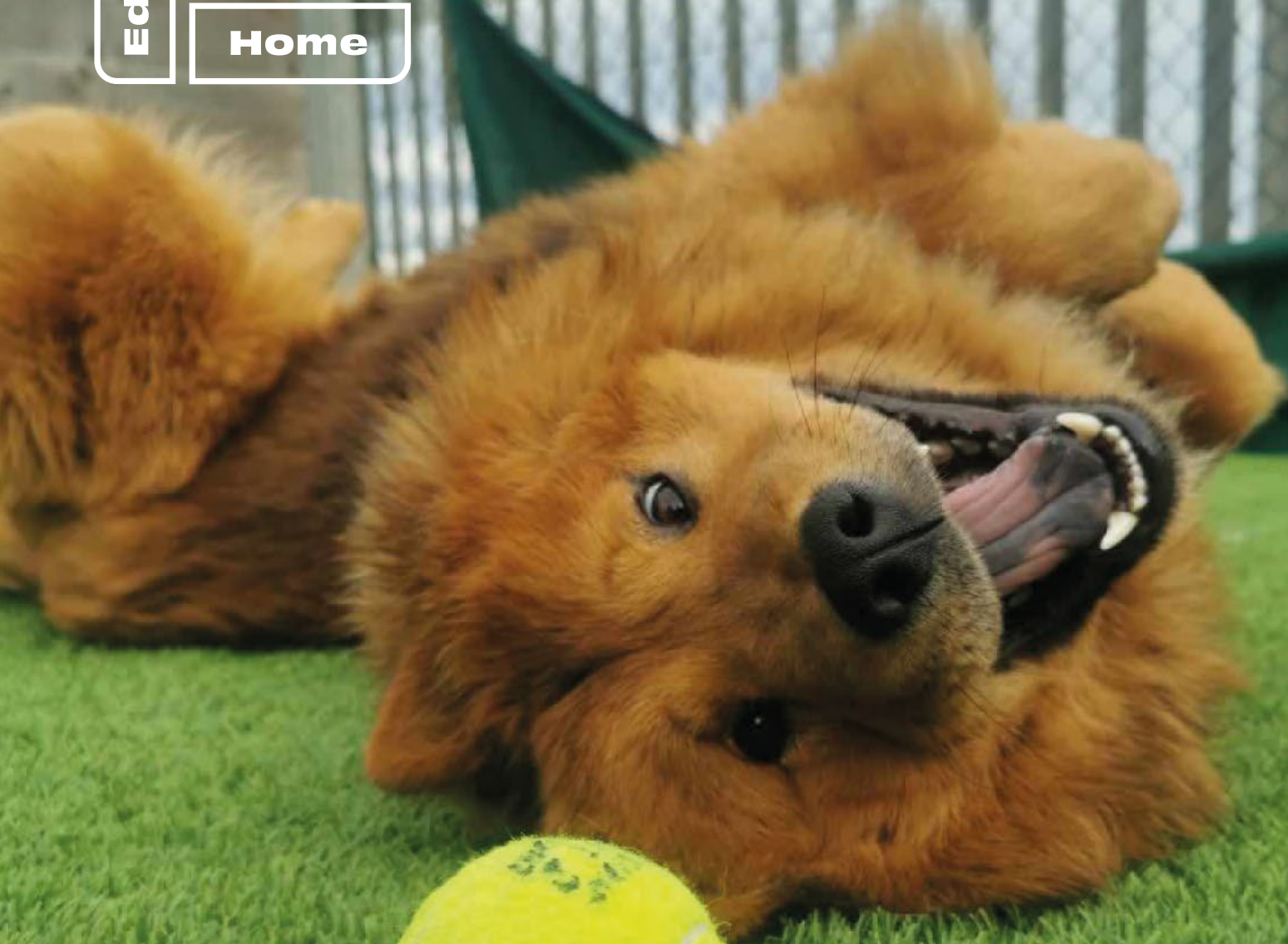


Edinburgh

**Dog  
&  
Cat**

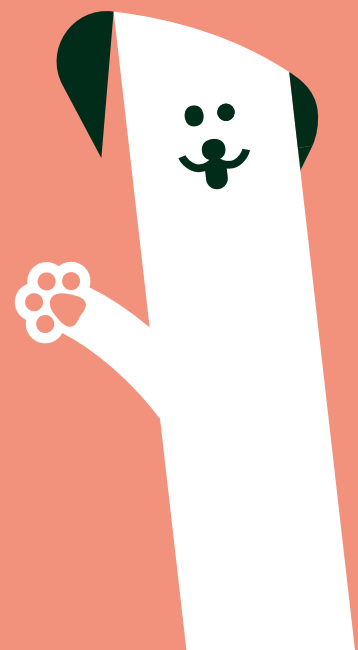
Home



**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2025**

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# LETTER FROM OUR CHAIRS

**It is a privilege to continue to serve as your Co-Chairs of the Board of Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home. The Home, and the role it plays in our community, means a great deal to both Jo and I. It is both humbling and motivating to help lead an organisation that not only champions the bond between pets and people, but actively works to protect and nurture it.**

There are so many reasons to feel optimistic about the future of our wonderful Home. At the heart of that optimism is the unwavering dedication of our community – our supporters, volunteers, partners and staff – whose commitment continues to sustain and strengthen our work. In a challenging environment, their generosity and belief in our mission have never wavered. This collective support not only enables us to meet growing demand, but also gives us confidence that we can continue to adapt, grow and reach more pets and people in need. It is this shared determination across Edinburgh that gives me real confidence in the Home's future and the difference we can make together.

However, we do need to take pause and recognise the environment that we are running the Home in. The pressures facing pet owners across Edinburgh and the wider region remain high. Demand for our support services continues to grow, underlining just how vital our work in the community has become. From helpline support to foodbanks and outreach, this preventative approach is essential – not only to protect animal welfare, but to ensure we are reaching the pets and people who need us most.

