

Grovehill Animal Trust

Directors' report For the year ended 31 March 2023

The Directors' submit their annual report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023. The Directors' have adopted the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Reference and administrative information

Grovehill Animal Trust is recognised as a Charity by The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, charity number NIC101370.

The Directors of the Trust are elected members of the Committee and those in office during 2022/23 are listed below. The day-to-day management of the Trust is carried out by a Shelter co-ordinator, Volunteer Administration assistant, Animal Welfare assistant and the volunteer manageress of the Charity shop.

Mrs Violet Dennehy (Chairwoman)
Ms Regina Robinson (Vice-Chairwoman)
Ms Janice Porter (Secretary)
Mrs Andrea Kerr (Treasurer)
Mrs Danielle Caddell

The principal and registered office of the charity is **1 Foundry Lane, Omagh, Co Tyrone, BT78 1ED.**

The professional advisers and bankers are:
Accountants – HMCI Limited T/A Hamill McIlwaine
Bankers – Bank of Ireland

Structure, governance, and management

Governing document and structure

Grovehill Animal Trust operates within specific rules contained within its Constitution. A new Constitution was adopted on the 1 April 2012.

Organisation

At each Annual General Meeting three directors retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election, although no one can hold a position of director for more than 9 years. There are no remunerated directors. Currently there are no subcommittees in place.

Liability of directors

The liability of each director is limited to £1, being the amount that every member of the Trust undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Trust in the event of the same being wound up while he or she is a director, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a director.

Risk management

The directors actively review the risks which the Trust faces and believe that any risks identified are addressed by themselves on a timely basis. Such reviews include examination of business and operational risks, and the directors confirm that they have established systems to mitigate significant risks.

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Directors' report (continued) For the year ended 31 March 2023

Objectives and principal activities

The Trust's main activity during the year is the re-homing of cats and dogs and to advance animal welfare in the North West of Ireland and its environs.

Mission Statement

Grovehill Animal Trust through education, commitment and unity of purpose sets out to relieve suffering among pets who have been neglected, abused, abandoned or are unwanted.

Objectives

The Charity's objectives are specifically restricted to the advancement of animal welfare and the advancement of education in matters pertaining to animal welfare, care, and treatment for the benefit of the public in Northern Ireland and its environs of the Republic of Ireland by associating the statutory authorities, voluntary organisations, and the inhabitants in a common effort to:

- a. relieve suffering and distress and maltreatment of stray, neglected, unwanted to vulnerable animals which need care and protection by the provision of a rescue and re-homing service and a sanctuary for the care, protection, treatment, security and temporary or permanent accommodation of such animals,
- b. encourage the public to adopt a more humane attitude towards animals, especially those which are sick or stray in need of assistance, and to this end provide practical assistance to such animals, and
- c. educate the public in matters pertaining to animal welfare and the care and treatment of animals.

Ensuring our work delivers our aims

We review our aims, objectives, and activities each year. This review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous 12 months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to those we are set up to help. The review also helps us ensure our aim, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated purposes. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

The Focus of our Work

The main focus of our work continues to be the re-homing of cats and dogs and to advance animal welfare in the North West of Northern Ireland and its environs. We strive to improve the lives of animals within Omagh and the surrounding areas and in turn have a positive effect upon the local community. We are committed to the rescuing and re-homing of unwanted, neglected, and abandoned animals, the rehabilitation of said animals, the education of the public in matters pertaining to animal welfare, the promotion of neutering and spaying of animals and campaigning for changes in legislation to protect companion animals. We network with other agencies, i.e., Local council, Dog wardens and Animal Welfare Officers. In addition, we are members of ADCH (Association of Dogs and Cats Homes), who are a professional body who promotes best practice in animal welfare relating to cat rehoming, dog rehoming, dog rescue & cat rescue.

What we do

- All animals who arrive at the shelter are given a full veterinary health check.
- Any illness or conditions are treated immediately.
- We micro-chip, de-flea, worm, neuter and fully vaccinate all cats and dogs in our care.
- We strive to make the animals stay with us as stress free and comfortable as possible, ensuring all their exercise, social and nutritional needs are met.
- We actively find new homes for every animal which involves a process to ensure suitability, guaranteeing that both animal and new owner will begin their years of companionship in the best way possible.
- We are always available to give advice when needed.

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Directors' report (continued) For the year ended 31 March 2023

Public benefit statement

Purpose 1

The direct benefit of this initiative lies in alleviating the burden on pet owners who find themselves unable to continue caring for their animals. This also eases the pressure on individuals who encounter stray animals but are ill-equipped to look after them. The positive outcomes of our efforts are evident in our activities of accepting, nurturing, and finding new homes for both abandoned and stray pets. Our services include providing medical treatment, a system for rescue and adoption, and, when necessary, a sanctuary for rehoming, which we publicise to encourage empathy and kindness among the community. Over the past year, we have successfully provided new homes for 101 cats and dogs. This significantly reduces the population of feral cats, especially on farms, and diminishes stress for local people and the cats themselves. This objective causes no harm and serves the collective good of the people in Northern Ireland.

