks outside on the grass so we knew what it felt like. There were lots of new smells for us to investigate and games we could play together outside.

Then we were introduced to children and other dogs so we wouldn't be frightened of them when we went to our new homes.

We even got to play behind the Reception desk at the rehoming centre so that we were around people as much as possible. I liked getting cuddles and listening to people speak on the phone.

Sometimes the vet would visit. She was very kind and checked me all over to make sure I was healthy. One day she poked a needle into me, and I didn't like that, but the Blue Cross team said it was a special injection of medicine so I wouldn't get poorly, so not to worry, and I got fed treats while it happened so that I didn't notice it as much.



## Betty's story

Then one day I was taken away from my sisters to meet a nice lady by myself. She was a lot of fun. She came quite a few times to visit just me and I felt very special.

One special day the nice lady came with a new collar and lead and a nice blanket to wrap me up in and said I was 'going home'. We went in a car and when we got out again we were next to a house that had my very own garden.

I'm a very happy dog now. I'm all grown up and I've learnt lots of tricks and I know how to sit very smartly in the garden while my photo is taken.







