

CANINE CONCERN

Annual report and financial statements
Year ended 31 December 2023

Charity no 1177334 (England & Wales)



**Canine Concern
Report and Financial Statements
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Registered charity (England & Wales) No 1177334

Canine Concern History

Canine Concern was formed in 1988 by Eve Waring, who had seen how important dog visits were to the elderly and lonely. Eve believed in reaching out to people through their dogs. She wanted to make the group friendly and supportive of each other as well as to the people, old and young, that we visited.



The group grew across England and Wales with local coordinators to support new members on their visits as well as friendship for the established members. We all need a friendly ear to tell our many success stories to as well as the challenging moments, which are few and far between. There are many stories of the successes and experiences of our members. Some sad, some happy, but all emotional and good in their own ways

Canine Concern became a successful charity, with Eve at the helm, from 1988 to the summer of 2016 when she became poorly. As she never wanted the charity to fade away, in September 2016 one of the area coordinators, Barbara Gasson, (initial Chair) and Valerie Fillery (CEO), picked up the baton to continue the good work with Eve's blessing. The Charity offices were moved from Wellington in Somerset to its current home in Pevensey in East Sussex. Sadly, on 4th April 2017, Eve passed away but knowing that Canine Concern was continuing to flourish, and her legacy would continue. In February 2018 Canine Concern became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

We are a Charity whose policy and belief was and always will be the organisation, caring for the whole community with our care dogs. This we have continued to do now for nearly 37 years.

Legal and administrative information

Charity name	Canine Concern
Charity registration number	1177334
Formation date	27 th February 2018
Establishment date	(Non-CIO) June 1988
Founder	Eve Waring
Registered office	21 Dallaway Drive Stone Cross Pevensey East Sussex BN24 5FB
Trustees	Chris Lovegrove Colin Scott Steve White Amanda Morris Elizabeth Permaul
CEO	Valerie Fillery (BSc (Hon), LCSP (Phys) IHM BSYA (MT) BSYA (CMA) MCMA DIP Canine Massage, Cert in Dog Psychology Dip in Pet Bereavement Dip in Animal Assisted Therapy
Accountants	Frampton & Co (Sussex) Limited 13 Meads Street Eastbourne East Sussex BN20 7QY
Principal Bankers	HSBC Plc 94 Terminus Road Eastbourne East Sussex BN21 3ND

Canine Concern

Registered number: 1177334

Trustees Annual Report

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31 December 2023.

Overview

Over the past five years, we have grappled with a multitude of challenges, from the repercussions of COVID-19 to the strains of high inflation and the cost-of-living crisis. All this while trying to bring the charity up to date with the continual challenges of the changes from being a very small charity into a modern-day CIO and taking the membership for 70 doubtful members in 2016 into a current membership approaching 650.

We look forward to many years of serving the members and public but will be seeking to increase donations and invoiced payments to the charity to stabilize our reserves to preserve and protect our future and secure long-term financial stability.

We remain today on a sound financial foundation for the years ahead, but like most similar charities we are constantly having to find funding for our day-to-day running costs in supporting our membership in the form of donations and trading invoices.

We are most grateful for the continued support of our volunteers who gave additional donations and supported our fundraising activities throughout the year with sponsored walks in memory of Barbara Gasson, Christmas gift sales and many other events. We remain today on a sound financial foundation for the years ahead, but like most similar charities we are constantly having to find funding for our day-to-day running costs in supporting our membership in the form of donations and trading invoices.

The sphere of our operations has expanded and grown.

We are heavily involved with the three main services with very successful projects working with several ambulance trusts.

The work for residential homes, care homes, hospices, hospitals, mental health services and prisons continues, and we remain immensely proud of that. The staff of the places we visit have also benefitted from our visits, especially when they have had a particularly stressful experience and added stress from workload and deadlines.

Universities, colleges, special needs and mainstream schools and many more places benefit from the wellbeing provided by our charity work. Our read to dogs' programme in schools has grown and is highly rewarding and beneficial.

We embrace all, young and old.

Our membership is limited to 1,000 members/volunteers as the Trustees do not wish to over-expand the charity and seek to remain a friendly, supportive charity.

