



Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts

for the period
from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

Charity name: Home Counties Boxer Welfare

Charity registration number: 1006246

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	<p>The stated aim of the charity is: "The relief of sick, ill-treated, neglected or rejected dogs, in particular dogs of the Boxer breed."</p> <p>Our activities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Rehoming dogs who can no longer stay in their current homes, preferably from home to home but where necessary using a network of foster homes and kennels.2. Meeting veterinary costs for dogs both in our care and also for some who remain with their families or who are in other rescues.3. Providing behaviourist support to help dogs overcome issues which may arise from lack of training or even abusive treatment.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.5. Co-ordinating home checks and follow-up visits through a network of volunteers for potential adopters, adopting homes, fosterers and foster homes.6. Fundraising via a range of activities to financially support the charity's operational costs.7. Liaising with HCBW members through the issue of the annual 'Newslink' magazine. <p>HCBW is a breed specific rescue. We are involved only with Boxer dogs and sometimes Boxer crosses. We try to help wherever we can and this year we have helped nine boxer crosses as opposed to much smaller numbers in earlier years. 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>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	<p>2023 was a busy year for the charity. We rehomed 44 dogs, and helped a further 3 remain in their homes. At the year-end we had 5 of our dogs in foster. Two of whom were in long term foster care, three who were actively seeking homes and in addition we had a further two who were with us temporarily for a welfare stay whilst their owners were unwell.</p> <p>Very sadly 2 dogs died in foster in the year. One came in with a terminal illness which we quickly discovered and another was elderly and survived very happily in foster for almost a year before becoming ill. We also had the heartache of</p>

	<p>euthanising an adult male. He was highly traumatised before coming to us and was showing signs of significant aggression. It was a decision we took with heavy and unwilling hearts, but one that was proposed by and supported by the vet and dog warden services.</p> <p>Our foster homes remain very special to us, and we work closely with them about any support they need for the care of our dogs. All foster dog vet bills are covered by HCBW and, where necessary, food is provided, especially if the dog requires a special diet.</p> <p>As in previous years our veterinary costs continue to be our major expense. We have had a number of dogs that we have rehomed requiring expensive veterinary treatment for pre-existing conditions, including mainly allergy and skin conditions. Such conditions will not be covered by any pet insurance and so HCBW make arrangements to help finance such situations.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	HCBW strive to take into consideration both the needs of the dogs and the expectations of any potential adopters. Where a dog comes into our care, he or she is our prime concern. We endeavour to assess the dog fully before seeking a suitable home. Where the previous background is unknown, we will not rehome a dog with young children or older vulnerable children and/or vulnerable adults. All potential homes are considered based on the same criteria - the welfare of the dog.
Contribution made by volunteers	<p>We are indebted to the small army of volunteers across a wide swathe of the land, 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 East Anglia and Kent from Gloucester, Worcester and occasionally Wales,</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.</p>
Other	As with the previous year, we reached out to other charities and individual owners to help with veterinary costs thus enabling life changing/saving treatment which otherwise would not have been available for the dogs. In the year we donated £6050 to other registered dog charities and over £8,000 to individuals where they lacked the funds to meet the essential veterinary costs.

Achievements and Performance

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>HCBW successfully placed 44 dogs into new, loving homes where their needs and welfare are being managed. The majority of these dogs go on to lead happy lives without the 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 plus via update e-mails and 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 were able to provide support for three dogs to remain with their loving families. This included providing short term foster care for them whilst their family circumstances went through a temporary period of change.</p> <p>We also provided behavioural support for some as well as moral support for owners who just needed to be reassured that their dog was fine.</p>
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	We were upset to deny help to two dogs whose behaviour was too challenging to safely rehome them.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	<p>We scheduled an informal fundraising dog show in the early Summer at an outdoor venue. However, the weather was exceptionally hot and for the welfare of the dogs, we postponed the event. We rescheduled for the autumn and unbelievably the weather on that day was even hotter than the summer so, in consideration for the dogs we cancelled effectively meaning we held no fundraising events in the year.</p> <p>We continued with on-line sales of merchandise, including our own calendar featuring our rescued dogs and also our uniquely designed Christmas cards.</p>
Investment performance against objectives	N/A
Other	

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 several legacies and other donations. The funds are held to be used by the Trustees in order to cover any costs which may occur. Over recent years we have operated at an annual loss and the funds have been used to cover these. Following practise established in 2022, we have reached out to other boxer rescue charities to offer financial help with their veterinary costs. We have also responded to financial requests towards veterinary care from boxer dog owners who otherwise could be forced to give up or rehome their dogs very much against their wishes. Readily accessible monies are held in bank deposits with the larger sum held in a portfolio of funds managed by Fidelity Wealth Management, Bath.
Amount of reserves held	£390,743.18
Reasons for holding zero reserves	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Whilst we have a small army of volunteers who undertake home checks, offers of help with transporting dogs and assisting at dog shows, we continue to struggle to attract new volunteers to take up the role of trustee/committee members which is essential to ensure HCBW continues to operate .
The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	HCBW generated funds from adoption fees, membership subscriptions, regular sponsorship donations and one-off donations. We have also very gratefully received legacies from the wills of two people this year totalling £25,000 . A further £2,862.90 was received in memory of loved ones where the families kindly nominated the charity to receive donations on the death of their loved ones.

