

# Northern Ireland Staffordshire Bull Terrier Rescue

Northern Ireland · Charity number 101909

## Details

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Known as	NISBTR
Status	Received
Registered	2015-05-12
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register</a>

## Contact

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**Address** 25 Rockfield Meadows  
Carrowdore  
Newtownards  
Co Down  
BT22 2ww  
BT22 2WW

**Phone** +447563368589

**Email** [info@nisbtr.co.uk](mailto:info@nisbtr.co.uk)

**Website** [www.nisbtr.co.uk](http://www.nisbtr.co.uk)

## Activities

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**Purposes:** THE PURPOSES OF THE CHARITY ARE: To rescue, rehabilitate and re-home abandoned, abused and neglected Staffordshire Bull Terriers. To promote humane behaviour towards animals by educating the public in matters pertaining to animal welfare in general and the prevention of cruelty and suffering among animals, in particular, throughout Northern Ireland. To educate the general public on the importance and necessity of responsible dog ownership including neutering and the legal requirement in Northern Ireland to microchip their dog/s. To support and advise owners of Staffordshire Bull Terriers on any behavioural issues their dog/s may have.

**What the charity does:** The advancement of animal welfare

**How the charity works:** Animal welfare

**Who the charity helps:** Community safety/crime prevention, General public

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£49,652	£50,441	£0	1

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mrs Elizabeth Coppen		
Ms Jenny Frondigoun		
Ms Jessica Green		

**Northern Ireland Staffordshire Bull Terrier Rescue**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101909

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# Accounts

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**NI STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER RESCUE (NISBTR)  
25 Rockfield Meadows  
Carrowdore  
Newtownards  
Co. Down  
BT22 2WW**

**NI Charity Commission Registration No: NIC101909**

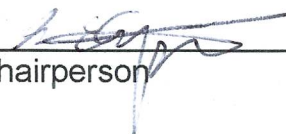
**Receipts & Payments Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

**Prepared By;  
BBS Associates  
54 Abbey Street,  
BANGOR  
Co Down BT20 4JB**

CLIENT CERTIFICATION

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

We hereby approve the enclosed financial statements on behalf of NISBTR and confirm that all books records and explanations have been provided for their completion.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Date: 7/1/2025

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Treasurer

Date: 8/1/26

**NI STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER RESCUE****Receipts & Payments Account****Year ended 31st March 2025**

	2025	2024
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Donations	43,364	43,677
Gift Aid	4,803	4,313
Grants		
Fundraising activities	951	3,092
Trading Receipts	518	255
Other Receipts	16	380
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Receipts:</b>	49,652	51,716
<b>Less Payments:</b>		
Food, board & sitting costs	8,000	284
Vetinary & Medication costs	4,013	8,005
Heat & Light		160
Insurance	788	2,418
Equipment purchases	1,345	2,240
Fundraising costs	1,197	719
Courses		600
Protective clothing		779
Sundry expenses	117	1,530
Exercise & Grooming	86	
Fostering Payments	1,440	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Direct Charitable Activity Costs:</b>	(16,986)	(16,166)
Telephone Charges	507	494
Accountancy & Legal hereby approve the enclose	818	1,530
Bank charges	279	96
Motor & travel expenses	2,651	4,891
Postage, printing & stationery	667	1,176
Wages & Salaries	18,908	17,801
Website costs	109	106
Office costs	-	1,762
Rent & Storage costs	1,754	1,965
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Governance Costs:</b>	(25,693)	(29,819)
<b>Discretionary Payment to Chairperson</b> (Note 1)	(6,900)	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Costs of Trade Activities:</b>	(862)	(823)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b><u>SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</u></b>	<b>(789)</b>	<b>4,907</b>

