



Hero Paws SCIO

Trustees Annual Report
& Financial Statement
11.01.22 to 30.06.23





Contact Information

Scottish Charity Number: SC051486
53 Burnbrae Park, Kincardine, FK10 4RP

EMAILS

admin@heropaws.org.uk
rehoming@heropaws.org.uk
events@heropaws.org.uk
jaime@heropaws.org.uk

TELEPHONE
07884337031

WEBSITE
heropaws.org.uk

SOCIALS

X : @heropawsuk
Facebook : Hero Paws – Life After Service
Instagram : @heropaws
TikTok : heropaws4



Trustees

Jaime Garner
Samantha James
Amber Sokyorka
Gail Clydesdale





Objectives & Activities

Hero Paws came about when three ex-military dog handlers, spent years experiencing firsthand what military working dogs' daily life looked like when in service and how difficult it was to request release and rehome of their MWDs, they realised that the after care and safeguarding for retired or failed working dogs did not meet the standard they expected. Indeed, in their own words the standard of aftercare and treatment, did not meet their expectations for these hero veterans and their future families, and with no funding or military pension for the dogs that are fortunate enough to be rehomed it solely falls upon those willing to open their homes to them! There was no structured training plan or normalisation training package or decompression from a busy stressful kennelled working environment for the working dogs to enter a civilian world, or for those with deemed behaviour issues to undergo behaviour modification, environmental training or decompression from those working kennelled environments to a home. Further there was no protection as to where they were to be re-homed or any aftercare package or support network for the families adopting the dogs. It was decided that this was the time to make a difference and to make sure these hero dogs retire to the life they deserved after they gave so much service, with the result being the birth of Hero Paws.

As the momentum grew for Hero Paws we were approached via other forces and services and families that had rehomed dogs from these varying forces and services, so we opened our support network to all. Providing support and advice to all UK Forces and Services dog, be it young dogs failed to meet standards of service or older dogs leaving the forces due to retirement, no discrimination of service or time serve, supporting existing or new owners of service dogs whether that be from military and police to civilian sectors such as HMPS, security, conservation, and search roles.

OUR AIMS

To support all families that rehome any forces or services dogs, whether this is for advice and guidance, financial or welfare support, for decompression and rehoming. To support all forces and services when their dogs retire, fail to meet or maintain standards, early release for veterinary or behaviour needs, for palliative care. Unbiasedly with no time restraints

WHAT WE DO

- Training & behaviour modification programmes
- Provide financial support for veterinary & insurance costs
- Source appropriate homes for dogs to be rehomed post service
- One to One support for owners 24/7 during and post life expectancy of the dogs
- Welfare packages which include supplements, treats, enrichments toys, grooming products
- Nutritional, wellbeing, health and veterinary support and advice
- Foster, decompression and rehoming
- Support webinars for owners covering, training, first aid and pet bereavement.

WHO WE HELP

Anyone who takes in or has taken in an ex-forces or services dog

Any force or service needing support rehoming a ex forces or service dog

Any rescue or governing body that finds themselves entrusted with an ex forces or services dog

We currently offer an open spectrum of support on all our social networks to encourage the public to engage if they need help rather than struggle alone or have questions go unanswered, with a close forum contact to speak privately. We have reached out to forces and services with support and help when they require.



Structure Governance Management

CONSTITUTION

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO). It was registered in its current legal form on 11th January 2022. It has a single tier structure and as such the Trustees are members of the Charity.

APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

There have been no changes to the number of trustees (4) since inception. There must be a minimum three and a maximum of twelve. As the charity grows we anticipate that our trustees number will increase. Trustees are elected at the AGM held in June.



Achievements & Performance

The formation of Hero Paws SCIO has been a long time in the planning with work and support being done over the years running up to gaining charity status. On 11th January 2022 the Scottish Charity Commission awarded us charity status. In the beginning Hero Paws was solely run by 4 trustees and over the last 18 months we have successfully recruited volunteers and ambassadors to spread the workload.

The movement of our year end from January 2023 to June 2023 is a result of postponement on opening the charity bank account. The postponement lay solely with the Bank of Scotland. This was resolved on 14th August 2022 with way of an apology letter and £250 compensation.

Alongside the continued support for the families opening their homes to our retirees we opened our doors to other forces and services to offer our support and have helped in rehoming dogs and supporting their families for various police forces, MOD, conservation, security and boarder civilian companies, and HMPPS.

In amongst our Police dogs, we've been able support with training and behaviour for some of our police dogs that just weren't ready for the civilian environment away from kennels and further decompression.



