



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Executive Summary

Objectives

The training of assistance dogs for current and former service personnel of the British Armed Forces with mental health disabilities.

Providing training, education and support services for the relief of mental health disabilities with the partnership of dogs.

Improving quality of life and achieving greater independence by increasing confidence and self-esteem, bringing companionship, a sense of security and increased opportunities for social interaction.

Develop links and foster partnerships with other organisations who share our aims of supporting Veterans and those promoting responsible dog ownership.

Implement fundraising and educational initiatives in support of VWD objectives and operations.

Undertake any such work that the trustees may agree, from time to time, consistent with the overall objectives of the charity.



Vision

“TO PROVIDE A SAFE PLACE FOR VETERANS TO ENGAGE IN OWNERSHIP ACTIVITIES WITH THEIR DOGS” The benefits of dog ownership for Veterans can be introduced, strengthened and supported by VWD, with the aim of enhancing the quality of life of both Veteran and dog.

Mission Statement

‘To support former members of the British Armed Forces, whose psychological or physical wellbeing may have suffered due to difficult past experiences and challenging life circumstances, via engagement with dogs.’

Veterans with Dogs works to support Veterans who are aspiring to increase their general level of functioning and independence by helping them to regain their sense of purpose, (self) worth and engagement with their communities and sense of value to society, helping them develop new skills, revive old ones and realise their potential.

Veterans with Dogs aims to provide a supportive, comfortable environment where people may find an opportunity to socialise with others, capitalise on shared learning experiences, develop their coping strategies, and build new friendships and lasting support networks.

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The Public Need

There are an estimated 5 million veterans in the UK, and a further 20,000 personnel leave the forces every year.

Recent research¹ shows that 20% of veterans are likely to develop mental health problems from their time in the Armed Forces. Around four per cent are likely to suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), which can lead to alcoholism, depression and other problems.

From our recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan alone, around 40,000 veterans are expected to show symptoms of mental ill-health. 7,500 of these are likely to display symptoms of PTSD.

However, this research doesn't include the thousands of veterans who served in Bosnia, Sierra Leone, the first Gulf War, the Falklands War, Northern Ireland or any other conflicts over the last 50 years. Many are suffering but have not sought help.

81% of veterans tell Combat Stress that they feel ashamed or embarrassed about their mental health problems.²

After leaving the forces the healthcare responsibilities transfer from the military to the NHS and the current provision of support services is inconsistent across the UK. As a result, many ex-service personnel quickly become disenfranchised from 'the system' and often end up isolated from society whilst diminishing in personal value and objectivity.

We have observed and personally experienced these difficulties. However, we have also seen the worth that veterans can develop when experiencing the positive aspects of dog ownership and the companionship it brings. Better than this we have also been able to engage directly with '*veterans-with-dogs*' ourselves and have witnessed the fantastic effects of the therapeutic values that dogs can bring.

There is much evidence already that confirms the therapeutic value of not only dogs, but animal contact in general, and it is through this medium that we operate as a valid adjunct to therapies, treatments and support services offering conventional medical treatment. Treatment is not what we are about; this must be addressed by other means. We are another layer that complements other organisations.

¹ King's Centre for Military Health Research 2010

² Combat Stress online survey September 2011

Achievement and Performance

PALS Programme

The Partner Animal Life Skills (PALS) programme has again continued to grow this year and is the main focus of the Charities' activities, by providing training and support services to Veterans to qualify teams as assistance dog partnerships, leading to improved independence and a greater quality of life.

Both the interest from Veterans and their families, and the level of applications has increased as public awareness of the charity becomes more widespread throughout the UK. This in itself bring new challenges as we have worked hard to respond to the ever-increasing demand, and the processing of applications has been a priority for us in order to determine those individuals both eligible and suitable for the PALS Programme.



This increasing workload has resulted in more residential programmes running at Seale Hayne, and a need to recruit more Approved Trainers to work with Veterans on a 1-2-1 basis, leading to more provision of Mental Health Awareness training for those trainers and new volunteers.

We now have new challenges moving forward as we have reached saturation levels within the charity at our current staffing levels, and our ability to host residential training at Seale Hayne has become compromised due to the changes of logistics within Seale Hayne itself, and their recent announcement to sell the site of Hannah's in which we operate. We are now busy looking at alternative accommodation for our future needs with residential provision for our Veterans being a priority.

Puppy Programme



Whilst some Veterans do join the PALS Programme with their own suitable dogs, the need for well-socialised suitable puppies is still very prevalent, especially for those who cannot consider raising a puppy from a young age until it is ready for advanced assistance dog training. A great deal of time has been spent in developing the Puppy Programme again this year, by increasing the number of people working within the Puppy Team, and by reviewing and writing new processes and protocols of procurement, testing and analysis of breeders, litters and health. This concluded with a Puppy Summit held during the year where all of the team came together to share vital research, best practices and to agree upon working protocols for the sourcing of new puppies for the programme.

