

# Grovehill Animal Trust

## Directors' report For the year ended 31 March 2024

The Directors' submit their annual report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024. 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 2023/24 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.

# Grovehill Animal Trust

## Directors' report (continued) For the year ended 31 March 2024

### 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.

# Grovehill Animal Trust

## Directors' report (continued) For the year ended 31 March 2024

### 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.

# Grovehill Animal Trust

## Directors' report (continued) For the year ended 31 March 2024

### Achievements and performance

#### Starting new dog runs

Due to the increasing number of dogs requiring extended rehabilitation and longer stays, we identified the need for additional dog runs at our shelter. To address this, we began by clearing a designated area, laying foundations, and pouring concrete for the new runs. We also installed a fence around the site for security. This work took three months to complete. Once funding becomes available, we will proceed with constructing a new dog shed. Upon completion, this project will double our kennel capacity, enabling us to accommodate more dogs on-site.

#### New animal ambulance

Unfortunately, our animal ambulance broke down, and we were advised that it needed to be replaced. The ambulance plays a crucial role in our operations, as it is essential for transporting animals to and from the vet. As a result, we had no choice but to purchase a new one.

#### Security and monitor cameras

We installed security and monitoring cameras at our animal shelter to enhance the safety and well-being of both the animals and staff. These cameras provide 24/7 surveillance, helping us to deter unauthorized access and monitor the premises for any potential security issues. Additionally, they allow us to keep a close watch on the animals, ensuring their care and safety even when staff is not physically present. This system is an important step in protecting our shelter and ensuring a secure environment for everyone involved.

#### Review of policies

We recently conducted a thorough review and revision of our policies and procedures for both staff and volunteers at the shelter. This process was aimed at ensuring that all protocols are up-to-date, clear, and aligned with best practices in animal care and shelter management. By revising these guidelines, we have created a more structured and efficient working environment, enhancing safety, communication, and accountability. The updated policies also provide clearer instructions and expectations for both staff and volunteers, helping us improve the overall quality of care we provide to the animals and fostering a more cohesive team.

#### Educational outreach program

Our educational outreach program remained a key focus, with talks in local schools, community centres about the importance of animal welfare and responsible pet ownership. These initiatives aim to inspire future generations to care for animals with compassion and respect.

#### 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 deficit of £5,167.

### Reserves policy and results

The Grovehill Animal Trust had total reserves on 31 March 2024 of £122,306.

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

### Volunteers

The Trust is deeply grateful for the dedication and hard work of its volunteers, who play a vital role in the day-to-day operations of both the charity shop and the shelter. Their invaluable support is essential to our success. This year, we were pleased to see our volunteer team grow, with around 30 individuals generously offering their time

## Grovehill Animal Trust

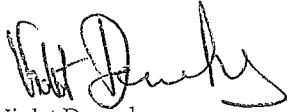
and effort to help us achieve our mission. their services. Assuming each volunteer contributes about 150 hours annually, and if these hours were compensated at minim wage, the collective contribution of these volunteer hours would have cost Grovehill Animal Trust over £46,890 per annum.

This year has been both challenging and rewarding for our shelter. Despite the challenges faced this year, we are proud of the progress we've made and remain committed to providing the best possible care for the animals in our shelter. Looking ahead, we are excited to continue expanding our services and making a lasting impact on our community.

### Directors' certificate

We approve the accounts set out on pages 7 to 14 for the year ended 31 March 2024 disclosing a deficit of £5,167.

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



Mrs Violet Dennehy  
Chairwoman  
Date: 18/12/24