

Edinburgh

**Dog
&
Cat**

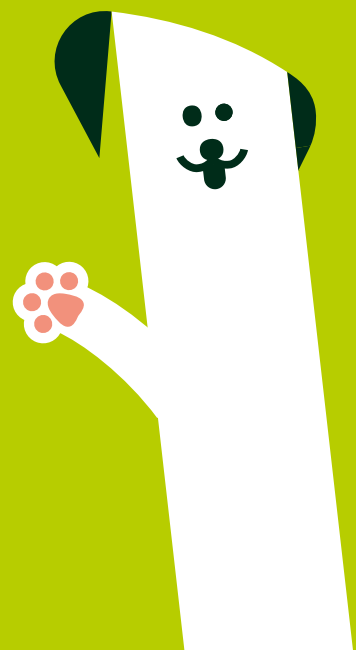
Home



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2023**

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FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIR

I am delighted to share our Trustees' Report & Accounts for 2023. In my first year as the Chair of Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home, what has struck me is the passion, dedication and resilience shown by all involved with the Home – our devoted staff team, our selfless volunteers and our committed Board of Trustees.

I am very grateful to all of them for all their hard work during a very challenging time both financially and emotionally. We are also hugely indebted to all our supporters without whom the Home would not be able to continue its excellent work to achieve the best outcomes for dogs and cats in need. I would also like to thank my predecessor, Doreen Graham, who retired in 2023 after more than a decade of service to the Home.

Having seen through the Covid pandemic, which was certainly not without its challenges, the Home continues to have to deal with the impact of the worst cost-of-living crisis which has meant that many people have suddenly been faced with the trauma of not having enough money to be able to look after their pets properly. The emotional trauma for both the owner and the pet of having to surrender them can never be underestimated and the Home continues to focus on the proactive approach laid out in our 'Beyond our Walls' strategy by doing everything possible to keep owners and pets together. Without us, and our emergency food packs and pet food banks (so generously donated), many owners in communities across East and Central Scotland would have been forced to surrender their pets. If even a fraction of the pets we supported through our pet food banks were surrendered instead, we would hit capacity very quickly.

Despite all our support however, for some owners there is no option but to make the difficult decision to surrender their pet and, in those circumstances, we do our best to look after the dogs and cats who do end up in our care and find them new, loving, forever homes.

I look forward to continuing to work with my excellent fellow Trustees, CEO and Senior Leadership Team in safeguarding the Home through challenging times alongside our wonderful staff as we continue our mission for all dogs and cats in need.

Finally, it has only been possible for us to look after the needs of countless dogs and cats thanks to the generosity of all our supporters over the last year and indeed, the last 140 years since the establishment of the first Home in 1884, and we are very fortunate to be able to rely on your steadfast support. Despite the current tough times, we think it is still very important to celebrate our milestone anniversary, plans are well underway for an exciting year of events and campaigns which will show case both our history and our future plans, and we do hope that you will be able to join us.

Lesley Watt, Chair

2023 IN NUMBERS

237

**ANIMALS REHOMED
INTO LOVING
FOREVER HOMES**

75,241

**MEALS PROVIDED
BY OUR EMERGENCY
PET FOOD PACKS**

1,533

**PEOPLE STARTED PLAYING
OUR LOTTERY, RAISING
AN AMAZING £73,818**

595,816

MEALS PROVIDED TO COMMUNITY FOOD BANKS

464

**FUNDRAISERS RAN,
WALKED, CYCLED, OR HELD
BIRTHDAY FUNDRAISERS
TO SUPPORT THE HOME**

17,021

**CALLS ANSWERED
OFFERING SUPPORT,
EMERGENCY FOOD PACKS
AND ADVICE**

2,500

**PEOPLE ATTENDED OUR OPEN
DAY IN SEPTEMBER, A CHANCE
TO CELEBRATE AND CONNECT
WITH OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY**

214

**ROUTINE VETERINARY PROCEDURES CARRIED OUT TO HELP OUR
ANIMALS PREPARE FOR THEIR FOREVER HOMES**

1,069

**SESSIONS OF DOGS
PLAYING IN OUR PADDOCKS,
ALLOWING SENSITIVE
AND NERVOUS DOGS
A SAFE SPACE TO RUN FREE
OR WORK ON THEIR TRAINING**

147

**FULL AND 84 EMERGENCY DOG
FIRST AID COURSES WERE
ATTENDED AND PASSED,
EQUIPPING PEOPLE WITH
KNOWLEDGE TO DEAL WITH DOG
ILLNESS AND INJURY**

562

**NEW REGULAR DONORS
CONTRIBUTED £413,149,
SUPPORTING OUR MISSION TO
FIND LOVING HOMES, PROTECT
LOVING HOMES AND RUN A
LOVING HOME**

£1,041,391

RAISED FROM HEARTWARMING GIFTS LEFT IN WILLS BY 40 KIND SUPPORTERS

2023 CHALLENGES

2023 brought some unique challenges. From a record number of surrender requests to XL Bully dogs being added to the Dangerous Dog Act, it's been a tough time at the Home.

