

Charity number: NIC101288

Date registered. 24/06/2015

Equine Welfare Network
"Supporting Equines, Supporting People"

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5th APRIL 2017

PUBLIC BENEFITS

The direct benefits which flow from purpose include increased numbers of rehabilitated welfare equines, increased relief of pain and suffering to equines and reduced levels of stress to equines.

Benefits will also include improved education and relief of stress and anxiety for equine owners and carers in crisis. The outworking of this improved treatment of equines is a general moral uplifting amongst the general public who see the animals better and more humanely treated.

The charity's beneficiaries are the public at large. These benefits will be demonstrated through feedback from equine owners and carers, through funders and through evaluation from national equine organisations.

The purpose of our charity made lead to harm through the death of an animal and any distress caused to an equine owner or carer due to such a loss or through the temporary stress caused to an animal during a rescue or veterinary treatment. This harm is outweighed by the rarity of such a loss and by the benefits of the rescue and rehabilitation we offer to any equine suffering or in pain.

The charity's beneficiaries are provided to equines in need and also to any owner or carer of an equine in need. The only private benefit flowing from this purpose is through welfare and equine training any trustee is given which are transferable skills.

These benefits are incidental and necessary to ensure the benefits of our purpose are provided to our beneficiaries.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Equine Welfare Network (EWN) has at its core the ethos of working collectively to devise solutions and offer support to the equine welfare crisis in Northern Ireland and Ireland. EWN has been established as an independent not-for-profit organisation to enable, educate and support: individuals, charities, organisations, community groups, government bodies, councils, horse owners and any media involved with or with an interest in the equine crisis in Northern Ireland and Ireland. EWN promotes co-operation, collaboration, community and working together to help welfare equines and equine owners and carers in crisis. EWN encourages equine owners experiencing difficulties to contact us for support. EWN assists in rescue, re-homing and educating about equines across Northern Ireland and Ireland through its website, social media, forums and through its volunteers and rescue programme. EWN has a number of rescue equines in its care.

THE CHARITIES CLASSIFICATIONS

The advancement of animal welfare

WHO THE CHARITY HELPS

General public
Mental health
Physical disabilities
Travellers
Unemployed/low income

Voluntary and community sector
Women

HOW THE CHARITY WORKS

Animal welfare
Community development
Cross-border/cross-community
Youth development

INTRODUCTION TO EQUINE WELFARE NETWORK

Equine Welfare Network was established in 2011 by its Founder Kerri-Anne Fitzpatrick an experienced equestrian who began volunteering her time to assist equine owners to learn more about caring for their horses, this led to her supporting horse welfare's and sanctuaries in training horses to increase their chances of being re-homed.

The Equine Welfare Network Facebook Page was created in December 2012. Shortly after that a Group page was also created to enable valuable sharing of advice and support.

Since the creation of the page and group EWN has supported on a confidential basis over 80 owners in crisis, 5 welfare organisations and numerous people through the FB group and page.

EWN sourced a yard in Fermanagh as their base to provide rescue, rehabilitation and care to abandoned and neglected horses, ponies, donkey's and mules. Currently EWN have 21 welfare equines in their care.

This number of equines can change on a daily or weekly basis due to factors such as re homing or emergency intake.

Outreach is provided to owners reaching crisis to provide much needed intervention and support to prevent serious welfare issues.

EWN were granted charity status on 24th June 2015

OUR ACTIVITIES, APPROACH AND PRINCIPLES

1. When we admit an equine into our care, we retain ownership this ensures that if the equine is re homed there is a safety net for them ensuring if circumstances change they return to EWN
2. Through our owner support programme where possible we try to help equines remain in the care of their owners through providing advice, support and training.
3. Before admitting an equine to EWN , each animal undergoes assessment and then is placed in quarantine for a minimum 28 days. This ensures they have a thorough assessment and any issues are addressed and protects the current equines in our care being at risk of possible infectious diseases.
4. Our main objective is to rescue, rehabilitate and re home. All potential homes are assessed and approved by one of our experienced welfare officers. Follow on support is also provided and regular review to ensure to welfare of the equines is paramount.

