



SCOTTISH GREYHOUND SANCTUARY

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

2020/2021

CONTENTS

1. Reference and administration details
2. Structure, governance and management
3. Objectives and activities
4. Main activities in pursuance of these objectives
5. Achievements and performance
6. Volunteers and fundraising
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Future plans
9. Final comments



1. REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

The Charity's name - **Scottish Greyhound Sanctuary**

Registered Charity number – SC039701

Principal Address

Scottish Greyhound Sanctuary
24 Abbotshall Road
Cults
Aberdeen
AB15 9JX

Names of the Charity Trustees and date of approval
(All appointed at the AGM on 30th August 2020)

Ms Suzanne Simpson - Chairperson
Ms Emma McLeod - Vice Chairperson
Ms Jacqueline Brown - Secretary
Ms Lorraine Baker - Treasurer

There were no changes to trustee positions during this period

2. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Type of governing document - Charity Constitution

Trustee Recruitment and Appointment

1. An executive committee of four trustees shall be elected at the annual general meeting of the organisation and shall consist of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary.
2. The Trustees must be fully paid up members of the organisation.
3. Individuals will be given a Trustee position only after receiving nominations, for a specific Trustee position, from two other fully paid up members of the organisation. In the event of multiple individuals being nominated for the same Trustee position, the position will be filled by a private ballot of those present at the annual general meeting at which time a majority vote must be gained by one individual.
4. The election of a Trustee will be for one year. All Trustees shall retire annually and shall be eligible for re-election.



3. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

1. Provision of a sanctuary to Greyhounds and Lurchers in danger.
2. Provide veterinary care where needed and to ensure the wellbeing of Greyhounds and Lurchers.
3. Promote responsible Greyhound and Lurcher ownership and in particular encourage the neutering of dogs as a means of reducing stray, abandoned and unwanted Greyhounds and Lurchers.
4. Forge links with other Greyhound and Lurcher organisations in furtherance of the organisations objectives.
5. Provide support and aftercare through the rehoming of Greyhounds and Lurchers.
6. Co-ordination of fundraising through events and raising awareness of the Greyhound and Lurcher breed.
7. Provision of home checks on all potential foster/adoption carers to ascertain individual and home suitability.
8. To always provide and meet the needs of any Greyhound and Lurcher placed in rescue.
9. Promote and implement an equal opportunities policy for all. The organisation will not discriminate on grounds of gender, marital status, ethnic origin, colour, nationality, disability, race and religion, or other grounds of discrimination not prohibited by legislation such as sexual orientation, age etc. when considering potential adopters of Greyhounds placed in their care.
10. Monitor rehoming to ensure compliance with adoption agreement and where this is breached take action to terminate adoption.



4. MAIN ACTIVITIES IN PURSUANCE OF THESE OBJECTIVES

- Between 1st April 2020 and 31 March 2021 SGS received 662 applications to adopt or foster. This compares to 342 received in 2019/2020 and 251 the year before that. That's an incredible 164% increase in 3 years. While it's fantastic there is so much interest in rehoming hounds this has created a huge workload for the SGS Team. So much so that applications had to be suspended on a couple of occasions in the past year to let the team catch up.
- 197 home checks were carried out. The vast majority were virtual due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- There were almost 100 rehoming.
- SGS has continued to offer long term sanctuary for dogs that can not be rehomed due to age, behaviour or other issues.
- There are an average of 15 dogs in the SGS kennels at any one time. In addition, there are usually one or two being fostered by our wonderful friend Michelle who runs the kennels. We have a network of foster homes and there can be up to 10 dogs in them at any one time. So that's 27 dogs under SGS care, on their journey to a forever home. There's a waiting list for spaces and SGS is regularly approached to take in dogs at short notice or in emergency situations. Sadly we aren't always able to help. We just don't have enough foster homes.



- Fundraising has continued to be hampered by COVID-19 restrictions. Despite this £5466 was raised during 20/21.
- In January 2021 two new members were appointed to the SGS Team. With the massive increase in applications the extra help was definitely needed! Judith and Louise have been invaluable additions to the team.
- Last year we pledged to improve the Follow Up Service SGS provides. Two team members are now allocated to every adoption. The use of social media platforms such as whatsapp have proved useful at keeping in touch, particularly in the early days of rehoming.
- SGS currently has over 150 members. Membership fees help us maintain the highest standards for the dogs in our care, including the long term foster dogs.
- The SGS Team has continued to advocate for rescue charities working together, particularly with difficult to place dogs

5. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The past year presented huge challenges for the SGS team, but we're pleased to say we still managed almost 100 rehoming! One of our other main achievements from 2020/21 was being able to continue providing long term care for dogs we couldn't rehome.