We are both continually inspired by the strength and dedication of our Board of Trustees, whose experience and commitment help guide the organisation. We are proud to support



an organisation built on dignity, respect and compassion. From our frontline teams to our volunteers, donors and partners, this work is only possible because of the collective effort of so many.

Above all, I would like to thank you – our supporters – for standing with us. Your belief in what we do enables Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home to remain a lifeline for pets and their people. Together, we are working towards a future where every dog and cat has a safe place to turn, and every owner can access support when they need it most.

**Matt Smith and Jo Talbot**  
**Co-Chairs**  
**Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home**

# IN 2025...

**224**

**PETS REHOMED INTO  
LOVING, FOREVER  
HOMES**

**54**

**ATTENDEES CERTIFIED  
THROUGH OUR NEW CAT  
FIRST AID COURSE**

**211**

**ATTENDEES CERTIFIED  
THROUGH OUR DOG  
FIRST AID COURSE**

**18,731**

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



**66,548**

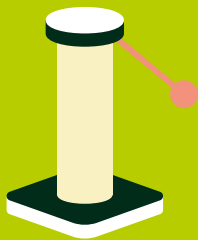
**PET MEALS  
PROVIDED THROUGH  
EMERGENCY  
FOOD PACKS**

**570,114**

**FURTHER PET  
MEALS PROVIDED  
THROUGH DONATIONS  
TO FOOD BANKS**

**767**

**DOG PARK  
SESSIONS HOSTED  
FOR DOGS TO RUN  
SAFE AND FREE**



**95**

**MISSING PETS REUNITED  
WITH WORRIED OWNERS**

**A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERY SINGLE  
PERSON WHO SUPPORTED US IN 2025  
– YOU MADE THIS ALL POSSIBLE!**

 **FIND LOVING HOMES**



## **AN UPDATE ON SUPER COOPER!**

**You might remember Super Cooper, everyone's best dog friend who spent over a year in our care waiting to find his forever home.**

Cooper is a Beagle Hound cross. He's a big boy who's just bursting with energy which makes him utterly loveable, but also made it a little tricky for him to find the right home. Thankfully, his new family have plenty

of experience with high energy dogs and they weren't phased by his boisterous nature. In fact, Rebecca and her husband already had a rescue dog named Mabel who's so similar to Cooper, they were convinced they could be related!





Mabel had been struggling a little since they lost their last dog, Radar, a few months earlier. They'd been thinking of rehoming another dog and when they saw Cooper's profile they just knew he was the one.

Rebecca tells us that Mabel and Cooper are *'a match made in heaven'*. They match each other's energy and love to wrestle together in the garden. We thought Cooper had a hard time knowing when to stop but it turns out that Mabel is actually the bigger pest!

Recently, Rebecca and Paul got married and Cooper and Mabel were the stars of the show. *'Mabel had a little flower, she was a bridesmaid dog, and Cooper was a groomsman dog with his wee bow tie'*. They absolutely loved all the attention and festivities, and Rebecca tells us they slept for about two days afterwards!

Rebecca shares what Cooper has brought to their lives: *'He's very cuddly and he's sweet but he's also just full of fun with a big lust for life. He's brought Mabel back out of her shell as well'*.

***'I think he's just been a bit misunderstood.'***

Cooper has settled in remarkably well with Rebecca and her family. He's even picked up a new quirk of burrowing up under the duvet covers to nap.

Rebecca has a lot of experience as a dog owner, her advice to anyone thinking of taking home a rescue dog is:

*'There's this misconception that rescue dogs are somehow damaged. People think puppies will fit into their life better but actually, I've had puppies and I've had rescue dogs and a rescue is probably easier. You know their personality, with a puppy, their personality is still developing.'*

Thank you to Rebecca, Paul, and Mabel for giving Cooper such a wonderful and warm



# ANIMAL WELFARE

**A difficult start to the year required us to think creatively and take action to ensure we continued to care whilst changing the way we worked. Here's how we ran a loving Home and prioritised animal welfare in 2025.**

## REDUCING THE AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY

We introduced a time-limited reduction in the number of animals we were able to take in to continue to meet our high standards of care. However, with the constantly increasing demand for our support, we knew this wasn't a long-term solution.

Instead, we examined our working practices with the goal of reducing the average amount of time that dogs and cats stay in our care. While some animals require lengthier stays to heal from medical issues, for example, this isn't the case for every dog or cat in our care. It's our policy to neuter every animal who comes to us, but for dogs and cats who are otherwise ready to go home, we now provide a neutering voucher to be redeemed with one of our vet partners. This means that animals don't need to stay with us to be spayed or castrated and can instead go to their new home and have the procedure done after settling in.

## REMOVING BARRIERS TO SUPPORT

For many people who can't keep their pets, calling us to enquire about giving up their pet is a daunting and emotional thing to do.

This year we created an online form for people to submit a surrender request which means that they can send us their information without having to have such an emotional phone call. This has been working very well and allows us to easily get the information we need to understand the surrendered animal's needs and find them a suitable home.



## TREND IN ANIMALS WITH CHRONIC ISSUES DUE TO LACK OF VET CARE

This year we've unfortunately seen many animals who've not had the veterinary care they needed.

This means that dogs and cats are coming in with multiple chronic issues that have not been addressed such as issues with their skin, ears, and feet. We've seen many instances of dental disease, including broken or infected teeth, blocks of tartar and gingivitis all of which should have been treated months if not years before.

In 2025, we've seen many dogs coming to us in poor body condition through lack of food or overweight with long nails from lack of exercise. In some instances, we've had to delay dental treatment until the animal had lost enough weight.

Many of these issues would not have developed if the animals had seen a vet as soon as the first symptoms occurred. Access to appropriate veterinary care and a proper diet are two of the five animal welfare requirements and withholding these is a form of neglect.

