



Paws and People

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

APRIL 2024 TO
MARCH 2025

Paws and People

Annual Report & Receipts

and Payments Account

**For the period 1st April 2024 to 31st
March 2025**

Northern Ireland Charity Number:

101959







Paws and People

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Paws and People

References and Administrative Details:



Charity Name:

Paws and People

Charity Registration Number:

101959

Contact Address:

166A Rathfriland Road,
Annaclone,
Banbridge,
Co. Down
BT32 5AY



Trustees:

Nadine Weir
Sharon Weir
Elizabeth Thompson



Independent Examiner:

S.M. Vint & Co
8 Newry Road
Banbridge
BT32 3HN



Bankers:

Santander
34 Newry Street
Banbridge
BT32 3HA



Paws and People was established on 29 April 2014 and registered as a charity on 17 November 2015. Located in Banbridge, County Down, this small, home-based animal rescue is managed by a mother-daughter team, Nadine and Sharon Weir. The organization operates entirely through volunteer efforts, with no paid staff. All donations are allocated directly to animal care and operational expenses.

Paws and People operates as a No Kill rescue, ensuring that healthy animals are not euthanized. The organization rescues, rehabilitates, and rehomes animals to prevent unnecessary euthanasia. While the primary focus is on local pound dogs and strays, support is also extended to family pets, retired racing dogs, and former working dogs. Provided that space and resources are available, no animal is refused admission. Animal welfare is prioritized, and all donations are allocated to animal care and facility maintenance. The organization receives no government funding and relies exclusively on public support.



Trustee's Annual Report:

The trustee's present the annual report and accounts for Paws and People for the period ended 31st March 2025.

Trustee's, Objectives and activities:

Paws and People is governed by three trustees who are responsible for all major decisions, with two trustees managing daily animal care. Typically, one or two formal committee meetings are held annually, supplemented by frequent informal discussions regarding organizational operations and animal welfare. Urgent matters are addressed through promptly convened meetings.

The primary objective is to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome abused and unwanted animals, particularly dogs from local pounds and former racing or working dogs. Collaboration with both local and distant pounds reduces unnecessary euthanasia and increases animal rescue rates. This approach also provides financial benefits to local councils by assuming responsibility for animals that would otherwise incur euthanasia or care costs.

In the current year, the residual effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing cost of living crisis have increased the number of dogs requiring assistance, both from pounds and owner surrenders. Many families relinquished pets due to an inability to provide adequate care, often resulting from a return to full-time employment or financial hardship. Consequently, there has been an increase in animals exhibiting separation anxiety and behavioral challenges, which some families were unable to address. Additionally, rising expenses have compelled families to surrender pets due to unaffordable veterinary bills and basic care costs.



The organization provides public education on spaying and neutering to prevent unwanted litters and reduce the stray animal population. By facilitating adoptions, Paws and People promotes responsible pet ownership and proper animal care, contributing to a reduction in abandoned animals. In the reporting year, 149 dogs and cats were rehomed in Northern Ireland. As the region continues to experience post-pandemic and economic challenges, the organization has maintained public outreach primarily through its website and Facebook page. While demand for animal companionship remains high, there has been an increase in animals surrendered with behavioral issues, often due to inadequate training or socialization during the pandemic. As a result, some animals required extended stays to receive necessary support. The organization also admitted a greater number of long-term or permanent residents who cannot be rehomed due to complex needs.



Owner surrenders are recognized as challenging decisions. Paws and People does not impose surrender fees. Owners complete a sign-over form, enabling the organization to assess the animal's needs and facilitate appropriate placement. To support the transition, communication with previous owners is maintained upon request, including updates on rehoming status and, when possible, photographs. Since 2018, a dedicated Facebook group has enabled owners and adopters to exchange advice, share updates, and provide mutual support. This platform has contributed to adopter engagement and reduced the likelihood of animals being relinquished again by offering access to guidance from staff, other owners, and affiliated professionals.

