

Charity registration number: 1158499

Greyhound Gap CIO

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 30 September 2023

Greyhound Gap CIO

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Greyhound Gap CIO

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	L Cartwright (Founder) R Edwards J S Burgess
Secretary	V Rigby
Principal Office	Grindlestone Kennels Cobmoor Road Kidsgrove Stoke on Trent Staffordshire ST7 3PZ
Charity Registration Number	1158499
Bankers	Lloyds TSB Bank Plc 1 Legg Street Essex CM1 1JS
Independent Examiner	Beever and Struthers Chartered Accountants One Express 1 George Leigh Street Ancoats Manchester M4 5DL

Greyhound Gap CIO

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2023. The trustees confirm that the Annual report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governance documents, and the provisions of Statement of Recommendation Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2015.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The Greyhound Gap charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), formed on 9 September 2014 under a Foundation Constitution of the same date. The CIO was formed to take over the ongoing operation of the Greyhound Gap charity (registered number 113207), as the Trustees (who are the same for both charities) felt it was more appropriate to operate the charity with a recognised legal form.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected under the terms of the CIO's foundation constitution.

Organisational structure

The Charity operates throughout the UK. The dogs originate from many stray pounds, but our main area of operation is the Midlands and surrounding areas. When space allows, we service pounds in the whole of the UK. Greyhounds entering our care come directly from the track we facilitate directly in the Northwest and via 3 more trainers that we have an ongoing formulated agreement with.

The charity works with a network of volunteers who foster, transport and generally aid the work of the Charity across the UK. The charity also works, where appropriate with other similar rescues to ensure those dogs that are at risk can be placed in a safe environment. The trustees make all decisions on any major expenditure and set the strategic direction for the Charity.

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, those related to the operations and finances of the charity and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks.

Greyhound Gap CIO

Trustees' Report

Objectives and activities

Policies and Objectives

The Charity covers the following principal activities:

- Rehoming dogs directly from our kennels and a network of volunteer foster homes through a clearly controlled adoption procedure.
- Dogs that do not secure a foster home will be housed in our kennels premises where they are cared for by our staff with volunteer's assistance.
- Supporting Local Authorities by coordinating rescue, kennel or foster placements for the stray greyhounds and lurchers in their care.
- Assistance with local and national welfare cases supporting dog wardens, Social Services and any other relevant bodies.
- Supporting owners needing to surrender their dogs by coordinating rescue, kennel or foster placements if possible, within our own organisation or within other safe rescue environments
- Facilitation placements via Greyhound Tracks, Trainers & Owners
- Transport of dogs to reputable rescues offering rescue placements.
- Provision of veterinary treatment for all animals in our care.
- In-house fundraising such as auctions, competitions, eBay sales, web shop, sponsored events, direct appeals, sponsorship schemes for long term dogs and outside fundraising such as dog shows, attending events, meet and greets and street collections.
- Outreach work within the local community in Stoke on Trent with the homeless and Social Services referrals providing dog food and basic care such as vaccinations, parasite control and in some cases neutering.
- Lost and stolen dog recovery service assisting owners with advice, support and equipment if necessary to ensure a safe return home of their missing pets.
- Working alongside Community Payback to offer working opportunities to offenders undergoing rehabilitation and reparation.
- Continue to build links with local schools and colleges.

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Trustees' Report

The charity's objectives are:

- To promote the humane treatment of animals, in particular greyhounds and lurchers.
- To provide appropriate care, protection, treatment and security for greyhounds and lurchers who are in need by reason of sickness, maltreatment, poor circumstances or ill usage.
- To educate the public in matters pertaining to animal welfare in general and the prevention of cruelty and suffering among animals.
- To continue the promotion of the issues pertaining to greyhound racing and the abandonment of working lurchers.

In pursuance of the objectives, we continue to strive to reduce numbers of greyhounds and lurchers euthanised in council holding facilities once time is served and ensure safe and swift release into our care from training kennels environments when no longer required. We continue to pursue the policies and objectives of the Charity.

Greyhound Gap is, principally, a death row rescue helping to provide emergency placements for greyhounds and lurchers in local authority holding kennels at risk of euthanasia. In early 2018 relations were formulated with a registered track in the Northwest to ensure help and safeguarding, when possible, for greyhounds ending their career. This was deemed necessary due to assistance with a welfare situation pertaining to dogs retired from this track entering an un reputable facility. If we are unable to directly assist, referrals are made, or places sourced within other reputable organisations. Safe transport to rescues is handled by us.

Dogs that enter the care of Greyhound Gap are supported for as long as is necessary. Homing is via a network of sighthound experienced foster placements and directly from our own kennels. The kennels are located close to our main core of volunteers and is staffed by experienced people to enable in depth assessments of every dog prior to rehoming.