If you are struggling to pay for your pet's care, help is available. Please visit [edch.org.uk/accessible-pet-support/](https://edch.org.uk/accessible-pet-support/) for more information.

# RENFIELD'S STORY

**'You could tell he wanted to make friends, but he was too nervous.'**

When Renfield first came to us, he was so fearful and defensive that we suspected he may have been semi-feral. We were worried it would be difficult to find a good home for him, until David and Eilidh came along.

Renfield spent most of his time with us hidden away in his favourite igloo bed. He was very protective of his belongings and would leap out at anyone who got too close. We suspected it would take months and possibly even years in a new home for Renfield to feel comfortable enough for cuddles and pets.

But for Eilidh and David, Edinburgh locals with a big love for cats, Renfield's frightened demeanor wasn't a problem. Having previously rehomed and won over a feisty, fearful cat, they knew what they were doing. Eilidh shares their secret: *'It's mostly just having patience. It takes time for their little personalities to come*



*out and it's so worth it if you take that time and patience for them to get comfortable'. David adds, 'Once you earn the trust of a cat, there's nothing like it'.*

It took a little while for Renfield to settle into his new home. He spent most of the first week hiding away, building up the courage to venture out for a quick head bump before running away again. But Eilidh tells us; *'He's like a completely different cat now. He rolls all over you demanding attention. He loves to dangle over the back of a chair and he's such a chatty boy now, he's always telling us what he's doing.'*

Renfield has endless amounts of energy for playtime, and Eilidh and David, who both work from home, are always happy to give it to him.

Renfield's whole world has changed thanks to Eilidh and David. This frightened, defensive boy has learned that life can be full of cuddles, cat toys, and fun, and he never has to be scared again.

***'He brings so much joy into our lives every day with his silly antics. It feels like we met the perfect cat at the perfect time. It was fate to bring him in.'***

Thank you, Eilidh and David, for giving Renfield the second chance he deserved!



## A DOG FIRST AID COURSE HELPED SAVE MY DOG'S LIFE

Jo Talbot, Co-Chair of Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home, hoped she'd never have to use the skills she gained at our Dog First Aid course. But when she found her dog, Nico, choking, she was glad she'd attended.

As a local, Jo has been a long-time supporter of the Home. She rehomed Nico from us in 2021, he was one of a litter born at the Home. Jo went on to become a trustee of the Home in 2024 and then co-chair in 2025.

*'I've always had dogs and cats, I can't imagine my life without animals so I decided to take the Dog First Aid course. I just thought, if you've got an animal in your house and something happened, why wouldn't you want to have the knowledge and the tools to be able to help?'*

**When an emergency struck, Jo had the knowledge to deal with it.**

Nico's favourite treat was a long stick chew. He'd enjoyed them all his life with no issue, but when Jo gave him his usual treat one morning, it turned deadly.

*'I gave him the treat as I was getting ready one morning and then I suddenly had a strong urge to check on him because I wouldn't normally leave him with a chew unsupervised.'*

***'I put my head around the door and I could immediately see he was struggling. There was saliva everywhere and his eyes were wide with shock.'***



***'What I feel the course did for me was, in that moment I had the first aid trainer's voice in my head saying 'stay calm.'***

Jo had to act fast. *'It had become very slimy and I tried a few times to pull it out. I thought I was going to have to find the Dog First Aid kit which had tweezers in it.*

*But there wasn't time and I managed to just get my hand in his mouth, grab a corner and pull the thing out.'*

***'I think if I had panicked, it could have been quite a different outcome.'***

*'The course gave me the confidence to stay calm, think rationally in the moment and not panic.'*

Thankfully, Nico made a quick recovery, and apart from feeling a little sorry for himself, he was totally fine after the incident.

Jo shares what Nico means to her family: *'It all revolves around him. He's our life. He's brilliant, a real character and so funny. His favourite toy is foxy who came with him from the Home. Foxy's the only toy he'll cuddle and not rip to shreds.'*



**Jo's advice to anyone thinking of doing a pet first aid course is *'don't hesitate'*.**

*'It could be the difference between saving your animal's life or, if they're injured, knowing what to do in the moment. For me, it was life-saving.'*

*'It's fascinating, honestly! It's half a day and we came away with a first aid kit which is so helpful. If Nico were to cut his foot or I needed the tweezers or anything like that, we've got that now and everyone in the house knows where it is.'*

**When your pets need you most, be ready.**

Nico was lucky that Jo was able to act fast, decisively, and calmly to save his life. If you'd like to learn more about common pet emergencies and how to respond when they occur, sign up for an upcoming dog or cat first aid course today.



# EDUCATION COURSES

**A highlight of 2025 was the launch of our Cat First Aid course in May, which teaches crucial life-saving skills like CPR and wound dressing, as well as how to recognise signs of illness and pain in cats.**

Since launch, we've trained 54 people who told us:

*'Enjoyable and vital learning for those who care for cats or may come across one needing help. Nicole and Rachael were excellent.'*

*'A full day with lots of useful information, I feel happier knowing how to deal with living with my boys now.'*

Our First Aid for Dogs and Dog Body Language also continued to be popular with pet owners and people who work with animals. 211 people were accredited through our Dog First Aid course and a further 50 people attended the Dog Body Language courses.

Participants shared:

*'Nicole is an excellent trainer - confident, engaging and knowledgeable. She was ready to explain scenarios and give examples. Valuable learning, vital to those who own or care for dogs. Really worthwhile, practical too.'*

Other highlights from the year included:

- A fantastic talk on cat enrichment at Community Day and a cat enrichment station where people could buy and make toys for their cats.
- A successful crowdfunder raising £2,640 to buy cat first aid dummies which are vital to teach CPR accurately and effectively.