Upon adoption, comprehensive support is provided to each adopter, with staff available via telephone, Facebook, or email. Lifetime backup is offered for all rehomed animals. If adopters require assistance, guidance is provided and, when necessary, the cost of a professional dog trainer is covered. This intervention

frequently resolves issues and reduces the risk of animals being relinquished. Adopters may also utilize the organization's Facebook group for additional support. The promotion of responsible ownership is achieved through ongoing public education and support, fostering a sense of community among animal welfare advocates.

Each adoption is formalized through a signed contract. Adopters are required to comply with conditions including dog licensing, ensuring the animal is kept secure and primarily indoors, and prohibiting use for hunting, working, racing, or guarding. These stipulations are essential to ensure animal safety and appropriate care.

In addition to rescuing, rehabilitating, and rehoming animals, Paws and People prioritizes public education and the promotion of animal welfare. The organization seeks to reduce animal neglect and abuse by emphasizing the importance of spaying and neutering to prevent unwanted litters and decrease the number of stray and abused animals. Unregulated breeding, often due to lack of awareness, results in animals being sold or given away without proper checks, increasing the risk of abandonment or unsafe placements. The organization utilizes Facebook to disseminate information on the benefits of spaying and neutering, which include reducing unwanted animal populations, lowering the risk of certain cancers and infections, and mitigating undesirable behaviors.

All animals in the care of Paws and People receive comprehensive and current veterinary treatment. The organization collaborates with local veterinary practices in Ballynahinch and Moira. Prior to rehoming, animals are vaccinated, microchipped, dewormed, treated for fleas, health-checked, spayed or neutered, and provided with any additional necessary veterinary care, including surgical procedures or dental work. Each animal is rehomed with five weeks of complimentary Agria



pet insurance, offering reassurance to adopters. The provision of high-quality veterinary care not only ensures animal health but also serves as a model for public education on animal welfare, with updates shared via Facebook.

In addition to veterinary care, Paws and People provides each animal with a nutritious, high-quality diet tailored to individual needs. For instance, lurchers and greyhounds receive breed-specific diets comprising high-quality kibble, locally sourced raw meat, cooked oats, eggs, sardines, and chicken from local suppliers. Many dogs are placed on grain-free or high-protein diets to support recovery. The organization does not compromise on dietary standards for cost reasons; each animal receives a consistent and appropriate diet. Surplus or unsuitable food donations are redistributed to other rescues, food banks, or individuals in need.

While diet and veterinary care are essential for animal health, mental stimulation is also prioritized. Dogs are exercised in groups within a secure field to promote stimulation, socialization, and well-being. Additionally, dogs are taken in pairs to local parks and beaches to experience diverse environments and further develop social skills. Public outings also serve to increase awareness of animals available for adoption. During walks, staff consistently clean up after the dogs, modeling responsible ownership and contributing to the cleanliness and safety of public spaces. Public education on responsible waste management benefits local councils by reducing the burden of animal-related waste.



Paws and People supports the local community and economy by sourcing supplies from local businesses, including supermarkets, butchers, petrol stations, pet stores, and farm supply outlets. Daily necessities, food, and treats are procured from these vendors. Significant fuel consumption is required for veterinary visits, home checks, and animal transport, often involving ex-

tensive travel each week. Local mechanics are also engaged to maintain the organization's vehicle for operational activities.

Fundraising:

Fundraising activities were limited during the year due to reduced volunteer availability and the ongoing cost of living crisis. As a result, most fundraising occurred online through the organization's Facebook page and website, including auctions, raffles, and donation appeals. Public contributions enabled the organization to fulfill financial obligations and avoid debt. The Amazon wishlist facilitated direct donations of food and essential items. Although opportunities for fundraising volunteers were available, active participation was not achieved. Additional fundraising volunteers would provide significant benefit to the organization.



