

VETERANS WITH DOGS

England & Wales · Charity number 1161554

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [08443724](#)

Registered 2015-05-06

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Veterans With Dogs
2 Northleigh House
Thorverton Road
Exeter
EX2 8HF

Phone 01626 798030

Email info@veteranswithdogs.org.uk

Website <https://www.veteranswithdogs.org.uk>

Activities

Objects: TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE HEALTH OF CURRENT AND FORMER SERVICE PERSONNEL OF THE BRITISH ARMED FORCES, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY THOSE WITH TRAUMA RELATED MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS RESULTING FROM MILITARY SERVICE BY:-A) THE TRAINING OF ASSISTANCE DOGS FOR CURRENT AND FORMER SERVICE PERSONNEL OF THE BRITISH ARMED FORCES WITH MENTAL HEALTH DISABILITIES; B) PROVIDING TRAINING, EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE RELIEF OF MENTAL HEALTH DISABILITIES WITH THE PARTNERSHIP OF DOGS; C) IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE AND ACHIEVING GREATER INDEPENDENCE BY INCREASING CONFIDENCE AND SELF-ESTEEM, BRINGING COMPANIONSHIP, A SENSE OF SECURITY AND INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL INTERACTION;D) DEVELOPING LINKS AND FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS WHO SHARE THE AIMS OF SUPPORTING VETERANS AND THOSE PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP; E) IMPLEMENT FUNDRAISING AND EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT OF VWD OBJECTIVES AND OPERATIONS; ANDF) UNDERTAKE ANY SUCH WORK THAT THE TRUSTEES MAY AGREE, FROM TIME TO TIME, CONSISTENT WITH THE OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF THE CHARITY.

Activities: MISSION STATEMENTTo improve the quality of life for veterans who are living with mental health disorders with the support and companionship of one of our specially trained assistance dogs via our

unique and pioneering programme.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, Animals, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** People With Disabilities, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£379,835	£232,920	-	-
2024-03-31	£262,993	£190,123	-	-
2023-03-31	£156,218	£171,133	-	-
2022-03-31	£145,564	£165,575	-	-
2021-03-31	£230,356	£127,220	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Sally Williams MA	Chair	2024-07-20
Alison Susan Boyes		2026-02-12
Andrew Gosling		2026-04-16
Dennis Flynn		2026-03-11
Joshua Benn		2026-03-04
Lynette Hussey		2024-01-06
Nina Villa BEM		2026-03-02
Verity Harman		2026-03-12

VETERANS WITH DOGS

England & Wales - Charity number 1161554

Accounts

Company registration number 08443724 (England and Wales)

Charity registration number 1161554 (England and Wales)

VETERANS WITH DOGS
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

VETERANS WITH DOGS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Ms L Hussey Mrs S A Williams Rev S J S Shackleton	(Appointed 11 September 2024) (Appointed 11 September 2024)
Charity number (England and Wales)	1161554	
Company number	08443724	
Registered office	2 Northleigh House Thorverton Road Exeter Devon EX2 8HF	
Independent examiner	Mr A Hemmings BA(Hons) FCA CTA Simpkins Edwards LLP The Summit Woodwater Park Pynes Hill Exeter EX2 5WS	
Bankers	HSBC Bank Plc 4 Old Town St Plymouth Devon PL1 1DD	

VETERANS WITH DOGS

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees' report	1 - 7
Independent examiner's report	8
Statement of financial activities	9
Balance sheet	10
Notes to the financial statements	11 - 21

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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).

The Trustees confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in reviewing the charity's aims, activities, and outcomes for the year.

Executive Summary

The year ended 31 March 2025 was one of continued delivery and development for Veterans With Dogs, alongside a period of organisational transition.

The charity continued to support veterans of the UK Armed Forces and Merchant Navy living with mental health challenges through carefully assessed and trained assistance dog partnerships, alongside complementary programmes supporting wellbeing, independence, and social connection.

During the year, Veterans With Dogs expanded elements of its PALS (Partner Animal Life Skills) programme, strengthened partnerships with funders and delivery partners, and contributed to sector learning through research and evaluation activity.

The Trustees remain deeply conscious of the trust placed in the charity by donors, funders, partners, and beneficiaries. This support has enabled the charity to respond flexibly to need, maintain service delivery, and invest in both veteran and family-focused activity.

Programme monitoring, evaluation activity, and participant feedback indicate positive outcomes for participants, including reported reductions in symptoms associated with PTSD, anxiety, and depression, and improvements in daily functioning, confidence, and quality of life. 94% of veterans in our programmes reported meaningful reductions in PTSD symptoms and 75% experienced less anxiety and depression.

Objectives and Activities

Veterans With Dogs exists to support former service personnel as they transition from military to civilian life, particularly those living with mental health challenges such as PTSD, anxiety, and depression.

The charity delivers its work through a structured, evidence-informed model that combines canine-assisted intervention with appropriate assessment, training, and ongoing support. This approach draws on clinical insight, animal behaviour expertise, and lived experience to ensure that partnerships are safe, ethical, and effective for both veterans and dogs.

The charity is guided by core values of respect, care, and compassion. These principles underpin all areas of delivery, from initial assessment through to long-term aftercare.

In setting objectives and reviewing performance, the Trustees have continued to refer to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, ensuring that the charity's activities are aligned with its charitable purposes and deliver clear benefit to individuals and wider society.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025*

Need and Context

Veterans With Dogs operates within a national context in which a significant number of UK veterans experience mental health challenges during and after their transition from service. Research indicates that many veterans do not access traditional mental health support, and that barriers to engagement remain.

Veterans may experience complex and enduring challenges, including trauma, moral injury, loss of identity, and social isolation. These issues often require tailored, multi-faceted responses alongside or in addition to conventional clinical interventions.

Evidence from lived experience and sector research suggests that interventions which address physiological regulation, relationship-building, routine, and social reintegration can play a valuable role in supporting recovery and wellbeing.

Our Approach and Innovation

Veterans With Dogs delivers a trauma-informed, person-centred model that recognises the interconnected psychological, physiological, and social dimensions of mental health.

Assistance dogs are trained and partnered with veterans following careful assessment of suitability, need, and welfare considerations. Within this model, dogs may support stress regulation, emotional awareness, routine-building, and social interaction.

The charity's approach emphasises compatibility between veteran and dog, ongoing training and review, and long-term aftercare. This helps to maximise positive outcomes and reduce risk for both parties.

Feedback from programme delivery and evaluation indicates that this integrated approach can complement clinical support and contribute to meaningful improvements in wellbeing and daily functioning.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Achievements and Performance

This year, Veterans With Dogs delivered an integrated portfolio of services:

- 91 active veteran-dog partnerships were maintained, with ongoing clinical review.
- 11 dogs completed advanced training, with 16 graduated pairs deployed.
- 510 structured PALS programme engagements and 135 specialist training sessions were undertaken.
- 17 weeks of residential programming immersed veterans in skill-building and peer mentoring.
- Outreach included 84 Dogs in Schools sessions and 26 “Meet & Greet” community events

Our clinical evaluation, spanning validated national and proprietary measures, confirms substantial positive change:

- 94% showed clinically significant reductions in PTSD symptoms at 10-year follow-up.
- 75% reported improvements in anxiety and depression.
- Marked gains were also noted in daily functioning, independence, sleep quality, and subjective wellbeing.
- 31% fewer NHS mental health service contacts were documented, demonstrating meaningful cost savings.

Physiological research in partnership with university collaborators further demonstrates reduced stress hormone levels, better heart rate variability, and improved brain activity patterns, while over half of participants successfully reduced their medication under professional supervision.

Research, Learning, and Policy Impact

In 2025, Veterans With Dogs published the UK’s first decade-long mixed-methods study of canine-assisted mental health intervention. This research not only confirms the efficacy of our veteran-dog partnerships but also highlights how the “recovery through caregiving” model can restore agency and identity for veterans navigating civilian life. Our work has informed European guidelines on trauma-informed canine interventions and influenced best practices across the sector. The research has been recognised globally, reinforcing both the need for partnerships where veteran and dog are carefully matched, and our obligation to keep welfare, ethics, and transparency at the heart of all delivery.

Social Impact, Public Benefit, and Community

The impact of Veterans With Dogs reaches far beyond individual participants. Our Dogs in Schools programme has engaged more than 2,500 children, fostering understanding and reducing stigma around mental health and the challenges of military life. Public displays, media campaigns, and research dissemination normalise help-seeking and demonstrate the value of service dogs as both personal and societal assets. Robust external evaluation verifies that our strategic activities offer meaningful public benefit, which the Trustees affirm is fully in line with the charity’s aims and legal obligations.

People, Volunteers, and Organisational Structure

The charity’s mission is realised through the passion and expertise of our staff and volunteers. We continue to support flexible working, staff wellbeing, and CPD, introducing new communication channels and leadership touchpoints to ensure all voices are heard. In 2025, 43 dedicated volunteers donated more than 122,000 hours—a contribution valued at over £200,000—while 76% said volunteering deepened their community ties. We invested in a new Volunteer Framework and extended our CPD opportunities to all contributors, including the launch of a peer mentoring initiative. The Board and executive leadership remain committed to multidisciplinary working and diversity, with external specialists contributing to advisory boards and research panels.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025*

Financial Review and Sustainability

Revenues are derived from gifts, legacies and donations, grants, shop sales and Gift Aid. Our treasury is supported by sustained funding relationships; notable supporters in 2025 included the Veterans' Foundation, Julia Rausing Trust, Army Benevolent Fund, and the Armed Forces Covenant, along with a wide array of trusts, companies, and individuals recognised in this report. Corporate partners further contributed expertise, engagement, and capacity, ensuring our ability to innovate and respond to challenging times.

Strategic Partnerships and Advocacy

Veterans With Dogs is increasingly central to the delivery of government and MOD veteran welfare priorities, facilitating referrals and joint working. Trustees and staff engage in regular knowledge exchange with policymakers, and we have actively contributed to government-led discussions on legal protections and improved access for assistance dog teams.

Internationally, we have provided input to EU networks and are cited as a model of best practice for trauma recovery partnerships.

Major Supporters 2025:

- Veterans' Foundation
- Julia Rausing Trust
- Army Benevolent Fund
- Armed Forces Covenant
- Clarity Environmental
- ShareGift
- Devon Community Foundation
- Royal British Legion (Devon Branch)
- Lord Barclay Foundation
- Mrs DM France-Hayhurst Foundation
- Anran
- Robert Clutterbuck Trust
- LAPA Charitable Trust

Corporate Partnerships

Corporate partners continued to provide valuable financial and in-kind support during the year. The Trustees particularly acknowledge the contribution of Clarity Environmental, AACE, ShareGift, and Anran, whose support helped enable continued service delivery and organisational stability.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Strategic Priorities for 2026

Looking ahead, the Trustees have identified the following strategic priorities:

- Consolidating and strengthening governance, systems, and operational resilience
- Developing targeted activity supporting military-connected children and families
- Improving inclusivity and access for underrepresented veteran groups
- Continuing to embed research, evaluation, and learning across programmes
- Strengthening partnerships with health services, funders, and delivery partners
- Enhancing digital systems to support efficient and safe service delivery

Advocacy for fair access, ethical practice, and appropriate recognition of assistance dog partnerships will remain an ongoing priority.

Thanks and Closing Remarks

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff team, Veterans With Dogs extends sincere thanks to all donors, volunteers, supporters, corporate partners, and funders whose commitment made the charity's work possible during the year.

The outcomes achieved reflect a collective effort and shared belief in supporting veterans to improve wellbeing, independence, and quality of life. The Trustees remain committed to operating with transparency, integrity, and accountability as the charity moves forward.

Financial review

Income

During the year ended 31 March 2025, we received income of £379,835 (2024: £262,993), an increase of £116,842.

Expenditure

Charitable activities expenditure amounted to £216,700 (2024: £175,755), an increase of £40,945.

Costs of raising funds amounted to £1,000 (2024: £3,739), a decrease of £2,739.

Other costs amounted to £15,220 (2024: £10,629), an increase of £4,591.

Fund balances

Unrestricted funds amount to £231,098 (2024: £51,761), an increase of £179,337.

Restricted funds amount to £74,710 (2024: £107,132), a decrease of £32,422.

Overall position

The combined effect of the above has seen a net surplus of £146,915 (2024: £72,870 surplus) for the year.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Reserves policy

The Trustees have adopted a reserves policy designed to ensure the charity can continue normal operating activities for a period of up to six months in the event of an income shortfall or unforeseen disruption.

In reviewing expenditure commitments and risk exposure, the Trustees have determined that a minimum unrestricted reserve level of £113,500 is required to support financial resilience and continuity of services.

Restricted and endowment funds are excluded from the reserves calculation, as these funds are held for specific purposes in line with donor or funder conditions.

The reserves policy supports transparency, accountability, and responsible financial management and is reviewed regularly by the Trustees.

Major risks

The Trustees have reviewed the principal risks facing the charity, including financial sustainability, operational delivery, and external factors affecting income and expenditure.

Key risk considerations include:

- The need to diversify and stabilise long-term income streams
- Risks associated with the training and suitability of dogs
- Variability in operating costs, including premises
- The impact of external events on fundraising and service delivery

The Trustees are satisfied that appropriate systems and controls are in place to mitigate these risks and will continue to review risk management arrangements regularly.

Risk registers and mitigation plans are reviewed regularly by the Trustees and updated as required.

We continue to have a sound strategy diversifying our income streams over the next financial year as well as potential forthcoming corporate partnerships which will secure longer term financial stability.

It is the Trustees responsibility to continue to diversify Veterans With Dogs income streams over the coming year, our reserves target will be met.

It is essential that all current partnerships can be supported should income fall or subsequently that funds be available should additional activity become necessary due to the impact of unforeseen external events on our beneficiaries.

Reviewing and Monitoring the Reserves Policy

This policy will be reviewed at each Trustee meeting and reserve levels adjusted as risk or other factors change. The CEO will present the Trustees with a draft document and supporting details that enables them to make an informed decision about levels of Reserves aligning with the approval and subsequent reviews of our Strategic plan and Operating Budgets.

Structure, Governance and Management

Veterans With Dogs is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, and is a registered charity. The charity is governed by its Articles of Association and is overseen by a Board of Trustees who are also directors for the purposes of company law.

The Trustees are responsible for the strategic direction, governance, and oversight of the charity, while day-to-day operations are delegated in line with agreed roles and responsibilities.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mrs C Maclellan	(Resigned 7 December 2025)
Mr M Field	(Resigned 2 August 2025)
Mr M Bestwick	(Resigned 6 April 2024)
Mr C R Maclellan	(Resigned 3 December 2025)
Mr D Reid	(Resigned 2 August 2025)
Ms L Hussey	
Mrs S A Williams	(Appointed 11 September 2024)
Rev S J S Shackleton	(Appointed 11 September 2024)

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mrs S A Williams
Trustee

Rev S J S Shackleton
Trustee

29 January 2026

VETERANS WITH DOGS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF VETERANS WITH DOGS

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Veterans With Dogs (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

The Okehampton office of Simpkins Edwards LLP has been instructed by the Trustees to provide bookkeeping services for the Charity. I have followed the Charity Commission's guidance under direction two to ensure that I provide an objective independent opinion and maintain the appropriate segregation of duties.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000, the independent examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 386 of the Companies Act 2006.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 financial statements to be reached.