Between October and December 2023, we saw a 118% increase in surrender requests from the same period in 2022. We also saw a marked increase in the number of animals coming to use with established behavioural issues making it harder to help prepare them for rehoming and find their best match.

In October 2023, the UK Government announced an imminent ban on XL Bully dogs in England and Wales, causing an influx of XL Bully dogs in Scottish shelters. We started to prepare as we anticipated that a similar ban would likely be introduced in Scotland following this news.

**WE SAW A
118%
INCREASE IN
SURRENDER
REQUESTS**



WORKING AT THE FOOD BANK

MARIE'S STORY

The Larder at West Lothian is a multifaceted organisation committed to fighting poverty and hunger with dignity. Amongst other fantastic projects, they run a community café and larder which supplies food, resources, and pet food to anyone who needs it.

Marie helps to stock the larder shelves with donations from local businesses and the public. She first realised the need for pet food and resources when a regular beneficiary told her that they were going to have to give up their dog as they couldn't afford to feed them. She made it her mission to help.

Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home have been providing pet food to the Larder regularly since Marie first approached us in October 2023. That beneficiary has been able to keep their pet and still comes in each month for support with pet food.



Marie tells us that the biggest challenge she faces is the constant demand for support.

'I used to go out once or twice a week to get donations a couple of years ago, now it's every single day that I'm having to do it.' She says that the need is never-ending: 'I stocked up all the shelves in Broxburn yesterday and I know this afternoon when I go in, the shelves will be half empty. It's hard to get back up on your feet and start again.'

Marie says that since working with the Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home pet food banks.

'People are just so grateful for the support.' She applauded the wonderful volunteers who distribute the pet food especially: 'I just love the pet food bank - I cannot believe you drive all the way to us, it's nearly an hour's drive. We're so appreciative of the support.'

Marie shares that the best way to support food banks is to donate. Food banks and pet food banks are in dire need of regular support from businesses and the public, please look out for donation stations when doing your weekly shop or many organisations accept online via Amazon Wishlist.

A huge thank you to Marie and our other pet food bank heroes who work hard every day to help us keep pets in loving homes where they belong.

IN THE COMMUNITY

We're proud to have been able to support so many people through our services in 2023 and were delighted to be recognised at the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce Business Awards where we won an award for Service Excellence in March. We were also shortlisted for Best Community Impact at the East and Mid Lothian Chamber of Commerce Business Awards.



In March we also visited Parliament alongside our pet champions Marc Abraham and Kirsty Gallagher and with support from Christine Grahame MSP to raise awareness of the issue of Pet Poverty, helping further our mission to protecting loving homes.

OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE EDUCATION TEAM

Our education team expanded into a third hub to deliver our Pet Care Clinics ahead of officially launching this service in May 2024. We now make monthly visits to Food Facts Friends in Penicuik, the Salvation Army Hub in Granton and Simon Community Scotland in Edinburgh



City Centre. We continue to support vulnerable members of the community through drop-in clinics that provide resources, advice, and signposting to other services.

We enjoyed hosting 12 education sessions in schools and online to promote responsible pet ownership and raise awareness of pet poverty. And Community Program Manager, Life, presented at a conference on Fostering Compassion with The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, to raise awareness of pet poverty and promote our Dog First Aid course.





DOG FIRST AID COURSES GET 5-STAR REVIEWS

In 2023 we were delighted to continue teaching our Dog First Aid courses, part of our mission to protect loving homes by helping pet owners feel better prepared to care for their pets. Last year we welcomed 231 delegates to these courses. We enjoyed getting out into the community, attending eight conferences, local events and markets, and hosting our volunteer vet, Victor, for informative Dog First Aid talks at our Open Day.

We've consistently received positive feedback from our attendees with 5-star Google reviews. One attendee told us:

'The course is very informative and offers plenty of opportunities to get involved in the practical side of performing first aid, or a general health check-up on a dog. The course provides you with a skill set and confidence that should you ever need to offer aid to a dog in an emergency, you are now equipped to do so. I cannot recommend it highly enough. All done in a very friendly and relaxed environment, this course is a fantastic resource for dog owners or handlers.'