**NI STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER RESCUE (NISBTR)**

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025**

	2025	2024
<b><u>ASSETS:</u></b>		
Balance at Bank	7307	8,014
Cash in Hand	<u>37</u>	<u>119</u>
Total Assets:	<b>7344</b>	<b>8,133</b>
	<u><u>          </u></u>	<u><u>          </u></u>
 <b><u>Represented by:</u></b>		
Suspense account		(2,276)
Surplus B/fwd	8133	5,520
Drawings		(19)
Surplus/ Deficit for the year	<u>(789)</u>	<u>4,907</u>
Surplus to c/fwd	<b>7344</b>	<b>8,133</b>
	<u><u>          </u></u>	<u><u>          </u></u>

**NI STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER RESCUE**

**Receipts & Payments Accounts**

**Year ended 31 March 2025**

**Note 1: Discretionary Payment to Chairperson**

2nd January 2025:

Bank payment to Julie Karen Jenkins being payment for rent of residential property in England to house two dogs in her care while she was called away to be with her seriously ill daughter. This being the cheaper option than the investigated costs of kennelling during this time.

**Northern Ireland Staffordshire Bull Terrier Rescue**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101909

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# Accounts

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**NI STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER RESCUE (NISBTR)**  
**25 Rockfield Meadows**  
**Carrowdore**  
**Newtownards**  
**Co. Down**  
**BT22 2WW**

NI Charity Commission Registration No: NIC101909

Financial Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

**Prepared By;**  
**BBS Associates**  
**54 Abbey Street,**  
**BANGOR**  
**Co Down BT20 4JB**

ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

TO: NI STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER RESCUE

In accordance with instructions given to us, we have prepared, without carrying out an audit, the Receipts & Payments Account and Balance Sheet from your accounting records and from information and explanations supplied to us.

  
BBS Associates

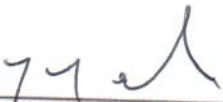
Date:

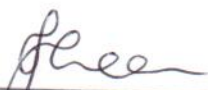
2/1/25

CLIENT CERTIFICATION

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

I hereby approve the enclosed financial statements and certify that I have made available all books, records and explanations for their completion.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Jenkins (Chair)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Green (Treasurer)

**NI STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER RESCUE**  
**Receipts & Payments Account**  
**Year ended 31st March 2024**

	2024	2023
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Donations	43,677	42,665
Gift Aid	4,313	6,008
Grants		3,500
Fundraising activities	3,092	745
Trading Receipts	255	29
Other Receipts	380	345
<b>Total Receipts:</b>	<b>51,716</b>	<b>53,292</b>
<b>Less Payments:</b>		
Food, board & sitting costs	284	4,102
Vetinary & Medication costs	8,005	15,033
Repairs & maintenance		125
Heat & Light	160	970
Insurance	2,418	970
Equipment purchases	2,240	2,107
Fundraising costs	719	
Courses	600	
Protective clothing	779	
Sundry expenses	1,530	1,474
<b>Total Direct Charitable Activity Costs:</b>	<b>-16,166</b>	<b>-24,781</b>
Telephone Charges	494	684
Accountancy & Legal fees	1,530	1,726
Bank charges	96	95
Motor & travel expenses	4,891	14,775
Postage, printing & stationery	1,176	773
Wages & Salaries	17,801	15,861
Website costs	106	
Office costs	1,762	
Rent & Storage costs	1,965	1,612
<b>Total Governance Costs:</b>	<b>-29,819</b>	<b>-35,526</b>
<b>Total Costs of Trade Activities:</b>	<b>-823</b>	<b>-763</b>
<b><u>SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</u></b>	<b><u>4,907</u></b>	<b><u>-7,778</u></b>

**NI STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER RESCUE (NISBTR)**

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b><u>ASSETS:</u></b>		
Balance at Bank	8,014.49	5,269.00
Cash in Hand	<u>118.52</u>	<u>251.00</u>
Total Assets:	<b><u>8,133.01</u></b>	<b><u>5,520.00</u></b>
<b><u>Represented by:</u></b>		
Suspense account	814.04	
Surplus B/fwd	5,520.00	12,328.00
Drawings	-18.64	
Surplus/ Deficit for the year	<u>4,907.31</u>	<u>-6,808.00</u>
Surplus to c/fwd	<b><u>11,222.71</u></b>	<b><u>5,520.00</u></b>

