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Annual Report and Accounts
for the Financial Year Ended
31 December 2019

Dogs Trust Company Limited by Guarantee



DogsTrust

www.DogsTrust.ie

Annual Report and Accounts for the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2019

A company limited by guarantee
and not having share capital.

Registered Office

Dogs Trust Company
Limited by Guarantee (CLG),
Ashbourne Road,
Finglas, Dublin 11,
D11 K003.

Registered Company Number

396919

Registered Charity Number

20057978

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**10 years
of successfully
rehoming dogs
in Ireland**

01

Welcome and Overview

A welcome message from Dogs Trust CLG Chairperson Owen Sharp


I am delighted to be joining Dogs Trust CLG (throughout this report known as Dogs Trust) as the new Chairperson. It is an incredible organisation that is steeped in animal welfare history. I am also delighted to have the opportunity to congratulate my colleagues and our supporters in Ireland for all the work they have done during Dogs Trust's first 10 years of rehoming dogs. Our life-saving work has surely been a major contributor to the dramatic decline in the number of dogs put to sleep in local authority pounds across Ireland in recent years – something that has only been possible thanks to the commitment and generosity of our supporters.

This report details the tremendous impact that Dogs Trust has made, not just over the last year, but over the last 10 years. It not only highlights what we are doing to help dogs today, but also how we are working to protect the next generation of dogs to ensure they are safe and loved.

I was particularly pleased with the launch of **Dog School** in Ireland, after our research showed a real need for the expansion of our support with dog training. Following its successful launch, I am excited to watch how this unique training initiative supports owners in Ireland, and I have every confidence it will prove as popular and useful a programme as it has been in the UK.

As always, reflecting on the last year really brings home just how much we have achieved. All of these successes are due to the support given by our staff, volunteers and supporters – so, for that, I thank you. Already, with the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 has brought more than its share of new challenges. I am confident, however, that our team and our supporters will find a way to overcome these.

I am looking forward to my first year as Chairperson and am excited about making an even greater impact on the lives of dogs and the people who love them.



Owen Sharp
Chairperson
Dogs Trust CLG



Executive Director's Statement

A welcome message from Dogs Trust CLG Executive Director Becky Bristow

What a privilege it is to introduce our Annual Report during this milestone year for Dogs Trust. This is the 10th anniversary of the opening of our Rehoming Centre in Finglas, Co. Dublin, and its importance as a haven for dogs and dog lovers has grown with each passing year. What began as a place to rescue a dog has – thanks to the backing of our amazing supporters – become so much more. It is also a training centre, a place to honour dogs that have passed on and a place of celebration. It is a workplace, an information centre and a space where dogs that struggle with the outside world learn new coping skills in a safe and loving environment.

Of course, its primary purpose is the rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming of dogs – we rehomed 798 dogs through the Rehoming Centre this year and transferred 1,115 dogs to similar rehoming centres in the UK under the ongoing **Hub Transfer Scheme**. Under this scheme, we board dogs in private kennels, or 'hubs', around the country to expand our capacity. When the dogs are vaccinated against rabies and are healthy, they can be rehomed in Ireland or in the UK.

The Rehoming Centre is also the base for our preventative work, which takes many forms. This year, 4,333 dogs were neutered, and we helped a total of 2,237 owners to comply with the Microchipping of Dogs Regulations during our **Microchip Certificate Amnesty** as part of **National Chipping Week**.

Education also plays a huge part in preventing dogs from being surrendered or abandoned. The Education and Community team continued to do excellent work, delivering our **Be Dog Confident** and **Be Dog Smart** programmes around the country, teaching over 68,548 adults and children how to be safe around dogs. We also introduced **Dog School**, where families can come to the Rehoming Centre to learn how to train their dogs so that unwanted behaviours do not arise in the first place. The response to **Dog School** has been strong in its first year, with 154 dogs and their owners educated.

Our Campaigns team has also been busy this year. We had a powerful Christmas campaign, **A Dog is for Life®**, which reinforced our core message, that a dog is for life, not just for Christmas®. Our second **Dog Friendly Ireland Day** highlighted the lack of dog friendly accommodation in Ireland, an ongoing problem for dog owners. Other ongoing campaigns, such as **The Big Scoop**, continue to highlight the need for dog owners to be responsible for their dogs in public places.

The PR and Communications team has worked hard all year to publicise our efforts and to showcase the personalities of the puppies and dogs in our care. Using heartfelt and funny videos, as well as the regular Friday **PuppyCam** in our dedicated Maternity Unit, they have increased awareness of our efforts.

In our advisory capacity, we made a detailed submission to the Department of Rural and Community Development as part of its public consultation on legislation relating to the control of dogs in Ireland. We also welcomed Minister of State Seán Canney to the Rehoming Centre to discuss improvements to dog welfare across Ireland. Progress is being made in this area, but we will continue to push for greater change on behalf of dogs, our supporters and the over 80,000 people who have so far signed our petition to end the cruel practices behind bad breeding.

As always, we welcomed the public to events at our Rehoming Centre. We hold a number of events each year, from **Howl-O-Ween** to **Santa Paws**, but this year, to mark 10 years of successfully rehoming dogs in Ireland, we wanted to do something extra special to thank our supporters for everything they do. So, we held our first ever **Dogs Trustival** in the summer. It was wonderful to host such a joyous celebration of the bond between dogs and people.



This year, we launched the **Adrian Burder Memorial Garden**, a quiet space of solace for the families of our wonderful legacy donors to visit and also a special place for the bereaved to honour their four-legged friends that have passed on. You can support Dogs Trust by purchasing a memorial tag, inscribed with your dog's name, and the tag will be placed on a statue in the garden. As a dog lover, it's a beautiful way to not only honour your own dog, but also to help thousands more to get all the loving care they need until they find Forever Homes of their own.

We rehomed 798 dogs through the Rehoming Centre this year

I would like to express a massive congratulations and well done to our Fundraising team this year for all their incredible hard work and individual successes. They have reached their goal of doubling fundraising income a year ahead of schedule, which is an amazing achievement. It is thanks to you, our wonderful dog-loving donors, that we have reached this ambitious goal, and we can continue to help the dogs that need your kindness and generosity the most.

It is too early yet to tell what effect the COVID-19 crisis will have on Dogs Trust. As I write this, rehoming is on hiatus and most of our staff are working from home. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, however, our dogs continue to receive the highest level of care during these unusual times. Challenges like these are another reminder that, as an organisation that receives no government funding, we rely completely on your kindness to continue our life-saving work. We truly appreciate everything you do for the dogs in our care.

As you read this report, I hope that you see how grateful we are for the support that we receive – and how hard we work to live up to it.

Becky Bristow
Executive Director
Dogs Trust CLG

Directors and General Information

Directors

Mr J. Monteith, Non-Executive and Chairperson (resigned 17 July 2019) – UK resident

Mr O. Sharp, Non-Executive and Chairperson (appointed 17 July 2019) – UK resident

Mrs C. Baldwin CBE, Non-Executive – UK resident

Ms N. Canavan, Non-Executive – Irish resident

Mr B. Halford, Non-Executive – Irish resident

Mr B. Llewellyn, Non-Executive (appointed 17 July 2019) – UK resident

Ms S. O'Donnell, Non-Executive – Irish resident

Secretary

Mr B. Llewellyn (appointed 17 July 2019, resigned 14 November 2019) – UK resident

Ms K. Walkowicz (appointed 14 November 2019)¹ – UK resident

Dogs Trust Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG)

Registered Company Number	396919
Registered Charity Number	20057978
Registered Office	Ashbourne Road, Finglas, Dublin 11, D11 K003.
Auditors	BDO, Beaux Lane House, Mercer Street Lower, Dublin 2, D02 DH60.
Bankers	Allied Irish Banks, p.l.c., 53/54 Main Street, Finglas, Dublin 11, D11 PH94.
Solicitors	A&L Goodbody, 28 North Wall Quay, North Wall, Dublin 1, D01 H104.

The Directors present their annual report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019. The Company was incorporated on 27 January 2005 and was granted charitable status by Revenue on 18 March 2005.

¹B10 acceptance by Companies Registration Office (CRO) in progress at time of publication.

WACKY WEVS

Our goofy Staffie ice pop-eater

This handsome three-year-old boy came into our care in April 2018, having been found wandering the streets by himself. From the beginning, Wevs charmed the team with his personality and potential. He is a playful dog, enjoying fetch and other games, and he loves the company of people.

Our Training and Behaviour team could see straight away that Wevs had a very bouncy demeanour and a strong need for human attention. They put a lot of work into helping him to be more relaxed and calmer when he was by himself, and to greet people appropriately. Wevs responded happily – he even developed a 'hello, friend' stretch for new people. He also became a social media star when his puppyish playing and his enthusiastic ice pop demolition were featured in some of our videos.

Wevs needed a specific type of adopter – someone who would be happy to give him extra time and attention to adjust to regular domestic life. After 16 months in our care, the right match was made. His forever family visited the Rehoming Centre regularly over a period of time, building up their relationship with Wevs, all under the guidance of the Training and Behaviour team. Even after Wevs went to his new home for an initial trial, his family kept us in the loop on his progress, until Wevs was ready to live his life as a proper family dog.

Here's what his family says:

"I can honestly say that taking the time to build a relationship with Wevs during the Rehoming Centre and home visits was really worth it. He had spent a long time in the Rehoming Centre, and he took a while to trust us. But now that he has settled in it's like he's always been part of the family. On paper he was not at all what we were looking for, but now we can't imagine having a different dog. He hasn't lost his lively, boisterous nature, but he also loves nothing more than cuddles and chilling on his favourite chair. I encourage any potential adopters to have a look at 'The Underdogs', they have been waiting the longest for a home and will make you so happy that you gave one of them a chance."



2019 in Numbers



Rehoming Centre:

23,239

visitors
welcomed
to Dogs Trust

Preventative Care:

4,333

dogs
neutered



Dog Pound Statistics:

reduction in the number
of dogs put to sleep in Irish
pounds since our work began

FROM 48 TO LESS THAN 2 DOGS A DAY

Source: Dept of Rural and
Community Development,
Dog Control Statistics 2018

Education:



68,548

children educated about
responsible dog ownership
and how to stay safe around dogs

Fundraising:

108,504

kilometres walked for
99k for Canines
(€112,000 raised!)





Campaigning:

**OVER
80,000
SIGNATURES**

on our petition to end
the cruelty behind
bad breeding

In Memory:

198

departed furry friends
honoured with a tag
in the **Adrian Burder
Memorial Garden**

Volunteering:

6,449

volunteer
hours
donated



Preventative Care:

4,219

dogs microchip
compliant

Life-Saving Work:

1,913

dogs
rehomed

Life-Saving Work:

511

mums and
puppies saved

Life-Saving Work:

€6.1m

operational
costs
per year



Fostering:

248

dogs placed
in foster care

Life-Saving Work:

473

puppies
rehomed



02 Our Work at a Glance

Rescue, Rehabilitation & Rehoming

€4,608,677 spent
1,913 dogs rehomed
248 dogs fostered

Education

€360,281 spent
2,232 workshops delivered
68,548 adults and children educated about responsible dog ownership and how to stay safe around dogs



Great Governance

- Leadership firmly aligned to charitable purpose
- Transparent reporting and governance
- Best-practice fundraising



Preventative Work

€631,576 spent
4,333 dogs neutered
4,219 dogs microchipping compliant
154 Dog School graduates



Dogs Trust 4 Rs

Rescue - Rescue, rehabilitate and adopt
Reduce Dog Numbers - Through our preventative work
Responsible Dog Ownership - Through our education work
Regulation - Improving and developing animal welfare legislation

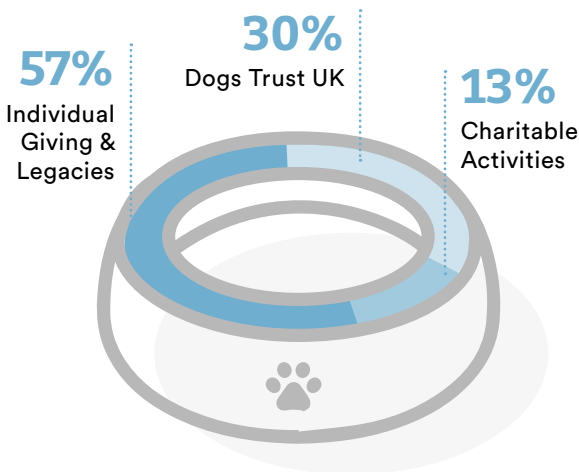
Dogs Trust Guarantee

All our dogs and puppies are:

- Neutered
- Microchipped
- Behaviour assessed
- Fully vaccinated
- Treated for worms and fleas

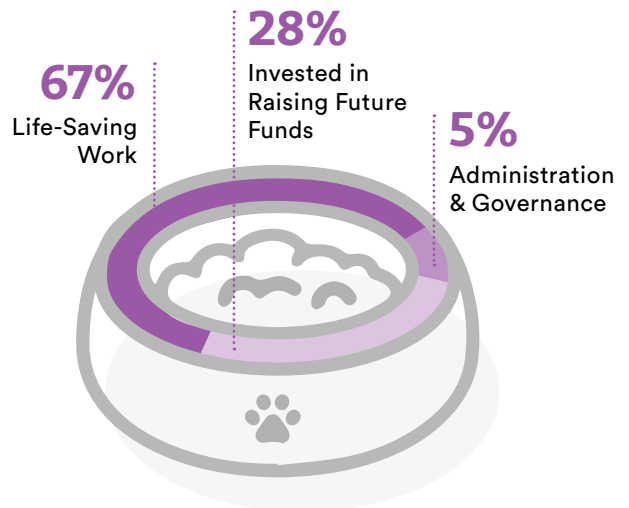


INCOME AT A GLANCE 2019



Dogs Trust does not receive any government funding towards our life-saving work, so none of this would be possible without the continued commitment and generosity of our donors and supporters. We simply could not continue our efforts without them.