Mr A Hemmings BA(Hons) FCA CTA

for and on behalf of Simpkins Edwards LLP

The Summit
Woodwater Park
Pynes Hill
Exeter
EX2 5WS

Dated: 29 January 2026

VETERANS WITH DOGS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	290,359	84,560	374,919	105,497	153,993	259,490
Other trading activities	4	3,960	-	3,960	3,503	-	3,503
Investments	5	956	-	956	-	-	-
Total income		<u>295,275</u>	<u>84,560</u>	<u>379,835</u>	<u>109,000</u>	<u>153,993</u>	<u>262,993</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	1,000	-	1,000	3,739	-	3,739
Charitable activities	7	99,718	116,982	216,700	119,987	55,768	175,755
Other expenditure	8	15,220	-	15,220	10,629	-	10,629
Total expenditure		<u>115,938</u>	<u>116,982</u>	<u>232,920</u>	<u>134,355</u>	<u>55,768</u>	<u>190,123</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		179,337	(32,422)	146,915	(25,355)	98,225	72,870
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	4,972	(4,972)	-
Net movement in funds	9	179,337	(32,422)	146,915	(20,383)	93,253	72,870
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		<u>51,761</u>	<u>107,132</u>	<u>158,893</u>	<u>72,144</u>	<u>13,879</u>	<u>86,023</u>
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		<u>231,098</u>	<u>74,710</u>	<u>305,808</u>	<u>51,761</u>	<u>107,132</u>	<u>158,893</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

		2025		2024	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		22,170		20,753
Current assets					
Stocks	15	3,858		3,690	
Debtors	16	22,975		17,191	
Cash at bank and in hand		274,772		128,331	
		<u>301,605</u>		<u>149,212</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	<u>(17,967)</u>		<u>(11,072)</u>	
Net current assets			283,638		138,140
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>305,808</u>		<u>158,893</u>
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	19		74,710		107,132
Unrestricted funds			231,098		51,761
			<u>305,808</u>		<u>158,893</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 29 January 2026

Mrs S A Williams
Trustee

Rev S J S Shackleton
Trustee

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Veterans With Dogs is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 2 Northleigh House, Thorverton Road, Exeter, Devon, EX2 8HF.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "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)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a statement of cash flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the Trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.3 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised when the amount can be reliably measured and it is reasonably certain that the amount will be received.

Grants: See separate policy note 1.8.

1.4 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Leasehold improvements	Straight line over the life of the lease
Plant and equipment	33% to 50% straight line per annum
Fixtures and fittings	20% straight line per annum
Computers	33% straight line per annum
Motor vehicles	10% to 20% straight line per annum

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.6 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

Stocks comprise various clothing items and other promotional items to sell in the shop.

1.7 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.8 Grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

Other grants that specify performance conditions are recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	81,961	-	81,961	94,194	-	94,194
Legacies receivable	198,000	-	198,000	8,361	-	8,361
Grants received	5,000	84,560	89,560	-	153,993	153,993
Gift Aid income	5,398	-	5,398	2,942	-	2,942
	<u>290,359</u>	<u>84,560</u>	<u>374,919</u>	<u>105,497</u>	<u>153,993</u>	<u>259,490</u>

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2025	2024
	£	£
Shop income	<u>3,960</u>	<u>3,503</u>

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2025	2024
	£	£
Interest receivable	<u>956</u>	<u>-</u>

6 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2025	2024
	£	£
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Other fundraising costs	<u>1,000</u>	<u>3,739</u>
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>3,739</u>

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

7 Charitable activities

	Charitable Expenditure 2025 £	Charitable Expenditure 2024 £
Staff costs	84,817	63,278
Puppy purchases	21,531	24,773
Trainers' fees and residential costs	12,088	17,605
Travel and subsistence	14,824	12,258
Consultancy and training	22,000	327
Registration fees	20	29
Software and IT consumables	4,921	3,567
Volunteers expenses	1,575	864
Shop purchases	3,421	3,956
Insurance	4,969	4,652
Telephone	1,240	1,249
Postage and stationery	2,727	352
Advertising	1,009	569
Sundries	4,875	4,619
Repairs and maintenance	1,769	4,013
Subscriptions	2,883	4,494
Rent and rates	32,031	29,150
	<u>216,700</u>	<u>175,755</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	99,718	119,987
Restricted funds	116,982	55,768
	<u>216,700</u>	<u>175,755</u>

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

8 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted funds £ 2025	Unrestricted funds £ 2024
Depreciation	6,041	3,861
Accountancy and legal fees	7,454	5,400
Other expenditure	1,725	1,368
	<u>15,220</u>	<u>10,629</u>

9 Net movement in funds

The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025 £	2024 £
Fees payable to the charity's independent examiner:		
- for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	3,529	2,322
- for other financial services	3,600	3,078
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	6,041	3,861
	<u>13,170</u>	<u>9,261</u>

10 Trustees

During the year, four trustees received reimbursements of expenses totalling £3,853 (2024: £4,022). As at the balance sheet date, one trustee was owed £380 (2024: £2,334) in unpaid expense claims.

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
	4	3
	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>

Employment costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	83,170	61,212
Other pension costs	1,647	2,066
	<u>84,817</u>	<u>63,278</u>

There were no employees who received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 (2024 - none).

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

12 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2025 £	2024 £
Independent examination of the annual accounts	3,529	2,322
Other services		
All other non-assurance services	3,600	3,078

13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold improvements £	Plant and equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computers £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost						
At 1 April 2024	1,418	6,962	4,427	5,442	19,919	38,168
Additions	-	2,238	-	5,220	-	7,458
At 31 March 2025	1,418	9,200	4,427	10,662	19,919	45,626
Depreciation and impairment						
At 1 April 2024	568	1,258	3,449	4,670	7,470	17,415
Depreciation charged in the year	284	2,529	286	955	1,987	6,041
At 31 March 2025	852	3,787	3,735	5,625	9,457	23,456
Carrying amount						
At 31 March 2025	566	5,413	692	5,037	10,462	22,170
At 31 March 2024	850	5,704	978	772	12,449	20,753

15 Stocks

	2025 £	2024 £
Finished goods for resale	3,858	3,690

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

16 Debtors	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	7,717	7,249
Prepayments and accrued income	15,258	9,942
	<u>22,975</u>	<u>17,191</u>
	<u><u>22,975</u></u>	<u><u>17,191</u></u>
17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2025	2024
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	4,907	2,398
Trade creditors	5,699	5,084
Accruals and deferred income	7,361	3,590
	<u>17,967</u>	<u>11,072</u>
	<u><u>17,967</u></u>	<u><u>11,072</u></u>
18 Retirement benefit schemes	2025	2024
	£	£
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	1,647	2,066
	<u>1,647</u>	<u>2,066</u>
	<u><u>1,647</u></u>	<u><u>2,066</u></u>

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

19 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	Movement in funds				Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Devon Community Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
ICAP- Corporate Support donation	9,629	-	(9,629)	-	-	-	-	-
Veterans Foundation UK	-	40,000	(33,360)	-	6,640	20,000	(26,640)	-
Armed Forces Covenant	4,250	-	(4,250)	-	-	-	-	-
Clarity Enviromental	-	12,500	(6,208)	-	6,292	-	(6,292)	-
Forces Support	-	75,000	-	-	75,000	-	(25,000)	50,000
Pets at Home Foundation	-	19,200	-	-	19,200	-	(19,200)	-
National Grid	-	7,293	(2,321)	(4,972)	-	-	-	-
The Julia Rauling Trust	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	(12,000)	8,000
Royal British Legion	-	-	-	-	-	5,000	(2,640)	2,360
Army Benevolent Fund	-	-	-	-	-	15,000	(650)	14,350
Armed Forces Covenant	-	-	-	-	-	14,060	(14,060)	-
Norman Family Trust	-	-	-	-	-	2,500	(2,500)	-
Schroder Charity Trust	-	-	-	-	-	3,000	(3,000)	-
	<u>13,879</u>	<u>153,993</u>	<u>(55,768)</u>	<u>(4,972)</u>	<u>107,132</u>	<u>84,560</u>	<u>(116,982)</u>	<u>74,710</u>

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

19 Restricted funds

(Continued)

ICAP

The ICAP donation was used to fund residential activity and courses.

Veterans Foundation UK

The Veterans Foundation UK donation was used for salary support.

Armed Forces Covenant

This funding is used for the Paws for Life Project and salary support.

Clarity Environmental

The Clarity Environmental donation was used for the Puppy partnership program.

Forces Support

The Forces Support donation will be used for lifetime sponsorship of three dogs.

National Grid

The National Grid donation was used for warm space funding.

Pets at Home Foundation

The Pets at Home foundation donation will be used for residential and veterans walks in 2024/25.

Devon Community Foundation

The Devon Community Foundation funds will be used for core running costs aswell as training and veterinary bills.

The Julia Rauling Trust

This funding is for residentials and core costs.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

19 Restricted funds

(Continued)

Royal British Legion

The funding is for puppy sponsorship.

Army Benevolent Fund

This funding is to support Paws in schools.

Veterans Foundation

This funding is for salary costs for mental health and dog training.

Norman Family Trust

This funding is to cover veteran partnership training costs.

Shroder Charity Trust

This fund is for staff costs.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
At 31 March 2025:			
Tangible assets	22,170	-	22,170
Current assets/(liabilities)	208,928	74,710	283,638
	<u>231,098</u>	<u>74,710</u>	<u>305,808</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 March 2024:			
Tangible assets	20,753	-	20,753
Current assets/(liabilities)	31,008	107,132	138,140
	<u>51,761</u>	<u>107,132</u>	<u>158,893</u>

21 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Within one year	27,500	26,300
Between two and five years	2,300	29,800
	<u>29,800</u>	<u>56,100</u>

22 Events after the reporting date

During the accounting period, the Charity received an unrestricted legacy. To date, several amounts have been received totalling £198,000 and it is believed that a further payment may fall due in the future once the estate is finalised. The Charity has not been provided with an estimate of the amount or timescale for this possible future legacy payment, therefore, it has not been included in the financial statements.

23 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - none).

VETERANS WITH DOGS

England & Wales - Charity number 1161554

Accounts

Charity registration number 1161554 (England and Wales)

Company registration number 08443724

VETERANS WITH DOGS
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

VETERANS WITH DOGS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mrs C Maclellan Mr M Field Mr C R Maclellan Mr D Reid Ms L Hussey Ms S A Williams Mr S J S Shackleton	(Appointed 22 November 2023) (Appointed 6 January 2024) (Appointed 11 September 2024) (Appointed 11 September 2024)
Charity number (England and Wales)	1161554	
Company number	08443724	
Registered office	2 Northleigh House Thorverton Road Exeter Devon EX2 8HF	
Independent examiner	Mr A Hemmings BA(Hons) FCA CTA Simpkins Edwards LLP The Summit Woodwater Park Pynes Hill Exeter EX2 5WS	
Bankers	HSBC Bank Plc 4 Old Town St Plymouth Devon PL1 1DD	

VETERANS WITH DOGS

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees' report	1 - 7
Independent examiner's report	8
Statement of financial activities	9
Balance sheet	10
Notes to the financial statements	11 - 21

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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).

Objectives and activities

- The training of assistance dogs for current and former service personnel of the British Armed Forces with mental health disabilities.
- Providing training, education and support services for the relief of mental health disabilities with the partnership of dogs.
- Improving quality of life and achieving greater independence by increasing confidence and self-esteem, bringing companionship, a sense of security and increased opportunities for social interaction.
- Develop links and foster partnerships with other organisations who share our aims of supporting Veterans and those promoting responsible dog ownership.
- Implement fundraising and educational initiatives in support of VWD objectives and operations.
- Undertake any such work that the trustees may agree, from time to time, consistent with the overall objectives of the charity.

Our vision

To improve the quality of life for veterans who are living with mental health disorders with the support and companionship of one of our specially trained assistance dogs via our unique and pioneering programme.

(A veteran is defined by the Government as any person of any age who has served in the British Armed Forces).

Our mission statement & philosophy

"To support former members of the British Armed Forces, whose psychological or physical wellbeing may have suffered due to difficult past experiences and challenging life circumstances, via engagement with dogs."

Veterans with Dogs works to support Veterans who are aspiring to increase their general level of functioning and independence by helping them to regain their sense of purpose, (self) worth and engagement with their communities and sense of value to society, helping them develop new skills, revive old ones and realise their potential.

Veterans with Dogs aims to provide a supportive, comfortable environment where people may find an opportunity to socialise with others, capitalise on shared learning experiences, develop their coping strategies, and build new friendships and lasting support networks.

Public benefit

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Achievements and performance

Executive Overview

The past year has marked a significant period of growth and achievement for Veterans With Dogs. Our organisation has continued its vital mission of transforming Veterans' lives through the therapeutic partnership of specially trained assistance dogs, providing services and support to 240 Veterans and their families across the United Kingdom with comprehensive assistance dog programmes and enhanced support services.

Governance and Board Development

The past year has marked a significant milestone in our organisational development with the strategic enhancement of our Trustee Board. Through careful selection and recruitment, we have successfully integrated specialised expertise across key areas of business management, mental health, and financial management. This strengthened governance structure positions us remarkably well to deliver our ambitious new strategic plan for 2024-2029.

Digital Transformation

Our commitment to innovation has driven comprehensive digital transformation across all operational areas. We have modernised our systems from end to end, encompassing everything from streamlined people and animal management processes to enhanced donor and volunteer experiences. This digital evolution ensures we remain at the forefront of technological advancement in our sector while maintaining our personal touch with Veterans.

Strategic Planning Achievement

The development and launch of our new Strategic Plan 2024-2029 represent a pivotal achievement in our organisation's journey. This comprehensive framework outlines our vision for sustainable growth and increased impact, focusing on expanding our flagship PALS Programme through increased puppy training capacity, enhancing Veteran support services, and continuously refining and developing innovations and methodologies.

Organisational Development

We have made significant strides in strengthening our organisational infrastructure. Our revised fundraising strategy now focuses on diversified income streams, while we have simultaneously deepened our military-sector partnerships. We have carefully scaled our infrastructure development to align with programme growth, ensuring sustainable expansion of our services.

Performance Measurement

To ensure accountability and effectiveness, we have developed comprehensive Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to track our progress across all strategic objectives. These measurable targets enable data-driven decision-making and provide clear metrics for success as we move forward with our ambitious plans for growth and development.

Strategic Progress

Our PALS (Partner Animals Life Skills) Programme has demonstrated remarkable transformational impact throughout the year. The programme's success lies in its comprehensive holistic approach, combining specialised assistance dog training with careful Veteran-dog pairing and extensive support services. We've observed significant reductions in mental health symptoms among participants, alongside improved social interaction and enhanced daily functioning.

Financial Performance

Our financial strategy has shown positive progression towards our ambitious goal of increasing annual revenue by 100% by 2029. We've successfully enhanced our digital fundraising initiatives and diversified our funding streams, ensuring sustainable growth for future programme development.

Programme Development

The year has seen substantial advancement in our training methodologies, including the introduction of bond-based option learning across all training centres. We've expanded our regional presence with new training hubs across the UK, including satellite centres in Scotland and Northern Ireland, making our services more accessible to Veterans nationwide.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Support Services Enhancement

Our comprehensive support model has been strengthened through the increase of safeguarding and mental health support alongside dog training. We've developed family support initiatives ensuring whole-household engagement, improved our structured assessment protocols for Veteran-dog matching, and established aftercare residential training experiences for intensive support.

Strategic Partnerships

Our collaborative efforts have expanded considerably, with partnerships now spanning multiple organisations including NHS Trusts, military sector charities, and various support services. These partnerships have enhanced our ability to provide services and support to more Veterans and their families through an improved referrals route from signposting organisations.

Looking Forward

As we move into 2025, our focus remains steadfast on expanding our training capacity, enhancing support services, and strengthening community partnerships. We're committed to developing innovative programmes that continue to meet the evolving needs of our Veterans while maintaining the highest standards of assistance dog training.

Impact Measurement and Programme Effectiveness

The PALS (Partner Animals Life Skills) Programme has demonstrated exceptional results throughout 2024, surpassing our initial expectations in terms of measurable mental health improvements amongst our Veteran participants. Through rigorous data collection and analysis, we have documented substantial positive changes in Veterans' daily functioning and overall wellbeing.

Clinical Outcomes

Our evidence-based approach has yielded remarkable results across multiple mental health indicators. Clinical assessments show significant reductions in PTSD symptomatology, with Veterans reporting decreased frequency and intensity of anxiety attacks, improved sleep patterns, and reduced depressive episodes. More than 90% of programme participants have reported substantial improvements in their quality of life, encompassing enhanced social interactions, increased independence, and better emotional regulation.