**Northern Ireland Staffordshire Bull Terrier Rescue**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101909

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# Annual report

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**PREPARED BY JULIE JENKINS (COORDINATOR)  
ON BEHALF OF AND APPROVED BY ALL TRUSTEES**

**Dated** 02/01/2025

**Signed** 

# **NORTHERN IRELAND STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER RESCUE (NISBTR)**

**NIC101909**

**25 Rockfield Meadows  
Carrowdore  
Newtownards  
Co Down  
BT22 2WW**

## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

### **Trustees**

NISBTR has three Trustees. Its Trustees are Ms Julie Jenkins (Coordinator), Ms Jenny Frondigoun (Secretary) and Ms Jessica Green (Treasurer). The Coordinator of the charity has the power to appoint charity trustees. Trustees meet minimally three times per year which includes an Annual General Meeting (AGM).

A private benefit arises for Ms Julie Jenkins (Coordinator) who is paid for 32 hours work per week at the government living wage of £11.44.

### **Governing Document**

Our Governing Document has remained without any changes since the Trustees Committee Meeting and combined AGM held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Any proposed changes to the Governing Document will be discussed and voted on at the charity's 2025 AGM.

### **Aims of the charity**

NISBTR has three main aims:

1. To rescue, rehabilitate and find new and loving homes for abandoned, unwanted, neglected and abused Staffordshire Bull Terriers.
2. To raise awareness of the plight of Staffordshire Bull Terriers, the relentless, unnecessary and irresponsible over-breeding of them, and to redress the balance of negative press toward the breed.
3. To actively encourage responsible dog ownership.

### **Overview of our work**

Established 2012, NISBTR is a breed specific dog rescue for Staffordshire Bull Terriers. It is not a 'physical' sanctuary where members of the public can visit as it does not have a kennelling / boarding facility through choice. All our dogs are placed in loving foster homes for assessment and until such time as we find them a

permanent home.

The charity's address is 25 Rockfield Meadows, Carrowdore, Newtownards, Co Down BT22 2WW. This is the home address of Julie Jenkins (Founder and Coordinator) and where all the charity's business is conducted from.

The dogs that come into our care come from three main sources:

1. Council Dog Pounds (including welfare cases)
2. Other all breed rescues
3. Surrenders from families under exceptional circumstances

If they are not already, all our dogs are spayed and neutered at the earliest possible time to prevent even more unwanted puppies/dogs in the future. Many of our dogs come to us with behavioural issues, some minor, others more serious. We use our extensive experience of working with rescue dogs to correct these issues before they are rehomed by members of the public. We also have a fully qualified dog behaviourist, Mr Gary Holloway, to offer advice and support even post-adoption.

Our trustees and volunteers take every opportunity to encourage responsible dog ownership by members of the public by talking to them at our fundraising and awareness stalls. We also answer any requests for help and advice regarding dog welfare issues such as training and dietary requirements via email and telephone.

### **Finances and fundraising**

All our money is accrued from public donations, fundraising events and donations made by external organisations. Our main fundraising activities include ballots, online auctions, entertainment evenings, car boot sales, street collections, strategically placed collection tins e.g. shops and businesses, the sale of merchandise, and fundraising and awareness stalls.

The number of supporters that donate to us via regular monthly payments to our bank account, via Just Giving and other social media platforms continues to increase year by year.

Our main expenditure is veterinary care, food, transportation and vehicle costs along with general running costs.

Ordinary day-to-day expenditure is agreed upon between the Coordinator and Treasurer. Any extraordinary expenses are put forward at our committee meetings or consent via email so that trustees can agree or disagree on them.

