



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

**Independent examiner's report  
on the accounts**

Section A

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Charity Name

Home Counties Boxer Welfare

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1006246

**Set out on pages**

6 & 7

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2022.

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Signed:**

**Date:** 01/03/2023

**Name:**

Chris Hinks

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

**Address:**

20 Buckingham Way, Frimley

Surrey. GU16 8XF





## **Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts for the period**

**from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

**Charity name: Home Counties Boxer Welfare**

**Charity registration number: 1006246**

### **Objectives and Activities**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document</p>                             | <p>The stated aim of the charity is: <b>"The relief of sick, ill-treated, neglected or rejected dogs, in particular dogs of the Boxer breed."</b></p> <p>Our activities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Rehoming dogs who can no longer stay in their current homes, where necessary using a network of foster homes and kennels.</li><li>2. Meeting veterinary costs for dogs both in our care and also for some who remain with their families or are with other rescues.</li><li>3. Providing behaviourist support to help dogs overcome issues which may arise from lack of training or even abusive treatment.</li><li>4. Providing advice and support to boxer owners on training, health and other boxer issues; giving encouragement and confidence to help them and their dog enjoy a positive and fun relationship.</li><li>5. Co-ordinating home checks and follow-up visits through a network of volunteers for potential adopters, adopting homes, fosterers and foster homes.</li><li>6. Fundraising via a range of activities to financially support the charity's operational costs.</li><li>7. Liaising with HCBW members through the issue of the annual 'Newslink' magazine, and the HCBW Facebook group and pages.</li></ol> <p>HCBW is a breed specific rescue. We are involved only with boxer dogs and sometimes boxer crosses. We believe boxers are unique and because of their distinctive behaviours and generally high energy, ensuring the dog is in the right empathetic home is very important. The knowledge within the charity gained over many years has proved invaluable in the successful rehoming of many dogs. We take care in seeking the right home for each and every dog and in the rare cases where this goes wrong or the circumstances in the new home change adversely, we are there to take the dog back into our care.</p> <p>In 2021 we incorporated Norfolk Boxer Rescue within HCBW and over 2022 the relationship firmly cemented in all areas from dog care and management matters to financial ones.</p> |
| <p>Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the</p> | <p>During the year we rehomed 40 dogs, mainly rehoming from home to home but we did use kennels where needed. Two dogs, although beautiful had specific behavioural challenges which required a lot of diligence to find the right home for them. Homes that can give dogs that something extra are like gold dust and often difficult to find. The meet and greet for those dogs needed to be carefully</p>  |



|   |  |
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| <p>activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.</p>   | <p>managed and more than one meeting was necessary. It also took time to support the new families during the early days.</p> <p>In addition to the re-homings, we also facilitated a welfare stay for one of our dogs previously rehomed and discussed potential re-homings with four more families who in the end, with advice from ourselves, decided to keep their dogs. Very sadly a staunch supporter of the charity died in the year and we helped with finding a new home for her much loved dog, formerly adopted from ourselves.</p> <p>Very sadly one older dog came to us in very poor health and on a vet's advice she was put to sleep to end her suffering.</p> <p>On the financial front, we supported the costs as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Where dogs come into our care and are already on medication it is impossible for owners to get insurance to cover those ailments and we take the responsibility for funding the veterinary costs for those known issues.</li> <li>2. We fund the costs of neutering for those dogs who are entire when they come into rescue</li> <li>3. We respond to requests for financial help for boxer dogs or boxer crosses with other charities who require veterinary care and where funds are tight. £3,278.59 was spent in supporting other rescues.</li> <li>4. We helped two private individuals to meet the veterinary costs for their own dogs, paying £1987.69 towards their costs.</li> <li>5. We have an Oldies Scheme to encourage the adoption of older dogs and help to meet costs for which insurance cover is prohibitive. These costs amounted to £7,665.04</li> </ol> |
| <p>Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit</p> | <p>HCBW's paramount concern is for the welfare of our dogs. When a dog comes into our care we endeavour to assess fully before seeking a suitable home. When seeking that home, we are mindful of the abilities and expectations of potential adopters and their resident &amp; frequent visiting families and friends. We do not rehome rescue dogs to homes with children unless we feel confident about the dog's background and history, and believe the dog and children will be able to cope.</p>  |
| <p>Contribution made by volunteers</p>  | <p>Our foster homes remain very special to us, and we work closely with them regarding any support they need for the care of our dogs.</p> <p>We continue to be indebted to the small army of volunteers across a wide swathe of the country, who home-check for us, often with little notice, and who diligently check out applicants' homes for suitability to adopt or foster. Although named Home Counties we routinely cover the Midlands down to the West Country and across to Norfolk, Suffolk &amp; Essex from Gloucester, Worcester and occasionally Wales. We are delighted to continue to benefit from the volunteer support from former Norfolk Boxer Rescue supporters.</p> <p>We remain grateful to the regular sponsorships and donations made to support the running of HCBW. Members and supporters prove themselves selfless and generous, enabling us to provide the support to the dogs in our care, even during the difficult times we have all found ourselves in this year. We are also indebted for the kindness of those who remembered HCBW in their wills through leaving a legacy, and to the family and friends of dog lovers who gave donations in lieu of funeral flowers in their memory.</p>   |
| <p>Other</p>  | <p>During normal years HCBW would organise two Fun Dog Shows as well as a Christmas party. This year we were able to hold one social event which included</p>  |



