

Trustee Report for the financial year ended 31st December 2024

The Trustees submit their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2024

Review of Activity

Throughout 2024, we remained dedicated to reducing animal suffering and advancing animal welfare, working to improve the lives of animals while also contributing to the well-being of the wider community.

We did so in the following ways:

Support for rescues

We offered financial assistance to 7 local animal rescue organisations that care for and rehome abandoned, unwanted, mistreated, or lost animals. These rescues confront daily challenges, particularly the rising costs involved in helping animals— especially those with complex health needs. Our support was intended to help them extend their reach and provide vital aid to even more animals in need.

Neutering/Spaying programmes

We provided funding to neuter and spay 475 animals in Serbia, including dogs and cats living on the streets and in low-income homes. We also extended this support to a smaller group of cats in Northern Ireland who were facing the same challenging circumstances.

Emergency relief and support

Throughout the year, we continued to act as an emergency lifeline for animals in urgent need, with much of our support focused on the dogs at Ub Dog Pound in Serbia. Each month, we funded essential veterinary care— covering emergency surgeries, blood tests, x-rays, scans, and other treatments. We also provided regular worming, flea, and tick prevention for the 150+ dogs living there. As a result, we have once again seen a remarkable improvement in the overall health and well-being of the dogs. In addition, we supplied higher-quality food for malnourished dogs and puppies, which has significantly improved their condition and, in many cases, has been the difference between survival and loss. In April 2024, we completed our 12th visit to Ub Dog Pound, bringing 110kg of urgently needed supplies— from blankets, beds, coats, bowls, and toys to supplements, sun shades, and water pools. All items were donated by the public, giving us the opportunity to raise awareness about responsible animal care, the importance of good welfare, and the impact of kindness. During this trip, we also highlighted the critical need for neutering by visiting one of our neutering veterinary surgeons in Serbia. Seeing the challenges caused by rising numbers of unwanted animals helped demonstrate how uncontrolled breeding leads to widespread suffering for both animals and communities.

We evaluated numerous dogs for rehoming and subsequently covered the full veterinary preparation for 20 of them, ensuring they were healthy and ready for adoption. While it's hard to determine the exact number of dogs rehomed within Serbia as a result of our efforts, we do know

that 15 dogs found loving new homes in the UK— changing their lives beyond measure. Twelve of these found their forever home in England thanks to our rehoming partners Balkan Underdogs and Indie Setter Rescue. The other 3 travelled to Northern Ireland where, like the others, they now live in fantastic homes far beyond the hardship of pound life. A further 2 were rehomed in the Netherlands thanks to our other rehoming partners Duitse Staande Korhtaar Herplaatsing – Sticking GSP Rescue HR. They also are living the dream in fantastic homes.

Community fundraising and education

Like previous years from March to November 2024, we ran our monthly car boot sale. It not only served as an important source of income for the charity but also provided a valuable opportunity to promote responsible animal care. It allowed us to connect with our local community, offer advice, and in many cases help people find solutions to challenges they were facing with their pets. Through our network, we were often able to facilitate rehoming when no other options were available.

The car boot sale has continued to be a much-loved community event— offering a social space for many while giving both buyers and sellers a practical way to support one another. Whether finding affordable items or selling unwanted goods to ease financial pressures, the event has helped enrich lives during a time of rising living costs.

Our charity shop and community hub continued to operate throughout 2024. Our aim of not only having it as a reliable source of income but also to offer something meaningful to the local community as very much been achieved. The hub has become a welcoming space where like-minded people can find great deals, seek advice on pet-related issues, enjoy a friendly chat, and experience the value of being part of something that truly makes a difference.

Charity Shop and Hub

By continuing with our shop and car boot sales, we have been able to continue to offer volunteering opportunities. We now have a dedicated team of 20 volunteers who form the backbone of our charity. Thanks to their commitment— and the generosity of our supporters— we are able not only to transform the lives of animals, but also to save them.

Organisational Structure

Animal Support Trust is registered with the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland since 21st December 2022 and is governed by a constitution.

Purpose of the Charity

To support the alleviation of animal suffering and promote the advancement of animal welfare for the benefits of both animals and the public in any part of the world

Financial Review

Throughout 2024 the charity has maintained a stable income through our charity shop, carboot sales, street collections, raffles, appeals, auctions and donations. As the charity is run by just a small team of trustees the aim is to always have a reserve fund in place to cover approximately 6 months running costs if ever in the position to be needed.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and financial statements in accordance with relevant laws and keep proper accounting records to detail transactions and safeguard assets.

Statement of Disclosure of Information to Auditors

At the time of approving this annual report, the trustees confirm that, to the best of their knowledge, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware. The trustees have taken all reasonable steps to ensure that any relevant information has been identified and communicated to the auditor.