

CHAIRPERSON REPORT 2022

Good evening and welcome to DAWGS AGM relating to 2022. Mary Diack was the Chairperson during 2022, and following her retirement in August 2023, I was appointed as Chairperson at our Board meeting in September 2023. Firstly, I would like to place on record our thanks to Mary for her years of tireless work and dedication to DAWGS.

During 2022, and following on from the Covid pandemic in 2020/2021, we thought that life would return to normal, this was not to be. In February 2022 Russia invaded Ukraine and sadly war broke out. This added to the existing financial crises in our country with fuel costs rocketing to unprecedented levels. This led to an exacerbated financial cost of living crises. To help those in need and their beloved dogs, in September 2022 Trustees took the decision to increase "Gordon's Fund" to £500 in order to assist those who were struggling to get veterinary help, feed their dog or any other aspect of their dog's welfare. It was also decided to rename the fund simply DAWGS Welfare Fund, so it was clear what the fund was for. In December 2022 we also set up a dog food bank in our shop in Alford. The profile of the fund was raised and £2000 was paid out during 2022.

During 2022 we were also the recipients of several legacies, one of £600,000 and to those who entrust their monies to us, please know we will use it wisely, the dogs we rehome and Trustees of DAWGS are eternally grateful to all those who leave us a legacy no matter how large or small.

During 2022 our rehoming officer, Carolann Milne, rehomed 71 dogs, many of them being dogs who have behaviours that are challenging, and not always easy to find new homes for.

To everyone who became the guardian of one of our dogs I cannot thank you enough. Several of our dogs spent many months in kennels, and we know that dogs are pack animals and like being around their owners. Rehoming dogs with behavioural issues is always challenging - but there are wonderful people out there who are willing to invest time and money in these dogs to ensure that they have happy home lives.

We are always on the look-out for new foster carers to take dogs into their homes rather than dogs being placed in kennels, so if anyone feels that they can foster a dog from us please let us know and we will go through the fostering process with you.

Our Charity shop, based in Alford, which is managed by Heather Wakeling and Lynda Tonge had a successful year - thank you to them and the volunteers who work in the shop. The extra income this brings helps with our aim of finding dogs new forever homes. It would be remiss of me not to also thank those volunteers who do home checks and assist the rehoming officer with rehoming. Without the volunteers we could not run the charity as smoothly as we do - please know that we are eternally grateful to every one of you for giving up the most precious commodity we have, time.

I also extend by thanks to my fellow Trustees who give up their time too. Without Trustees, and a Board the Charity would not be able to exist, the support and dedication shown by my fellow Trustees is commendable.

Looking forward to 2023, we look forward to implementing some of the decisions taken during 2022, such as a new website. DAWGS will continue to grow as a charity and I am sure there are exciting times ahead.

Angela Taylor, 14 November 2023