- We've been delighted to welcome back participants who've completed multiple courses, or come to renew their qualifications.
- We're incredibly proud of first aid trainer, Rachael, who left to become an Animal Care Assistant at the Dick Vet, and we welcomed Angel to the team. Angel gained her Trainer qualification and has just co-trained her first course, doing a fantastic job.
- We hosted multiple youth outreach groups on courses, from organisations based in Edinburgh, helping to empower young people and boost their employability in the animal sector.
- And we were delighted to host staff and members from Cani-Sports Edinburgh & Candidacasa Cattery and Kennels.

# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPERHERO VOLUNTEERS

We have some incredible volunteers here at Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home who are so dedicated and passionate about the work that they do.

Volunteers support us in almost every area of our work and there is so much we can celebrate but a few of our 2025 highlights were:

In 2025 our volunteers held nine pet food drives which brought in an incredible 24,775 meals to support our mission to keep loved pets in loving homes. Our food bank team were awarded an Inspiring Volunteer Award from Volunteer Edinburgh for the work that they do, whether they're running pet food drives, delivering to food banks, collecting donations or managing our Emergency Food Packs.

We're also delighted to say that in 2025 our volunteers Paul Jeffery and Susan Oliver were awarded Inspiring Volunteer Awards. The amazing Wendy Loftus was invited in to the Volunteer Edinburgh event at Edinburgh City

Chambers and was awarded her certificate by the Rt. Hon. Lord Provost and Lord Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh.

Additionally, Tess Eves, who supported the Edinburgh Interfaith Association with their annual pet blessing ceremony was invited along to their event at Edinburgh City Chambers and awarded a certificate to celebrate EIFA's King's Award for Voluntary Service in recognition of her work with them as a volunteer.

Furthermore, our incredible Susan Oliver was featured on Channel 5 news during their 'Hero of the Week' segment for the work she does to support Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home. Susan is one of our longest service volunteers and she currently supports with fundraising admin and food bank deliveries.

We are so glad that the incredible work of our volunteers is being recognised. Thanks to them we are able to achieve everything we have throughout 2025 and **we want to say a huge thank you to every single person who donates their time to support Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home.**





# PET FOOD BANKS



## How our community showed up for us in 2025.

As always, the demand for support from our pet food banks continues to rise and keeping a consistent stock of food is increasingly important to allow us to provide these much needed supplies.

In 2025, we focused on improving the sustainability of our food stocks, developing and improving the ways we source food. Our incredible volunteers are the lifeblood of our pet food banks. Every week they support us by collecting items given to our donation stations in supermarkets, vet practices, and various other businesses across Edinburgh, helping to organise these supplies, and distributing them to our network of 82 food bank partners.

Our volunteers also lead the charge on running pet food drives in supermarkets and other locations. These food drives not only generate vital donations but help raise awareness of our work and services. Anyone can host a pet food drive in support of the Home, find out more at [edch.org.uk/pet-food-drive](https://edch.org.uk/pet-food-drive)

Last spring, we were particularly bowled over by our community's support. Our shelves were worryingly bare and, nervous that we wouldn't be able to provide our food bank partners with the supplies they needed, we made an urgent appeal for help. And the community showed up.

We had so many kind visitors arriving with donations directly to our offices and the highlight was when a staggering nine van loads of donations arrived in one day from donors who had supported via our Amazon wish list.

This incredible response to our urgent request for help set our pet food bank up with sustainable resources for months and helped us get back on our feet with donations.

Thanks to the generosity of our community and the hard work of our volunteers and food bank partners, in 2025 we distributed an amazing 636,662 pet meals to families in need.



# MIRACULOUS MEALS DELIVER GENEROUS SUPPORT

**It wasn't only our community who showed up for us last year. Support came from further afield when we had an exciting visit from former Pop Idol winner, Will Young, and the team at Miraculous Meals who stopped by to find out more about our Pet Food Banks and make a generous donation!**

Will Young co-founded Miraculous Meals with the aim to raise awareness and support for animal rescue centres in the UK. The dog food brand, which donates 50% of their profits to

animal rescue centres, was taking part in a nationwide tour of beloved animal charities, donating £50,000 worth of food along the way.



**They enjoyed meeting our adorable residents, including mischief-maker, Cooper, who grabbed his chance in the spotlight and ran off with a microphone boom!**

*Will Young says: 'I'm really proud to help raise awareness and to deliver food to the incredible teams working tirelessly to give rescue dogs the second chance they deserve.'*

We're blown away by the generosity and support of Will Young and his team. From all the dogs, cats, and our team - thank you!

## SUSTAINABILITY AT THE HOME

### OUR COMMITMENT TO A GREENER FUTURE

Scotland's national ambition to reach net zero by 2045 sets a clear direction for every organisation, and this year we strengthened our commitment to this goal.

Our focus throughout 2025 has been building the foundations for long-term environmental responsibility while ensuring that every step we take is practical, affordable, and aligned with the needs of the animals in our care.

### LIGHT UP OUR HOME – CROWDFUNDER SUCCESS

In March 2025, we launched our most successful Crowdfunder to date, 'Light Up Our Home', raising over £14,000 to install solar panels on our outdoor cattery roof. Thanks to overwhelming public support, we reached our target and installation was completed in June by DWR Ltd.

Previously, the outdoor section of our cat pens had a mesh covering that allowed bird waste to fall through. Bird droppings can carry giardia, a highly infectious parasite that requires advanced cleaning to remove and ensure our pens were a safe environment for our feline residents.

The new solar panels now provide protective cover, significantly reducing this risk while simultaneously generating clean, green energy – a double whammy benefit for animal welfare and sustainability!

### PRIORITISING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND LOOKING AHEAD

Following the installation, we launched a series of green initiatives across the Home, focusing on reducing energy consumption and empowering our people to lead change.

- We established the Green Champions Committee, bringing together representatives from across the organisation to share ideas, promote greener alternatives, and act as environmental advocates.
- We completed an Energy Efficiency Audit with Business Energy Scotland.
- We began calculating our carbon footprint to set realistic, achievable targets for the future.

