

THIN BLUE PAW FOUNDATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1190959

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2020-08-20

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

Contact

Address Thin Blue Paw Foundation
Red Gables
Rothamsted
West Common
Harpenden
Hertfordshire
AL5 2JQ

Phone 01582 292389

Email hello@thinbluepaw.org.uk

Website www.thinbluepaw.org.uk

Activities

Objects: FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC TO RELIEVE THE SUFFERING OF SERVING AND RETIRED POLICE DOGS FROM ACROSS THE UNITED KINGDOM BY PROTECTING AND REHABILITATING.

Activities: We are a national charity supporting, rehabilitating, protecting and celebrating serving and retired police dogs from across the United Kingdom.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Animals
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£302,718	£221,349	-	-
2024-03-31	£208,744	£196,639	-	-
2023-03-31	£187,393	£210,534	-	-
2022-03-31	£215,883	£184,664	-	-
2021-03-31	£214,364	£123,207	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Kieran Stanbridge	Chair	2020-08-20
Diane Lewis		2025-10-02
JENNIFER PRESTON		2025-06-03
Simon Mapstone		2025-10-02

Accounts



Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025
for
Thin Blue Paw Foundation
Charity number: 1190959

Braceys Accountants Limited
Unit 1 The Cam Centre
Wilbury Way
Hitchin
Hertfordshire
SG4 0TW

Thin Blue Paw Foundation



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for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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Thin Blue Paw Foundation

Reference and Administrative Details
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

UK Charity Registration	1190959
Registered Office	Thin Blue Paw Foundation Red Gables, Rothamsted, West Common, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 2JQ
Trustees	
Kieran Stanbridge (Chair)	appointed 03/06/2025
Jennifer Preston	appointed 02/10/2025
Diane Lewis	appointed 02/10/2025
Simon Mapstone	appointed 13/10/2025
Lyndsay Hughes	
Gemma Wardell	resigned 10/10/2025
Dave Wardell	resigned 10/10/2025
Banks	Metro Bank, One Southampton Row, London, WC1B 5HA Barclays, Barclays Leicester, LE87 2BB
Independent Examiner	Jack Dallimore ACCA Braceys Accountants Ltd Unit 1, The Cam Centre, Wilbury Way, Hitchin, SG4 0TW
Accountants	Braceys Accountants Ltd Unit 1, The Cam Centre, Wilbury Way, Hitchin, SG4 0TW
Website and Social Media	www.thinbluepaw.org.uk X: @ThinBluePaw Facebook: Thin Blue Paw Foundation Instagram: @thinbluepaw LinkedIn: Thin Blue Paw Foundation YouTube: @ThinBluePaw TikTok: @ThinBluePaw
Contact us	hello@thinbluepaw.org.uk
Donate to help us	https://donate.thinbluepaw.org.uk/

Thin Blue Paw Foundation

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

A personal message from the Trustees

We entered our fifth year with big plans; and as we now take a chance to look back on this 12-month period, we feel proud of the work we've done to help dogs and their owners, stand up and speak up for police dogs and their welfare, and support both working and retired police dogs in times of need.

It's been an incredible year, with £64,000 worth of grants issued to cover veterinary care, medication and rehabilitation costs for our retired heroes, and many exciting partnerships, events and projects.

The community we've built has grown and become such an important support system for retired police dog owners, as well as a wonderful place to share stories and ideas. We love to see photos and updates of the dogs who are part of the Foundation family, especially when they're recovering following illness or surgery that we've assisted with.

We're also excited that the Foundation team itself has grown and changed, with changes to the Board of Trustees as some of our co-founders stepped down to focus on other charity work, and new team members joining bringing in new ideas and valuable expertise to ensure that, as we move forward, we can be the most effective and efficient charity possible.

However, it would be wrong to look back over the last year without acknowledging the significant challenges and tragedies that we have also faced.

The tragic death of Leicestershire Police Dog Zyla, while she was pursuing a suspect was heartbreaking for us all. But we were touched by the outpouring of love and support this prompted, highlighting how much the public admires and adores our police dogs. This also sparked important conversations around the safety of police dogs when they're working.

Over the summer, there was widespread unrest and disorder which resulted in violence directed at police officers and dogs, with some suffering serious injuries. We were humbled that, from such darkness, came light. In the wake of the shocking attacks on police dogs, we launched a fundraising appeal which raised thousands of pounds in days and enabled us to send 230 welfare packs to dogs across the country.

After a quieter year in 2023-24, we hit the ground running this year with so many exciting plans and ideas coming to fruition. After a lot of hard work, we launched our new brand and website, creating a wonderful space for our owners and supporters to see more about the dogs we help and the work we do.

We launched new merchandise and our new Remembrance Paw, we helped to unveil a special memorial garden in Humberside and laid a wreath at the Animals in War Memorial, and we helped to spread the word of our work and the incredible bravery of police dogs through our work with the media.

As we look to the future, we're excited about our plans and our goals; we believe we can make real change for police dogs and their owners, and while we may have a long way to go to achieve our dreams, we're not planning on stopping any time soon!

Signed by:

1DD013552B44402.....

Kieran Stanbridge

Chairman

Thin Blue Paw Foundation

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Our Mission

We launched in 2020 with a clear vision and goal: we wanted to support, protect and celebrate working police dogs, retired police dogs and their owners. We couldn't have dreamed about how fast the Foundation would grow and how far our reach would go, but we're committed to sticking to our core aims and mission while we seek to make a real change for police dog welfare.

SUPPORT

The cost of living continues to have a huge impact on the owners we work with, as well as police forces, and the Foundation itself. We've worked incredibly hard to foster new partnerships with corporate partners who can both support our work and directly help our wonderful community of owners.

While we're pleased that our work with Animal Friends Insurance has prompted them, and other insurance companies, to introduce special policies for retired police dogs, there's never been a greater need for our work. Over the 2024-25 year, we've issued grants worth £64,000 to retired police dogs in need. While this is lower than the previous year, this is based on need and cannot be predicted.

Our fund remains open to all retired police dogs across the UK. Over the past 12 months, we've surpassed the £350,000 mark. We have saved lives, improved dogs' daily quality of life, relieved pain and discomfort, and shouldered the burden of huge bills for worried owners.

PROTECT

One of our core aims was always to be a key voice on the issues that impact working service dogs and their handlers, as well as retired dogs and the people who adopt them. As we've grown so too has our reputation, and our voice has become louder within the sector.

We've led discussions around police dog welfare, we've called out poor practice and held individuals accountable, and we've been a voice for the voiceless. From commenting on issues such as calls to phase police dogs out, contributing to discussions around compulsory PPE for police dogs, and giving input into falling police budgets, we always put the health, welfare and wellbeing of police dogs at the core of our public comments.

We want to be leading the conversation to ensure retired police dogs get the care they need and to ensure working police dogs can carry out their roles safely. We will campaign for change when it is needed as well as working with others and supporting others as they seek better protection for these heroes.

CELEBRATE

While we took a break from the Awards in 2023 and 2024 to concentrate on re-launching the awards in style in 2025, our trustees chose to give out two special awards this year in recognition of two incredible dogs, with a posthumous Outstanding Bravery Award being honoured to Leicestershire's PD Zyla, who died in the line of duty, and the Lifesaver Award going to RPD Bear, from Sussex, after he located a missing man during a walk in the Sussex Downs.

These awards helped to shine a light on the incredible bravery and dedication shown not only by these individuals, but by police dogs and their handlers across the country every single day.

Our Impact

What we have done

- ④ Issued more than £350,000 in grants, to date;
- ④ In the 12 months from April 2024 - March 2025, paid £64,000 supporting a range of different treatments, medications and therapies for retired police dogs in need;
- ④ Provided free treats to more than 200 dogs, thanks to our partnership with PARK LiFE;
- ④ Provided welfare packs to 230 dogs, following the public disorder and unrest in summer 2024.

Thin Blue Paw Foundation

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Spreading the Word

Media

We had a busy year publicising our work and helping raise awareness of the issues that impact police dogs within the media, both locally, nationally and internationally. We had almost 500 media mentions across the year which reached more than 90m people.

As well as publicising examples of our work and dogs we helped, we also shared stories of amazing fundraisers and challenges and joined conversations around police dog welfare and commented on topical issues.

Following the tragic death of PD Zyla we launched a fundraising campaign in her memory at the request of her handler, and sent tribute patches to all of Leicestershire's police dog handlers.

We also responded to the devastating death of Police Scotland police dog PD Zara who was put to sleep after suffering serious injuries in an accident, despite the vets giving a good prognosis for recovery. We challenged the police decision to put her to sleep and hold the decision-makers accountable for their actions.

We shared some heartwarming human-interest stories through the press, including women's magazines and national newspapers, such as RPD Jooba, who saved her handler's life after indicating him to a heart attack he was suffering; and RPD Donja, who helps her owner deal with chronic illness.

Our biggest media moment of the year came when RPD Bear – a dog who we've supported with major surgery and treatment – found a missing, vulnerable man in the undergrowth while he was on a walk to celebrate his 12th birthday.

The story reached millions of people and featured on Good Morning Britain, Sky News, Crimewatch, BBC World Service, as well as in The Telegraph, The Guardian, and on outlets in Canada, Japan and the USA!

Some of our most high-profile media appearances resulted in high-value donations and helped us spread the word of our work.

Events

We attended several events throughout the year, including Crufts, BVNA Congress, London Vet Show, and the Emergency Services Show.

In addition, we were invited to lay a wreath at the Animals in War Memorial and attended the opening of a special memorial garden in Humberside for serving and retired police dogs.

Merchandise

We launched our new brand this year, including a new range of merchandise, which has proved to be popular with our community of owners, and our supporters. Please head to our online shop to continue supporting our work.

Our Partners, Supporters & Collaborators

We'd like to extend our sincere thanks to the following:

- 🐾 Animal Friends Insurance
- 🐾 Barking Heads
- 🐾 PARK LiFE
- 🐾 All of our trustees, team members and volunteers;
- 🐾 Our wonderful community of owners;
- 🐾 Everyone who has donated, supported us or raised funds for the charity;
- 🐾 And all of the police dogs – past and present – for the incredible work they do.

Thin Blue Paw Foundation

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Case Studies

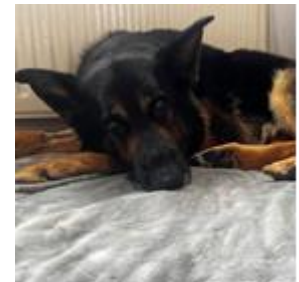
Toby

Eight-year-old Labrador Toby worked for Bedfordshire Police as an explosive's detection dog, based at Luton Airport, for seven years before retiring in 2014. He was adopted by a couple whose friend worked at the airport alongside Toby. But just two months after starting his new life, Toby fell seriously ill with severe gastroenteritis with the bill exceeding £8,000. The couple hadn't yet looked into insurance for Toby but had registered him with the Foundation so we stepped in to help with the cost of his treatment.



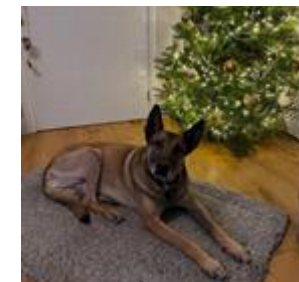
Neo

German Shepherd Neo retired early from Humberside Police after working as a general-purpose police dog. He was adopted by fellow police officer, Rob, who'd worked with him on jobs and was enjoying retired life when, at the age of nine, he suddenly fell ill. Rob was working when his girlfriend called to say Neo was ill and acting strangely. He got cleared to leave work and rushed over to meet them at the vets where he was diagnosed with gastric torsion (twisting of the stomach). He needed emergency life-saving surgery and Rob, who wasn't sure how he'd pay for such a major operation, contacted the Foundation to ask for help with the £4,000 bill which the trustees swiftly approved.



Jooba

Jooba started her career with the military in Dorset before joining the police in South Wales and then moving to South Yorkshire. The nine-year-old Belgian Malinois worked as a general purpose dog before retiring in 2022 to live with her handler, Michael. She'd previously had surgery to repair a cruciate ligament so when she started limping Michael was concerned her other leg would need the same. The cost of the operation was covered by the Foundation. However, recovery didn't go to plan and, within just a few days, she had to be rushed back to the vets for emergency treatment for an infection in her joint, again paid for by the charity. She returned home in time to spend Christmas with her family.



Fiji

Twelve-year-old Belgian Malinois worked as a general purpose dog with Surrey Police for six years before retiring to live with her handler, Claire. The duo have been hugely involved with the Foundation since joining when the charity was formed in 2020, helping us at events and attending special services to represent the charity. We have supported her with monthly medication for allergies and joint issues, and paid for life-saving surgery in 2023 when she fell seriously ill with a bacterial infection of the uterus. This year, Claire had to call on us for help again when Fiji suddenly fell ill with gastric torsion. She was rushed into the vets for emergency surgery and, miraculously, pulled through. We covered the £4,300 bill, bringing Fiji's total claimed from the Foundation to well over £10,000.



Thin Blue Paw Foundation

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Operational

Objective

The charity's objective set out in the Charity's Constitution are:

For the benefit of the public to relieve the suffering of serving and retired police dogs from across the United Kingdom by protecting and rehabilitating.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is governed by a foundation model Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) constitution dated 18 May 2020 and was registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales in August 2020.

Trustees, including the initial Trustees, are appointed for a term of three years. The Trustees are in regular contact with each other, as well as formal meetings three times a year.

Additional Trustees will be recruited as required, either to replace a retiring Trustee or where it is felt that the Charity would benefit from additional skillsets and expertise. Following a selection process new Trustees will be taken through an induction programme covering the ethos, mission, governance, and financial background of the charity. They are also briefed on the role of a Trustee and Charitable law.

None of the Trustees received any remuneration for their services. Administration, fundraising and other back-office services are supplied by third parties on short term contracts, including arrangements for the provision and supply of merchandise.

The charity has no direct employees.

To support the fundraising, marketing, and merchandising the charity has fully embraced current technology and access to social media. Wherever possible, processes are automated and integrated. These incur fees based on a mixture of subscription and volume pricing arrangements.

Public Benefit

Our purpose is for the benefit of the public to relieve the suffering of serving and retired police dogs from across the United Kingdom by protecting and rehabilitating.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, "Charities and Public Benefit".