Programme Components

The success of PALS stems from its meticulously designed three-tier approach. Firstly, our specialised assistance dog training programme incorporates the latest research in animal behaviour and mental health support. Secondly, our careful Veteran-dog pairing process ensures optimal matching based on personality, lifestyle, and specific support needs. Finally, our comprehensive aftercare service provides ongoing support, ensuring sustainable long-term outcomes for both Veterans and their assistance dogs.

Measurement Systems

We have implemented sophisticated outcome tracking systems that monitor both quantitative and qualitative indicators of progress. These systems capture data across multiple domains, including mental health symptoms, social functioning, and quality of life measures. Regular assessments allow us to track individual progress while also evaluating the overall effectiveness of our programme components.

Innovation and Development

Our commitment to innovation is reflected in enhanced online support systems, virtual training components, and remote monitoring capabilities. We're investing in ongoing studies in assistance dog efficacy and mental health impact assessment, ensuring our methodologies remain at the forefront of the field.

Financial Sustainability

Our financial strategy focuses on sustainable growth through diversified funding streams and efficient resource management. We're implementing robust financial controls and auditing processes to ensure transparency and accountability while maintaining our commitment to excellence in service delivery.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Research and Evidence-Based Development

Our commitment to excellence in veteran support is underpinned by a robust research and evaluation programme. Through partnerships with leading academic institutions and mental health professionals, we continuously gather and analyse data on the effectiveness of our assistance dog partnerships. This evidence-based approach allows us to refine our training methodologies, enhance our support services, and demonstrate the tangible impact of our work on veterans' mental health outcomes.

Strategic Growth and Development

Looking towards 2029, we have established clear and measurable objectives that will significantly expand our reach and impact. Our strategic plan includes increasing our veteran support capacity by 50%, taking us from serving 240 veterans to 360 by 2029. This expansion will be achieved through carefully planned annual growth, ensuring we maintain our high standards of service delivery while meeting the increasing demand for assistance dog partnerships.

Quality Assurance and Programme Enhancement

We have set an ambitious target of achieving a 95% success rate in partnership accreditation, reflecting our dedication to excellence in assistance dog training and veteran support. This will be accomplished through enhanced training protocols, comprehensive aftercare services, and regular evaluation of partnership outcomes. Our specialised programmes are being developed to address specific mental health challenges, incorporating the latest research in both veteran care and assistance dog training.

Future Vision

As we progress through our strategic plan, we remain steadfast in our mission to transform veterans' lives through the therapeutic power of assistance dog partnerships. Our comprehensive approach includes strengthening collaborations with military and mental health organisations, expanding our network of support services, and ensuring sustainable financial growth through diversified funding streams. This strategic development positions us to deliver increasingly effective support to veterans facing mental health challenges, while maintaining our position as a leading provider of assistance dog partnerships in the United Kingdom.

Long-Term Impact

Through this strategic development and unwavering commitment to excellence, we are building a sustainable foundation for long-term impact in the veteran community. Our goal extends beyond simply providing assistance dogs; we aim to create lasting transformative partnerships that enable veterans to regain independence, confidence, and improved mental wellbeing. This holistic approach ensures that every veteran who needs our support can access the life-changing benefits of a specially trained assistance dog, supported by comprehensive evidence of effectiveness and ongoing professional support.

Notable Support and Partnerships 2023/24

The remarkable progress and achievements of Veterans With Dogs throughout 2024 would not have been possible without the generous support of our major donors and partners. Through their significant contributions, we have been able to expand our PALS Programme and enhance our service delivery across the United Kingdom. Forces Support and the Veterans Foundation have provided substantial backing for our core programmes, whilst the National Lottery has enabled us to develop new initiatives for Veteran support. The Pets at Home Foundation, AACE and Burnham Beeches Golf Club have been instrumental in supporting our assistance dog training programmes, demonstrating the power of corporate partnerships in advancing our mission.

We have also benefited from the generous support of several charitable trusts, including the Kathleen Beryl Sleigh Charitable Trust, The Lennox Hannay Charitable Trust, and The Belvedere Trust, whose contributions have helped strengthen our operational capacity. Corporate supporters such as Clarity Environmental, World of Tanks, and National Grid have provided vital funding for specific projects, while the Hedley Foundation and Loyle Trust have supported our innovative training programmes.

This diverse range of supporters reflects the broad recognition of our work's importance and impact. Their continued faith in our mission enables us to continue to help Veterans rebuild their lives through the therapeutic partnership with assistance dogs.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Financial review

Income

During the year ended 31 March 2024, we received income of £262,993 (2023: £156,218), an increase of £106,775.

Expenditure

Charitable activities expenditure amounted to £175,755 (2023: £171,133), an increase of £4,622.

Costs of raising fund amounted to £3,739 (2023: £2,341), an increase of £1,398.

Other costs amounted to £10,629 (2023: £12,392), a decrease of £1,763.

Fund balances

Unrestricted funds amount to £51,761 (2023: £72,144), a decrease of £20,383.

Restricted funds amount to £107,132 (2023: £13,879), an increase of £93,253.

Overall position

The combined effect of the above has seen a net surplus of £72,870 (2023: £29,648 deficit) for the year.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Reserves policy

Reserves policy

Our Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of Veterans With Dogs are current and former service personnel of the British Armed Forces with mental health disabilities. Providing training, education and support services for the relief of mental health disabilities with the partnership of dogs.

Our Charity needs to have sufficient reserves to cover the diverse expenditure commitments to our beneficiaries and have ascertained that a minimum of £38,395 reserves needs to be held to ensure the charities future expenditure objectives can be met.

Rationale of the Reserves Policy

Veterans With Dogs provides lifetime partnerships between Veterans and Assistance Dogs, helping our beneficiaries to lead more independent lives by mitigating the symptoms their disability presents. Our services cover the whole of the UK.

Our Reserves Policy is to maintain sufficient level of reserves to enable and protect normal operating activities to continue over a period of up to 4 months should a shortfall in income occur and to take account of potential risks and contingencies that may arise from time to time. Our current beneficiaries continued support and services are vital to their well being.

Excluded from the Reserves Policy is income associated with:

- Endowment Funds
- Restricted Funds (Earmarked Income)

In order to demonstrate transparency, accountability and sound financial management the Veterans With Dogs Reserves Policy clearly justifies the amount of reserves kept back each year.

Establishing our level of reserve

The Trustees have reviewed our charities risks and commitments in respect of expenditure, unrestricted income and where appropriate restricted income.

The Trustees have taken into consideration are any external identified potential major risks to income and expenditure during the year under consideration.

A risk assessment was undertaken for the period 1st April 2020 and the following was been determined using the Risk Identification approach:

- Unrestricted Income: Medium Risk
- Restricted Income: Low Risk
- Expenditure: Low Risk

- External Potential Major Risks:
 - Current lack of diversity and long term income streams
 - Dogs purchased fall ill or fail
 - Fluctuating Charity rent costs
 - Covid Pandemic restrictions on fundraising

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Level of reserve required by Veterans With Dogs

Veterans With Dogs should hold in reserve approximately 4 months operating capital which within the current budget period equates to £38,395.

We continue to have a sound strategy diversifying our income streams over the next financial year as well as potential forthcoming corporate partnerships which will secure longer term financial stability.

It is the Trustees responsibility to continue to diversify Veterans With Dogs income streams over the coming year, Our reserves target will be met.

It is essential that all current partnerships can be supported should income fall or subsequently that funds be available should additional activity become necessary due to the impact of unforeseen external events on our beneficiaries.

Reviewing and monitoring the Reserves Policy

This policy will be reviewed at each Trustee meeting and reserve levels adjusted as risk or other factors change. The CEO will present the Trustees with a draft document and supporting details that enables them to make an informed decision about levels of Reserves aligning with the approval and subsequent reviews of our Strategic plan and Operating Budgets.

Major risks

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, registered under the Companies Act. The charity is controlled by its governing document and Articles of Association.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mrs C Maclellan	
Mrs H Campbell	(Resigned 4 January 2024)
Mr M Field	
Mr M Bestwick	(Resigned 6 April 2024)
Mr C R Maclellan	
Mr D Reid	(Appointed 22 November 2023)
Ms L Hussey	(Appointed 6 January 2024)
Ms S A Williams	(Appointed 11 September 2024)
Mr S J S Shackleton	(Appointed 11 September 2024)

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mrs C Maclellan
Trustee

20 December 2024

VETERANS WITH DOGS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF VETERANS WITH DOGS

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Veterans With Dogs (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

The Okehampton office of Simpkins Edwards LLP has been instructed by the Trustees to provide bookkeeping services for the Charity. I have followed the Charity Commission's guidance under direction two to ensure that I provide an objective independent opinion and maintain the appropriate segregation of duties.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000, the independent examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 386 of the Companies Act 2006.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 financial statements to be reached.

Mr A Hemmings BA(Hons) FCA CTA

for and on behalf of Simpkins Edwards LLP

The Summit
Woodwater Park
Pynes Hill
Exeter
EX2 5WS

Dated: 20 December 2024

VETERANS WITH DOGS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	105,497	153,993	259,490	95,046	58,000	153,046
Other trading activities	4	3,503	-	3,503	3,172	-	3,172
Total income		<u>109,000</u>	<u>153,993</u>	<u>262,993</u>	<u>98,218</u>	<u>58,000</u>	<u>156,218</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	3,739	-	3,739	2,341	-	2,341
Charitable activities	6	119,987	55,768	175,755	92,278	78,855	171,133
Other expenditure	7	10,629	-	10,629	12,392	-	12,392
Total expenditure		<u>134,355</u>	<u>55,768</u>	<u>190,123</u>	<u>107,011</u>	<u>78,855</u>	<u>185,866</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		(25,355)	98,225	72,870	(8,793)	(20,855)	(29,648)
Transfers between funds		4,972	(4,972)	-	2,994	(2,994)	-
Net movement in funds	8	(20,383)	93,253	72,870	(5,799)	(23,849)	(29,648)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		72,144	13,879	86,023	77,943	37,728	115,671
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		<u>51,761</u>	<u>107,132</u>	<u>158,893</u>	<u>72,144</u>	<u>13,879</u>	<u>86,023</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		20,753		18,724
Current assets					
Stocks	14	3,690		4,883	
Debtors	15	17,191		20,443	
Cash at bank and in hand		128,331		55,564	
		<u>149,212</u>		<u>80,890</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>(11,072)</u>		<u>(13,591)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>138,140</u>		<u>67,299</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>158,893</u>		<u>86,023</u>
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	18		107,132		13,879
Unrestricted funds	20		51,761		72,144
			<u>158,893</u>		<u>86,023</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 20 December 2024

Mrs C Maclellan
Trustee

Company registration number 08443724 (England and Wales)

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Veterans With Dogs is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 2 Northleigh House, Thorverton Road, Exeter, Devon, EX2 8HF.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "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)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a statement of cash flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Trustees therefore continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the Trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised when the amount can be reliably measured and it is reasonably certain that the amount will be received.

Grants: See separate policy note 1.9.

1.5 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Leasehold improvements	Straight line over the life of the lease
Plant and equipment	33% to 50% straight line per annum
Fixtures and fittings	20% straight line per annum
Computers	33% straight line per annum
Motor vehicles	10% to 20% straight line per annum

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

Stocks comprise various clothing items and other promotional items to sell in the shop.

1.8 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.9 Grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

Other grants that specify performance conditions are recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	94,194	-	94,194	88,993	-	88,993
Legacies receivable	8,361	-	8,361	-	-	-
Grants received	-	153,993	153,993	2,000	58,000	60,000
Giftaid income	2,942	-	2,942	4,053	-	4,053
	<u>105,497</u>	<u>153,993</u>	<u>259,490</u>	<u>95,046</u>	<u>58,000</u>	<u>153,046</u>

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2024	2023
	£	£
Shop income	<u>3,503</u>	<u>3,172</u>

5 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2024	2023
	£	£
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Other fundraising costs	<u>3,739</u>	<u>2,341</u>
	<u>3,739</u>	<u>2,341</u>

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

6 Charitable activities

	Charitable Expenditure 2024 £	Charitable Expenditure 2023 £
Staff costs	63,278	65,657
Puppy purchases	24,773	17,471
Trainers' fees and residential costs	17,605	16,371
Travel and subsistence	12,258	12,984
Consultancy and training	327	698
Registration fees	29	91
Software and IT consumables	3,567	4,531
Volunteers expenses	864	2,118
Shop purchases	3,956	3,202
Insurance	4,652	4,669
Telephone	1,249	1,075
Postage and stationery	352	3,239
Advertising	569	808
Sundries	4,619	5,391
Repairs and maintenance	4,013	3,688
Subscriptions	4,494	2,291
Rent and rates	29,150	26,849
	<u>175,755</u>	<u>171,133</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	119,987	92,278
Restricted funds	55,768	78,855
	<u>175,755</u>	<u>171,133</u>

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

7 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted funds £ 2024	Unrestricted funds £ 2023
Net loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	868
Depreciation	3,861	3,744
Accountancy and legal fees	5,400	6,597
Other expenditure	1,368	1,183
	<u>10,629</u>	<u>12,392</u>

8 Net movement in funds

The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024 £	2023 £
Fees payable to the charity's independent examiner:		
- for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	2,322	2,870
- for other financial services	3,078	2,297
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	3,861	3,744
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	868
	<u>9,261</u>	<u>9,779</u>

9 Trustees

During the year, two trustees received reimbursements of expenses totalling £4,022 (2023: £3,689). As at the balance sheet date, one trustee was owed £2,334 (2023: £Nil) in unpaid expense claims.

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

Employment costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	61,212	63,962
Social security costs	-	337
Other pension costs	2,066	1,358
	<u>63,278</u>	<u>65,657</u>

There were no employees who received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 (2023 - none).

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

10 Employees

(Continued)

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

11 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2024 £	2023 £
Independent examination of the annual accounts	2,322	2,870
Other services		
All other non-assurance services	3,078	2,297

12 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold improvements £	Plant and equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computers £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost						
At 1 April 2023	1,418	1,072	4,427	5,442	19,919	32,278
Additions	-	5,890	-	-	-	5,890
At 31 March 2024	1,418	6,962	4,427	5,442	19,919	38,168
Depreciation and impairment						
At 1 April 2023	284	773	3,162	3,857	5,478	13,554
Depreciation charged in the year	284	485	287	813	1,992	3,861
At 31 March 2024	568	1,258	3,449	4,670	7,470	17,415
Carrying amount						
At 31 March 2024	850	5,704	978	772	12,449	20,753
At 31 March 2023	1,134	299	1,265	1,585	14,441	18,724

14 Stocks

	2024 £	2023 £
Finished goods for resale	3,690	4,883

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

15 Debtors	2024	2023
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	7,249	6,834
Prepayments and accrued income	9,942	13,609
	<u>17,191</u>	<u>20,443</u>
	<u><u>17,191</u></u>	<u><u>20,443</u></u>
16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	2,398	3,194
Trade creditors	5,084	6,259
Accruals and deferred income	3,590	4,138
	<u>11,072</u>	<u>13,591</u>
	<u><u>11,072</u></u>	<u><u>13,591</u></u>
17 Retirement benefit schemes	2024	2023
	£	£
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	2,066	1,358
	<u>2,066</u>	<u>1,358</u>
	<u><u>2,066</u></u>	<u><u>1,358</u></u>

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

18 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	Movement in funds				Movement in funds				
	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
ICAP- Corporate Support donation	26,790	-	(17,160)	-	9,629	-	(9,629)	-	-
Veterans Foundation UK	-	30,000	(27,006)	(2,994)	-	40,000	(33,360)	-	6,640
Awards for All, Lottery	809	-	(809)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forthglade UK	64	-	(64)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Armed Forces Covenant	10,065	28,000	(33,816)	-	4,250	-	(4,250)	-	-
Clarity Enviromental	-	-	-	-	-	12,500	(6,208)	-	6,292
Forces Support	-	-	-	-	-	75,000	-	-	75,000
Pets at Home Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	19,200	-	-	19,200
National Grid	-	-	-	-	-	7,293	(2,321)	(4,972)	-
	<u>37,728</u>	<u>58,000</u>	<u>(78,855)</u>	<u>(2,994)</u>	<u>13,879</u>	<u>153,993</u>	<u>(55,768)</u>	<u>(4,972)</u>	<u>107,132</u>

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

18 Restricted funds

(Continued)

ICAP

The ICAP donation was used to fund residential activity and courses.