Achievements, performance and Public Benefit:

In the reporting period, Paws and People admitted hundreds of animals in need. The primary achievement was the successful rehoming of approximately 149 dogs and cats in Northern Ireland between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025. The organization also accepted special cases requiring additional medical care or rehabilitation. Throughout the year, advice and support were provided to many owners, and some long-term dogs requiring extended care were admitted. Certain animals became permanent residents due to unresolvable medical or behavioral issues.

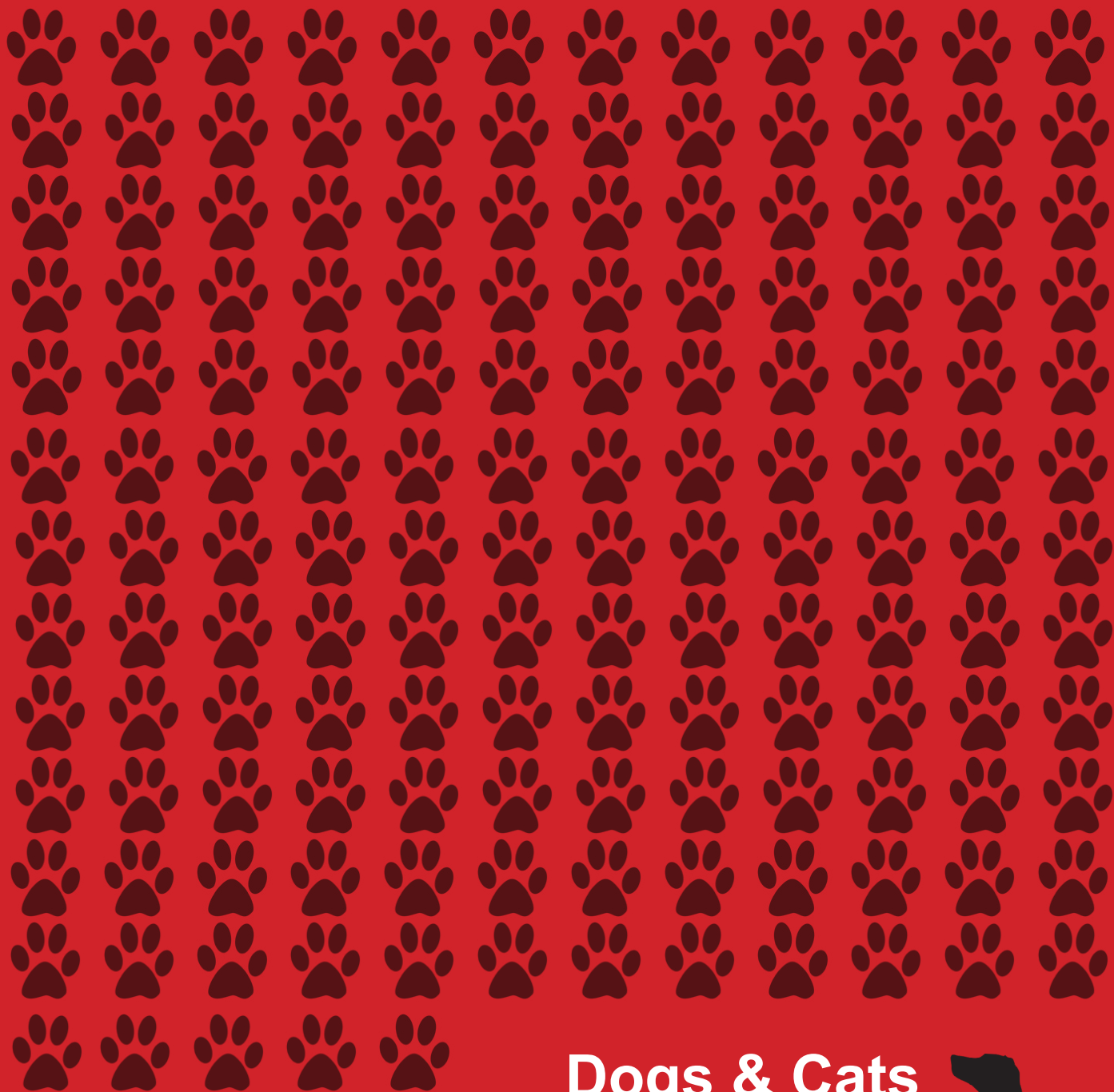
Healthy animals are not euthanized due to behavioral or medical challenges. The organization is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all animals, regardless of their needs or histories. The guiding principle is that every animal deserves the opportunity for a positive outcome, whether through adoption or continued care within the organization.