All dogs entering our care as a matter of course receive vaccinations, kennel cough vaccinations, parasite treatment, micro-chipping, are spayed/neutered and receive a dental check. Should a dog arrive in our care with more serious veterinary needs these are addressed, and all necessary treatment is funded. We operate a thorough vetting system including pre-adoption questionnaires, initial telephone discussion, home visit and careful introductions with potential adoption matches. All adopters are obliged to sign an agreement to relinquish the animal back into the organisation's care should they no longer be able to meet the requirements of the dog. Follow up support is given post adoption and our ongoing support and advice is available throughout the dog's life.

Greyhound Gap is a specialist rehabilitation facility and houses many dogs that other organisations do not feel qualified to manage. We pride ourselves on continued rehabilitation work with more challenging dogs and resolving behavioural issues prior to rehoming. We also give lifetime behavioural support to our adopters.

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Trustees' Report



Cinders

In March 2023 we were contacted by a lady who was in a desperate situation. She had offered a foster with view to keep home to a young lurcher based in Ireland with direct back up from a mainland rescue. That young lurcher was Cinders. Cinders was delivered directly to her door from the Irish transport company.

Unfortunately her two current dogs were not overly welcoming of this young exuberant pup with very little life experience and who needed constant care and attention. Having tried to make it work but, with the pup also displaying incontinence issues, she reached out to the rescue she had been led to believe was there to support her. They refused help.

Understanding the desperation of the situation, Greyhound Gap's founder travelled immediately to remove the puppy and bring her into our care safely. The other dogs were showing signs of posing a direct risk to her and, already damaged mentally, physical damage did not need to be added.

Cinders spent 6 months in foster care in the kennels house where both her physical and mental needs were addressed before being rehomed at 12 months old. She has settled in fabulously and made the most wonderful new addition to their home.

Over the last eight years Greyhound Gap has been working more widely within the local community directing donations of surplus food to families struggling to financially support their dogs. We have also been working with local homeless support charities to provide food to the dogs residing on the streets with their owners. Locally there are no facilities for homeless pet owners, these people and their animals can often be at risk of hardship.

Where possible we also provide basic medical treatment such as disease control and provide basic safety essentials i.e., collars, leads and coats for the dog's wellbeing where necessary. This builds trust bonds between us, the dogs and their owners and should situations arise separating dog and owner we are able to offer a direct safety net. This, in turn, means the dogs do not enter the main stray system therefore placing them at risk.

Towards the end of the 2017 financial year, we formulated a relationship with a local Foodbank based in Chesterton, Newcastle Under Lyme. We have now agreed to incorporate the Foodbank into the surplus food program in the hope that provision of dog food to service users helps to reduce the demand on human food and resources. This remains in place and is proving a vital much needed and appreciated service. Throughout 2021-2022 we increased that support to two more Foodbanks, one run by St Thomas, our local church, and that of Aspire Housing based in Newcastle-Under-Lyme where we now provide dog food for their warehouse available to their service users. During the later part of 2022 and into 2023 our services were called upon by even more service user facilities and members of the public. This meant additional pressure of three more facilities and multiple new individuals.

In August 2015 we secured a service users contract with the local probation service. This enables offenders ordered by the court to carry out unpaid work to access our facility on a placement basis.

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We strongly believe that the bonds formed between offenders and our rescue dogs is mutually beneficial. The project has continued to make great strides with us fast becoming Staffordshire's placement of choice by probation and offenders alike. The scheme has been running for 9 years this year and a very small amount of our service users have re-entered the judicial service.

Since the Charity came into existence, we have also, on a less formal basis, assisted with the securing or stray or abandoned dogs in the local area. Through experience and equipment, we have been able to offer remote monitoring, feeding and subsequent tools to enable a positive outcome in swiftly securing dogs in danger. Since 2017 this has progressed, and we have found more and more that we are called to assist owners of dogs who have found themselves in a situation where their dogs are lost or stolen. In these instances, advice and safe containment where possible to avoid loss through injury or death has been offered with great success. This is a service we are extremely proud of being able to provide and through ever increasing knowledge our skill sets are developing and once again allowing us to maximise our overall impact.

Volunteers

The charity is extremely grateful for the unstinting efforts of its volunteers.

Many of our local supporters turn out in all weathers on a regular basis to help at the kennels with the daily cleaning, maintenance, gardening, vet runs and taking our kennel dogs for their daily exercise, enrichment, playtimes and walks.



Greyhound Gap is lucky to have a large volunteer and supporter base throughout the UK. There are committed groups of helpers who continually step up to man fundraising stalls and events on our behalf, who attend street collections, hold meet and greets and take part in sponsored events.

Others put their brilliant creative skills to use by making collars, cakes, jams, dog treats, hand crafted items and artwork to be sold to raise funds or by simply donating items for our online fundraising auctions.