Success Stories

ZARA

South Wales Police dog Zara really struggled with her new world and her family almost gave up unable to cope with her behaviour so reached out to us and we guided them through and educated them 1:1 with training and behaviours and have not looked back. Zara has found her paws in her civilian world and often sees her old Police force chums, working closely with Hero Paws to help life after service run smoothly and happily for Zara and her family



Retired South Wales Police Dog Zara

REMO

Scottish Fire Arms Support Dog Remo initially rehomed to his handler from service after an abrupt early retirement due to injury on duty, but his guardian struggled to balance his happy retirement and work life so decided to reach out to hero paws for support to rehome his warrior partner. It took Remo time to adjust and guidance to his family how to help him adapt to life so quick after service. It didn't go without a glitch or two but with the continued support and guidance he's managed to put his paws up and relax. Still in communication with his partner he's a very content rehabilitated veteran.





Success Stories

Over the past year we have had various veterinary emergencies which we have been able to help financially. During this process we provide advise and support that alleviates the stress on the owner as well as bridging the gap between owner and vet to enable the guardian to understand the process of vet procedures and finances.

TIACO

Retired Special Forces Protection dog Tiaco had been having stomach problems and required surgery to remove over one hundred stones from his bladder. He had previously been treated for a spinal injury in service and discharged so insurance was not an option. Post operation he bounced back quick, and the team were able to offer nutrition and welfare support to make sure life after surgery he would be in the best of care.



BOSCO

Retired British Army Police Dog Bosco had a few concerning lumps that needed removing and investigating. Sadly its not uncommon for Military dogs to have various forms of cancer and Bosco is one of many of our dogs who have had to have lumps and bumps removed. Fortunately, all was well after his procedure. Bosco's guardian being a veteran himself and suffering with PTSD struggled with the procedure and after care with the anxiety of it all. We as a team took on the administrative and support for both dog an human pre and post care and managed to help them both through and out the other side.



Success Stories

Sadly, with working dogs often having a shorter life span and many of our dogs going through such a tough working life most of our dogs will need supplementation support or specific foods. In some cases, this can be very expensive, and we have been able to offer support and knowledge with a great nutritionist on our team. We try to help educate as many people as possible and guide them how to physically and mentally support our aging veterans. Some may even need specific kit and equipment such as harnesses and leads to help walking lame, injured or reactive dogs and steering away from adverse methods of equipment.



ANNE

Retired Search Dog Anne suffered from renal kidney failure and her family needed support with food and supplements to help keep her happy and healthy, although they had done some amazing research themselves it can often be filled with biased information for consumer sales and a minefield so the guidance was paramount for Annes individual needs. With 5 dogs 3 of which Hero Paws family the costs came high but the support helped keep them comfortable so Anne could receive the care needed.

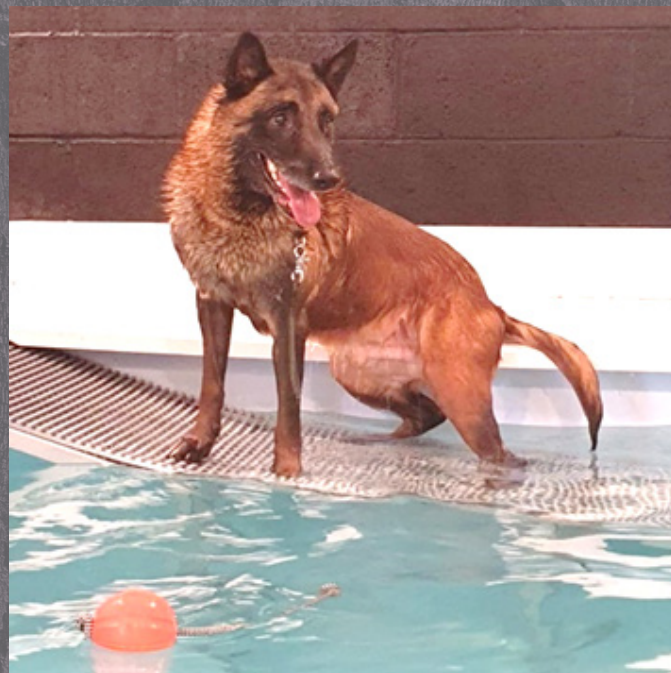




Success Stories

AMIGO

Unfortunately, some homes selected by the forces and services don't work out once dogs have been rehomed and with the forces and services unable to take dogs back and rescue unable to take such particular trained dogs safely we are more than happy to take these dogs under our care with our knowledge of their needs. In various forces and services dogs cases they will never get the option of potential decompression from kennels to a home. In some cases, it can take days or weeks to find a family but unfortunately for the more bespoke needs of some dogs they can find themselves with us for a while, hence the paramount requirements of a sanctuary. For now, we offer a foster with qualified trainer of behaviourist until their homes are found, this can take up some financial support in such cases of retired royal air force police dog Amigo.