The Charity had to invest a great deal of time recruiting new puppy socialisers as this had been identified as a bottleneck of the whole process of raising new puppies. As the year moved on, we found that this hard work began to bear fruit and we have seen a much greater interest and applications from people wanting to become puppy socialisers for the charity.



Relocation



The Charity has now completed its move from our original home at Seale Hayne to a new unit of our own at Basepoint Business Centre in Exeter, as well as relocating our residential activities to the Edgemoor and Ullacombe.

The sale of Seale Hayne meant the end of an era after establishing ourselves there from the inception of the Charity, with many happy memories created for our Veterans who visited Seale Hayne for their residential training and assessments.

The move to Exeter has had benefits in how we present ourselves from a more professional environment with the added positive of being located closer to the M5 for those travelling to visit us.

The new accommodation at Edgemoor and Ullacombe for training has also proven popular with the Veterans, allowing us to continue our residential training, with the advantage of having separate accommodation and training facilities that have so far worked well.



Value of Volunteers

It is understood that the lifeblood of any charity lies with its' volunteers, and VWD is no exception. Without the involvement of volunteering throughout all levels of the organisation we could not have developed nor maintained our presence as a viable assistance dog organisation without all those involved.

From training, research, socialising and logistics to some fantastic fundraising, event support and general organising of the many facets faced by the charity on a daily basis we continue to be supported and aided by some very dedicated and passionate volunteers.

This year alone the value of volunteering is equivalent to £160,000 with an average value of £4000 for each volunteer.



The average cost per volunteer is £581 making our Volunteer to Investment Value Ratio of £6.79

Fundraising

Year on year we have observed the increase of general support to the charity with individual fundraisers having the biggest impact in income for the charity.

We are indebted to all those individuals, businesses, trusts and sponsors who very kindly provide us with much needed funds supporting the work of the charity and enabling us to help more Veterans.

The total income of our online fundraising platforms has yielded a total of £101,245.42 for the financial year – all from individual supporters organising their own fundraising activities.



We would also like to acknowledge and mention some very kind donations from the following sources:

- £10000 from the Betty Messenger Trust
- £7500 from the Rothera Family Trust
- £6000 from Adrian Swire Trust
- £9800 from Aberdeen Runway Run
- £20600 from Giles Neville
- £2000 from Stonehouse Dog Training Club
- £2000 from Homestead Dog Training Club
- £1283 from East Medina Lodge
- £1000 from Hiller Charitable Trust

Other Notable Achievements

First Military Charity to be Awarded the Charity Excellence Framework

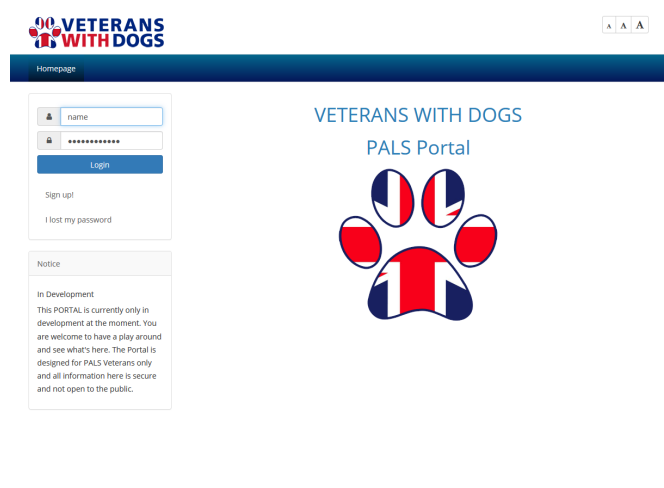


VWD undertook the Charity Excellence Framework assessment which looks at 27 areas of criteria including increased organisational impact, better governance, more effective trustees/management working, increased management team confidence, knowledge & effectiveness, and improved overall leadership & management.

We were delighted to become the first military charity to be awarded the quality mark and highlights the commitment of the Charity to continually seek to improve standards and demonstrate to stakeholders that commitment to excellence.

The kite mark is reviewed and renewed annually and is a major tool that we use to measure performance.

PALS Portal launched



A new learning platform has been launched for our Veterans. Designed to give access to resources and supplemental learning, along with personal training records, this is a milestone in the development of the PALS Programme

Advisory Council



The Advisory Council for Veterans With Dogs continues to provide expertise and unique knowledge and skills which augment the knowledge and skills of the formal board of directors in order to more effectively guide the organisation.

The Advisory Council membership contains an extraordinary breadth of experience and we are enormously grateful for their commitment and active support.