	We also have a portfolio of funds generating a regular return on our long term investment.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	The requests for help have continued with financial constraints continuing to be one of the main causes of dogs coming into rescue. The costs of dog ownership are increasing, particularly for insurance and vet bills which is causing people to relinquish their dogs to our care, particularly following relationship breakups . Financial constraint IS one of several main reasons why fewer people are looking to own larger dogs.
Other	

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 Stony Stratford Milton Keynes 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	
Rosemary Westbrook		
Eleanor Barton		
Tracey Lowes		
Angela Barber		
Julie Semmence		
Sue Armstrong		To 5 March 2023

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
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Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

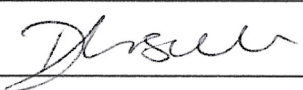
Type of adviser	Name	Address
Financial	Fideliis Wealth Management	Alexander House, James Street West Bath, BA1 2BT

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

N/A

Declarations

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report and Accounts above		
Signed on behalf of the HCBW Trustees		
Signature(s)		Karen Kerby
Full name(s)	DORNA RUSSELL	KAREN KERBY
Position (eg. Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR	SECRETARY
Date	28/07/2024	28/7/24



HOME COUNTIES BOXER WELFARE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Income for the year		2023		2022	
Subscriptions		2023	£690.00	2022	£770.00
		2024	<u>£220.00</u>	2023	<u>£240.00</u>
			£910.00		£1,010.00
Sponsorship			£5,489.00		£5,324.00
Donations for adopted dogs			£11,074.00		£7,792.60
Payments under Oldies Scheme			£1,300.00		£1,660.00
<u>Donations including legacies and in memoriam donations</u>					
Donations			£5,367.48		£7,648.67
Legacies and in memoriam donations			£27,862.90		£7,293.44
Fundraising from Paypal Giving, Amazon, Easy Click, Easy Fundraising			£1,696.23		£1,079.66
Commission			£52.22		
Gift Aid refund from HMRC	21/22&22/23		£5,006.43	20/21	£2,171.97
 Merchandise sales					
			£1,222.36		£1,570.18
	less postage & package		<u>£237.61</u>		<u>£149.98</u>
			£984.75		£1,420.20
Investment income					
Bank and building society interest receivable					
	Barclays Deposit		£120.41		£3.52
	Manchester Building Society		£80.41		£8.59
			<u>£200.82</u>		<u>£12.11</u>
Total income			£59,943.83		£35,412.65
 Expenses					
Stock purchases for fund generation			£116.35		£183.90
 Dog care and welfare activities					
Veterinary costs			£54,641.50		£43,342.30
Kennels charges			£5,721.39		£3,489.50
Travelling costs			£2,286.40		£2,337.30
Miscellaneous dog related expenses					£171.00
Hire of fields for meet 'n greets			£33.50		£0.00
Dog training costs			£2,106.33		£0.00
Foster dog expenses			£818.64		£176.64
Donations for vet costs for dogs in other rescues			£6,050.00		£5,266.28
 Support costs					
Insurance			£271.65		£496.60
AGM, Shows & Rallies			£31.78		£96.00
Website and software costs			£804.88		£933.88
Printing & Stationery.			£39.45		£257.96
Newslink production & despatch			£442.15		£209.00
Miscellaneous expenses			£36.97		£78.00
Legal fees			£78.00		£580.00
Total payments made			<u>£73,478.99</u>		<u>£57,618.36</u>
 Excess of expenditure over income					
			<u>-£13,535.16</u>		<u>-£22,205.71</u>

Value of investments	LTI	£366,481.77		£409,799.93	
	Revaluation	<u>£24,261.41</u>	£390,743.18	<u>-£43,318.16</u>	£366,481.77

Monies held

Cash		£0.00		£66.47	
Bank current account		£830.15		£4,569.12	
Bank deposit account		£15,155.88		£7,735.47	
Building society account		£0.00		£17,186.05	
Paypal		£507.55	£16,493.58	£471.63	£30,028.74
			<u>£407,236.76</u>		<u>£396,510.51</u>

Non- monetary assets

Merchandise		£139.79			£169.24
PA system	Written down value	£31.64			£42.18



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Home Counties Boxer Welfare

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st December 2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

1006246

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023.

**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:

08/03/2024

Name:

Chris Hinks

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

Address:

20 Buckingham Way, Frimley

Surrey. GU16 8XF