Fundraising Achievements

Some of our partners and Ambassadors have participated in fundraising and profile-raising activities such as:



Murphys Purple Poppy Campaign

The purple poppy has long been a symbol of remembrance for animals lost in service but until recently was much less well known than the traditional red poppy. The aim of our Campaign is to give the purple poppy its rightful recognition, and thus ensure that the animals who served, and continue to serve, alongside their human counterparts are not forgotten. Hero Paws was fortunate to be their chosen charity for 2022. With an amazing donation of £13500.

Peaks for Paws

Three Peak Challenge was born in March 2023 when Pat and his young GSD, Kane, speed marched from Snowdon to Cadair Idris and then to Pen y Fan. They completed each peak and Pat marched the 190k in-between inside 54 hours. They raised £3,839 with every penny going to the dogs in the form of care boxes, toys, treats, health supplements, harnesses, training, transport and veterinary health checks



Get A Joggle On

Walking from John O 'Groats to Lands' End

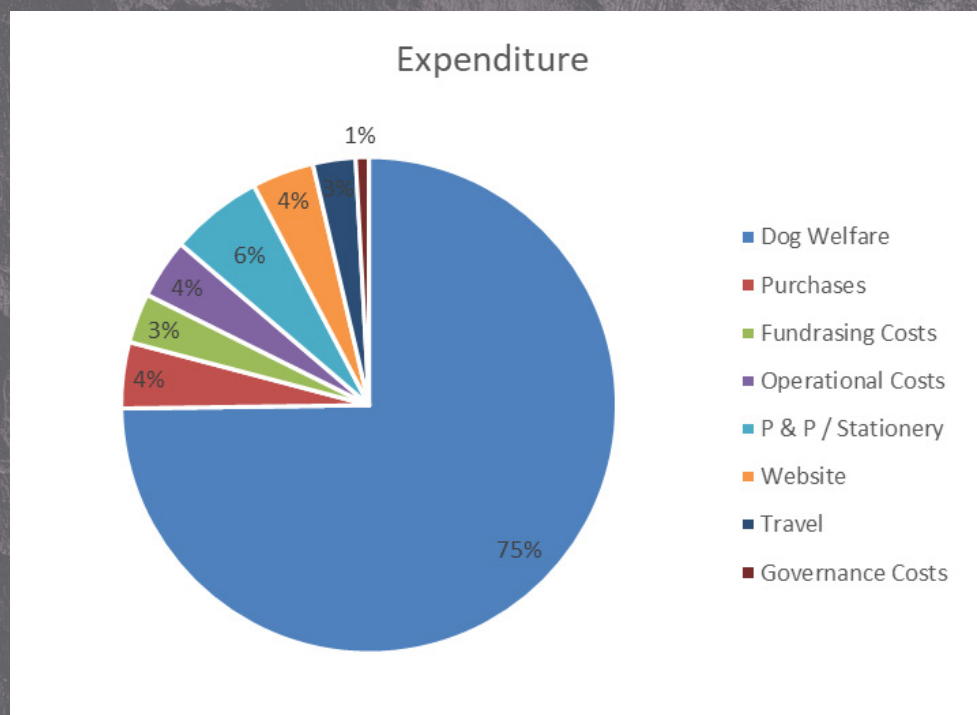
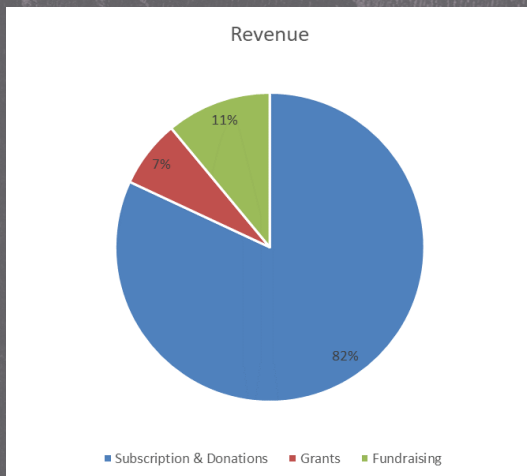
1 challenge, 4 feet, end 2 end, 3 Peaks

Connie James walked from John O'Groats to Lands, completing the three peaks along the way. This was a challenge she wanting to do for a long time and finally to the plunge to commit to. It was a huge challenge, both physically and mentally, but they enjoyed it and raised an amazing £3600 for Hero Paws.