SGS promises lifetime care for every dog we rehome and this is a responsibility we take very seriously. When faced with a dog that's difficult to rehome the team works hard to find a solution, be that for behavioural issues, illness or just old age. Sadly some dogs don't ever find their 'forever home'. Instead they spend their lives being loved and pampered in a foster home!

Here are some of our current long term foster dogs

Skye & Finnley

In December 2020 two elderly dogs came back to the care of SGS after many years in the same home. A change in the family's circumstances meant they could no longer care for Skye, a 13 year old female podenco and Finnley, a 15 year old male whippet/staffy cross.

With a lifelong commitment to the dogs we rehome, there was no hesitation, one of the SGS Team quickly went out to assess Skye and Finnley. They were in good health for their age, although Finnley's hearing was going. They had been together a long time and they were bonded, so we couldn't separate them.



But finding a home for two elderly dogs with some behavioural issues was going to be near impossible. They needed somewhere quiet, no young kids or other dogs, where they could live out their lives in comfort. We sent out bulk emails appealing for help as well as posting on social media and our website.

An older gent quickly came forward to offer them sanctuary. They fitted in perfectly. But in a tragic turn of events just before Christmas 2020 he passed away suddenly. Skye and Finnley had to find a new home. In the end one of the SGS foster folks, working from home more due to COVID-19, stepped forward and took them in as long term fosters.



SGS is eternally grateful to Kevin for offering to take these two oldies in as long term fosters. They are loving life nowadays!

Astrid

Queen Astrid came all the way over from Macau in 2019 as part of the international operation to save the macau greyhounds.

The Macau Canidrome was famous for housing hundreds of dogs in dire conditions. The dogs were poorly treated and made to race numerous times per day, every day of the week. 20,000 dogs are said to have been killed there throughout the time it was open. When it closed its doors for good in 2018 a huge international operation started to get the remaining 600 (approx) dogs to safety. SGS offered to take 6 of the dogs, a drop in the ocean but all we, as a small charity, could manage at the time.

The rescue operation would take months. The operation was huge and took immense planning, negotiation and coordination. Rescues from 10 different countries were involved. SGS was allocated 5 dogs and the plans for their arrival began.

But then we got asked to help Hong Kong Ace, one of the oldest greyhounds in the canidrome, and the least likely to make it out alive. An SGS supporter and seasoned hound owner spotted her and was determined to bring her to safety in Scotland. SGS agreed to take her as a long term foster, if we could get her here.

Although volunteers, including vets, were now caring for the dogs, the reality was some were so frail or unwell they couldn't be moved far. Hong Kong Ace was one of these dogs. She had run *** races and she was tired. She had an eye infection as well as other health issues.

But this old lady was determined! As was her new foster mum who travelled to London to meet her. At the grand old age of 13 Home Kong Ace, now known as Astrid, arrived in Scotland where she lived happily and healthily as a long term SGS foster dog. Sadly Astrid went to the bridge in August 2021. Run free lovely Astrid, you were an inspiration to us all.



Luath

He was mentioned in last year's Annual Report, and unfortunately here he is again. Our big hairy lad just hasn't been able to find his forever home. While we're still hopeful that *could* happen, we think it's more likely he'll stay with us as a long term foster dog.

Luath is a sweet boy most of the time. But he has his moments and when he does it can be scary. SGS has the most fantastic network of foster homes though and if it wasn't for that we hate to think where Luath would be just now.

Dogs like Luath are difficult to rehome. He can be unpredictable in that he reacts to different things in each setting. We're pretty sure he has some pain issues so we're trying a variety of treatment methods to help him.

The SGS Team would like to thank Stan and Nicki, Alexis, Louise and Harry, James Smith, Kate Haag, Iris, James, Mandy & Richard, Lianne & Callum, George and Lynsey, Robyn, Liam and anyone else who has been part of Luath's journey so far.