Council members include:

Lt Col (Retd) Dennis Flynn OBE: Chair

Advisory Council

Samantha Buckthought: Partner, Wolferstans Solicitors

Will Creswell: Deputy Director, Department for Business, Enterprise and Industrial Strategy

Mike Griffiths CBE: Chief Constable, Civil Nuclear Constabulary

Anne Marie Morris: MP (Member for Newton Abbot)

Colonel Neil Smith BVetMed MSc MA FRCVS: Army Chief Veterinary Officer and Past-President RCVS

Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP: (Member for Berwick upon Tweed)

Murdo Urquhart OBE: Chief Executive, Army and Combined Cadet Forces Associations

Dr Sarah Wilsey: Imperial College Business School

Gen and Ben



Gen was in her 20s when, in the 1990s, she passed her basic training in the army and joined the General Service Corps. Her service was cut short when she was medically discharged. Psychotic symptoms had begun to rear their head.

Every morning, Ben wakes Gen up, tells her when it is time to take her daily medication, and makes sure she goes to bed on time.

The nature of bipolar disorder and its treatment means none of these seemingly simple tasks always comes easily. For instance, when Gen is in a high or manic state, she does not feel tired.

With Ben's help – delivered through endless amounts of nudging and pawing – psychotic episodes have become far less frequent.

"He has changed my life completely – I have gone from being a total recluse and someone who was completely broken, to someone who can leave the house and make friends. One of the symptoms of my illness is over-tiredness as it can be the trigger to a psychotic episode, so it's very important that I take my medication and get to bed at the right time, and Ben has taught himself to get me to bed. When I'm suffering from a psychosis, he won't leave my side, because he knows I'm unwell".

"Before 2015 I had been having three or four episodes a year with each episode lasting severally months, but last year I only had two episodes which has been a dramatic decline for me, and life has become so much better. My life would be appalling without Ben. I don't even think I would still be here – he's a very special dog. He chases away the darkness in my mind and makes me face each day with determination to survive. I am a better mum because of him".

"He gives me up to two hours' notice that something is wrong. That means I can get home, get my medicine and put our emergency procedures into action".

Her quality of life has improved enormously since she and Ben began with VWD – and she is overjoyed to see the impact it has had on her daughter. She said: “Nineteen months on, my daughter is now talking about university, which is brilliant. Nineteen months ago, she said, ‘I don’t think I will go – I think I will stay and help you’. She was naturally feeling quite protective and feeling that she couldn’t leave me.

“But now I have Ben she is quite happy to go off and go on school trips and now she’s talking about going to university.”

Another welcome consequence is that, for the first time in three years, Ms Robertson can think about employment again.

The progress achieved with Ben’s help is remarkable. It is likely to serve as encouragement to people facing similar challenges to explore the possibility of getting an assistance dog, too.

“Everything I have done with Ben is going into a think tank to help to train more dogs to help veterans,” said Gen.

However, her journey is not finished yet. You never reach a point when you say, ‘OK, there’s nothing more to learn’, because you’re constantly developing more skills and identifying new needs.

Charity Registration No. 1161554

Company Registration No. 08443724 (England and Wales)

VETERANS WITH DOGS
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

VETERANS WITH DOGS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mrs C Maclellan Mrs S J Pierechod Ms L Skelton Miss H Campbell
Director	Mr C R Maclellan
Charity number	1161554
Company number	08443724
Registered office	Basepoint Business Centre Yeoford Way Matford Park Exeter Devon EX2 8LB
Independent examiner	Mr J L Coombs MA (Cantab) FCA Simpkins Edwards LLP Michael House Castle Street Exeter Devon EX4 3LQ
Bankers	HSBC Bank Plc Tavistock Branch Bedford Square Tavistock Devon PL19 0AH

VETERANS WITH DOGS

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VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016)

Objectives and activities

- The training of assistance dogs for current and former service personnel of the British Armed Forces with mental health disabilities.
- Providing training, education and support services for the relief of mental health disabilities with the partnership of dogs.
- Improving quality of life and achieving greater independence by increasing confidence and self-esteem, bringing companionship, a sense of security and increased opportunities for social interaction.
- Develop links and foster partnerships with other organisations who share our aims of supporting Veterans and those promoting responsible dog ownership.
- Implement fundraising and educational initiatives in support of VWD objectives and operations.
- Undertake any such work that the trustees may agree, from time to time, consistent with the overall objectives of the charity.

Our vision

"To provide a safe place for veterans to engage in ownership activities with their dogs." The benefits of dog ownership for Veterans can be introduced, strengthened and supported by VWD, with the aim of enhancing the quality of life of both Veteran and dog.

Our mission statement & philosophy

"To support former members of the British Armed Forces, whose psychological or physical wellbeing may have suffered due to difficult past experiences and challenging life circumstances, via engagement with dogs."