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|  | a fun dog show, as well as our Christmas party. Both of these events raised much needed funds for the charity. |
|--|--|

## Achievements and Performance

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|---|--|
| Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole. | <p>Please see above for the main activities of the charity in the year. The majority of the rehomed dogs go on to lead happy lives without significant help and further support of HCBW.</p> <p>We maintain a continual connection with new families either with direct contact through the trustee or volunteer who oversaw the rehoming, and/or via update posts on our Facebook page. The welfare of HCBW's dogs is our main priority, and we will provide support wherever it is needed.</p> <p>We took miscellaneous phone calls seeking help and advice on behavioural and feeding issues and provided the help we could.</p>  |
| Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set  | <p>The return to normal fundraising activities post-Covid has been slow. At the beginning of the year, appetite for events seemed sluggish and it was not until September that we hosted a pared-back Fun Day aimed at bringing boxer dog owners and supporters together for an informal catch up. This was held at Tyttenhanger Green and was very well received, raising funds through donations, the sale of merchandise and refreshments. We followed this with a Christmas Party at the end of November which was not so well attended but those there were very generous with donations and with the purchase of 2023 Calendars and Christmas cards.</p> <p>We continued to raise money via an on-line shop, accessed through our website, selling boxer-related merchandise, including Christmas cards and our own HCBW Calendar.</p> |

## Financial Review

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period            | Financial Statement attached.   |
| Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held | The charity has invested money accrued over many years, including from significant legacies in past years. The funds are held to be used by the Trustees in order to cover any costs which may occur not covered by income. This year our excess costs over income, mainly for veterinary and kennelling expenses, totalled £22,205.71. Readily accessible monies are held in bank and building society deposits, with the larger sum held in a portfolio of funds managed by Fidelity Wealth Management, Bath. |
| Amount of reserves held  | At 31 December 2022, monies held totalled £396,510.51. This is a significant reduction from 31 December 2021 and reflects adverse trading conditions on stock markets where our portfolio suffered a deficit of £43,318.16 in the year. We have invested in ethical holdings and these took a sharp knock downwards in the markets.   |
| The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)           | HCBW generates funds from adoption fees, membership subscriptions, regular sponsorship donations, one-off donations and events such as our fun dogs shows and Christmas party.  |



|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | We also have a portfolio of funds generating a regular return on our long-term investment referred to above.  |
| A description of the principal risks facing the charity | <p>The number of boxer dog litters registered with the kennel club has declined which in turn seems to reduce the number of dogs coming into rescue, but from our activities it does appear there is still a need for the work and support we do.</p> <p>Our volunteers and trustees are aging and although we have some great volunteers to help with the dog-related activities eg, assessing dogs, home-checking potential new homes, we struggle to find boxer lovers willing to take on Trustee and Committee Membership responsibilities.</p> |

## Structure, Governance and Management

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Type of governing document  | HCBW is governed by a written constitution, adopted at the AGM in 2012   |
| How is the charity constituted?   | HCBW is an unincorporated charity.   |
| Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees | Trustees are elected from the membership at the AGM, being proposed and seconded by members. Trustees are elected, or re-elected, every year |

## Reference and Administrative details

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Charity name                | Home Counties Boxer Welfare                                |
| Other name the charity uses | HCBW   |
| Registered charity number   | 1006246  |
| Charity's principal address | 26 Latimer<br>Stony Stratford<br>Milton Keynes<br>MK11 1HY |
|                             |  |

## Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the Charity

| Trustees name      | Office if any | Dates acted if not the whole year |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Donna Russell      | Chairperson   |                                   |
| Karen Kerby        | Secretary     |                                   |
| Lorraine Harvey    | Treasurer     |                                   |
| Sue Armstrong      |               |                                   |
| Angela Barber      |               |                                   |
| Eleanor Barton     |               |                                   |
| Tracey Lowes       |               |                                   |
| Julie Semmence     |               |                                   |
| Rosemary Westbrook |               |                                   |
|                    |               |                                   |

## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Description of the assets held in this capacity | N/A |
|---|-----|

## Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

| Type of adviser | Name                       | Address   |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---|
| Financial       | Fidelius Wealth Management | Alexander House, James Street West<br>Bath, BA1 2BT |

## Declarations

|  |                      |                    |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|
| The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report and Accounts above |                      |                    |
| Signed on behalf of the HCBW Trustees  |                      |                    |
| Signature(s)   | <i>Donna Russell</i> | <i>Karen Kerby</i> |
| Full name(s)   | DONNA RUSSELL        | Karen Kerby        |
| Position (e.g. Secretary, Chair, etc)  | CHAIR                | Secretary          |
| Date   | 4 MARCH 2023         | 4th March 2023     |





# HOME COUNTIES BOXER WELFARE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

| Income for the year  | 2022 |                    | 2021 |                   |
|--|------|--------------------|------|-------------------|
| Subscriptions  | 2022 | £770.00            | 2021 | £690.00           |
|  | 2023 | <u>£240.00</u>     | 2022 | <u>£270.00</u>    |
|  |      | £1,010.00          |      | £960.00           |
| Sponsorship  |      | £5,324.00          |      | £6,527.38         |
| Gift aid on Virgin Money donations                                   |      | £0.00              |      | £346.12           |
| Donations for adopted dogs   |      | £7,792.60          |      | £3,210.00         |
| Payments under Oldies Scheme   |      | £1,660.00          |      | £1,870.00         |
| Donations including legacies and in memoriam donations               |      |                    |      | £12,063.09        |
| Donations  |      | £7,648.67          |      |                   |
| Legacies and in memoriam donations                                   |      | £7,293.44          |      |                   |
| Fundraising from Paypal Giving, Amazon, Easy Click, Easy Fundraising |      | £1,079.66          |      | £1,410.35         |
| Gift Aid refund from HMRC  |      | £2,171.97          |      |                   |
| Merchandise sales  |      | £1,570.18          |      |                   |
| less postage & package   |      | <u>£149.98</u>     |      | £1,335.50         |
|  |      | £1,420.20          |      |                   |
| Investment income  |      |                    |      |                   |
| Bank and building society interest receivable                        |      |                    |      |                   |
| Barclays Deposit   |      | £3.52              |      | £2.71             |
| Manchester Building Society  |      | <u>£8.59</u>       |      | <u>£14.44</u>     |
|  |      | £12.11             |      | £17.15            |
| Total income   |      | £35,412.65         |      | £27,739.59        |
| Expenses   |      |                    |      |                   |
| Stock purchases for fund generation                                  |      | £183.90            |      | £105.44           |
| Dog care and welfare activities                                      |      |                    |      |                   |
| Veterinary costs   |      | £43,342.30         |      | £19,001.85        |
| Kennels charges  |      | £3,489.50          |      | £1,246.60         |
| Travelling costs   |      | £2,337.30          |      | £988.60           |
| Miscellaneous dog related expenses                                   |      | £171.00            |      | £20.00            |
| Foster dog expenses  |      | £176.64            |      | £488.12           |
| Donations for vet costs for dogs in other rescues or owner           |      | £5,266.28          |      | £3,012.80         |
| Support costs  |      |                    |      |                   |
| Insurance  |      | £496.60            |      | £390.20           |
| AGM, Shows & Rallies   |      | £96.00             |      | £0.00             |
| Website and software costs   |      | £933.88            |      | £804.88           |
| Printing & Stationery.   |      | £257.96            |      | £431.95           |
| Newslink production  |      | £209.00            |      | £215.35           |
| Miscellaneous expenses   |      | £78.00             |      | £173.00           |
| Legal fees   |      | £580.00            |      | £0.00             |
| Total payments made  |      | <u>£57,618.36</u>  |      | <u>£26,878.79</u> |
| Excess of expenditure over income                                    |      | <u>-£22,205.71</u> |      | <u>£858.80</u>    |

|                             |             |                                |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Value of investments</b> | LTI         | £409,799.93                    | £393,668.65                   |
|                             | Revaluation | <u>-£43,318.16</u> £366,481.77 | <u>£16,131.28</u> £409,799.93 |

#### Monies held

|                          |                    |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Cash                     | £66.47             | £0.17              |
| Bank current account     | £4,569.12          | £5,787.84          |
| Bank deposit account     | £7,735.47          | £28,731.95         |
| Building society account | £17,186.05         | £17,177.46         |
| Paypal                   | £471.63 £30,028.74 | £537.03 £52,234.45 |

£396,510.51

£462,034.38

#### Non- monetary assets

|             |                           |         |
|-------------|---------------------------|---------|
| Merchandise | £169.24                   | £316.37 |
| PA system   | Written down value £42.18 | £56.25  |