Canine Concern**Registered number: 1177334****Trustees Annual Report****Trust Supporters**

We are very grateful to receive support from the public, our members and other establishments

We would like to thank the following

The Brothers Trust
National Lottery Community Trust
The James Bush Family
Mrs. M O Brown
BIMM Brighton
Barclaycard
Adur Lions
Woodside Hall Nursing Home
Purple Oaks Federation
Gerard and Christina Storek
Penny Dent
Easy Fundraising
University of Sussex

Aims and objectives

The object of the charity was:

- 1) The object of the charity was to relieve people who are in need by reason of their age, disability, health or social circumstances, particularly, but not exclusively by the provision of therapy dogs to visits schools, care homes, hospital, hospices, libraries, courts and other similar institutions.
- 2) To relieve sickness, suffering and distress and to promote good health, especially but not exclusively amongst children and elderly people demonstrating good relationships between people and companion animals

The accounts incorporate the results of Canine Concern Fund Raising which raises funds and promotes public awareness of the charity by the holding of exemption dog shows, and giving talks.

Activities

Our volunteers with their temperament-assessed dogs visit a wide spectrum of establishments, which include secure units, the three emergency services, hospitals, hospices, residential and nursing homes, and day-care centres, bringing comfort, mutual support, and beneficial care into their lives of who we meet.

We are recognized by the Kennel Club (Bark and Read sponsored dogs) with our work with children in all types of schools as well as mainstream schools through our Read-to-Dogs scheme which helps dogs to help children develop a passion for reading and alleviate the anxiety of getting words wrong.

The Charity also undertakes special work with sectors/areas of the police force, in bringing comfort and support to distressed situations and staff.

Canine Concern

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Trustees Annual Report

Publicity and communication

Through our media consultants we are daily highlighted on various media outlets such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn with a large following.

We have been often approached by local radio and TV stations across the UK who broadcast interviews with our volunteers as well as local newspapers and magazines for articles.

Structure governance and management

The charity was registered with the Charities Commissioners (No. 1177334) and charitable status was granted on 27 February 2018 as **Canine Concern CIO** and incorporated Canine Concern Charity (No. 328237) which was registered in 1988.

The charity was constituted under its governing document, the Constitution dated 28 February 2018.

All of the assets and funds of the Canine Concern Charity (No. 328237) were transferred on 28 February 2018. Canine Concern (No. 328237) was then removed from the charities register on 29 March 2018

The charity was managed by the Board of Trustees. If a vacancy on the Board arose, a new member would have been co-opted by the existing trustees.

Trustees

The following persons served as trustees during the year:

Chris Lovegrove
Colin Scott
Steve White
Amanda Morris (Resigned 11th November 2023)
Elizabeth Permaul (Appointed 1st November 2023)

No further Trustees were appointed during the period.

Achievements and performance

Having regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, during the period the charity has promoted its objectives by providing therapy dogs to homes, hospitals, schools, colleges, secure units, county courts and businesses.

The Charity continues to grow with new volunteers registering during the year. The demand for our service is ever growing and our Read to Dogs programme is also expanding, being recognized and supported by the Kennel Club

We have also had several newspapers and magazines featuring our members and our work.

Canine Concern**Registered number: 1177334****Trustees Annual Report**

The number of members not renewing their yearly membership remains at a rock-bottom percentage and usually relates to their dogs not being able to carry out duties, due to illness or deceased or the members themselves being unable to continue.

Organization Structure

The Board of Trustees is responsible for administration of the Charity. The Board meets formally at least twice a year with other informal contacts and meetings as appropriate. The Charity's Chairman is responsible for the Charity's operational management.

Future Plans

The Trustees have agreed that membership/Volunteers should not become too high, this is to avoid over stretching the service we provide and to becoming ungovernable with a financial drain on its assets both current and fixed.

The Trustees believe that it is not the size of the membership that counts, but the service and devotion that the individual member brings to the charity.

Our membership fees remain the lowest possible, in order that it remain open to all regardless of income. Although many members have paid more to the charity, if they feel they can.

The charity is proud in being more family and personally based and wishes to keep that status.

Financial review

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the financial information and observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.

The trustees have reviewed the level of unrestricted reserves carried by the charity other than those invested in property, and which represent nearly 3 years' expenditure.

The trustees regard this level of reserves as appropriate in the context of uncertainty over the charity's income to cover the ongoing costs of maintaining the charity's operation.

Each month the CEO. provides a financial overview to the Trustees including budget comparisons, profit & loss statements and any extraordinary require expense required.

As the majority of work that was undertaken in the course of the fulfilling the charity's objectives was undertaken by unpaid volunteers, the recurring annual costs remain low.