The charity's full income and expenditure can be found in our receipts and payments accounts.

## **Purposes and public benefit**

As a charity we remain focused on our purposes and public benefit requirement. Each year we continue to maintain the purpose of NISBTR by continuing to provide a rehoming service to members of the public that also alleviates the cost of kennelling stray and unwanted dogs by city and borough councils throughout Northern Ireland.

We continue to promote humane behaviour towards animals. In addition, we inform and educate members of the public about their legal requirements as dog owners with reference to Dog Control Orders (DCO) and microchipping. Equally importantly, NISBTR has prevented additional abandonment and mistreatment of dogs that would otherwise be made homeless by offering support and advice to current and prospective owners.

Incidental benefits arise for our chosen veterinary surgery Rathgael Veterinary Centre, Bangor, Co Down that provides most of the veterinary care for our dogs. A variety of other veterinary surgeries throughout Northern Ireland also provide veterinary care for our dogs. These benefits are in the form of veterinary fees.

Our charity considers the possibility of harm that may occur if any of our volunteers are bitten by a dog. However, this risk is far outweighed by the benefit of our work. We have never made a claim, but our charity has extensive Public Liability Insurance (PLI) should it ever be needed.

## **Year ended March 2024 – an overview**

The year ended March 2024 was a very successful one, especially in terms of the number of dogs that came into our care – 16 in total. With a very limited number of foster families at our disposal, this figure was indicative of the hard work and determination of all our volunteers to ensure that the charity reached its full potential. Out of the 16 dogs, 2 were mother and daughter, 2 were siblings, 2 were a bonded couple and 3 were very young puppies from the same litter. In addition, 2 of the dogs came from all-breed rescues as part of our commitment to assist other organisations in the same field of charitable work as ours. A total of 15 dogs were happily rehomed in the same period.

As shown in the receipts and payments account for this period, the charity's income increased considerably from the previous year. However, this was partly counter balanced by the large increase in the cost of veterinary bills, dog food and diesel.

After the resignation of both the Secretary and Treasurer in September 2023, two new Trustees were nominated and voted onto the committee at the Committee Meeting dated 29/10/2023. Ms Jenny Frondigoun became the newly elected Secretary and Ms Caz Roberts became the newly elected Treasurer. Together, they brought lots of fresh ideas and initiatives particularly in relation to fundraising.

Sadly, the decrease in the number of potential adoptive families contacting the charity was a continuing trend. Despite increasing our profile on social media and using other methods of communicating the work we do as a charity it became very apparent that there was less interest from the public in adopting even though the

numbers of requests for help in rehoming dogs increased. Another unfortunate trend was the increase in the number of dogs we received into our care that needed a great deal of rehabilitation. Their issues ranged from a total lack of training and fear aggression to poor/inadequate socialisation. Fortunately, due to the experience and knowledge the Trustees and volunteers have of the breed along with our personal dog behaviourist and trainer, Mr Gary Holloway who provides his services free of charge, we were able to correct the unwanted behaviour and enable the dogs to become eligible for adoption.

The charity has always managed its finances frugally and with great diligence whilst maintaining the highest level and quality of care for its dogs. No overspends have ever been incurred. The financial support the charity has received over the years has been incredible. We continue to receive an enormous amount of financial support from one sponsor: Notorious Brands Ltd (Belfast). The generosity of their patrons has meant that we have been able to offset our rise in expenditure without compromising the services we offer and ultimately the number of dogs we can help.

In September 2023 the charity held its first fundraising quiz night at Holywood Social Club in Holywood, Co Down. The event was a huge success with all tickets sold and a total of £936.74 was raised to help us continue our work. Our street collections remained popular and were a constant source of income for the charity.

Part of the charity's purpose is to offer help and advice to members of the public who may be experiencing behavioural issues in their dogs. We were (and continue to be) supportive of all families that contact us to ask for assistance.

