

BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

CHARITY NO: 1136306

AZETS
1ST FLOOR, ST DAVID'S COURT
UNION STREET
WOLVERHAMPTON
WV1 3JE

BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
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 T Cutler (appointed April 2024)
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, St David's Court
Union Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 3JE

BANKERS

Barclays Bank PLC
&
TSB Bank PLC

**BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE
ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDING 31 MAY 2024**

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 three Trustees all 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. Mrs T Cutler was appointed as a trustee in April 2024 and assists with dog welfare and fundraising.

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 £7,722.

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 2024**

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

The cost-of-living crisis still has its effect on us all, with a reduction in our sponsorship for one. Whilst some of our monthly sponsors have cancelled their support, one or two others have very kindly just reduced their amount rather than cancel altogether, this is much appreciated as we really do understand that people are finding it difficult to survive.

Our charity shop has also suffered with customers popping in and carefully thinking about whether to buy something or not. It appears people are purchasing things that they need and not what they want. We are not the only charity shop finding this issue as are many others.

Whilst we have lost some support, the number of requests to take in unwanted dogs increases day to day. Unfortunately, as much as we would like to, we can only take in so many once spaces become available. The number of adoptions has also slowed down a little.

This year has seen a huge increase in vets bills. Sadly, a couple of our long stayers fell ill, in fact one we lost, we tried everything possible but, in the end, we had to let him go. Also, nearly every new dog we've taken in needed veterinary treatment, it was just one after another.

Fundraising

Due to the financial crisis, we booked up more fundraising events than ever before, that took place in the latter part of 2024. Luckily, we managed to gain one or two more volunteers to help at them all.

We had a good turnout at our Annual Dog Show and whilst we raised a little over £3,000, we were down on the previous year, nevertheless we were very grateful for the support. We had a relatively good weekend on the Welland Steam Rally this year, in fact the best we have had since attending the event. We did extremely well on sales of pet stuff, particularly for dogs, and our Pirate Treasure Game went down well.

Our other main event was the Worcester Victorian Christmas Fayre. We made sure we have plenty of affordable Christmas presents for dogs and cats, and some 700+ Christmas crackers were made selling for £2 each. A very tiring four-day event, but we raised more than ever for the dogs in our care.

Achievements

Once again social media is an important outlet for the charity to liaise with the public. We have used this platform several times during the year to raise funds to help pay for the vets bills etc. and appeal for homes for the dogs.

We have also built up a very good relationship with Shropshire Canine who have helped tremendously by giving the dogs days out and showcasing what such lovely dogs they are, especially the dogs we have had for a considerable time.

Following an appeal, we were able to purchase a large kennel with a substantial run for Bentley, an elderly Akita who has been with the rescue for many years and sadly due to his temperament, we were unable to rehome him, however he loves everyone at the kennels, and they all love him in return. We wanted a larger space for him and a little quieter, in an area away from the main kennel block where he could see people coming and going. When Bentley is no longer with us, another long-term sanctuary dog will be able to move into it.

Future Plans

In the not-too-distant future, we are hoping to purchase a better heater for the main kennel block, the old one is temperamental and has broken down on several occasions, the last time being in the middle of winter.

**BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE
ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDING 31 MAY 2024**

4 Financial Review

Cash balances at the year-end were £16,482 (2023 - £32,752)

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 2024 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

25 April 2025

BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 May 2024, 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, St David's Court,
Union Street,
Wolverhampton,
WV1 3JE.

29 April 2025

BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

	Notes	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 £	2023 £
<u>Receipts:-</u>					
Regular Donations		-	17,097	17,097	15,499
Other Donations		-	46,176	46,176	25,798
Legacies		-	7,722	7,722	90,000
Fund Raising Events		-	11,999	11,999	13,727
Shop income		-	46,343	46,343	55,584
Rehome		-	4,275	4,275	3,270
Gift Aid Donations		-	17,977	17,977	15,484
Bank interest received		-	104	104	108
Grants received		-	11,000	11,000	-
Loans received		-	6,574	6,574	-
<u>Total Receipts</u>		-	169,267	169,267	219,470
<u>Payments:-</u>					
Direct Charitable Expenditure	2	-	145,543	145,543	137,826
Charitable Activities to Furtherance of Charitable Objectives	3	-	1,758	1,758	1,721
Fundraising and Publicity	4	-	2,578	2,578	4,656
Management & administration of the Charity	5	-	28,866	28,866	33,530
Loans repaid		-	4,540	4,540	8,000
		-	183,285	183,285	185,733
<u>Asset & Investment movements:-</u>					
Fixed Asset purchases		-	2,585	2,585	13,999
Fixed Asset disposal		-	(333)	(333)	-
<u>Total Payments</u>		-	185,537	185,537	199,732
<u>Surplus/(deficit) of Receipts over Payments</u>		-	(16,270)	(16,270)	19,738
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Brought forward Monetary Assets		5,000	27,752	32,752	13,014
Carried Forward Monetary Assets		5,000	11,482	16,482	32,752

BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AS AT 31 MAY 2024

<u>CASH FUNDS</u>	<u>2024</u> <u>£</u>	<u>2023</u> <u>£</u>
Cash at Bank	15,599	32,390
Petty Cash	883	362
	<hr/> 16,482	<hr/> 32,752

ASSETS RETAINED FOR CHARITY USE:

	<u>Fund</u>	<u>2024</u> <u>Cost</u> <u>£</u>	<u>2023</u> <u>Cost</u> <u>£</u>
Computer Equipment	Unrestricted	421	421
Gazebo	Unrestricted	500	500
Van	Unrestricted	-	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	13,999
Designer Kennels	Unrestricted	2,585	-
		<hr/> 72,229	<hr/> 75,519

CREDITORS:

	<u>2024</u> <u>£</u>	<u>2023</u> <u>£</u>
Wages and pensions	6,623	6,495
Tax and social security	673	455
Independent examiners fee	2,750	2,600
	<hr/> 10,046	<hr/> 9,550

LONG TERM CREDITORS:

	<u>2024</u> <u>£</u>	<u>2023</u> <u>£</u>
Loan - A Jones (Note 7)	384	-
Loan - W A Watts (Note 7)	11,650	10,000

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 25 April 2025 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 2024

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>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Kennel Fees	21,687	23,376
Vet Fees	14,378	7,493
Shop Expenses	27,935	31,841
Wages and Salary	76,142	70,075
PAYE	5,401	5,041
	<hr/> 145,543	<hr/> 137,826
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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

Van Expenses	1,758	1,721
	<hr/> 1,758	<hr/> 1,721
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

4) **Fundraising and Publicity:-**

Event Fees & Stall Rents	2,578	4,656
	<hr/> 2,578	<hr/> 4,656
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

BIRCH HILL DOG RESCUE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

5) <u>Management and Administration of the Charity:-</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Rent and rates	13,769	13,308
Insurance	555	520
Repairs and maintenance	261	8,011
Postage & Stationery	3,168	1,495
Telephone	1,066	1,245
Computer Expenses	3,093	3,166
Bank Charges	288	279
Sundry Expenses	1,255	966
Accountancy	4,089	3,584
Legal & professional	1,322	956
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	28,866	33,530
	<hr/>	<hr/>

6) Fund Balances:-

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

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 £11,650 (2023 - £10,000).

The trustee Mrs T Cutler received remuneration for services provided to the charity of £1,224 during the year.

A Jones (an employee) loaned the charity £874 in the year and was repaid £490. The balance carried forward at the year end is £384.