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES



The Dogs Trust Board has taken note of the Charities Governance Code and has developed a comprehensive plan to work towards full compliance with the Code.

In 2019, Dogs Trust was shortlisted by the Good Governance Awards for the category of 'Best Annual Report'. We are honoured to have been considered and will strive to make continuous improvements every year.

LOVELY LUPA

A Pit Bull who found his perfect people

Lupa was two years old when he arrived at the Rehoming Centre. He was a sweet boy who wanted to be around people, but ordinary, everyday events were a worry to him, and he needed time and the right kind of attention to help him build his confidence.

Our team worked with Lupa in gentle stages to build his confidence and his acceptance of new situations. He learned to relax and ignore distractions, like other dogs, when he was out and about – this meant he had more time and energy for fun and play, which he loves!

Lupa's forever family was totally committed to building on the foundation laid down for Lupa during his time with the team at Dogs Trust. They came all the way from Waterford for several meetings with Lupa, bonding with him and learning how to keep him focused and relaxed on walks. In no time at all, Lupa was settled in his Forever Home. The Training and Behaviour team continued to keep in touch with his family to make sure everyone was happy with the new arrangement. It was wonderful to see how quickly and how well Lupa settled into family life. In fact, Lupa has become an unlikely lapdog, preferring his owner's knee to his own comfy seat! At Dogs Trust, we care for all our dogs equally, but it is especially rewarding to see one of our longer-term residents go to their Forever Home.

Lupa's forever family has this to say about him:

"Lupa is the best thing to happen to us. He is an energetic baby boy who loves cuddles in bed and on the couch. His favourite things to do are going for walks, playing with tennis balls and learning new tricks! We always wonder what we did with our days before Lupa came along, he makes everything better!"





**We are a
positive voice
for all dogs
in Ireland**

Our Values

At Dogs Trust, we are passionate advocates for dogs, and we work tirelessly on their behalf. We act as their voice, and we constantly strive to improve and change the landscape of dog welfare in Ireland. We want to make Ireland the best place in the world to be a dog. This means creating a country where every dog is wanted, loved and cared for at every stage of its life.

To bring about our aim, Dogs Trust is committed to using evidence-based approaches, such as research, studies and data collection, all backed by our values.

Our determination and positivity underpin all our objectives:

- We want to have a positive impact on every dog we care for.
- We want to ensure that owning a dog is a positive experience.

- We have a positive outlook, identifying the challenges we face and setting out to overcome them.
- We aim for the very highest standards in dog welfare. We are positive that we can always do more and improve our life-saving work.

Dogs Trust receives no government funding. Our crucial work is only possible with the generosity and support of amazing dog lovers – people like you – who share our dream to make Ireland a better place to be a dog. You enable us to care for, and protect, thousands of dogs across Ireland every year.

As you will see from the stories in this report, every dog at Dogs Trust is part of our family, and there is nothing more rewarding than seeing a dog we have loved and cared for finding their Forever Home.

We couldn't do it without you.

Thank you.

Our Objectives and Activities

The principal mission of Dogs Trust is to work towards a day when all dogs can enjoy a happy life, free from the threat of unnecessary destruction.

We fulfil our mission by undertaking two types of work:

- 🐾 Life-saving work – We deal with the immediate needs of stray and abandoned dogs by rescuing, caring for and rehoming them. Through this work, we hope to reduce the number of – and ultimately see an end to – homeless dogs in Ireland.
- 🐾 Preventative measures – We employ a number of methods to prevent dogs being abandoned in the first place. These methods include neutering, microchipping, education, research and advocacy. Through these longer-term strategies, we hope to contribute to the end of unwanted dogs in Ireland.

Each main area of our activities has its own goals and objectives, which can only be achieved through the hard work and dedication of our staff and volunteers, and with the continued generosity of our supporters.

Goals for Life-Saving Work

- 🐾 Rehome stray and abandoned dogs.
- 🐾 Ensure that all dogs in our care have the best possible quality of life.
- 🐾 Provide rehabilitation to give dogs a second chance to have the happy life that they deserve.

Goals for Preventative Measures

- 🐾 Reduce the number of unwanted dogs through neutering and microchipping initiatives, responsible dog ownership campaigns and our nationwide education programme.
- 🐾 Encourage responsible dog ownership by educating current and future owners about the best and kindest way to care for their dog.
- 🐾 Increase the public's understanding of dog behaviour and needs so that people and dogs can live harmoniously and safely together.
- 🐾 Improve dog welfare regulations by advocating and advising on welfare legislation.

To achieve our objectives, we have our own goals for how we operate on a day-to-day basis:

- 🐾 Remain fully committed to the highest standards of governance for our own organisation, including responsible and sustainable fundraising practices.
- 🐾 Support evidence-based research and projects that will provide us with vital information about dog behaviour, health and welfare to ascertain future needs.
- 🐾 Retain knowledge and excellence in dog welfare standards.

Progress on Our Goals in 2019

Rescuing and Rehoming

Goal

Ensure that every dog that comes into our care has the best possible quality of life and the rehabilitation they need to give them a second chance at the happy life they deserve.

Progress in 2019

We rehomed a total of 1,913 dogs into loving homes. Of this number, 473 were puppies. This figure represents a slight decrease on the number of dogs rehomed in 2018. The profile of the dogs we see at the Rehoming Centre is changing, with many of them requiring a greater level of ongoing care and rehabilitation before they are ready to be matched with potential adopters. In 2019, 34 of the dogs we rehomed needed that bit more time and care to place them with their forever families. Thanks to the patience and understanding of our team, the dedication of the families involved and the ongoing support that our dog sponsors and supporters give, these special dogs now have the second chance that all dogs deserve.

Our foster programme, **Home from Home**, significantly exceeded its targets in its second year. The Fostering team had a target of rehoming 50 dogs and recruiting 20 foster families. In fact, they rehomed 163 dogs and recruited 79 new families. The fostering programme's shift towards helping adult dogs is reflected in the comparison between the 2019 and 2018 figures: 74 adult dogs and 89 puppies were rehomed from foster care in 2019, compared with just 29 adult dogs and 154 puppies in 2018. This is due to the reduction in the number of stray and abandoned puppies entering the Rehoming Centre this year.

Looking Ahead

Whether the number of dogs entering the local authority pound system continues to fall or begins to rise again, Dogs Trust will go on rescuing, rehabilitating and rehoming as many lost, stray or abandoned dogs as

possible. The Fostering team is increasing its targets for 2020 following the unprecedented increase in public interest during the COVID-19 working-from-home measures.

4,333 dogs were neutered and 4,219 became compliant with the microchipping law

Reducing the Number of Unwanted Dogs

Goal

Reduce the number of unwanted dogs in Ireland through a programme of campaigning, advocacy and preventative work, such as neutering, microchipping and education.

Progress in 2019

Through our subsidised neutering and microchipping programmes, 4,333 dogs were neutered and 4,219 became compliant with the microchipping law, which requires dogs to be microchipped and certified. The number of dogs entering local authority pounds in Ireland fell again in 2018. The number being euthanised has been reduced to an average of two dogs per day, down from 2018's figure of just under three dogs per day. Although Dogs Trust is proud to contribute to this drop in numbers, we are far from complacent about it.

Looking Ahead

In 2019, the government expressed its intention to re-examine the laws around the control of dogs in Ireland, and we will continue to work with the government to strengthen those regulations that

contribute to a continued decrease in the number of unwanted dogs. We also hope to continue partnering with organisations such as Fido, one of Europe's largest accredited microchip registers, to help owners comply with the law in this area. We will continue to tailor our preventative services to the sectors of the population where they are most relevant.

Promoting Responsible Dog Ownership

Goal

Instil the principles and practicalities of responsible dog ownership in current and potential dog owners in order to reduce the number of dogs surrendered due to preventable reasons, such as unwanted behaviours or no longer having enough time for a dog. Continue working towards making Ireland a more dog friendly country.

Progress in 2019

Our second **Dog Friendly Ireland Day** focused on the difficulty of finding rental accommodation that accepts tenants with pets – and the fact that this leads to a significant number of surrender requests throughout the year. We developed our **Renting with Rover** guidelines (one set for renters and one for landlords and agencies) and made them available on our website to offer some practical advice on this issue.

Our Education and Community team delivered our **Be Dog Smart** and **Be Dog Confident** community education programmes to 68,548 adults and children in 2019, and expanded the range of educational materials available on our website. To ensure that we reach as many young people as possible, the Education and Community team also conducted research into the need for a specific set of workshops for children with special needs. This research identified children with autism or autism spectrum disorder (ASD) as a significant target audience for such workshops. The team attended training with the Irish Society for Autism to help Dogs Trust to understand the difficulties that children with ASD face in accessing traditional teaching resources and activities.

Our own experience tells us that unwanted behaviours are a significant contributor to rehoming requests and to problems with dogs. In response, we launched **Dog School** in September. This affordable, reward-based dog training programme is delivered at our Rehoming

Centre. The reaction to this offering has been positive, with 154 dogs completing the training in 2019.

We received over 2,300 surrender requests in 2019, many of which were from people who simply did not have time for their dogs any longer. Through our campaign **A Dog Is For Life®**, we urged the public to think carefully about all the time, expense and responsibility that comes with having a dog in the family, and to avoid the temptation of getting a dog on a whim, or for a gift, especially at Christmas.

Looking Ahead

The Education and Community team intends to create an educational programme specifically tailored to children with ASD. Dogs Trust is now actively seeking funding to progress this programme, including the development of a variety of resources for our Education and Community Officers and for teachers to use.

Improving Dog Welfare

Goal

Introduce and improve dog welfare legislation through working with government at local, national and EU levels.

Progress in 2019

In 2019, the Department of Rural and Community Development, which has jurisdiction over the control of dogs and the regulation of dog breeding establishments in Ireland, announced a period of public consultation as part of a review of the Control of Dogs Act. We submitted a detailed and evidence-based response to the questions posed by the consultation, addressing possible improvements in licensing, microchipping and online sales of dogs. We also expressed Dogs Trust's opposition to breed-specific legislation and the restrictions placed on certain breeds. Ireland has no banned breeds, but it does have a list of restricted breeds that are required to be leashed and muzzled at all times in public spaces, something that Dogs Trust would like to see repealed.

We also welcomed Seán Canney TD, the Minister of State with responsibility for this area, to the Rehoming Centre to discuss the legislation and other improvements to dog welfare across Ireland.

Looking Ahead

As Dogs Trust receives no government funding and is solely funded by our supporters, we can remain

independent and focus our work where the need is greatest. We operate freely when developing networks of communication and support within Dáil and Seanad Éireann. We will continue to build these networks and to position Dogs Trust as a trustworthy, evidence-based authority on dog welfare in Ireland. With the backing of our supporters and like-minded public servants, we will continue to lobby strongly for improvements and changes to animal welfare legislation and its enforcement at national and international levels.