Fundraising

Our approach to fundraising consists of:

- ④ soliciting donations from corporate partners, individuals, charitable funds, and others who have a similar interest in promoting the welfare of the dogs we support.
- ④ direct marketing appeals to individuals who have already expressed an interest in the work we do- encouraging people to participate in events to raise funds on our behalf
- ④ a number of charitable and informational events, some of which will raise funds. We also exhibit and provide information centres at relevant exhibitions and events such as Crufts.

We do not currently use third party professional fundraisers. We strive for excellence through a safe fundraising environment for all donors.

Should we have concerns regarding the vulnerability of a donor, for example, a lack of capacity, then we would not take a donation. Our privacy policy is available on our website.

Thin Blue Paw Foundation

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Financial Review

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with FRS102 and the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting and Reporting by Charities (effective 1 January 2019).

The Statement of Financial Activities shows a surplus of £81k, with 41k restricted funds (year to 31 March 2025 surplus of £12k, including £50k of restricted retained earnings).

Results for the period

Total income in the year was £302k (March 2024: £209k).

Of the total income £270k was donations and fundraising from our many supporters, whether personal or from connections with a number of police forces around the country. We did not hold any major events this year for which we have previously received sponsorship.

We are extremely grateful to all of our donors, supporters and volunteers and the contributions they have made to our Foundation this financial year.

We also generated £25k from merchandise sales (March 2024: £7k). Please do support our online store as we are continually introducing new lines.

Total expenditure was £221k (March 2024: £196k), including £22k (2024: £6k) of merchandise costs.

We gave £64k in grants and support in the year, down from £121k in the previous year in support for our registered dogs, as direct financial support. The direct financial support we provide is dependent on the number and value of applications, and not something that can easily be predicted or control.

We have not allocated indirect support costs to the various charitable activities. This approach may change in the future.

At the period end the Charity had net assets of £193k, with £41k restricted funds (March 2024: £111k, with £50k being restricted funds) mainly held as deposit accounts at the bank.

Reserves policy

We are looking to build up our reserves to ensure we have sufficient funds such that we can provide the necessary support on an ongoing basis and can meet all requests for support as applications are made.

Applications for support are ad-hoc and outside of the trustees control. We feel it's important to have a strong balance of reserves, so the Charity is always able to fulfil our charitable objectives at any time.

The Trustees will keep this under regular review but are looking to build this up to a level equivalent to six to nine months average operational expenditure.

Going concern

The Trustees review the charity's cash flow to ensure that it has sufficient working capital available to sustain its operations and that it can meet its day-to-day requirements from existing cash resources.

The Trustees regularly review the risks and consider the potential impact on the charity considering existing resources, together with anticipated future income and outgoings. In some instances this means that we may not be able to pay every claim in full.

Our current projections show that the charity is expected to be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due for the foreseeable future. After careful consideration of these factors, the Trustees have concluded that the going concern basis of preparation is appropriate.



Thin Blue Paw Foundation

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Trustees responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report of the Trustee and the Accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustee to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and the group and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence, for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

2nd January 2026
Approved by order of the board of trustees on: and signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kieran Stanbridge".
.....1DD013552B44402.....

Kieran Stanbridge
Chairman



Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Thin Blue Paw Foundation

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Thin Blue Paw Foundation (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 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 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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 accounts to be reached.

Signed by:


.....40D4D634C7694E8.....

Jack Dallimore ACCA
The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

Braceys Accountants Limited
Unit 1 The Cam Centre
Wilbury Way
Hitchin
Hertfordshire
SG4 0TW

02/01/2026
Date:

Thin Blue Paw Foundation

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

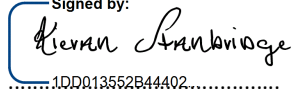
	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	270,706	-	270,706	200,175
Other trading activities	3	25,362	-	25,362	7,422
Investment income	4	1,400	-	1,400	1,147
Other income		<u>5,250</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,250</u>	<u>-</u>
Total		<u>302,718</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>302,718</u>	<u>208,744</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		22,181	-	22,181	6,458
Charitable activities	5				
Financial assistance		64,032	-	64,032	120,944
Other charitable support		5,183	-	5,183	-
Advertising and Marketing		27,501	-	27,501	15,102
Platform fees		4,916	-	4,916	6,804
Administration and professional fees		52,303	-	52,303	37,508
Depreciation and impairment		2,258	-	2,258	3,642
Office and general costs		32,586	-	32,586	5,223
Independent examination		1,200	-	1,200	-
Events and promotional costs		<u>9,189</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,189</u>	<u>958</u>
Total		<u>221,349</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>221,349</u>	<u>196,639</u>
NET INCOME		81,369	-	81,369	12,105
Transfers between funds	13	<u>9,270</u>	<u>(9,270)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		90,639	(9,270)	81,369	12,105
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>61,562</u>	<u>49,778</u>	<u>111,340</u>	<u>99,235</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>152,201</u>	<u>40,508</u>	<u>192,709</u>	<u>111,340</u>

Thin Blue Paw Foundation

Statement of Financial Position
31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	8	24,157	-	24,157	1,976
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	9	-	-	-	574
Debtors	10	7,662	-	7,662	7,284
Cash at bank		<u>132,921</u>	<u>40,508</u>	<u>173,429</u>	<u>127,621</u>
		140,583	40,508	181,091	135,479
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(12,539)	-	(12,539)	(26,115)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>128,044</u>	<u>40,508</u>	<u>168,552</u>	<u>109,364</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>152,201</u>	<u>40,508</u>	<u>192,709</u>	<u>111,340</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>152,201</u>	<u>40,508</u>	<u>192,709</u>	<u>111,340</u>
FUNDS	13				
Unrestricted funds				152,201	61,562
Restricted funds				<u>40,508</u>	<u>49,778</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>192,709</u>	<u>111,340</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 2nd January 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:

1DD013552B44402.....
 Kieran Stanbridge
 Chairman

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

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

Going Concern

The accounts are prepared on the going concern basis.

After careful consideration of these factors, the Trustees have concluded that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue in operation and that the going concern basis of preparation is appropriate

Income

Voluntary income, including donations, gifts and legacies that provide core funding or are of a general nature, are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift.

Income derived from merchandise sales and from events is recognised as earned (that is as the related goods or services are provided)

Expenditure

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 cost 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.

The value of services provided by Trustees and volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements. Given the significance of the voluntary contribution on the various activities of the charity from the Trustees in relation to the other support for the time being it is more appropriate not to allocate indirect support costs to the various charitable activities.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Financial instruments

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

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment - 33% on cost



Thin Blue Paw Foundation

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Stocks

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

Taxation

The charity is not liable to direct taxation (corporation tax) on its income as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities. The charity is not registered for Value Added Tax (VAT) and is therefore unable to reclaim the input tax it suffers on its purchases. Expenditure in the accounts is therefore shown inclusive of VAT where appropriate.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Donations	258,285	185,752
Gift aid	<u>12,421</u>	<u>14,423</u>
	<u>270,706</u>	<u>200,175</u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Sale of Merchandise	25,362	7,422
Gift aid	<u>(21,770)</u>	<u>(6,458)</u>
	<u>3,592</u>	<u>964</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
Interest Income	<u>1,400</u>	<u>1,147</u>

Thin Blue Paw Foundation

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs £	Grant funding of activities £	Support costs £	Totals £
Financial assistance	-	64,032	-	64,032
Other charitable support	5,183	-	-	5,183
Advertising and Marketing	27,501	-	-	27,501
Platform fees	4,916	-	-	4,916
Administration and professional fees	52,303	-	-	52,303
Depreciation and impairment	2,258	-	-	2,258
Office and general costs	32,586	-	-	32,586
Independent examination	-	-	1,200	1,200
Events and promotional costs	9,189	-	-	9,189
	<u>133,936</u>	<u>64,032</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>199,168</u>

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

7. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	150,397	49,778	200,175
Other trading activities	7,422	-	7,422
Investment income	<u>1,147</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,147</u>
Total	<u>158,966</u>	<u>49,778</u>	<u>208,744</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	6,458	-	6,458
Charitable activities			
Financial assistance	120,944	-	120,944
Advertising and Marketing	15,102	-	15,102
Platform fees	6,804	-	6,804
Administration and professional fees	37,508	-	37,508
Depreciation and impairment	3,642	-	3,642
Office and general costs	5,223	-	5,223
Events and promotional costs	<u>958</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>958</u>
Total	<u>196,639</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>196,639</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(37,673)	49,778	12,105
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	<u>99,235</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>99,235</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	61,562	49,778	111,340

continued...

Thin Blue Paw Foundation

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Intangibles £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 April 2024	-	-	11,946	11,946
Additions	<u>13,834</u>	<u>9,270</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,104</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>13,834</u>	<u>9,270</u>	<u>11,946</u>	<u>35,050</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 April 2024	-	-	9,865	9,865
Charge for year	<u>1,028</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,028</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>1,028</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,865</u>	<u>10,893</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 March 2025	<u>12,806</u>	<u>9,270</u>	<u>2,081</u>	<u>24,157</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,081</u>	<u>2,081</u>

9. STOCKS

	2025 £	2024 £
Stocks	<u>-</u>	<u>574</u>

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Other debtors	<u>7,662</u>	<u>7,284</u>

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	7,599	4,000
Other creditors	<u>4,940</u>	<u>22,115</u>
	<u>12,539</u>	<u>26,115</u>

continued...

Thin Blue Paw Foundation

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.24 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.25 £
Unrestricted funds				
Unrestricted	61,562	81,369	9,270	152,201
Restricted funds				
restricted	49,778	-	(9,270)	40,508
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>111,340</u>	<u>81,369</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>192,709</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted	302,718	(221,349)	81,369
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>302,718</u>	<u>(221,349)</u>	<u>81,369</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted	99,235	(37,673)	61,562
Restricted funds			
restricted	-	49,778	49,778
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>99,235</u>	<u>12,105</u>	<u>111,340</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted	158,966	(196,639)	(37,673)
Restricted funds			
restricted	49,778	-	49,778
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>208,744</u>	<u>(196,639)</u>	<u>12,105</u>

continued...

Thin Blue Paw Foundation

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.25 £
Unrestricted funds				
Unrestricted	99,235	43,696	9,270	152,201
Restricted funds				
restricted	-	49,778	(9,270)	40,508
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>99,235</u>	<u>93,474</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>192,709</u>

There has been £9,270 released transferred from restricted funds to unrestricted funds for the construction of a statue commemorating RPD Finn the Charities ambassa-dog.

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted	461,684	(417,988)	43,696
Restricted funds			
restricted	49,778	-	49,778
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>511,462</u>	<u>(417,988)</u>	<u>93,474</u>

14. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the financial year, the charity made payments totalling £16,180 (2024: £5,389) to Springers Personalised Products Limited, a company providing merchandise which is then sold by the charity.

Jenny Preston, a trustee of the charity, is also a director of that company. The trustee declared their interest and took no part in the decision to enter into the transaction. Jenny a former police dog handler was appointed as a Trustee following years of volunteering for the Foundation, in addition to having supplied our merchandise since 2020.

The transactions were made on normal commercial terms and at arms length.

At the 31/03/2025 a total amount of £1,094 was outstanding and remains in creditors.

No trustee received any remuneration or other personal benefit in connection with these transactions.

Thin Blue Paw Foundation

 Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
 for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	258,285	185,752
Gift aid	<u>12,421</u>	<u>14,423</u>
	270,706	200,175
Other trading activities		
Shop income	25,362	7,422
Investment income		
Interest Income	1,400	1,147
Other income		
Fundraising Events	<u>5,250</u>	<u>-</u>
Total incoming resources	302,718	208,744
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Sundries	411	-
Investment management costs		
Merchandise Costs	21,770	6,458
Charitable activities		
Subscriptions	4,760	241
Computer Costs	22,227	8,795
Accountancy	15,140	14,900
Travelling	5,907	-
Events	9,189	958
Insurance	1,530	1,553
Legal Expenses	18,849	-
Telephone	1,399	1,018
Postage and stationery	1,679	420
Advertising	27,302	15,102
Administration services	23,696	22,608
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	2,258	3,642
Grants to individuals	<u>64,032</u>	<u>120,944</u>
	197,968	190,181
Support costs		
Governance costs		
Auditors' remuneration for non audit work	<u>1,200</u>	<u>-</u>
Total resources expended	<u>221,349</u>	<u>196,639</u>
Net income	81,369	12,105

Accounts



Charity number: 1190959



Trustees Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

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Officers, advisers, and contact details

Charity registration

A foundation model Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered in England and Wales; number 1190959

Registered office

Harpenden Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden, AL5 1TE

Trustees

Kieran Stanbridge	<i>reappointed 18th May 2023</i>
Gemma Wardell	<i>appointed 31st March 2024</i>
Dave Wardell	<i>appointed 13th June 2024</i>
Megan Rowley	<i>resigned 31st March 2024</i>
Jennifer Ray	<i>resigned 13th 2024</i>

Banks:

Metro Bank
One Southampton Row, London, WC1B 5HA

CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner

Jonathon Holt BA(Hons) FCCA
Clope & Co
106-107 Dowgate Hill House
14-16 Dowgate Hill
London
EC4R 2SU

Website and social media

www.thinbluepaw.org.uk
Twitter: @ThinBluePaw
Facebook: @thinbluepaw
Instagram: @thinbluepaw
LinkedIn: Thin Blue Paw Foundation

Contact us

hello@thinbluepaw.org.uk

Donate to help us

donate.thinbluepaw.org.uk

A personal message from the Trustees

This year was one of many highs but also, sadly, some lows. Amongst it all there have been moments of celebration, sadness, and pride. And we come out of the other side of it stronger, more committed and more passionate than ever about making a real change for police dogs across the UK.

What has continued during this period is our unwavering commitment to the police dogs who need us most and we're proud to have supported many dogs, using more than £100,000 in claims. We are so proud of how far we've come, as a charity, in just four years.

Due to other commitments and busy personal lives, our team has been somewhat quieter than normal over this period. With members of our team off on maternity leave, starting new business ventures, and busy with other charity work, we took a step back from some of our usual activities – scaling back the events we were attending, for example – but our core charity objectives and our daily work continued, and many retired police dog owners turned to us for help in their hour of need. We're proud that we could be there for them when they needed us most.

We also faced challenges this year – none greater than the enduring pressure that the cost of living crisis is having across all parts of society, including the charity sector. We saw more retired police dog owners struggling with the costs of caring for their dogs while also facing our own increasing costs, particularly within the veterinary realm. And we also saw our most expensive month ever with a total of £45,000 in claims coming into our team in just one month.

