

Animal Connexions

Trustees report

31st December 2023

Trustees:

Grace Leigh

Jason Leigh

Sheelagh Dale

Siobhan Gilmore

Who are we

We are a small animal rescue in Northern Ireland since 1996. We are solely run by volunteers and have no paid staff, every penny raised goes to ensure the welfare of dogs & cats in our care. Due to complying with Covid19 restrictions this had an impact on the charitable income and volunteer help.

What we do

The rescue provides safety & security & love for unwanted, abused and those little ones who find themselves in pounds and basically who have no future. We provide people with contacts such as trusted behaviourists who can help keep a dog in their own home, its works well and many dogs respond well to this & therefore are able to stay in the security of their own homes. We also take in orphan & abandoned new born kittens for hand rearing. We provide the public with advice on spaying and neutering dogs and cats or indeed any concerns they may have. We have a structured

rehoming process and a strict No Kill policy. We do not adopt out any animal until a home visit is completed and we get to know the prospective new owner and their family, if successful there will be a meet and greet & any dogs in the home will be brought along. If successful the dog will go to new home for at least 3 weeks before adoption to see if they settle & within that time frame we keep in touch.

We promote animal welfare within Northern Ireland and are happy to advise should anyone need our help. We use private boarding kennels where our dogs are very well looked after & are loved by the staff. They have heated kennels and get out every day to play with each other and get walked. Our dogs take turns to go to the doggy fun park where this enables them to socialise with all types of dogs & many humans, it also gives them mental stimulation. We also take some of our dogs for swimming and therapy if required. Many thanks go to the fun park staff and the therapy staff for all they do for us.

We are still trying to recover from Covid19 lockdown which took a toll on the rescue. We worked online to raise funds and had so much amazing help from others who also set up fund raising, without their kindness, generosity & support it is doubtful we would have survived. We cannot thank them enough for how they helped us to keep on helping the little ones.

2023 information

During 2023 we carried forward 22 dogs from 2022 these dogs were successfully adopted during January, February and March. We had an intake of 54 dogs from January to December 2023, 42 were surrenders from owners, 12 were pound related. Most were successfully adopted during the year. We had some traumatised dogs which needed work & they therefore stayed with us for some time. We rarely get dogs returned to us and on the rare occasion it would be a change of family circumstances. Matching of dogs with new owners takes priority because it has to be their forever home.

We have several wonderful foster carers who will care for dogs who have had to have surgery and are traumatised in kennels and also for the little oldies. Our kitten foster mum specialises in new born orphans. The foster carers are the core of the rescue and are very much appreciated. We had an intake of over 100 new born orphan kittens some were sadly lost due to viral illness they carried which affected so many others besides ourselves. Despite extensive veterinary care little could be done. All our animals get the very best in veterinary care and this is what we raise funds for.

We keep in touch with all those who have adopted and they update us with progress & photos which is a great joy to us. Our veterinary accounts were high due to orphan kittens and also dogs who came to us and needed spayed, neutered, vaccinated, wormed and various medical conditions.

We have at this time to thank our lovely volunteers and supporters, kennel staff, the vets we work with, dog groomers, businesses and others who have supplied us with donated food especially those who help with supplying specialised milk, food and litter for the kittens.

The Trustees are hands on and do not have any beneficial interest in the charity. Our team update each other every day on various topics.

We welcome new volunteers to work alongside of our happy and friendly team.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees

Signed on behalf of Trustees 20th October 2024

Sheelagh Dale

Trustee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Dale', with a horizontal line underneath.