We are extremely lucky to have such a supportive and wide-reaching community of volunteers and realise that without their efforts we would not be a viable organisation. We appreciate every one of those who help us in whatever capacity they can.

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Trustees' Report

During the last financial year we have seen the increased level of support built online during Covid remain in place, indeed there has been continued growth. Many of those volunteers now able to are assisting freely with our external fundraising activities.

Achievements and performance

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Review of activities

Rehoming and Rescue Placements

The continued cost-of-living crisis during the financial year saw huge implications for not only us as a Charity but all other Animal Charities the length and breadth of the UK.

We saw a threefold call for our services both in rehoming and facilitation but also faced the fact that unlike other years facilitation spaces were far and few between. All rescues had hit saturation point with very little adoption uptake. Sadly, the fallout of the continued Covid dogs remained an issue, teamed with the increase in families finding themselves in a position of hardship we saw an alarming increase in abandonment and neglect cases. The stray pounds were facing much more immediate euthanasia decisions after the 8 days compulsory period.

Dogs needing assistance in the main were also displaying much more adverse behaviour patterns due to lack of socialisation during the vital time frame from a young age or within their new home. This meant that dogs entering the rescue system required much longer periods of assessment and remedial behaviour work. It was also seen that health problems amongst dogs landing into our care had increased dramatically. Many dogs had been denied even basic routine treatment resulting in much further reaching health issues. The cost of this to us, as a Charity, saw an increase once again in the need for specialist veterinary care. During the financial year the cost of even basic veterinary treatment for us as an organisation hiked dramatically in some instances almost doubling. We saw routine neutering and dentals combined increase by more than double. This is something moving forward we are expecting to continue. As a charity we remain alive to the fact the impact this will have on us and the risk of the necessity to reduce intake at a time when we are more needed than before.

Throughout the financial year we found facilitation placement availability reduced dramatically as seen the previous financial year. Many of our facilitation rescues were finding increased demand for their services in their more immediate catchment areas. Lack of adoptions was proving to be an issue seen by all and more unusually the return rates were continually increasing. Post Covid many potential adopters seem to have a lesser sense of commitment and responsibility than before and people in general seem more anxious and able to deal with even slight settling issues. This is something as an organisation we saw quickly and immediately ensured more support was placed both pre and post adoption.

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All that said we are immensely proud that during the financial year we were still able to be responsible for successfully rehoming or placing into long term foster 85 dogs. That was an increase of 18 dogs on the previous financial year. During the year we only sustained two returns, one was due to sudden unexpected death of the owner and another due to an altercation with another dog in the home. This was down to the current resident dog not our own. The dog was returned but immediately able to be replaced. With a distinct lack of safe placements available only 84 other dogs were still facilitated. This was achieved via placements into mutually reputable organisations with whom we have formulated longstanding ongoing relationships. There remained a significant rise in demand for safe placements of Greyhounds and Lurchers throughout the financial year. The Charity has continued to strive to the best of our abilities in challenging times for maximum impact and continues to remain alive to opportunities and other avenues to ensure dog's safety without compromising our ethics and charitable aims.



Taz

Just every now and again, as a rescue, you receive photos that break your heart more than most, never more so than in Taz' case. Taz, a young lurcher type, had been found abandoned and served his stray time but, at just 5 months old, was in the most horrendous state. Riddled with mange, thin, full of worms and mites, he urgently needed professional assistance. Knowing Greyhound Gap's excellent track record, we were contacted to assist.

We quickly mobilised and made the journey right up to the North East. Sadly a rescue space nearer to his location had not been secured. Taz was collected and transferred into our vets on a Sunday afternoon as an emergency. Dehydrated and running a temperature from his sore and infected skin, he immediately received the necessary treatment.

Once more comfortable, Taz made the rescue kennels house his home. So many of our younger, ill, or old dogs are cared for inside by the dedicated staff team as opposed to the outside kennels environment. Taz was such a lucky boy! With a few months of love he flourished into the beautiful boy you see now before finding his forever home.



Throughout the pandemic Greyhound Gap had to make the sensible decision to carry out our rehoming in a fresh new way. Our area of operations was dramatically reduced to Counties more directly accessible to our main kennels base. For the first time ever, due to inability to use external home vetters because of restrictions, rehoming was moved fully in house and carried out solely by our experienced staff team. The new system proved a huge success for both dogs and adopters with better consistent pre and post adoption support work becoming more streamlined. This also helped to build stronger foundations for the future giving the staff base additional experience and skills in further reaching areas providing a better opportunity for infrastructure and long-term survival of the Charity.

