Cornwall Search Dogs

Trustee's Annual Report

For the period 1st November 2023 to 31st October 2024

Chair's Report

Looking back on our fourth year of operations I can report that we've maintained our systems and governance, conducted searches and forged links with other organisations. This year we have aided the owners of 48 missing dogs in Cornwall.

In last year's report our outgoing chair said we, "We confidently expect to grow further in year four" and this annual report will show that we have to an extent met that expectation this year. This growth has been made possible by the Trustees who have volunteered their time generously, our teams of search dogs and handlers and our dedicated volunteer supporters, who have attended public events to build our profile in the community and raise essential funding for us.

On behalf of the trustees, I would like to reiterate the Board's gratitude to the property owners who kindly give CSD permission to carry out essential regular training on their land. The opportunity to train across a variety of landscapes, especially in areas unfrequented by the wider public enables us to hone our dog's skills quickly and effectively.

This is my first report as chairman, following Andrew stepping down as Chair as it was the end of his three-year term. I am personally very grateful for the tremendous support we receive from the public, community funds, local organisations and national businesses.

In terms of meeting our Charitable objectives we have more than exceeded our second charitable objective attending a large number of call outs for missing dogs. However, in terms of meeting our primary objective we have made little progress. We have on occasion attended missing person call-outs at the request of families directly. We continue to liaise with Devon & Cornwall Police with regards to providing assistance to them for missing person call-outs.

During our recent AGM the Trustees discussed our charitable objectives at length and such it is expected that these will be slightly rewritten in order to give our core area of operations preference in terms of fulfilling objectives.

Jenny Pickles

Chair, Cornwall Search Dogs

Structure

Cornwall Search Dogs (CSD) is a Charitable Incorporated Organization with a Foundation Model Constitution. The Charity was founded in 2020 by a small group of individuals, each with expert knowledge of emergency search and rescue. Their joint desire was to use skilled trailing dogs to locate missing persons and dogs in Cornwall.

CSD currently has a board of 5 trustees. The Board focuses on its collective responsibility for ensuring the overall direction, effectiveness, supervision and accountability of the Charity. The Trustees have met quarterly to provide strategy and governance and conduct regular overviews of the charity's activities providing leadership and guidance as required. We once again held our AGM and a Trustees' 'away day' in October 2024.

Each Trustee of CSD also has specific oversight of areas of the Charity and its work. Operational and Training subgroups meet bi-monthly and report to the Trustee's meetings.

Operational deployments are overseen by an 'Ops Team' of 4 trustees who deploy our 4 qualified missing person search dog teams or our 7 dog teams qualified to search for missing pets.

Training and recruitment of search dog teams is led by a designated subgroup of 2 Trustees using a development and training record for existing and new recruits to CSD. During the year, the Charity recruited a further 2 trainee dogs and their handlers. Unfortunately, not all dogs and their handlers are successful in our training programme, but we gratefully acknowledge the commitment of all our trainee dogs and handlers.

Fundraising is led by two Trustees supported by several volunteers. In the past year this team has benefitted from public donations, online auctions, societies, councillor's events and grant funding, as well as being a nominated charity at sponsored events and donations from organisations and companies.

Our Treasurer has produced the charity income, expenditure and balance sheet which is set out on pages 8-10. Thanks to all our supporters we can report the charity has met its funding objectives for 2023/2024 and is in good financial health.

Funds raised to date have been spent on specialist equipment and clothing for our 'call out' teams as well as team training. The charity has also expended funds on materials for marketing and promoting the aims of CSD. Our Leaflets on what to do if your dog goes missing has been distributed to numerous locations including holiday rentals. Aside from training and equipment costs, fuel costs are a significant cost for the charity.

The Board maintains the following policies for Cornwall Search Dogs which are reviewed annually. Health and Safety, Lone Working, Data Protection, Reserves, Safeguarding and Whistleblowing. The Board will continue to develop further policies as required to support the future development of CSD.

Community

CSD is an entirely volunteer charity. It has no renumerated staff. This year our volunteers have contributed approximately 4,000 hours to the functions of CSD, through search related activities, attending fund raising events and other support or administrative functions.