Veterans with Dogs works to support Veterans who are aspiring to increase their general level of functioning and independence by helping them to regain their sense of purpose, (self) worth and engagement with their communities and sense of value to society, helping them develop new skills, revive old ones and realise their potential.

Veterans with Dogs aims to provide a supportive, comfortable environment where people may find an opportunity to socialise with others, capitalise on shared learning experiences, develop their coping strategies, and build new friendships and lasting support networks.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

Achievements and performance

PALS programme

The Partner Animal Life Skills (PALS) programme has again continued to grow this year and is the main focus of the Charities' activities, by providing training and support services to Veterans to qualify teams as assistance dog partnerships, leading to improved independence and a greater quality of life.

Both the interest from Veterans and their families, and the level of applications has increased as public awareness of the charity becomes more widespread throughout the UK. This in itself bring new challenges as we have worked hard to respond to the ever-increasing demand, and the processing of applications has been a priority for us in order to determine those individuals both eligible and suitable for the PALS Programme.

This increasing workload has resulted in more residential programmes running at Seale Hayne, and a need to recruit more Approved Trainers to work with Veterans on a 1-2-1 basis, leading to more provision of Mental Health Awareness training for those trainers and new volunteers.

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VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Value of Volunteers

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- £20,600 from Giles Neville
- £2,000 from Stonehouse Dog Training Club
- £2,000 from Homestead Dog Training Club
- £1,283 from East Medina Lodge
- £1,000 from Hiller Charitable Trust

Other notable achievements

First Military Charity to be Awarded the Charity Excellence Framework

VWD undertook the Charity Excellence Framework assessment which looks at 27 areas of criteria including increased organisational impact, better governance, more effective trustees/management working, increased management team confidence, knowledge & effectiveness, and improved overall leadership & management. We were delighted to become the first military charity to be awarded the quality mark and highlights the commitment of the Charity to continually seek to improve standards and demonstrate to stakeholders that commitment to excellence.

The kite mark is reviewed and renewed annually and is a major tool that we use to measure performance.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

PALS Portal launched

A new learning platform has been launched for our Veterans. Designed to give access to resources and supplemental learning, along with personal training records, this is a milestone in the development of the PALS Programme.

Advisory Council

The Advisory Council for Veterans With Dogs continues to provide expertise and unique knowledge and skills which augment the knowledge and skills of the formal board of directors in order to more effectively guide the organisation.

The Advisory Council membership contains an extraordinary breadth of experience and we are enormously grateful for their commitment and active support.

Council members include:

Lt Col (Retd) Dennis Flynn OBE: Chair

Advisory Council:

Samantha Buckthought: Partner, Wolferstans Solicitors

Will Creswell: Deputy Director, Department for Business, Enterprise and Industrial Strategy

Mike Griffiths CBE: Chief Constable, Civil Nuclear Constabulary

Anne Marie Morris: MP (Member for Newton Abbot)

Colonel Neil Smith BVetMed MSc MA FRCVS: Army Chief Veterinary Officer and Past-President

RCVS

Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP: (Member for Berwick upon Tweed)

Murdo Urquhart OBE: Chief Executive, Army and Combined Cadet Forces Associations

Dr Sarah Wilsey: Imperial College Business School

Financial review

Income

During the year ended 31 March 2019, we received income of £161,786 (2018: £82,577), an increase of £79,209.

Expenditure

Charitable activities expenditure amounted to £143,238 (2018: £88,834), an increase of £54,404.

Other costs amounted to £10,096 (2018: £2,543), an increase of £7,553.

Fund balances

Unrestricted funds amount to £51,681 (2018: £43,250), an increase of £8,431.

There were no restricted fund balances as at 31 March 2019.

Overall position

The combined effect of the above has seen a net surplus of £8,431 (2018: £8,800 deficit).

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Reserves policy

Our Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of Veterans With Dogs are current and former service personnel of the British Armed Forces with mental health disabilities. Providing training, education and support services for the relief of mental health disabilities with the partnership of dogs.

Our Charity needs to have sufficient reserves to cover the diverse expenditure commitments to our beneficiaries and have ascertained that a minimum of £36,000 reserves needs to be held in order to ensure the charities future expenditure objectives can be met.

Rationale of the Reserves Policy

Veterans With Dogs provides lifetime partnerships between Veterans and Assistance Dogs, helping our beneficiaries to lead more independent lives by mitigating the symptoms their disability presents. Our services cover the whole of the UK.

Our Reserves Policy is to maintain sufficient level of reserves to enable and protect normal operating activities to continue over a period of up to 6 months should a shortfall in income occur and to take account of potential risks and contingencies that may arise from time to time. Our current beneficiaries continued support and services are vital to their well-being.