Post pandemic, through sheer volume of Greyhounds and Lurchers filing into the system countrywide, it was decided that the implemented reduced area of operations and new rehoming system established would remain in place. Most national adoptions are now reserved to those who have previously adopted having undergone all due diligence in the past by the Charity. Special consideration remains in place for new breed experienced adopters further afield willing and able to sustain a more behaviourally challenged or longer staying dog. New national rehomes are directed to centres local to their base as we remain alive to the increased pressure on other rescues. We hope this in turn provides them with increased rehoming opportunities allowing for more free flow and facilitation capabilities.

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Interviews were for the first time conducted at the centre prior to a home visit to establish a greater understanding on experience and all commitment capabilities. All members of the immediate family, including any other dogs, were required to travel and join us on the day. With an increase in adverse behaviours in both the dogs entering the rescue system and those already in the home due to a period of inability to socialise during the pandemic, both owners' levels of experience and commitment and their current dog's level of tolerance needed stricter vetting than ever before. This is something we have seen a necessity to continue. Teemed with increased owner anxiety, financial implications and other external factors conversations need to be much more in depth.

After the interview period and having monitored any existing dog's behaviour, if deemed suitable and a suitably matching dog was available, an introduction would be made. The adopters then got their chance to walk the dog with any matched dogs before spending a period of supervised time in our home from home room with any current dogs and matched dogs mixing in a more natural setting.

If all went well, the home visit was undertaken by 2 members of the staff team with the potentially suitable dog accompanying them. This gave the adopters the chance to see the dog within their own home and for both they and us to monitor interaction between current and new dogs also in the environment. Adopters were then given a cooling off period to further discuss as a family before a decision was made on progressing. For our dogs the prior introduction to the home and additional meetings has seen them settle happily without any mental trauma. We believe, that although time consuming, this approach is the reason that our return rates have remained so low.

Respite and Community Assistance

During the financial year ending September 30th 2023, Greyhound Gap also actively through advice, attending or physically trapping and safely securing managed to assist 32 owners with the reuniting of lost and stolen pets. Remotely many more were reunited thanks to our time and effort to advise others further afield or through lending the necessary equipment to secure the safe capture. During the course of the year, Greyhound Gap worked either individually on set cases or alongside other rescues/teams with the same wealth of experience when needed.

During the financial year our work within the community supporting and assisting families who found themselves in a sudden state of unexpected hardship increased dramatically, a growth we expect to continue. Thankfully through so many kind donations either dropped to the kennels or delivered directly we were able to continue with our support of not only the community foodbanks but to include others and to support more service users who we were approached directly about in addition to those already on our list.

Thankfully during the financial year we had no call to offer respite as had been seen previous years whilst their owners received either emergency treatment for mental health or drug use.

Fostering and long-term foster placements

Our national foster carers remain committed to providing a long-term homing opportunity to dogs that find themselves with more permanent needs, elderly or infirm dogs or those with more complex behaviour issues still receive full support from those available placements. Many of these dogs may be reaching end of life and a home environment with more wider ranging comfort and one on one care makes a huge difference during those last months. Our foster carers, in turn, receive full support and guidance from ourselves as an organisation with Greyhound Gap meeting care costs throughout the duration of the dog's remaining time.

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Fundraising



Greyhound Gap prides itself in being extremely proactive with its external fundraising and equally fortunate to have so many committed community volunteers. Last year more external events were held than ever before.

A freer ability to return to all activities without any forms of restrictions or worry was so welcome, compared to the previous year. Older events that had not done as well the previous year when first being reimplemented proved to be successful and back to a usual expected support and revenue. Sadly, two big events were marred by weather. One being an exceptionally hot day causing much smaller footfall and us having to exclude dogs and one being cancelled due to flooding. Unfortunately, due to the venues other commitments there was no ability to re arrange and to recoup revenue later.

During the financial year we were lucky enough to arrange our first group walk at the beautiful local Tittesworth Reservoir. Alongside the walk we were able to pitch 3 of our own stalls and it proved to be a hugely successful and well received event. The day raised £1000 and plans to continue the event into the following financial year were well received by both those attending and the venue it-self. We have been offered the chance to grow the event and incorporate a dog show moving for-ward.

During the financial year with the support from Newcastle- Under-Lyme Council, once again 3 take overs of their whole market area continued for the 2nd year running. They kindly make all public car parks free of charge on the day. The 40 available market stalls are all gifted to the Charity for a nominal amount and an additional area of the town given to hold a dog show. With supported adver-tising from other local community groups the market has seen attendance in large numbers, remi-niscent of past market days. Several stalls are taken over by us as a Charity and we also provide stalls to other local borough Charities to allow them a much-needed new outlet to promote their cause and generate revenue. The remaining stalls generate additional revenue for us as a Charity hired out to traders selling locally produced items. The town centre shops, and hospitality venues also benefit from a marked increase in footfall. We feel that in the current climate it is even more important that events like these allow us to provide an opportunity for other members of our com-munity who may be facing difficult times. The public themselves remain hugely supportive stating it was wonderful to see the town center bustling and back to life.