But, what never ceases to amaze us, is the amazing support of our community. We launched fundraising appeals for these huge bills and our supporters responded.

Following the heartbreaking death of our ambassa-dog RPD Finn, in July 2023, the response to our fundraiser for a memorial in his honour – and to celebrate all service dogs – was overwhelming, raising more than £40,000 in just a few weeks. Now plans are in full motion for this memorial statue and we can't wait to unveil it next year.

The future really is bright for the Thin Blue Paw Foundation and for the welfare of police dogs. With the return of our original co-founders and trustees, Dave and Gemma Wardell, following a short break away from the charity, and with a focused and reenergised team, we have big plans for the future which we can't wait to share with you all – from the launch of our new website, to an ambitious campaign which will seek real change for our dedicated police dogs, to the exciting and much-anticipated return of the Thin Blue Paw Awards.

There is so much more to come – but we can't do this alone. Please join us as we work to secure a better future for service dogs across the UK.

Kieran Stanbridge

Kieran Stanbridge
Chair of Trustees

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements covering the year ended 31 March 2024. The financial statements have been prepared based on the accounting policies set out in the note to these accounts. The Trustees, and other administrative details are shown on page 2.

Our mission

Our scope	When we launched, we pledged to support any retired police dog who had served within the UK's police forces in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. We also committed to support dogs retired from service with the Ministry of Defence Police and the RAF.
We will protect, celebrate & rehabilitate both serving and retired police dogs from across the United Kingdom.	We will rehabilitate, protect and celebrate both serving and retired police dogs from across the United Kingdom. As the cost of living crisis grips the nation, we hear regularly from the owners of ex-police dogs how the costs of food and veterinary treatment have soared. There's never been a greater need for the Foundation. We provide much-needed support to those who take on service dogs when they retire; whether it be through providing free food via our amazing partnership with Barking Heads, or providing financial respite by covering the cost of some ongoing treatments, such as hydrotherapy, or covering the cost of life-saving surgery or regular medication to ensure dogs have access to the best care.
Protect	Our aim is to be a key voice on all issues that impact the welfare of serving police dogs, and the quality of life for those dogs once they retire. We want to be leading the conversation and leading the way when it comes to ensuring these dogs get the care they need when they hang up their collars. We will campaign for change when needed, we will support others as they seek better protection for our canine heroes, and we will continue to work with our partners to make a difference to these dogs' lives.
Celebrate	While we took a break from the Thin Blue Paw Awards in 2023, our awards in 2021 and 2022 received national and international media coverage and helped to shine a light on the incredible bravery and dedication of police dogs and their handlers. We're planning to relaunch the awards in 2025 so we can continue to celebrate the achievements of our canine heroes. We're also incredibly proud to have raised more than £40,000 for a memorial statue for our late ambassa-dog RPD Finn, who passed away in July 2023. This memorial will pay tribute to everything Finn achieved in his life and the legacy that lives on through Finn's Law; as well as celebrating the daily sacrifice that service dogs make to fight crime and keep their communities safe. We can't wait to unveil the statue in 2025...
Rehabilitate	Our fund remains open to all retired police dogs across the UK. Over the past 12 months, we've surpassed the £300,000 mark, having paid out more than £100,000 in claims in the last year alone. From monthly bills for regular medication or rehabilitative physio, to £20,000 life-saving specialist surgery; we've been there for dogs who have needed us the most. We have saved lives, improved dogs' daily lives, relieved pain and discomfort, and shouldered the burden of huge bills for worried owners.

Our impact

What we have done

Since our launch, we have:

- Signed up more than 400 dogs in total;
- Issued more than £300,000 in grants, to date;
- In the 12 months from April 2023-March 2024, we paid out £120,000 in 400 claims, supporting a range of different treatments, medications and therapies;
- Recorded our busiest and most expensive month, in September 2023, when we received 23 claims for 21 dogs totalling more than £45,000;
- Paid our largest bill to date which totalled more than £22,000;
- Provided free dog food to 145 dogs thanks to our partnership with Barking Heads.

Our scope

When we launched, we pledged to support any retired police dog who had served within the UK's police forces in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. We also committed to support dogs retired from service with the Ministry of Defence Police and the RAF.

Our partners, supporters, and collaborators

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to our partners, supporters and collaborators. We couldn't do this vital work without them. They include:

- Barking Heads;
- Animal Friends Insurance;
- All of our volunteers;
- Everyone who has donated to our work or arranged fundraising events in our name.

Our other activities

Media

We continue to work with the media to help showcase our work, campaign for change to better the lives of police dogs and highlight the incredible stories of our canine heroes. Over the past 12 months we're proud to have worked with mainstream media, including BBC's Crimewatch, BBC News, ITV News, The Sun, Police Professional, Police Federation Magazine, Daily Mail, Daily Mirror, POLICE Magazine, and many journalists across local and regional media.

We've highlighted the stories of individual dogs we've supported, raised funds for specific treatments and for the Finn memorial statue, shared incredible stories of police dog bravery and dedication, and celebrated the efforts of some of our amazing supporters and fundraisers.

Social media

With 78,000 followers across our social media channels, we have a wonderful and passionate active community of dog-lovers and advocates for animal welfare. We're always humbled by the support we receive from our whole online community and we'd like to thank everyone who reads and shares our posts, and donates online.

Case studies

Here are three examples illustrating the type of support we have provided, and how this has helped:

RPD Charlie

Springer spaniel Charlie spent seven years working with Leicestershire Police as a cadaver dog, sniffing out missing people and traces of bodies. The 11-year-old was adopted by Robyn when he retired in 2019. He was playing when he collided with another bigger dog and injured his leg which was already weakened following his physically demanding job. He needed major surgery to repair a broken elbow with a metal plate and pins, costing more than £6,000.

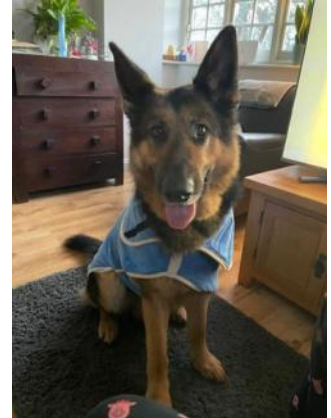
Robyn said: "When the bill came in it at £6,000 it was a bit of a shock to the whole family. We feel so lucky to have Charlie in our lives and now, thanks to the Thin Blue Paw, we know he'll have many more years of running and playing fetch."



RPD Neeko

Eight-year-old Neeko retired in February 2023 after seven years with Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies' Joint Dog Section, where he was named Police Dog of the Year two years running. The German Shepherd was adopted by Nicole's family but needed specialist surgery, in September, after damaging a disc in his neck which put pressure on his spinal column and affected his mobility. The surgery cost more than £9,000.

Nicole said: "It was absolutely awful when we found him unable to stand. We had to carry him to the car while he was crying – it was heartbreaking."



RPD Max

Belgian Malinois Max was forced to retire early from the Ministry of Defence Police after damaging his cruciate ligament. The five-year-old was adopted by his handler, Natalie, when he left service but then needed surgery to repair his deteriorating ligaments, costing almost £5,000.

Natalie said: "Max was noticeably down in himself and frustrated that he couldn't run around - but now he's like a different dog. This surgery will give him a new lease of life."



Operational

Objective

The charity's objective set out in the Charity's Constitution are:

For the benefit of the public to relieve the suffering of serving and retired police dogs from across the United Kingdom by protecting and rehabilitating.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is governed by a foundation model Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) constitution dated 18 May 2020 and was registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales in August 2020.

Trustees, including the initial Trustees, are appointed for a term of three years. The Trustees are in regular contact with each other, as well as formal meetings three times a year.

Additional Trustees will be recruited as required, either to replace a retiring Trustee or where it is felt that the Charity would benefit from additional skillsets and expertise. Following a selection process new Trustees will be taken through an induction programme covering the ethos, mission, governance, and financial background of the charity. They are also briefed on the role of a Trustee and Charitable law.

None of the Trustees received any remuneration for their services. Administration, fundraising and other back-office services are supplied by third parties on short term contracts, including arrangements for the provision and supply of merchandise.

The charity has no direct employees.

To support the fundraising, marketing, and merchandising the charity has fully embraced current technology and access to social media. Wherever possible, processes are automated and integrated. These incur fees based on a mixture of subscription and volume pricing arrangements.

Public Benefit

Our purpose is for the benefit of the public to relieve the suffering of serving and retired police dogs from across the United Kingdom by protecting and rehabilitating.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, "Charities and Public Benefit".

Fundraising

We are reliant on fundraising to cover our costs and are incredibly grateful to all our supporters for the contributions they have made. We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and abide by their codes and regulations.

Our approach to fundraising consists of:

- soliciting donations from corporate partners, individuals, charitable funds, and others who have a similar interest in promoting the welfare of the dogs we support.
- direct marketing appeals to individuals who have already expressed an interest in the work we do
- encouraging people to participate in events to raise funds on our behalf
- a number of charitable and informational events, some of which will raise funds. We also exhibit and provide information centres at relevant exhibitions and events such as Crufts

We do not currently use third party professional fundraisers.

We strive for excellence through a safe fundraising environment for all donors. Should we have concerns regarding the vulnerability of a donor, for example, a lack of capacity, then we would not take a donation.

Our privacy policy is available on our website.

Financial review

Results for the period

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with FRS102 and the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting and Reporting by Charities (effective 1 January 2019).

The Statement of Financial Activities shows a surplus of £12k, including £50k of retained restricted funds (year to 31 March 2023 deficit of £(22)k, all unrestricted)

Total income in the year was £209k (March 2023: £232k). This includes £50k of contributions towards a memorial for RPD Finn.

The majority of this, £k200k (March 2023: £218k), was donations and fundraising from our many supporters, whether personal or from connections with a number of police forces around the country. We did not hold any major events this year which we have previously received sponsorship.

We are extremely grateful to all of our donors, supporters and volunteers and the contributions they have made in our first full year.

We also generated £7k from merchandise sales (March 2023: £ £13k). Please do support our online store as we are continually introducing new lines.

Total expenditure was £196k (March 2023: £255k), including £6k (2023: £12k) of merchandise costs. There were minimal event and promotion costs this year; in 2023 we held a celebration event and attended Crufts.

We gave £121k in grants and support in the year, up from £74k in the previous year in support for our registered dogs, as direct financial support. The direct financial support we provide is dependent on the number and value of applications, and not something that can easily be predicted.

We have not allocated indirect support costs to the various charitable activities. This approach may change in the future.

At the period end the Charity had net assets of £111k, including £50k of restricted funds (March 2023: £99k, no restricted funds) mainly held as deposit accounts at the bank.

Reserves policy

We are looking to build up our reserves to ensure we have sufficient funds such that we can provide the necessary support on an ongoing basis and can meet all requests for support as applications are made. This year we saw a reduction in unrestricted reserves as we paid out an unprecedented amount to support of the dogs.

Applications for support are ad-hoc and outside of the trustees control. We feel it's important to have a strong balance of reserves, so the Charity is always able to fulfil our charitable objectives at any time.

The Trustees will keep this under regular review but are looking to build this up to a level equivalent to six to nine months total expenditure.

Going concern

The Trustees review the charity's cash flow to ensure that it has sufficient working capital available to sustain its operations and that it can meet its day-to-day requirements from existing cash resources.

The Trustees regularly review the risks and consider the potential impact on the charity considering existing resources, together with anticipated future income and outgoings. In some instances this means that we may not be able to pay every claim in full.

Our current projections show that the charity is expected to be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due for the foreseeable future. After careful consideration of these factors, the Trustees have concluded that the going concern basis of preparation is appropriate.

This report was approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 26th January 2025.

Kieran Stanbridge

Trustee

Statement of Trustees responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report of the Trustee and the Accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustee to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and the group and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence, for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Thin Blue Paw Foundation

Responsibilities and basis of report

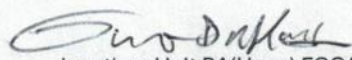
I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 March 2024. As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). I report in respect 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 all 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:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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 accounts to be reached.



Jonathon Holt BA(Hons) FCCA.
Clope & Co
106-107 Dowgate Hill House
14-16 Dowgate Hill
London
EC4R 2SU
28th Jan 2025

Statement of Financial Activities

	Note	Year ended 31 March 2024			Period to 31 March 2023
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
		£		£	£
Incoming resources					
Income and endowments from:					
Donations	2	150,397	49,778	200,175	218,549
Other trading activities	3	7,422	-	7,422	13,607
Investments		1,147	-	1,147	237
Total income		159,966	49,778	208,744	232,393
Resources expended					
Expenditure on:					
Fundraising costs	4	21,906		21,906	47,404
Charitable activities:	5				
Grants and donations given		120,944	-	120,944	74,267
Events and promotional costs		958	-	958	72,527
Administration and support costs		46,373	-	46,373	48,974
Other trading activities	3	6,458	-	6,458	12,362
Total expenditure		196,639	-	196,639	255,534
Net income/(deficit)		(37,673)	49,778	12,105	(23,141)
Total funds brought forward		99,235	-	99,235	122,376
Total funds carried forward		61,562	49,778	111,340	99,235

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the period are included above. The notes on pages 14 to 17 form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet

	Note	31 March 2024 £	31 March 2023 £
Fixed assets	7	1,976	5,618
Current Assets:			
Stock of merchandise		574	1,149
Debtors		7,284	3,818
Cash at bank		127,620	101,943
Total current assets		135,478	106,910
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	26,114	13,293
Net current assets		109,364	93,617
Total assets less current liabilities		111,340	99,235
Total net assets		111,340	99,235
Charity funds			
Unrestricted funds	9	61,562	99,235
Restricted funds	9	49,778	-
Total funds		111,340	99,235

The notes on pages 14 to 17 form part of these accounts.

The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Kieran Stanbridge

Trustee
26th January 2025

Notes to the accounts

These accounts have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

1. Accounting policies

a. Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

b. Going Concern

The accounts are prepared on the going concern basis.

After careful consideration of these factors, the Trustees have concluded that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue in operation and that the going concern basis of preparation is appropriate

c. Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

d. Taxation

The charity is not liable to direct taxation (corporation tax) on its income as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities. The charity is not registered for Value Added Tax (VAT) and is therefore unable to reclaim the input tax it suffers on its purchases. Expenditure in the accounts is therefore shown inclusive of VAT where appropriate

e. Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

- Unrestricted funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustee.
- Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes.
- Restricted funds - these funds, which arise from grants or donations made for a specific purpose, can only be used for that particular purpose within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when stipulated by the donor or grantor or where funds are raised for a specified purpose. The balances of the funds represent the unspent balances.

f. Incoming resources

Voluntary income, including donations, gifts and legacies that provide core funding or are of a general nature, are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift.