Sustaining the Future of Our Life-Saving Work

Goal

Double our income from fundraising to €5 million per year within the five-year strategic period 2015 – 2020. Maintain the highest standards of practice and governance in how our funds are raised and used, and in how we communicate with our supporters.

Progress in 2019

The response to our fundraising efforts in 2019 has been phenomenal. Not only have we reached our goal of doubling income to €5 million per year over the period of our strategic plan, but our supporters have committed to an amazing level of regular giving. This type of giving is vital to our operations. It provides a measure of financial security, which allows us to plan for dogs who need a greater level of care and for future initiatives.

This year, we introduced our **Sponsor a Puppy Playgroup**, which gives sponsors a chance to make a huge difference to the lives of the puppies and dogs in our care. Sponsors provide food, medical supplies and all the building blocks for these puppies to thrive. They can see the results of their generosity in every update they receive, right up until their sponsored group go to their Forever Homes.

We also founded the **Adrian Burder Memorial Garden**, where supporters can remember their dogs that have passed by helping the dogs of the future.

Planned giving is vital to our long-term sustainability, and this year saw an incredible increase in legacy donations. These considered acts of kindness are literally the gift of life for vulnerable dogs. We are eternally grateful to our legacy donors; their lasting love of dogs enables our work to thrive.

Dogs Trust recognises the faith and trust that our supporters place in us. We honour this trust by upholding the highest standards of governance and fundraising practices. Dogs Trust complies fully with the Governance Code and the Guidelines for Charitable Organisations on Fundraising from the Public, which are the benchmarks for best practice in charities in Ireland.

Dogs Trust is also fully committed to GDPR principles and regulations and to protecting the personal information of our supporters and stakeholders.

Our privacy terms are available in full on our website at www.DogsTrust.ie/privacy

Looking Ahead

We continuously monitor our financial, operational and fundraising performance against targets, through our budgeting process, forecasting, management and risk meetings and the production of monthly management accounts. Our next strategic period is 2021 – 2025, during which we aim to move towards financial self-sufficiency. The much-needed and extremely generous grant we receive from Dogs Trust in the UK (“Dogs Trust UK”) has been steadily reducing in recent years, and we hope that by 2025 we will be well on our way to being self-funded. With the continued backing of our incredible supporters, that should be achievable.

Supporting Evidence-Based Research

Goal

Contribute to evidence-based research and projects that will provide us with vital information about dog health, welfare and behaviour. This invaluable research will enable us to learn so much more about the needs and abilities of dogs and will give us a better understanding of the external factors that may influence their lives.

Progress in 2019

We continued to recruit puppies for the pioneering study **Generation Pup**. Conducted by researchers at Dogs Trust and the University of Bristol, **Generation Pup** has the potential to be the largest study of dogs of this generation. Anyone resident in Ireland with a puppy younger than 16 weeks is invited to sign up to the study and become part of the **Generation Pup** community.

Generation Pup dogs will be followed over the course of their whole lives, which will enable us to investigate which early-life events and environments influence the development of conditions as dogs get older.



Looking Ahead

We hope to continue contributing to this important study in 2020. Ongoing research will help us better understand how and why injuries, diseases and damaging behaviours can affect dogs and their wellbeing.

Retaining Knowledge and Excellence

Goal

Retain knowledge and excellence in dog welfare and operational standards by developing and retaining engaged and talented team members.

Progress in 2019

In 2019, we continued to undertake regular performance reviews with all employees to help identify any learning gaps and to help design appropriate development programmes for each employee. Employees had the opportunity to access internal courses on a range of operational skills, such as customer service and time management, and on

dog-specific skills, such as puppy rearing or dog training. Employees can also access external training where necessary.

Our success in this area became obvious when we recruited staff for our **Dog School** earlier in the year. Of the three staff currently leading training groups, two have come from other positions within the organisation.

We continue to keep staff informed and involved through initiatives such as our monthly internal newsletter. We also support a number of workplace wellbeing activities, including puppy yoga, which benefit both staff and puppies!

Looking Ahead

We will continue to support the health and wellbeing of our staff with ongoing training and mindfulness activities. We will also continue to acknowledge and facilitate their contribution to the mission of Dogs Trust by actively encouraging suggestions and initiatives.

03

Our Rehoming Centre A 10-Year Story

01 Establishing Our Rehoming Centre

From its opening in 2009 right through to our **Dogs Trustival** summer event in 2019, our Rehoming Centre in Finglas, Dublin, has been a beacon for dogs, visitors and our dedicated team of staff and volunteers. A testament to the hard work and generosity of people who believe that Ireland can be a great country for dogs, the Rehoming Centre is an education space, a workplace and a focus for the work that Dogs Trust does. Above all, though, it is a haven for dogs on their journey through rescue and rehabilitation to rehoming.

02 Rehoming

In the last 10 years, we have rehomed over 18,760 dogs of all shapes, sizes, ages, breeds and backgrounds. Some of our dogs experience shocking neglect and cruelty before they arrive at Dogs Trust. Others come from families who, through no fault of their own, can no longer care for them. No matter what their origin stories, all our dogs are superheroes to us, as are the people who help to keep the Rehoming Centre running and the families who come to us to find their canine pal. Nothing gives us greater satisfaction than seeing one of our dogs go home to their forever family. We will continue to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome dogs as long as they need us and the Irish people support us.

03 Neutering and Microchipping

Neutering and microchipping are key components of our work in reducing Ireland's population of unwanted and abandoned dogs. To date, we have been responsible for neutering more than 124,000 dogs, either directly or through schemes to encourage dog owners to neuter

their dogs. We have also supported owners in becoming compliant with the laws on microchipping – and with great success. The government-approved database Fido reported that since 2016, when current laws came into effect, more than 14,200 owners have been reunited with their dogs thanks to correctly registered microchips.

04 Educating

Our education story in Ireland began back in 2006, before the Rehoming Centre was built. Since then, our team has travelled all over Ireland, delivering workshops to more than 500,000 primary school children. Our Education and Community team also delivers workshops in the Rehoming Centre. In 2019, we added Dogs Trust **Dog School** classes to our education roster. Since the classes started, we have welcomed more than 205 dogs to the Rehoming Centre for a positive and fun training experience.

05 Providing a Safe Space for Puppies

In 2014, our dedicated Puppy Wing opened as an extension to our existing Rehoming Centre. With this fantastic new Maternity Unit, we can now rescue approximately 500 puppies each year, along with their mothers. Our new wing also features three low-stress kennels for dogs who find their stay in the regular Rehoming Centre a bit overwhelming.

06 Reducing the Number of Dogs Destroyed in Irish Dog Pounds

Since our Rehoming Centre opened in 2009, the number of dogs euthanised in Irish pounds has decreased year on year, from a high of 48 dogs a day to less than two. Together with the teams at other dog welfare organisations in Ireland, we at Dogs Trust, and our supporters, have every right to be proud of this reduction. Two dogs a day is still too many, but this is undeniably a huge step in the right direction.

07 Working Towards a Dog Friendly Ireland

Through research, campaigns and events, we are constantly working to create a more dog friendly Ireland. To bring this about, we recognise the need to change public perceptions of dogs, but also to help dogs to be relaxed and well behaved around the public. We firmly believe that Ireland could be the best country in the world to be a dog, and we will continue to work towards that day.

08 Shining a Light on Our Work

Our media profile expanded enormously in 2016, when **Dog Tales** with Andrea Hayes was first broadcast on TV3 (now Virgin Media One). Over two series, Andrea and her crew highlighted all aspects of the work that we do, from the heart-warming to the heartbreaking. Combined with the innovative and fun social media and public relations campaigns that our PR and Communications team puts together on a regular basis, this kind of coverage keeps our dogs and our work in the public eye. Since the programme finished, our supporters have continued to share our message far and wide. Our 2019 Christmas video was viewed 47 million times and our **How is that Doggie in the Window** petition to urge the Irish government to end the cruelty behind bad breeding has been signed by over 80,000 people so far.

09 Improving Welfare Standards for Dogs

Since we began our work in Ireland, we have worked alongside many other advocacy groups to lobby for improvements in welfare standards for dogs. We have seen some success in this area. Guidelines around dog breeding establishments have been strengthened. The updated Greyhound Racing Act 2019 included many improvements, such as provisions for the rehoming of Greyhounds at the end of their racing or breeding career and the inclusion of a veterinary practitioner on the board of the Irish Greyhound Board (IGB). New regulations regarding the sale of pets were also introduced at the end of 2019, as part of the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013. We will continue to be the voice of dogs in Ireland until all dogs can live a happy and healthy life.

10 Bringing People and Dogs Together

Every year, thousands of people visit our Rehoming Centre. Some come for an event, like **Howl-O-Ween** or **Santa Paws**. Some come for training classes, to make donations or leave gifts for their Sponsor Dog. Some families come many times over to build a bond with a resident dog before bringing them home. Some come to adopt a puppy, and then return several times so that its progress can be monitored. Whatever the reason, we particularly encourage our donors and other supporters to visit the Rehoming Centre to see for themselves how much their donations or gifts do to help the dogs in our care. This is your Rehoming Centre. You never know, your next doggie friend might be waiting for you here!

OUTG

A Collie who found her feet in a foster family

Oreo and her littermates came to Dogs Trust in 2018 as puppies. A strikingly elegant and extremely clever dog, Oreo is also a typical Collie and none of her potential homes suited her need to be busy. As she got a bit older, Oreo sometimes found the laid-back life in the Rehoming Centre a bit too slow. The Training and Behaviour team decided that she would benefit from foster care, so the Fostering team put out an appeal.

Oreo's foster family came along at just the right time and was a perfect fit. Experienced Collie owners, they were prepared to learn how to channel Oreo's personality in the right way. The team at Dogs Trust provided guidance and support during Oreo's move to her foster home, including her first outing at the Phoenix Park and her initial settling-in period. Thanks to the commitment of Oreo's foster family, all went well.

Nobody who worked on Oreo's case was shocked when her foster family decided to adopt her. They saw Oreo blossom into an exceptional dog and realised that her place was with them. Oreo's happy outcome shows just how much our dogs repay the care and attention we give them, with the help of our supporters.

Here's what Oreo's family has to say about her:

*"Oreo is so loveable towards people; she'll actively seek out belly rubs at every opportunity. It did take her a while to settle into the family though, in fact it took about four to five months before we knew that she really trusted and loved us. All she needed was the time and patience to allow her to be herself and to show how loveable a dog she really can be. We are even part of a canine hiking group where we meet up with some of our other doggie and human friends we met on the **99k for Canines** challenge last year. I truly beam with pride when I see how happy she is with all the other doggies out on the hike, as this was one of the day-to-day issues for her interacting with other dogs at the Rehoming Centre.*

"Everyone should have a Collie princess in their life, and I'm so glad Oreo is in ours."



GOING PREO



Terrific TYSON

A long-term Staffie success story

Tyson was adopted from Dogs Trust as a puppy in 2014, but a change in circumstances saw him back at the Rehoming Centre the following year.

Now a young adult, Tyson had missed out on some of the socialisation and training that are essential in helping puppies to make sense of the world, so when he came back to us, we knew he would need some extra help in getting him ready for his forever family when they came to find him.

Although he was comfortable in his kennel, Tyson became overexcited when any of his Canine Carers took him out for some exercise, and he was reactive to other dogs. But, over his time in Dogs Trust, our Training and Behaviour team helped him to gain confidence and be happy in his own space, regardless of what was going on around him. A turning point came when they brought him to a park in Dublin for a walk and he didn't react to anything except the positive attention coming from his handlers – he got a big treat as a reward that day!

We knew we needed a special home for Tyson, one where he could continue his training in a safe and calm environment with people who were committed to his success. This year, the right family came to Dogs Trust to meet Tyson. They knew that the rehoming process would need to move at Tyson's pace and were prepared to make changes to give him the best possible chance of success in their home. They came to meet Tyson in our Rehoming Centre regularly over many weeks. They even raised the height of their garden wall from four feet to six feet, to make sure that Tyson would feel safe in their garden.

For all the team in the Rehoming Centre, Tyson's long journey to his new home has been an emotional one. To see a dog like Tyson finally going home is why we do what we do.



04

Impact Report

Rescuing and Rehoming

In 2019, we rehomed a total of **1,913** dogs and **473** puppies.

This is slightly fewer than in 2018, when we rehomed 2,025 dogs and 494 puppies. This lower total reflects the fact that many more of the dogs we see require a greater level of care before they are ready for rehoming.