### WE'RE PROUD OF OUR SUCCESSES SO FAR

Our efforts throughout 2025 have delivered meaningful results:

- Installation of our first solar panel system.
- Positive behaviour shifts in energy use across the Home.
- Increased staff engagement through the Green Champions Committee.
- A 44% reduction in electricity costs in 2025.
- On bright, sunny days, the Home's electricity needs are now met entirely by green energy.

# SHEILA'S STORY: A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES, A LEGACY TO REMEMBER

**Sheila was 6 years old the first time she and her family visited Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home. That day they met Sandy, a golden retriever who became a cherished member of their family for 13 years. Sheila shares her story.**

I can still clearly remember the day we came down to Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home and adopted Sandy - it was a family event. My siblings and I would have been six, eight, and ten so you can imagine the excitement.

I can remember the whole day. On the way home we stopped at a local park and we all wanted a turn of holding his lead. At six years old, to hand me the lead of an 11-month-old labrador wasn't the brightest idea. I went absolutely horizontally across that park!

**Sandy was a terror for the first six months we had him.**



He chewed up a 3-piece suite, he ruined every soft toy we had in the house, he scratched all our records. It was unbelievable. But we persevered and boy did it pay off. Once he settled in, he was amazing. Even people who had their own dogs thought Sandy was the best dog ever. I was six and he was 11 months so in dog years we were roughly the same age. We grew up together.

I went to a school that was on the same street we lived on and my mum used to bring him up at break time. He would carry a packet of crisps for my break so gently all the way up to the school and all the children would come out to see him.

**These are the memories I have, how can you repay that?**





**Later on I rehomed Holly, a mixed breed dog, and then Sally, a black labrador from Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home.**

Holly was quite a confident dog but very much attached to my mum. She just adored her, anywhere my mum went, Holly was at her back.

Sally was a bit more sociable. She carried a ball everywhere, she'd be out for a long walk and the ball would stay in her mouth the whole time. It was like a baby with a dummy, I think it was a comfort to her.

**My mother loved the dogs too, she came with me every time I came to rehome one.**

She would have taken a bullet for our dogs, she was the hub of the whole thing. She looked after the three of us and the dog.

We kept Sally and Holly's ashes and when my mum passed away last year, shortly after Sally, we buried them with her. Now they'll always be together.

**What we've had from the Dog and Cat Home over the years has been amazing, and that's why we feel it's time to pay it back.**

Sandy's birthday was the 8<sup>th</sup> of March and every year on that day I say a happy heavenly

birthday to him. I still think of him all those years later. It was 57 years ago that we got him and I still celebrate his birthday, that's the impact they've had on my life.

We're leaving everything, our house and everything, and that's pay back to what the Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home has given us.

It's such an essential service the Home is providing. They're saving the lives of these animals and finding good homes. And I feel they provide such a service to this city.

**I think if people can just do what they can, even the smallest amount buys a dog a dinner or a bed... it doesn't have to be big lump sums or anything!**

There are a lot of charities that are very deserving, but I just have such a bond with the Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home. It was very easy to set up our pledge while my husband and I were writing our wills, and we haven't stipulated that the money should be spent on anything in particular.

**So long as the Home keeps going, that's all I care about.**



# A RECORD YEAR OF KINDNESS



**2025 was a year of transformation for the Home. While difficult decisions were made to ensure we could be there for every dog and cat, it also became our most successful fundraising year to date.**

This extraordinary achievement was made possible by the compassion and dedication of our supporters, partners and community. Because of you, we were able to continue providing care, shelter, and hope to the dogs, cats, and people who needed us most.

## LEGACIES AND GIFTS IN MEMORY

One of the most touching ways supporters chose to give in 2025 was through gifts in memory of beloved pets and people. These deeply personal tributes lived on through the animals they helped.

Together, these special donations raised an incredible £54,000 from in memory donations and life changing £1,237,057 in legacy gifts.

## TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

Support from charitable trusts and foundations continued to grow significantly. We're incredibly grateful to the organisations who recognised the impact of our work and chose to invest in the welfare of animals and future of the Home. Their support enables vital services across the Home, from site improvements including kennel expansions to staffing costs including our foodbank co-ordinator, vehicles, enrichment and much more.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- Pets at Home Foundation
- Weir Charitable Trust
- Betty Phillips Charitable Trust
- George and Margaret Trotter Charitable Trust
- Ivo Trusts
- Evelyn Drysdale Charitable Trust
- Beaverbrooks Charitable Trust
- First Sentier Foundation
- Walker 597 Animal Trust
- Vegware Community Fund
- Mrs Mary Burgerhout
- Scotmid Community Grants

## CHARITY PARTNERSHIPS AND BUSINESS SUPPORT

Businesses across Scotland played a vital role in supporting the Home this year – through fundraising, volunteering and events.

We are grateful to the many organisations who championed the Home in 2025, including:

Abbey UK, Amati Global Investors, Persie Gin, Robertson Construction, Club Backdrops, Mars Petcare, Baillie Gifford, Leiths Veterinary Practice, East Lothian Council, Scotch Whisky Experience, Dunedin Veterinary Practice Tranent, Brewin Dolphin and William Waugh Ltd.

Several organisations also chose the Home as their Charity of the Year, creating deeper partnerships. Special thanks to new partners: Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, Nucleus, Ralph Sayer, and Simply Crochet Magazine.

# COMMUNITY SUPPORT

**Our local community showed extraordinary creativity and enthusiasm in 2025.**

From quizzes and comedy nights to school events and community gatherings, supporters found countless ways to raise funds and spread awareness.

Last year our supporters hosted events like:

- Team members from the Torfin Bar and Grill cycling from Majorca to Edinburgh,
- The Pet Blessing Ceremony at Greyfriars Kirk,
- Team Leithal Hits, an Edinburgh based group hosting a Warhammer tournament,
- Absolute Body Art organising a flash tattoo event,
- Erskine Stewart's Melville Schools walking the West Highland Way,
- Brufts Dog show at Boroughmuir High School,
- Belli International hosting an 80s Gala Dinner,
- Goose's Quizzes hosting an Elimination Game fundraiser during the Fringe.