However, our proudest feedback came from an attendee who was prepared for a real-life emergency soon after attending a course:

'Not long after doing the dog first aid course my dog tore her leg on some hidden barbed wire. A flap of skin was hanging open and her raw flesh exposed. Thanks to the skills I had practised, and the first aid kit I had bought from [the Home], I was able to patch her up long enough to see the vet. You never know when something like this might happen, I was so grateful to have recently done the course.'

Paddock Hire

We continue to offer private bookings for our large paddock to members of the public. This provides a secure place for reactive or otherwise anxious dogs to run free off the lead and experience the joy and freedom of chasing after a ball that every dog deserves.

In total, we had 1075 bookings throughout the year raising £8485 in vital funds that help us continue our work.

TACKLING PET POVERTY

A large part of our mission at the Home is to protect loving homes. This means supporting pet owners in the community to be able to keep their beloved animals through hard times with our pet food banks and pet care clinics.

In 2023 we worked hard to meet an increased demand for support from our pet food banks. We provided 671k meals in 2023, a 104% increase on the number of meals we provided in 2022. We now deliver pet food and resources to just under 90 food bank partners across East and Central Scotland. Our pet food banks rely solely on public donations which has been the biggest and most constant challenge of the last year for our community team.

IN 2023, OUR FOODBANKS:

WE PROVIDED
671K
MEALS IN 2023
A **104%** INCREASE ON
THE NUMBER OF MEALS
WE PROVIDED IN 2022.



Provided 75,241 meals through emergency food packs accessed at the Home.

A 12% increase from the previous year.

Provided 595,816 meals through pet food banks

753
DOGS HELPED
THROUGH EMERGENCY
FOOD PACKS

A **75%** INCREASE FROM
THE PREVIOUS YEAR

798
CATS HELPED
THROUGH EMERGENCY
FOOD PACKS

AN **8%** INCREASE FROM
THE PREVIOUS YEAR

SUPPLIED
86,779KG
OF FOOD

A **95%** INCREASE FROM
THE PREVIOUS YEAR



The equivalent of 2,670 German Shepherd dogs

Average weight = 32.5kgs



The equivalent of 20,181 British short hair cat

Average weight = 4.3kgs

'I cannot put into words how much it means to have my dog with me at this difficult time, she is my baby! Thanks to the Home pet food bank I am no longer taking food from my plate to feed her. That is a big worry that has been lifted'.

Pet food bank user



FIND LOVING HOMES



REHOMING

It's been a challenging year for our rehoming team in 2023 as many of our dogs had specific requirements for their forever homes. A lot of care, effort and attention goes into finding the right home for every animal who comes through our door, and we make every decision with the animal's needs and best interests in mind.

We continue to work with an online application process which we moved to in 2020, encouraging people to read about a dog or cat's personality and needs before applying and visiting them. This gives our team more time to work with, train, and care for the animals and helps rehomingers get to know their pet before taking them home. One rehominger told us:

'The online application process gives you a really good insight into what the animal is like and what their needs are, so you have an idea of what to expect before you visit. We've rehomed from Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home previously and I think [the application process] is a lot better now. It was easy to do, and the staff are all absolutely lovely.'

In 2023, we found forever homes for 167 dogs and 70 cats and reunited 86 animals with worried owners. We received 3581 applications for animals in 2023, up 20% from 2961 applications in 2022.

WE REUNITED
86
ANIMALS WITH
WORRIED
OWNERS

TRAINING COURSES

We also continued our ex-resident dog training sessions with 27 sessions booked throughout the year. These sessions provide a safe and familiar place for dogs to continue working on their reactivity and behaviour as they settle into their new homes. One owner told us:

'Taking Toffee to a training session with Jan was like taking a child to soft play! He had a fantastic time and learned a few new tricks like 'middle' and how to open or close doors.'

In response to news in October of a forthcoming ban on XL Bully type dogs, we opened up our Individual Dog Training sessions to the public and introduced specific muzzle-training sessions to help people prepare for the change.



SUPPORTING OUR PEOPLE

Over the past year at Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home, our People and Culture Team has worked hard to create and implement a new People Strategy in alignment with our updated mission to find loving homes, protect loving homes and run a loving Home.

This year we also introduced a Staff Rep group which aims to cultivate a culture of inclusivity, where every staff member's voice is not only heard but also valued. We continued to invest in our whole team's development and established the Skills Academy, a self-driven training programme with our partners Ogilvie Ross. This programme aims to help team members develop vital career skills such as pitching, presenting and networking. As well as this, our Department Managers are working with Future Proof Learning to develop and hone their leadership skills.

As an organisation, we're committed to employee development, encouraging growth through training opportunities, as well as through internal promotions. In 2023, we were delighted to promote seven members of the team.