Veterans Foundation UK

The Veterans Foundation UK donation was used for salary support.

Armed forces Covenant

The Armed forces Covenant donation was used for the Paws for Life Project and salary support.

Clarity Environmental

The Clarity Environmental donation was used for the Puppy partnership program.

Forces Support

The Forces Support donation will be used for lifetime sponsorship of three dogs.

National Grid

The National Grid donation was used for warm space funding.

Pets at Home foundation

The Pets at Home foundation donation will be used for residential and veterans walks in 2024/25.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 March 2024:			
Tangible assets	20,753	-	20,753
Current assets/(liabilities)	31,008	107,132	138,140
	<u>51,761</u>	<u>107,132</u>	<u>158,893</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
At 31 March 2023:			
Tangible assets	18,724	-	18,724
Current assets/(liabilities)	53,420	13,879	67,299
	<u>72,144</u>	<u>13,879</u>	<u>86,023</u>

20 Designated funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds		Balance at 31 March 2024 £
			Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	
Laura Mazzara- Standard Life	600	(600)	-	-	-
	<u>600</u>	<u>(600)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Standard Life

The Standard Life donation was to fund 2 dogs which have been purchased and socialised. The remaining funds were used on further partnerships.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

21 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Between two and five years	56,100	81,200
	<u>56,100</u>	<u>81,200</u>

22 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none).

VETERANS WITH DOGS

England & Wales - Charity number 1161554

Accounts

Charity registration number 1161554

Company registration number 08443724 (England and Wales)

VETERANS WITH DOGS
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

VETERANS WITH DOGS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mrs C Maclellan Mrs H Campbell Mr M Field Mr M Bestwick Mr C R Maclellan
Charity number	1161554
Company number	08443724
Registered office	2 Northleigh House Thorverton Road Exeter Devon EX2 8HF
Independent examiner	Mr J L Coombs MA (Cantab) FCA Simpkins Edwards LLP The Summit Woodwater Park Pynes Hill Exeter EX2 5WS
Bankers	HSBC Bank Plc 4 Old Town St Plymouth Devon PL1 1DD

VETERANS WITH DOGS

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees' report	1 - 9
Independent examiner's report	10
Statement of financial activities	11
Balance sheet	12
Notes to the financial statements	13 - 24

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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).

Objectives and activities

- The training of assistance dogs for current and former service personnel of the British Armed Forces with mental health disabilities.
- Providing training, education and support services for the relief of mental health disabilities with the partnership of dogs.
- Improving quality of life and achieving greater independence by increasing confidence and self-esteem, bringing companionship, a sense of security and increased opportunities for social interaction.
- Develop links and foster partnerships with other organisations who share our aims of supporting Veterans and those promoting responsible dog ownership.
- Implement fundraising and educational initiatives in support of VWD objectives and operations.
- Undertake any such work that the trustees may agree, from time to time, consistent with the overall objectives of the charity.

Our vision

To improve the quality of life for veterans who are living with mental health disorders with the support and companionship of one of our specially trained assistance dogs via our unique and pioneering programme.

(A Veteran is defined by the Government as any person of any age who has served in the British Armed Forces).

Our mission statement & philosophy

"To support former members of the British Armed Forces, whose psychological or physical wellbeing may have suffered due to difficult past experiences and challenging life circumstances, via engagement with dogs."

Veterans with Dogs works to support Veterans who are aspiring to increase their general level of functioning and independence by helping them to regain their sense of purpose, (self) worth and engagement with their communities and sense of value to society, helping them develop new skills, revive old ones and realise their potential.

Veterans with Dogs aims to provide a supportive, comfortable environment where people may find an opportunity to socialise with others, capitalise on shared learning experiences, develop their coping strategies, and build new friendships and lasting support networks.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Achievements and performance

Introduction

Throughout the past year we have continued to provide our interdisciplinary services and support on a group and individual basis. Prudent fiscal management continued with significant support from The Veterans' Foundation along with another year of successful fundraising meant that our income was in line with expected expenditure. This has allowed us to continue our strategic initiatives to enhance our support for Veterans with complex mental health needs.

Following a reduction in donations from previous years following the Covid-19 pandemic, we have focused on rebuilding donor engagement with the launch of a brand-new fundraising platform, offering more choice and tools for donors to use and explore. A key consideration for the charity has been the increased cost of living crisis and the Board has worked diligently to address current uncertain financial climate and implications of rising costs. The Board of Trustees are focused on managing risk and safeguarding the provision of our specialist and lifechanging services for Veterans. We have further developed our support model and accreditation pathway, with the updating of our intensive training programme.

We have also considered our footprint across the UK to ensure we are located to give better access to the Veterans who seek our help. This footprint covers the whole of the UK within a 1-hour window of travel and extends to approximately 40 locations of localised support for Veterans.

We have continued supporting Veterans by referral from the NHS, as well as other Veterans' organisation such as Combat Stress, Help for Heroes, SSAFA and the RBL.

Delivering sustainable, accessible services to meet the needs of Veterans with complex mental health problems.

During the year we have continued to evolve and develop our services to meet the needs of Veterans and their families today, providing accessible, modern, and evidence-based programmes. In 2021 we announced our plans to be able to deliver our services and support in multiple ways – online and in-person, across the UK, in the community and from our base in Devon.

We have continued to develop our online resources have continued to support Veterans in understanding the appropriate intervention of an assistance dog as an adjunct to mental health, providing a valuable step in the initial engagement with our services prior to assessment and training, as well as throughout. In addition, these free resources are accessible to anyone, providing advice and support to the wider community.

This year, development work has been completed in the background to enable us to fully understand who and how our audiences are using our published resources.

Assessment and treatment

Our interdisciplinary team reviews each referral or application, where our service potentially meets the Veteran's needs, we ask the Veteran to attend an initial Meet and Greet with the team to discuss their issues. An individual assessment is then done at a later stage after giving the Veteran time to reflect on the initial information we provide about our services and support. We obtain as much information as we can during an assessment so that we can match a Veteran's needs with the most suitable canine partner. We endeavour to provide as much helpful information as possible for the Veteran and their family to make an informed decision about the implications of training with an assistance dog.

We endeavour to provide as much helpful information as possible to Veterans who are more suited to other service providers.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Our updated intensive training programme

Our updated intensive training programme is at the forefront of innovation. Delivered flexibly to suit the needs of Veterans, it draws on the latest research to provide the best possible outcomes for long-term recovery. This highly specialised programme is for all Veterans with a mental health diagnosis to help enable meaningful recovery for Veterans and their families.

We deliver services and support according to a Veteran's needs. Our programme has support from clinical staff, animal behaviourists and trainers. Additionally, we have developed a new Veteran-specific online portal. The digital content supports each stage of the training and accreditation process including course material, worksheets, and supporting resources. We have also invested in data protection and cyber security to ensure the safety of Veterans accessing our services online.

Group activities

Group activities are an integral part of our new service model and is offered during all phases of training and after qualification as part of our Aftercare programme. It is also available for guest-inclusion for those Veterans who are not yet part of any formalised programme or training. The main focus being wellbeing and behavioural reactivation through access to the outdoors, in a safe environment, and with peer support. This group programme Paws4Life has been further developed with input from Veterans through peer support activities. There is also the additional benefit of the 'cohort effect' – Veterans have contact with others going through similar experiences. The service provides a non-clinical, recovery focused familiar environment for Veterans to meet others in a similar position. It is an informal but invaluable part of our specialist support.

Impact and outcome measures

Working to bring greater efficiencies within the charity and better outcomes for Veterans, we have improved the way the organisation collects data for impact and outcome measures. The RCOMs (Routine Clinical Outcome Measures) for all the programmes have been reviewed for suitability and easy to use digital forms are now used throughout the Veteran experience to gather data, allowing the organisation to gain greater insight in the training programme outcomes. The RCOMs include measurement of programme effectiveness and Veteran experience, which so far score very highly. Routine outcome monitoring is an essential element of client centred care and, when used fully and consistently, enables effective service delivery and high-quality services development.

Our peer support service

Our unique Peer Support activities continue to go from strength to strength and is now a leading example in terms of the way it's delivered and the quality of its provision. Focused on Veterans with lived experience of mental health issues, it brings former servicemen and women together to share their experiences of mental health issues and receive support and understanding from others who've walked a similar path. The service provides a non-clinical, recovery focused familiar environment for Veterans to meet others in a similar position. It's an informal but invaluable part of our specialist support.

Through the peer support service, regular group meetings for Veterans take place alongside one-to-one meetings with mentors as required to provide a support network to Veterans.

International collaboration

Due to our recognised level of in-house expertise, we have provided systems expertise to organisations working in the Assistance Dog industry within Europe, South America, and Australasia. We were also delighted to present our technical training manuals and Standards of Practise - requested as an example of best practise - by Assistance Dogs Europe. In addition, we created a new Framework of Standards for Volunteers which has also been shared with organisations within Assistance Dogs International.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Continued presence

During the year we increased our presence and voice, taking a more active role in national conversations about important topics relating to assistance dogs for mental health. We have worked on a vast array of projects during the year to support online and offline activity including a new website and technical integrations allowing us a much greater in-depth view of programme progress and effectiveness, impact, and outcomes, for both the Veterans and the dogs.

Key policy advice and involvement has been provided for several organisations including UK Universities, the Civil Aviation Authority, the DWP, British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums, as well as leading blue chip companies seeking guidance around the appropriate use of assistance dogs.

Audiences on our social media channels continue to grow. Staying ahead of changes to how social media platforms expose content has required a more flexible approach to our content strategy to ensure visibility and engagement with the important messages we share about Veterans' mental health matters and fundraising.

Significant donations

Whilst we continue to operate in a challenging and unpredictable environment, we are particularly mindful of the importance of significant and sustained support to allow us to plan with confidence and develop services for Veterans and their families. At a time when there are so many worthy causes competing for attention, we are appreciative of all our supporters who share our vision and values and continue to invest in improving the mental wellbeing of Veterans.

We are particularly grateful to our multi-year funders, in particular the Veterans' Foundation, who enable us to plan and evolve our services with greater certainty.

Corporate partnerships

During the year our corporate partners continued to provide extremely valuable support. Of note are ICAP, MilDef, Babcock, Multiplex Global, Forthglade, Focus Hospitality, the Scott Eridine Trust, and the Albert Hunt Trust.

Our work would not be possible without the amazing help of individuals, companies, and trusts. We are immensely grateful for their continued help and support.

Our people

We continue to be flexible for staff working practises such is the importance of flexibility for the charity, and must, equally be reflected to staff in making allowances for their needs too. With the increase of hybrid working, we recognised the need to do more to support staff engagement and wellbeing. We increased awareness of wellbeing, improved existing internal communication channels, and added a variety of touchpoints staff have with the leadership team and each other.

We are mindful of the exceptional value of Volunteers; the skills they bring to our organisation and the roles they fulfil on our behalf. We have invested significantly in our training programme for new volunteers, combined with a new Framework for Volunteers, and this has now been extended to include CPD for all volunteers as well as staff. This has been received well and plans exist to develop this further.

Public benefit

Veterans With Dogs' is the UK's leading organisation that trains and provides mental health assistance dogs for current and former members of the British Armed Forces.

The Board of Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and have taken it into account when reviewing the Charity's strategic aims and objectives and in planning future activities. The Board of Trustees are satisfied that the aims of the Charity are carried out wholly in pursuit of its charitable aims for the public benefit.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The public benefit of the Charity is in mitigating the effect of mental health issues of Veterans across the UK. Our strategic aims and activities are designed to achieve this benefit. Veterans With Dogs is widely acknowledged as the specialist in the provision of assistance dogs for Veterans suffering from service-related mental illness. Our services are accessible to all Veterans who need our help. We help UK Veterans on their recovery journey, so they can integrate more fully back into their communities.

A special thank you

Veterans With Dogs is sincerely grateful for all donations, every single one of which makes a real difference to the Veterans we help. Our supporters are fundamental to our success, and we would like to acknowledge their generosity and encouragement. We also want to thank all those who chose to remain anonymous and all our supporters who make our work possible.

Our Supporter Promise

VWD's commitment to treating our supporters fairly, protecting our young supporters, and safeguarding.

Fundraising is really important to us, and we are proud of what it helps us achieve. We will constantly review our fundraising practices to make sure they are fair, sensitive, and appropriate.

Veterans With Dogs is committed to ensuring the highest quality of experience for our supporters. In the interest of empowering and protecting our supporters, Veterans With Dogs trains and supports its staff, volunteers and third-party organisations that work on behalf of Veterans With Dogs to recognise, and appropriately respond to vulnerability without discrimination or judgement.

Veterans With Dogs works to ensure supporters are treated fairly and treated as individuals at all times, and not exploited or treated in any way which might bring them harm as a result of their interaction with Veterans With Dogs.

Veterans With Dogs' approach to supporters in vulnerable circumstances is informed by the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice and the Chartered Institute of Fundraising's guidance.

We make sure all staff are trained in and follow our Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

About your donation or the money, you have raised

Your donation will be used responsibly to help people with mental health problems get support and respect.

We will keep administration costs to a minimum without jeopardising the quality of Veterans With Dogs' work. As much of your donation as possible will be spent directly on our life-changing work.

We will answer any question you have about how your donation is spent, and clear financial information will be available.

We might turn down a donation if we feel that accepting it would damage our independence or reputation. If we do, we will explain why.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Our use of your personal details

We sometimes use carefully selected suppliers to help us deliver our communications and services. We will keep any personal information safe, only using your details to contact you in the ways you have agreed to.

We will always respect your right to privacy and adhere to laws around the use of data.

When necessary, we may share data with our own carefully regulated and monitored external suppliers, for processing purposes. We will ensure their use of the data is in line with our own data protection policies and not kept or used by them for any other purposes.

Suppliers we work with

Sometimes we collaborate with external suppliers to contact you, simply because our team is not big enough. This might be an agency that helps us send and receive our mailings, or an organisation who stores and delivers our fundraising materials.

We will only work with professional organisations that meet our high standards.

We will train, monitor, and regulate our external suppliers to meet our standards and will act quickly if they do not meet the high standards we set.

Everyone we work with that has contact with our supporters takes part in mental health awareness training.

Our accountability to you

You can contact us with feedback or to make a complaint if you are unhappy with anything we have done while communicating with you.

We will respond honestly and promptly to your questions and complaints. It is our responsibility to ensure we are using our resources as effectively as possible. That is why we make this promise to you.

We are passionate about our work, the people we help and the way we train our dogs. We tell their stories in a positive and respectful way to help share how we make a difference. We are proud of the relationship we have with our supporters. We have always been and will always be clear and honest with you. Our relationship with you, our supporters, is critical to the work we do, and we are truly grateful for your support.

Our values are at the heart of how we operate.

With grateful thanks ...

We receive funding from individuals, corporate partners, trusts and community groups.

We are so grateful for the continued support from many trusts and corporate partners which have helped us continue our vital work during 2023.

Our sincere thanks go to:

- Armed Forces Covenant
- Veterans Foundation
- Morrison Foerster

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Financial review

Income

During the year ended 31 March 2023, we received income of £156,218 (2022: £145,564), an increase of £10,654.

Expenditure

Charitable activities expenditure amounted to £171,133 (2022: £165,575), an increase of £5,558.

Costs of raising fund amounted to £2,341 (2022: £969), an increase of £1,372.

Other costs amounted to £12,392 (2022: £9,231), an increase of £3,161.