As Community engagement remained as a priority throughout the financial year with focus on how we could help others, many other opportunities presented. We are also grateful for the support of Shop Local and BID who have enabled us to hold several pop-up shops and even used their volun-teers and staff to man it when necessary. This is a relationship that is set to continue and build mo-mentum moving forward.

As a Charity, Greyhound Gap are extremely lucky to have a very large and active online support base . Our supporters are at all times engaged via our social media platforms and we like to think are made to feel a pivotal part of the team. No matter where in the world they are placed, they are kept up to date daily with the ongoing activities relating to the care and welfare of our dogs. Through this regular engagement and important family feel, our supporters not only welcome but support generously any online efforts to raise funds. Even during the current cost of living crisis our supporters remain as dedicated as ever meaning even more online fundraising raffles, competi-tions, sales and auctions have been added. We have remained lucky enough to continue to receive an influx of highly valued prizes and items.

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Moving ahead, we plan to continue with the increase in our online fundraising. Unsurprisingly, we did also see a decrease in our individual giving throughout the year something that was closely monitored within our revenue streams. This is something that we continue to monitor and review regularly.

Donations made and delivered directly to the kennels continued at a steady pace. Both saleable items and items for the dogs in our care such as bedding, tinned meat, treat and enrichment items were never in short supply. The Amazon Wish List was once again reviewed and items that were more urgently required were changed out and added in place of some others that were not as necessary.

The Valentines, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Christmas gift sponsorship, sponsorship of memory baubles at Christmas were all once again well supported.

Once again, we were honoured that Walking The Beat undertook yet another walk. The boys covered over 100 miles in just an 8-day period once again raising just shy of £4000 and bringing their running total raised for us as a Charity towards the £45000 mark. We can not thank them enough. Another walk is already in planning stages for 2024.

As is always the case, as a Charity we remain grateful to those providing grant assistance for their continued support.

During the financial year, we would like to thank the following funders for their support:

Alongside all of this we continue to work hard within local and national communities relating to awareness. At every available opportunity we strive to engage the public to raise the general profile of greyhounds and lurchers as pets and to educate against the continued occurrence of recorded misuse for sporting purposes.

One of our vital avenues for such is the continued relationship with Crewe Pets at Home store: this has seen continuance and bonds strengthening between our volunteer base and their own team during the financial year. We feel extremely fortunate to once again be chosen as their charity of choice. This enables us to hold fundraising and awareness days in the form of meet and greets, we also participate in the stores own in-house fundraising. As one of their nominated charities, we receive around 50% of all revenue raised in the store during their select fundraising drives.

The store also holds a collection point solely for distribution to Greyhound Gap. Items donated can either be used by us or for sale on fundraising stalls. We were delighted to once again be able to join them physically in-store.

We remain thankful for the continued support of our local veterinary practices of choice. Leek Veterinary Clinic and Nantwich Pet Vets have once again been invaluable to allowing us to continue to offer the best care possible to our dogs. In a year when dogs landing had been left in a much further reaching state of neglect than previously seen we can not thank them enough for their continued empathy and knowledge.

Kennels Premises

Since 2018 Greyhound Gap have owned their own fit for purpose kennels facilities. Providing 54 kennels, a purpose built home from home room and exercise paddocks it provides a calm and welcoming environment for our dogs.

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Trustees' Report

During the financial year due to maternity leave, we added an additional member to the team. Once the maternity leave period ended we were able to keep that additional member in place ensuring an even bigger staff base available to our charges. Moving forward as a Charity now, after a long transitional period followed by both a pandemic and continuing cost of living crisis, our forward aims are to concentrate on infrastructure. Longer standing members of the team moving into more senior roles will be a large part of contingency planning for the following financial year. Having moved from a small-to-small medium sized Charity, future longevity past founding members needs to be priority. The Trustees remain alive and committed to the continuance of revenue generation to ensure that is obtainable. We hope to continue to offer a culture of excellence for our existing and future employees.

Greyhound Gap continue to be a proud member of the ADCH (Association of Dogs and Cats Homes)

Our home from home room addition continues to be hugely beneficial to both our dogs, staff and visitors. So many of our dogs have never encountered a home environment before and having a specific space to desensitise them to hoovers, washing machines, TVs, sofas and human space sharing have left them better prepared for their new homes. It also gives the dogs a break from the kennels environment, and they are able, if they chose, to engage in additional enrichment activities.