## CROWDFUNDING FOR THE FUTURE

Our supporters also came together online to help fund vital improvements to the Home.

### Cat First Aid Crowdfunder

Supporters raised £2,600 to purchase specialist cat first aid training dummies, allowing us to reach real, life-saving skills on our Cat First Aid course.

### Light Up Our Home Campaign

An incredible £14,700 was raised to install solar panels across the cattery roof, reducing energy costs and making the Home more sustainable for the future.

## EVENTS AND CHALLENGES

With limited resources, last year we had to scale back a little, but we still hosted some great events and were blown away by our community support as people challenged themselves to raise money for our cats and dogs.

As usual, our annual Community Day was a hit and we were delighted to welcome old friends and new for a day of pup cups and competitions in our large paddock. We hosted our first Legacy 'Future Without Limits' event, getting to know some of our pledgers better with a tour around the kennels.

And finally, we hosted a Thank-a-Thon Day, bringing together staff and volunteers to write cards and make calls thanking supporters for their valuable support. This was such a happy day, one team member told us: *'I loved taking part in the Thank-a-Thon, it was so inspiring to chat with some of our donors about the impact the Home has had on their life and show them our appreciation too.'*

Supporters pushed themselves to incredible limits in 2025 across a number of challenge events. 124 participants raised more than £33,000 for the Home through events including EMF, Loch Ness Marathon, Women's Edinburgh 10k, Edinburgh & Glasgow Kiltwalk, Scottish 10k, Scottish Half Marathon, and our first Ironman Leeds participant!

**A huge thank you to everyone who showed up and supported us last year, we couldn't do this without you.**

# THE POWER OF PEOPLE

**2025 was our most successful fundraising year on record, with £2,563,214 raised to support the animals in our care.**

But perhaps most inspiring of all is the scale of the community behind this support.

Support came through appeals, gifts-in-kind, monthly recurring donations, sponsoring a dog kennel or cat pen, playing our lottery, and taking part in events. Legacies continue to play a vital role in securing the future of the Home, ensuring we can continue our mission for generations to come. To every supporter, donor, volunteer, business partner, and community group – thank you for making it all possible!

Behind every successful year are the people who support the Home year after year. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our committed community of supporters with a special shout out to those who continue to fundraise for us including Linda Thomson, Dr Daniela Schnitzler and Dogs of Harrison Park, Angelika



**Nine vans FULL of food and necessities for the dogs and cats in our care and community.**

Grindlay, Valley Forge Kennels, Brian Baird & Leith Dockers, McLarens on the Corner, and Budminton Edinburgh.

**Your continued generosity helps provide stability and long-term care for animals in need.**



## OUR AMAZING COMMUNITY



**Nearly 10,000 people donated to the Home in 2025**



**Over 1,000 people signed up to become a monthly supporter (over 500 through F2F Fundraising)**

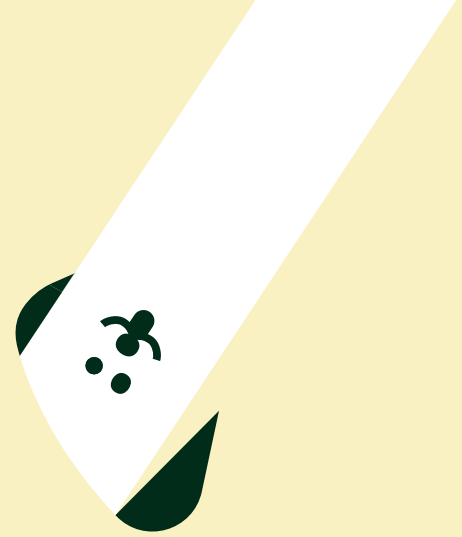


**Over 100 ran, climbed, cycled, walked, wheeled and swam in support of the dogs and cats**



**Almost £100,000 donated from Trusts and grants**

# MAKING THE HOME FUTURE READY



**2025 was challenging for the Home. During the year, we made the difficult decision to reduce some of our services to manage costs.**

Getting back to supporting more animals is really important to us, and to the dogs and cats of Edinburgh and beyond. To make that possible, we started a transformation journey to modernise how we work. The goal is to improve our processes, work more efficiently, and create the capacity to grow again without needing to increase staffing levels at the same pace.

Alongside this, we applied for grant funding from Battersea through their Future Ready Programme. This two-year programme supports animal welfare organisations to build strong, sustainable foundations for the future, which fits perfectly with the work we've already begun.

Our application was successful and this funding will help us speed up the transformation of our core processes. It will also give us the capacity to spend more time out in the community, building meaningful relationships and reconnecting with people in ways we haven't been able to recently. We're excited to strengthen those links and increase our impact for both animals and people, while keeping the Home safe and sustainable for the future.

## OUR PEOPLE

Our people are at the heart of everything we do and our values – authenticity, compassion, dedication, and dignity – guide how we care for animals, people, and each other every day.

We have a wonderful team who work tirelessly to do the right thing for the animals and people we help. This work is rewarding but can also be emotionally difficult, especially in times of change, so it's important that we fully support our team personally and professionally.

Accordingly, we've offered a lot of training opportunities and personal development throughout the year:

- Mental Health First Aid training – we trained 10 staff to be mental health first aiders onsite to support staff suffering from compassion fatigue, anxiety, or other mental health issues. To be able to talk and get support, without judgement provides a safe space for all.
- In a similar vein, our Employee Assistance Programme system allows all employees to directly access counselling sessions for free.