Excluded from the Reserves Policy is income associated with:

- Endowment Funds
- Restricted Funds (Earmarked Income)

In order to demonstrate transparency, accountability and sound financial management the Veterans With Dogs Reserves Policy clearly justifies the amount of reserves kept back each year.

Establishing our level of reserve

The Trustees have reviewed our charities risks and commitments in respect of expenditure, unrestricted income and where appropriate restricted income.

The Trustees have taken into consideration are any external identified potential major risks to income and expenditure during the year under consideration.

A risk assessment has been undertaken for the period 1st April 2018 and the following has been determined using the Risk Identification approach:

- Unrestricted Income: Medium Risk
- Restricted Income: Low Risk
- Expenditure: Low Risk
- External Potential Major Risks:
 - I. Current lack of diversity and long term income streams
 - II. Dogs purchased fall ill or fail
 - III. Uncertainty of current charities base

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019*

Level of reserve required by Veterans With Dogs

Veterans With Dogs should hold in reserve approximately 6 months operating capital which within the current budget period equates to £36,000.

We have a sound strategy for diversifying our income streams over the next financial year as well as potential forthcoming partnerships which will secure longer term financial stability.

It is the Trustees priority to diversify Veterans With Dogs income streams over the coming year.

Reviewing and monitoring the Reserves Policy

This policy will be reviewed at each Trustee meeting and reserve levels adjusted as risk or other factors change. The CEO will present the Trustees with a draft document and supporting details that enables them to make an informed decision about levels of Reserves aligning with the approval and subsequent reviews of our Strategic plan and Operating Budgets.

The Trustees has assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, registered under the Companies Act. The charity is controlled by its governing document and Articles of Association.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mrs C Maclellan
Mrs S J Pierechod
Ms L Skelton
Miss H Campbell

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mrs C Maclellan

Trustee

Dated: 9 December 2019

VETERANS WITH DOGS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF VETERANS WITH DOGS

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Veterans With Dogs (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2019.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

The Okehampton office of Simpkins Edwards LLP has been instructed by the Trustees to provide bookkeeping services for the Charity. I have followed the Charity Commission's guidance under direction two to ensure that I provide an objective independent opinion and maintain the appropriate segregation of duties.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Mr J L Coombs MA (Cantab) FCA

for and on behalf of Simpkins Edwards LLP

Michael House
Castle Street
Exeter
Devon
EX4 3LQ

Dated: 13 December 2019

VETERANS WITH DOGS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

		Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Total 2018 £
	Notes		
<u>Income from:</u>			
Donations and legacies	3	148,763	69,333
Charitable activities	4	9,140	11,456
Other trading activities	5	3,883	1,788
Total income		<u>161,786</u>	<u>82,577</u>
<u>Expenditure on:</u>			
Raising funds	6	21	-
Charitable activities	7	136,790	88,834
Other	11	9,545	2,543
Total resources expended		<u>146,356</u>	<u>91,377</u>
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		15,430	(8,800)
Fund balances at 1 April 2018		43,250	52,050
Fund balances at 31 March 2019		<u><u>58,680</u></u>	<u><u>43,250</u></u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2019

	Notes	2019 £	£	2018 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		1,611		2,609
Current assets					
Stocks	13	2,943		-	
Debtors	14	3,675		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		67,731		45,974	
		<u>74,349</u>		<u>45,974</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(17,280)</u>		<u>(5,333)</u>	
Net current assets			57,069		40,641
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>58,680</u>		<u>43,250</u>
Income funds					
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	16	8,000		-	
General unrestricted funds		<u>50,680</u>		<u>43,250</u>	
			58,680		43,250
			<u>58,680</u>		<u>43,250</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2019.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 9 December 2019

Mrs C Maclellan
Trustee

Company Registration No. 08443724

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Veterans With Dogs is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Basepoint Business Centre, Yeoford Way, Matford Park, Exeter, Devon, EX2 8LB.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents amounts receivable for goods and services provided in the normal course of business, net of discounts and other sales related taxes.

1.5 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	20% straight line per annum
Computers	33% straight line per annum

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.8 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Total
	2019 £	2018 £
Donations and gifts	148,763	69,333

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

4 Charitable activities

	Other revenue 2019 £	Giftaid income 2019 £	Total 2019 £	Other revenue 2018 £
Other income	3,636	5,504	9,140	11,456

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Fundraising events	1,980	46
Shop income	1,903	1,742
Other trading activities	3,883	1,788

6 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Fundraising and publicity		
Other fundraising costs	21	-
	21	-

