

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	(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)

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
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VETERANS WITH DOGS

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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

		Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
	Notes						
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		<u>72,144</u>	<u>13,879</u>	<u>86,023</u>	<u>77,943</u>	<u>37,728</u>	<u>115,671</u>
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	
		149,212		80,890	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(11,072)		(13,591)	
Net current assets			138,140		67,299
Total assets less current liabilities			158,893		86,023
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	18	107,132		13,879	
Unrestricted funds	20	51,761		72,144	
		158,893		86,023	

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

5 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 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

	2024 £	2023 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
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></u>	<u></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>

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>

17 Retirement benefit schemes

	2024	2023
	£	£
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	<u>2,066</u>	<u>1,358</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 £	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Movement in funds Incoming resources £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
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

22 Related party transactions

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