Income derived from merchandise sales and from events is recognised as earned (that is as the related goods or services are provided)

g. Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis when a liability is incurred:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, noncharitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.

- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities
- the charity is not registered for VAT

The value of services provided by Trustees and volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements. Given the significance of the voluntary contribution on the various activities of the charity from the Trustees in relation to the other support for the time being it is more appropriate not to allocate indirect support costs to the various charitable activities.

h. Tangible assets and depreciation

Tangible assets are stated at cost and depreciated over their useful economic lives at the following rates:

IT and office equipment (items over £500 are capitalised)	three to five years
---	---------------------

i. Stocks

The bulk of the charity's merchandise sales are through a third-party manufacturer and are invoiced at the point of sale. Items are acquired from third parties in the traditional way and held for resale are included at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

j. Financial Instruments

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

2. Donations

	Year to 31 March 2024			Period to March 2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	135,974	49,778	185,752	159,764
Corporate partnerships	-	-	-	45,000
Gift Aid	14,423		14,423	13,785
	150,397	49,778	200,175	218,549

The corporate partnership was in support of the awards ceremony held in September 2022.

3. Other trading activities

	Year ended 31 March 2024	Period to 31 March 2023
	£	£
Sales of merchandise	7,422	13,607
less: Merchandise costs	(6,458)	(12,363)
	964	1,244

4. Fundraising costs

	Year ended 31 March 2024	Period to 31 March 2023
		£
Advertising and marketing	15,102	33,436
Platform fees	6,804	9,058
	21,906	47,404

5. Charitable activities

	Year to 31 March 2024			Period to March 2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	£
	£	£	£	£
Financial assistance	120,944	-	120,944	74,267
Other charitable support	-	-	-	-
Grants and support given:	120,944	-	120,944	74,267
Events and promotional costs:	958	-	958	72,527
Support and administration:				
Administration and professional fees	36,308	-	36,308	35,753
Depreciation and impairment (note 7)	3,642	-	3,642	4,163
Office and general costs	5,223	-	5,223	7,959
Independent examination	1,200	-	1,200	1,100
Total support and administration	46,373	-	46,373	48,974
	168,275	-	168,275	195,769

6. Staff and trustee costs

T

here were no permanent employees during the year (March 2023: none). A number of administration and support services are provided to the charity on short-term contracts.

No trustee or person related or connected by business to them, have received any remuneration during the period. No trustee was reimbursed for any expenses (March 2023: £nil).

7. Fixed assets

	2024	2023
Cost:	£	£
Brought forward	12,890	14,464
Additions	-	2,339
Disposals	-	(4,173)
Carried forward	12,890	12,890
Depreciation:	£	£
Brought forward	7,272	5,682
Charge for the period	3,642	4,163
Disposals	-	(2,773)
Impairment adjustment	-	-
Carried forward	10,914	7,272
Net book value 31 March	1,976	5,618

The fixed assets comprise IT and Office equipment.

There were no capital commitments at the end of the year (31 March 2023: £)

8. Creditors and accruals

	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	4,000	4,000
Accruals for financial support committed	18,310	18,310
Other accruals and deferred income	3,805	3,805
	26,115	13,293

All creditors and accruals are due within one year.

9. Movements in funds

	1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds:	99,235	158,966	(196,639)	61,562
Restricted funds:				
RPD Finn Memorial Fund		49,778		49,778
Total restricted funds:	-	49,778	-	49,778
Total funds:	99,235	208,744	(196,639)	111,340

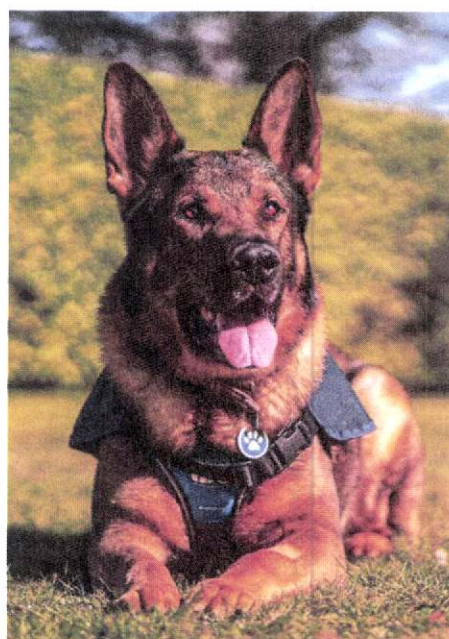
THIN BLUE PAW FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1190959

Accounts



Charity number: 1190959



Trustees Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

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Officers, advisers, and contact details

Charity registration

A foundation model Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered in England and Wales; number 1190959

Registered office

Harpenden Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden, AL5 1TE

Trustees

Kieran Stanbridge	<i>reappointed 18 May 2023</i>
Jennifer Ray	<i>appointed 31 January 2023</i>
Gemma Wardel	<i>resigned 31 January 2023; reappointed 1 March 2024</i>

Resigned:

Megan Rowley	<i>appointed 31 January 2023; resigned 1 March 2024</i>
Dave Wardell	<i>31 January 2023</i>

Banks:

Metro Bank

One Southampton Row, London, WC1B 5HA

CAF Bank

25 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner

Jonathon Holt BA(Hons) FCCA

Cloke & Co

106-107 Dowgate Hill House

14-16 Dowgate Hill

London

EC4R 2SU

Website and social media

www.thinbluepaw.org.uk

Twitter: @ThinBluePaw

Facebook: @thinbluepaw

Instagram: @thinbluepaw

LinkedIn: Thin Blue Paw Foundation

Contact us

info@thinbluepaw.org.uk

Donate to help us

donate.thinbluepaw.org.uk

A personal message from the Trustees

Three years since the Thin Blue Paw Foundation was launched, it's unbelievable to see how far it's come, and how quickly it's grown. While we were always confident in the charity's mission and aims, we feel incredibly proud when we see the difference we've made to dogs' lives, the support we've been able to provide to owners at difficult times, and the amazing community we've built in such a short time.

It's also important to look back at the challenges we've faced in our early years. We launched in summer 2020, in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, an unsettling and frightening time. While it was a difficult time for charities, it also presented opportunities as many people found themselves at home more with disposable income, looking to do good and support charity work. Since then, we're pleased to have gone from strength to strength as the economy has recovered and life has returned to normal.

We now, however, find ourselves in an incredibly difficult financial time as the cost of living crisis has a catastrophic impact on society. As well as impacting the people we support, we also see that those generous people who support our work are looking for ways to save money, all when our own costs are rising and veterinary costs we seek to pay are soaring. The years ahead could be challenging, and we need to find new opportunities and think creatively when it comes to how we spend money, and how we raise it. What has been comforting at such an unpredictable time is how our community has rallied around and we continue to see amazing generosity from our volunteers and supporters.

We're proud to have supported so many dogs and owners. We continue to protect dog welfare by being a voice for service dogs, campaigning on issues that matter, joining important conversations, and providing vital training and equipment. We celebrate the incredible work that our working dogs do every day by sharing their stories, shining a light on their successes and crowning our very own Thin Blue Paw Award winners. And we continue to rehabilitate injured and sick dogs by providing a lifeline of financial assistance to owners who need it.

As we write this report, we have 390 dogs registered with us from across the UK, and we have distributed more than £200,000 in claims for vital medication, therapy and veterinary treatment for these canine heroes. We're also incredibly proud to have built up a dedicated team of trustees, part-time and freelance staff, and a passionate community of owners, supporters and fundraisers.

Our work doesn't stop here and we still have big plans and big dreams, so we look forward to the year ahead. But we can't do it alone, so let's all work together to create a better place and a better future for our wonderful doggy heroes.

Kieran Stanbridge

Kieran Stanbridge
Chair of Trustees

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements covering the year ended 31 March 2023. The financial statements have been prepared based on the accounting policies set out in the note to these accounts. The Trustees, and other administrative details are shown on page 2.

Our mission

We will protect,
celebrate &
rehabilitate both
serving and
retired police
dogs from across
the United
Kingdom.

We will protect, celebrate & rehabilitate both serving and retired police dogs from across the United Kingdom.

We still hear regularly from the owners of ex-service dogs how difficult it is for them to find insurance for their pets and, with veterinary and pet food costs soaring, there's never been a greater need for the Foundation's work. With hundreds of dogs retiring from service each year – and 390 registered with us alone – we know that there's a great need for support.

We provide much-needed support to those who take on service dogs when they retire; whether it be through providing free food via our amazing partnership with Barking Heads, or providing financial respite by covering the cost of some ongoing treatments, such as hydrotherapy or physio, or by covering the cost of life-saving surgery or regular medication to ensure dogs have access to the very best in care.

Protect

We will continue to be one of the UK's leading voices on all issues that impact the welfare of working service dogs, and the quality of life for those dogs once they retire. We want to be leading the conversation and leading the way when it comes to ensuring these dogs get the care they need when they hang up their collars. We will campaign for change when needed, we will support others as they seek better protection for our canine heroes, and we will continue to work with our partners to make a difference to these dogs' lives.

Celebrate

While we took a break from the Thin Blue Paw Awards in 2023, our awards in 2021 and 2022 received national and international media coverage and helped to shine a light on the incredible bravery and dedication of police dogs and their handlers. We will continue to share these stories and hope to celebrate these dogs' achievements again at the Awards in the future.

We were heartbroken in July 2023 when our ambassa-dog RPD Finn passed away. In line with our objective to celebrate retired police dogs, we launched a fundraiser to fund a statue paying homage to Finn and everything he did in his life to help police dogs, a legacy that will live on even though he has now passed. We were humbled by the outpouring of love for Finn and were amazed after raising our total in just a few short weeks. Work is now ongoing to choose a sculpture and find a suitable location for the statue, while also procuring all of the right permissions.

Rehabilitate

Since March 2023 we surpassed the £250,000 mark, having paid over 500 claims from the owners of retired police dogs since the inception of the charity. We now have over 400 dogs registered across the UK and we have made a real difference to the lives of many of these dogs, enabling them access to groundbreaking specialist veterinary

care and life-saving treatments, as well as therapy and medication which has drastically improved the quality of their day-to-day lives.

Our fund remains open to all retired police dogs across the UK.

Our impact

What we have done

Since our launch, we have:

- Signed up 447 dogs in total (with 390 currently registered);
- Issued more than £250,000 in grants, to date;
- In the year to March 2023, we paid out almost £75,000 in 169 claims supporting 62 dogs for a range of treatments, medication and therapy. Since April 2023 we have paid out for further claims in excess of £100,000;
- Provided free dog food to 180 dogs thanks to our partnership with Barking Heads;

Our scope

When we launched, we pledged to support any retired police dog who had served within the UK's police forces in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. We also committed to support dogs retired from service with the Ministry of Defence Police and the RAF.

Events & promotions

We feel lucky to receive invites to numerous police open days, family events and dog shows and, thanks to small but committed group of volunteers, try to attend as many as possible. This year we attended numerous events to meet people, talk about our work, and raise funds, including Crufts and DogFest.

We're also proud to have been invited to lay a wreath at the Animals in War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday, and giving a speech at the moving event this year.



Case studies

Here are just three examples that illustrate the type of support we have provided, and how this has helped the dog and their owners.

RPD Hoby

Ten-year-old German Shepherd Hoby – a Ministry of Defence Police dog who served in Berkshire and Gloucestershire – needed life-saving surgery for a blockage in his colon, and his owners feared how they would cover the cost of the £2,400 bill. But we stepped in to cover the cost, leaving Hoby's owners, Hayley and Scott, to concentrate on helping Hoby get better.

Hayley said: "We couldn't believe it when the Thin Blue Paw agreed to cover the entire cost. Retired police dog owners are so lucky to have a charity that recognises how special these dogs are and looks after them in their



RPD Sam

retirement."

Retired Police Service Northern Ireland sniffer dog, springer spaniel Sam, was rushed into surgery when he ruptured his cruciate ligament while he was out on a walk. The 10-year-old – who worked as a proactive cash, drugs and firearms search dog – retired in 2021 and stayed with his handler, Emma. She was concerned how she would cover the £2,000 bill but we offered to help.

Emma said: "It's great to know the Thin Blue Paw is there to help dogs like Sam and give them the lives they deserve."



RPD JJ

Springer spaniel JJ was trained to sniff out cash, drugs and firearms for Kent Police. He retired to live with his former handler, Jenny, who adopted seven of the 10 police dogs she worked with during her 30 year career. Vets found a growth putting pressure on JJ's nerves and we offered to pay for his ongoing palliative care, with medication costing £200 a month.

"Jenny said: "Taking on a retired police dog is a huge financial commitment and it would be so much harder without the support of the Thin Blue Paw. JJ will be 16 this year and, without the assistance from the charity, I'm certain that he wouldn't be here to see that incredible age."



Our partners, supporters, and collaborators

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to our partners, supporters and collaborators. We couldn't do this vital work without them. They include:

- Barking Heads;
- All of our volunteers;
- Everyone who has donated to our work or arranged fundraising events in our name

Our other activities

Media

We continue to work with the media to help showcase our work and highlight the incredible stories of police dogs across the UK. We're pleased to have been featured in a wide range of media outlets this year, including The Sun, Sky News, BBC News, Police Professional, Police Oracle, ITV News, Dogs Monthly, and The i.

We also worked with a number of outlets – including Sky News and The Sunday Telegraph – to highlight our concerns for police dog welfare due to the cost of living crisis.

But our awards continue to be our biggest media moment of the year, attracting a lot of public attention. This year, our awards resulted in more than 200 pieces of coverage including broadcast, print and online both nationally in England and Scotland, and regionally.

Social media

We have more than 66,000 followers via our social media channels and are always humbled by the amount of support we receive from all the people who follow us and our work online. We've also been amazed at the level of support shown to individual fundraising appeals that we've launched online to help specific dogs and we'd like to extend our thanks to everyone who shares our posts and donates online.

Our merchandise

We have a wide range of merchandise available on our website, with something for everyone! We're always reviewing our stock and looking for opportunities to add new products and lines..