### **Challenges we face as a breed specific dog rescue**

Sadly, the plight of Staffordshire Bull Terriers is not a new phenomenon and is reflected throughout the UK. Rescues have been working tirelessly and beyond crisis levels for many, many years and despite their efforts the problem has only gotten worse, not better. Whilst there are some all-breed rescues that do help Staffordshire Bull Terriers there are many that do not. Prior to the establishment of NISBTR there were no breed specific rescues for Staffordshire Bull Terriers in Northern Ireland, and to date, we remain the only one, making our rescue work even more important and in demand.

A very sad indictment to the situation that our breed is increasingly facing is the evidence the charity has received from numerous reliable sources that many of the all-breed dog rescues in Northern Ireland are no longer taking in Staffordshire Bull Terriers. The reason that families that are looking to rehome their dog/s have been given is because the breed is very difficult to rehome and that no-one wants them. The fact that other rescues are using these excuses is not only alarming but also detrimental to the welfare of the dogs in general.

### **Achievements to date**

Since August 2012 to date NISBTR has successfully rescued and rehomed 234 Staffordshire Bull Terriers that were in desperate need of our help, all whose lives have been changed for the better. In addition, the charity has assisted many more

dogs that have remained in their original homes. We are immensely proud to maintain contact with most families that have adopted our dogs in the past and provide regular updates on their progress via our social media.

Senior dogs are typically more difficult to rehome than younger ones. To encourage more families to adopt senior dogs, NISBTR set up our Senior Stafford Scheme (SSS) in 2015. The scheme puts aside a pot of money for our dogs that are aged 8 years and above should it be needed for any unexpected veterinary bills post-adoption. Judging by the high number of senior dogs the charity has rehomed since its inception the SSS has proven to be very effective.

### **Plans for the future**

Despite the many challenges we face as a charity our vision for the future is very optimistic and with the continued support of those who value our charitable work, we will continue to build on the successes we have achieved over the last twelve and a half years. NISBTR is totally committed to helping as many dogs as possible in the future without the use of kennel facilities.

An asserted effort to increase awareness of our charity and highlight the work we do using social media has already been implemented and we will continue to do so in the future.

It is hoped that there will be an increase in donations to the charity after attaining a remote credit/debit card machine that can be transported to fundraising events and used to take donations over the telephone.

**Northern Ireland Staffordshire Bull Terrier Rescue**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101909

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# Annual return

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## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE CHARITY TRUSTEES OF NI STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER RESCUE**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2024.

### **Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name: JULIE STILL BSc A.T.T.

Association of Taxation Technicians

BBS Associates

54 Abbey Street

Bangor

BT20 4JB

**Northern Ireland Staffordshire Bull Terrier Rescue**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101909

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# Accounts

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**NI STAFFORSHIRE BULL TERRIER RESCUE (NISBTR)**

25 ROCKFIELD MEADOW

CARROWDORE

NEWTOWNARDS

Co. Down

BT22 2WW

NI Charity Commission Registration No: NIC101909

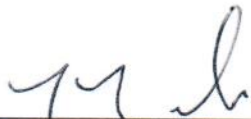
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

Prepared By;  
Thomas J Parte & Co  
54 Abbey Street,  
BANGOR  
Co Down BT20 4JB

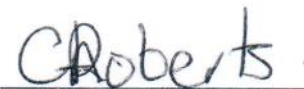
CLIENT CERTIFICATION

YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

We hereby approve the enclosed financial statements and certify that we have made available all books, records and explanations for their completion.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Jenkins (Chair)

9/11/23  
Date

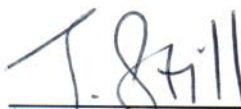
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Caz Roberts (Treasurer)

09/11/23  
Date

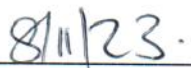
ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

TO: NI STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER RESCUE

In accordance with instructions given to us, we have prepared, without carrying out an audit, the Trading and Profit & Loss Account from your accounting records and from information and explanations supplied to us.