Reducing the Number of Unwanted Dogs and Puppies

The effects of our initiatives are starting to be seen in the official statistics. In July 2019, the Department of Rural and Community Development announced the publication of the 2018 dog control statistics, which revealed that the number of dogs entering local authority pounds is decreasing year on year – in 2017 it was 11,559 dogs and in 2018 it was 9,848 dogs. Dogs Trust sees this reduction as evidence that the message from us, from our supporters and from other animal welfare and rescue groups is starting to be heard.

Despite these reductions, we are aware that a lot of work still needs to be done in order to further reduce the number of abandoned, stray and unwanted dogs. According to Fido, a government-approved database company, approximately 200,000 dogs are still not compliant with the Microchipping of Dogs Regulations. To help tackle this issue, we continued our **National Chipping Week** campaign in 2019. As part of this campaign, we addressed those who say that their dogs do not need to be microchipped because they never leave home without them (this accounts for 34% of those with non-compliant dogs).

To illustrate how easily accidents can happen, we told the story of Richard Martin and his dog, Teddy. When a family member left the back gate open, two-year-old Jack Russell Terrier Teddy escaped. Richard and his wife searched for Teddy but couldn't find him. Luckily, Teddy had a correctly registered microchip, so the veterinary practice where Teddy had been handed in was able to contact the Martins. Teddy had been hit by a car, but he was not seriously injured, and he made a full recovery. Teddy's story shows how vital it is that your dog is microchipped and that the microchip is correctly registered.

We also teamed up with Fido to offer a **Microchip Certificate Amnesty**. This amnesty allowed owners to update the details recorded against their dog's microchip, free of charge, and receive a new microchip certificate from Fido. Our amnesty helped 2,237 owners to comply with the law and increase their chances of recovering their dog if they ever become separated. Overall, our initiatives resulted in 4,219 dogs becoming compliant with microchipping laws in 2019.

Through various programmes, and with the help of our supporters and donors, we were also responsible for the neutering of 4,333 dogs in 2019, which will help to reduce the population of unwanted dogs even further.

Educating Current and Future Dog Owners

Our hard-working Education and Community team has been bringing the message of responsible dog ownership to Irish communities since 2006.

This year, the team continued to travel the country with our **Be Dog Smart** safety campaign, which teaches all family members the safest way to interact with dogs, and our **Be Dog Confident** campaign, which helps children build their confidence around dogs. The team held a total of 2,232 workshops for families of all ages, from expectant parents to parents of primary school children and teenagers. In total, they educated 68,548 adults and children about responsible dog ownership and staying safe around dogs.



The team also conducted research into the need for a specific set of workshops for children with special needs. This research identified children with autism or autism spectrum disorder (ASD) as a significant target audience for such workshops. Our team attended training with the Irish Society for Autism to help us understand the difficulties that children with ASD face in accessing traditional teaching resources and activities. We are now actively seeking funding to help us to progress this programme, including the development of a variety of resources for both Education and Community Officers and teachers to use.

We also added a new training initiative specifically for dog owners, Dogs Trust **Dog School**. Our experience tells us that many dogs are surrendered because they have developed behaviours their owners find difficult to cope with, so we decided to give owners the tools to work on such behaviours to solve the problem before it starts. The response to **Dog School** from the public has been enthusiastic, and in the first two months we provided affordable, positive training to 95 dogs and 193 owners at our Rehoming Centre.

Advising and Advocating

In July, the Department of Rural and Community Development announced its plans to review legislation around the control of dogs in Ireland. We prepared a detailed submission as part of the public consultation, reiterating our opposition to breed-specific legislation and highlighting the examples of other countries that have been successful in reducing the number of dogs put to sleep as a result of dog-bite incidents.

Breed-specific legislation is based on the assumption that certain breeds and types of dogs are more 'dangerous' than others, an assumption that is not supported by scientific evidence. Our stance on breed-specific legislation is clear: we are proponents of 'deed, not breed', and we advise people that any dog can bite, regardless of its breed, size or type. Dogs Trust would like to see the existing breed-specific legislation repealed and opposes the banning of any dog breeds in Ireland. We would like to see the focus of dog-related legislation shift towards promoting responsible dog ownership. We would also like to see more resources given to An Garda Síochána and local authorities to deal with the irresponsible owners of individual dogs.

The outcome of the public consultation is not yet known, but we will continue to advocate for dogs of all breeds in any way we can, and we will continue to engage with the Irish government on issues relating to dog welfare.

40% of households in Ireland now own at least one dog

Campaigning for Positive Change

As part of our second **Dog Friendly Ireland Day**, we focused on how difficult it is to find rental accommodation in Ireland that will accept dogs. According to research carried out by Behaviour & Attitudes in 2018 on behalf of Dogs Trust, 40% of households in Ireland now own at least one dog, so the demand for privately rented accommodation that will accept pets in general, and dogs in particular, is high. To encourage more landlords and agents to consider dog owners as tenants, we produced two sets of **Renting with Rover** guidelines – one for tenants and one for landlords and agents – which suggest small but effective steps that can make renting with dogs easier in the future. These guidelines are available on our website.

The Big Scoop, our dog-fouling awareness campaign, also entered its second year of reminding Irish dog owners of their responsibility to pick up after their dogs and reduce the amount of dog poo being left in public spaces.



Dogs Trust Executive Director Becky Bristow and Minister of State Seán Canney with former resident Obie the Chihuahua cross.

Engaging with Stakeholders

At Dogs Trust, we understand the power of working within a team to improve welfare standards for dogs at local, national and EU levels. One of the most effective approaches to tackling key issues and progressing crucial legislation is to work collaboratively with like-minded animal welfare groups and the veterinary community. We also believe in engaging stakeholders, such as TDs, senators, MEPs, local authorities and departmental officials, to help further our mission.

Dogs Trust is a founding member of the Irish Pet Advertising Advisory Group (IPAAG). We chair both the International Greyhound Forum (IGF) and the EU Dog & Cat Alliance. We are also active participants in many animal welfare initiatives and events, including the Association of Dogs and Cats Homes (ADCH), the National Stray and Surrender Dog Strategy, the

International Companion Animal Welfare Conference (ICAWC) and the Veterinary Ireland Conference.

Our staff and volunteers use their voices on behalf of the organisations we work with, and those organisations, in turn, rally significant support when we need it most. It is thanks to the people who make up these groups, who want to protect vulnerable animals as much as we do, that we can save the lives of thousands of dogs across Ireland and hope to effect real change in the outlook for dogs in the future.

Engaging and Communicating with the Public

Our 2019 Christmas campaign highlighted the amount of work still to do in reminding people of their responsibility towards the dogs they bring into their



Jack Russell Pudsey, who was abandoned and left tied to a tree outside our Rehoming Centre in Finglas, Dublin.

lives. Between January and December 2019, Dogs Trust received over 2,300 surrender requests. The most common reason people gave for wanting to give up their dog was that they didn't have time for it. Our **A Dog is for Life®** campaign reminds people that adding a dog to their family is a serious commitment and not something to be done on a whim.

To bring home the upsetting reality of dogs being abandoned or surrendered, we released shocking CCTV footage of little Pudsey, a Jack Russell Terrier, being tied to a tree by a man outside the gates of our Rehoming Centre in Dublin. When the man walks away from Pudsey, the bewildered dog tries to follow him, but he can't. Pudsey was left there, frightened and confused, until a member of the Dogs Trust team spotted him. When our Veterinary team examined Pudsey, they found him in poor condition. But, thanks to our supporters, we were able to treat Pudsey, and he has made a full recovery.

As part of this campaign, we asked the public to take some time out of their day to find and share the oldest photo of their dog alongside their most recent one. In this way, we hoped to remind anyone thinking of getting a dog that it is a serious time commitment. We also asked that people share our advice to anyone considering getting a dog, to help them decide whether it was the right choice for them.

36% reduction in the number of people asking to surrender their dog to us after Christmas

The campaign also reminded people that Christmas is not an ideal time to introduce a new dog into most homes – routines are disturbed, toxic foods are everywhere and it can be hard to find time and a quiet place to let a new dog settle in. We suggested that people give a gift of sponsorship instead and wait until the new year, when things are back to normal, to adopt a dog.

As a result of this campaign, an additional 856 fantastic donors pledged to support our life-saving work. We are so grateful for their generosity, which will have a direct and powerful impact on the lives of the dogs in our care.

We also saw a 36% reduction in the number of people asking to surrender their dog to us after Christmas when compared with the same period last year. However, the number of post-Christmas surrender requests remains worryingly high. We received an alarming 185 calls and 50 emails from members of the public seeking to surrender a dog between December 27th, 2019 and January 31st, 2020. We are also seeing more vulnerable dogs coming into the Rehoming Centre – many of them pregnant. Thanks to the compassion and kindness of our amazing supporters, we can care for these mums and puppies in our dedicated Maternity Unit.

Irish dog lovers continued to voice their strong opposition to the exploitation of dogs in 2019. The petition associated with our **How is that Doggie in the Window** campaign has, to date, been signed by over 80,000 concerned dog lovers who are calling for an end to the cruel practices behind bad breeding. In early 2020, the government announced changes to the law regarding the sale of pets that require puppies to be eight weeks or older and state that ads must display the dog's microchip number. This is a significant step forward in improving dog welfare in Ireland.

To increase awareness of our puppies available for adoption, we launched our **PuppyCam**. Most Friday afternoons, a member of the PR and Communications team streams a live video of some of our puppies going about their day. Radio presenters PJ Gallagher and Jim McCabe helped us to launch **PuppyCam**, emphasising that “it's really hard work cleaning up after them and keeping their kennels clean.”

To celebrate 10 years of rehoming in Ireland, we wanted to send the public a huge message of thanks. We decided to invite them to a festival-themed event at the Rehoming Centre. This not only gave us a chance to thank people for their support in rescuing and rehoming thousands of dogs over the years, but also allowed us to showcase the Rehoming Centre as a place to learn more about our work. The response to **Dogs Trustival** from vendors, performers and attendees was extraordinary. We received donations of artwork and prizes, local bands entertained the crowds and prominent Irish celebrities including Patrick Bergin and Maia Dunphy judged our **Dog Tales** with Andrea Hayes competition.



Holly Carpenter with former resident Belinda the American Bulldog at Dogs Trustival.

We sincerely hope that this event gave our supporters a glimpse of just how much we appreciate their unwavering generosity and kindness.

We rely hugely on the public to spread our message. Social media obviously plays a big role in building this awareness and strengthening our bond with the community. Our PR and Communications team is always working on positive, effective and fun snippets that can be easily shared online, and these are often picked up by the media. Videos like Porkie's 3rd birthday party, or the dogs eating doggie iced treats in summer, are invaluable tools for showcasing our residents' personalities and reinforcing our connection to the public. We are always grateful when our Twitter, Facebook and Instagram followers share and comment on these videos – they help our message to reach people who would not otherwise hear it.

We're delighted to say that Porkie found his Forever Home in early 2020. We hope that he and his new family have many happy years together.

In 2019, our amazing volunteers gave a total of 6,449 hours of their time to crucial tasks

Volunteering

From washing and cleaning to feeding and fostering, our life-saving work would not be possible without the dedication and generosity of our volunteers, who give up their precious time to support, care for and love the dogs that come to Dogs Trust.

Volunteers are vital to the running of every part of our organisation. They carry out administrative and maintenance duties, participate in staff events and care for all the dogs who come to the Rehoming Centre. In 2019, our amazing volunteers gave a total of 6,449 hours of their time to crucial tasks that enable us to keep our dogs happy and healthy.

Raising Vital Funds

Our wonderful supporters found so many creative ways to fund our life-saving work this year, and we are beyond grateful for every single effort. From those who walked or ran to those who swam or baked, every contribution is greatly appreciated.

We launched our **Sponsor a Puppy Playgroup**, offering sponsors the chance to provide puppies all the specialist care they need to ensure they grow up to be healthy, happy dogs, ready for their special someone one day. Sponsors receive regular pup-dates on their group's progress as their puppies mark their 'firsts' – like their first feed, their first toddling walk or their first play together.

We also wanted to find a way that our supporters could mark the passing of a beloved dog. We know how hard it is when you lose your best friend and we wanted to create a special place at Dogs Trust for supporters to honour them and the pawprint that they left on their hearts forever. We founded the **Adrian Burder Memorial Garden** to offer a peaceful spot to grieve and remember in supportive surroundings. Those who purchase a memorial tag from our website receive a memorial certificate to keep forever, and a special tag with their dog's name is placed on a sculpture in the memorial garden. It is a beautiful way to turn a heartbreaking event in a dog owner's life into something positive for the dogs of the future.