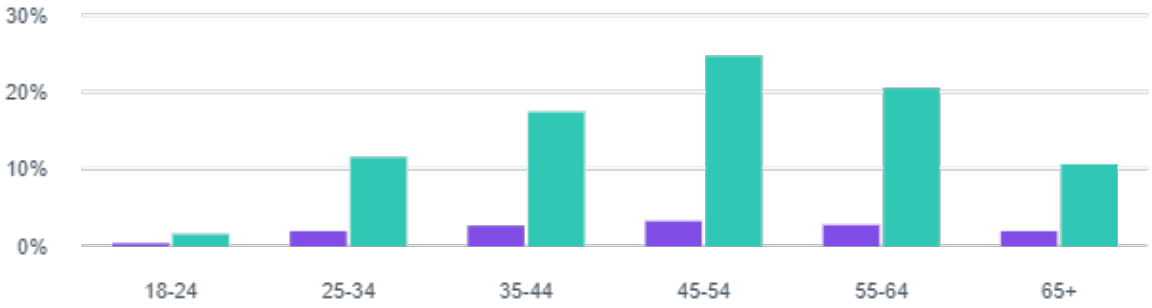
CSD has attended numerous public events including the Royal Cornwall Show, Stithians Show, Cornwall emergency service 'Blue Light' exhibition and local events across Cornwall to further awareness of the charity, as well as seeking new members and donations to support our work. CSD has also featured in several broadcast media shows such as BBC Radio Cornwall, Pirate Radio, Radio Rewind, PBS International TV and BBC spotlight southwest.

Aside from our prime objective of searching for missing persons and canines we have also engaged in other ways with the community here in Cornwall. We have visited schools and community events to deliver presentations and carry out demonstrations. We were delighted to be able to share our activity and knowledge with them and they told us how much they appreciated our hospitality. We also had very positive interactions with charities supporting neurodiverse individuals in the Southwest at the 'Blue Light' event in Wadebridge.

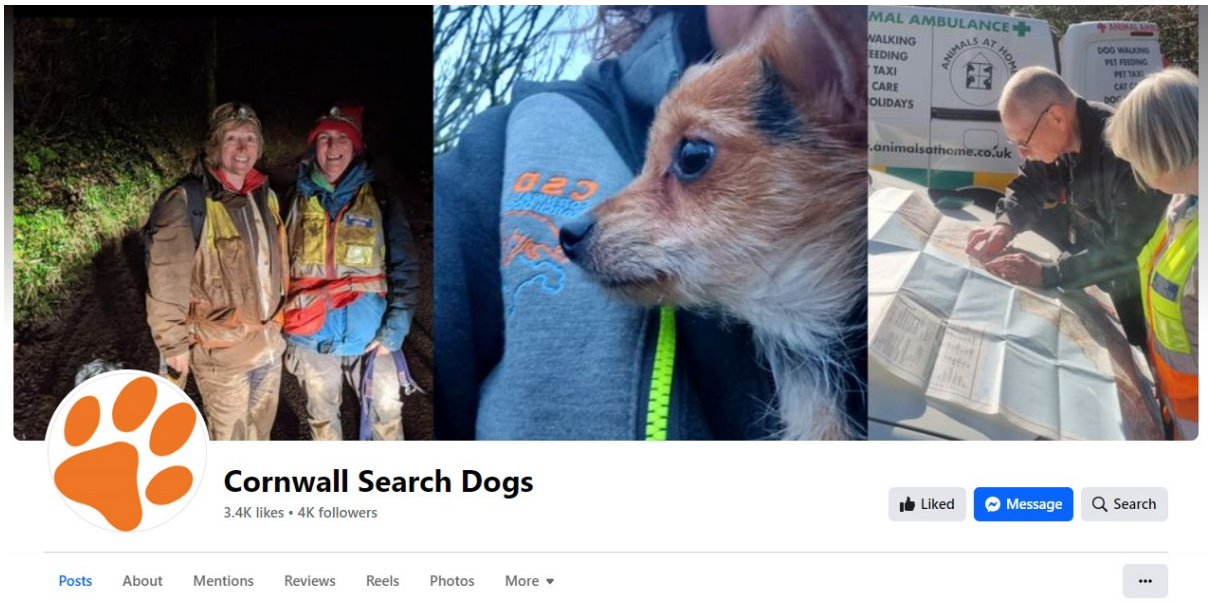
We recognise the importance of the Cornish language for our community and a team member has been attending schools and other events to encourage the everyday use of Cornish by all. We have incorporated the Cornish Flag into our clothing branding.