T J Parte & Co



Date

**NI STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER RESCUE (NISBTR)**

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	2023	
	£	£
<b><u>Receipts:</u></b>		
Donations	42665	
Gift Aid	6,008	
Grants	3,500	
Fundraising Activities	745	
Trading Receipts	29	
Other Receipts	345	
<b>Total Receipts:</b>		53,292
<b><u>Less Payments:</u></b>		
Food, board & Sitting costs	4,102	
Vetinary & Medication costs	15,033	
Repairs & Maintenance	125	
Insurance	970	
Equipment Purchased	2,107	
Sundry Expenses	1,474	
<b>Total Direct Charitable Activity Costs:</b>	-	23,811
Telephone Charges	684	
Accountancy, Just Giving & Paypal fees	1,726	
Bank Charges	95	
Motor & Travel expenses	14,775	
Postage, printing & Stationery	773	
Wages & Salaries	15,861	
Rent & Storage costs	1,612	
<b>Total Governance Costs:</b>	-	35,526
<b>Total Costs of Trade Activities:</b>	-	763
<b>DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>-£</b>	<b>6,808.00</b>

**NI STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER RESCUE (NISBTR)**

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2023**

**ASSETS:**

Balance at Bank	£	5,269
Cash in Hand	£	251

Total Assets:	£	<b>5,520</b>
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**Represented by:**

Surplus B/fwd	£	12,328
Deficit for the year		<u>-£6,808.00</u>

Surplus to c/fwd	£	<b>5,520</b>
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**Northern Ireland Staffordshire Bull Terrier Rescue**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101909

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# Annual report

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# **NORTHERN IRELAND STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER RESCUE (NISBTR)**

**NIC101909**

**25 Rockfield Meadows  
Carrowdore  
Newtownards  
Co Down  
BT22 2WW**

## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

### **Trustees**

NISBTR has three Trustees. Its Trustees are Ms Julie Jenkins (Coordinator), Ms Jenny Frondigoun (Secretary) and Ms Caz Roberts (Treasurer). The Coordinator of the charity has the power to appoint charity trustees. Trustees meet minimally three times per year which includes an Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Previous trustees who served during the year were Mrs Heather Leckey (Secretary) and Ms Tracy Smart (Treasurer) - now resigned.

A private benefit arises for Ms Julie Jenkins (Coordinator) who is paid for 32 hours work per week at the government living wage of £10.42.

### **Governing Document**

Our Governing Document has remained without any changes since the Trustees Committee Meeting and combined AGM held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Any changes to the Governing Document will be discussed and voted on at the charity's 2024 AGM.

### **Aims of the charity**

NISBTR has three main aims:

1. To rescue, rehabilitate and find new and loving homes for abandoned, unwanted, neglected and abused Staffordshire Bull Terriers.
2. To raise awareness of the plight of Staffordshire Bull Terriers, the relentless, unnecessary and irresponsible over-breeding of them, and to redress the balance of negative press toward the breed.
3. To actively encourage responsible dog ownership.

### **Overview of our work**

Established 2012, NISBTR is a breed specific dog rescue for Staffordshire Bull Terriers. It is not a 'physical' sanctuary where members of the public can visit as it does not have a

kennelling / boarding facility through choice. All our dogs are placed in loving foster homes for assessment and until such time as we find them a permanent home. To date (05/01/24) NISBTR has rescued and rehomed 224 Staffordshire Bull Terriers.

The charity's address is 25 Rockfield Meadows, Carrowdore, Newtownards, Co Down BT22 2WW. This is the home address of Julie Jenkins (Founder and Coordinator) and where all the charity's business is conducted from.

The dogs that come into our care come from three main sources:

1. Council Dog Pounds (including welfare cases)
2. Other all breed rescues
3. Surrenders from families under exceptional circumstances

If they are not already, all our dogs are spayed and neutered at the earliest possible time to prevent even more unwanted puppies/dogs in the future. Many of our dogs come to us with behavioural issues, some minor, others more serious. We use our extensive experience of working with rescue dogs to correct these issues before they are rehomed by members of the public. We also have a fully qualified dog behaviourist, Mr Gary Holloway, to offer advice and support even post-adoption.