We also carried out our first Annual Staff Survey since 2018 which showed that 85% of employees view their jobs as positively challenging, reflecting a sense of engagement and fulfilment in their roles.



**IN 2023, WE WERE
DELIGHTED TO PROMOTE
SEVEN
MEMBERS OF THE TEAM**

This staff survey also highlighted areas for improvement which we've addressed in our updated People Strategy for 2024-2028. Splitting the strategy into three clearly defined pillars; Talent, Inclusion and Voice allows us to create a methodical and well-rounded approach to address each of these concerns.

We're proud to continue to be a Living Wage Employer despite the financial challenges facing the Home. We value our employees by providing fair wages and we carry out annual pay reviews to ensure that employees are adequately compensated and appreciated for their service. On top of this, we continue to provide support throughout the cost-of-living crisis. We provide a staff pantry where team members can access free food supplies for themselves and their pets at any time. We updated our Uniform Policy this year to include a uniform allowance and we're proud to provide enhanced maternity leave, toiletries, shower facilities and many other well-being services.

In 2023, our CEO Lindsay Fyffe-Jardine was shortlisted for Voice of the Year at the Living Wage Awards and we were thrilled to be shortlisted for Employer of the Year at the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce Awards.

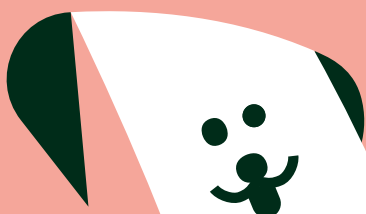


OLD BOY DUKE FINALLY FINDS HIS FOREVER HOME

Black Labrador, Duke, came to us in 2022 when his owners had to move and couldn't take him with them. When we scanned him, we discovered he had a Romanian microchip which told us he was almost 10 years old.

Other than a few minor medical issues Duke was a happy and healthy boy, and soon became a favourite among the team. His kennel dad, Greg, told us that his favourite thing was running on the beach and splashing in the sea with his dog friends.

'He's such an outgoing guy. He just loved running, playing with his kennel pals and rolling in bird poo.'



DUKE WAS IN OUR CARE FOR 516 DAYS

Duke was nervous of men and new people at first but would relax once he got to know them. His bottom lip was scarred from a previous injury giving him a distinctive and very endearing smile.

Although he's still full of boisterous energy, Duke was getting older, and we knew that he'd been in a few homes before coming to us, so we needed to find him the right home where he could settle for good and enjoy his golden years.

After almost two years in our care, we were thrilled when new owner, Katy, applied to rehome him. She had lost her senior dog Bailey in 2020 and decided from then to rehome and care for older dogs in their final years. In 2022, she adopted 12-year-old, Loki, from Dog's Trust who she had for almost a year.

When she saw Duke's profile on our website, she knew they would make a great match. Katy told us how life has changed for her since bringing Duke home:

'It's amazing, he has so much energy for a senior dog, and he's become very cuddly since he's settled in, he's just a goofball! My whole family love him, and we go on big walks together.'

It's not all been plain sailing and Katy has put a lot of time and energy into helping Duke continue his training.



'Duke is a wee bit reactive so it's been new for both of us to learn how to manage this. I've been working with a force-free trainer who has helped us work on muzzle training and general reactivity, Duke loves these sessions and I feel like it's really helped us bond.'

Duke's cheeky energy shines through in his new home, his favourite parts of the day are playing with his puzzle feeder every night before bed, and arguing with the squirrel who lives in the garden. He's been known to tear up the odd dog bed but loves to cosy into his blankets like a nest.

Katy tells us that rehoming Duke has been a wonderful decision: ***'I just love him so much, he's incredible'***.



RUNNING A LOVING HOME

2023 has been an emotionally taxing year for the kennel team and veterinary staff at the Home. We have seen a worrying shift in the kinds of extreme welfare cases we receive, including many cases of severe neglect and abuse that have required extensive medical treatment.

We've also seen a high number of animals with established behavioural issues who have required persistent and patient training to manage their fears. Cases like these not only drive up our cost of care but add to the labour and emotional burden of our kennel team, vets, and trainers.

We cared for 47 breeds in 2023. Over a quarter of these were younger than 12 months old and over half were four years or younger, highlighting a frightening increase in 'pandemic puppies' being surrendered to us.

Our on-site vet, Bridget, increased her hours from one day a week to three to ensure that all of our animals receive the full care and attention they require. We had a number of veterinary procedures in 2023 including:

44

FEMALE DOG SPAYS

71

MALE DOG CASTRATES

39

DOG DENTALS

23

**FEMALE
CAT SPAYS**

25

**MALE CAT
CASTRATES**

12

**DOG HEART SCANS
TO INVESTIGATE
HEART MURMURS**

Some of our animals also required less routine procedures such as surgery for brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome (BOAS), an eye enucleation, and a liver shunt surgery, as well as investigative procedures such as x-rays and urinary workups where we have concerns about an animal's health and wellbeing.