Operational

Objective

The charity's objective set out in the Charity's Constitution are:

For the benefit of the public to relieve the suffering of serving and retired police dogs from across the United Kingdom by protecting and rehabilitating.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is governed by a foundation model Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) constitution dated 18 May 2020 and was registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales in August 2020.

Trustees, including the initial Trustees, are appointed for a term of three years. The Trustees are in regular contact with each other, as well as formal meetings three times a year.

Additional Trustees will be recruited as required, either to replace a retiring Trustee or where it is felt that the Charity would benefit from additional skillsets and expertise. Following a selection process new Trustees will be taken through an induction programme covering the ethos, mission, governance, and financial background of the charity. They are also briefed on the role of a Trustee and Charitable law.

None of the Trustees received any remuneration for their services. Administration, fundraising and other back-office services are supplied by third parties on short term contracts, including arrangements for the provision and supply of merchandise.

The charity has no direct employees.

To support the fundraising, marketing, and merchandising the charity has fully embraced current technology and access to social media. Wherever possible, processes are automated and integrated. These incur fees based on a mixture of subscription and volume pricing arrangements.

Public Benefit

Our purpose is for the benefit of the public to relieve the suffering of serving and retired police dogs from across the United Kingdom by protecting and rehabilitating.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, "Charities and Public Benefit".

Fundraising

We are reliant on fundraising to cover our costs and are incredibly grateful to all our supporters for the contributions they have made. We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and abide by their codes and regulations.

Our approach to fundraising consists of:

- soliciting donations from corporate partners, individuals, charitable funds, and others who have a similar interest in promoting the welfare of the dogs we support.
- direct marketing appeals to individuals who have already expressed an interest in the work we do
- encouraging people to participate in events to raise funds on our behalf
- a number of charitable and informational events, some of which will raise funds. We also exhibit and provide information centres at relevant exhibitions and events such as Crufts

We do not currently use third party professional fundraisers.

We strive for excellence through a safe fundraising environment for all donors. Should we have concerns regarding the vulnerability of a donor, for example, a lack of capacity, then we would not take a donation.

Our privacy policy is available on our website. During the year to 31 March 2023 we have not received any complaints.

Financial review

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with FRS102 and the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting and Reporting by Charities (effective 1 January 2019).

The Statement of Financial Activities shows a deficit of £22k (year to 31 March 2022 surplus of £31k), all unrestricted funds.

Results for the period

Total income in the year was £232k (March 2022: £216k).

The majority of this, £218k (March 2022: £197k), was donations and fundraising from our many supporters, whether personal, from connections with a number of police forces around the country and corporate sponsorships, particularly Animal Friends and Barking Heads.

We are extremely grateful to all of our donors, supporters and volunteers and the contributions they have made in our first full year.

We also generated £13k from merchandise sales (March 2022: £119k). Please do support our online store as we are continually introducing new lines.

Total expenditure was £255k (March 2022: £185k), including £12k (2022: £17k) of merchandise costs.

We gave £75k in grants and support in the year, up from £47k in the previous year in support for our registered dogs, as direct financial support. The direct financial support we provide is dependent on the number and value of applications, and not something that can easily be predicted.

As well as the Awards ceremony in September 2022 we also attended the annual Dog Show at

We have not allocated indirect support costs to the various charitable activities. This approach may change in the future.

At the period end the Charity had net assets of £99k (March 2022: £122k) mainly held as deposit accounts at the bank.

Reserves policy

We are looking to build up our reserves to ensure we have sufficient funds such that we can provide the necessary support on an ongoing basis and can meet all requests for support as applications are made.

Applications for support are ad-hoc and outside of the trustees control. We feel it's important to have a strong balance of reserves, so the Charity is always able to fulfil our charitable objectives at any time.

The Trustees will keep this under regular review but are looking to build this up to a level equivalent to six to nine months total expenditure.

We will also have regard to potential future major projects that will enhance the support we can give, whether that be by extending the range of support offered or providing specific services or facilities.

Going concern

The Trustees review the charity's cash flow to ensure that it has sufficient working capital available to sustain its operations and that it can meet its day-to-day requirements from existing cash resources.

Trustees Report
for the year ended 31 March 2023



The Trustees regularly review the risks and consider the potential impact on the charity considering existing resources, together with anticipated future income and outgoings. In some instances this means that we may not be able to pay every claim in full.

Our current projections show that the charity is expected to be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due for the foreseeable future. After careful consideration of these factors, the Trustees have concluded that the going concern basis of preparation is appropriate.

This report was approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 10th April 2024.

Kieran Stanbridge

Kieran Stanbridge

Trustee

Statement of Trustees responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report of the Trustee and the Accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustee to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and the group and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence, for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Thin Blue Paw Foundation

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 March 2023. As the charity's trustees, 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 all 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:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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 accounts to be reached.



Jonathon Holt BA(Hons) FCCA.
Clope & Co
106-107 Dowgate Hill House
14-16 Dowgate Hill
London
EC4R 2SU

15th April 2024

Statement of Financial Activities

	Note	Year ended 31 March 2023			Period to 31 March 2022
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
		£		£	£
Incoming resources					
Income and endowments from:					
Donations	2	173,549	45,000	218,549	196,816
Other trading activities	3	13,607	-	13,607	19,050
Investments		237	-	237	17
Other					-
Total		187,393	45,000	232,393	215,883
Resources expended					
Expenditure on:					
Fundraising costs	4	47,404	-	47,404	32,235
Charitable activities:	5				
Grants and donations given		74,267	-	74,267	46,768
Events and promotional costs		27,527	45,000	72,527	36,952
Administration and support costs		48,974	-	48,974	51,474
Other trading activities	3	12,362	-	12,362	17,235
Total		210,534	45,000	255,534	184,664
Net income		(23,141)	-	(23,141)	31,219
Total funds brought forward		122,376	-	122,376	91,157
Total funds carried forward		99,235	-	99,235	122,376

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the period are included above. The notes on pages 15 to 18 form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet

	Note	31 March 2023 £	31 March 2022 £
Fixed assets	7	5,618	8,782
Current Assets:			
Stock of merchandise		1,149	930
Debtors		3,818	2,956
Cash at bank		101,943	121,024
Total current assets		106,910	124,910
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	13,293	11,316
Net current assets		93,617	113,594
Total assets less current liabilities		99,235	122,376
Total net assets		99,235	122,376
Charity funds			
Unrestricted funds	9	99,235	122,376
Restricted funds	9	-	-
Total funds		99,235	122,376

The notes on pages 15 to 18 form part of these accounts.

The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Kieran Stanbridge

Trustee

10 April 2024

Notes to the accounts

These accounts have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

1. Accounting policies

a. Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

b. Going Concern

The accounts are prepared on the going concern basis.

After careful consideration of these factors, the Trustees have concluded that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue in operation and that the going concern basis of preparation is appropriate.

c. Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

d. Taxation

The charity is not liable to direct taxation (corporation tax) on its income as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities. The charity is not registered for Value Added Tax (VAT) and is therefore unable to reclaim the input tax it suffers on its purchases. Expenditure in the accounts is therefore shown inclusive of VAT where appropriate.

e. Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

- Unrestricted funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustee.
- Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes.
- Restricted funds - these funds, which arise from grants or donations made for a specific purpose, can only be used for that particular purpose within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when stipulated by the donor or grantor or where funds are raised for a specified purpose. The balances of the funds represent the unspent balances.

f. Incoming resources

Voluntary income, including donations, gifts and legacies that provide core funding or are of a general nature, are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift.

Income derived from merchandise sales and from events is recognised as earned (that is as the related goods or services are provided).

Trustees Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 Notes to the accounts



g. Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis when a liability is incurred:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, noncharitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities
- the charity is not registered for VAT

The value of services provided by Trustees and volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements. Given the significance of the voluntary contribution on the various activities of the charity from the Trustees in relation to the other support for the time being it is more appropriate not to allocate indirect support costs to the various charitable activities.

h. Tangible assets and depreciation

Tangible assets are stated at cost and depreciated over their useful economic lives at the following rates:

IT and office equipment (items over £500 are capitalised)	three to five years
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i. Stocks

The bulk of the charity's merchandise sales are through a third-party manufacturer and are invoiced at the point of sale. Items are acquired from third parties in the traditional way and held for resale are included at the lower of cost or net realisable value. At the previous period end there were no significant levels of owned stock.

j. Financial Instruments

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

2. Donations

	Year to 31 March 2023			Period to March 2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	159,764	-	159,764	157,011
Corporate partnerships	-	45,000	45,000	30,000
Gift Aid	13,785	-	13,785	9,805
	173,549	45,000	218,549	196,816

The corporate partnership was in support of the awards ceremony held in September 2022.

Trustees Report and Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2023
Notes to the accounts



3. Other trading activities

	Year ended 31 March 2023	Period to 31 March 2022
	£	£
Sales of merchandise	13,607	19,050
less: Merchandise costs	(12,363)	(17,235)
	1,244	1,815

4. Fundraising costs

	Year ended 31 March 2023	Period to 31 March 2022
	£	£
Advertising and marketing	33,436	20,929
Platform fees	9,058	11,306
	47,404	32,235

5. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Year to 31 March 2023 Total	Period to March 2022
	£	£	£	£
Financial assistance	74,267	-	74,267	45,890
Other charitable support	-	-	-	878
Grants and support given:	74,267	-	74,267	46,768
Events and promotional costs:	27,527	45,000	72,527	36,952
Support and administration:				
Administration and professional fees	35,753	-	35,753	34,834
Depreciation and impairment (note 7)	4,163	-	4,163	5,227
Office and general costs	7,959	-	7,959	10,413
Independent examination	1,100	-	1,100	1,000
Total support and administration	48,974	-	48,974	51,474
	150,769	45,000	195,769	135,194

6. Staff and trustee costs

There were no permanent employees during the year (March 2022: none). A number of administration and support services are provided to the charity on short-term contracts.

No trustee or person related or connected by business to them, have received any remuneration during the period. No trustee was reimbursed for any expenses (March 2022: £nil).

Trustees Report and Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2023
Notes to the accounts



7. Fixed assets

	2023	2022
Cost:	£	£
Brought forward	14,464	4,557
Additions	2,339	10,107
Disposals	(4,173)	-
Carried forward	12,890	14,664
Depreciation:	£	£
Brought forward	5,682	655
Charge for the period	4,163	2,803
Disposals	(2,773)	-
Impairment adjustment	-	2,424
Carried forward	7,272	5,682
Net book value 31 March	5,618	8,782

The fixed assets comprise IT and Office equipment.

There were no capital commitments at the end of the year (31 March 2022: £)

8. Creditors and accruals

	31 March 2023	31 March 2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	5,115	180
Accruals for financial support committed	6,630	11,874
Other accruals and deferred income	1,348	1,828
	13,293	11,316

All creditors and accruals are due within one year.

9. Movements in funds

	1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	31 March 2023
		£	£	£
Unrestricted funds:	122,376	187,393	(210,534)	99,235
Restricted funds:				
Event sponsorship:				
Animal Friends	-	35,000	(35,000)	-
Pet Food Limited	-	10,000	(10,000)	-
Total restricted funds:	-	45,000	(45,000)	-
Total funds:	122,376	232,393	(255,534)	99,235

There were two gifts of corporate sponsorship received and utilised in the year, both to cover the awards ceremony held in September 2022 at Knebworth House.

Accounts



Charity number: 1190959



Trustees Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022

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Officers, advisers, and contact details

Charity registration	A foundation model Charitable Incorporated Organisation Registered in England and Wales; number 1190959
Registered office	Harpenden Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden, AL5 1TE
Trustees	Kieran Stanbridge Gemma Wardell Dave Wardell

All Trustees were appointed when the Constitution was confirmed on 18 May 2020

Banks:	Metro Bank One Southampton Row, London, WC1B 5HA CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ
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Independent Examiner	Jonathon Holt BA(Hons) FCCA Cloke & Co 475 Salisbury House London Wall London EC2M 5QQ
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Website and social media	www.thinbluepaw.org.uk Twitter: @ThinBluePaw Facebook: @thinbluepaw Instagram: @thinbluepaw LinkedIn: Thin Blue Paw Foundation
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Contact us	info@thinbluepaw.org.uk
Donate to help us	donate.thinbluepaw.org.uk

A personal message from the Trustees

It's hard to believe we're already into our second year of running the Foundation and that we now have more than 300 retired dogs signed up for support. We had big ambitions when we launched the Thin Blue Paw Foundation but, although we were confident in the charity and our aims, we had no idea how quickly we would grow and expand. We owe all of our success – and the number of dogs and owners we're now able to help – to our incredible sponsors, donors and fundraisers.

As a group of dog-lovers with various links to the police, we all knew only too well the amazing dedication and commitment that the UK's police and Ministry of Defence police dogs show each and every day. We had a clear ambition for the Thin Blue Paw Foundation: we wanted to protect these dogs, celebrate their achievements, and support them in their retirements.

We're thrilled that we continue to do this vital work, having paid 200 claims for almost 100 dogs over our first two years. We've paid for lifesaving and life-changing operations, funded expensive medication to manage painful conditions, and financed treatment such as hydrotherapy to ensure that these canine heroes can live happy, healthy retirements. We've also distributed first aid kits to dog units across the nation as well as providing first aid training to more than 250 dog handlers while also working with policymakers to call for greater protection and support for service dogs.

We celebrate current and former working dogs every day, through sharing their amazing stories on our social media accounts, publicising their stories on our website and through the media, and discovering the nation's bravest canines at our annual Thin Blue Paw Awards. We want the world to know how incredible (and important) our four-legged crime-fighters are!

We're really proud that we've been able to share our work with our more than 60,000 supporters across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn, and that we've had the chance to highlight some of our amazing dogs through the media with articles in national newspapers, on mainstream TV channels, and in some of the country's leading magazines.

We're also incredibly grateful to the many regular donors who support our work – so we can help more dogs in need of vital medical treatment – and to all of the people who have organised fundraising events to support us. Thank you to every single person who told their friends about us, shared our stories online, and helped us to spread the word about how incredible these dogs are.

We have big ambitions for the future and we are committed to helping more dogs, and their owners, over the next year. With your help, we can create a better future for these su-paw heroes!

Kieran Stanbridge
Gemma Wardell
Dave Wardell

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements covering the year ended 31 March 2022. Previous period comparatives are from 18 May 2020, when the charity was constituted, to the period end of 31 March 2021. The financial statements have been prepared based on the accounting policies set out in the note to these accounts. The Trustees, and other administrative details are shown on page 2.