Fund balances

Unrestricted funds amount to £72,144 (2022: £77,943), a decrease of £5,799.

Restricted funds amount to £13,879 (2022: £37,728), an decrease of £23,849.

Overall position

The combined effect of the above has seen a net deficit of £29,648 (2022: £30,211 deficit).

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Reserves policy

Our Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of Veterans With Dogs are current and former service personnel of the British Armed Forces with mental health disabilities. Providing training, education and support services for the relief of mental health disabilities with the partnership of dogs.

Our Charity needs to have sufficient reserves to cover the diverse expenditure commitments to our beneficiaries and have ascertained that a minimum of £38,395 reserves needs to be held to ensure the charities future expenditure objectives can be met.

Rationale of the Reserves Policy

Veterans With Dogs provides lifetime partnerships between Veterans and Assistance Dogs, helping our beneficiaries to lead more independent lives by mitigating the symptoms their disability presents. Our services cover the whole of the UK.

Our Reserves Policy is to maintain sufficient level of reserves to enable and protect normal operating activities to continue over a period of up to 4 months should a shortfall in income occur and to take account of potential risks and contingencies that may arise from time to time. Our current beneficiaries continued support and services are vital to their well being.

Excluded from the Reserves Policy is income associated with:

- Endowment Funds
- Restricted Funds (Earmarked Income)

In order to demonstrate transparency, accountability and sound financial management the Veterans With Dogs Reserves Policy clearly justifies the amount of reserves kept back each year.

Establishing our level of reserve

The Trustees have reviewed our charities risks and commitments in respect of expenditure, unrestricted income and where appropriate restricted income.

The Trustees have taken into consideration are any external identified potential major risks to income and expenditure during the year under consideration.

A risk assessment has been undertaken for the period 1st April 2020 and the following has been determined using the Risk Identification approach:

- Unrestricted Income: Medium Risk
- Restricted Income: Low Risk
- Expenditure: Low Risk

- External Potential Major Risks:
 - Current lack of diversity and long term income streams
 - Dogs purchased fall ill or fail
 - Fluctuating Charity rent costs
 - Covid Pandemic restrictions on fundraising

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Level of reserve required by Veterans With Dogs

Veterans With Dogs should hold in reserve approximately 4 months operating capital which within the current budget period equates to £38,395.

We continue to have a sound strategy diversifying our income streams over the next financial year as well as potential forthcoming corporate partnerships which will secure longer term financial stability.

It is the Trustees responsibility to continue to diversify Veterans With Dogs income streams over the coming year, Our reserves target will be met.

It is essential that all current partnerships can be supported should income fall or subsequently that funds be available should additional activity become necessary due to the impact of unforeseen external events on our beneficiaries.

Reviewing and monitoring the Reserves Policy

This policy will be reviewed at each Trustee meeting and reserve levels adjusted as risk or other factors change. The CEO will present the Trustees with a draft document and supporting details that enables them to make an informed decision about levels of Reserves aligning with the approval and subsequent reviews of our Strategic plan and Operating Budgets.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, registered under the Companies Act. The charity is controlled by its governing document and Articles of Association.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mrs C Maclellan

Mrs S J Pierechod (Resigned 22 October 2022)

Mrs H Campbell

Mr M Field

Mr M Bestwick

Mr C R Maclellan

Mrs K Dalton-Fyfe (Resigned 11 February 2023)

Mr A Fletcher (Resigned 22 October 2022)

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mrs C Maclellan

Trustee

11 December 2023

VETERANS WITH DOGS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF VETERANS WITH DOGS

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Veterans With Dogs (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

The Okehampton office of Simpkins Edwards LLP has been instructed by the Trustees to provide bookkeeping services for the Charity. I have followed the Charity Commission's guidance under direction two to ensure that I provide an objective independent opinion and maintain the appropriate segregation of duties.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 financial statements to be reached.

Mr J L Coombs MA (Cantab) FCA

for and on behalf of Simpkins Edwards LLP

The Summit
Woodwater Park
Pynes Hill
Exeter
EX2 5WS

Dated: 19 December 2023

VETERANS WITH DOGS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	95,046	58,000	153,046	73,648	64,550	138,198
Charitable activities	4	-	-	-	5,651	-	5,651
Other trading activities	5	3,172	-	3,172	1,715	-	1,715
Total income		98,218	58,000	156,218	81,014	64,550	145,564
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	2,341	-	2,341	969	-	969
Charitable activities	7	92,278	78,855	171,133	87,774	77,801	165,575
Other	8	12,392	-	12,392	9,231	-	9,231
Total expenditure		107,011	78,855	185,866	97,974	77,801	175,775
Net outgoing resources before transfers		(8,793)	(20,855)	(29,648)	(16,960)	(13,251)	(30,211)
Gross transfers between funds		2,994	(2,994)	-	-	-	-
Net expenditure for the year/ Net movement in funds		(5,799)	(23,849)	(29,648)	(16,960)	(13,251)	(30,211)
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		77,943	37,728	115,671	94,903	50,979	145,882
Fund balances at 31 March 2023		72,144	13,879	86,023	77,943	37,728	115,671

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		18,724		20,341
Current assets					
Stocks	13	4,883		4,019	
Debtors	14	20,443		18,915	
Cash at bank and in hand		55,564		87,213	
		<u>80,890</u>		<u>110,147</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(13,591)</u>		<u>(14,817)</u>	
Net current assets			67,299		95,330
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>86,023</u>		<u>115,671</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	16		13,879		37,728
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	17	-		600	
General unrestricted funds		<u>72,144</u>		<u>77,343</u>	
			<u>72,144</u>		<u>77,943</u>
			<u>86,023</u>		<u>115,671</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 11 December 2023

Mrs C Maclellan
Trustee

Company registration number 08443724

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Veterans With Dogs is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 2 Northleigh House, Thorverton Road, Exeter, Devon, EX2 8HF.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's [governing document], the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the Trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Grants: See separate policy note 1.9.

1.5 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Leasehold improvements	Straight line over the life of the lease
Plant and equipment	33% to 50% straight line per annum
Fixtures and fittings	20% straight line per annum
Computers	33% straight line per annum
Motor vehicles	10% to 20% straight line per annum

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.8 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.9 Grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

Other grants that specify performance conditions are recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	88,993	-	88,993	66,981	-	66,981
Grants received	2,000	58,000	60,000	2,140	64,550	66,690
Giftaid income	4,053	-	4,053	4,527	-	4,527
	<u>95,046</u>	<u>58,000</u>	<u>153,046</u>	<u>73,648</u>	<u>64,550</u>	<u>138,198</u>

4 Charitable activities

	Other revenue	Giftaid income	Government grants	Total
	2022	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£
Other income	114	-	5,537	5,651
	<u>114</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,537</u>	<u>5,651</u>

No income to report for 2023.

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Shop income	3,172	1,715
	<u>3,172</u>	<u>1,715</u>

6 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Other fundraising costs	2,341	969
	<u>2,341</u>	<u>969</u>

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

7 Charitable activities

	Charitable Expenditure 2023 £	Charitable Expenditure 2022 £
Staff costs	65,657	67,921
Puppy purchases	16,607	25,455
Admin services	-	440
Trainers' fees and residential costs	16,371	18,963
Travel and subsistence	12,984	10,779
Consultancy and training	698	6,131
Registration fees	91	68
Software and IT consumables	6,033	5,226
Volunteers expenses	2,118	1,888
Shop purchases	4,066	1,729
Insurance	4,669	3,060
Telephone	1,075	141
Postage and stationery	3,239	2,066
Advertising	808	229
Sundries	6,807	3,019
Repairs and maintenance	3,688	921
Subscriptions	789	1,246
Rent and rates	25,433	16,293
	<u>171,133</u>	<u>165,575</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	92,278	87,774
Restricted funds	78,855	77,801
	<u>171,133</u>	<u>165,575</u>

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

8 Other

	Unrestricted funds £ 2023	Unrestricted funds £ 2022
Net loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	868	-
Depreciation	3,744	3,283
Accountancy and legal fees	6,597	5,082
Other expenditure	1,183	866
	<u>12,392</u>	<u>9,231</u>

9 Trustees

During the year, two trustees received reimbursements of expenses totalling £3,689 (2022: £3,393).

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
	3	4
	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
Employment costs	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	63,962	66,051
Social security costs	337	650
Other pension costs	1,358	1,220
	<u>65,657</u>	<u>67,921</u>

There were no employees who received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 (2022 - none).

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

11 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2023 £	2022 £
Independent examination of the annual accounts	2,870	2,400
	=====	=====
Other services		
All other non-assurance services	2,297	2,232
	=====	=====

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

12 Tangible fixed assets	Leasehold improvements	Plant and equipment	Fixtures and fittings	Computers Motor vehicles		Total
				£	£	
Cost						
At 1 April 2022	1,418	1,072	3,770	3,880	20,919	31,059
Additions	-	-	1,433	1,562	-	2,995
Disposals	-	-	(776)	-	(1,000)	(1,776)
At 31 March 2023	1,418	1,072	4,427	5,442	19,919	32,278
Depreciation and impairment						
At 1 April 2022	-	474	3,461	2,857	3,926	10,718
Depreciation charged in the year	284	299	169	1,000	1,992	3,744
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	-	(468)	-	(440)	(908)
At 31 March 2023	284	773	3,162	3,857	5,478	13,554
Carrying amount						
At 31 March 2023	1,134	299	1,265	1,585	14,441	18,724
At 31 March 2022	1,418	598	309	1,023	16,993	20,341

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

13	Stocks	2023	2022
		£	£
	Finished goods for resale	4,883	4,019
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
14	Debtors	2023	2022
	Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
	Other debtors	6,834	8,938
	Prepayments and accrued income	13,609	9,977
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
		20,443	18,915
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
15	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2023	2022
		£	£
	Other taxation and social security	3,194	3,529
	Trade creditors	6,259	6,656
	Accruals and deferred income	4,138	4,632
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
		13,591	14,817
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>

VETERANS WITH DOGS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

16 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds		Movement in funds		Movement in funds		Movement in funds		Movement in funds		
	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
ICAP- Corporate Support donation	26,790	-	-	26,790	-	(17,160)	-	-	(17,160)	-	9,630
Veterans Foundation UK	15,000	-	(15,000)	-	30,000	(27,006)	-	-	(27,006)	(2,994)	-
Awards for All, Lottery	809	-	-	809	-	(809)	-	-	(809)	-	-
Forthglade UK	64	-	-	64	-	(64)	-	-	(64)	-	-
Armed Forces Covenant	8,316	58,750	(57,001)	10,065	28,000	(33,816)	-	-	(33,816)	-	4,249
BFBS	-	5,800	(5,800)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	50,979	64,550	(77,801)	37,728	58,000	(78,855)	(2,994)	58,000	(78,855)	(2,994)	13,879

VETERANS WITH DOGS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

16 Restricted funds (Continued)

ICAP

The ICAP donation was used to fund residential activity and courses.

Veterans Foundation UK

The Veterans Foundation UK donation was used for salary support.

Awards for All, Lottery

The Awards for All, Lottery donation was used for reducing isolation.

Forthglade UK

The Forthglade UK donation was used for charity vehicle support.

BFBS

The BFBS donation was used to fund two residentials.

Armed forces Covenant

The Armed forces Covenant donation was used for the Paws for Life Project and salary support.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

17 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds		Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Incoming resources £			
Laura Mazzara- Standard Life	600	-	600	(600)	-
	600	-	600	(600)	-

Standard Life

The Standard Life donation was to fund 2 dogs which have been purchased and socialised. The remaining funds will be for the partnerships to be placed.

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	18,724	-	18,724	20,341	-	20,341
Current assets/(liabilities)	53,420	13,879	67,299	57,602	37,728	95,330
	72,144	13,879	86,023	77,943	37,728	115,671

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

19 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Within one year	-	15,612
In over five years	81,200	-
	<u>81,200</u>	<u>15,612</u>

20 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).

VETERANS WITH DOGS

England & Wales - Charity number 1161554

Accounts

Charity registration number 1161554

Company registration number 08443724 (England and Wales)

VETERANS WITH DOGS
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

VETERANS WITH DOGS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mrs C Maclellan Miss H Campbell Mr M Field Mr M Bestwick Mr C R Maclellan Mrs K Dalton-Fyfe	(Appointed 1 March 2022)
Charity number	1161554	
Company number	08443724	
Registered office	2 Northleigh House Thorverton Road Exeter Devon EX2 8HF	
Independent examiner	Mr J L Coombs MA (Cantab) FCA Simpkins Edwards LLP Michael House Castle Street Exeter Devon United Kingdom EX4 3LQ	
Bankers	HSBC Bank Plc Tavistock Branch Bedford Square Tavistock Devon PL19 0AH	

VETERANS WITH DOGS

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees' report	1 - 8
Independent examiner's report	9
Statement of financial activities	10
Balance sheet	11
Notes to the financial statements	12 - 22

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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).

Objectives and activities

- The training of assistance dogs for current and former service personnel of the British Armed Forces with mental health disabilities.
- Providing training, education and support services for the relief of mental health disabilities with the partnership of dogs.
- Improving quality of life and achieving greater independence by increasing confidence and self-esteem, bringing companionship, a sense of security and increased opportunities for social interaction.
- Develop links and foster partnerships with other organisations who share our aims of supporting Veterans and those promoting responsible dog ownership.
- Implement fundraising and educational initiatives in support of VWD objectives and operations.
- Undertake any such work that the trustees may agree, from time to time, consistent with the overall objectives of the charity.

Our vision

To improve the quality of life for veterans who are living with mental health disorders with the support and companionship of one of our specially trained assistance dogs via our unique and pioneering programme.

(A Veteran is defined by the Government as any person of any age who has served in the British Armed Forces).

Our mission statement & philosophy

"To support former members of the British Armed Forces, whose psychological or physical wellbeing may have suffered due to difficult past experiences and challenging life circumstances, via engagement with dogs."

Veterans with Dogs works to support Veterans who are aspiring to increase their general level of functioning and independence by helping them to regain their sense of purpose, (self) worth and engagement with their communities and sense of value to society, helping them develop new skills, revive old ones and realise their potential.

Veterans with Dogs aims to provide a supportive, comfortable environment where people may find an opportunity to socialise with others, capitalise on shared learning experiences, develop their coping strategies, and build new friendships and lasting support networks.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Achievements and performance **International Accreditation**

Since the foundation of Veterans With Dogs we were clear and specific about the intended route of becoming internationally recognised and accredited to bring the intervention of assistance dogs for mental health into main focus here in the UK.

There had been no provision for using dogs for the benefit of mental health in a recognised way that was accessible to people beyond individual efforts. It was clear from our own experiences that those benefits could be extended to a wider audience by creating and formalising a programme to address those needs, and in particular for us the focus was to be beneficiaries who had served in one of the British Armed Forces.

Our PALS programme was built from the ground up – by those with previous and lived experience of the benefit of dogs as a canine intervention, and with the input of industry specific expertise in both animal behaviour and mental health.

We acknowledged at the time there were efforts internationally by programmes moving into the area of mental health, but none that we were aware that had taken the same path as we had.

Our success was clearly evident from those early days and encouragement was found throughout the assistance dog industry in working to achieve the high standards we had set out to achieve.

This year saw the culmination of everyone's hard work, diligence and passionate involvement in our development come to fruition when we undertook the accreditation process of Assistance Dogs International.

The rigorous process of scrutiny was both challenging and extensive, nothing short of what would be expected of an accrediting international body.

We were delighted that we were successful in achieving accreditation and had some amazing feedback throughout the process.

We now proudly take our place amongst peer organisations of Assistance Dogs (UK) and Assistance Dogs (Europe) respectively, under the umbrella of Assistance Dogs International. This formalises the recognition of Veterans With Dogs and our assistance dogs for mental health and the value that we add to the assistance dogs industry.

Continued Digital Transition

Digital transition continues to be major investment both financially, in time and development, and in staff training throughout the year. Whilst we have been tech-savvy from the outset, we conducted an in-depth review of our technology stack, and more importantly how we could leverage better automation of processes to compliment exiting working practices, and to improve managing the increased volumes of data we find ourselves having to process nowadays.