Rehabilitation & Equine Behaviour

EWN has an experienced team providing rehabilitation and equine behaviour work. There is also strong support from local equine practitioners providing veterinary, dental, farrier and other specialist care and support when required.

Equine Welfare Network provides sanctuary care to on average 25 horses, ponies, donkeys and mules who have often suffered abandonment and neglect prior to coming to EWN or whose owners have found themselves in challenging times and can no longer afford to meet the costs associated with horse ownership.

We also have a dedicated team of foster carers who provide long term and temporary / emergency care.

We have some permanent residents who cannot be rehomed, this can be for various factors such as the need for long term specialist rehabilitation or specialist care (involving significant veterinary costs and specialist dietary requirements that would be financially unrealistic for the typical equine owner and also deeming them unsuitable for rehoming), but they can still enjoy a good quality of life at EWN.

The number of equine spaces available at EWN and with our foster carers depends on the needs of both our existing residents and the needs of the potential equines requiring admission.

As most equines requiring our support have been abandoned we rarely know their history. This results in us not knowing their support needs until they arrive into our care. Resources such as number of volunteers, type of housing and funds available for care needs has a great impact

Equine Welfare Networks has a strong commitment to providing quality of care over quantity in our care. This is always the major factor in decisions regarding new intakes. Saving lives is of major importance but it cannot jeopardise the quality of care provided for current residents.

Working Together Saving Lives

Equine Welfare Network believe strongly in working together with other welfare organisations to ensure the welfare of the equine comes first. This can involve sharing of resources, supporting with training and advice, sourcing homes, providing home checks, sharing appeals and promoting fundraising events. This collaboration has been very successful so far resulting in more equine lives being saved and improved.

Volunteer training & Development

Equine Welfare Network has no paid staff. All Team members are volunteers. Equine Welfare Network provide ongoing training and development to all volunteers. Essential skills are learned not only in the caring for equines through stable care and horse management but they are also supported with employability and personal development skills.

Extremal training is also actively sourced that will provide greater skills enhancement for volunteers. In May 2015 Equine Welfare Training was provided by CAFRE College of Agriculture, Food & Rural

Enterprise. CAFRE also provide online courses that are free of charge and volunteers are encouraged and supported where necessary to register for these. It is planned to seek further training from CAFRE when new volunteers are recruited and to have annual refresher courses for existing volunteers.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Currently the charity is not achieving financial sustainability. There is an imperative need to raise funds through fundraising activities or by gaining donations through public appeals for support.

Income for the financial year came from Fundraising and donations £2312.46 and through contributions from the trustees of the charitys committee £3759.68 Total income £6072.14

Expenditure for the financial year £6072.14

The accounts have been prepared using the receipts and payments and payments basis .The charity enters the new financial year with £1665.40 of bills outstanding.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

The charity plans to continue with its objectives as outlined above.

It is vital for the sustainability of the charity that there is more focus put on promoting the work we do and gaining vital support through increasing the number of volunteers and through fundraising activities.

Facilities require to be expanded by increasing the number of available stables. Filed shelters are required for those equines that require to be part of a herd for their rehabilitation or don't do well in stable environment.

A round pen is a crucial part of equipment for rehabilitation and it would be a very valuable addition to rehabilitative training.

There is also a great need for an area for the volunteers that would have an area for training, kitchen and toilet facilities. A portacabin or similar construction would be ideal.

It is also recommended that more is done to promote equine welfare by developing a package and presentation that can be delivered to local schools and clubs.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5thAPRIL 2017

Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are required and responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Charity Regulation requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements 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, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for the year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act.

They are 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.

The trustees declare they have approved the trustees report above.

Signed on behalf of the charities trustees:

Kerri-Anne Fitzpatrick

Trustee / Chairperson

30th January 2018