

**BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE**  
**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021**

**CHARITY NO: 1136306**

**AZETS HOLDINGS LTD**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR, COPTHALL HOUSE**  
**1 NEW ROAD**  
**STOURBRIDGE**  
**WEST MIDLANDS**  
**DY8 1PH**

## **BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE**

### **CONTENTS**

	<b><u>Page</u></b>
Reference and Administrative information	1
Report of the Trustees	2 - 5
Independent Examiners Report	6
Receipts & Payments Account	7
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9 - 10

## **BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE**

### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**CHARITY NAME**

BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE

**CHARITY NUMBER**

1136306

**TRUSTEES**

Mrs W A Watts  
Mrs L Millward  
Mrs J Wilkes – appointed 29/05/2021

**PRINCIPAL ADDRESS**

Birch Hill House  
Neen Solars  
Kidderminster  
Worcestershire  
DY14 0AQ

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

Azets Holdings Ltd  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Copthall House  
Stourbridge  
West Midlands  
DY8 1PH

**BANKERS**

Barclays Bank PLC  
&  
TSB Bank PLC

**BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
YEAR ENDING 31 MAY 2021**

**1. Structure, Governance & Management**

*Constituted:* Under Constitution document adopted 14 May 2010.

*Trustee Selection:* By Appointment.

*Additional Governance:*

The Trust consists of three Trustees all of whom are involved in the various aspects of the Trust activities. Mrs L Millward is responsible for dog welfare, Mrs W Watts is responsible for fund raising activities and Mrs L Millward provides support for the Trust's activities.

**2. Public Benefit**

For the benefit of the public to relieve the suffering of dogs in need of care and attention; and in particular, to provide and maintain kennels or other facilities for the reception, care and treatment of these dogs.

- To promote humane behaviour towards animals by providing appropriate care, protection, treatment and security for animals, which are in need of care and attention by reason of sickness, maltreatment, poor circumstances or ill usage; and
- to educate the public in matters pertaining to animal welfare in general; and
- the prevention of cruelty and suffering among animals.

The main activities in order to carry out the Aim are:

- Provide kennel facilities for dogs in need, under the circumstances;
- To involve volunteers and the local community in the work of the charity;
- To raise money and the Trust's profile through fundraising activities.

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit.

**2.1 Donations and Legacies**

Income received consists of regular monthly donations, together with other one-off donations.

During the year we received legacies of £50,000.

Trustees are guided by the criteria stated in note 2 above as well as ensuring that the money is used for the purpose intended and is in the best interest to the beneficiaries.

**2.2 Volunteers**

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The Trust relies on the goodwill of a number of volunteers who assist in the day to day care of the rescued dogs and have helped in the fund raising activities during the period.

**BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE  
ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)  
YEAR ENDING 31 MAY 2021**

**2.3 Fundraising**

Regular donations from the general public are well received by the trust but obtaining other donations and fundraising activities are the core of the charity's income. Activities are developed in order that donations may be raised to help fund the trust's main activities. Without the support of the community and general public the Trust would struggle to provide the facilities required. The aim of the fundraising is primarily to raise money to cover the cost of providing day-to-day care and kennel facilities, but also to make the general public aware of the Trust's existence and to promote the welfare and care of dogs.

The Trustees are indebted to the generous support received throughout this period. Despite remaining a difficult economic climate, people continue to support directly through donations and by supporting the trust at various fundraising events.

**3. Achievements and Performance**

Through donations and fund raising the Trust has been able to accommodate approximately 30–40 dogs each month.

Financial

Unfortunately, this year began with everyone still in lockdown, our charity shop was still closed and wouldn't be opening until August, once opened there was little time to recover as the country had two more lockdowns to come, the month of November and from January until April. We were very much appreciative of the Government grants to help with the shop and those employees put onto furlough. Even though the rescue kennels were closed to visitors, we were able to put our paid employees onto flexible furlough, therefore no employee had to be made redundant.

We always rely on our attendance at outdoor events to boost our monthly donations but even some events that were planned were swiftly cancelled because of the uncertain and ever-changing rules on Covid-19 and the Delta variant.

We were very grateful to receive 5 legacies which amounted to £50,000, allowing us to continue to refurbish the kennels and help with the day to day running of the rescue. We also received £15,000 from Support Adoption for Pets to purchase a cabin for our 'Meet and Greet Room/Rehab Unit.

Fundraising

All outdoor fundraising events were cancelled however after watching other dog rescues/groups running online dog shows we thought that we would try the same. We organised one in July which was well supported by owners sending in photographs of their dogs and paying to enter them into various classes. Following this success, we ran a special Christmas dog show which brought in a little extra funding but not so much as the summer one. Another major event we attend each year is the Worcester Victorian Christmas Fayre but sadly this was cancelled too.

We were really pleased to be able to run our Christmas Raffle, people were extremely generous by not only purchasing tickets but also sending a donation for the dogs too. They fully understood just how much of a struggle it had been for charities to keep running with little or no funding.

**BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE  
ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)  
YEAR ENDING 31 MAY 2021**

Achievements

Despite extra funding not available, the care and safety of the dogs was still a priority. We were delighted to be able to purchase and erect a cabin for prospective owners to meet the dogs in a dry and friendly environment, a place to sit and really get to know the dogs. For many years Birch Hill only had outdoor space for both people and dogs to mix, now prospective owners can spend a lot more time getting to know a dog, in fact on average, they are spending 1 to 2 hours getting to know each other, this is helping to rehome the dogs much quicker. The cabin is also doubling up as a rehab unit, allowing dogs extra time out of the kennels and into a more homely environment, they love to jump up on the sofas and it also helps exercise the dogs in inclement weather by playing indoors with toys.

Despite the kennels being closed to people we were never closed to dogs needing help and were an important place of safety for dogs whose owners had sadly passed away or whose health had deteriorated. We restricted the number of visitors when lockdowns had eased and home checks were done by video, photographs, and references, with all these in place we still managed to rehome 31 dogs in the year. The majority of our dogs we rehome but we do have five 'sanctuary' dogs, these are dogs for one reason or another cannot be rehomed but will stay with us.

We were also able to replace all the gates and metal panels for the outside runs to the 10 kennels down the one side of the main block. Over the years the weather had particularly rotted away the bottoms of the panels causing them to become jagged and therefore a danger to the dogs, reinforcements had to block them for safety.

Social media still proves to be a vital part in rehoming the dogs and Birch Hill now has some 7,000 followers, up 2,000 on the previous year. We also have a database of prospective owners who are waiting for a particular type of dog that may come into rescue, therefore some dogs can be rehomed extremely quickly thus freeing up a pen for another unwanted dog.

Future Plans

It is hoped that in the coming year we will be able to replace all the outside runs on the other side of the main kennel block, following that we are desperately in need of replacing the roof, with the help of grants and donations we hope to accomplish this. Once the roof has been replaced it is then our intention to get the flooring in both the inside and outside runs covered in a more hygienic surface, easy to keep clean and better for the dogs.

As we look forward to another year and learning to live with Covid, hopefully outdoor events will once again be a major source of funding. We are at present struggling to find volunteers who can help out at these events but as we now have more volunteer dog walkers, it is hoped that some of these people could assist us.

New appointment

It is with great pleasure to announce that Josephine Wilkes has been appointed as Trustee for the charity. For many years now, Jo has played an important role in helping to raise awareness and funds for Birch Hill Dog Rescue.

**BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE  
ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)  
YEAR ENDING 31 MAY 2021**

**4 Financial Review**

Cash balances at the year end were £29,172 (2020 - £18,568)

**4.1 Core Fundraising**

As the Trust has no income from endowments or regular grants it must rely primarily on donations and event-based community fundraising for its income and promotional activities. The charity is registered to receive Gift Aid on donations.

The Trust reviews and evaluates each fundraising event and promotional activity to identify need and value for money.

The fundraising expenses are necessary to generate funds to fulfil the Trust's obligation to further charitable causes. Trustees are committed to reduce expenses wherever possible.

**4.2 Reserves Policy**

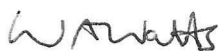
It is the policy of the Trust to maintain a fund balance to sustain the Trust's operations and remain in a position to provide funds to provide kennel and other facilities over a 3-month period. The Trustees consider the cash reserve of £3,000 to be appropriate, and current funds are in excess of this.

**5. Plans for the future**

Trustees are: -

- Committed to raising as much income as possible to provide facilities for dogs in need.
- Supporting and encouraging people to donate or to support fundraising activities to provide funds but also to encourage volunteers to help with the day to day care at the centre.

Trustees are aware that many people volunteer their time to help with the care of the dogs as they like to feel involved in making a difference to the lives of those less fortunate.



.....  
Mrs W Watts  
Trustee

28<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## **BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE**

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES** **YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st May 2021, which are set out on pages 7 to 10.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act;  
or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



J L Swann BA (Hons) BFP FCA

Azets Holdings Ltd  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Copthall House  
1 New Road  
Stourbridge  
West Midlands  
DY8 1PH

28<sup>th</sup> March 2022



# **BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE**

## **RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021**

	Notes	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2021 £	2020 £
<b><u>Receipts:-</u></b>					
Regular Donations			7,101	7,101	7,307
Other Donations			24,240	24,240	38,693
Legacies			50,000	50,000	38,784
Fund Raising Events			4,468	4,468	8,763
Shop income			27,091	27,091	32,000
Rehome			8,557	8,557	10,275
Gift Aid Donations			6,631	6,631	20,012
Bank interest received			14	14	77
Grants receivable		15,000	9,669	24,669	10,000
Grants receivable - furlough			14,073	14,073	5,446
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>15,000</b>	<b>151,844</b>	<b>166,844</b>	<b>171,357</b>
<b><u>Payments:-</u></b>					
Direct Charitable Expenditure	2		113,067	113,067	123,372
Charitable Activities to Furtherance of Charitable Objectives	3		58	58	2,499
Fundraising and Publicity	4		2,070	2,070	3,627
Management & administration of the Charity	5		22,423	22,423	24,081
Loans repaid			4,000	4,000	5,000
		-	141,617	141,617	158,579
<b><u>Asset &amp; Investment purchases:-</u></b>					
Fixed Asset purchases		10,026	4,597	14,623	21,036
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>10,026</b>	<b>146,214</b>	<b>156,240</b>	<b>179,615</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) of Receipts over Payments</b>		<b>4,974</b>	<b>5,630</b>	<b>10,604</b>	<b>(8,258)</b>
Transfers between funds	6	(4,974)	4,974	-	-
Brought forward Monetary Assets		-	18,568	18,568	26,826
Carried Forward Monetary Assets		-	29,172	29,172	18,568