We made significant efforts to embrace technology to create exciting new virtual ways of working both within the charity and to support our clients and volunteers that will aid our future operations. This included virtual interactive sessions and enrichment activities presented and hosted online. We also designed and implemented aftercare support virtual 'visits' that allowed us to continue to support our assistance dog partnerships.

As we have returned almost entirely to in-person interactions we have been able to adopt some of those changes into standard working practices, but importantly only where we consider those practices to be of value to the work we do as a valuable adjunct.

The transition to new database platforms and cloud technology stacks has enabled much better data capture and recording, with improved insight and data analysis. This became very apparent when presenting client accountability to the assessors of Assistance Dogs International and we are able to track the exact route of beneficiary involvement from initial contact throughout the whole client journey.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

An extensive security audit has been carried out since the changes to GDPR post-Brexit and new security hardware purchased to manage the ever-evolving cyber threats. All cloud services comply with new requirements and hosting facilities have been upgraded to ensure continued access to services and automatic failover.

We were delighted to receive a donation of IT equipment including desktop pc's and laptops from Virgin Money which has enabled us to replace end of life machines and allows for better remote access through the introduction of road warrior type working with the use of organisation owned devices.

Challenging Times

2021 - 2022 was certainly an extraordinary year when all of us faced challenges unlike any we have before. Inevitably, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic caused disruption to Veterans With Dogs' work in every part of the organisation, but it was incredibly heartening to see how everyone connected with the charity, staff, volunteers, clients, and indeed dogs, all rose to the challenges and overcame them in ways that will have a lasting positive impact on our work.

Our top priority continues to be the health, safety and wellbeing of our staff, volunteers, clients, and dogs. Some of the people we support are already clinically vulnerable adults, which necessitates a cautious approach to ensure we protect everyone connected with the charity.

In describing the significant role our dogs play in supporting our clients who can often face social isolation, we ask people to imagine what it might feel like not to leave their home for several years; the reality for many of the people we work with before our wonderful dogs start to support them. Dogs give us a reason to go out, help us feel less isolated and always manage to bring a smile to our faces during tough times. It has been brought into sharp focus that the work we do really does make life-changing differences; it enables people to go out safely and with confidence, live more independently and experience far greater social interactions thanks to the support and devotion of our expertly trained dogs. This is even without the added benefit of task-specific training for mental health difficulties.

We developed new ways of working to enable us to provide a range of virtual services and support to our clients, volunteers, and dogs when they needed it most. These new virtual ways of working have been well-received and will be valuable going forward. We certainly do not want to replace face-to-face meetings, support sessions or workshops but there is a positive place for virtual support where it can deliver help and advice in a more timely and responsive way. This certainly puts us in an exciting position for growing our support for people in the future.

Assistance Dogs

- 6 puppies brought into the PALS Puppy Programme in 2022.
- 20 dogs in training at the end of 2022.
- 4 dogs newly qualified as assistance dogs throughout the year.
- 363 service deliveries of training and support provided by the charity throughout 2022.
- 130 training sessions delivered directly with clients in 2022.

Clients

- A total of 148 clients receiving support or services from the charity in 2022.

Volunteer support

We have:

- 28 active Approved Trainers providing training and support to our socialisers and clients.
- 18 active fundraising volunteers supporting us.
- 18 Puppy Socialisers giving our puppies the best start in life.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Assistance Dog Training

Right throughout the organisation, changes had to be made to all our processes to accommodate the previous pandemic and its effects. Our training department underwent a huge change to the normal ways of working and it was imperative that these changes were made rapidly and thoroughly to ensure the safety of our dogs and staff.

Our training team put together resources demonstrating training techniques to help volunteers and clients keep up with elements of their dogs' training where possible. In addition, we created a new publication "Enrichment Ideas for Your Dog" for volunteers and clients to provide enrichment activities for their dogs which has now become a staple publication and was recently requested by Assistance Dogs International as an example of best practise.

Paws4Life

Improving education comes from our expert understanding of dogs built over many years of experience bringing dogs and people together. Paws4Life encourages people to build a strong bond with their dog based on an understanding of dog behaviour and well-being that will ensure their dog is happy and healthy.

In response to the recognition that not all Veterans are able to have an assistance dog but can still reap the benefits of canine companionship with a pet dog. To address the shortfall in services available to these Veterans we created the Paws4Life service, which is designed to help educate owners whilst providing a means to access wellbeing activities with direct involvement from the Charity.

Fundraising

The year 2022 has been described by many as a trial period for charities, as we emerge from the pandemic and reassess the various adaptations the charity sector adopted to deal with it. Since 2020, fundraising changed immensely, accelerating the use of digital technology to receive and process donations.

Alongside the increased pace of digital adoption, we've also seen growing recognition in the charity sector of the importance of donor journeys. Being able to provide supporters with a simple, convenient donation experience can vastly increase the number of people who donate and crucially, the number of people who return to donate again in the future.

But as we approach 2023, taking on the lessons from the pandemic does not mean forgetting the fundraising fundamentals that preceded it. We have had to adapt to combine the two experiences to build a fundraising strategy that will fit the future and remain fit-for-purpose as we continue to face the challenges of the changing face of diversifying income streams.

All the charity's fundraising is conducted by charity staff and volunteers. Volunteers operate under the careful guidance of staff. The charity does not conduct telephone, door-to-door fundraising or use consultants to carry out fundraising on the charity's behalf.

The charity operates to the code of Fundraising Practice as applied by the Fundraising Regulator. Veterans With Dogs is registered with the Fundraising Regulator.

The charity had no compliance throughout 2022 in terms of meeting the Code of Fundraising Practice.

The charity supports its fundraising volunteers through induction sessions, training, and ongoing support. The charity does not use external fundraisers or commercial participators.

The charity did not receive any complaints regarding fundraising in 2022.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Our Supporter Promise

VWD's commitment to treating our supporters fairly, protecting our young supporters, and safeguarding.

Fundraising is really important to us, and we are proud of what it helps us achieve. We will constantly review our fundraising practices to make sure they are fair, sensitive, and appropriate.

Veterans With Dogs is committed to ensuring the highest quality of experience for our supporters. In the interest of empowering and protecting our supporters, Veterans With Dogs trains and supports its staff, volunteers and third-party organisations that work on behalf of Veterans With Dogs to recognise, and appropriately respond to vulnerability without discrimination or judgement.

Veterans With Dogs works to ensure supporters are treated fairly and treated as individuals at all times, and not exploited or treated in any way which might bring them harm as a result of their interaction with Veterans With Dogs.

Veterans With Dogs' approach to supporters in vulnerable circumstances is informed by the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice and the Chartered Institute of Fundraising's guidance.

We make sure all staff are trained in and follow our Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

About your donation or the money, you have raised

Your donation will be used responsibly to help people with mental health problems get support and respect.

We will keep administration costs to a minimum without jeopardising the quality of Veterans With Dogs' work. As much of your donation as possible will be spent directly on our life-changing work.

We will answer any question you have about how your donation is spent, and clear financial information will be available.

We might turn down a donation if we feel that accepting it would damage our independence or reputation. If we do, we will explain why.

Our use of your personal details

We sometimes use carefully selected suppliers to help us deliver our communications and services. We will keep any personal information safe, only using your details to contact you in the ways you have agreed to.

We will always respect your right to privacy and adhere to laws around the use of data.

When necessary, we may share data with our own carefully regulated and monitored external suppliers, for processing purposes. We will ensure their use of the data is in line with our own data protection policies and not kept or used by them for any other purposes.

Suppliers we work with

Sometimes we collaborate with external suppliers to contact you, simply because our team is not big enough. This might be an agency that helps us send and receive our mailings, or an organisation who stores and delivers our fundraising materials.

We will only work with professional organisations that meet our high standards.

We will train, monitor, and regulate our external suppliers to meet our standards and will act quickly if they do not meet the high standards we set.

Everyone we work with that has contact with our supporters takes part in mental health awareness training.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Our accountability to you

You can contact us with feedback or to make a complaint if you are unhappy with anything we have done while communicating with you.

We will respond honestly and promptly to your questions and complaints. It is our responsibility to ensure we are using our resources as effectively as possible. That is why we make this promise to you.

We are passionate about our work, the people we help and the way we train our dogs. We tell their stories in a positive and respectful way to help share how we make a difference. We are proud of the relationship we have with our supporters. We have always been and will always be clear and honest with you. Our relationship with you, our supporters, is critical to the work we do, and we are truly grateful for your support.

Our values are at the heart of how we operate.

With grateful thanks ...

We receive funding from individuals, corporate partners, trusts and community groups.

We are so grateful for the continued support from many trusts and corporate partners which have helped us continue our vital work during 2022.

Our sincere thanks go to:

- Armed Forces Covenant
- Veterans Foundation
- Morrison Foerster

Financial review

Income

During the year ended 31 March 2022, we received income of £145,564 (2021: £230,356), a decrease of £84,792.

Expenditure

Charitable activities expenditure amounted to £165,575 (2021: £127,136), an increase of £38,439.

Costs of raising fund amounted to £969 (2021: £891), an increase of £78.

Other costs amounted to £9,231 (2021: £9,945), a decrease of £714.

Fund balances

Unrestricted funds amount to £77,943 (2021: £94,903), a decrease of £16,960.

Restricted funds amount to £37,728 (2021: £50,979), a decrease of £13,251.

Overall position

The combined effect of the above has seen a net deficit of £30,211 (2021: £92,384 surplus).

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Reserves policy

Our Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of Veterans With Dogs are current and former service personnel of the British Armed Forces with mental health disabilities. Providing training, education and support services for the relief of mental health disabilities with the partnership of dogs.

Our Charity needs to have sufficient reserves to cover the diverse expenditure commitments to our beneficiaries and have ascertained that a minimum of £38,395 reserves needs to be held to ensure the charities future expenditure objectives can be met.

Rationale of the Reserves Policy

Veterans With Dogs provides lifetime partnerships between Veterans and Assistance Dogs, helping our beneficiaries to lead more independent lives by mitigating the symptoms their disability presents. Our services cover the whole of the UK.

Our Reserves Policy is to maintain sufficient level of reserves to enable and protect normal operating activities to continue over a period of up to 4 months should a shortfall in income occur and to take account of potential risks and contingencies that may arise from time to time. Our current beneficiaries continued support and services are vital to their well being.

Excluded from the Reserves Policy is income associated with:

- Endowment Funds
- Restricted Funds (Earmarked Income)

In order to demonstrate transparency, accountability and sound financial management the Veterans With Dogs Reserves Policy clearly justifies the amount of reserves kept back each year.

Establishing our level of reserve

The Trustees have reviewed our charities risks and commitments in respect of expenditure, unrestricted income and where appropriate restricted income.

The Trustees have taken into consideration are any external identified potential major risks to income and expenditure during the year under consideration.

A risk assessment has been undertaken for the period 1st April 2020 and the following has been determined using the Risk Identification approach:

- Unrestricted Income: Medium Risk
- Restricted Income: Low Risk
- Expenditure: Low Risk

- External Potential Major Risks:
 - Current lack of diversity and long term income streams
 - Dogs purchased fall ill or fail
 - Fluctuating Charity rent costs
 - Covid Pandemic restrictions on fundraising

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Level of reserve required by Veterans With Dogs

Veterans With Dogs should hold in reserve approximately 4 months operating capital which within the current budget period equates to £38,395.

We continue to have a sound strategy diversifying our income streams over the next financial year as well as potential forthcoming corporate partnerships which will secure longer term financial stability.

It is the Trustees responsibility to continue to diversify Veterans With Dogs income streams over the coming year, Our reserves target will be met.

It is essential that all current partnerships can be supported should income fall or subsequently that funds be available should additional activity become necessary due to the impact of unforeseen external events on our beneficiaries.

Reviewing and monitoring the Reserves Policy

This policy will be reviewed at each Trustee meeting and reserve levels adjusted as risk or other factors change. The CEO will present the Trustees with a draft document and supporting details that enables them to make an informed decision about levels of Reserves aligning with the approval and subsequent reviews of our Strategic plan and Operating Budgets.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, registered under the Companies Act. The charity is controlled by its governing document and Articles of Association.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mrs C Maclellan

Mrs S J Pierechod (Resigned 22 October 2022)

Miss H Campbell

Mr M Field

Mr M Bestwick

Mr C R Maclellan

Mrs K Dalton-Fyfe (Appointed 1 March 2022)

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mrs C Maclellan

Trustee

27 January 2023

VETERANS WITH DOGS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF VETERANS WITH DOGS

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Veterans With Dogs (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

The Okehampton office of Simpkins Edwards LLP has been instructed by the Trustees to provide bookkeeping services for the Charity. I have followed the Charity Commission's guidance under direction two to ensure that I provide an objective independent opinion and maintain the appropriate segregation of duties.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 financial statements to be reached.

Mr J L Coombs MA (Cantab) FCA

for and on behalf of Simpkins Edwards LLP

Michael House
Castle Street
Exeter
Devon
EX4 3LQ
United Kingdom

Dated: 27 January 2023

VETERANS WITH DOGS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	73,648	64,550	138,198	109,846	88,250	198,096
Charitable activities	4	5,651	-	5,651	31,319	-	31,319
Other trading activities	5	1,715	-	1,715	941	-	941
Total income		81,014	64,550	145,564	142,106	88,250	230,356
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	969	-	969	891	-	891
Charitable activities	7	87,774	77,801	165,575	80,268	46,868	127,136
Other	8	9,231	-	9,231	9,945	-	9,945
Total expenditure		97,974	77,801	175,775	91,104	46,868	137,972
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	21,028	(21,028)	-
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/							
Net movement in funds		(16,960)	(13,251)	(30,211)	72,030	20,354	92,384
Fund balances at 1 April 2021		94,903	50,979	145,882	22,873	30,625	53,498
Fund balances at 31 March 2022		77,943	37,728	115,671	94,903	50,979	145,882

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		20,341		21,352
Current assets					
Stocks	13	4,019		3,448	
Debtors	14	18,915		7,045	
Cash at bank and in hand		87,213		120,467	
		<u>110,147</u>		<u>130,960</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(14,817)</u>		<u>(6,430)</u>	
Net current assets			95,330		124,530
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>115,671</u>		<u>145,882</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	16		37,728		50,979
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	17	600		600	
General unrestricted funds		<u>77,343</u>		<u>94,303</u>	
			<u>77,943</u>		<u>94,903</u>
			<u>115,671</u>		<u>145,882</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 27 January 2023

Mrs C Maclellan
Trustee

Company registration number 08443724

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Veterans With Dogs is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 2 Northleigh House, Thorverton Road, Exeter, Devon, EX2 8HF.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's [governing document], the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the Trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Grants: See separate policy note 1.9.