Our trustees and volunteers take every opportunity to encourage responsible dog ownership by members of the public by talking to them at our fundraising and awareness stalls. We also answer any requests for help and advice regarding dog welfare issues such as training and dietary requirements via email and telephone.

### **Finances and fundraising**

All our money is accrued from public donations, fundraising events and donations made by external organisations. Our main fundraising activities include ballots, online auctions, entertainment evenings, car boot sales, street collections, strategically placed collection tins e.g. shops and businesses, the sale of merchandise and fundraising and awareness stalls.

The number of supporters that donate to us via regular monthly payments to our bank account, via Just Giving and other social media platforms continues to increase year by year.

Our main expenditure is veterinary care, food, transportation / vehicle costs along with general running costs.

Ordinary day-to-day expenditure is agreed upon between the Coordinator and Treasurer. Any extraordinary expenses are put forward at our committee meetings or consent via email so that trustees can agree or disagree on them.

The charity's full income and expenditure can be found in our receipts and payments accounts.

## **Purposes and public benefit**

As a charity we remain focused on our purposes and public benefit requirement. Each year we continue to maintain the purpose of NISBTR by continuing to provide a rehoming service to members of the public that also alleviates the cost of kennelling stray and unwanted dogs by city and borough councils throughout Northern Ireland.

We continue to promote humane behaviour towards animals. In addition, we inform and educate members of the public about their legal requirements as dog owners with reference to Dog Control Orders (DCO) and microchipping. Equally importantly, NISBTR has prevented additional abandonment and mistreatment of dogs that would otherwise be made homeless by offering support and advice to current and prospective owners.

Incidental benefits arise for our chosen veterinary surgery Rathgael Veterinary Centre, Bangor, Co Down that provides most of the veterinary care for our dogs. A variety of other veterinary surgeries throughout Northern Ireland also provide veterinary care for our dogs. These benefits are in the form of veterinary fees.

Our charity considers the possibility of harm that may occur if any of our volunteers are bitten by a dog. However, this risk is far outweighed by the benefit of our work. We have never made a claim, but our charity has extensive Public Liability Insurance (PLI) should it ever be needed.

### **Year ended March 2023 – an overview**

\*Figures suggest that since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020 the number of households in the UK with dogs has increased from 23% to 34%.

In our Trustees Annual Report year ended March 2022 we made special mention of the fact that we, along with other animal rescues were bracing ourselves for a huge increase in the number of dogs needing to be rehomed due to many families having taken on the responsibility of a dog during lockdown and then realising that as they were returning to the workplace they could no longer look after them properly.

There was a somewhat delayed response however and it was in January 2022 that our charity saw evidence of a huge increase in people contacting us wanting to surrender their dogs. Indeed, in all the 11 years since we were established, the numbers were unprecedented. Time, or rather lack of it, was the most common reason we were given by such families as to why they could no longer keep their dogs. The ever-increasing number of requests for help in rehoming their Staffords continued right throughout the period year ended March 2023.

Increase in veterinary fees had a severe impact on our expenditure. This has led the trustees to the conclusion that an increase in the amount of money we put aside for senior rescue dogs as part of our Senior Stafford Scheme (SSS) should also be increased. This will be discussed at a future Committee Meeting. Also, the cost of dog food continued to rise substantially during this period; in some cases, it had risen by 30%.

Sadly, the decrease in the number of potential adoptive families contacting the charity was a continuing trend. The trustees recognise the need to increase our profile via social media and word-of-mouth to enable us to find more potential homes for our dogs.