We could never put a healthy dog down just because they're struggling. One of our trustees lives with anxiety too, so we truly understand how frightened and overwhelmed some animals can feel. Every day spent with these animals is a gift, and we do everything we can to make them feel safe and loved, no matter their past or what challenges they face. For us, as long as there's life, there's hope. Our greatest wish is to give each animal the happy ending they deserve—whether that's finding a loving new family or staying here with us where they're cared for and cherished.

We often keep special animals long term as they are treated or wait for their special forever homes. Due to medical or behavioral issues that cannot be corrected, some animals do end up as permanent residents where they can live their lives out here safe and cared for to the best of our ability. We have quite a few animals that have been deemed not suitable for rehoming. They have been deemed not suitable for rehoming as they do not react well to new people or experiences, so they are safe in our care for the rest of their lives as we would never put a healthy dog down just because they have issues.

**ADOPT
DONT
SHOP!**

REHOMING FIGURES



149

Dogs & Cats

Rehomed

Locally





Financial Review

The charity has ended the financial year in a good financial standing and the Trustees feel it is prudent to try and have some money in reserve so that in the event of a drop in the donations the charity could continue to keep operating in the short term. Following the long term effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and there now being a cost of living crisis. This has made it hard to raise funds, as the public are dealing with their own personal financial struggles. Any funds remaining from this year's end, will be a life saver in keeping the rescue running during these uncertain times as we face a new financial year.

Going Concern

The trustees have reviewed the budgets for the year ahead and are satisfied that there are adequate funds in place to ensure the charity can continue and the financial statements for the period ended 31st March 2025 can be signed off as a going concern.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document and Constitution of the charity

Paws and People, which is also recognised as a charity by HM Revenue and Customs in Northern Ireland, is governed by its constitution.

Recruitment and Appointment of Volunteers and Trustees

The trustees welcome new volunteers to help with fundraising side of the charity, as most of the day to day running of the rescue and care of the animals is carried out by Trustees Sharon Weir and Nadine Weir at the moment due to certain animals in their care needing to be carefully managed around new people. In the future it is hoped that some new volunteering opportunities will become available.

Pay and Remuneration

No trustee received any pay or remuneration during the year.

Organizational Structure

The governing body of the charity is the board of trustees who are listed on the information page. The charity is run by the trustees who work closely on a daily

basis to make decisions regarding the running of the Charity. The rescue is primarily managed by Nadine Weir (who is also a trustee).

Statement of Trustee's Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustee's report and Statement of Receipts and Payments and Statements of Assets and Liabilities in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to Charities in Northern Ireland with income less than £250,000 requires the Trustee's to prepare a Statement of Receipts and Payments and a Statement of Assets and Liabilities for each financial year..

The Trustee's are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the assets and liabilities of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the Assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Statement as to disclosure to our examiners

In so far the trustees are aware at the timing of approving our trustees' annual report;

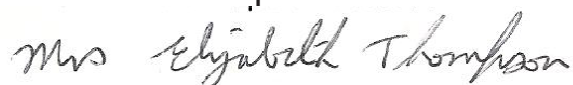
There is no relevant audit information of which the charity's Auditor is unaware. The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of the information.

Independent Examiner

The examiner S.M. Vint & Co, have indicated their willingness to continue in office.

On behalf of the Trustees

Elizabeth Thompson- Trustee



Independent Examiner's Report to Paws and People

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31st March 2025 which are set out on pages 15-18.

Respective responsibilities of 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 Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- 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.



