



Therapy Dogs Nationwide

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Therapy Dogs Nationwide Trustees' Annual Report 2024/2025

Objectives and Activities

Therapy Dogs Nationwide is a volunteer-led charity. Our aim is to improve lives through the comfort and companionship of therapy dogs.

We are not just an animal charity. We are a people charity. Our dogs are the bridge that allows us to reach people who may otherwise feel cut off, forgotten, or alone.

- We support a wide range of people:
- Children struggling with reading and confidence.
- Patients in hospitals and hospices.
- Older people in care and residential homes.
- Prisoners working on rehabilitation.
- Emergency services staff coping with stress.
- People in the community who feel isolated, anxious, or in need of kindness.

Our work is possible because of our trained volunteers, who give their free time. We currently have a presence in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Jersey, making us a truly national charity.

Achievements and Performance

This year has seen both growth and pressure.

- We have over 2,000 registered volunteers delivering regular visits.
- TDN Dogs reach 5,000 people every week.
- Visits took place in 59 prisons, supporting rehabilitation and well-being.
- We supported 83 blue light establishments (fire, police, ambulance), as well as the Ministry of Justice and HM Courts & Tribunals Service.
- Our Bark & Read program ran in 704 schools, helping children develop literacy skills, build confidence, and overcome anxiety around learning.
- We responded to requests from 551 corporate organisations, while always prioritising community settings.
- Volunteers provided visits to 339 hospitals and 1,814 care and residential homes.

This year we invited selected organisations to sponsor our Volunteer Awards, which were presented at Crufts. We are especially grateful to Equafleece, Leucilin, Bella & Duke, Sphere, PetsPyjamas, Funky Paws,

McDermotts Construction, Whimzees, and Feelwells. Their support enabled us to celebrate exceptional work within the charity and provide eight winners with goodie bags and trophies.

Human Impact

Behind the numbers are countless personal stories.

- In hospice care: A nurse at St Barnabas Hospice in Lincoln told us, “As a nurse I can ease pain and distress with medicines, but Doodah the therapy dog brought joy and comfort in a way I cannot. One patient said it was the happiest part of their day.”
- In prisons: One prisoner shared, “I was ready to give up. Meeting Misty the therapy dog gave me hope. She did not judge me for my past mistakes. She made me feel safe, valued, and supported. I now look forward to my weekly sessions. Therapy dogs make a huge difference in helping us feel human again.”
- In schools: Teachers report that children involved in Bark & Read show more confidence and a love of books. Reading aloud to a dog creates a safe, non-judgmental space that helps children grow.

These examples show the unique way therapy dogs reach people. The visits change lives in quiet but powerful ways.

Demand continues to increase year on year. In 2024/25 we received 1,782 requests for visits.

We could not meet them all. Some one-off corporate requests had to be declined so that schools, hospitals, and care homes remained our priority.

We also received over 500 requests for one-off visits, highlighting both demand and the need for new resources.

This demand reflects wider social issues. The cost-of-living crisis has worsened mental health and loneliness. Services everywhere are stretched. Therapy dog visits are often one of the few things people look forward to.

Financial Review

Our total income in 2024/25 was £107,142.

Our total expenditure was £114,624.

We ended the year with a deficit of £7,482.

The largest areas of expenditure were:

- Staffing and admin support – including one employed staff member and several self-employed administrators covering placements and bookkeeping.
- Uniform costs – which increase as volunteer numbers grow, since uniforms are purchased and resold to volunteers.
- IT systems and support – managed through our outsourced provider Infinity, which scales with the number of volunteers.
- Professional fees – covering accountancy and consultancy services.

This spending reflects the pressure of managing a growing national charity with very limited paid staff. If we had to pay the full value of the volunteer work being done, our staffing bill would be over £120,000 per year. This is beyond our current income.

The deficit this year shows the tension between growth and limited resources. It highlights the need for new and sustainable fundraising streams.

Structure, Governance and Management

Therapy Dogs Nationwide is led by a Board of Trustees. In January 2025, two new trustees joined, Emma Karnawicz & Huw Williams. They bring new energy, vision, and expertise to help us move forward.

The charity employs one full-time member of staff, supported by several self-employed administrators.

The majority of operational work is done by volunteers, including local coordinators who organise visits and provide essential links to their communities.

We follow safeguarding policies and maintain high standards in training and professional conduct. Volunteers who do not meet these standards are asked to step down, to protect the reputation of the charity and the safety of those we serve.

Future Plans

TDN has grown rapidly. To remain strong and sustainable we must now build capacity.

Our priorities for 2025/26 are:

1. Funding staff – to secure a development worker and support our office manager, freeing up time for fundraising and grant applications.
2. Upgrading IT systems – to improve efficiency, reduce manual admin, and safeguard data.
3. Volunteer retention and support – through new liaison roles and better communication.
4. Fundraising growth – building corporate partnerships, seeking grants, and considering structured charges for corporate visits.

We also have clear ambitions for the future:

- Expand into Doncaster Royal, Rotherham General, and North Lincoln hospitals (grant awarded for 2025/26).
- Invest in a professional presence at outside summer events with branded equipment.
- Strengthening IT and digital systems to support volunteers nationwide.

These projects cannot be delivered without additional funding, but they remain our vision.

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that Therapy Dogs Nationwide has complied with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Our work benefits people of all ages and backgrounds, including those facing loneliness, illness, trauma, or disadvantage. The charity exists to serve people, using therapy dogs as the tool to open doors, create trust, and bring comfort.