Our mission

We will protect,
celebrate &
rehabilitate both
serving and
retired police
dogs from across
the United
Kingdom.

Serving police officers Dave and Gemma Wardell and their friend and fellow dog-lover Kieran Stanbridge set up the Foundation in 2020 after months spent researching what national support there was available for working and retired police dogs. Their aim was simple: to improve the health and welfare of serving and retired police dogs.

There are around 1,500 serving police dogs across the UK and approximately 150 retire each year. Many of these dogs stay with their handlers, alongside any replacement service dog, while others are adopted by police colleagues or by members of the public.

But many people are unaware that retired police dogs do not receive any financial support from the force they served with meaning the responsibility for their care – and the associated costs – fall solely on their owner. As it's incredibly difficult to get insurance for an ex-working dog, this can be a daunting prospect for any new owner, particularly as many retired police dogs will carry with them the wear and tear of a strenuous working life that can cause painful medical conditions in later life.

The Foundation provides much-needed financial support to almost 300 retired police dogs and their owners to ensure they can lead a long and happy retirement with access to the very best vet care and treatment they may need.

Protect

We will continue to campaign for greater protection for serving police dogs as well as better support for canine heroes once they retire. We will work to influence lawmakers, calling for legislation and policy that protects these dogs in their service, as well as supporting relevant campaigns. Working with our partners, we have already supplied free dog first aid training to dog handlers throughout the UK as well as sending out free first aid kits to dog units. And we will continue to explore providing PPE for police dogs across the UK, including stab vests and paw protectors.

Celebrate

Every day, police dogs in the line of duty help to tackle crime and keep their communities safe. These unsung heroes put their lives on the line every time they head out to work, always with a wagging tail.

We launched the Thin Blue Paw Awards in 2021 to celebrate these dogs' achievements – along with their dedicated handlers – and, this year we're excited to shine a light on more of the UK's su-paw heroes.

Rehabilitate

After retiring from active service, the cost of caring for a retired police dog becomes the sole responsibility of their new owner. With insurance practically impossible to attain, we will step in to provide much-needed financial support to help cover the often huge costs of medication, veterinary treatment, and ongoing therapy to treat illnesses, injuries, and conditions, and ensure the dog can enjoy their retirement.

Our fund is open to all retired police dogs within the United Kingdom.

Our impact

What we have done

Since we started, we have:

- 🐾 signed up 300 dogs across the UK;
- 🐾 this year we issued £41,190 for almost 80 claims to 38 separate dogs for a range of veterinary treatments, medication and therapy;
- 🐾 sponsored arrangements for a number of hydrotherapy sessions;
- 🐾 sponsored 500 online veterinary consultations with Joii vets, for the dogs registered with us;
- 🐾 provided first aid training to 260 dog handlers across the UK and sent all participants free first aid kits.

The average claim, per dog, is £1,100 – the maximum claim for any one dog reaching almost £6,000 – and 18 dogs made two or more claims while four dogs receive regular support for ongoing long-term support.

Our scope

When we originally launched the Foundation, we pledged to support any retired police dog who had served within one of the UK's 45 police forces in England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. We also committed to support retired Ministry of Defence Police dogs and RAF police dogs and we plan to expand to begin supporting retired prison dogs too.

Events & promotions

We've attended many police open days, dog shows and family-friendly events to represent the Foundation, raise awareness of our work, talk to the public about the importance of police dogs, and raise much-needed funds. We are excited to have held our Thin Blue Paw Awards – sponsored by Animal Friends Insurance – for two years running, where we celebrate the nation's bravest and most committed police dogs.



Our future plans

Our first year was a whirlwind and we're incredibly grateful to our dedicated team, partners, supporters, and volunteers who helped us achieve so much. In our second year, we've continued to grow and support even more dogs in need, as well as setting up schemes to improve welfare within the working dog sector, continue to provide free first aid training and first aid kits to dog units across the UK.

- review how we best support retired police and whether we expand to help other service dogs in the future
- review our own internal structure and plan how to grow the organisation in order to help more dogs and achieve change to better protect working dogs
- consider longer term roles and objectives, including potentially lobbying for improved Government support and setting up permanent rehabilitation facilities

Case studies

Here are just three examples that illustrate the type of support we have provided, and how this has helped the dog and their owners.

RPD Harper

Six-year-old German Shepherd Harper served with Northamptonshire Police for two years – during which time she was dubbed a hero and won an award for helping her handler locate a high-risk missing man who'd tried to take his own life – before an injury forced her to retire early. She was fostered and then adopted by Nottinghamshire Police control room dispatcher, Daniela Evans, who already had, Charlie, who failed police dog training. Struggling to find insurance, Daniela signed up with the Thin Blue Paw Foundation who stepped in to help treat Harper's allergies. Daniela said:

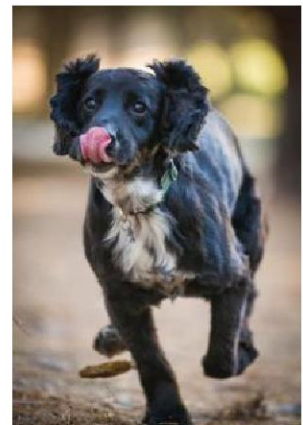
"The Thin Blue Paw Foundation means I don't have to worry should Harper ever need major surgery without having to sell my home; it's a lifeline for retired police dogs."



RPD Joe

Cocker spaniel Joe spent eight years working as a cash, drugs and firearms detection dog with Surrey and Sussex Police until his retirement in December 2019. He was adopted by Guernsey police dog handler, Dan Thomas, and now enjoys the sunshine and beaches. When he slipped a disc in his spine, compressing a nerve, he needed treatment and pain relief costing more than £500; and the Foundation stepped in to help. Dan said he's now back to his 'bubbly self', adding:

"The support from the charity was a huge, huge help for us financially. We're incredibly grateful and I think Joe is too!"



RPD Cipo

Cipo travelled from Holland to join Police Service Northern Ireland where he worked as a general purpose dog for five years, retiring at the age of six due to arthritis and spondylosis of the spine. Regular swimming helps loosen him up and makes him more comfortable so the Foundation granted his former handler and now owner, Sarah, with £1,000 to go towards ongoing hydrotherapy and medication. Sarah said:

"Cipo's care is expensive and I feel very lucky to have these covered by this amazing charity. Without this support I wouldn't be able to swim Cipo as frequently and he wouldn't be doing as well as he is at his age."



Our partners, supporters, and collaborators

We wouldn't be able to do the vital work we do without the help of our partners, supporters, and collaborators. We are incredibly grateful to all those who have provided financial support and fundraising on our behalf, including:

- Animal Friends;
- all vets;
- Pet Remedy;
- All our donors and those that have arranged sponsored events, especially during these Covid times.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to all the incredible police staff and supporters who have organised fundraisers and charity challenges to raise money for the Foundation. These include:

- A group of committed fundraisers who walked, ran, and cycled more than 9,000 miles in memory of a late Hampshire Police dog handler, and donated part of their funds to the Foundation;
- A kennel assistant from the Ministry of Defence Police Dog Section at DM Glen Douglas in Scotland who took on the 22-mile Kilt Walk to raise money to support our work;
- And a Nottinghamshire Police control room dispatcher – and owner of two ex-police dogs – who walked 280,000 steps to raise money and say 'thank you' to the charity for supporting her.

Our other activities

Media

It's been wonderful to harness our team's expertise and contacts to secure widespread regional and national media coverage during our second year of operation, in turn raise awareness of our work and boosting our donations.

We've been privileged to feature in policing titles such as Police Professional, Police Life, Crime Monthly and Police Oracle, and in dog publications such as Dogs Monthly, Your Dog and Edition Dogs. Stories about our work have also been covered by titles including The Sun, BBC News, Mail Online, The Sunday Telegraph, Evening Standard and Sky News.



Crime Monthly

Our inaugural awards prompted more than 120 pieces of media coverage, including prime broadcast shows such as BBC Breakfast, Steph's Packed Lunch and Crimewatch, national newspapers including the Daily Mail, The Times, Metro, The Sun and The Guardian, and widespread regional broadcast and print coverage. We hope this year's awards will prove even bigger and better...!

The cost of living crisis is one of the biggest issues impacting families across the UK today. We know it is important to be topical and we wanted to be part of this discussion and highlight our concerns about how it would impact the owners of retired police dogs. Our press release received coverage on Sky News as well as in The Sunday Telegraph, Companion Life, Pet Business World and in regional media.

Our merchandise

We have a comprehensive online shop selling a variety of merchandise for dogs and their owners. We offer something for all dog-lovers and owners. The shop has proved to be a useful source of additional funds and new lines are always being introduced.

Operational

Objective	The charity's objective set out in the Charity's Constitution are: For the benefit of the public to relieve the suffering of serving and retired police dogs from across the United Kingdom by protecting and rehabilitating.
Structure, Governance and Management	The charity is governed by a foundation model Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) constitution dated 18 May 2020 and was registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales in August 2020. Trustees, including the initial Trustees, are appointed for a term of three years. The Trustees are in regular contact with each other, as well as formal meetings three times a year. Additional Trustees will be recruited as required, either to replace a retiring Trustee or where it is felt that the Charity would benefit from additional skillsets and expertise. Following a selection process new Trustees will be taken through an induction programme covering the ethos, mission, governance, and financial background of the charity. They are also briefed on the role of a Trustee and Charitable law. None of the Trustees received any remuneration for their services. Administration, fundraising and other back-office services are supplied by third parties on short term contracts, including arrangements for the provision and supply of merchandise. The charity has no direct employees. To support the fundraising, marketing, and merchandising the charity has fully embraced current technology and access to social media. Wherever possible, processes are automated and integrated. These incur fees based on a mixture of subscription and volume pricing arrangements.
Public Benefit	Our purpose is for the benefit of the public to relieve the suffering of serving and retired police dogs from across the United Kingdom by protecting and rehabilitating. The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, "Charities and Public Benefit".
Fundraising	We are reliant on fundraising to cover our costs and are incredibly grateful to all our supporters for the contributions they have made. We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and abide by their codes and regulations. Our approach to fundraising consists of: • soliciting donations from corporate partners, individuals, charitable funds, and others who have a similar interest in promoting the welfare of the dogs we support. • direct marketing appeals to individuals who have already expressed an interest in the work we do • encouraging people to participate in events to raise funds on our behalf • a number of charitable and informational events, some of which will raise funds. We also exhibit and provide information centres at relevant exhibitions and events such as Crufts We do not currently use third party professional fundraisers. We strive for excellence through a safe fundraising environment for all donors. Should we have concerns regarding the vulnerability of a donor, for example, a lack of capacity, then we would not take a donation. Our privacy policy is available on our website. During the year to 31 March 2022 we have not received any complaints.

Covid Pandemic

The global Covid Pandemic and national lockdowns were a fact of life before the charity was formed. This has had an impact on our activities and we had planned to have exhibitions and stalls at a number of major events, such as Crufts and other national and local shows. Our presence at these events has a threefold purpose: information sharing, promoting the charity, and growing the network of supporters.

It is only since the easing of the covid restrictions and into the summer of 2022 that we can start participating more fully in these events as they open up,

Financial review

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with FRS102 and the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting and Reporting by Charities (effective 1 January 2019). The Statement of Financial Activities shows surplus of £31k for the year to 31 March 2022 (period ended March 2021: £91k), all unrestricted funds.

Results for the period

Total income year was £215,883 (March 2021: £214,364). The majority of this, £196,816 (March 2021: £184,198), was donations and fundraising from our many supporters, whether personal, from connections with a number of police forces around the country and corporate sponsorships, particularly Animal Friends and Pet Food Limited. The increase in the level of support from individuals is very promising.

We are extremely grateful to all of our donors, supporters and volunteers and the contributions they have made in our first full year.

We also generated £19,050 from merchandise sales (period to March 2021: £30,157). A lot of sales in the initial period were of higher value items, particularly quality clothing.

Please do support our online store as we are continually introducing new lines.

Total expenditure was £184,664 (March 2021: £123,207), including £17,235 (2021: £20,851) of merchandise costs.

We gave £41,190 (2021: £42,182) in support for our registered dogs, as direct financial support. The direct financial support we provide is dependent on the number and value of applications, and not something that can easily be predicted. In addition, we arranged for a number of dog first aid kits to be distributed to dog handling units in various forces around the country together with first aid training for the handlers.

The period to March 2021 included an element of set-up costs, amounting to £9,010, that have not been repeated this year, although new systems appropriate to running the charity are always being considered.

The Trustees have provided so much support across all the activities and setting up the charity, we have not allocated indirect support costs to the various charitable activities. This approach may change in the future.

At the period end the Charity had net assets of £122,376 (March 2021: £91,157) mainly held deposit accounts at the bank.

Reserves policy

We are looking to build up our reserves to ensure we have sufficient funds such that we can provide the necessary support on an ongoing basis and can meet all requests for support as applications are made.

Applications for support are ad-hoc and outside of the trustees control. We feel it's important to have a strong balance of reserves, so the Charity is always able to fulfil our charitable objectives at any time.

The Trustees will keep this under regular review but are looking to build this up to a level equivalent to six to nine months total expenditure.

Going concern

We will also have regard to potential future major projects that will enhance the support we can give, whether that be by extending the range of support offered or providing specific services or facilities.

The Trustees review the charity's cash flow to ensure that it has sufficient working capital available to sustain its operations and that it can meet its day-to-day requirements from existing cash resources.

The Trustees regularly review the risks and consider the potential impact on the charity considering existing resources, together with anticipated future income and outgoings.

Our current projections show that the charity is expected to be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due for the foreseeable future. After careful consideration of these factors, the Trustees have concluded that the going concern basis of preparation is appropriate.

This report was approved by the Trustees, and signed on their behalf on 28th October 2022

Kieran Stanbridge

Trustee

Statement of Trustees responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report of the Trustee and the Accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustee to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and the group and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence, for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Thin Blue Paw Foundation

Responsibilities and basis of report

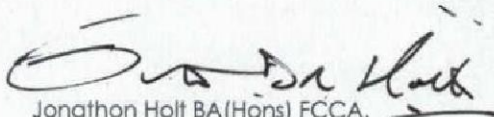
I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 March 2022. As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). I report in respect 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 all 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:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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 accounts to be reached.



Jonathon Holt BA(Hons) FCCA.