Our social media presence exceeds 5,000 followers on Facebook and our posts are reaching up to 371,000 people. We have followers in numerous countries outside the UK.


30%
20%
10%
0%
18-24
25-34
35-44
45-54
55-64
65+


All Dogs Matter
+2


Cornwall Search Dogs
3.4K likes • 4K followers
Liked
Message
Search
Posts
About
Mentions
Reviews
Reels
Photos
More

A new resource

This past year has seen CSD gain an invaluable additional resource in the shape of three drones. These drones have been purchased for us by generous donors and in recognition of their generosity we have named the Drones after them so we have 'Freddie Patrol', 'Yora the Explorer' and 'Coptrz Kernow'. With three drones we have been able to place them across Cornwall so that they are readily accessible to our searchers when required. The ability to have a view from overhead gives us an extra dimension and the thermal imaging equipment carried allows us to see into areas we cannot enter with our dogs due to operational and or safety concerns. They have also proved valuable in training by giving us a fresh perspective on how our dogs work. We have additionally now formed a Cornish-wide network of drone operators that can be called upon when needed for support.



Yora the Explorer



Freddie Patrol



Coptrz Kernow

Without our volunteer dogs, handlers and drone pilots our work would not be possible.

Success looks like this!



July 2024 Hayle: a successful trail for Search Dog Tegann. who located lost dog Pippa who had been missing for 18 hours overnight, and who is seen after Tegann found her.

Supporters and Sponsors

We gratefully acknowledge the following for their support of Cornwall Search Dogs:

Grippy Leads

Yora Dog Food

Fur and Fables

Dicky Bags

Coptrz

Rhodda's

Cornwall Council Charity Fund

Cornwall Community Fund

Ride out for Del.

The Royal Cornwall Show



Objectives and Activities

CSD is a volunteer service to the community in Cornwall. Our Charitable purposes are described in our Governing Document and are reproduced below.

1. The preservation and protection of health and the saving of lives by providing a dedicated and trained emergency search service consisting of appropriately trained dogs and volunteer handlers to assist and support the emergency services and voluntary rescue services in the search and rescue of missing persons in Cornwall.

2. For the benefit of the public, to relieve the unnecessary suffering of animals by the search for lost dogs.

This year CSD has again been concentrating on delivering purpose 2, although we have proven the operational credibility of our dogs and their ability to trail human scent for purpose 1.

This past year Cornwall Search Dogs received 48 requests for assistance from Dog Lost Cornwall on behalf of members of the public in Cornwall. As a result of those requests and following assessment of the circumstances of the reported loss, our search dogs attended on 35 occasions, advice being provided where we did not attend. 26 dogs were recovered following action by CSD.

48 requests this year is a slight decrease from 53 last year. However, the Trustees anticipate that demand for services to search for missing dogs will continue in a similar range for 2024/25.

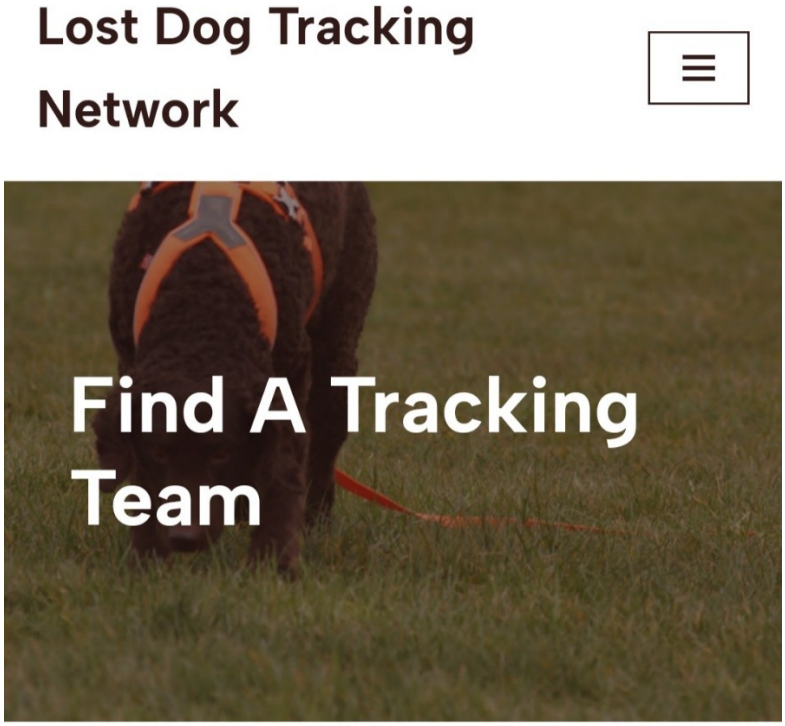
In addition to deploying expert teams of search dogs and handlers, CSD also provides advice and links to mine shaft rescue, local dog trapping and our own drone resources to further assist in the recovery of a stray pet. The charity has established important collaborative relationships, working as a team primarily with Dog Lost Cornwall and other dog welfare groups to ensure our service under purpose 2 is delivered in a timely and appropriate way. We also have relationships with the blue light services in Cornwall including HM Coastguard and the RNLI.