Fostering

One of the most valuable tasks that volunteers take on is fostering dogs for us as part of our **Home from Home** programme. Building on our existing puppy fostering scheme, we developed a full **Home from Home** programme so that we can also provide care for other dogs that would benefit greatly from a domestic environment until they find their forever family. This can include older dogs, dogs with injuries or medical conditions that require special attention, or dogs that need some help with training and acclimatising to a home environment.



Helen Goldin with Hollywood star Patrick Bergin at the opening of the Adrian Burder Memorial Garden.

In total, we placed **248 dogs** in foster care this year – **148 puppies** and **100 adults**

Fostering provides a lifeline for many dogs. By giving them a chance to recuperate or just experience home comforts, foster families help dogs to get back on their paws and increase their chances of finding a Forever Home. It takes a special and selfless kind of person to open their home and heart to a foster dog, and we have been amazed and impressed by the number of people who have been willing to give up the time and love that these dogs need. We recruited 79 new foster families into the programme in 2019, and we greatly appreciate

them all. A total of 83 of our foster families were active this year, with one of our more experienced families fostering their 46th dog!

We provide all the training and support that our foster families need to care for the dogs we place with them, with particular emphasis on the socialisation and habituation that young puppies need to give them the best chance of integrating successfully into their Forever Homes. In total, we placed 248 dogs in foster care this year – 148 puppies and 100 adults. Of the adults, 13 were over the age of eight, so we are particularly pleased that they have those extra home comforts. Altogether, 163 dogs were rehomed directly from foster care this year – that is 89 puppies and 74 adults.

As well as being beneficial to puppies and dogs recovering from illness, a stay in a foster home can provide relief to some of the long-term residents in the Rehoming Centre. It can also provide us with new information about them for their rehoming profile. Of our adult dogs in foster care this year, 33 were long-term residents and 24 of them found their Forever Homes.

Working Towards the Day When All Dogs Can Enjoy a Happy Life, Free from the Threat of Unnecessary Destruction

In 2019, 725 dogs were euthanised in Irish pounds, a further decrease from the previous year. We have seen this number fall each year since we began our work in Ireland, from 48 dogs put to sleep every day, down to two dogs a day. However, our goal is to see this number fall further – something that is only achievable with the ongoing help of our supporters. We promise that we will continue to work towards a day when all dogs in Ireland can live a happy life, free from the threat of unnecessary destruction. Until that day, we will make the best possible use of every form of support we receive, from petitions to donations to Forever Homes.

DELIGHTFUL DYLAN

A neglected Collie who needed extra care

When Dylan arrived in our Rehoming Centre from a local authority pound, he was in urgent need of medical help and rehabilitation. Just three years old, this handsome Collie showed signs of neglect as well as a chronic pelvic injury. Investigations and X-rays showed that Dylan had been through a lot – he had even been shot with a shotgun at some point!

The team at our Rehoming Centre worked hard to improve Dylan's condition. His tail needed to be amputated and he needed special care to make him feel safe around people – understandable, considering everything he had been through. Dylan's sweet nature shone through his uncertainty. He definitely wanted to make friends, he just needed to gain confidence and experience positive interactions with humans.

Gradually, with the help of his Canine Carers and the Training and Behaviour team, Dylan learned that people could be kind and loving. When his forever family came to the Rehoming Centre to see him, Dylan was ready to show them his real, happy nature. Over the course of several weeks, Dylan's family came to visit him several times to increase their bond. They were told that Dylan would need further surgery on his hip, and that it would take time and patience to integrate him into regular family life. These caring people were happy to make that commitment for this special dog, as they say here:

"From his first visit, Dylan has made our house his home. He settled into his new home very quickly, which helped him when having his two hip surgeries. Dylan loves food, and we learned very quickly not to turn our backs on him when there is chicken around. Dylan spends his days snoozing and playing with his toys and enjoys nothing more than a peanut butter-filled Kong. When Dylan is not stalking you looking for his walkies, he is in his back garden chasing airplanes. For a dog that had such a bad start to his life . . . nothing makes us happier than to give such a special dog a happy home."



Staff Engagement and Retention

Objectives and Priorities

Fulfilling our mission and objectives takes dedicated and skilled staff, all working enthusiastically towards the same goal. By investing in our people, we ensure that they can provide the very best care for the dogs in our Rehoming Centre and can work towards securing a brighter future for all dogs across Ireland.

Performance and Outcomes

We currently have 83 dedicated members of staff who perform a diverse range of roles including:

- Care for up to 1,000 dogs a year in our Rehoming Centre.
- Provide expert veterinary treatment.
- Rehabilitate dogs.
- Carry out preventative work and campaigns to help save dogs long into the future.
- Educate schoolchildren and communities.
- Communicate the message of responsible dog ownership to the wider public.
- Advise national and international governments on legislation affecting the welfare of dogs.
- Raise vital funds so that we can continue our work.
- Ensure the highest standards in charity governance are met.

Fulfilling all these roles is only possible with a dynamic and dedicated team, led by talented and experienced management, and supported by sound training, communication and career progression opportunities.

Staff Training and Wellbeing

To guarantee the very best care for our dogs, we need to ensure that all members of our staff have the appropriate knowledge and skills to fulfil their job role and are happy in their work.

We undertake regular performance reviews with all employees to identify any learning gaps and design appropriate development programmes for each employee. We also include wellbeing initiatives where possible: this year we held puppy yoga classes for our staff, provided on a complimentary basis by Umbrella Wellness, which were a great success.

We place a strong emphasis on the skills and knowledge of our staff. Every year we offer internal training in a variety of skills. Certain training programmes apply to all areas of the organisation, such as customer service and GDPR compliance training. Others are more specialised, such as puppy rearing or dog behaviour. Employees can also undertake external courses as required.

Internal Communications

At Dogs Trust, we understand the importance of internal communications in sharing our mission, values and vision among all team members. Good communication ensures that our whole team is up to date on what we as an organisation are doing. This enables individuals to see how they fit into the bigger picture and how their work contributes to meeting organisational goals.

Our internal communications strategy gives employees a sense of direction when it comes to interacting with their peers. This not only strengthens the bond between employees but can also help reinforce interdepartmental communication.



Our internal newsletter, **Comms Tails**, comes out on a monthly basis and outlines all of the key activities carried out in our organisation each month. The aim is not only to keep staff informed, but to remind them that they are a valued member of the team, by highlighting how their work contributes to the organisation.

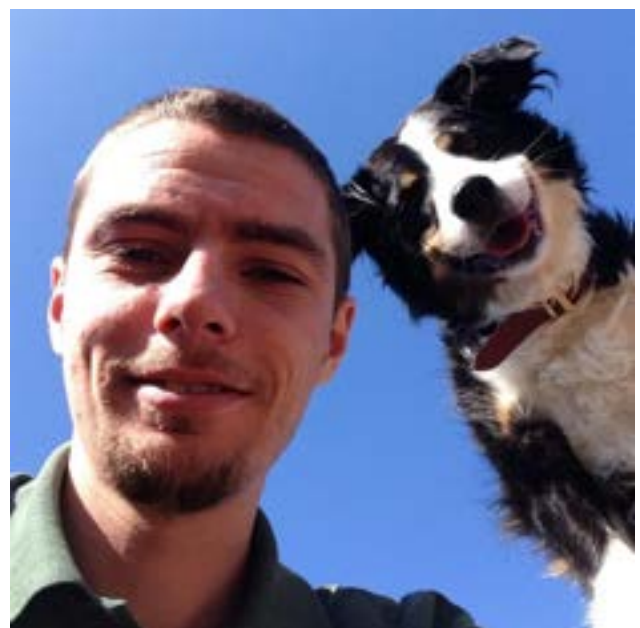
Our Staff Policies in Action

Jason, who joined us as a volunteer, kickstarted his career by becoming one of our Canine Carers and is now a Media and IT Assistant at Dogs Trust. He speaks about the opportunities he has received since coming on board:

“This is my first job! Eight years ago, my family adopted a dog from Dogs Trust, and I decided I’d like to volunteer. I found that I loved looking after the dogs and was eager to learn how to get the best out of them, so when a Canine Carer position opened up, I saw it as a chance to be a full-time member of the team, and I was delighted to be offered the job.”

I’ve always had an interest in photography, so it was natural for me to start helping out with taking photos and videos of the dogs for the website or for campaigns. I started to move more in that direction and began fixing IT issues around the Rehoming Centre as well.

My managers saw my potential for a more creative role, so I became a Media and IT Assistant. I’ve been doing that ever since. It’s great to be in an organisation where I can use my expertise to help dogs. If I take a photo that encourages someone to enquire about that dog or to make a donation, then I feel like I’ve done my job properly.”



Fundraising Review

Fundraising Performance in 2019

We are delighted to report that 2019 has been our most successful fundraising year to date. We wish to thank everyone who supported our work this year in every way, from donating bedding to large legacies. We appreciate absolutely every contribution, and so do our dogs! Dogs Trust relies solely on the generosity of our wonderful supporters who afford us the independence and stability to direct our life-saving efforts where they are needed most. Our donors are as much a part of the Dogs Trust team as our staff and volunteers in our Rehoming Centre in Finglas, Dublin. We are equally accountable to our donors as we are to the dogs in our care, and we strive to ensure that each and every one of our supporters is honoured, acknowledged and informed of the incredible impact they have in saving vulnerable lives. We are so grateful to our incredibly generous and loyal supporters, without whom none of our life-saving work could happen.

At the beginning of our current strategic period in 2015, we set a goal to double our fundraising income to €5 million per year by 2020. Thanks to the hard work of our Fundraising team and the extraordinary generosity of Ireland's dog lovers, we have achieved this goal a year ahead of schedule.

Overall, income from donations and legacies has increased 19% on the previous year, and we finished 2019 at 112% of our target.

The crucial support of our committed monthly donors gives us the confidence and stability to plan for better outcomes for unwanted and unloved dogs across Ireland, and our sponsorship programme remains as important as ever. In 2019, we introduced **Sponsor a Puppy Playgroup**, and this had a significant influence on the increase in dog sponsorship of 11% last year.

Nevertheless, our objective is to diversify our donor portfolio, and Dogs Trust continues to adopt positive, innovative ways to build relationships with new supporters, including digital, community fundraising and philanthropic giving income streams. This strategy has seen income outside of dog sponsorship grow by 49% in 2019.

Our Dog-Loving Donors in 2019



74% Monthly Dog Sponsors

4% Tax-Efficient Giving

14% Single Gifts

2% Corporate Friends

6% Lasting Legacies

The huge increase in legacy donations this year also helps us to plan for the future, while providing essential care for the dogs that need us now. Whether it is helping to expand our services across Ireland or providing routine vaccinations to keep dogs healthy, every legacy we receive is vital to us.

Plans for the Future

With our Finglas Rehoming Centre so well established and supported, the strategic aim of our next five-year plan is to significantly move closer to financial self-sufficiency.

We aim to do this through investment in a robust fundraising programme that supports new ways to help dogs and allows us to expand our operations to other parts of the country.

We hope that, over the course of our next strategic period, we can strengthen and grow our strong donor base, and we will continue to look at innovative and productive ways to build lasting relationships with dog lovers who share our belief that every dog deserves a second chance to find a happy home.

Our life-saving work only happens because our supporters believe in what we do and what we are working towards: a happy life for all dogs. We are so grateful for your continued commitment and generosity. It means the world to us.

A loving Lurcher who got back on his paws

This handsome boy arrived in March of 2018 following a road traffic accident. Our team saw immediately that he needed urgent medical care, so he was brought to our local veterinary clinic so that the fractures in his leg could be mended. Although his sweet personality would have made him an easy dog to care for in the Rehoming Centre, he needed total crate rest to ensure his leg would heal properly. It would be difficult to guarantee the absolute rest he needed in the Rehoming Centre, so an appeal was put out for a foster family.

Although they were first-time fosterers, Monty's foster family was prepared for what he needed. They cared for him diligently, taking him for weekly check-ups to our Vet and giving him the time and care necessary to recover without complications. It wasn't always easy to keep him rested – Monty is a cheeky and active dog by nature, loving nothing more than teasing people for cuddles and then plopping down on top of them. He also had some separation anxiety, which made him restless. However, the Training and Behaviour team was on hand with guidance on keeping him mentally stimulated and enriched, and Monty's foster family took great care of him. Monty stayed with them for several months until he was well and truly back on his paws and ready for adoption.