Jake

Jake was originally rehomed by the Dogs Trust when he was just a young boy. His new dad Bill had just lost a dog and Jake helped him with his grief. They spent 10 happy years together until, in September 2020, Bill, who was in his 80's, became unwell. He needed someone to look after Jake while he was in hospital having treatment. A friend approached SGS and we agreed to help.

Jake went into foster care but the plan was for him to go home once his treatment finished. But after a couple of months Bill realised he wasn't going to be able to look after Jake and himself any more. He made the very difficult decision to leave Jake with SGS. Jake's foster mum has kept in touch with Bob's family and gives them updates on how Jake is doing.

Being an older lad Jake has some health issues. He's got arthritis in his hips and most probably his front legs too so he's now on Gabapetin three times a day and metacam once again. He's also recently started the Librela injection to help with his arthritis and we're hoping we can cut down on his metacam dosage if not completely take him off that. He's also recently just had a lump on his front right leg removed. The lump turned out to be a low grade soft tissue sarcoma. Given Jake's age the SGS Team agreed not to put him through radiotherapy at this stage as there is a very low risk of the sarcoma recurring.



Thanks to Susan, Elle and the gang for taking the lovely old gent in.

5. VOLUNTEERS AND FUNDRAISING

Despite the challenges that COVID-19 presented during 2020/21 SGS volunteers went all out to continue raising money for the dogs in need. And our supporters did their bit too by donating time and money, sharing posts on social media and generally promoting the work SGS does.

Now and again SGS gets a dog in who needs expensive vet treatment. Special fundraisers and appeals help us raise the money to cover the bills and we ran a few in 2020/21.

When Teasel came to SGS in January this year she was lame on her back leg. It was discovered that she needed an operation on her cruciate ligament and that wasn't going to be cheap. The alternative didn't bare thinking about. She was only 10 months old and needed the operation to have a chance at life.

As usual our supporters stepped up and donated many fantastic items for our online tombola. £1500 was raised, which covered the cost of Teasel's surgery and post op care.

Thank you Michelle for taking this wee girl in, Gemma for taking her home and everyone else who contributed.

Brianna's journey was also expensive, but the Spring Auction raised £2300 which was a massive help in covering costs. She was worth every penny raised.

And of course there was Joker, whose story is below. His very determined foster dad ran a crowd funding appeal which raised £1350!

These fundraisers, along with membership fees, sponsor kennels and random one off donations are what keeps SGS functioning.



Special Thanks...

One group SGS couldn't operate without is our fantastic fosterers!

Fostering isn't easy. It takes a lot of time, patience and understanding to help a raw dog who has only ever known kennels become a family pet. SGS is blessed with having a wide variety of foster homes so we can place dogs according to their needs. But some dogs come with health or behavioural issues which are challenging even for the most experienced foster home.

The SGS Team is acutely aware that our fosterers often go through emotional turmoil with the dogs they care for. That's why there's always a team member on the end of a phone when things get tough. It's not just about giving advice, the team's job is about listening and supporting the amazing people who work so hard. And they, like the SGS Team, are all volunteers.

Every year there are dogs who don't make it and many hearts are broken. Last year we had little Rose, who had just months to enjoy the most wonderful home with Katie and Tricia. This year we lost Joker, and he wasn't even 18 months old.



We would like to thank Joker's foster dad, who went above and beyond on behalf of SGS. Michael was a first time fosterer when he took in Joker in early 2021. A beautiful blue baby boy. Sadly Joker lost his life due to a complex condition called Greyhound Hyperfibrinolysis Syndrome. Michael's knowledge and experience as a vet student helped us understand Joker's situation. We knew he was in the best hands. But despite everyone's best efforts, Joker lost his battle for life on 27 February 2021.

It was an emotional rollercoaster for all involved. Particularly Michael. But he wanted to do more to help. So, Michael set up a crowdfunding campaign to help with Joker's vet bills.

You can read Joker's story [here](#)

Thank you to everyone who donated

IN MEMORIUM

It seems every year more SGS dogs make their way to Rainbow bridge and 2020/21 was no exception. Maybe it's just because SGS has been on to go for over 13 years now, a lot of dogs will have simply gone through old age. But sadly younger dogs have also been lost, as in Joker's case.

Billy

Billy didn't ever make it home. When he was in to be castrated a large tumour was found. Although he was only 3.5 years old there was no chance of survival. The decision was made to let him go while he was still under anaesthetic. We thank Michelle and Ian for taking such good care of Billy during the latter part of his short life.