Immediate plans during the next financial year are to create a reception area. The current set up consists of an old wooden structure that is showing wear and tear and is no longer suitable for the purpose of use. It will however be suitable for storage of items for both the dogs and fundraising whilst they are sorted and delegated to the necessary areas. Once completed a refurbishment of the old isolation block is planned to bring that up to date.

Developing Public Relations and Promotion of the Charity

Over the year, with the continued growth of social media we have remained proactive in engaging a broader spectrum of people nationwide. This has opened a whole new avenue of volunteers and supporters. It also helps with further advancement in fundraising and educational purposes with a larger audience of people actively becoming involved in campaigns headed up by us and other welfare organisations we work alongside. We are enthusiastic that this will continue with a steady growth and enable us to continue to grow our resources.

We continue to be extremely active within the local press and media with them giving us many opportunities to both promote the Charity and to continue education in the local and more further reaching communities.

The website continues to serve as a front face for the rescue hosting all the relevant information including our current hounds, our adoption guidelines, our online web shop, events, newsletters and any relevant big announcements. The website has continued to receive many both independent and returning hits in line with previous years. However, we are becoming increasingly aware that it needs to be updated and moving forward into the following financial year this will be a priority.

The site also links to our online forum and, whilst numbers posting on there are down, visitors continue to use it to view more in-depth details of our dogs available for adoption and our help and advice archives. Through the forum's facility, we can email the 7500 members if urgent assistance in any form is required. The member rate has continued to grow even though the forum remains in the main inactive.

The Facebook groups and pages have seen a steady influx of new members, the main Facebook group itself is now on over 21,000 these members continue to get involved in direct appeals for help or are applying to become volunteers for the organisation.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that we have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit reporting in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Greyhound Gap CIO

Trustees' Report

Financial review

Principle funding sources

During the period the charity received income of £348,413 (2022: £405,722). We are well supported with a wide and loyal support base, this coupled with our own fundraising efforts which includes adoption, our own on line shop, auctions, raffles, boarding, dog shows, stalls and markets to name a few means we are not reliant upon a limited number of income streams to deliver our objectives and commitments. Included in the amount above we received £22,036 (2022: £nil) of restricted funds, Expenditure for the period was £347,687 (2022: £314,147) of which £13,715 (2022: £14,737) was on kennelling costs.

The charity has unrestricted reserves of £590,562 (2022: £602,547) and restricted reserves of £12,711 (2022: £nil) at 30 September 2023.

Key management personnel

The trustees consider the General Manager is the key member of management personnel of the charity, in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Charity on a day to day basis.

Policy on reserves

Unrestricted reserves are held to ensure the ongoing care of the dogs. Annual operating costs are usually in excess of £360,000. The trustees have set a policy to hold general reserves of £120,000 in order to fund four months of operating costs to enable alternative homes to be sourced for the dogs in the charity's care in the event of the charity's operations having to cease. The current level of reserves is higher than our policy and the trustees are looking at ways to reduce this going forward.

At the year end the charity held total reserves of £603,273 (2022: £602,547) of which £12,711 (2022: £nil) were restricted funds and £283,288 (2022: £269,700) are held in fixed assets less those secured by long term liabilities. This leaves free reserves of £307,274 (2022: £332,847).

Plans for future periods

Future developments

Short to Medium Term Objectives

- We continue with our aim to maintain reserves to £100,000
- We continue to strive for more low risk homing opportunities for our dogs
- We aim to continue to carry out year on year improvements and upgrades to the kennels and kennels house to maximise its potential.
- We will continue to recruit additional volunteers.
- To continue to build an operational and sustainable infrastructure

Long Term Objectives

- To seek to improve and modernise the kennels facilities to ensure maximum comfort to both the staff base and the dogs in our care.
- To work with more community groups and offer services to a wider range of audiences we feel can benefit from working alongside our dogs.
- We will be exploring the growth of core aims especially paying attention to the necessity to secure and enable safe placements for a growing number of dogs with ourselves and other organisations we work closely with.

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Trustees' Report

Other Objectives

- We will strive to achieve continuous improvement in animal welfare, building on our excellent reputation and aiming to set a benchmark for other similar animal welfare organisations to aspire to. In doing so, to inspire other animal welfare organisations to raise their standards of animal welfare practices in line with our own. This will bring about an improvement way beyond our direct control and reach
- We will strive to build better relations and networks with like-minded individuals and groups across the UK and continue to work towards educating the public with regards the exploitation and suffering of greyhounds within the racing industry and fight for better welfare reforms.
- We will continue to support the banning of the use of sighthounds, in general, from partaking in blood sports and continue to back measures aimed at keeping bans in place. The number of dogs arriving in our care suffering from physical injuries consistent with both fox and badger damage continues to be a great worry to us.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 13.06.24 and signed on its behalf by:



L Cartwright (Founder)
Trustee

Greyhound Gap CIO

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 13.06.24 and signed on its behalf by:


L Cartwright (Founder)
Trustee

Greyhound Gap CIO

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Greyhound Gap CIO

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2023 which are set out on pages 17 to 27.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of .