Purpose 2

The direct benefit that flows from this purpose includes the advancement of animal welfare, the promotion of the capacity of people for compassion by caring for injured or abandoned animals and the effects of animals on human health and well-being. The encouragement of kindness towards animals promotes compassion in humans. These benefits are demonstrated through our weekly dog walking club where the general public can come and exercise homeless animals. Grovehill Animal Trust also relies on and encourages volunteers from the general public to assist with the daily caring of the animals at the shelter. We have volunteers from all walks of life, who gain great work experience at the shelter and shop. We have volunteers with learning difficulties or special needs, and we work closely with organisations including Arvalee School, Mencap and the probation service to give volunteers opportunities they might not otherwise get. Trainee vets and animal welfare officers have gained experience at our shelter, going on to work full time in their professions. Other students from all the main schools in Omagh have gained valuable work experience with us too. This purpose does not give rise to any harm. The beneficiaries of this purpose are the general public living in Northern Ireland and young people attending schools, colleges, and other youth organisations.

Purpose 3

The direct benefit which flows from this purpose includes the advancement of education, enhanced knowledge and understanding in young people through receiving an education. These benefits are demonstrated through Grovehill Animal Trust providing placements for schools and colleges both mainstream and special needs schools. Grovehill also provides literature and talks in schools, youth groups, summer schemes etc to promote responsible animal ownership and educating people on the importance of benefits of neutering animals. Grovehill Animal Trust also promotes the trapping, neutering and release of feral cats within the local community and provides financial assistance to those in need with feral cats. This purpose does not give rise to any harm. The beneficiaries of this purpose are the general public living in Northern Ireland and young people attending schools, colleges, and other youth organisations.

Private Beneficiaries

Corry & O'Hare Vets, Omagh receives a private benefit as they are paid for the treatment of animals at Grovehill Animal Trust. This is incidental and a necessary result or by product of carrying out purpose one: to relieve the suffering and distress of stray, neglected or unwanted animals. The benefit to the vet would be private but incidental to the purposes of the charity and therefore there is no conflict of interest as it is a necessary but incidental by product to achieving our purposes.

Statement of Compliance

The trustees of Grovehill Animal Trust, in the setting of our objectives and in the planning of our activities for this year, have given due care and attention to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit and thus ensuring that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

The Trust is satisfied that it adheres to the public benefit test set out by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland due to the objectives and activities it provides as outlined above.

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Directors' report (continued) For the year ended 31 March 2023

Achievements and performance

Dog Behavioural Problems

Continuing post-pandemic, we are witnessing persistent behavioural issues in dogs arriving at our shelter. This ongoing trend indicates a growing need for enhanced capacity and resources dedicated to rehabilitation and socialisation. Our team is proactively addressing these challenges, ensuring that each dog receives the necessary care and attention to become suitable for rehoming.

Foster Homes

The increase in dogs with behavioural problems has presented challenges in our foster program. Nevertheless, we are successfully expanding our network of foster volunteers. By providing additional training and support, we ensure that these dedicated individuals are well-equipped to handle the special needs of these animals, thereby playing a vital role in their journey towards a loving home.

Mother & Kitten Unit

We are pleased to announce the completion and operational success of our Mother & Kitten Unit. This dedicated space, away from the main cattery, offers a serene and secure environment for kittens and their mothers. Its success has been pivotal in rescuing and nurturing more felines who face the harsh reality of abandonment, ensuring they get the best start in life.

Talks in Schools

This year, we have continued our educational outreach programme, conducting talks in schools about animal welfare. These sessions focus on the importance of proper pet care and the broader implications of animal welfare. Our goal is to inspire a future generation that is well-informed and passionate about the well-being of animals.

Charity Shop 10th Year

A special congratulations to our volunteers as our charity shop celebrates its 10th year! This milestone is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our volunteers. Their efforts have not only helped raise vital funds for our shelter but have also fostered a strong community spirit. We look forward to continuing this successful journey with their invaluable support.

Review of activities and future developments

The statement of financial activities for the year is set out on page 7 of the financial statements. The net movement in funds for the financial year is a surplus of £10,724.

Reserves policy and results

The Grovehill Animal Trust had total reserves on 31 March 2023 of £127,473.

The results for the year are set out in the statement of financial activities on page 7.

Volunteers

The Trust is immensely thankful for the dedication and hard work of its volunteers, who are instrumental in the operations of both the charity shop and the shelter. Without their invaluable support, our success would not be possible. This year, we saw an increase in our volunteer team, with approximately 25 volunteers generously offering their services. Assuming each volunteer contributes about 150 hours annually, and if these hours were compensated at minimum wage, the collective contribution of these volunteer hours would have cost Grovehill Animal Trust over £34,524 per annum.

Grovehill Animal Trust

Directors' certificate

We approve the accounts set out on pages 7 to 14 for the year ended 31 March 2023 disclosing a surplus of £10,724.

We confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.



Mrs Violet Dennehy

Chairwoman

Date: 18/12/23