Cloke & Co
475 Salisbury House
London Wall
London
EC2M 5QQ

19 December 2022

Statement of Financial Activities

	Note	Year ended 31 March 2022			Period to 31 March 2021
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
		£		£	£
Incoming resources					
Income and endowments from:					
Donations	2	166,816	30,000	196,816	184,198
Other trading activities	3	19,050	-	19,050	30,157
Investments		17	-	17	9
Other					-
Total		185,883	30,000	215,883	214,364
Resources expended					
Expenditure on:					
Fundraising costs	4	32,235	-	32,235	14,422
Charitable activities:	5				
Grants and donations given		46,768	-	46,768	51,579
Events and promotional costs		6,952	30,000	36,952	5,243
Administration and support costs		51,474	-	51,474	31,112
Other trading activities	3	17,235	-	17,235	20,851
Total		154,664	30,000	184,664	123,207
Net income		31,219	-	31,219	91,157
Total funds brought forward		91,157	-	91,157	-
Total funds carried forward		122,376	-	122,376	91,157

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the period are included above. The notes on pages 15 to 18 form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet

	Note	31 March 2022 £	31 March 2021 £
Fixed assets	7	8,782	3,902
Current Assets:			
Stock of merchandise		930	-
Debtors		2,956	2,095
Cash at bank		121,024	101,217
Total current assets		124,910	103,312
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	11,316	16,057
Net current assets		113,594	87,255
Total assets less current liabilities		122,376	91,157
Total net assets		122,376	91,157
Charity funds			
Unrestricted funds	9	122,376	91,157
Restricted funds	9	-	-
Total funds		122,376	91,157

The notes on pages 15 to 18 form part of these accounts.

The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Kieran Stanbridge

Trustee

28th October 2022

Notes to the accounts

These accounts have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

1. Accounting policies

a. Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

b. Going Concern

The accounts are prepared on the going concern basis.

After careful consideration of these factors, the Trustees have concluded that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue in operation and that the going concern basis of preparation is appropriate

c. Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

d. Taxation

The charity is not liable to direct taxation (corporation tax) on its income as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities. The charity is not registered for Value Added Tax (VAT) and is therefore unable to reclaim the input tax it suffers on its purchases. Expenditure in the accounts is therefore shown inclusive of VAT where appropriate

e. Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

- ✿ Unrestricted funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustee.
- ✿ Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes.
- ✿ Restricted funds - these funds, which arise from grants or donations made for a specific purpose, can only be used for that particular purpose within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when stipulated by the donor or grantor or where funds are raised for a specified purpose. The balances of the funds represent the unspent balances.

f. Incoming resources

Voluntary income, including donations, gifts and legacies that provide core funding or are of a general nature, are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift.

Income derived from merchandise sales and from events is recognised as earned (that is as the related goods or services are provided)

g. Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis when a liability is incurred:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, noncharitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities
- the charity is not registered for VAT

The value of services provided by Trustees and volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements. Given the significance of the voluntary contribution on the various activities of the charity from the Trustees in relation to the other support for the time being it is more appropriate not to allocate indirect support costs to the various charitable activities.

h. Tangible assets and depreciation

Tangible assets are stated at cost and depreciated over their useful economic lives at the following rates:

IT and office equipment (items over £500 are capitalised) three to five years

i. Stocks

The bulk of the charity's merchandise sales are through a third-party manufacturer and are invoiced at the point of sale. Items are acquired from third parties in the traditional way and held for resale are included at the lower of cost or net realisable value. At the previous period end there were no significant levels of owned stock.

j. Financial Instruments

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

2. Donations

	Year to 31 March 2022			Period to March 2021
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	157,011	-	157,011	76,757
Corporate partnerships	-	30,000	30,000	102,350
Gift Aid	9,805	-	9,805	5,091
				-
	166,816	30,000	196,816	184,198

The corporate partnership was in support of the awards ceremony held in September 2021.

3. Other trading activities

	Year ended 31 March 2022	Period to 31 March 2021
	£	£
Sales of merchandise	19,050	30,157
less: Merchandise costs	(17,235)	(20,851)
	1,815	9,306

4. Fundraising costs

	Year ended 31 March 2022	Period to 31 March 2021
	£	£
Advertising and marketing	20,929	10,520
Platform fees	11,306	3,902
	32,235	14,422

5. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Year to 31 March 2022 Total	Period to March 2021
	£	£	£	£
Financial assistance	41,190	-	45,890	42,182
Other charitable support	5,578	-	878	9,397
Grants and support given:	46,768	-	46,768	51,579
Events and promotional costs:	6,952	30,000	36,952	5,243
Support and administration:				
Administration and professional fees	34,834	-	34,834	17,106
Depreciation and impairment (note 7)	5,227	-	5,227	655
Office and general costs	10,413	-	10,413	3,441
Independent examination	1,000	-	1,000	900
Set-up and development costs	-	-	-	9,010
Total support and administration	51,474	-	51,474	31,112
	105,194	30,000	135,194	87,934

6. Staff and trustee costs

There were no permanent employees during the year (period to March 2021: none). A number of administration and support services are provided to the charity on short-term contracts.

No trustee or person related or connected by business to them, have received any remuneration during the period. No trustee was reimbursed for any expenses (period to March 2021: £nil).

7. Fixed assets

	2022	2021
Cost:	£	£
Brought forward	4,557	-
Additions in the period	10,107	4,557
Carried forward	14,664	4,557
Depreciation:	£	£
Brought forward	655	-
Charge for the period	2,803	655
Impairment adjustment	2,424	-
Carried forward	5,682	655
Net book value 31 March	8,782	3,902

The fixed assets comprise IT and Office equipment.

The impairment adjustment of £2,424 (2021: £nil) is an additional charge on a series of assets acquired in the year for a specific project that did not perform as required. These assets are held at the amount realised from their disposal subsequent to the year end.

There were no capital commitments at the end of the year (31 March 2021: £nil)

8. Creditors and accruals

	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	180	2,355
Accruals for financial support committed	5,548	11,874
Other accruals and deferred income	5,588	1,828
	11,316	16,057

All creditors and accruals are due within one year.

9. Movements in funds

	1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	31 March 2022
		£	£	£
Unrestricted funds:	91,157	185,883	(154,664)	122,376
Restricted funds:				
Event sponsorship:				
Animal Friends	-	25,000	(25,000)	-
Pet Food Limited	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
Total restricted funds:	-	30,000	(30,000)	-
Total funds:	91,157	215,883	(184,664)	122,376

There were two gifts of corporate sponsorship received and utilised in the year, both to cover the awards ceremony held in September 2021 at Knebworth House.

Accounts



Charity number: 1190959

Trustees Report and Financial Statements Period ending 31 March 2021



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Officers, advisers, and contact details

Charity registration

A foundation model Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered in England and Wales; number 1190959

Registered office

Harpenden Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden, AL5 1TE

Trustees

Kieran Stanbridge

Gemma Wardell

Dave Wardell

All Trustees were appointed when the Constitution was
confirmed on 18 May 2020

Banks:

Metro Bank

One Southampton Row, London, WC1B 5HA

CAF Bank

25 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner

Jonathon Holt BA(Hons) FCCA

Cloke & Co

475 Salisbury House

London Wall

London

EC2M 5QQ

Website and social media

www.thinbluepaw.org.uk

Twitter: @ThinBluePaw

Facebook: @thinbluepaw

Instagram: @thinbluepaw

LinkedIn: Thin Blue Paw Foundation

Contact us

info@thinbluepaw.org.uk

Donate to help us

donate.thinbluepaw.org.uk

A personal message from the Trustees

When we launched the charity in 2020, we had major ambitions and big dreams; but we never could have envisioned our first year going as well as it did - particularly during the middle of a global health pandemic that shook even the biggest and most established of charities. We owe our success and our continued growth to the dedication of the team and the support we've received from our wonderful corporate partners, sponsors and all our donors and fundraisers.

Our goal at the Thin Blue Paw Foundation has always been clear: to protect, celebrate and rehabilitate both serving and retired police dogs from across the UK. And during over the course of 2020 and 2021, we've done just that. We launched campaigns and partnerships to better protect those police dogs on the frontline; we celebrated working and retired police dogs at our inaugural Thin Blue Paw Awards; and we rehabilitated dozens of retired police dogs, offering access to the very best veterinary care and specialist treatment, improving the dogs' quality of life, and easing the financial and emotional pressures faced by their adoring owners.



We set up the Foundation because we love dogs and we are indebted to the incredible police dogs who put their lives on the line for us everyday in order to fight crime and make this country a safer place for us all to enjoy. We feel very privileged to have been able to give back to these dogs and to raise more awareness of just some of the incredible stories of bravery and dedication that show how loyal and loving these frontline four-legged officers truly are.

This year we've had the honour of meeting dogs who have survived violent attacks while serving their communities and protected their handlers in frightening criminal encounters; and we've supported unsung canine heroes who have saved lives, captured dangerous criminals, and recovered hundreds of thousands of pounds of drugs, cash, and dangerous weapons.

We feel incredibly proud to have given the opportunity to tell the stories of just some of the working and retired police dogs across the UK through national newspaper articles, heart-warming magazine features, and to have appeared alongside these canine champions on TV programmes from Crimewatch Live to BBC Breakfast.

The support we've received in our mission to protect, celebrate, and rehabilitate these dogs has been unwavering and overwhelming. Thank you to every person who has donated money, organised a fundraiser to support our work, told their friends and family about us, shared our posts on social media, and helped us spread the message that police dogs need, and deserve, our help.

We are committed to continuing our vital work and we hope the next 12 months will hold many more exciting opportunities for us to celebrate and support the nation's beloved police dogs, while they wear their badge and long after they've hung it up.

Kieran Stanbridge
Gemma Wardell
Dave Wardell

The Trustees present their first report along with the financial statements covering the period from 18 May 2020, when the charity was constituted, to the period end of 31 March 2021. The financial statements have been prepared based on the accounting policies set out in the note to these accounts. The Trustees, and other administrative details are shown on page 2.

Our mission

We will protect,
celebrate &
rehabilitate both
serving and
retired police
dogs from across
the United
Kingdom.

Serving police officers Dave and Gemma Wardell and their friend and fellow dog-lover Kieran Stanbridge set up the foundation in 2020 after months spent researching what national support there was available for working and retired police dogs. Their aim was simple: to improve the health and welfare of serving and retired police dogs.

There are around 1,500 serving police dogs across the UK and approximately 150 retire each year. Many of these dogs stay with their handlers, alongside any replacement service dog, while others are adopted by police colleagues or by members of the public.

But many people are unaware that retired police dogs do not receive any financial support from the force they served with meaning the responsibility for their care – and the associated costs – fall solely on their owner. As it's incredibly difficult to get insurance for an ex-working dog, this can be a daunting prospect for any new owner, particularly as many retired police dogs will carry with them the wear and tear of a strenuous working life that can cause painful medical conditions in later life.

The Foundation provides much-needed financial support to more than 200 retired police dogs and their owners to ensure they can lead a long and happy retirement with access to the very best vet care and treatment they may need.

Protect

We will provide greater protection for serving police dogs through influencing law-makers, calling for policy change, and supporting campaigns such as #FinnsLaw and #FinnsLaw2. We will also support serving police dogs by becoming the UK's first charity – in partnership with our sponsors and partners – to issue free dog first aid training to all dog handlers as well as supply free first aid kits to all dog units. We will continue to explore providing PPE for police dogs across the UK, including stab vests and paw protectors.

Celebrate

Every day, police dogs step out onto the frontline to keep the public safe and help officers fight crime. These unsung canine heroes secure public venues and events, sniff out missing people and save innocent lives, track down criminals and seek out cash, drugs, and firearms; going above and beyond to provide a vital service to their local communities. They put their lives on the line each time they jump out of the van, always with a wagging tail.

We launched the Thin Blue Paw Awards to celebrate these dogs' achievements and, through our media team and social media channels, set about to shine a light on some of their incredible tails.

Rehabilitate

After retiring from active service, the cost of caring for a retired police dog becomes the sole responsibility of their new owner. With insurance practically impossible to attain, we will step in to provide much-needed financial support to help cover the often huge costs of medication, veterinary treatment, and ongoing therapy to treat illnesses, injuries, conditions and ensure the dog can enjoy their retirement.

Our fund is open to all retired Police Dogs within the United Kingdom.

Our impact

What we have done

Since we started, we have:

- distributed 140 introductory gift boxes and dog blankets;
- signed up over 240 dogs across the UK;
- to date have given over 120 grants to more than 60 dogs needing a range of veterinary treatments;
- sponsored arrangements for a number of hydrotherapy sessions;
- sponsored 500 online veterinary consultations with Joii vets, for the dogs registered with us;
- more recently, have arranged for canine first aid training courses and first aid kits to police dog handlers across the UK.

Our scope

When we originally launched the Foundation, we pledged to support any retired police dog who had served within one of the UK's 45 police forces in England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. We also committed to support retired Ministry of Defence Police dogs and RAF Police dogs.

Our future plans

We have enjoyed a very successful opening period and are extremely grateful to all our sponsors, donors, and supporters. We have provided financial support to a number of dogs and set up schemes for the benefit of all retired police dogs.

- review how we best support retired police and service dogs in the future
- review our own internal structure
- consider longer term roles and objectives, including potentially lobbying for improved government support and setting up permanent rehabilitation facilities

Case studies

Here are just three examples that illustrate the type of support we have provided, and how this has helped the dog and their owners.

RPD Pablo

Ten-year-old springer spaniel Pablo recovered more than £250,000 worth of cash, drugs, and weapons during his career with Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies' Joint Dog Section. He was fit and healthy when he retired in August 2019 to live with police officers Carly and George who had met the cheeky little dog on shift. When Pablo started having difficulty going to the toilet over Christmas time in 2020, his owners rushed him to the vet who found a 4cm mass in his abdomen. He needed life-saving surgery at a cost of £4,000 and the young couple had no idea how they'd pay for it. The Foundation offered to cover the bill for the operation which was a success. Carly said:



"The Thin Blue Paw Foundation saved Pablo's life. You can't put a price on Pablo; not only is he our beloved pet, but he's also a hero and he's given so much to our community."

RPD Becks

Labrador-cross Becks was gifted to Sussex Police by the Blind Association when he failed as a guide dog and became an explosives search dog with handler, Sam at Gatwick Airport. Becks retired in 2018 to live with Sam. They were out walking in February 2021 when he cut his paw and needed emergency stitches, costing £600. The following month he needed £1,200 surgery to remove a growth from his back. Sam said: "I don't have that kind of money; I only work part-time and I have my two-year-old son to take care of. When the Foundation offered to cover the bills I couldn't believe it; I cried my eyes out!"