Financial Review

While still being a young organisation, and one that operates in a landscape where funding is limited and difficult to secure, we hope to increase all our revenue streams. Expenditure is always weighted heavily to dog welfare with costs in other areas of the charity kept as low as possible with in kind support taken wherever possible. No paid staff are employed with all the work being carried out by Trustees and volunteers





Future Plans

Whilst the flow of support and fundraising we currently uphold is paramount the long-term goal must be to raise funds to open our sanctuary, the need for is apparent with the numbers of forces and service dogs that require decompression from the kennel environment prior to rehoming. This will in turn release the pressure on the forces and services that the dogs are currently with, which ultimately means lessening the euthanasia for dogs post service. Opening a sanctuary with the possibility of veterinary support for all retiring service personnel from all forces to decompress and gain canine knowledge and qualifications wishing to enter the canine welfare and working world in civi street .

Significant funding is required to ensure the organisation can meet the already increasing need and demand, and running costs, whilst also securing leased premises that are fit for purpose. Longer term there is a need to secure and attract funding for creating purpose-built premises that would provide space and resource to house a higher number of dogs, facilities for training, and an organisational hub for staff and volunteers.

Many services such as animal behaviourists and hydrotherapy have been and continue to be provided free or through goodwill, however a reliance on this form of in-kind support can be fragile and brings its own risks and dependencies.

A strategic approach to securing and realising funding potential includes an initial scoping exercise that will identify potential service level agreement opportunities, trusts and foundations, donor and corporate sponsors and fundraising campaigns (local and national).

Activity includes:

- Strategic fundraising strategy and identify funding requirements: short, medium, and long term
- Identify those best placed to help secure and attracts funding: trustees, volunteers, external resource (staff, consultants)
- Raising enough financial support and backing to purchase premises or land to build bespoke premises/sanctuary, and pay for running costs including staffing, volunteers, utilities, animal feed, veterinary care, training area, transport
- Identify and submit applications and tenders
- Develop fundraising activities including sponsorship, animal adoption, events, direct appeals



Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

G Clydesdale

Print name

GAIL CLYDESDALE

Designation

TRUSTEE

Date

15 MARCH 2024

Scottish Charity No - SC051486

Hero Paws SCIO

Annual Report and Financial Statements

30 June 2023

Hero Paws SCIO

Directors' Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 30th June 2023.

The report is prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities (revised 2005).

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO). It was registered in its current legal form on 11th January 2022. It has a single tier structure and as such the Trustees are members of the Charity

There has been no changes to the number of trustees (4) since inception. There must be a minimum three and a maximum of twelve. As the charity grows we anticipate that our trustees number will increase. Trustees are elected at the AGM held in June

Jaime Garner
Samantha James
Amber Soyka
Gail Clydesdale

Treasurer

Hero Paws SCIO

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Hero Paws SCIO

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 June 2023 which are set out on pages 4 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement


In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met.

In my opinion there are no other matters to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


Craig J. Allison FCCA

Date: 25/07/23

Hero Paws SCIO

Statement of Receipts and Payments

for the year ended 30 June 2023

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	
	Fund	Fund	Fund	Fund	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources					
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds</i>					
Subscriptions and donations	46,513	-	-	46,513	-
Grants Received	4,000	-	-	4,000	-
Fundraising income	6,245	-	-	6,245	-
Total incoming resources	56,758	-	-	56,758	-
Resources expended					
<i>Charitable expenditure</i>					
Cost of charitable activities					
Welfare	(24,669)			(24,669)	
Cost of generating funds					
Purchases	(1,423)			(1,423)	-
Fundraising	(1,070)			(1,070)	
Operational costs	(1,289)		-	(1,289)	-
Support costs					
Printing, postage & stationery	(1,996)			(1,996)	
Website	(1,335)			(1,335)	
Travel	(918)			(918)	
Governance costs	(286)	-	-	(286)	-
Total resources expended	(32,986)	-	-	(32,986)	-
Net movement in funds for the year	23,772	-	-	23,772	-
Fund transfers			-	-	-
Net income / (deficit) for the year	23,772	-	-	23,772	-
Funds brought forward:					
General fund	-	-	-	-	-
Funds carried forward	23,772	-	-	23,772	-

Hero Paws SCIO

Statement of Balances

As at 30th June 2023

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	
	Fund	Fund	Fund	Fund	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Represented by :					
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
Stock	1,450	-	-	1,450	-
Debtors	-	-	-	-	-
Bank	22,322	-	-	22,322	-
Creditors	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>23,772</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,772</u>	<u>-</u>