# **BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE**

## **STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES** **AS AT 31 MAY 2021**

<b><u>CASH FUNDS</u></b>	<b><u>2021</u></b> <b><u>£</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b> <b><u>£</u></b>
Cash at Bank	28,814	18,060
Petty Cash	358	508
	<hr/> 29,172	<hr/> 18,568

<b><u>INCOME RECEIVABLE</u></b>	<b><u>2021</u></b> <b><u>£</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b> <b><u>£</u></b>
Grant Income receivable (Log cabin 'meet & greet')	-	15,000
	<hr/> -	<hr/> 15,000

### **ASSETS RETAINED FOR CHARITY USE:**

	<b><u>Fund</u></b>	<b><u>2021</u></b> <b><u>Cost</u></b> <b><u>£</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b> <b><u>Cost</u></b> <b><u>£</u></b>
Computer Equipment	Unrestricted	421	421
Gazebo	Unrestricted	500	500
Van	Unrestricted	5,875	5,875
Industrial wall heater	Unrestricted	550	550
Shop assets	Unrestricted	2,242	2,242
Shop Stock	Unrestricted	2,982	2,982
Digital Copier	Unrestricted	670	670
Printer	Unrestricted	400	400
New Heating System	Unrestricted	7,800	7,800
Foundation for 'Meet & Greet'	Unrestricted	5,966	5,966
Kennel Runs	Unrestricted	5,100	5,100
Log Cabin 'Meet & Greet'	Unrestricted	10,850	2,170
Flooring 'Meet & Greet'	Unrestricted	1,346	
Stone base	Unrestricted	1,308	
House renovation costs	Unrestricted	3,290	
		<hr/> 49,300	<hr/> 34,676

### **CREDITORS:**

	<b><u>2021</u></b> <b><u>£</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b> <b><u>£</u></b>
Wages and pensions	4,318	3,514
Tax and social security	432	133
	<hr/> 4,750	<hr/> 3,647

### **LONG TERM CREDITORS:**

	<b><u>2021</u></b> <b><u>£</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b> <b><u>£</u></b>
Loan - W A Watts	14,000	18,000

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 28th March 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

  
Mrs W A Watts- Trustee

**BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021**

1) **Principal Accounting Policies:-**

a) **Accounting Policies:-**

The financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and CC16 issued by the Charity Commission.

b) **Payments:-**

Direct charitable expenditure comprises of costs relating to the board and treatment of dogs under the care of the Charity during the period.

2) **Direct Charitable Expenditure:-**

	<u>2021</u> £	<u>2020</u> £
Kennel Fees	16,606	23,733
Vet Fees	5,941	11,448
Shop Expenses	25,730	25,479
Wages and Salary	61,343	58,869
PAYE	3,447	3,843
	<hr/> 113,067	<hr/> 123,372

3) **Charitable Activities to Furtherance of Charitable Objectives:-**

Van Expenses	58	2,499
	<hr/> 58	<hr/> 2,499

4) **Fundraising and Publicity:-**

Event Fees & Stall Rents	2,070	3,627
	<hr/> 2,070	<hr/> 3,627

**BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021**

5) <u>Management and Administration of the Charity:-</u>	<u>2021</u> £	<u>2020</u> £
Rent and rates	13,308	13,635
Insurance	386	335
Repairs and maintenance	1,825	838
Postage & Stationery	1,587	1,470
Telephone	428	350
Computer Expenses	1,852	1,736
Bank Charges	112	116
Sundry Expenses	764	541
Accountancy	1,584	1,584
Legal & professional	576	3,476
	<hr/> 22,423	<hr/> 24,081

6) Fund Balances:-

<u>Restricted</u>	Brought forward	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Carried forward
Meet & Greet room	-	15,000	(15,000)	-
	<hr/> -	<hr/> 15,000	<hr/> (15,000)	<hr/> -

Meet & Greet room - Support Adoption for Pets pledged £15,000 towards the building of a Meet & Greet room and dog socialisation space. A deposit of £2,170 was paid in the previous accounting year, and costs of foundations of £3,500, so a transfer has been made to unrestricted funds for the remainder of the grant.

7) Related Parties

The charity has a long-term outstanding loan to Mrs W Watts (trustee). The balance carried forward at the year end is £14,000 (2020 - £18,000).

The trustee Mrs L Millward received remuneration for services provided to the charity of £9,330 during the year (2020 - £10,064).

In January 2021, £375 was paid to T Millward who is the son of Mrs L Millward (trustee) for maintenance work. This cost is included within kennel fees.