"It was a huge weight off my mind. I will be eternally grateful for everyone's generosity at The Thin Blue Paw Foundation for helping to give Becks the care he deserves."

RPD Kaiser

Rescue dog Kaiser joined the Ministry of Defence as a general purpose dog and was paired with Ian to patrol an atomic weapons establishment. His career ended when he broke his leg falling down a hole on shift and he returned home with Ian, and his wife, Heather, as a pet. As an ex-working dog suffering from arthritis and spondylosis, the German Shepherd was uninsurable and his daily medication and weekly hydrotherapy – costing £45 per session – was paid for by his adopters. That is until the Foundation agreed to pay for 22 sessions of hydrotherapy to give the couple a financial break.



"Hydrotherapy really helps Kaiser live life to the full and that's all that matters to us. We've paid for it for five years as he comes first. But times have been really tough during Covid so when the Foundation offered to help, we were thrilled."

Our partners, supporters, and collaborators

We wouldn't be able to do the vital work we do without the help of our partners, supporters, and collaborators. We are incredibly grateful to all those who have provided financial support and fundraising on our behalf, including:

-  Animal Friends;
-  all vets;
-  Pet Remedy;
-  All our donors and those that have arranged sponsored events, especially during these Covid times.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to all the incredible police staff and supporters who have organised fundraisers and charity challenges to raise money for the Foundation. These include:

-  A team of seven dog handlers from Northamptonshire Police who raised more than £4,000 climbing Mount Snowdon;
-  A Police Service Northern Ireland dog handler raised almost £6,000 by designing and selling a t-shirt in memory of her late retired police dog, Dino, who was supported by the Foundation;
-  Four Falklands police officers and their dogs - from the military working dog section of the Joint Service and Security Unit – raised more than £3,000 completing a 38-mile loaded march;
-  Nine dog handlers from Police Scotland raised almost £10,000 by each running, walking, or cycling 10k a day.



Our other activities

Media

When we launched in August 2020, we were delighted to get extended coverage across the media, including a number of breakfast TV shows. This helped introduce us to the nation and to many new friends. Since then we have featured on BBC Breakfast, Crimewatch Live, ITV's The Pet Show and Sky News Sunrise.

We have also enjoyed publicity in major national newspapers, such as the Daily Mail and Metro, popular magazines, such as Closer, Yours, and Take A Break Pets, as well as specialist titles, including Your Dog Magazine and Crime Monthly.

We are looking forward to further coverage and already have exciting plans which we hope will shine a light on the fabulous work we're doing to support our unsung canine heroes.

Our merchandise

We have a comprehensive online shop selling a variety of merchandise for dogs and their owners. We offer something for all dog-lovers and owners. The shop has proved to be a useful source of additional funds and new lines are always being introduced.

Operational

Objective

The charity's objective set out in the Charity's Constitution are:

For the benefit of the public to relieve the suffering of serving and retired police dogs from across the United Kingdom by protecting and rehabilitating.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is governed by a foundation model Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) constitution dated 18 May 2020 and was registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales in August 2020.

Trustees, including the initial Trustees, are appointed for a term of three years. The Trustees are in regular contact with each other, as well as formal meetings three times a year.

Additional Trustees will be recruited as required, either to replace a retiring Trustee or where it is felt that the Charity would benefit from additional skillsets and expertise. Following a selection process new Trustees will be taken through an induction programme covering the ethos, mission, governance, and financial background of the charity. They are also briefed on the role of a Trustee and Charitable law.

None of the Trustees received any remuneration for their services. Administration, fundraising and other back-office services are supplied by third parties on short term contracts, including arrangements for the provision and supply of merchandise.

The charity has no direct employees.

To support the fundraising, marketing, and merchandising the charity has fully embraced current technology and access to social media, especially with the personal contact restrictions brought about by the Covid pandemic. Wherever possible processes are automated and integrated. These incur fees based on a mixture of subscription and volume pricing arrangements.

Public Benefit

Our purpose is for the benefit of the public to relieve the suffering of serving and retired police dogs from across the United Kingdom by protecting and rehabilitating.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, "Charities and Public Benefit".

Fundraising

We are reliant on fundraising to cover our costs and are incredibly grateful to all our supporters for the contributions they have made. We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and abide by their codes and regulations.

Our approach to fundraising consists of:

-  soliciting donations from corporate partners, individuals, charitable funds, and others who have a similar interest in promoting the welfare of the dogs we support.
-  direct marketing appeals to individuals who have already expressed an interest in the work we do
-  encouraging people to participate in events to raise funds on our behalf
-  when times permit, we intend to run a number of charitable and informational events, some of which will raise funds. We will also exhibit and provide information centres at relevant exhibitions and events such as Crufts

We do not currently use third party professional fundraisers.

Covid Pandemic

We strive for excellence through a safe fundraising environment for all donors. Should we have concerns regarding the vulnerability of a donor, for example, a lack of capacity, then we would not take a donation.

Our privacy policy is available on our website.

During the period to 31 March 2021 we have not received any complaints.

The global Covid Pandemic and national lockdowns were a fact of life before the charity was formed. Undoubtedly this has had an impact on our activities and our original plans have been curtailed.

We planned to have exhibitions and stalls at a number of major events, such as Crufts and other national and local shows. Our presence at these events has a threefold purpose: information sharing, promoting the charity, and fundraising.

We were also planning to hold a number of local events putting owners of our registered dogs in touch with each other, which did not happen.

Whilst we have been able to do some of this through virtual means we are looking forward to a time when we can function in person and meet the dogs, their owners, and our supporters face-to-face.

Financial review

Results for the period

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with FRS102 and the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting and Reporting by Charities (effective 1 January 2019). The Statement of Financial Activities shows surplus of £91k for the period to 31 March 2021, all unrestricted funds.

Total income in the period was £214,364. The majority of this, £184,198, was donations and fundraising from our many supporters, whether personal, from connections with a number of police forces around the country and corporate sponsorships, particularly Animal Friends.

We are extremely grateful to all of them and the contributions they have made in our initial period.

We also generated £30,157 from merchandise sales. There was an amazing interest when we launched our online shop and in the period leading up to Christmas. Sales continue to hold up; please do support our online store as we are continually introducing new lines.

Total expenditure was £123,207, including £20,851 of merchandise costs.

We gave £42,182 in support for our registered dogs, as direct financial support and we sent gift boxes to our initial member dogs. The direct financial support we provide is dependent on the number and value of applications, and not something that can easily be predicted.

Inevitably, this year we have incurred a lot of set-up costs, including creating the website and integrating various platforms as part of our fundraising process and merchandise sales. Whilst these will require ongoing review to ensure that they remain fit for purpose, we do not envisage incurring a similar level of expenditure going forward. In addition to IT related costs we also incurred various professional fees setting up the charity.

In this initial period when the Trustees have provided so much support across all the activities and setting up the charity, we have not allocated indirect support costs to the various charitable activities. This approach may change in the future.

At the period end the Charity had net assets of £91,157 mainly held as cash.

Reserves policy

We are a charity at the end of our first period in some very challenging times. At this point we do not know the full extent of our supporter base

Going concern

and income potential, nor indeed the level of financial support we will be asked to provide on an ongoing basis. We are looking to build up our reserves to ensure we have sufficient funds such that we can provide the necessary support on an ongoing basis and can meet all request for support as applications are made.

The Trustees will keep this under regular review but are looking to build this up to a level equivalent to six to nine months total expenditure. We will also have regard to potential future major projects that will enhance the support we can give.

The Trustees review the charity's cash flow to ensure that it has sufficient working capital available to sustain its operations and that it can meet its day-to-day requirements from existing cash resources.

The Trustees regularly review the risks and consider the potential impact on the charity taking into account existing resources, together with anticipated future income and outgoings.

The Charity has operated throughout the period against the background of the Covid 19 pandemic which has obviously curtailed the extent of activities and opportunities to fundraise and also potentially people have been holding back on procedures that would be supported by the charity.

Our base plan assumes additional funding income in excess of previous year amounts. Should this not occur then we will slow down expenditure to match incoming resources. Our charitable outgoings and other costs, which are mainly on short-term contracts can be curtailed if we do not feel that the relevant funding will be received, and we do not have the resources to fund it ourselves.

Our current projections show that the charity is expected to be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due for the foreseeable future. After careful consideration of these factors, the Trustees have concluded that the going concern basis of preparation is appropriate.

This report was approved by the Trustees. and signed on their behalf on 31 January 2022

Kieran Stanbridge

Trustee

Statement of Trustees responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report of the Trustee and the Accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustee to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and the group and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence, for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Thin Blue Paw Foundation

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period ended 31 March 2021. As the charity's trustees, 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 all 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:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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 accounts to be reached.



Jonathon Holt BA(Hons) FCCA.
Clope & Co
475 Salisbury House
London Wall
London
EC2M 5QQ

31st January 2022

Statement of Financial Activities

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Incoming resources				
Income and endowments from:				
Donations	2	173,848	10,350	184,198
Other trading activities	3	30,157	-	30,157
Investments		9	-	9
Other				-
Total		204,014	10,350	214,364
Resources expended				
Expenditure on:				
Fundraising costs	4	19,665	-	19,665
Charitable activities	5	72,341	10,350	82,691
Other trading activities	3	20,851	-	20,851
Total		112,857	10,350	123,207
Net income/(expenditure)		91,157	-	91,157
Total funds carried forward		91,157	-	91,157

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the period are included above. The notes on pages 15 to 18 form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet

	Note	31 March 2021 £
Fixed assets	7	3,902
Current Assets:		
Debtors		2,095
Cash at bank		101,217
Total current assets		103,312
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	16,057
Net current assets		87,255
Total assets less current liabilities		91,157
Total net assets		91,157
Charity funds		
Unrestricted funds	9	91,157
Restricted funds	9	-
Total funds		91,157

The notes on pages 15 to 18 form part of these accounts.

The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Kieran Stanbridge

Trustee
31 January 2022

Notes to the accounts

These accounts have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

1. Accounting policies

a. Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

b. Going Concern

The accounts are prepared on the going concern basis.

The emergence of the coronavirus pandemic as explained in Trustees Annual Report has caused economic uncertainty within the United Kingdom. The Trustees have considered the potential impact of this on the financial position of the Charity and have concluded that the Charity is unlikely to be adversely affected by this considering particularly the ability of funders to continue to support the charity. If the level of funding falls then expenditure will be curtailed accordingly. These factors have been incorporated in the cash projections reviewed by the Trustees.

After careful consideration of these factors, the Trustees have concluded that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue in operation and that the going concern basis of preparation is appropriate

c. Judgements and key sources of Estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

d. Taxation

The charity is not liable to direct taxation (corporation tax) on its income as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities. The charity is not registered for Value Added Tax (VAT) and is therefore unable to reclaim the input tax it suffers on its purchases. Expenditure in the accounts is therefore shown inclusive of VAT where appropriate

e. Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

-  Unrestricted funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustee.
-  Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes.
-  Restricted funds - these funds, which arise from grants or donations made for a specific purpose, can only be used for that particular purpose within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when stipulated by the donor or grantor or where funds are raised for a specified purpose. The balances of the funds represent the unspent balances.

f. Incoming resources

Voluntary income, including donations, gifts and legacies that provide core funding or are of a general nature, are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift.

Income derived from merchandise sales and from events is recognised as earned (that is as the related goods or services are provided)

g. Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis when a liability is incurred:

-  expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, noncharitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
-  expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity.
-  other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities
-  the charity is not registered for VAT

The value of services provided by Trustees and volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements. Given the significance of the voluntary contribution on the various activities of the charity from the Trustees in relation to the other support for the time being it is more appropriate not to allocate indirect support costs to the various charitable activities.

h. Tangible assets and depreciation

Tangible assets are stated at cost and depreciated over their useful economic lives at the following rates:

IT and office equipment (items over £500 are capitalised) three to five years

i. Stocks

Current arrangements for the bulk of the charity's merchandise sales are through a third-party manufacturer and are invoiced at the point of sale. At the period end there were no significant levels of owned stock.

j. Financial Instruments

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

2. Donations

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Donations and gifts	76,757	-	76,757
Corporate partnerships	92,000	10,350	102,350
Gift Aid	5,091	-	5,091
	173,848	10,350	184,198

3. Other trading activities

	Total £
Sales of merchandise	30,157
less: Merchandise costs	(20,851)
	-
	9,306

4. Fundraising costs

	Total £
Advertising and marketing	10,520
Promotional and exhibition materials	5,244
Platform fees	3,902
	19,665

5. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Financial assistance	32,182	10,000	42,182
Other charitable support	9,047	350	9,397
	41,229	10,350	51,579
Support and administration:			
Administration and professional fees	17,106		17,106
Depreciation	655	-	655
Office and general costs	3,441	-	3,441
Independent examination	900	-	900
Set-up and development costs	9,010	-	9,010
	31,112	-	31,112
	72,341	10,350	82,691

6. Staff and trustee costs

There were no permanent employees during the period. A number of administration and support services are provided to the charity on short-term contracts.

No trustee or person related or connected by business to them, have received any remuneration during the period. No trustee was reimbursed for any expenses.

Trustees Report and Accounts for the
period ended 31 March 2021
Notes to the accounts



7. Fixed assets

	IT and office equipment £
Cost: additions in the period	4,557
Depreciation: charge for the period	(655)
Net book value 31 March 2021	3,902

There were no capital commitments at the end of the period.

8. Creditors and accruals

	31 March 2021 £
Trade creditors	2,354
Accruals for financial support committed	11,874
Other accruals and deferred income	1,828
	16,057

All creditors and accruals are due within one year.

9. Movements in funds

	Income £	Expenditure £	31 March 2021 £
Unrestricted funds:	204,015	(112,858)	91,157
Restricted funds:			
Animal Friends – veterinary consultations	10,000	(10,000)	-
Pet Remedy – contribution to gift box costs	350	(350)	-
Total restricted funds:	10,350	(10,350)	-
Total funds:	214,365	(123,208)	91,157

There were two gifts of restricted funds received and utilised in the year:

- Animal Friends: a contribution towards covering the costs of 500 online veterinary consultations for retired police dogs registered with us
- Pet Remedy: a contribution towards the postal costs of the gift boxes sent to retired police dogs