Brianna

Brianna featured in last year's Annual Report but we're sorry to say she passed away in March 2021.. Brianna was rehomed, but her behaviour deteriorated again so she couldn't stay. SGS reached out to other charities for help in finding a special place for her. After being taken in by Greyhound Gap it was discovered she had an old brain injury. Soon after she broke her leg while simply walking into the paddock. We don't know how she got the head injury or if her brittle bones were connected, but Brianna lost her struggle just before turning 5. We are eternally grateful to everyone who tried to help this troubled girl.

Running free...

*Marge, Arya,
Patch, Harris,
Luke, Kasper,
Niamh,
Shay, Brodie,
Lily, Mandy,
Sonny, Paddy,*



*Susie, Pixie,
George, Jake,
Harvey,
Amberson,
Rocky, Sasha,
Jasper, Trixie,
Dennis, Indy*

Finally, we'd like to mention a couple of two legged friends who were sadly lost to us in 2020/21.

Alexis started fostering for SGS in 2014 and over the ensuing years she looked after many dogs. Some of them were a challenge! But she never gave up on them. Alexis had a way with the shy, scared dogs. She nurtured them and taught them to trust again.

Alexis was a very special lady. She is sorely missed.



The SGS Team thanks each and every person who has helped us continue to rescue and rehome hounds in need.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

This report covers the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021. As in previous years, this is coincidentally also the tax year.

For the year ended 31 March 2021		
	31 March 2021	31 March 2020
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Donations	3,272	14,453
Sales	527	1,930
Fundraising	5,466	10,747
Membership	236	331
Sponsor a Dog	220	435
Bank Interest	12	23
Other Income	6,312	3,872
	16,044	31,791
PAYMENTS		
Veterinary Expenses	9,512	15,226
Kenneling	0	252
Dog General Expenses	214	156
Purchases	315	3,027
Insurances		669
Professional fees - Accountant		0
Sundry Expenses	0	800
Telephones	134	425
Postage & Stationary	0	0
Fuel	0	
Bank Charges		
TOTAL PAYMENTS	10,175	20,555
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	£5,870	£0
BALANCES		
Bank balance b/f	£94,076	
Surplus/Deficit for the year	£5,870	
Balance c/f 31 March 2020	£99,946	
Closing Bank Balance as at 31 March 2021	£105,816	

I thought I would include the summary sheet as we would if we were in person, please see this above.

I have also copied the table from OSCR showing sgs accounts over the past several years. This will be updated to include this years shortly.

I wanted to highlight a couple of sad areas of expenditure that were within this years accounts. Firstly the final balances owing in respect of Rose, a young dog we brought into rescue with a significant heart complaint who sadly passed away date???. Rose heart op £6422 in July of 2020 and £67.37 to vets in September amounting to almost £6500. Also Joker was another dog who had went into foster with SGS and became unexpectedly very ill, sadly passing away within 2? days. This left £2100 within this accounting period and a significant balance which has been cleared but will show in this current years accounts when completed next year. Teasel was another high vet bill for an operation on her leg accounting for nearly £1000 alone she has now been adopted and is doing really well.

I also hoped it would be interesting to highlight the variety of costs for our most common operations: spay and castrate. For the girls this can be anything from £190 - 350 and as much as £450 for a specialist lap spay. the boys can range from £140 - 300 and as much as £600 if retained testicles (there were 2 cases of this this year!)

Although almost all events were cancelled - we did still need public liability insurance and we managed to haggle a reduction to £389.39 instead of £800, hopefully November 2021 when it is due again this will increase BUT at least we can get to having a full/er calendar of events.

At the beginning of this period the balance available to SGS was £94,086 - these accounts were submitted to OSCR (Office for the Scottish Charity Register) and duly signed off in October 2020.

Income received by SGS over this period was £35,237 primarily from donations (£16,330) and from fund-raising (£10,206).

Expenses paid over this period was £39,131 with the most significant expense being veterinary fees of £26,857.

This left a deficit over the year of £3,894

Due to previously having received a number of more significant legacy donations totalling approximately £75,000 SGS has managed to accumulate a balance including that brought forward from last year of £90,181 at the close of the accounting period.

We, as a charity, must submit these accounts along with AGM documentation by 31.12.2021 and intend to do so shortly before the end of September 2020.

Many Thanks once again, go to our independent examiner Mr Mills.