National Networks

We are delighted that after a few years in development a national register of qualified Lost Dog searchers has been launched. We have been involved with this project since its inception and are delighted that it has now been launched by North K9.

Additionally we are delighted to see more national groups linking up and we have joined them on social media networks wherever possible, such as the Lost Dog Trapping Team – UK Search & Rescue Network.

We remain in good contact with Dog Lost Cornwall whom we liaise with for all call-outs.





Awards & Recognition

We were delighted to be nominated for a BBC Radio Cornwall Make A Difference award in the animals category. Whilst the team did not come away with the winner's trophy, being nominated and shortlisted for such an award was a real honor.



Risk Register

Trustees update the Charity risk register every 6 months or sooner if new risk emerges. The Board considers mitigation and risk management and is satisfied that it has addressed these primary risks.

The Trustees consider the following to be its most serious risks.

Unable to recruit, train or retain enough dog teams to match demand for our services.

Mitigations: Maintaining core of 5 fully trained teams.

In 23/24 we attained an operational strength of 4 missing person and 7 missing canine teams. There is a recruitment and training cycle for new recruits every 6 months.

Loss of key personnel

Mitigations: Nominated 'understudy' for each Board role and maintain a shared list of critical logins and other access methods.

Loss of social media accounts, ability to communicate CSD's activities and associated fund raising opportunities.

Mitigation: We will establish a GDPR compliant freestanding data record to enable direct contact with followers and supporters.

Future

CSD canine search dogs are trained and assessed to criteria provided by Mantrailing Scent Dogs who are accredited by UK Rural Skills. Our qualified missing person search dog teams are additionally accredited by Skills for Justice, through The British Mantrailing Academy. As a result our trailing dogs are nationwide leaders, setting a high standard due to this external training and accreditation program.

In order to seek excellence and in order to continue our professional development and credibility, the Board has considered sending dog teams to train to the trailing Standard offered by The National Association of Specialist Dog Handlers (NASDU). NASDU is an approved center with HABC (who are regulated by OFQUAL and SQA) for the delivery of accredited training program. The board has additionally trained teams through the Skills for Justice training route. However, without an operational need for these qualifications the board has at this time agreed no further large financial spends on these qualifications until such time as deemed necessary.

Our Strategic Plan for the next reporting year to October 2025 includes further expanding our search dogs team for missing dog searches. Continued engagement with statutory authorities will be carried out as appropriate.

In the next year the Trustees intend to continue plans to form a volunteer fundraising committee, which will help drive funding for the charity in what the Trustees already anticipate will remain a challenging financial period for the charity sector.

We look forward to closer working links with other Lost Dog technical search and rescue personnel.

We look forward to organising our first annual training camp which will form part of essential CPD for our volunteers.



Search Dogs Holly and Tegann attending the 2024 Devon & Cornwall Police Blue Light Day at the Wadebridge Showground.