27%
**OF OUR DOGS WERE
12 MONTHS OR UNDER AND**

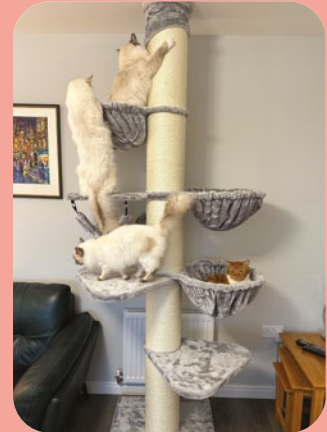
56%
**OF DOGS WERE 4 YEARS
OR UNDER**



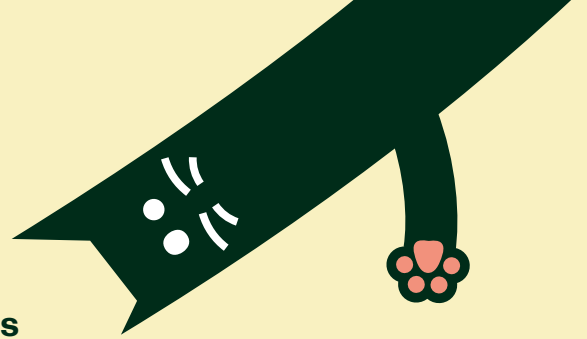
AN UPDATE ON PIXIE AND HER KITTENS

You might remember Pixie and her kittens, Charlie and Sylvie, from the Autumn issue of the Taily Mail. Kirsteen shared an update on their progress:

'It's six months since Pixie, Charlie and Sylvie joined our family. Not only have we seen them grow in stature, but we have also seen them develop their own personalities and grow in confidence. Our older cats have coped well with the mischief created by Charlie and Sylvie who have lots of fun pouncing on their tails and climbing on their backs generally testing the boundaries. We love our big cat family.'



SOUP'S STORY



Kennel Assistant, Fiona, had never seen a cat as 'shut down' as Soup was when he first came to us.

Soup came to us last summer when his previous owners could no longer cope with his care during an incredibly difficult time. When he first arrived, he was healthy but emotionally very shut down. Fiona shared,

'It was really sad, he just seemed depressed for a long time, we didn't expect him to come this far.'

Soup was terrified. He wouldn't allow anyone to touch him, and he would bury his head if anyone went near him. Even though he did his best to avoid all human contact, we knew he was hiding a playful personality. The team would notice that his toys had been moved around in the night.

Very slowly, and with love and patience, Soup began to trust us. Fiona remembers the first time she heard his voice: *'It took a few months and suddenly he started meowing at us. You wouldn't think he was the same cat who came in.'*



Finally, it was time for Soup to find his forever home. Eva had always had cats before moving to the UK. She missed the companionship of a pet and felt it was time to bring home a new family member. At first, Soup was shy and anxious:

'We put his blanket in a little den for him and he would hide there during the day. But he was curious, even on the first night I could hear him walking around and sniffing things.'



With a little patience, his personality began to show. Although he still keeps his distance at times, Eva tells us that he's now very vocal and chatty. He loves chasing feather toys and batting small, rattling cat toys.

Soup has come a long way from the quiet, shut-down cat who first came to us, and we're so happy that he's found a forever home where he can be himself.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR HERO VOLUNTEERS!

None of the wonderful work we do would be possible without the support of our incredible volunteers.

In 2023 we worked with 72 volunteers, including 16 food bank volunteers and two donation station collection volunteers who gave their time and energy every week to keep our pet food banks going and feed thousands of pets in need.

But it's not just our Outreach team who work regularly with volunteers, all year round they support us with everything from collecting and distributing collection cans to database management and working with our front-of-house reception team.



**OUR VOLUNTEERS GAVE
2,610 HOURS**

**THIS IS EQUIVALENT TO
65.8 WORKING WEEKS
AT 8 HOURS A DAY!**

In total, our volunteers gave 2,610 hours across all departments of the Home, 1,106.5 hours more than in 2022. This has been an invaluable support, helping us raise vital funds and combat the rise in requests that our food banks and support line have faced.

In the summer, we hosted a celebratory barbeque with our family of volunteers and team members to thank everyone for their hard work. We look forward to hosting more fun events like these!



WARMING GENEROSITY TOWARDS OUR WINTER APPEAL



A big thank you to everyone who supported our 2023 winter appeal. It has been an incredibly difficult few years for everyone and we have felt the brunt of this at the Home.