1.5 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Leasehold improvements

Plant and equipment 33% to 50% straight line per annum

Fixtures and fittings 20% straight line per annum

Computers 33% straight line per annum

Motor vehicles 10% to 20% straight line per annum

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.8 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.9 Grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

Other grants that specify performance conditions are recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022	2022	2022	2021	2021	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	66,981	-	66,981	98,214	-	98,214
Grants received	2,140	64,550	66,690	2,995	88,250	91,245
Giftaid income	4,527	-	4,527	8,637	-	8,637
	<u>73,648</u>	<u>64,550</u>	<u>138,198</u>	<u>109,846</u>	<u>88,250</u>	<u>198,096</u>

4 Charitable activities

	Other revenue	Government grants	Total	Other revenue	Government grants	Total
	2022	2022	2022	2021	2021	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Other income	114	5,537	5,651	220	31,099	31,319
	<u>114</u>	<u>5,537</u>	<u>5,651</u>	<u>220</u>	<u>31,099</u>	<u>31,319</u>

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
Shop income	<u>1,715</u>	<u>941</u>

6 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Other fundraising costs	969	891
	<u>969</u>	<u>891</u>

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

7 Charitable activities

	Charitable Expenditure 2022 £	Charitable Expenditure 2021 £
Staff costs	67,921	60,418
Puppy purchases	25,455	12,652
Admin services	440	-
Trainers' fees and residential costs	18,963	6,080
Travel and subsistence	10,779	6,692
Consultancy and training	6,131	6,095
Registration fees	68	34
Software and IT consumables	5,226	6,197
Volunteers expenses	1,888	622
Shop purchases	1,729	273
Insurance	3,060	2,440
Telephone	141	585
Postage and stationery	2,066	863
Advertising	229	1,660
Sundries	3,019	4,562
Repairs and maintenance	921	44
Subscriptions	1,246	267
Rent and rates	16,293	17,652
	<u>165,575</u>	<u>127,136</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	87,774	80,268
Restricted funds	77,801	46,868
	<u>165,575</u>	<u>127,136</u>
For the year ended 31 March 2021		
Unrestricted funds	80,268	
Restricted funds	46,868	
	<u>127,136</u>	

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

8 Other

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2021
Depreciation	3,283	3,358
Accountancy and legal fees	5,082	5,332
Other expenditure	866	1,255
	<u>9,231</u>	<u>9,945</u>

9 Trustees

During the year, two trustees received reimbursements of expenses totalling £3,393 (2021: £4,332).

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
	4	4
	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
Employment costs	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	66,051	59,511
Social security costs	650	-
Other pension costs	1,220	907
	<u>67,921</u>	<u>60,418</u>

There were no employees who received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 (2021 - none).

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

11 Independent examiner's remuneration

	£	£
Independent examination of the annual accounts	2,400	2,260
	<u>2,400</u>	<u>2,260</u>
Other services		
All other non-assurance services	2,232	1,908
	<u>2,232</u>	<u>1,908</u>

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold improvements	Plant and equipment	Fixtures and fittings	Computers	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost						
At 1 April 2021	-	788	3,770	3,310	20,919	28,787
Additions	1,418	284	-	570	-	2,272
At 31 March 2022	1,418	1,072	3,770	3,880	20,919	31,059
Depreciation and impairment						
At 1 April 2021	-	147	3,290	2,038	1,960	7,435
Depreciation charged in the year	-	327	171	819	1,966	3,283
At 31 March 2022	-	474	3,461	2,857	3,926	10,718
Carrying amount						
At 31 March 2022	1,418	598	309	1,023	16,993	20,341
At 31 March 2021	-	641	480	1,272	18,959	21,352

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

13	Stocks	2022	2021
		£	£
	Finished goods for resale	4,019	3,448
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
14	Debtors	2022	2021
	Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
	Other debtors	8,938	4,354
	Prepayments and accrued income	9,977	2,691
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
		18,915	7,045
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
15	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2022	2021
		£	£
	Other taxation and social security	3,529	1,981
	Trade creditors	6,656	1,665
	Accruals and deferred income	4,632	2,784
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
		14,817	6,430
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

16 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds				Movement in funds			Balance at 31 March 2022
	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	
ICAP- Corporate Support donation	30,625	-	(3,835)	-	26,790	-	-	26,790
Veterans Foundation UK	-	30,000	(15,000)	-	15,000	-	(15,000)	-
Awards for All, Lottery	-	10,000	(8,163)	(1,028)	809	-	-	809
Forthglade UK	-	5,000	(936)	(4,000)	64	-	-	64
Exeter Chiefs Foundation	-	10,000	-	(10,000)	-	-	-	-
Armed Forces Covenant	-	33,250	(18,934)	(6,000)	8,316	58,750	(57,001)	10,065
BFBS	-	-	-	-	-	5,800	(5,800)	-
	<u>30,625</u>	<u>88,250</u>	<u>(46,868)</u>	<u>(21,028)</u>	<u>50,979</u>	<u>64,550</u>	<u>(77,801)</u>	<u>37,728</u>

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

16 Restricted funds

(Continued)

ICAP

The ICAP donation was used to fund residential activity and courses.

Veterans Foundation UK

The Veterans Foundation UK donation was used for salary support.

Awards for All, Lottery

The Awards for All, Lottery donation was used for reducing isolation.

Forthglade UK

The Forthglade UK donation was used for charity vehicle support.

Exeter Chiefs Foundation

The Exeter Chiefs Foundation donation was used to purchase the charity vehicle.

Armed forces Covenant

The Armed forces Covenant donation was used for the Paws for Life Project and salary support.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

17 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Resources expended £	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Movement in funds Incoming resources £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Laura Mazzara- Standard Life	15,000	(14,400)	600	-	600
	<u>15,000</u>	<u>(14,400)</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>600</u>

Standard Life

The Standard Life donation was to fund 2 dogs which have been purchased and socialised. The remaining funds will be for the partnerships to be placed.

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2022 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	20,341	-	20,341	21,352	-	21,352
Current assets/(liabilities)	57,602	37,728	95,330	5,655	118,875	124,530
	<u>77,943</u>	<u>37,728</u>	<u>115,671</u>	<u>27,007</u>	<u>118,875</u>	<u>145,882</u>

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

19 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Within one year	15,612	15,612
Between two and five years	-	15,612
	<u>15,612</u>	<u>31,224</u>

20 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2021 - none).

VETERANS WITH DOGS

England & Wales - Charity number 1161554

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1161554

Company Registration No. 08443724 (England and Wales)

VETERANS WITH DOGS
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

VETERANS WITH DOGS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mrs C Maclellan Mrs S J Pierechod Miss H Campbell Mr M Field Mr M Bestwick Mr C R Maclellan	(Appointed 2 August 2020) (Appointed 2 August 2020)
Charity number	1161554	
Company number	08443724	
Registered office	Basepoint Business Centre Yeoford Way Matford Park Exeter Devon EX2 8LB	
Independent examiner	Mr J L Coombs MA (Cantab) FCA Simpkins Edwards LLP Michael House Castle Street Exeter Devon EX4 3LQ	
Bankers	HSBC Bank Plc Tavistock Branch Bedford Square Tavistock Devon PL19 0AH	

VETERANS WITH DOGS

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees' report	1 - 9
Independent examiner's report	10
Statement of financial activities	11
Balance sheet	12
Notes to the financial statements	13 - 21

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016)

Objectives and activities

- The training of assistance dogs for current and former service personnel of the British Armed Forces with mental health disabilities.
- Providing training, education and support services for the relief of mental health disabilities with the partnership of dogs.
- Improving quality of life and achieving greater independence by increasing confidence and self-esteem, bringing companionship, a sense of security and increased opportunities for social interaction.
- Develop links and foster partnerships with other organisations who share our aims of supporting Veterans and those promoting responsible dog ownership.
- Implement fundraising and educational initiatives in support of VWD objectives and operations.
- Undertake any such work that the trustees may agree, from time to time, consistent with the overall objectives of the charity.

Our vision

To improve the quality of life for veterans who are living with mental health disorders with the support and companionship of one of our specially trained assistance dogs via our unique and pioneering programme.

(A Veteran is defined by the Government as any person of any age who has served in the British Armed Forces).

Our mission statement & philosophy

"To support former members of the British Armed Forces, whose psychological or physical wellbeing may have suffered due to difficult past experiences and challenging life circumstances, via engagement with dogs."

Veterans with Dogs works to support Veterans who are aspiring to increase their general level of functioning and independence by helping them to regain their sense of purpose, (self) worth and engagement with their communities and sense of value to society, helping them develop new skills, revive old ones and realise their potential.

Veterans with Dogs aims to provide a supportive, comfortable environment where people may find an opportunity to socialise with others, capitalise on shared learning experiences, develop their coping strategies, and build new friendships and lasting support networks.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Achievements and performance

Embracing digital working

Digital transition has been a major investment both financially, in time and development, and in staff training throughout this year. Whilst we have been tech-savvy from the outset, we conducted an in-depth review of our technology stack, and more importantly how we could leverage better automation of processes to compliment existing working practises, and to improve managing the increased volumes of data we find ourselves having to process nowadays.

We have made significant efforts to embrace technology to create exciting new virtual ways of working both within the charity and to support our clients and volunteers that will aid our future operations. This included virtual interactive sessions and enrichment activities presented and hosted online.

Designed and implemented aftercare support virtual 'visits' that allowed us to continue to support our assistance dog partnerships. We placed 5 new assistance dogs during the year - a significant achievement given the challenges of the pandemic.

Developed new protocols and policies in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and introduced many new ways of working within safe, socially acceptable, and legal limits. Where necessary this has included moving training sessions to online platforms and utilising video conferencing and video recording as a means to communicate effectively.

We created virtual activities that enabled us to support and keep connected to clients during lockdown. These included virtual challenges, dog-bingo, and games. This allowed to maintain contact whilst checking-in with clients for welfare purposes.

Paws4Life – a new activity-based service for the wider public

Improving education comes from our expert understanding of dogs built over many years of experience bringing dogs and people together. Paws4Life encourages people to build a strong bond with their dog based on an understanding of dog behaviour and well-being that will ensure their dog is happy and healthy.

In response to the recognition that not all Veterans are able to have an assistance dog but can still reap the benefits of canine companionship with a pet dog. To address the shortfall in services available to these Veterans we created the Paws4Life service, which is designed to help educate owners whilst providing a means to access wellbeing activities with direct involvement from the Charity.

Assistance Dogs

- 8 puppies brought into the PALS Puppy Programme in 2021.
- 26 dogs in training at the end of 2021.
- 5 dogs newly qualified as assistance dogs throughout the year.
- 331 service deliveries of training and support provided by the charity throughout 2021.
- 150 training sessions delivered directly with clients in 2021.

Clients

- A total of 120 clients receiving support or services from the charity in 2021.

Volunteer support

We have:

- 34 active Approved Trainers providing training and support to our socialisers and clients.
- 18 active fundraising volunteers supporting us.
- 13 Puppy Socialisers giving our puppies the best start in life.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Assistance Dog training in a pandemic

Right throughout the organisation, changes had to be made to all our processes to accommodate lockdown and the emerging pandemic. Our training department underwent a huge change to the normal ways of working and it was imperative that these changes were made rapidly and thoroughly to ensure the safety of our dogs and staff.

Training dogs in a pandemic is not easy but we adapted and managed to find solutions to the problems we faced.

Our training team put together resources demonstrating training techniques to help volunteers and clients keep up with elements of their dogs' training where possible. In addition, we created a new publication "Enrichment Ideas for Your Dog" for volunteers and clients to provide enrichment activities for their dogs when walks were not so plentiful due to restrictions, shielding etc.

We also used virtual platforms to continue to communicate with clients. Obviously, in-person training was not possible during lockdown, so Trainers conducted virtual sessions with their clients and dogs.

Our training team worked with volunteer puppy socialisers to assess which approach and which platform worked best for everyone.

Clients and socialisers were continued to be set training tasks to achieve that they could practise around the home. We asked for videos to be submitted showing the training and then reviewed these videos with virtual meetings being carried out to go through any problems and discuss with each other how they found the challenge. The calls were also a really terrific way for everyone to get together and for us to check on both client and dog welfare, without any intrusive approaches, and this also helped reduce the sense of social isolation that many people felt during lockdown.

When restrictions relaxed a little, our trainers were able to get back to training with clients in-person again. Training sessions required increased hand hygiene measures as normally, many pairs of hands would make contact with the dog. In addition, while dogs do not transmit the Covid-19 virus to humans, they are, nonetheless, a 'surface' and that surface has to be made safe to keep humans safe, so all our dogs had to be thoroughly wiped down before and after training.

Thanks to all the training staff, volunteers and clients who rose to the challenges that 2021 brought, we are extremely grateful for everyone's efforts which enabled us to safely continue to care for and train our dogs during this challenging time.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Community Dogs in 2021

As a face-to-face service, the work of the team was considerably impacted by the pandemic. But very shortly after lockdown began, the team introduced new protocols to keep clients, staff, and dogs safe.

The Team came up with some incredibly creative ways to engage and motivate clients online including dog bingo sessions, virtual dog walks and road safety card games.

When restrictions eased a little, the team were able to work 'in person' again and this included working in new, socially distanced ways and adhering to strict hygiene standards. For our Community Dogs, this meant some extra training, including familiarising them to face masks and visors and the smell of hand sanitiser.

Developments in Training

In March, we took the opportunity to look at what we could learn from having to work in diverse ways and use that learning to undertake new projects that would help us grow into an even more robust and forward-thinking organisation. Because we have had to work in a far more focused way, what we have learned and implemented organisationally in 2021 would, ordinarily, have taken two or three years to achieve.

The team came up with some incredibly creative ways to engage and motivate clients online including dog bingo sessions, virtual dog walks and road safety card games.

Working online through the pandemic has seen some significant and positive changes for our training team. As a result of some very clever thinking, they were not only able to continue to help clients meet their personal goals and support positive mental wellbeing, but they also now have new ways of working that they will continue to use well into the future.

For example, we are now able to use virtual sessions to help deliver our benefits to more people, regardless of geographical constraints – indeed, during lockdown, one of our clients in Shetland was able to join the online sessions!

Paws4Life – a new service in 2021

As a charity focussed on making life-changing differences for people with mental health disabilities through the involvement of expertly trained dogs, we believe in the positive and sometimes life-changing difference that dogs can make to people's lives – we see this daily through the impact of our team. But we know that owning a dog is not always easy, it can throw up many questions and challenges, particularly when it comes to understanding their behaviour and how best to train them.

So, we have extended our professional knowledge to a wider audience by introducing a new programme called Paws4Life draws on our expert understanding of our four-legged friends, built over the years of training highly skilled assistance dogs. The aim is to inspire good welfare, supporting and empowering dog owners to enhance their relationship with their dog through practical, accessible, and inclusive advice available both on our website and in person during designated activity days held throughout the Southwest, Midlands and Southeast.

Paws4Life is designed for Veterans who would like to be part of a small group who take part in activity days, and walks, with like-minded individuals with a common connection as an ex-service man or woman.

This is a fantastic opportunity to socialise together and allow the dogs the benefits of enrichment within a group environment. We have staff members on hand to lead the group in a controlled manner and ensure that all dogs remain below threshold and have a positive experience throughout our time together.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Fundraising

All the charity's fundraising is conducted by charity staff and volunteers. Volunteers operate under the careful guidance of staff. The charity does not conduct telephone, door-to-door fundraising or use consultants to carry out fundraising on the charity's behalf.

The charity operates to the code of Fundraising Practice as applied by the Fundraising Regulator. Veterans With Dogs is registered with the Fundraising Regulator.

The charity had no compliance issues in 2021 in terms of meeting the Code of Fundraising Practice.

The charity supports its fundraising volunteers through induction sessions, training, and ongoing support. The charity does not use external fundraisers or commercial participators.

The charity did not receive any complaints regarding fundraising in 2021.

With grateful thanks ...

We receive funding from individuals, corporate partners, trusts and community groups.

We are so grateful for the continued support from many trusts and corporate partners which have helped us continue our vital work during 2021.

Our sincere thanks go to:

- Armed Forces Covenant
- Veterans Foundation
- Headley Foundation
- Shape Services
- Tesco Groundworks
- Sherborne Vale Dog Club
- Pawprint Trading
- RAF Coningsby
- Kong Company
- Morrison Foerster
- Lindum Lodge
- Ancre Somme Association

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Extraordinary Times

2021 was certainly an extraordinary year when all of us faced challenges unlike any we have before. Inevitably, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic caused disruption to Veterans With Dogs' work in every part of the organisation, but it was incredibly heartening to see how everyone connected with the charity, staff, volunteers, clients, and indeed dogs, all rose to the challenges and overcame them in ways that will have a lasting positive impact on our work.

Our top priority throughout the pandemic has been the health, safety and wellbeing of our staff, volunteers, clients, and dogs. Some of the people we support are already clinically vulnerable adults, which necessitated a cautious approach to ensure we protect everyone connected with the charity.