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

7 Charitable activities

	Charitable Expenditure 2019 £	Charitable Expenditure 2018 £
Staff costs	11,921	9,335
Programme purchases	20,802	13,931
Admin subcontractor	10,211	-
Residential training	41,808	30,874
Travel and subsistence	4,381	5,154
Consultancy and training	12,000	620
Registration fees	92	84
Software and IT consumables	4,736	2,575
Volunteers expenses	11,348	4,136
Shop purchases	238	-
Insurance	542	815
Telephone	88	84
Postage and stationery	2,203	1,592
Advertising	5,001	2,596
Sundries	3,514	9,923
Repairs and maintenance	415	-
Subscriptions	866	415
Rent	6,624	6,700
	<u>136,790</u>	<u>88,834</u>
	<u>136,790</u>	<u>88,834</u>

8 Independent examiner's remuneration

The analysis of independent examiner's remuneration is as follows:

	2019 £	2018 £
Fees payable to the charity and associates:		
Audit of the annual accounts	2,100	2,100
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Non-audit services		
All other non-audit services	1,944	612
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

9 Trustees

During the year, one trustee received reimbursements of expenses totalling £116 (2018: £Nil).

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

10 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2019 Number	2018 Number
	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Employment costs	2019 £	2018 £
Wages and salaries	11,650	9,190
Social security costs	-	145
Other pension costs	271	-
	<u>11,921</u>	<u>9,335</u>

There were no employees who received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 (2018 - none).

11 Other

	Unrestricted funds	Total
	2019	2018 £
Depreciation	998	805
Accountancy and legal fees	6,316	1,149
Other expenditure	2,231	589
	<u>9,545</u>	<u>2,543</u>

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings	Computers	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2018	2,994	1,203	4,197
At 31 March 2019	2,994	1,203	4,197
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 April 2018	1,379	209	1,588
Depreciation charged in the year	600	398	998
At 31 March 2019	1,979	607	2,586
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2019	1,015	596	1,611
At 31 March 2018	1,615	994	2,609

13 Stocks

	2019	2018
	£	£
Finished goods and goods for resale	2,943	-

14 Debtors

	2019	2018
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	40	-
Other debtors	2,272	-
Prepayments and accrued income	1,363	-
	3,675	-

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2019	2018
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	619	402
Trade creditors	14,561	2,831
Accruals and deferred income	2,100	2,100
	17,280	5,333

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

16 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds		Balance at 31 March 2019 £
	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	
The Betty Messenger Foundation	10,000	(2,000)	8,000
	<u>10,000</u>	<u>(2,000)</u>	<u>8,000</u>

17 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2019 £	2018 £
Within one year	13,634	-
Between two and five years	13,634	-
	<u>27,268</u>	<u>-</u>

18 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2018 - none).

Charity Registration No. 1161554

Company Registration No. 08443724 (England and Wales)

VETERANS WITH DOGS
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

VETERANS WITH DOGS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mrs C Maclellan Mrs S J Pierechod Ms L Skelton Miss H Campbell
Director	Mr C R Maclellan
Charity number	1161554
Company number	08443724
Registered office	Basepoint Business Centre Yeoford Way Matford Park Exeter Devon EX2 8LB
Independent examiner	Mr J L Coombs MA (Cantab) FCA Simpkins Edwards LLP Michael House Castle Street Exeter Devon EX4 3LQ
Bankers	HSBC Bank Plc Tavistock Branch Bedford Square Tavistock Devon PL19 0AH

VETERANS WITH DOGS

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VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016)

Objectives and activities

- The training of assistance dogs for current and former service personnel of the British Armed Forces with mental health disabilities.
- Providing training, education and support services for the relief of mental health disabilities with the partnership of dogs.
- Improving quality of life and achieving greater independence by increasing confidence and self-esteem, bringing companionship, a sense of security and increased opportunities for social interaction.
- Develop links and foster partnerships with other organisations who share our aims of supporting Veterans and those promoting responsible dog ownership.
- Implement fundraising and educational initiatives in support of VWD objectives and operations.
- Undertake any such work that the trustees may agree, from time to time, consistent with the overall objectives of the charity.

Our vision

"To provide a safe place for veterans to engage in ownership activities with their dogs." The benefits of dog ownership for Veterans can be introduced, strengthened and supported by VWD, with the aim of enhancing the quality of life of both Veteran and dog.

Our mission statement & philosophy

"To support former members of the British Armed Forces, whose psychological or physical wellbeing may have suffered due to difficult past experiences and challenging life circumstances, via engagement with dogs."

Veterans with Dogs works to support Veterans who are aspiring to increase their general level of functioning and independence by helping them to regain their sense of purpose, (self) worth and engagement with their communities and sense of value to society, helping them develop new skills, revive old ones and realise their potential.