Whilst we saw an increase in revenue during the period of year ending March 2023 (a total of £8,605) compared to the previous 12 months audit the charity also experienced a considerable rise in expenditure (a total of £22,812). This was mainly due to the overall increase in running costs (food, diesel, equipment and veterinary bills) and the increase of paid working hours of the charity's Coordinator from 16 hours to 32 hours per week.

The charity has always managed its finances frugally and with great diligence whilst maintaining the highest level and quality of care for its dogs. No overspends have ever been incurred. The financial support the charity has received over the years has been incredible. We continue to receive an enormous amount of financial support from one sponsor: Notorious Brands Ltd (Belfast). The generosity of their patrons has meant that we have been able to offset our rise in expenditure without compromising the services we offer and ultimately the number of dogs we can help.

During the year ended March 2023 our charity received 11 dogs into its care, one of which was a welfare case that had experienced severe neglect and almost died as a result. NISBTR was able to offer the dog everything it needed; a secure and safe foster home, medical care provided by our chosen veterinary surgery, along with compassion and love to return the dog to good health and stability. Many of the dogs that come into our care have experienced neglect and abuse. Rehabilitation is always a priority when it comes to providing care for our dogs. By dealing with their issues whilst in our care, rehoming them becomes far more likely. It also vastly reduces the number of dogs that are returned to us. Those numbers remain very small indeed.

Part of the charity's purpose is to offer help and advice to members of the public who may be witnessing behavioural issues in their dogs. We are very proud to have been able to support more and more families in dealing with their dog's problems based on our vast experience with the breed. There has been a definite increase over the last 12 months in the number of families we have supported in this way and hope that as a result they have been able to manage their pets better meaning they have remained in their homes.

\*Statistica Research Department (UK)

### **Challenges we face as a breed specific dog rescue**

Sadly, the plight of Staffordshire Bull Terriers is not a new phenomenon and is reflected throughout the UK. Rescues have been working tirelessly and beyond crisis levels for many, many years and despite their efforts the problem has only gotten worse, not better. Whilst there are some all-breed rescues that do help Staffordshire Bull Terriers there are many that do not. Prior to the establishment of NISBTR there were no breed specific rescues for Staffordshire Bull Terriers in Northern Ireland, and to date, we remain the only one, making our rescue work even more important and in demand.

### **Achievements to date**

Since August 2012 to date (05/01/24) NISBTR has successfully rescued and rehomed 224 Staffordshire Bull Terriers that were in desperate need of our help, all whose lives have been changed for the better. We are immensely proud to maintain contact with most families that have adopted our dogs in the past and provide regular updates on their progress via our social media.

The implementation and funding of our Senior Stafford Scheme (SSS) in 2015 continues

to prove very successful judging by the number of senior dogs that we have rehomed to date. Senior dogs are typically more difficult to rehome than younger ones. Our SSS provides adoptive families up to £500 to go directly to any unexpected veterinary bills that they may receive after adopting a senior dog.

### **Plans for the future**

Despite the many challenges we face as a charity our vision for the future is very optimistic and with the continued support of those who value our charitable work, we will continue to build on the successes we have achieved over the last eleven years. Despite having so few foster families our charity is committed to helping as many dogs as possible in the future.

**PREPARED BY JULIE JENKINS (COORDINATOR)  
ON BEHALF OF AND APPROVED BY ALL TRUSTEES**

**5th January 2024**

**Dated 05/01/24**

**Signed**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Jenkins', written in a cursive style.

**Northern Ireland Staffordshire Bull Terrier Rescue**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101909

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# Annual return

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## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE CHARITY TRUSTEES OF NI STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER RESCUE**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2023.

### **Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

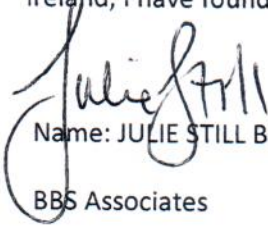
My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Still', is written over the printed name.

Name: JULIE STILL BSc A.T.T.

BBS Associates

54 Abbey Street

Bangor

BT20 4JB