A significant outcome of the pandemic has been the increased recognition of the positive role that dogs can play in our lives. In describing the significant role our dogs play in supporting our clients who can often face social isolation, we used to ask people to imagine what it might feel like not to leave their home for several years; the reality for many of the people we work with before our wonderful dogs start to support them. The pandemic has meant that sadly, many more of us have now experienced first-hand what social isolation really feels like and as such, the power of the human- dog bond has become more important than ever. Dogs give us a reason to go out, help us feel less isolated and always manage to bring a smile to our faces during tough times. The pandemic has brought into sharp focus that the work we do really does make life-changing differences; it enables people to go out safely and with confidence, live more independently and experience far greater social interactions thanks to the support and devotion of our expertly trained dogs.

Many of the challenges are ongoing, not least working face-to-face with the people we support - a vital part of our Assistance Dog services. Government restrictions and our new protocols to ensure we were working safely meant that there were, and still are, limits to what we could achieve in terms of placing assistance dogs and working with people who need our help. Assistance dogs coming through our socialisation and training process were not able to be matched and placed with clients in the same way we have been used to doing.

We did manage some face-to-face work, but the new ways of working made the process incredibly time-consuming. We have had to be very flexible and find solutions quickly to work successfully within the changing landscape of Covid-19 restrictions.

On the plus side, we have learnt a huge amount during the crisis that will serve us well in the future. We have developed new ways of working to enable us to provide a range of virtual services and support to our clients, volunteers, and dogs when they needed it most. During the second lockdown in November some flexible furloughing took place.

These new virtual ways of working have been well-received and will be valuable going forward. We certainly do not want to replace face-to-face meetings, support sessions or workshops but there is a positive place for virtual support where it can deliver help and advice in a more timely and responsive way. This certainly puts us in an exciting position for growing our support for people in the future.

Funding will continue to be a challenge in 2022 but we are so grateful to the many people who have continued to support our work during this challenging time. It was also incredibly heartening to read the messages of support from people who donated over the year. Our fundraising team has worked tirelessly to minimize the loss of revenue in areas such as events and community fundraising and are actively working to engage with new supporters and generate funds, particularly through virtual activities and digital fundraising. Every bit of support given to us now will enable us to continue our work in the long term.

The experiences of the past year have taught us that we are a resilient charity and will continue to rise to all the challenges that come our way. The charity is stronger now than ever thanks to the outstanding work and support of our staff, volunteers and of course our dogs.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

We will need to maintain contact as much as possible with our donors and continue to expand on digital fundraising as there has already been a 63% drop in cash-direct fundraising activities, and we see this set to increase to a higher figure if the UK government introduces lockdown measures.

The charity is set to see significant challenges throughout the sector over the next financial period and will need to adapt to change quickly in order to survive. Both client needs and fundraising requirements will have to be reviewed and plans put in place to mitigate losses in both parts, with much of the outcome an unknown at this point. It is estimated that the charity sector will lose up to £4 billion in the next few months but the cost could be greater.

It is hoped that the government will provide support for smaller charities and help protect the sector that provides such vital support and services as Veterans With Dogs does. Our beneficiaries have already earned the right to be supported by their country – it remains to be seen if our country will now stand up and be counted when services and support are faced with such a significant threat as the current crisis presents.

Dr Tim Brown, Senior University Teaching Fellow, has explained how the Third Sector and charities in particular have been flooded for requests for help, but may need support themselves to survive.

Tim explains that charities exist to bridge the gap between the public services and the needs of communities in a variety of ways, including providing medical support or research; assisting those in poverty; support families in need; providing mental health support and guidance; providing education; assisting the advancement of sport; protecting the environment and animal welfare; and advancing the arts.

Of the 168,000 charities in the UK, only 0.7% have an income greater than £10 million annually. This leaves over 99% of charities in a very precarious financial position as the overwhelming majority are very small and designed to support a very specific cause and need. That cause and need will continue to exist, even if the charity does not - that is the dilemma.

Financial review

Income

During the year ended 31 March 2021, we received income of £230,356 (2020: £164,699), an increase of £65,657.

Expenditure

Charitable activities expenditure amounted to £127,220 (2020: £158,684), a decrease of £31,464.

Costs of raising fund amounted to £891 (2020: £4,004), a decrease of £3,113.

Other costs amounted to £9,861 (2020: £7,193), an increase of £2,668.

Fund balances

Unrestricted funds amount to £94,903 (2020: £22,873), an increase of £72,030.

Restricted funds amount to £50,979 (2020: £30,625), an increase of £20,354.

Overall position

The combined effect of the above has seen a net surplus of £92,384 (2020: £5,182 deficit).

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Reserves policy

Our Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of Veterans With Dogs are current and former service personnel of the British Armed Forces with mental health disabilities. Providing training, education and support services for the relief of mental health disabilities with the partnership of dogs.

Our Charity needs to have sufficient reserves to cover the diverse expenditure commitments to our beneficiaries and have ascertained that a minimum of £38,395 reserves needs to be held to ensure the charities future expenditure objectives can be met.

Rationale of the Reserves Policy

Veterans With Dogs provides lifetime partnerships between Veterans and Assistance Dogs, helping our beneficiaries to lead more independent lives by mitigating the symptoms their disability presents. Our services cover the whole of the UK.

Our Reserves Policy is to maintain sufficient level of reserves to enable and protect normal operating activities to continue over a period of up to 4 months should a shortfall in income occur and to take account of potential risks and contingencies that may arise from time to time. Our current beneficiaries continued support and services are vital to their well being.

Excluded from the Reserves Policy is income associated with:

- Endowment Funds
- Restricted Funds (Earmarked Income)

In order to demonstrate transparency, accountability and sound financial management the Veterans With Dogs Reserves Policy clearly justifies the amount of reserves kept back each year.

Establishing our level of reserve

The Trustees have reviewed our charities risks and commitments in respect of expenditure, unrestricted income and where appropriate restricted income.

The Trustees have taken into consideration are any external identified potential major risks to income and expenditure during the year under consideration.

A risk assessment has been undertaken for the period 1st April 2020 and the following has been determined using the Risk Identification approach:

- Unrestricted Income: Medium Risk
- Restricted Income: Low Risk
- Expenditure: Low Risk

- External Potential Major Risks:
 - Current lack of diversity and long term income streams
 - Dogs purchased fall ill or fail
 - Fluctuating Charity rent costs
 - Covid Pandemic restrictions on fundraising

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Level of reserve required by Veterans With Dogs

Veterans With Dogs should hold in reserve approximately 4 months operating capital which within the current budget period equates to £38,395.

Current Reserves equal £28,820 which represents a shortfall of reserves of £9,575.

We continue to have a sound strategy diversifying our income streams over the next financial year as well as potential forthcoming corporate partnerships which will secure longer term financial stability.

It is the Trustees responsibility to continue to diversify Veterans With Dogs income streams over the coming year, Our reserves target will be met.

It is essential that all current partnerships can be supported should income fall or subsequently that funds be available should additional activity become necessary due to the impact of unforeseen external events on our beneficiaries.

Reviewing and monitoring the Reserves Policy

This policy will be reviewed at each Trustee meeting and reserve levels adjusted as risk or other factors change. The CEO will present the Trustees with a draft document and supporting details that enables them to make an informed decision about levels of Reserves aligning with the approval and subsequent reviews of our Strategic plan and Operating Budgets.

The Trustees has assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, registered under the Companies Act. The charity is controlled by its governing document and Articles of Association.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mrs C Maclellan

Mrs S J Pierechod

Ms L Skelton

(Resigned 1 July 2020)

Miss H Campbell

Mr M Field

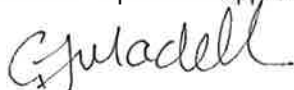
(Appointed 2 August 2020)

Mr M Bestwick

(Appointed 2 August 2020)

Mr C R Maclellan

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



.....
Mrs C Maclellan

Trustee

Dated: 15.12.21

VETERANS WITH DOGS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF VETERANS WITH DOGS

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Veterans With Dogs (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

The Okehampton office of Simpkins Edwards LLP has been instructed by the Trustees to provide bookkeeping services for the Charity. I have followed the Charity Commission's guidance under direction two to ensure that I provide an objective independent opinion and maintain the appropriate segregation of duties.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 financial statements to be reached.



Mr J L Coombs MA (Cantab) FCA
for and on behalf of Simpkins Edwards LLP

Michael House
Castle Street
Exeter
Devon
EX4 3LQ

Dated: *15 December 2021.*

VETERANS WITH DOGS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	109,846	88,250	198,096	124,146	38,800	162,946
Charitable activities	4	31,319	-	31,319	213	-	213
Other trading activities	5	941	-	941	1,540	-	1,540
Total income		142,106	88,250	230,356	125,899	38,800	164,699
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	891	-	891	4,004	-	4,004
Charitable activities	7	80,352	46,868	127,220	150,509	8,175	158,684
Other	8	9,861	-	9,861	7,193	-	7,193
Total resources expended		91,104	46,868	137,972	161,706	8,175	169,881
Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources before transfers		51,002	41,382	92,384	(35,807)	30,625	(5,182)
Gross transfers between funds		21,028	(21,028)	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		72,030	20,354	92,384	(35,807)	30,625	(5,182)
Fund balances at 1 April 2020		22,873	30,625	53,498	58,680	-	58,680
Fund balances at 31 March 2021		94,903	50,979	145,882	22,873	30,625	53,498

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		21,352		2,920
Current assets					
Stocks	13	3,448		2,368	
Debtors	14	7,045		4,200	
Cash at bank and in hand		120,467		54,342	
		<u>130,960</u>		<u>60,910</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(6,430)</u>		<u>(10,332)</u>	
Net current assets			124,530		50,578
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>145,882</u>		<u>53,498</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	16		50,979		30,625
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	17	600		15,000	
General unrestricted funds		<u>94,303</u>		<u>7,873</u>	
			<u>94,903</u>		<u>22,873</u>
			<u>145,882</u>		<u>53,498</u>


The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 15.12.21


.....
Mrs C Maclellan
Trustee

Company Registration No. 08443724

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Veterans With Dogs is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Basepoint Business Centre, Yeoford Way, Matford Park, Exeter, Devon, EX2 8LB.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the Trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Grants: See separate policy note 1.9.

1.5 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Plant and equipment	
Fixtures and fittings	20% straight line per annum
Computers	33% straight line per annum
Motor vehicles	20% straight line per annum

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.8 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.9 Grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

Other grants that specify performance conditions are recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2021	2021	2021	2020	2020	2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	98,214	-	98,214	90,317	-	90,317
Grants received	2,995	88,250	91,245	25,000	38,800	63,800
Giftaid income	8,637	-	8,637	8,829	-	8,829
	<u>109,846</u>	<u>88,250</u>	<u>198,096</u>	<u>124,146</u>	<u>38,800</u>	<u>162,946</u>

4 Charitable activities

	Other revenue 2021	Government grants 2021	Total 2021	Other revenue 2020
	£	£	£	£
Other income	220	31,099	31,319	213
	<u>220</u>	<u>31,099</u>	<u>31,319</u>	<u>213</u>

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2021	Unrestricted funds 2020
	£	£
Shop income	941	1,540
	<u>941</u>	<u>1,540</u>

6 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2021	Unrestricted funds 2020
	£	£
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Other fundraising costs	891	4,004
	<u>891</u>	<u>4,004</u>

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

7 Charitable activities

	Charitable Expenditure 2021 £	Charitable Expenditure 2020 £
Staff costs	60,418	53,562
Puppy purchases	12,652	19,226
Admin services	-	325
Trainers' fees and residential costs	6,080	22,780
Travel and subsistence	6,692	5,133
Consultancy and training	6,095	20,240
Registration fees	34	72
Software and IT consumables	6,197	2,285
Volunteers expenses	622	2,781
Shop purchases	273	565
Insurance	2,524	2,135
Telephone	585	292
Postage and stationery	863	2,164
Advertising	1,660	2,865
Sundries	4,562	3,825
Repairs and maintenance	44	562
Subscriptions	267	1,825
Rent and rates	17,652	18,047
	<u>127,220</u>	<u>158,684</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	80,352	150,509
Restricted funds	46,868	8,175
	<u>127,220</u>	<u>158,684</u>
For the year ended 31 March 2020		
Unrestricted funds	150,509	
Restricted funds	8,175	
	<u>158,684</u>	

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

8 Other

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2020
Depreciation	3,358	1,491
Accountancy and legal fees	5,248	4,551
Other expenditure	1,255	1,151
	<u>9,861</u>	<u>7,193</u>

9 Independent examiner's remuneration

	£	£
Independent examination of the annual accounts	2,260	2,420
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Other services		
All other non-assurance services	1,908	2,118
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

10 Trustees

During the year, one trustee received reimbursements of expenses totalling £4,332 (2020: £2,610).

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
	4	3
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Employment costs		
	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	59,511	52,036
Social security costs	-	688
Other pension costs	907	838
	<u>60,418</u>	<u>53,562</u>

There were no employees who received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 (2020 - none).

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computers £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2020	-	3,770	2,227	1,000	6,997
Additions	788	-	1,083	19,919	21,790
At 31 March 2021	788	3,770	3,310	20,919	28,787
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 April 2020	-	2,735	1,242	100	4,077
Depreciation charged in the year	147	555	796	1,860	3,358
At 31 March 2021	147	3,290	2,038	1,960	7,435
Carrying amount					
At 31 March 2021	641	480	1,272	18,959	21,352
At 31 March 2020	-	1,035	985	900	2,920

13 Stocks

	2021 £	2020 £
Finished goods for resale	3,448	2,368

14 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	4,354	2,317
Prepayments and accrued income	2,691	1,883
	7,045	4,200

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Other taxation and social security	1,981	3,199
Trade creditors	1,665	4,365
Accruals and deferred income	2,784	2,768
	6,430	10,332

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

16 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds			Movement in funds			
	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Norman Family Trust	800	(800)	-	-	-	-	-
ICAP- Corporate Support donation	35,000	(4,375)	30,625	-	(3,835)	-	26,790
Groundwork UK	3,000	(3,000)	-	-	-	-	-
Veterans Foundation UK	-	-	-	30,000	(15,000)	-	15,000
Awards for All, Lottery	-	-	-	10,000	(8,163)	(1,028)	809
Forthglade UK	-	-	-	5,000	(936)	(4,000)	64
Exeter Chiefs Foundation	-	-	-	10,000	-	(10,000)	-
Armed Forces Covenant	-	-	-	33,250	(18,934)	(6,000)	8,316
	<u>38,800</u>	<u>(8,175)</u>	<u>30,625</u>	<u>88,250</u>	<u>(46,868)</u>	<u>(21,028)</u>	<u>50,979</u>

ICAP

The ICAP donation was used to fund residential activity and courses.

Veterans Foundation UK

The Veterans Foundation UK donation was used for salary support.

Awards for All, Lottery

The Awards for All, Lottery donation was used for reducing isolation.

Forthglade UK

The Forthglade UK donation was used for charity vehicle support.

Exeter Chiefs Foundation

The Exeter Chiefs Foundation donation was used to purchase the charity vehicle.

Armed forces Covenant

The Armed forces Covenant donation was used for the Paws for Life Project.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

17 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds					Balance at 31 March 2021 £
	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Resources expended £	
The Betty Messenger Foundation	8,000	-	(8,000)	-	-	-
Laura Mazzara- Standard Life	-	25,000	(10,000)	15,000	(14,400)	600
	<u>8,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>(18,000)</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>(14,400)</u>	<u>600</u>

Standard Life

The Standard Life donation was to fund 2 dogs which have been purchased and socialised. The remaining funds will be for the partnerships to be placed.

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2021 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	21,352	-	21,352	2,920	-	2,920
Current assets/ (liabilities)	5,655	118,875	124,530	19,953	30,625	50,578
	<u>27,007</u>	<u>118,875</u>	<u>145,882</u>	<u>22,873</u>	<u>30,625</u>	<u>53,498</u>

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

19 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Within one year	15,612	13,634
Between two and five years	15,612	-
	<u>31,224</u>	<u>13,634</u>

20 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2020 - none).