Veterans with Dogs aims to provide a supportive, comfortable environment where people may find an opportunity to socialise with others, capitalise on shared learning experiences, develop their coping strategies, and build new friendships and lasting support networks.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

Achievements and performance

PALS programme

The Partner Animal Life Skills (PALS) programme has again continued to grow this year and is the main focus of the Charities' activities, by providing training and support services to Veterans to qualify teams as assistance dog partnerships, leading to improved independence and a greater quality of life.

Both the interest from Veterans and their families, and the level of applications has increased as public awareness of the charity becomes more widespread throughout the UK. This in itself brings new challenges as we have worked hard to respond to the ever-increasing demand, and the processing of applications has been a priority for us in order to determine those individuals both eligible and suitable for the PALS Programme.

This increasing workload has resulted in more residential programmes running at Seale Hayne, and a need to recruit more Approved Trainers to work with Veterans on a 1-2-1 basis, leading to more provision of Mental Health Awareness training for those trainers and new volunteers.

We now have new challenges moving forward as we have reached saturation levels within the charity at our current staffing levels, and our ability to host residential training at Seale Hayne has become compromised due to the changes of logistics within Seale Hayne itself, and their recent announcement to sell the site of Hannah's in which we operate. We are now busy looking at alternative accommodation for our future needs with residential provision for our Veterans being a priority.

Puppy programme

Whilst some Veterans do join the PALS Programme with their own suitable dogs, the need for well-socialised suitable puppies is still very prevalent, especially for those who cannot cope with raising a puppy from a young age until it is ready for advanced assistance dog training. A great deal of time has been spent in developing the Puppy Programme again this year, by increasing the number of people working within the Puppy Team, and by reviewing and writing new processes and protocols of procurement, testing and analysis of breeders, litters and health. This concluded with a Puppy Summit held during the year where all of the team came together to share vital research, best practices and to agree upon working protocols for the sourcing of new puppies for the programme.

The Charity had to invest a great deal of time recruiting new puppy socialisers as this had been identified as a bottleneck of the whole process of raising new puppies. As the year moved on, we found that this hard work began to bear fruit and we have seen a much greater interest and applications from people wanting to become puppy socialisers for the charity.

Relocation

The Charity has now completed its move from our original home at Seale Hayne to a new unit of our own at Basepoint Business Centre in Exeter, as well as relocating our residential activities to the Edgemoor and Ullacombe.

The sale of Seale Hayne meant the end of an era after establishing ourselves there from the inception of the Charity, with many happy memories created for our Veterans who visited Seale Hayne for their residential training and assessments.

The move to Exeter has had benefits in how we present ourselves from a more professional environment with the added positive of being located closer to the M5 for those travelling to visit us.

The new accommodation at Edgemoor and Ullacombe for training has also proven popular with the Veterans, allowing us to continue our residential training, with the advantage of having separate accommodation and training facilities that have so far worked well.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Value of Volunteers

It is understood that the lifeblood of any charity lies with its' volunteers, and VWD is no exception. Without the involvement of volunteering throughout all levels of the organisation we could not have developed nor maintained our presence as a viable assistance dog organisation without all those involved.

From training, research, socialising and logistics to some fantastic fundraising, event support and general organising of the many facets faced by the charity on a daily basis we continue to be supported and aided by some very dedicated and passionate volunteers.

This year alone the value of volunteering is equivalent to £160,000 with an average value of £4,000 for each volunteer. The average cost per volunteer is £581 making our Volunteer to Investment Value Ratio of £6.79

Fundraising

Year on year we have observed the increase of general support to the charity with individual fundraisers having the biggest impact in income for the charity.

We are indebted to all those individuals, businesses, trusts and sponsors who very kindly provide us with much needed funds supporting the work of the charity and enabling us to help more Veterans.

The total income of our online fundraising platforms has yielded a total of £101,245.42 for the financial year- all from individual supporters organising their own fundraising activities.

We would also like to acknowledge and mention some very kind donations from the following sources:

- £10,000 from the Betty Messenger Trust
- £7,500 from the Rothera Family Trust
- £6,000 from Adrian Swire Trust
- £9,800 from Aberdeen Runway Run
- £20,600 from Giles Neville
- £2,000 from Stonehouse Dog Training Club
- £2,000 from Homestead Dog Training Club
- £1,283 from East Medina Lodge
- £1,000 from Hiller Charitable Trust

Other notable achievements

First Military Charity to be Awarded the Charity Excellence Framework

VWD undertook the Charity Excellence Framework assessment which looks at 27 areas of criteria including increased organisational impact, better governance, more effective trustees/management working, increased management team confidence, knowledge & effectiveness, and improved overall leadership & management. We were delighted to become the first military charity to be awarded the quality mark and highlights the commitment of the Charity to continually seek to improve standards and demonstrate to stakeholders that commitment to excellence.

