

BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023

CHARITY NO: 1136306

AZETS
1ST FLOOR, COPTHALL HOUSE
1 NEW ROAD
STOURBRIDGE
WEST MIDLANDS
DY8 1PH

BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE

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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 (resigned November 2023)

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS

Birch Hill House
Neen Sollars
Kidderminster
Worcestershire
DY14 0AQ

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

J L Swann BA (Hons) BFP FCA
Azets
1st 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 2023**

1. Structure, Governance & Management

Constituted: Under Constitution document adopted 14 May 2010, and registered as a charity on 10 June 2010

Trustee Selection: By Appointment. New Trustees will be selected from individuals who already have some involvement with the charity and supported in their role by the current Trustees.

Additional Governance:

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

Sadly, Jo Wilkes passed away in November 2023.

2. Public Benefit

For the benefit of the public to relieve the suffering of dogs in need of care and attention; and 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 £90,000.

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

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 2023**

2.3 Fundraising

Regular donations from the 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 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 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

We truly thought that things would be much better this year but unfortunately the 'cost of living' crisis has affected us all. Understandably people are having to cut corners to pay for food, energy, etc and therefore we have seen a reduction in donations, and we have lost one or two sponsors. This situation that we are now in has heightened the need for rescue space, we have been inundated with calls from the public to take in dogs that they can no longer afford to keep, equally fewer prospective owners are coming forward to adopt the dogs. Birch Hill alone is receiving at least 3-5 calls a day from the public whose dogs need rescue space.

On a more positive note, we were a beneficiary in a will and were left a legacy of £90,000. Our transit van had been unusable for some time, and it was necessary for us to purchase a newer van for transporting the dogs to the vets as well as attending outdoor events. We were extremely grateful for the legacy which allowed us to do that, and once purchased, Birch Hill Dog Rescue decals were added. We were also able to repay almost half of the loan back to Mrs W. Watts. The loan was given following the death of Mrs Jutta Patterson and the knowledge of the 'advertising scam' and its after affects. The loan allowed Birch Hill Dog Rescue to keep its doors open and to continue Jutta's legacy of saving unwanted, abandoned and ill-treated dogs.

Fundraising

A few more events were booked for the year and what a difference it made having a roadworthy van to do them in, however we are still a little short on volunteers to help out at these events. The public were still very much supportive despite the current economic situation we all find ourselves in.

We were asked to organise a few more fun dog shows at some of the events this year which were well supported. Once again we have held some Jumble Sales, organised by one of our volunteer dog walkers which have proved to be most successful. She has also raised quite a substantial amount of money through online raffles which seem to be very popular with our Facebook supporters.

Achievements

Social media continues to play an important role within the charity with 10,000 now following our Facebook page. We have raised funds through raffles, we have set up Just Giving pages raising money for various expenses, all through our Facebook page. We now have our Instagram account active and some of our dogs are being shown in short videos on Tik-Tok.

We have been extremely lucky to have a Company in Tenbury Wells whose employees have been volunteering at the kennels helping with painting and gardening services. The Company itself have allocated some funding to us; they have agreed to sponsor our Annual Dog Show which will be held in July. They have kindly donated food, bedding etc. for the dogs in our care.

All the 20 outside runs have now been replaced with new steel panels and gates in the large kennel block. The shutters on the hatches which separate the inside from outside have also now been replaced with new steel sheets.

Future Plans

Having completed the outside runs to the main kennel block we now move to replacing the roof which will be the biggest job to undertake. We already received a small grant towards the cost, but we have to find further funding to meet the total cost which is around £27,000. Our long-term goal once the kennels are brought up to a satisfactory standard, is to join the ADCH (Association of Dogs and Cat Homes).

We have constantly been on the lookout for another charity shop but finding one in the right location and at the right rent has been difficult to find. It is hoped that we can find a suitable retail premises in the near future.

**BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE
ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDING 31 MAY 2023**

4 Financial Review

Cash balances at the year end were £32,752 (2022 - £13,014)

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

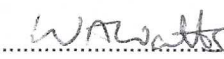
It is the policy of the Trust to maintain a fund balance to sustain the Trust's operations and remain in a position to provide funds to provide kennel and other facilities over a 3-month period. The Trustees consider the cash reserve of £15,000 to be appropriate, and funds at the year end of 31 May 2023 were more than this amount.