Conclusion

2024/25 has been a year of both success and challenge. We are proud of what our volunteers and their dogs have achieved. Thousands of people each week feel less alone because of a therapy dog visit.

We also recognise the pressures ahead. Demand continues to grow. Cash flow is tight. We need to invest in staff and systems to ensure the charity remains strong.

Despite this, the future is full of hope. We have a dedicated volunteer base, a national reach, and powerful evidence of the difference we make. With support, Therapy Dogs Nationwide can grow, remain sustainable, and continue to change lives.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'L. de Lafontaine' in a cursive script.

Leisl de Lafontaine

Trustee

Statement of Financial Position

Therapy Dogs Nationwide

As of March 31, 2025

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Called up share capital not paid	
Fixed Asset	
Tangible assets	
Computer Equipment	5,085.76
Computer Hardware	8,208.81
Total for Tangible assets	£13,294.57
Non-current Assets	
Total for Fixed Asset	£13,294.57
Cash at bank and in hand	
BUSINESS CURRENT ACCOUNT (3616)	937.81
BUSINESS SAVINGS ACCOUNT (2489)	10,017.00
Cash Floats	
PAYPAL TDN Account	4,691.27
Total for Cash at bank and in hand	£15,646.08
Debtors	
Debtors	
Total for Debtors	0
Current Assets	
Office Equipment	1,063.01
Undeposited Funds	5.00
Total for Current Assets	£1,068.01
NET CURRENT ASSETS	£16,714.09
Prepayments and accrued income	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	
Trade Creditors	
Credit Cards	
Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	-£2.00
Employment Allowance	-1,043.95
HMRC	2,432.11
Nest Scheme	1,340.85
Pension	-904.05
Total for Payroll Liabilities	£1,822.96
Total for Current Liabilities	£1,822.96
Total for Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	£1,822.96
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)	£14,891.13
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	£28,185.70
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	
Provision for liabilities and charges	
Accruals and deferred income	
TOTAL NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES)	£28,185.70

Statement of Financial Position

Therapy Dogs Nationwide

As of March 31, 2025

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Capital and Reserves	
Called up share capital	1,560.11
Retained Earnings	-7,482.22
Net Income	34,107.81
Opening Balance Equity	
Total for Capital and Reserves	£28,185.70

Statement of Activity

Therapy Dogs Nationwide

April 1, 2024-March 31, 2025

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Income	
Annual Subscription	23,943.31
Donations	£2,583.66
300 Club	3,377.47
Donation - 3rd Party	34,519.72
Donation - Crufts	1,206.49
Donation - Fundraising	3,199.95
Donation - Legacy	6,143.78
Donations - Bow Ties	5,276.05
Gift Aid	702.84
Just Giving	2,299.61
Stickers	246.31
Total for Donations	£59,555.88
Interest Charged	324.71
Other Income from GoCardless	200.00
PayPal Income	1,720.96
SumUp Income	0.98
Unapplied Cash Payment Income	387.00
Uniform Sales	0
Pre-loved Uniform Sold	100.00
Uniform Sales - online	20,909.35
Total for Uniform Sales	£21,009.35
Total for Income	£107,142.19
Cost of Sales	
Gross Profit	£107,142.19
Expenses	
Admin Costs	£125.00
Advertising/Promotional	42.00
Computer - Hardware	0
Computer - Support	12,208.27
Total for Computer - Hardware	£12,208.27
Computer - Software	1,377.01
Phone Costs	55.00
Total for Admin Costs	£13,807.28
Bank Charges	£4.55
GoCardless Fees	53.49
Total for Bank Charges	£58.04

Statement of Activity

Therapy Dogs Nationwide

April 1, 2024-March 31, 2025

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Fundraising Expenses	£65.77
Crufts	£674.41
Hire Purchase	455.00
Hotels	4,160.53
Stands/Kennel Club	8,189.99
Stationery	4.99
Sundries	91.53
Travel & Subsistence	498.78
Total for Crufts	£14,075.23
Printing - leaflets & business cards etc	976.99
Total for Fundraising Expenses	£15,117.99
Insurance	3,341.79
Office/General Administrative Expenses	46.00
PayPal Fees	1,092.05
Payroll Expenses	0
Pension	990.65
Taxes	1,271.00
Wages	29,558.56
Total for Payroll Expenses	£31,820.21
Printing, Postage & Stationery	5,763.25
Professional Fees	£541.67
Accountancy Fees	7,687.71
Admin Consultancy Fees - Faye Lindsey	1,937.76
Admin Consultancy Fees - Helen Humphreys	5,250.00
Admin Consultancy Fees - Sarah McTighe	6,921.50
Total for Professional Fees	£22,338.64
Subscriptions	917.12
SumUp Fees	6.46
Sundry Expenses	307.86
Uncategorised Expense	-9.89
Uniform Purchase	0
Dog Clothing/Accessories	5,850.06
Dog Collars & Leads	2,245.93
Lanyards/miscellaneous	477.70
Volunteers Clothing	11,128.14
Total for Uniform Purchase	£19,701.83
Website	315.78
Total for Expenses	£114,624.41
Net Operating Income	-£7,482.22
Other Income	
Other Expenses	
Net Other Income	0
Net Income	-£7,482.22



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Therapy Dogs Nationwide

On accounts for the year
ended

31 March 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1167622

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 03 / 2025**

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date: 30/10/2025

Name:

Mark Wall

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

F CPA

Address:

M W Accounting Ltd

Unit 5 Basepoint Business Centre, Caxton Close

Andover, SP10 3FG

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.