Luckily for Monty, he was adopted by a family who already had a rescue Greyhound, so he had a new sibling waiting for him. Even better, his foster family lives nearby, so he still gets to see them, and we get to keep in touch with him through their photos and updates. Stories like Monty's seem simple, but his happy outcome is the result of a committed group of people working together to make it happen for dogs like him.

A large, bold, yellow letter 'M' is positioned on the right side of the page, partially overlapping a photograph. The photograph shows a grassy field in the foreground and trees in the background under a clear sky. The letter 'M' is the first letter of the name 'MONTY', which is the subject of the text on the left.

MAGIC Monty



05

Financial Review

Income

Income from donations and legacies and other trading has increased in total during 2019 by €846,884 to €5,248,595 (2018: €4,401,711), largely due to the continued success and popularity of our **Sponsor a Dog** programme and the growth in digital fundraising and legacy income. Income from our amazing donors increased year on year by 13% from €4,258,516 to €4,820,298, which is a true reflection of the incredible kindness and generosity of our supporters, without whom the work of Dogs Trust would not be possible. Total income in 2019, including adoption fees and our collaborative work with our parent charity, Dogs Trust in the UK (“Dogs Trust UK”), increased by 10% to €9,251,217 (2018: €8,380,695).

Expenditure

Total expenditure increased by 10% in 2019, from €8,366,822 in the previous year to €9,236,839. This rise is partly due to the increased spend of €321,598 on our charitable activities, as well as a further investment of €548,419 in our regular giving programme to generate funds for the future, enabling us to support an anticipated increase in demand for our services. This has already generated a 19% increase in income.

The detailed results for our financial year are fully set out in the financial statements from page 50.

Balance Sheet

Net assets stand at €643,419 at the end of 2019, which is an increase of 2% on our 2018 closing figure of €629,041. The Charity owns €5,954,289 in fixed assets, €5,754,267 of which represents the value of our Rehoming Centre, vital to perform our rehoming activity as it houses the kennels, quarantine area and vet suite, and is surrounded by exercise and training areas.

Dogs Trust received, as in previous years, a grant from Dogs Trust in the UK (“Dogs Trust UK”) to enable the Charity to continue to run its operations as a going concern. This grant totalled €2,790,000 in 2019 (2018: €3,083,535). At the year end, there was a creditor of €4,978,968 (2018: €5,987,199) owed to Dogs Trust UK in respect of historic financial support provided. Dogs Trust UK has confirmed its support of Dogs Trust for the duration of 2020 and has no current plans to call in this loan, which does not have interest accruing. More information on this financial support is detailed in Note 16 to the accounts.

Investments

Dogs Trust does not currently hold any investments and has no plans to purchase investments in the future.

Reserves Policy

All our unrestricted reserves are classed as free reserves. Our policy is to hold free reserves to cover six months of rehoming operational activity for the Charity (i.e. €1,801,688 at current levels). Our 2019 free reserves of €634,716 will cover two months of activity. Therefore, we have a plan to reduce this gap going forward by investing in new income generation and assessing current areas of expenditure.

Sociable

SID

A little Dachshund who craved company

By the time he was a year old, poor Sid had been through several homes and was becoming confused, all because he can't bear to be separated from his humans for any length of time. Sid didn't just need his owner to be nearby; he needed to be able to see them at all times. This made him extremely anxious, and our team knew it would make it difficult to find the right home for him. At Dogs Trust, though, we never give up on a dog. We knew that somewhere out there was Sid's perfect home, with an owner who would be around almost all the time and would allow him to sleep in the bedroom so that he could feel safe and secure.

Sid is such an outgoing and cheerful dog, he never had any problem making friends with potential adopters in the Rehoming Centre, but we knew that he had very specific needs – as well as being around all the time, his new family would have to commit to continuing his training, and would need great patience to give little Sid the time he would need to settle in one place and make it his home.

Sid's forever family came to visit him three times at the Rehoming Centre before they took him home. Although there was an instant connection between Sid and his new people, our team wanted to be sure that the family had all the tools necessary to make Sid's transition to home life a success. Sid got exactly what he needed from his new home: people around him all the time, whenever he needed them to be, so that he could relax and settle in. Then, gradually, his very patient family was able to introduce some time spent apart without making Sid uncomfortable. Sid and his new family are perfect together, but it was a surprisingly tough journey for little Sid. It's not always the obvious dogs that need the most attention!



Governance

Governing Document

The mission statement and driving principle of Dogs Trust states that our aim is to bring about the day when all dogs can enjoy a happy life, free from the threat of unnecessary destruction. We aim to achieve this through our policy of Rescue, Rehabilitation, Rehoming and Regulation. Dogs Trust operates as set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Subsidiary

Dogs Trust, although a standalone Irish entity, is treated as a subsidiary of Dogs Trust UK (charity number 227523). All members of Dogs Trust are either Council members (Directors of the corporate trustee – Dogs Trust Trustee Limited) or employees of Dogs Trust UK. Dogs Trust is a company limited by guarantee under the Companies Act 2014 and does not have shareholders.

Events After the Reporting Date

There were no adjusting post balance sheet events after the reporting date. See Note 19 for details of global pandemic COVID-19 and its impact on Dogs Trust.

Going Concern

Dogs Trust received a letter of support from Dogs Trust UK outlining that funding required in 2020 will be covered by way of a grant. Therefore, the trustees are satisfied that Dogs Trust is a going concern.

Council Members, Officers and Management

Board Governance

The Directors of Dogs Trust constitute our Board of Directors. The Board's principal responsibilities include determining the overall strategy, policies, direction and goals of Dogs Trust, protecting and promoting

the identity and values of the Charity and fulfilling its statutory responsibilities.

The Directors review the finances and monitor the charitable work of Dogs Trust at each board meeting. These are held on a regular basis throughout the year. Between meetings, the day-to-day management of the organisation is delegated to the Executive Director and the management team.

The Dogs Trust Board has taken note of the Charities Governance Code and has developed a comprehensive plan to work towards full compliance with the Code.

Board Members

Board appointments are made strategically to ensure diverse skill sets and a wide range of relevant knowledge. Our current membership demonstrates representation from financial, animal welfare, organisational management, media and marketing sectors. The composition of the Board is reviewed regularly, and recommendations are made through the Chair.

Conflicts of interest are managed through a disclosure process initiated at each meeting. Dogs Trust executives, including the Executive Director, do not have voting power on the Board but they may participate in an advisory capacity.

In accordance with the Articles of Association, a third of the Board membership stands for reappointment each year.

Appointment, Induction and Training

When a seat on the Board becomes available, potential candidates are proposed based on the expertise required and vetted accordingly. The candidate is then interviewed and, if the individual is successful, their appointment will be proposed at the next board meeting.

New Board members all receive training through an induction course to immerse themselves in everything about Dogs Trust, such as our activities and operations, and may also attend training courses and seminars on pertinent subjects.

Attendance

The Board of Directors operates under the full understanding that meeting attendance is of utmost importance to the effectiveness of the organisation. Board members strive to attend each meeting, and attendance is recorded in minutes and managed by the Chair. Meeting dates are circulated with as much notice as possible to ensure optimal attendance. All meetings held in 2019 were quorate and saw positive engagement and attendance.

Decision-Making

Strategic decisions are made by the Board in line with the global strategy set by the parent charity in the UK. The Board receives recommendations for changes to strategy, policy and operations from the Executive Director, who is delegated the responsibility of carrying out those decisions through day-to-day operations.

A review of the format of meeting papers was undertaken in 2019 to ensure clarity of recommendations made to the Board, as well as improved meeting effectiveness and record-keeping.

Risk Management

The Board of Directors is responsible for ensuring there are appropriate risk management and internal control systems in place to manage the major risks to which the Charity is exposed. This is actioned through a review of the effectiveness of the Charity's risk management policy. The risk management policy is in place to enable

management to identify and mitigate potential risks, as opposed to the elimination of risks. The policy is designed to enhance the ability of the Charity to achieve its own objectives.

As an organisation that rescues, rehabilitates and rehomes puppies and dogs to members of the public, Dogs Trust is exposed to a medium level of risk. To minimise the risk associated with our activities, we have put in place a rigorous risk assessment process as part of our rehoming procedures, which ensures that we remain compliant with all current applicable laws, with our own internal codes of conduct and with the highest possible standards of safety and security. We also ensure that all our staff and volunteers are screened and trained to the standard necessary to carry out their tasks while keeping themselves, other humans and dogs safe and healthy.

The risk management policy includes the following processes and controls:

- A comprehensive risk register developed and enacted at departmental level and subject to top-down review by senior management.
- Regular review and assessment of key risks by senior management, with regular feedback to their relevant departments. This occurs at the monthly senior management team meeting.
- Annual review of the risk register by the Board.

The following table provides a summary of the main risks and uncertainties facing the Charity, and the measures in place to mitigate or manage them.

Risk Area	Risk Type	Prevention or Management Measures
Physical	<p>Compromised dog welfare at the Rehoming Centre or during transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐾 Staff and volunteers are screened and trained to ensure that all our dogs receive the best possible care and are handled with compassion and awareness at all times. 🐾 The health and welfare of individual animals is monitored regularly. 🐾 The Rehoming Centre itself is designed and built to minimise physical and psychological risk to the dogs in our care. 🐾 Veterinary care is available to our dogs at all times.
	<p>A bite or fatal dog attack to a member of staff or the public</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐾 Adopters, fosterers and dogs are carefully monitored before dogs go from the Rehoming Centre into the care of a family. 🐾 Specialised training is provided to anyone taking a dog from the Rehoming Centre, and to the dogs. 🐾 Intake and rehoming protocols and standard operating procedures are followed and monitored. 🐾 Behavioural assessments of all dogs are carried out by trained staff members. 🐾 Incident procedures, including bite reports and near-miss reports, are followed and regularly reviewed to ensure the highest standards of safety.
	<p>A non-dog-related injury to a member of staff or the public</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐾 All staff are trained in appropriate health and safety procedures. 🐾 First aid practitioners are available on site. 🐾 Access to most working areas of the Rehoming Centre are off limits to the public, which protects the public, staff and the dogs.

Risk Area	Risk Type	Prevention or Management Measures
Financial	Market movements or other events that could affect the Charity's principal financial assets, such as Brexit and COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐾 COVID-19 is likely to significantly reduce the Charity's activity; financial forecasts and business continuity plans are updated to account for significant changes. 🐾 A detailed annual budget and five-year business plan are prepared, and these are compared to actual results, previous results and forecasts on a monthly basis. 🐾 Foreign exchange exposures are monitored and forward exchange contracts are used where appropriate.
	Increased competition for donations and other sources of income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐾 Regular campaigns to raise awareness of dog-related issues also help to maintain awareness of the Charity's activities and engage with existing and new supporters. 🐾 Innovative fundraising strategies are employed to prevent stagnation. 🐾 Brand awareness is a consideration in all public-facing activities, with an emphasis on expanding the Charity's audience. 🐾 Fundraising activities are varied to diversify sources of income. 🐾 Detailed financial planning is undertaken on an ongoing basis.
	Fraud or misappropriation of funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐾 Accounts are carefully monitored on an ongoing basis. 🐾 Staff undergo vetting and training to ensure that they are properly equipped to handle the Charity's funds. 🐾 Documented policies and procedures are in place, combined with management review. 🐾 We adhere to the Charities Regulator's best practice for fundraising guidelines.
Reputational	Media reports of inappropriate behaviour by staff or volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐾 Staff are trained in customer service and other areas of public-facing work. 🐾 Senior staff actively monitor social media and media channels. 🐾 Professional advice is available to the Charity, if required.
	Changing public attitudes towards dogs or the Charity's work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐾 Our Education and Community team runs specialised workshops in schools and community centres across Ireland, teaching people how to interact safely with dogs. 🐾 We monitor and, if necessary, respond to inaccurate reporting of dog-related incidents by the media.

Risk Area	Risk Type	Prevention or Management Measures
Technological	Data security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐾 Detailed policies ensure that the Charity complies with legal requirements and best practice. 🐾 External professional advice and auditing is sought as required. 🐾 Training procedures ensure that staff follow security guidelines.
Operational	Inability to provide our service on an ongoing basis – what happens to our dogs if we have to close tomorrow?	We have come to the end of our current five-year strategic plan and are now developing a new one, which will include a new business continuity plan, tested and updated to take account of COVID-19, during which we activated a wide pool of fosterers to take suitable dogs, reducing the number in the Rehoming Centre.