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

18 March 2024

BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES **YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 May 2023, 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
1st Floor, Copthall House
1 New Road
Stourbridge
West Midlands
DY8 1PH

26 March 2024

BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023

	Notes	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2023 £	2022 £
<u>Receipts:-</u>					
Regular Donations		-	15,499	15,499	11,713
Other Donations		-	25,798	25,798	31,562
Legacies		-	90,000	90,000	3,500
Fund Raising Events		-	13,727	13,727	10,686
Shop income		-	55,584	55,584	56,015
Rehome		-	3,270	3,270	6,172
Gift Aid Donations		-	15,484	15,484	13,901
Bank interest received		-	108	108	2
Grants received		-	-	-	5,000
Loans received		-	-	-	4,000
<u>Total Receipts</u>		-	219,470	219,470	142,551
<u>Payments:-</u>					
Direct Charitable Expenditure	2	-	137,826	137,826	120,112
Charitable Activities to Furtherance of Charitable Objectives	3	-	1,721	1,721	-
Fundraising and Publicity	4	-	4,656	4,656	3,590
Management & administration of the Charity	5	-	33,530	33,530	22,787
Loans repaid		-	8,000	8,000	-
		-	185,733	185,733	146,489
<u>Asset & Investment purchases:-</u>					
Fixed Asset purchases		-	13,999	13,999	12,220
<u>Total Payments</u>		-	199,732	199,732	158,709
<u>Surplus/(deficit) of Receipts over Payments</u>		-	19,738	19,738	(16,158)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Brought forward Monetary Assets		5,000	8,014	13,014	29,172
Carried Forward Monetary Assets		5,000	27,752	32,752	13,014

BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 MAY 2023

<u>CASH FUNDS</u>	<u>2023</u> <u>£</u>	<u>2022</u> <u>£</u>
Cash at Bank	32,390	12,532
Petty Cash	362	482
	<u>32,752</u>	<u>13,014</u>

ASSETS RETAINED FOR CHARITY USE:

	<u>Fund</u>	<u>2023</u> <u>Cost</u> <u>£</u>	<u>2022</u> <u>Cost</u> <u>£</u>
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
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	10,850
Flooring 'Meet & Greet'	Unrestricted	1,346	1,346
Stone base	Unrestricted	1,308	1,308
House renovation costs	Unrestricted	5,510	5,510
Panels/gates	Unrestricted	6,600	6,600
Boiler, radiators & pipework	Unrestricted	3,400	3,400
Van EK68 EHW	Unrestricted	13,999	-
		<u>75,519</u>	<u>61,520</u>

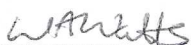
CREDITORS:

	<u>2023</u> <u>£</u>	<u>2022</u> <u>£</u>
Wages and pensions	6,495	5,038
Tax and social security	455	439
Independent examiners fee	2,600	2,500
	<u>9,550</u>	<u>7,977</u>

LONG TERM CREDITORS:

	<u>2023</u> <u>£</u>	<u>2022</u> <u>£</u>
Loan - W A Watts (Note 7)	10,000	18,000

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 18 March 2024 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 2023

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>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Kennel Fees	23,376	14,978
Vet Fees	7,493	8,888
Shop Expenses	31,841	25,008
Wages and Salary	70,075	66,122
PAYE	5,041	5,116
	<hr/> 137,826	<hr/> 120,112
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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

Van Expenses	1,721	-
	<hr/> 1,721	<hr/> -
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

4) **Fundraising and Publicity:-**

Event Fees & Stall Rents	4,656	3,590
	<hr/> 4,656	<hr/> 3,590
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023

5) <u>Management and Administration of the Charity:-</u>	<u>2023</u> <u>£</u>	<u>2022</u> <u>£</u>
Rent and rates	13,308	13,308
Insurance	520	430
Repairs and maintenance	8,011	1,083
Postage & Stationery	1,495	1,221
Telephone	1,245	1,020
Computer Expenses	3,166	2,532
Bank Charges	279	108
Sundry Expenses	966	835
Accountancy	3,584	1,674
Legal & professional	956	576
	33,530	22,787

6) **Fund Balances:-**

<u>Restricted</u>	Brought forward	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Carried forward
Jean Sainsbury Trust	5,000	-	-	5,000
	5,000	-	-	5,000

Jean Sainsbury Trust - A £5,000 grant was awarded towards the cost of the Kennel roof repairs.

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 £10,000 (2022 - £18,000).

The trustee Mrs L Millward received remuneration for services provided to the charity of £nil during the year (2022 - £7,488).