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Helen Binns FCA
Chartered Accountants

One Express
1 George Leigh Street
Ancoats
Manchester
M4 5DL

Date: 13/06/2024

Greyhound Gap CIO

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 30 September 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	255,185	22,036	277,221	306,913
Charitable activities	3	69,363	-	69,363	98,784
Investment income	4	1,829	-	1,829	25
Total Income		<u>326,377</u>	<u>22,036</u>	<u>348,413</u>	<u>405,722</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	(8,635)	-	(8,635)	(2,121)
Charitable activities	6	<u>(329,727)</u>	<u>(9,325)</u>	<u>(339,052)</u>	<u>(312,026)</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>(338,362)</u>	<u>(9,325)</u>	<u>(347,687)</u>	<u>(314,147)</u>
Net movement in funds		(11,985)	12,711	726	91,575
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>602,547</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>602,547</u>	<u>510,972</u>
Total funds carried forward	15	<u>590,562</u>	<u>12,711</u>	<u>603,273</u>	<u>602,547</u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

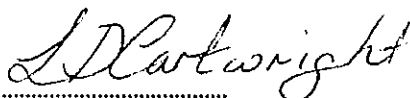
The funds breakdown for 2022 is shown in note 15.

Greyhound Gap CIO

(Registration number: 1158499)
Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	578,566	569,265
Current assets			
Stocks	11	2,000	1,000
Debtors	12	12,374	12,017
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>322,225</u>	<u>336,833</u>
		336,599	349,850
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(16,613)</u>	<u>(17,003)</u>
Net current assets		<u>319,986</u>	<u>332,847</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		898,552	902,112
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	14	<u>(295,278)</u>	<u>(299,565)</u>
Net assets		<u>603,274</u>	<u>602,547</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds		12,711	-
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>590,562</u>	<u>602,547</u>
Total funds	15	<u>603,273</u>	<u>602,547</u>

The financial statements on pages 17 to 27 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 13-06-24 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
L Cartwright (Founder)
Trustee

Greyhound Gap CIO

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 September 2023

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

Greyhound Gap CIO meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The judgements and estimations that management has made in the process of applying the entity's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statement are as follows:

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values, where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets and residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In re-assessing asset lives, factors such as technological innovation, produce life cycles and maintenance are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as future market conditions, the remaining life of the asset and projected disposal values.

Going concern

The Charity's activities together with factors likely to affect its future development and financial position are set out in the Trustees' report. The Trustees consider that in the light of the Charity's planned activities and current reserves it has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Fund structure

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Greyhound Gap CIO

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 September 2023

Income and endowments

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity has entitlement to the funds, certainty that receipt of income is considered probable, and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably, and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution.

Donations are received and included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable.

Donations include cash raised through street collections and events. It is common at these events for the charity to offer items for sale but the income is not separately identifiable.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Investment income is included when receivable.

Incoming resources from charitable activity are accounted for when earned.

Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities, they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Costs in raising funds are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters

Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normal upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at costs less depreciation.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Buildings	2% Straight line
Motor vehicles	25% Straight line
Equipment	25% Straight line

Greyhound Gap CIO

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 September 2023

The cost of land included in the balance sheet but not depreciated is £250,000.

Stock

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks.

Financial instruments

Classification

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution 'money purchase' scheme. The charity's contributions are restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 7. At the year end there were no outstanding contributions. The costs of the defined contribution scheme are disclosed within costs of charitable activities.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	General £	£	£	£
Donations and legacies;				
General donations	212,471	12,808	225,279	236,974
Adoption donations	19,218	-	19,218	11,100
Legacies	23,496	9,228	32,724	58,839
	<u>255,185</u>	<u>22,036</u>	<u>277,221</u>	<u>306,913</u>

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	General £	£	£
Sale of merchandise	8,863	8,863	8,839
Other fundraising activities	60,500	60,500	89,945
	<u>69,363</u>	<u>69,363</u>	<u>98,784</u>

Greyhound Gap CIO

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 September 2023

4 Investment income

All of the charity's investment income arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts.