Your generous support of our appeal means we can continue to be there for the animals and people who need us throughout the toughest of times. Including dogs like Bagel, who almost didn't make it, but will soon celebrate one happy year in her forever home, and people like Susan who would've had to give up her pets without the help of our pet foodbanks.



**THIS YEAR, THE KINDNESS OF
INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES
HELPED US TO RAISE**

OVER £100,000

**IN VITAL FUNDS THROUGH OUR
WINTER APPEAL.**

It costs nearly £3 million to keep our doors open each year and we rely almost entirely on the generosity of our supporters.

This year, the kindness of individuals and businesses helped us to raise over £100,000 in vital funds through our Winter Appeal.

Your continued support, throughout our Winter Appeal and beyond, is invaluable and allows us to be there for the pets and people who need us.

OPEN DAY 2023 WAS A SCORCHING SUCCESS!

We were extremely grateful to everyone who came along last summer for a sunny afternoon of fun and games at the annual Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home Open Day, and to the volunteers and team members who helped make it happen!

We love the chance to invite our community in to celebrate and thank them for their continued care and support year on year.

We were thrilled to welcome hundreds of friends, old and new, to enjoy market stalls, face-painting, educational talks and delicious food and drinks from Pizza Geeks and Wee Green Events. Plenty of pups tried their paws in one of our competitions or in the famous Temptation Alley and our team were delighted to be reunited with many former doggy residents.

We can't put into words how much the generous and continued support of the community means to us. Despite being a free event, everyone's kindness helped to raise £4500 in vital support towards the care and protection of dogs and cats in Central and East Scotland.

We can't wait to see you again next year!



ARTEMIS AND APOLLO'S STORY: TAILLESS TWINS FIND THEIR FOREVER HOME

Artemis and Apollo were abandoned on the side of the road as kittens and brought to us in September of last year. Thankfully, they were both in pretty good health aside from a shocking discovery, neither of them had tails. We can't be sure if this was due to a birth defect or human cruelty, but after a minor surgery to help heal a wound on Artemis's tail, they both recovered well.

From the very start, they were completely bonded to each other, team member, Fiona, told us,

'They were so in love with each other. They would wrap their arms around each other and snuggle together when they napped.'

New owner, Karen, who has previously rehomed many beloved pets from us, hoped that bringing home a new family member would help cheer up her husky, Nanuk, after the loss of their

other dog, Skye. We felt that Artemis and Apollo would bring joy to any home as long as they were together.

Karen told us she couldn't believe how quickly they settled in.

'The first couple of nights, I just couldn't stop smiling! They are crazy together, but so sweet and cuddly too. You can tell they're really bonded.'

To begin with, Nanuk was a little nervous but now they're more comfortable with each other and Karen tells us that Nanuk already seems a little more alert and happier.

Apollo is the more boisterous of the two kittens. He loves to carry around his favourite little balls and choose different spots to stop and chase them around. Artemis is more of a sleepyhead. She loves to snuggle under blankets and groom herself. Both are cheeky, playful, and fearless.

Despite their difficult start to life, Artemis and Apollo found their happy ending in a loving forever home.



PROTECT LOVING HOMES



WALK 100KM WITH YOUR DOG

In 2023, our dedicated supporters donned their walking boots to participate in our 'Walk 100km with your dog' challenge. Across the challenges held in February and October, more than 350 individuals raised an incredible £35,000 for the Home. A heartfelt thank you to each walker and your pups!

MEOWCOIN NAME KITTENS

In Summer 2023, Piper the cat was brought in as a heavily pregnant stray and gave birth on her first night in our care in the Meowcoin nursery. Piper gave birth to four healthy kittens named Snowflake, Calico, Mana, and Atreyu by the Meowcoin community, a big thanks for all their support.



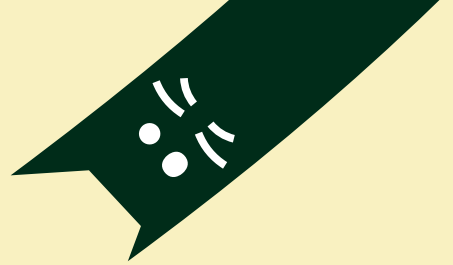
24 HOUR GAMING FUNDRAISER

Daryll Richardson and Jonny Wallace turned their virtual adventures into real-world impact by hosting a 24-hour streaming event. They raised a fantastic £2,111 through audience support and a matched gift from their employer.

