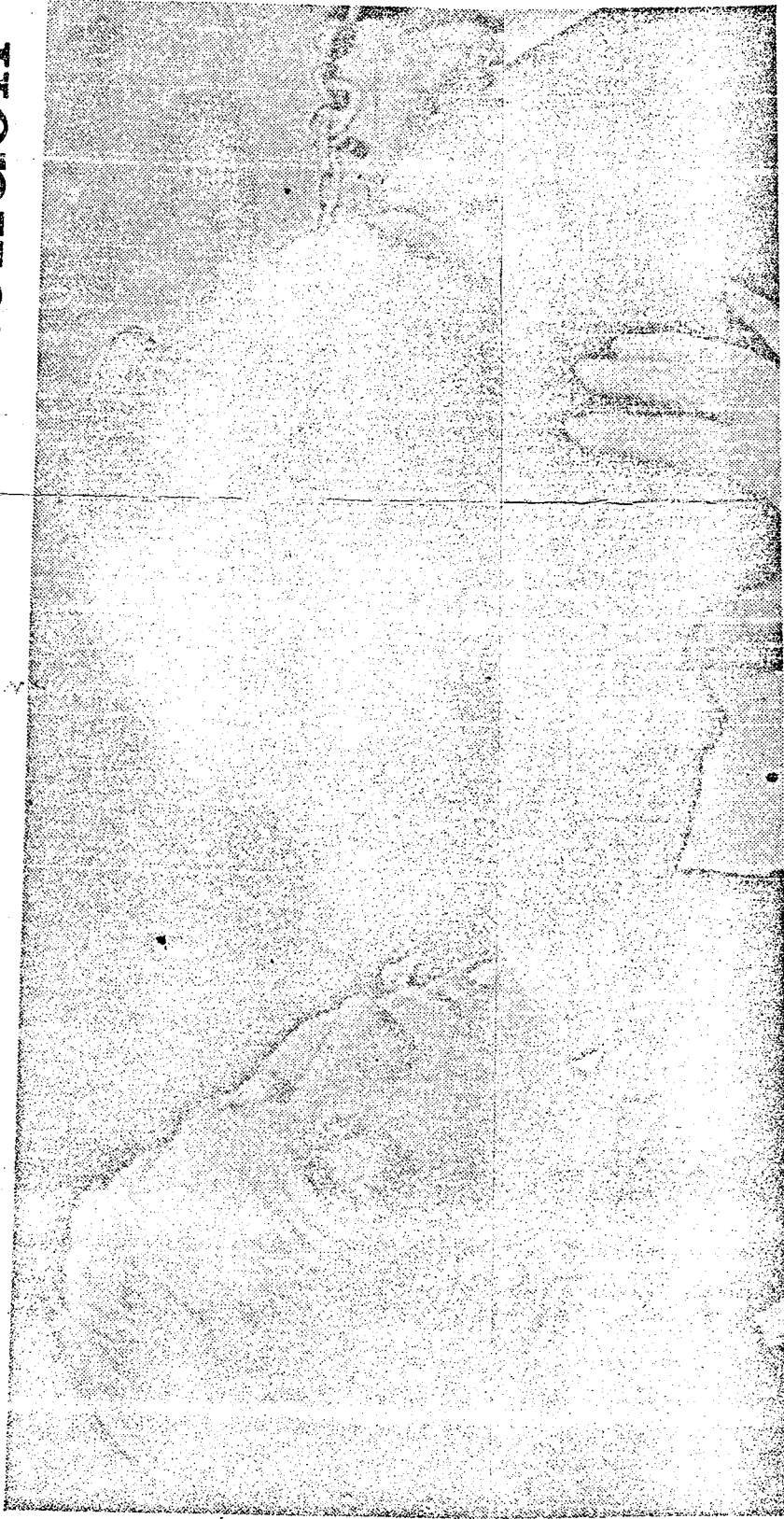


Barney: victim of cruel London



Evening Standard picture: DANNY ELWES

A DOG TO BE PROUD OF . . . Barney returns the affection Inspector Jan Eachus has shown him since rescue.

CHAINED to the balcony of a council flat in south London, Barney the Alsatian was slowly being starved to death.

He had been so badly treated by his owner that he was emaciated and hardly able to stand.

His pitiful cries for help alerted neighbours who called in RSPCA Inspector Jan Eachus. And after Jan "adopted" him he is now happy, full of life and back to health, as our picture shows.

by Adrian Shaw

But Barney's ill-treatment is a horrifying example of the way animals are abused in Britain today —and Londoners are near the top of the cruelty league.

Figures released by the RSPCA show that cases of cruelty to animals last year topped all previous records. Nationally, there were 83,300 complaints to the char-

ity, compared with 64,628 the previous year.

And in London and the South-east, the figures rose from 9020 to 12,124—an increase of more than a third. Only the North-east has a higher percentage increase.

Barney's story had a happy ending after he was rescued a year ago and joined Jan's other pets, Bobbie, the border collie, and two cats called Ginger and Charlie at his home in Upper Norwood.

Jan said: "When I first saw him, he

looked like an underfed whippet. He weighed just 25lb even though he was probably a year old.

"He was literally skin and bone and was very morose and could hardly walk. He had been chained up and just left."

After being examined by a vet, Barney was taken home by 42-year-old Jan and gratefully wolfed down a bowl of dog food.

Now the RSPCA is campaigning for a change in the animal welfare laws in a bid to crack down