Net outgoing resources for the period amounted to £30,725.

Canine Concern received money from Membership Fees, Member donations and from the income from rented property. In addition, significant funding came from individual donations, including support from Sussex Caring Pets

This report was approved and authorized for issue by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf

Chris Lovegrove
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Date:

Canine Concern
Independent Examiner's Report

**Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of
Canine Concern**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out in pages 8 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- 1) examine the accounts under section 144 of the Charities Act.
- 2) to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- 3) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met or
- (2) to which, in my opinion attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mis Yvonne O'Connor
Frampton & Co (Sussex) Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
13 Meads Street
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN20 7QY

Canine Concern
Statement of financial activities
for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Incoming resources		62,138	68,779
Resources expended		(92,863)	(86,234)
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	2	<u>(30,725)</u>	<u>(17,455)</u>
Interest payable	3	<u>-</u>	<u>(1)</u>
Net movement in funds for the year		<u>(30,725)</u>	<u>(17,456)</u>

Canine Concern
Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	4	426,952	427,382
Current assets			
Debtors	5	545	531
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>132,330</u>	<u>162,699</u>
		132,875	163,230
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	(1,930)	(1,990)
Net current assets		<u>130,945</u>	<u>161,240</u>
Net assets		<u>557,897</u>	<u>588,622</u>
Funds			
Unrestricted fund	7	557,897	588,622
Total funds		<u>557,897</u>	<u>588,622</u>

The company was entitled to exemption from audit under s477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small company regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

Chris Lovegrove

Chair of Trustees Board

Date:

Canine Concern
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2005) and the Charities Act 2011.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources, it is certain that the resources will be received and the monetary value of the incoming resource can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure.

VAT

Value added Tax is not recoverable by the charity, and as such is included in the relevant costs in the accounts.

Assets and depreciation

Assets are capitalised at cost and stated in the balance sheet at cost less depreciation.

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Office equipment: 20% Straight Line

2 Net resources for the year	2023	2022
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	802	1,298
	<hr/>	<hr/>
3 Interest payable	2023	2022
	£	£
Interest payable	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Canine Concern
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2023

4 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Office equipment etc £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 January 2023	425,000	6,213	431,213
Additions	-	372	372
At 31 December 2023	<u>425,000</u>	<u>6,585</u>	<u>431,585</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2023	-	3,831	3,831
Charge for the year	-	802	802
At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>4,633</u>	<u>4,633</u>
Net book value			
At 31 December 2023	<u>425,000</u>	<u>1,952</u>	<u>426,952</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>425,000</u>	<u>2,382</u>	<u>427,382</u>

5 Debtors	2023 £	2022 £
Other debtors	<u>545</u>	<u>531</u>

6 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2023 £	2022 £
Other taxes and social security costs	1,082	1,142
Other creditors	<u>848</u>	<u>848</u>
	<u>1,930</u>	<u>1,990</u>

7 Funds	2023 £
Unrestricted fund	
At 1 January 2023	588,622
Loss for the year	(30,725)
At 31 December 2023	<u>557,897</u>

Canine Concern
Schedule to Statement of financial activities
for the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Donations & trading activities	30,426	46,721
Membership subscriptions	7,483	5,155
Bank interest receivable	4,229	303
Investment property income	20,000	16,600
	<u>62,138</u>	<u>68,779</u>
Resources expended		
Costs in furtherance of charitable objects		
Insurance	757	648
Merchandise costs	3,865	2,659
Website and software costs	2,878	2,489
Employer's NI	1,533	1,492
Staff training and welfare	60	-
Travel and subsistence	343	324
	<u>9,436</u>	<u>7,612</u>
Investment property costs:		
Fixtures, fittings and repairs	994	448
Property insurance	480	387
Property management fees	3,255	2,375
	<u>4,729</u>	<u>3,210</u>
Governance costs		
Telephone	1,081	1,055
Postage	950	800
Stationery and printing	1,204	1,756
Advertising and PR	2,209	2,455
Bank charges	145	151
Bookkeeping and administration	2,905	2,858
Employee salary	63,541	62,559
Pensions	1,005	1,005
Accountancy	1,034	1,133
Depreciation	803	1,239
Sundry expenses	223	216
	<u>75,100</u>	<u>75,227</u>
Legal and professional costs:		
Consultancy fees	2,940	-
Other legal and professional	658	185
	<u>3,598</u>	<u>185</u>
	<u>92,863</u>	<u>86,234</u>