- Compassion Fatigue training – Over half our staff went through excellent compassion fatigue training with Dr. Tara, helping them to find tools and techniques to help manage their anxiety and emotions.
- Neurodiversity training – Donaldson’s Trust provided all managers and some staff with in-depth Neurodiversity training to enable them to support their staff and colleagues better.
- In order to upskill our managers and to help them to support their teams better, Future Proof Training provided leadership training and 1-1 coaching for managers, a programme that will continue for 2026.
- We also offered leadership skills training through Oligivie Ross Skills Academy which many of our non-managers participated in, learning all about how to get the best out of people.
- We continue our Learning Wednesdays sessions with special guests such as East Coast Dog Training, Police Scotland, Guide Dogs, and Pet Blood Bank supporting our team’s development, and also addressing more personal topics such as menopause awareness, NHS screening and early detection, financial wellbeing, and sleep.

Within our People Team, we’ve been working to establish a Performance Framework that provides a consistent approach to evaluating and improving performance. What we want from this Performance Framework is pretty simple: to help everyone do their best work and feel supported in doing it.

It gives us a clear, fair, and consistent way of talking about performance across the organisation. Rather than performance being a once-a-year review, it’s about having regular conversations, reflecting on what’s going well, and identifying where people can grow and develop.

The framework also helps make sure everyone’s individual goals connect to the bigger picture to achieve together our mission, vision, and priorities. It’s built around our values and is really about unlocking the potential of our people.

Ultimately, it’s about creating a culture where people feel trusted, supported to learn, and encouraged to keep improving, so that together we can achieve the best outcomes for our teams, the organisation, and the animals we care for.

# SYDNEY'S STORY: THE MOST POPULAR GIRL IN THE PARK

**You may remember Sydney as Summer, the malnourished lurcher with a broken jaw who featured in our Winter Appeal. Sydney has left her difficult past behind, now she has a new home, a new name, and a bunch of new friends too.**

Sydney is making the most of every moment in her new home, she's full of energy even after three long walks a day, but she still loves cuddling up into a blanket den. Nicola tells us that *'she's been an absolute delight.'*

**Nicola remembers coming to meet Sydney for the first time...**

*'I was expecting this super nervous lurcher and that's not what I met. I remember she ran up to us and was like 'hello, I'm coming home with you!'. She was running around with my son and we just fell in love.'*

Nicola has a lot of experience with anxious dogs so she was confident that she would be able to support Sydney with all the training and care she needed.

Together, they've worked on her toilet training, her slight food aggression, and her recall on off-lead walks. Now, Nicola and Sydney are thick as thieves, *'Within a couple of weeks it was like me and her against the world.'*

**Nowadays, Sydney is full of mischief and a 'complete diva.'**

Nicola tells us that she loves to trick other dogs on the beach and steal their toys. She likes to climb up onto the windowsill like a cat and watch out for the birds and she will demand that her blankets are straightened out before she hops up onto the couch.

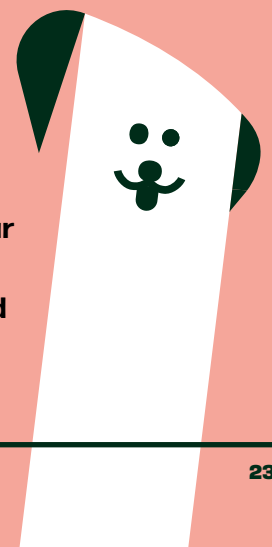


She even has her own TikTok page where Nicola shares *'her quirkiness and what she's getting up to.'*

**'It's like she's my little sidekick and she's just always there.'**

*'I remember there was a picture of her in your Winter Appeal and it just broke my heart because her face was wider than her body, she was so skinny. Knowing what she's like now, I can't believe it's the same dog. She's just so happy.'*

**We want to say a huge thank you to Nicola and her family for giving Sydney a second chance at a happy life, and to everyone who supported our Winter Appeal to help dogs like Sydney find the love and playfulness they deserve.**



# LETTER FROM OUR CEO

I was delighted to join the Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home as CEO at the end of 2025. It had been a tough year for the organisation but the team I joined are resilient, dedicated, and determinedly passionate about animal welfare. I want to thank my predecessors, Lindsay Fyffe-Jardine and interim CEO, Jamie Simpson, who left big shoes to fill. I'm thrilled to be here, alongside this wonderful team to steer the Home forward.

This year was one of the most challenging in recent times for the Home. Like many charities, our costs have grown considerably, with the cost-of-living impacting our ability to run both our community-based support for pet owners and our in-home care and rehoming of dogs and cats.

Annually, we carefully invest around £3m in running the Home and caring for hundreds of dogs and cats. Without government funding, we remain incredibly grateful for the support and generosity of the public for our work. Together with our dedicated trustees we took the difficult decision to restructure our outreach activities and temporarily reduce the number of dogs and cats we take into the Home. We remain committed to operating a pet food bank across Edinburgh and beyond. During 2025 we provided 636,662 meals, more meals than ever before.

The action taken by the trustees and wider team has substantially reduced the financial pressures facing the Home and we are focused on managing our costs, whilst raising more funds to ensure the Home delivers the best welfare and care for animals needing a new loving home.

Looking ahead, we will refresh our strategy and plans, prioritising preventative action in communities that supports pet owners across



Edinburgh and Lothians to love and care for their dogs and cats. Addressing rising costs of pet ownership for example, routine grooming, insurance and vet fees are a serious concern for all responsible pet owners. We know that the Home is a safety net for dogs and cats in crisis and for people struggling to keep their pet at home. Our door will always be open for lost, abandoned dogs and cats and for pets when people are unable to manage. We offer love, comfort, incredible care, targeted training and ongoing support so every dog and cat and their new family have the best chance possible for a loving forever home.

We witness joy, kindness, and compassion daily, for people and animals, and we are forever grateful for the commitment of our amazing team, volunteers and local supporters. Belief in the Home and the difference we make for dogs, cats, and people is both inspiring and humbling, motivating us to do more, and be the change for people and pets in need.