CORNWALL SEARCH DOGS
Receipts and Payments Account

	Year start date		Year end date
For the year from	11/01/2023	To	31/10/2024

Receipts and Payments

	2023/24 Unrestricted Funds	2023/24 Restricted Funds	2023/24 Total Funds	Last Year Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Receipts	1st Nov 23 - 31 Oct 24	1st Nov 23 - 31 Oct 24	1st Nov 23 - 31 Oct 24	
Donations, Legacies and Similar Income				
Just Giving	1,925.21	1,924.21	3,849.42	1,896.88
Public Donations	1,311.65		1,311.65	3,319.68
Amazon Smile			-	100.22
Paypal	501.02		501.02	1,152.64
			-	
Sub Total	3,737.88	1,924.21	5,662.09	6,469.42
Grants				
		-	-	
Cornwall Council Charity Fund		997.90	997.90	
Cornish Language Grant		250.00	250.00	
Sub Total	-	1,247.90	1,247.90	-
Fundraising (gross)				
Tins	222.41		222.41	528.50
Online Auction			-	
Other Fundraising Activities (inc Quiz) see naration below	2,305.37		2,305.37	2,938.08
Sale of Merchadise			-	10.00
Sub Total	2,527.78	-	2,527.78	3,476.58
Investment income				
Bank Interest	36.42	-	36.42	-
Bank carried over		-	-	5,703.00
Gift Aid	349.07	330.25	679.32	1,816.92
	-	-	-	-
Sub Total	385.49	330.25	715.74	7,519.92
Total Gross Income	6,651.15	3,502.36	10,153.51	17,465.92
Asset and Investment Sales, etc.	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts	6,651.15	3,502.36	10,153.51	17,465.92

CORNWALL SEARCH DOGS
Receipts and Payments Account

		Year start date	Year start date	Year start date		Year end date
	For the year from	01.11.2023	01.11.2023	01.11.2023	To	31.10.2023

Receipts and Payments

	2023/24 Unrestricted Funds	2023/24 Restricted Funds	2023/24 Total Funds	Last Year Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Payments	1st Nov 23 - 31 Oct 24	1st Nov 23 - 31 Oct 24	1st Nov 23 - 31 Oct 24	
Charitable Payments				
Insurance	809.60		809.60	263.04
Materials and Equipment	394.95	250.00	644.95	416.78
Printing and Photocopying	7.00		7.00	
AGM and Trustee Expenses	860.00		860.00	162.50
External Training Costs	1,137.23	997.90	2,135.13	1,258.00
Travel Expenses	1,323.45		1,323.45	4,136.96
Admin Fees	600.00		600.00	-
Sub Total	5,132.23	1,247.90	6,380.13	6,237.28
Fundraising Expenses				
Event Entry Fee	126.40		126.40	112.50
Marketing and Merchadise Branding and Wreaths	1,195.24		1,195.24	325.07
Just Giving Fees and eBay	216.00		216.00	216.00
Sub Total	1,537.64	-	1,537.64	653.57
Total Gross Expenditure	6,669.87	1,247.90	7,917.77	6,890.85
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	-	-	-	2,244.35
Total Payments	6,669.87	1,247.90	7,917.77	9,135.20
Net of Receipts/(Payments)	- 18.72	2,254.46	2,235.74	8,330.72
Cash Funds Last Year End	8,325.79	8,325.79	8,325.79	-
Cash Funds This Year End	8,307.07	10,580.25	10,561.53	8,330.72

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the End of the Year

	01.11.2023	01.11.2023	01.11.2023	Last Year
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Cash Funds				
Bank Current Account	5,525.11	-	5,525.11	8,325.79
Bank Deposit Account	5,036.42	-	5,036.42	-
Cash/Floats	50.00	-	50.00	50.00
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Total Cash Funds (Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	10,611.53	-	10,611.53	8,375.79
Other Monetary Assets				
Tax claim	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub Total	-	-	-	-
Non monetary assets for charity's own use				
Stock	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub Total	-	-	-	-
Liabilities				
Accounts not yet paid	-	-	-	-
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	-	-	-	-
Subscriptions not yet paid	-	-	-	-
Other liabilities	-	-	-	-
Sub Total	-	-	-	-

Contingent Liabilities and Future Obligations

Signed by one or two Trustees on behalf of all the Trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of Approval
	Jenny Pickles	01.12.2024
	Cheryl Whitford	01.12.2024

Declarations

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard for the to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees:





Jenny Pickles

Chair of Trustees

Tracy Simpson

Secretary

Date 1st December 2024.