	Unrestricted funds		
	General	Total	Total
	£	2023	2022
		£	£
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Interest receivable on bank deposits	1,829	1,829	25
	<u>1,829</u>	<u>1,829</u>	<u>25</u>

5 Expenditure on raising funds

a) Costs of trading activities

		Unrestricted funds		
		General	Total	Total
		£	2023	2022
	Note		£	£
Fundraising trading costs;				
Merchandise purchases		8,635	8,635	2,121
		<u>17,270</u>	<u>17,270</u>	<u>4,242</u>

Greyhound Gap CIO

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 September 2023

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds			
Note	General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Direct Costs				
Wages and salaries	160,713	-	160,713	123,400
Social security costs	7,180	-	7,180	11,626
Pension costs - defined contribution	3,073	-	3,073	4,607
Heat & Light	2,095	7,206	9,301	8,120
Kennels Maintenance	5,636	-	5,636	18,698
Depreciation	7,069	2,119	9,188	12,379
Veterinary fees	75,486	-	75,486	73,796
Kennelling	13,714	-	13,714	14,737
General dog costs	707	-	707	1,167
Vehicle running costs	10,828	-	10,828	7,045
Dog show	-	-	-	377
Sundry expenses	4,117	-	4,117	6,306
Rent & Rates	5,736	-	5,736	3,048
Bank interest	21,882	-	21,882	12,373
	<u>318,236</u>	<u>9,325</u>	<u>327,561</u>	<u>297,679</u>
Support Costs				
Insurance	3,091	-	3,091	2,776
Telephone	2,362	-	2,362	4,280
General administrative costs	193	-	193	1,171
Postage and packaging	2,450	-	2,450	1,590
Health and Safety	18	-	18	99
Training	325	-	325	190
Motor Expenses	-	-	-	580
Legal fees	1,267	-	1,267	1,794
Independent examiners fees	1,785	-	1,785	1,867
	<u>11,491</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,491</u>	<u>14,347</u>
	<u>329,727</u>	<u>9,325</u>	<u>339,052</u>	<u>312,026</u>

Greyhound Gap CIO

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 September 2023

7 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	160,713	123,400
Social security costs	7,180	11,626
Pension costs	3,073	4,607
	<u>170,966</u>	<u>139,633</u>

The average number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full-time equivalents was 8 (2022: 8).

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

8 Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

L Cartwright (Founder)

L Cartwright (Founder) received remuneration of £31,254 (2022: £27,045) during the year.

9 Taxation

The income and gains of the charity are exempt from taxation to the extent that they are applied to its charitable objectives.

Greyhound Gap CIO

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 September 2023

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Furniture and equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 October 2022	603,432	3,610	24,733	631,775
Additions	-	-	18,489	18,489
At 30 September 2023	<u>603,432</u>	<u>3,610</u>	<u>43,222</u>	<u>650,264</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 October 2022	34,167	3,610	24,733	62,510
Charge for the year	7,069	-	2,119	9,188
At 30 September 2023	<u>41,236</u>	<u>3,610</u>	<u>26,852</u>	<u>71,698</u>
Net book value				
At 30 September 2023	<u>562,196</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,370</u>	<u>578,566</u>
At 30 September 2022	<u>569,265</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>569,265</u>

11 Stock

	2023 £	2022 £
Stocks	<u>2,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>

12 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	601	-
Prepayments	5,521	5,643
Accrued income	2,310	2,938
VAT recoverable	3,253	3,436
Other debtors	689	-
	<u>12,374</u>	<u>12,017</u>

Greyhound Gap CIO

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 September 2023

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Bank loans	7,387	10,491
Trade creditors	3,428	2,024
Other taxation and social security	2,399	-
Other creditors	49	-
Accruals	3,350	4,488
	<u>16,613</u>	<u>17,003</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Bank loans	<u>295,278</u>	<u>299,565</u>

The bank loan is secured by a legal charge on the freehold property Grindlestone Edge House, Cobmoor Road, Kildsgrove.

15 Funds

	Balance at 1 October 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 30 September 2023 £
Unrestricted funds				
<i>General</i>				
General Funds	602,547	326,377	(338,362)	590,562
Restricted funds				
Donations towards heating costs	-	12,808	(7,206)	5,602
Donation for new van	-	9,228	(2,119)	7,109
Total restricted funds	<u>-</u>	<u>22,036</u>	<u>(9,325)</u>	<u>12,711</u>
Total funds	<u>602,547</u>	<u>348,413</u>	<u>(347,687)</u>	<u>603,273</u>

Greyhound Gap CIO

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 September 2023

	Balance at 1 October 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 30 September 2022 £
Unrestricted funds				
<i>General</i>				
General Funds	503,472	405,722	(306,647)	602,547
Restricted funds				
Donations towards heating costs	<u>7,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(7,500)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>510,972</u>	<u>405,722</u>	<u>(314,147)</u>	<u>602,547</u>

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	General £	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	569,338	9,228	578,566
Current assets	323,791	12,808	336,599
Current liabilities	(16,613)	-	(16,613)
Creditors over 1 year	<u>(295,278)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(295,278)</u>
Total net assets	<u>581,238</u>	<u>22,036</u>	<u>603,274</u>

17 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.