It is recognised that systems can only provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that major risks have been adequately managed.

Management Structure, Setting Pay and Remuneration

Remuneration of the Board

The Directors of Dogs Trust receive no remuneration for their position as Directors. They are, however, entitled to claim for expenses incurred in their position as Directors. In 2019, there were no claims made for expenses and the total of expenses reimbursed was €0.

Management Structure and Remuneration

The management team is led by our Executive Director, Becky Bristow (from August 2019; previously Suzie Carley). The key management team comprises Becky Bristow (Executive Director), Karla Dunne (Head of Operations), JoAnne O'Donovan (Head of Fundraising), Austin Neylan (Management Accountant), Gillian McDermott (Fundraising Manager), Ciara Byrne (PR and Communications Manager), Sarah Lynch (Campaigns Manager), Fiona Gregan (Education and Community Manager) and Maciej Trojanowicz (Rehoming Centre Manager). The team received total wages and salaries of €601,166 in 2019 (2018: €550,492), see Note 6 to the accounts for further details.

Management remuneration is agreed at board level and is benchmarked against similar positions in the charity sector.

Dogs Trust is fully committed to openness and transparency. The Charity adheres to the Charities Act 2009 and the Triple Lock Standard of best practice for charities in Ireland, covering the highest levels of good governance in fundraising and financial reporting.



Books of Account

The measures taken by the Directors to ensure compliance with the requirements of Sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014, regarding adequate accounting records, include the implementation of necessary policies and procedures for recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and the provision of adequate resources to the financial function. The books of account of the Company are maintained at the Company's registered office at Dogs Trust, Ashbourne Road, Finglas, Dublin 11, D11 K003.

Lobby and Political Contributions

Dogs Trust made no political donations in 2019 and has no plans to do so in the future. Dogs Trust is not affiliated to any political party or ideology.

Accounting Records

Disclosure of Information to Auditors

In the case of each of the persons who are Directors at the time this report is approved and in accordance with Section 332 of the Companies Act 2014, so far as the Director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's statutory auditors are unaware, and that Director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a Director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's statutory auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

The auditors, BDO, continue in office in accordance with Section 383 (2) of the Companies Act 2014.

Directors' Responsibilities Statement

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year, giving a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company. Under the law, the Directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with Irish Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in Ireland, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

Under company law, the Directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Company for the financial year end date of the net income or expenditure of the Company for that financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

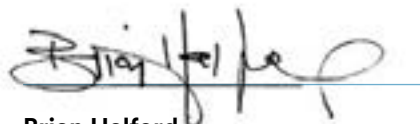
In preparing these financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.

- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Outline whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards.
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business.

The Directors are responsible for ensuring that the Company keeps, or causes to be kept, adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the Company; enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and net income or expenditure of the Company to be determined with reasonable accuracy; enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and, hence, for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The report was approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:



Brian Halford
Director



Owen Sharp
Director

20 April 2020

Dogs Trust (CLG),
Ashbourne Road,
Finglas,
Dublin 11,
D11 K003.

Curious Charlie

A German Shepherd who needed to feel safe

Soft-hearted Charlie really needs people around to help him focus and feel safe and secure. When he was left on his own, he became extremely worried, which resulted in panicked behaviour, such as scraping at doors to try to find his way back to people. Because of his particular needs, our Rehoming team expected that he would do well with a single owner who would be at home almost all the time and could give him the one-to-one attention he needed in order to thrive.

Despite Charlie's new family having more than one member, they knew right away that he was the dog for them. As soon as they saw his photo online, they said, "We didn't want to meet any other dogs, just Charlie." When they got to meet him that same day, they were sure, "There was no mistake, he stole our hearts." The Rehoming team was happy to give the new relationship a chance.

Over the course of several visits, Charlie and his new family took their time to get to know each other in our Rehoming Centre. The next step was a home visit, followed by an overnight stay.

Charlie's family says:

"We didn't want to take him back. After a couple of weeks, we got the OK, and he has been with us ever since.

"I could write a book on Charlie. He is a ray of sunshine, a very proud dog. He loves his humans and is so intelligent. He gets all of us – we are a family of three – and he knows each of our personalities and greets all of us in a specific way.

"Thank you, Dogs Trust, to all of the staff and volunteers who were minding Charlie until we all found each other."



Independent Auditors' Report

To the Members of Dogs Trust Company Limited by Guarantee

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Dogs Trust (CLG) for the financial year ended 31 December 2019, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and Financial Reporting Standard 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Company's affairs as at 31 December 2019 and of its results for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described below in the auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least 12 months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on the other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- in our opinion, the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements; and
- in our opinion, the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the Company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, and financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of Directors' remuneration and transactions required by Sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Respective Responsibilities

Responsibilities of Directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement, the Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the management

either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at:

www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8fa9802dc9c3a/Description_Of_Auditors_Responsibilities_For_Audit.pdf.

The description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

The purpose of our audit report and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



John O'Callaghan
for and on behalf of BDO Dublin

Statutory Audit Firm
AI223876

20 April 2020

LUCKY

Our delicate Chihuahua campaign star

Poor Layla had such a terrible start in life that she was the unfortunate star of our 2018 winter campaign. She and her pups were dumped out of a car and would surely have died without the intervention of a member of the public, who brought them to our Rehoming Centre.

Layla and her two puppies needed an attentive and specialised programme of expert veterinary care to overcome the health problems that are the hallmarks of dogs who have been badly neglected. Fortunately, Layla and her pups responded well to the gentle treatment they received from our Veterinary team. It took Layla a bit longer to respond to her Canine Carers – she simply had no experience of kindness from people, so she did not trust them.

Tiny Layla's story touched everyone on the team deeply, and when she was well enough to try out a home environment, a Dogs Trust staff member stepped up to take her on. This arrangement suited everyone, because Layla still needed close monitoring by our Veterinary team, so a fosterer who was travelling to and from the Rehoming Centre on a regular basis was ideal.

Layla's puppies made a full recovery and were rehomed to the public. Layla herself has stayed with our staff member, who officially adopted her.

Layla's owner says:

"I fell in love with Layla very quickly and she formed quite the attachment to me and my dogs when I took her home on foster."

"It may sound cheesy, but I do feel Layla and I were meant to find each other. I am so thankful Dogs Trust was able to rescue her and her babies and give them the best possible outcome."

"Layla loves her comforts and would spend all day in bed under the covers if she could. As a Chihuahua, she is quite demanding and will constantly paw at me and family members seeking more pets and rubs!"

"Layla is still a little anxious around new people, but she has come a long way. She even often comes back to Dogs Trust as she is an office dog. She does her daily rounds of the desks demanding her treats and shoulder rubs!"



06

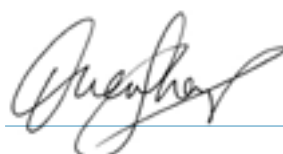
Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 December 2019

Notes	2019 Unrestricted Funds	2019 Restricted Funds	2019 Total Funds	2018 Total Funds
	€	€	€	€
Income from:				
Raising Funds				
Donations and legacies	1 5,130,264	9,141	5,139,405	4,317,847
Other trading activities	2 109,190	-	109,190	83,864
Grant from Dogs Trust UK	2,790,000	-	2,790,000	3,083,535
Charitable Activities				
Rehoming to the UK	1,005,302	-	1,005,302	711,288
Adoption and neutering fees	173,134	-	173,134	155,065
Other Income				
	34,186	-	34,186	29,096
Total Income	9,242,076	9,141	9,251,217	8,380,695
Expenditure on:				
Raising Funds				
Donations and legacies	3 3,054,210	-	3,054,210	2,539,165
Other trading activities	3 69,653	-	69,653	36,279
	3,123,863	-	3,123,863	2,575,444
Charitable Activities				
Rehoming Centre	3 3,602,938	438	3,603,376	3,629,460
Rehoming to the UK	3 1,005,302	-	1,005,302	711,288
Preventative work	3 631,577	-	631,577	608,422
Publicity, Education and Communications	3 872,721	-	872,721	842,208
	6,112,538	438	6,112,976	5,791,378
Total Expenditure	9,236,402	438	9,236,840	8,366,822
Net Income/(Expenditure)	5,674	8,703	14,377	13,873
Net Movement in Funds	5,674	8,703	14,377	13,873
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	12 629,041	-	629,041	615,168
Total Funds Carried Forward	634,715	8,703	643,418	629,041

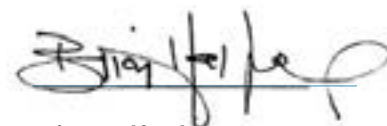
All amounts relate to continuing activities. There are no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the above two financial years. The notes on pages 54 to 61 form part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the Board on 8 April 2020 and signed on its behalf by:



Owen Sharp
Director

20 April 2020



Brian Halford
Director

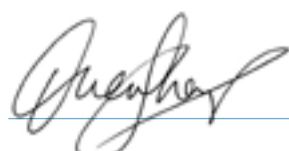
Balance Sheet

For the year ended 31 December 2019

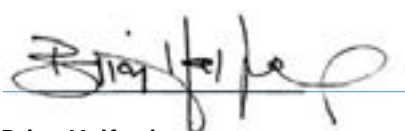
	Notes	2019	2018
		€	€
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	8	5,954,289	6,551,873
Current Assets			
Debtors	9	187,089	238,863
Cash at bank and in hand	10	190,246	225,967
Total Current Assets		377,335	464,830
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	11	(5,688,205)	(6,387,662)
Net Current Liabilities		(5,310,870)	(5,922,832)
Total Net Assets		643,419	629,041
The funds of the Charity:			
Unrestricted funds	12	634,715	629,041
Restricted funds	12	8,703	-
Total Charity Funds		643,418	629,041

The notes on pages 54 to 61 form part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the Board on 8 April 2020 and signed on its behalf by:



Owen Sharp
Director



Brian Halford
Director

20 April 2020

Cash Flow Statement

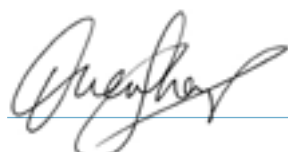
For the year ended 31 December 2019

	2019	2018
	€	€
Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) from Operating Activities	156,583	151,534
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(192,305)	(80,088)
Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents in Reporting Period	(35,722)	71,446
Reconciliation of Net Cash Flow		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the financial year	225,967	154,521
Increase/(decrease) in cash	(35,722)	71,446
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of the Financial Year	190,245	225,967
Reconciliation of Net Incoming Resources to Cash Inflow/(Outflow) from Operating Activities		
	2019	2018
	€	€
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	14,377	13,873
Depreciation	789,889	770,196
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	51,774	(27,685)
Decrease in creditors	(699,457)	(604,850)
Net Cash Provided by/(Used in) Operating Activities	156,583	151,534

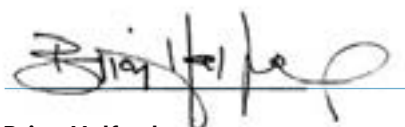
All amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 54 to 61 form part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the Board on 8 April 2020 and signed on its behalf by:



Owen Sharp
Director



Brian Halford
Director

20 April 2020

Kind Keith

Our Spaniel pup who had to learn the whole world

Rescued from a hoarding situation together with 13 other puppies of various shapes and sizes, seven-month-old Keith had no experience of the outside world when he came to Dogs Trust. He settled well with his siblings when the Rehoming Centre was quiet, but ordinary noises frightened him because he wasn't used to them. He was overwhelmed with sights and sounds that people and dogs take for granted, and although he craved interaction with people, he did not always know how to deal with it.

Showing Keith that the world is not such a scary place took a lot of time, patience and special handling from his Canine Carers and from our Training and Behaviour team. Once he got to know people, he enjoyed cuddles and attention, but he needed to be approached on his own terms.

When Keith met his forever family, he was unsure at first and barked a bit – he wanted to say hello, but he was not sure about more new people. However, the team at Dogs Trust helped Keith and his new family to overcome this shyness and to get to know each other better. It helped that the family already had a confident dog who could show Keith how to approach people, how to take food from their hands and how to play and have fun.