Thomas Vint FCCA

For and behalf of S.M. Vint & Co

Chartered Certified Accountants & Registered Auditors

8 Newry Road

Banbridge

BT32 3HN

8th January 2026

Paws and People

Statement of Receipts & Payments for the period ended 31st March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
Income and endowments from:					
Donations		96,400	0	96,400	79,941
Fundraising	2	0	0	0	0
Total income		96,400	0	96,400	79,941
Expenditure on:					
Raising Funds	3	191	0	191	6
Charitable Activities	3	77,364	0	77,364	70,209
Governance costs	3	5,578	0	5,578	4,904
Total expenditure		83,133	0	83,133	75,119
Net income / (expenditure) resources		13,267	0	13,267	4,822

Paws and People

Statement of Assets & Liabilities- Period Ended 31st March 2025

	2025	2024
Reconciliation of funds at 31.03.24		
Total funds brought forward	14,092	10,295
Surplus/(deficit) this year end	<u>6,544</u>	<u>3,797</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u>20,636</u>	<u>14,092</u>
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets	1,661	2,076
Bank & Cash Balances		
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>18,975</u>	<u>12,016</u>
	<u>20,636</u>	<u>14,092</u>
Represented by		
Unrestricted funds	20,636	14,092
Restricted funds		
Total Funds	<u>20,636</u>	<u>14,092</u>

Notes on pages 17 and 18 are an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 15 and 16 were approved by the Board of Trustees on 8th January 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Elizabeth Thompson - Trustee

Mrs Elizabeth Thompson

Sharon Weir - Trustee

Sharon Weir

Nadine Weir - Trustee

Nadine Weir

Paws and People

Notes to the financial statements for the period ended 31st March 2025

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Preparation of accounts on a going concern basis

The charity generally meets its day to day working capital requirements from its annual income. The Trustees have obtained and reviewed cash flow forecasts for the coming year and based on these are satisfied that the charity has resources to provide a reasonable expectation that it can continue to meet its financial obligations as they fall due for the foreseeable future. Therefore these financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis

b) Income

Income is accounted for on a cash receipts basis as the amount is collected and are allocated as either restricted or unrestricted funds according to the terms of the donation.

c) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on a cash payments basis.

d) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts.

i) Funds

Funds are classified as either restricted funds or unrestricted funds, defined as follows:

Restricted funds are funds subject to specific requirements as to their use which may be declared by the donor or with their authority or created through legal processes, but still within the wider objects of the Club.

Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity.

If parts of the unrestricted funds are earmarked at the discretion of the trustees for a particular purpose, they are designated as a separate fund. This designation has an administrative purpose only and does not legally restrict the trustees' discretion to apply the fund.

2. Fundraising

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
Raffle Proceeds	0	0	0	0
Other Fundraising	96,400	0	96,400	79,941
	96,400	0	96,400	61,968

3. Analysis of Expenditure

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
Raising Funds				
Advertising/Promotion	191	0	191	6
	<u>191</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>191</u>	<u>738</u>
Charitable Activities				
Feeding and other supplies	16,429	0	16,429	31,047
Veterinary	53,022	0	53,022	32,847
Dog runs and houses	0	0	0	0
Equipment	0	0	0	0
Motor & Travel Expenses	7,455	0	7,455	4,661
Repairs and Maintenance	178	0	178	1,306
Depreciation	279	0	279	348
	<u>77,364</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>77,364</u>	<u>55,490</u>
Governance costs				
Insurance	613	0	613	798
Accountancy	720	0	720	720
Postage & Stationary	802	0	802	139
Bank fees	1,552	0	1,552	1,129
Telephone	359	0	359	135
Computer costs	1,396	0	1,396	1,813
Depreciation	136	0	136	170
	<u>5,578</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5,578</u>	<u>4,106</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>83,133</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>83,133</u>	<u>60,334</u>

4. Analysis of trustee remuneration and expenses.

No Trustee received any payments other than for out of pocket expenses incurred.