**Amelia Morgan,**  
**CEO, Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home**

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2025

During the 12-month period to 31 December 2025 the Home reported a deficit of £282k prior to unrealised gains on investments (£93k deficit including the unrealised gain on investments). The Board approved a deficit for the year to be met from the reserves but this is a substantial reduction in our deficit from the prior year (2024: £940k reducing to £780k when including unrealised gains on investments). Whilst considerable savings were achieved in year, alleviating immediate pressures, plans for 2026 are focused on continued cost control coupled with income growth.

Throughout this challenging year 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 2025 comes from investments, our rehoming income, and from our various trading activities. The trading activities include dog first aid courses, paddock hire, and income from our weekly lottery.

INCOME	2025	% of Total Income
Donations and Legacies	£2,457,556	89%
Income from Other Trading Activities	£154,657	6%
Investment Income	£72,754	3%
Charitable Activities	£81,661	3%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£2,766,628</b>	

EXPENDITURE	2025	% of Total Expenditure
Charitable Activities	£1,971,788	65%
Raising Funds	£1,077,233	35%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£3,049,021</b>	
Net Income/(Expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses	(£282,393)	
Realised gain on investments	£128,582	
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investments	£60,482	
(Loss) on disposal of Tangible Assets	-	
(Loss) on disposal of cryptocurrency	-	
Net movement in funds for the year	(£93,329)	



# EXECUTIVE TEAM

**Amelia Morgan**, CEO (joined December 2025)

**Lindsay Fyffe-Jardine**, CEO (left July 2025)

**Jamie Simpson** COO from March 2026 until July 2025,  
Interim CEO from July 2025 (left February 2026)

**Christine McGlasson**, Interim Chief Operating Officer (joined July 2025)

**Sarah Johnston**, Director of Income and Engagement (left April 2025)

**Sandra Gilmour**, Head of People (left January 2026)

**Nonnie Kent**, Head of Animal Welfare and Operations

**Lynsey McGreavy**, Facilities Manager

**Gillian MacAulay**, Head of Income and Engagement

**Jennifer Jackson**, Marketing and Communications Manager

**Jessica Brennan**, Finance Manager

**Emma Summers**, Executive Support Officer

# BOARD MEMBERS

**Matt Smith**

**Jo Talbot**

**Fiona Davis**

**Hannah Leslie**

**Rebs Curtis-Moss**

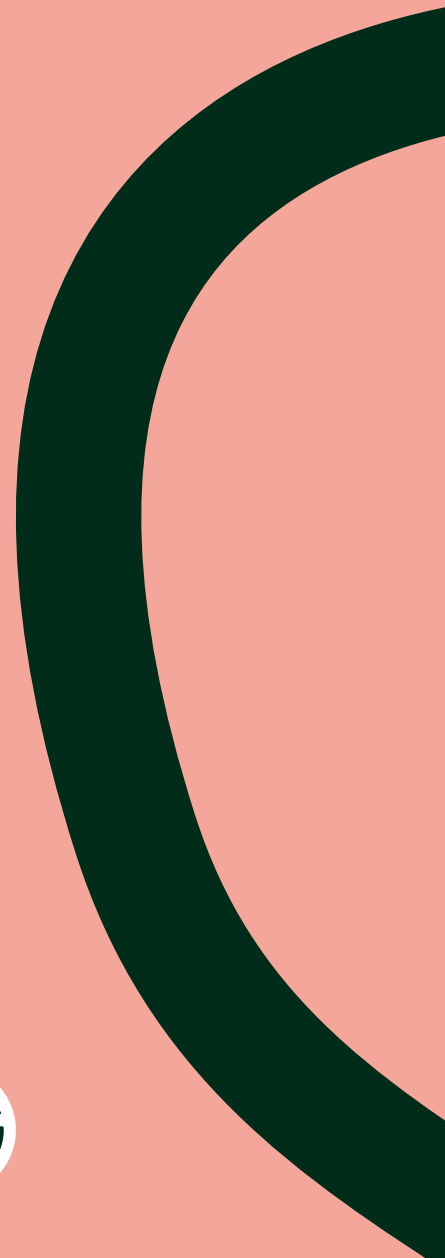
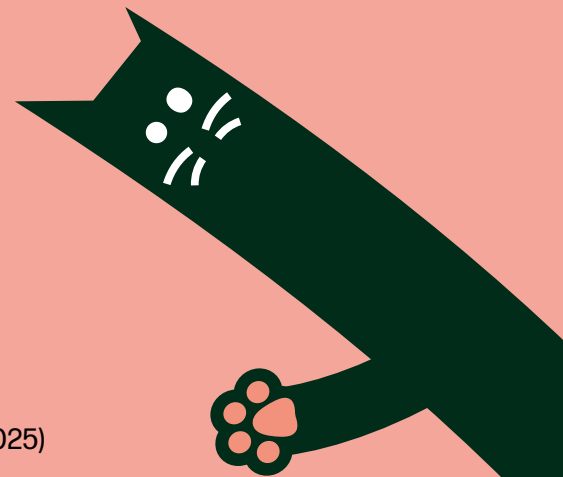
**Andrew Bardsley**

**Nina Graham**

**Lesley Pinder**

**Robin Jack**

**David Field**



# THANK YOU

2025 was a year of transformation and change at Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home. We had to make some incredibly tough decisions to ensure that we could continue to be here for Edinburgh's dogs and cats. At the same time, we achieved our most successful fundraising year to date and welcomed our new CEO, Amelia Morgan.

Through everything, our amazing volunteers, donors, team members, and wider community made it possible for us to show up everyday for the dogs and cats who need us.

Thanks to your unwavering support, 224 dogs and cats found safe loving homes last year, 636,662 meals were distributed to families in need through pet food banks, and almost 100 missing pets were reunited with worried owners.

We wouldn't be here without you, from everyone at the Home, thank you.





## **Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home**

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Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home is a Scottish Charity SC006914,  
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