The Training and Behaviour team kept up with Keith's progress even when he went home with his new family, to make sure that everything went smoothly. After all, everything about this new home was strange to Keith, even the sound of the microwave or the TV! With the help of their own dog and the support of the team in Dogs Trust, Keith's family was able to ease his transition into ordinary life, and now this brave boy is a happy and confident dog in his Forever Home.



Statement of Accounting Policies

For the year ended 31 December 2019

The following accounting policies have been consistently applied in relation to the Charity's financial statements:

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), with reference to the recommendations of the revised Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice, applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The continued financial support from Dogs Trust UK in 2020 (see Note 16), and its strong financial position, means there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern. Dogs Trust UK has confirmed its assessment that it is a going concern in light of COVID-19 (see Note 19).

The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity. The financial statements are individual financial statements and not consolidated.

Funds

The Charity has both unrestricted and restricted funds. Income is treated as restricted where the donor/funder has specified that it may only be used for a particular purpose or project. All other income is treated as unrestricted.

Expenditure is treated as being made out of restricted funds to the extent that it meets the criteria specified by the donor/funder. All other expenditure is treated as being from unrestricted funds.

Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is legally entitled to the income, receipt is probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Donations are accounted for when received. For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the Charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. In accordance with this policy, legacies are included when the Charity is advised by the personal representative of an estate that payment will be made or assets transferred and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy, provided six months have elapsed since the date of probate.

Dogs Trust is in receipt of a grant from Dogs Trust UK, which is recognised in the accounts on a receivable basis (when the cash is received, or when Dogs Trust UK has confirmed an agreed amount of financial support, if earlier).

Sale of goods, comprising income from the sale of new and donated goods, is accounted for when the sale takes place. Where applicable, income is recognised net of VAT. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by general volunteers.

Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to any given category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to an activity or function, they have been allocated on a usage basis. Support costs, such as general management, payroll administration, human resources and financing are allocated in this way.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost, net of depreciation. The Charity regularly conducts impairment reviews of the net book value of its fixed assets and writes their values down to their depreciated replacement cost if net book values are higher.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation, less estimated residual value, of each asset systematically over its expected useful economic life, which is estimated as follows:

Freehold land	Infinite
Freehold buildings (Rehoming Centre)	15 years
Motor vehicles	3 years
Equipment and software	4 years

Financial and Other Assets and Liabilities

The Charity only enters into basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities, like trade and other accounts receivable and payable. Basic financial instruments are recorded at transaction price.

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. This is a financial asset recorded at amortised cost.

Short-term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment (a financial asset recorded at amortised cost).

Short-term creditors are measured at the transaction price (a financial liability measured at amortised cost).

Foreign Currencies

The financial statements are expressed in Euro (€). Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transactions. The resulting monetary assets and liabilities are translated at the balance sheet rate or the contracted rate and the exchange differences are recorded in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Taxation

The Company, registered charity number 20057978, is exempt from taxation on income under Section 207 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, as it is for charitable purposes.

Pension

Pension costs comprise the costs of the Charity's contribution to its employees' defined contribution pension scheme. The scheme is available to all employees on successful completion of their probation period.

Accounting Judgements and Estimates

The Directors do not consider there to be any significant judgements that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenditure.

The following estimates, which are considered annually, are applied:

- Useful economic lives of assets: see Tangible Fixed Assets above. The Rehoming Centre is a specialist asset, custom built for the Charity, and therefore it has a bespoke useful economic life estimated at 15 years.
- Allocation of support costs: see Expenditure above.

Notes to the Financial Statements

01. Donations and legacies

	2019	2018
	€	€
Donations	4,820,298	4,258,516
Legacies	319,107	59,331
	5,139,405	4,317,847

€9,141 of donations are restricted. All other income is unrestricted.

02. Other trading activities

	2019	2018
	€	€
Note: all income in 2019 and 2018 was unrestricted.		
Fundraising events	61,908	41,114
Promotional goods	47,282	42,750
	109,190	83,864

All income is unrestricted.

03. Analysis of expenditure on:

	Activities Undertaken Directly	Support Costs	2019 Total	2018 Total
	€	€	€	€
Raising funds:				
Donations and legacies	2,908,655	145,555	3,054,210	2,539,165
Other fundraising activities	66,334	3,319	69,653	36,279
	2,974,989	148,874	3,123,863	2,575,444
Charitable activities:				
Rehoming Centre	3,431,649	171,727	3,603,376	3,629,460
Rehoming to the UK	1,005,302	0	1,005,302	711,288
Preventative work	601,478	30,099	631,577	608,422
Publicity, Education and Communications	831,129	41,592	872,721	842,208
	5,869,558	243,418	6,112,976	5,791,378
Total	8,844,547	392,293	9,236,839	8,366,822

€438 of Rehoming Centre direct expenditure is restricted. All other expenditure is unrestricted.

The main categories of support costs are:

	2019, €
IT	69,022
HR and Finance	154,181
Governance and Central Management	133,971
Other	35,119
	<u>392,293</u>

Within governance costs are the following amounts:

	2019	2018
Auditors' Remuneration	€	€
For audit	17,850	16,250
For other assurance services	1,599	1,599
For tax and advisory	589	589
	<u>20,038</u>	<u>18,438</u>

04. Net movement in funds

The net movement in funds was arrived at after charging the following:

	2019	2018
	€	€
Depreciation	789,889	770,196

05. Directors' remuneration and expenses

None of the Directors of Dogs Trust (CLG) or any person connected with them received any remuneration during the financial year. Expenses directly incurred by the Directors in carrying out their roles are reimbursed, if claimed. In recent years, none of the current Directors have claimed any expenses relating to their position as a Director.

06. Staff numbers and emoluments

	2019	2018
	Headcount	Headcount
Rehoming Centre	56	54
Fundraising, Campaigns and Communications	10	13
Education	9	6
Management and Administration	3	4
	<u>78</u>	<u>77</u>

Their aggregate emoluments were as follows:

	2019	2018
	€	€
Wages and salaries	2,303,595	2,126,359
Employer's PRSI	258,986	237,889
Pension and other payroll costs	284,357	252,393
	<u>2,846,938</u>	<u>2,616,641</u>

Number of employees of the Charity who earned from:

	2019	2018
	Number	Number
€70,001 to €80,000	-	1
€80,001 to €90,000	1	-
€90,001 to €100,000	1	-
€100,001 to €110,000	-	-
€110,001 to €120,000	-	1
Total	2	2

The Executive Director changed from Suzie Carley to Becky Bristow during the year and is included in band €90,001 to €100,000 (2018: €110,001 to €120,000). The key management personnel, as defined in the Directors' Report, received total remuneration as follows:

	2019	2018
	€	€
Wages and salaries	601,166	550,492
Employer's pension	92,283	22,717
	693,449	573,209

07. Taxation

Dogs Trust (CLG) is exempt from taxation on income under Section 207 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, as it exists for charitable purposes.

08. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Land & Buildings	Motor Vehicles	Equipment & Fittings	Total
	€	€	€	€
Cost				
Balance at 1 January 2019	12,371,676	301,883	185,790	12,859,349
Additions	-	21,100	171,205	192,305
Disposals	-	(30,824)	-	(30,824)
Balance at 31 December 2019	12,371,676	292,159	356,995	13,020,830
Accumulated Depreciation				
Balance at 1 January 2019	5,925,898	240,761	140,817	6,307,476
Depreciation charge for year	691,511	45,927	52,451	789,889
Disposals	-	(30,824)	-	(30,824)
Balance at 31 December 2019	6,617,409	255,864	193,268	7,066,541
Net Book Value at 31 December 2019	5,754,267	36,295	163,727	5,954,289
Net book value at 31 December 2018	6,445,778	61,122	44,973	6,551,873

Freehold land and buildings represents the Rehoming Centre in Dublin and includes the cost of freehold land of €1,999,022, which is not depreciated.

09. Debtors

	2019	2018
	€	€
Prepayments	49,301	47,437
VAT	137,561	190,111
Other debtors	227	1,315
Total	187,089	238,863

10. Cash and cash equivalents

	2019	2018
	€	€
Cash at bank and in hand	190,246	225,967

11. Creditors (amounts falling due within one year)

	2019	2018
	€	€
Trade creditors	392,581	126,510
Amounts owed to parent (see Note 16)	4,978,968	5,987,199
Social security	134,517	70,992
Accruals	182,139	202,961
Total	5,688,205	6,387,662

The repayment of trade creditors varies between on demand and 90 days. No interest is payable on trade creditors. Tax and social insurance are subject to the terms of the relevant legislation. Interest may accrue on any late payment. The terms of the accruals are based on the underlying contracts.

12. Reserves

	2019	2019	2019	2018
	€	€	€	€
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Funds balance at start of the financial year	629,041	-	629,041	615,168
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	5,674	8,703	14,377	13,873
Funds Balance at End of the Financial Year	634,715	8,703	643,418	629,041

Unrestricted funds are used for general purposes. Restricted funds support puppies at the Rehoming Centre.

Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

Fund balances at 31 December 2019 are represented by:

	2019	2019	2019
	€	€	€
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Tangible fixed assets	5,954,289	-	5,954,289
Current assets	368,632	8,703	377,335
Current liabilities	(5,688,205)	-	(5,688,205)
Total Net Assets	634,716	8,703	643,419

All funds in 2018 were unrestricted.

13. Legal form and share capital

Dogs Trust (CLG) is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The members have guaranteed 1 Euro each. The registered company number is 396919 and the registered office address is Ashbourne Road, Finglas, Dublin 11, D11 K003.

14. Capital commitments

The Charity did not have any capital commitments at the year end (2018: nil).

15. Parent entity

The Directors consider the parent entity of the Charity to be Dogs Trust, a charity (charity number 227523) registered in the UK ("Dogs Trust UK"), as all members of Dogs Trust (CLG) are Council members (trustees of the corporate trustee) or employees of Dogs Trust UK. Dogs Trust UK prepares annual accounts which consolidate on a line-by-line basis the results of the Charity; a copy can be obtained from the Company Secretary, Dogs Trust, 17 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7RQ, UK.

16. Related party transactions

The parent entity, Dogs Trust UK (see Note 15) provided financial support to the Charity when it was originally incorporated and started operations, including for the building of the Rehoming Centre in Dublin. At the year end there was an amount of €4,978,968 (2018: €5,987,199) owed to Dogs Trust UK in respect of this historic financial support provided to Dogs Trust (CLG). Dogs Trust UK has confirmed its support of Dogs Trust (CLG) for the duration of 2020 and has no current plans to call in this loan, which does not have interest accruing. At such time as the Charity is able to repay all or part of the loan then Dogs Trust UK will ask for repayment, and therefore this is classified as a creditor falling due within (rather than after) a year.

The Charity received a grant of €2,790,000 from Dogs Trust UK in the year (2018: €3,083,535) in support of its work during 2019.

Additionally, the Charity invoiced Dogs Trust UK €1,005,302 in the year (2018: €711,288) for rehoming services.

17. Pension costs

The Charity provides a contribution to its employees' defined contribution pension scheme. The scheme is available to all employees on successful completion of their probation period. The Charity also contributes to certain employees' pension plans. The charge for the year was €276,559 (2018: €243,746). Employer contribution costs are attributed to the activity or function of the member of staff receiving the contribution.

18. Contingent liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities at the financial year end (2018: €nil).

19. Post balance sheet events

No significant events have occurred since the balance sheet date which would require adjustments to the amounts as disclosed in the financial statements.

In December 2019, COVID-19, a disease caused by a coronavirus, started circulating around the world in December 2019. By March 2020, it was declared a pandemic. This disease and the speed of its spread has caused a global economic, social and health issue, causing very significant falls in global stock markets. The activity of the Charity is expected to be significantly different in some areas over the coming months, responding to the national changes imposed, such as businesses being closed to the public. This will reduce both income and costs in these areas.

As Dogs Trust UK has promised to support the Charity's current operations, and Dogs Trust UK has sufficient reserves to remain a going concern, therefore the Directors are satisfied that the Charity is a going concern and there are no post balance sheet adjustments required to the 2019 results.

20. Financial instruments

	2019	2018
Financial Assets	€	€
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	<u>190,473</u>	<u>225,967</u>
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	<u>5,371,549</u>	<u>6,113,709</u>

Financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise cash at bank and in hand and other debtors.

Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost comprise of trade creditors and amounts owed to group companies.

21. Approval of financial statements

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Directors on 20 April 2020.

Annual Report and Accounts for the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2019

A company limited by guarantee
and not having share capital.