CRYPTO ROUND-UP

In 2023, we were grateful to receive donations from longstanding crypto partners and new contributors. Saint Inu gave another generous donation to support our ongoing work. The K9 Collective supported our new Pet Care Clinics initiative, and Meowcoin continued its steadfast support by sponsoring our kitten nursery. We were thrilled to receive a \$2,500 donation from new project, PUG, our first Avalanche cryptocurrency gift, as well as a gift from Solana. Another gift came from Klee Kai, a video game project utilising blockchain technology. Finally, we received a fantastic donation from Baby Doge to sponsor our largest paddock and one of our community vans. In total, our crypto partners helped us raise an astounding £42,851.

RAISING VITAL FUNDS



The Fundraising team were hard at work again in 2023 and, as always, we were completely moved by the dedicated support and generosity of our community.

566

NEW MONTHLY DONORS

1,533

NEW LOTTERY PLAYERS

40

PEOPLE LEFT VITAL GIFTS IN THEIR WILLS

Regular giving is an important part of the fundraising puzzle as it allows us to plan ahead and focus our attention on areas of greatest need. In November 2023, we restarted our Face-to-Face fundraising work with an external agency, to acquire new regular donors. In total across the year, we were grateful to welcome the support of 566 new monthly donors whose long-term support will go a long way towards the continuous care of our dogs and cats.

Another exciting highlight of 2023 was the launch of our lottery, 1533 players signed up in our launch year, raising a whopping £73,818. We also participated in the Big Christmas Raffle where one of our lucky supporters won a Toyota Aygo X when her name was drawn! She told us:

"I'm over the moon to have won myself a new car whilst being able to help out Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home. Two years ago, I collected my amazing cat Tara from there, after they helped care for her when her last owners no longer could. Adopting her has been one of the best decisions of my life!"

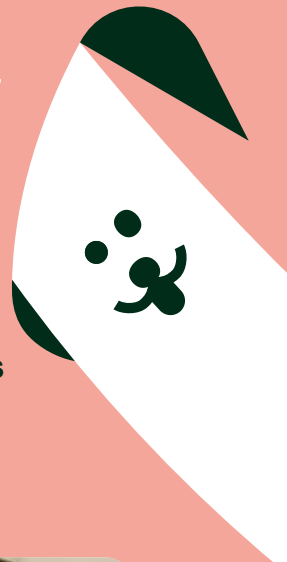


We were also the grateful recipients of a heartwarming number of legacy gifts throughout the year. In total, £1,041,392 was left through Gifts in Wills from 40 incredible people. One of these supporters left a generous £13,493 from himself and his partner as a testament to their love for animals. Their loving gift could help to find 260 animals a new home.

We were privileged to be shortlisted for the Scottish Fundraising Awards Best Individual Campaign for our 2022 Winter Appeal.

Finally, in addition to our digital fundraising challenges, we continued to see an uptake in the number of people hosting their own challenges and events. Our wonderful community of supporters got creative with their giving, from cycles to Christmas wreath making, they did it all!

FUDGE'S STORY: SWEET BY NAME, SWEET BY NATURE



Sweet-natured staffie, Fudge, surprised us all with a litter of ten puppies shortly after she arrived in our care. This is almost double the standard litter size for her breed so poor Fudge had her work cut out for her.

Fudge was surrendered to us via our night kennel in early May 2023. She was a little chunky, but not visibly pregnant and her microchip stated that she had previously been neutered, so imagine our surprise when just a few short weeks later we realised she was expecting puppies!

Thankfully, Fudge was in generally good health despite her bulging belly and handled her pregnancy well. One member of the kennel team described her as *'a really well-rounded dog who was friendly to everyone, her tail never stopped wagging!'*

Once they arrived, these adorable little terrors kept our team on their toes, needing constant care and attention. But in time Buttons, Wispa, Coco, Truffle, Twirl, Toffee, Mini-Fudge, Twix, Rolo and Hershey all found the loving homes they deserved and even pop in now and again to say hello.

Then it was Fudge's turn. Lesley and her husband grew up with dogs but had never owned or trained a dog themselves. This made it tricky to adopt as many rescue dogs have specific needs. But Fudge is such a happy-go-lucky girl that they met, and it was a great match.



Lesley tells us what life has been like since Fudge went home with them:

'We are quite an outdoorsy family, and we love walks, having Fudge brings a new dimension to that. We're all together more and we go to new places for walks, we love giving Fudge new experiences and she loves it too.'

Fudge's favourite thing is being given a soft toy and promptly ripping it to shreds. But Lesley tells us that she's smart enough to know which are her teddies and which belong to her daughters. She also loves wiggling along the floor to itch her back and demands that her blankets be perfectly arranged before she'll snuggle in on the couch.

Fudge is utterly beloved by her new family and a firm neighbourhood favourite. We're thrilled that sweet-girl Fudge has finally found the comfort, adoration, and love that she deserves.

2023 CEO ANNUAL REPORT

This past year has continued to be defined at times by the bumps in the road caused by the cost-of-living crisis but creating unprecedented pet and owner need across our communities. It has been a very long time since I have seen the Home under so much pressure to be there for so many dogs, cats, and their owners.

It is just that food and vet care is now unaffordable for so many, but that people are being pushed to breaking point with relationship breakdowns, losing their homes, or needing to take on extra work just to make ends meet. It is the dog and cat caught up in the middle of that crisis that has meant our phone calls for help reached an all-time high during the summer of 2023. To witness some of these phone calls and how heartbreaking they are stays with you.

While the scale of the need, and at times the suffering, has been immense and the pressure on the Home has reached new levels I was often reminded of the words of Amit Ray, "In every crisis, doubt or confusion, take the higher path - the path of compassion, courage, understanding and love."

This is exactly what the Home has done, it has not withdrawn its compassion, courage, understanding or love but has only doubled down its efforts to be there for those who call our helpline, attend our pet care clinics, access food parcels from us or walk through our door. Our staff and volunteer team have shone bright in the darkest moments and I'm so incredibly proud of them all.



But it has also been our supporters who have stepped forward across this year to show us that they are also there for us. We have been blown away by the generosity and kindness of supporters across Scotland and the globe, all wanting to play their part in the solutions we're working to deliver. So many of these supporters have gone out of their way not only to donate but also to send in messages of kindness, hope and support.

So, we look ahead to the next year with gratitude for those who have lifted us up when the weight has at times been too heavy and stood by the Home. We can only continue to be there for dogs, cats and pet owners in need because of the support you give us.







Lindsay Fyffe-Jardine, CEO



FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT 2023

During the 12-month period to 31 December 2023 the Home reported a deficit of £244k prior to unrealised gains on investments (£116k deficit including the unrealised gain on investments). Given the current difficult financial environment for all Charities caused by the cost-of-living crisis following on from the impact of covid, the Board approved a deficit for the year as it was clear that the use of reserves to plug the gap is for exactly this situation. However, there was a clear recognition that this is a short-term solution only and is not sustainable in the long term, so plans are in place to increase income in the future.

The Home is honoured to continue to receive very generous donations and legacies from so many supporters. We are extremely grateful to everyone who chose to bequeath funds to the Home, and we will continue to honour their memory through our work. Other income seen throughout 2023 comes from investments, our rehoming income and from our various trading activities. The trading activities include dog first aid courses and paddock hire. These have been a great addition to our offerings, enabling our customers to feel confident they are giving the best care to their pets and offering a safe space for dogs to play off lead with their owners.

INCOME	2023		% of Total Income
Donations and Legacies	£2,082,939	89%	
Income from Other Trading Activities	£125,212	5%	
Investment Income	£86,569	4%	
Charitable Activities	£40,833	2%	
Grant Income	£889	0%	
TOTAL INCOME	£2,336,442		
EXPENDITURE	2023		% of Total Expenditure
Charitable Activities	£1,734,825	67%	
Raising Funds	£845,478	33%	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£2,580,303		
Net Income/(Expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses	(£243,861)		
Realised gain on investments	£9,937		
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investments	£118,121		
(Loss) on disposal of Tangible Assets	-		
(Loss) on disposal of cryptocurrency	-		
Net movement in funds for the year	(£115,803)		

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Doreen Graham, Chair - resigned May 2023

Lesley Watt, Chair - appointed May 2023

Craig Marshall, Treasurer

David Hancock - resigned May 2023

Murray Stewart

Catherine Brown

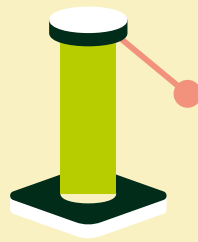
David Welsh

Roslyn Neely

Emma Barret

David Field

Matt Smith



SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Lindsay Fyffe-Jardine, CEO

Jamie Simpson, Director of Operations until November 2023, moving to Director of People and Services and Company Secretary

Sarah Johnston, Director of Income and Engagement

Katie Buckley, Director of Operations - joined November 2023

Deborah Charman, Director of Facilities and Business Services - until June 2023

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to all of our supporters, volunteers, trustees and team, we wouldn't be here still caring for pets and people in need after 140 years without you.

We're continuously moved by, and grateful for, the fierce support and dedication of our community. Whether you've rehomed from us, donated items, volunteered or helped us raise vital funds, you have played an important part in our mission to find loving homes, protect loving homes and run a loving Home for the dogs and cats who need us.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!





Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home

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Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home is a Scottish Charity SC006914,
regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).
Company limited by guarantee registered in Scotland SC466183.