The kite mark is reviewed and renewed annually and is a major tool that we use to measure performance.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

PALS Portal launched

A new learning platform has been launched for our Veterans. Designed to give access to resources and supplemental learning, along with personal training records, this is a milestone in the development of the PALS Programme.

Advisory Council

The Advisory Council for Veterans With Dogs continues to provide expertise and unique knowledge and skills which augment the knowledge and skills of the formal board of directors in order to more effectively guide the organisation.

The Advisory Council membership contains an extraordinary breadth of experience and we are enormously grateful for their commitment and active support.

Council members include:

Lt Col (Retd) Dennis Flynn OBE: Chair

Advisory Council:

Samantha Buckthought: Partner, Wolferstans Solicitors

Will Creswell: Deputy Director, Department for Business, Enterprise and Industrial Strategy

Mike Griffiths CBE: Chief Constable, Civil Nuclear Constabulary

Anne Marie Morris: MP (Member for Newton Abbot)

Colonel Neil Smith BVetMed MSc MA FRCVS: Army Chief Veterinary Officer and Past-President

RCVS

Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP: (Member for Berwick upon Tweed)

Murdo Urquhart OBE: Chief Executive, Army and Combined Cadet Forces Associations

Dr Sarah Wilsey: Imperial College Business School

Financial review

Income

During the year ended 31 March 2019, we received income of £161,786 (2018: £82,577), an increase of £79,209.

Expenditure

Charitable activities expenditure amounted to £143,238 (2018: £88,834), an increase of £54,404.

Other costs amounted to £10,096 (2018: £2,543), an increase of £7,553.

Fund balances

Unrestricted funds amount to £51,681 (2018: £43,250), an increase of £8,431.

There were no restricted fund balances as at 31 March 2019.

Overall position

The combined effect of the above has seen a net surplus of £8,431 (2018: £8,800 deficit).

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Reserves policy

Our Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of Veterans With Dogs are current and former service personnel of the British Armed Forces with mental health disabilities. Providing training, education and support services for the relief of mental health disabilities with the partnership of dogs.

Our Charity needs to have sufficient reserves to cover the diverse expenditure commitments to our beneficiaries and have ascertained that a minimum of £36,000 reserves needs to be held in order to ensure the charities future expenditure objectives can be met.

Rationale of the Reserves Policy

Veterans With Dogs provides lifetime partnerships between Veterans and Assistance Dogs, helping our beneficiaries to lead more independent lives by mitigating the symptoms their disability presents. Our services cover the whole of the UK.

Our Reserves Policy is to maintain sufficient level of reserves to enable and protect normal operating activities to continue over a period of up to 6 months should a shortfall in income occur and to take account of potential risks and contingencies that may arise from time to time. Our current beneficiaries continued support and services are vital to their well-being.

Excluded from the Reserves Policy is income associated with:

- Endowment Funds
- Restricted Funds (Earmarked Income)

In order to demonstrate transparency, accountability and sound financial management the Veterans With Dogs Reserves Policy clearly justifies the amount of reserves kept back each year.

Establishing our level of reserve

The Trustees have reviewed our charities risks and commitments in respect of expenditure, unrestricted income and where appropriate restricted income.

The Trustees have taken into consideration are any external identified potential major risks to income and expenditure during the year under consideration.

A risk assessment has been undertaken for the period 1st April 2018 and the following has been determined using the Risk Identification approach:

- Unrestricted Income: Medium Risk
- Restricted Income: Low Risk
- Expenditure: Low Risk
- External Potential Major Risks:
 - I. Current lack of diversity and long term income streams
 - II. Dogs purchased fall ill or fail
 - III. Uncertainty of current charities base

VETERANS WITH DOGS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019*

Level of reserve required by Veterans With Dogs

Veterans With Dogs should hold in reserve approximately 6 months operating capital which within the current budget period equates to £36,000.

We have a sound strategy for diversifying our income streams over the next financial year as well as potential forthcoming partnerships which will secure longer term financial stability.

It is the Trustees priority to diversify Veterans With Dogs income streams over the coming year.

Reviewing and monitoring the Reserves Policy

This policy will be reviewed at each Trustee meeting and reserve levels adjusted as risk or other factors change. The CEO will present the Trustees with a draft document and supporting details that enables them to make an informed decision about levels of Reserves aligning with the approval and subsequent reviews of our Strategic plan and Operating Budgets.

The Trustees has assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, registered under the Companies Act. The charity is controlled by its governing document and Articles of Association.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mrs C Maclellan

Mrs S J Pierechod

Ms L Skelton

Miss H Campbell

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mrs C Maclellan

Trustee

Dated: 9 December 2019

VETERANS WITH DOGS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF VETERANS WITH DOGS

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Veterans With Dogs (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2019.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

The Okehampton office of Simpkins Edwards LLP has been instructed by the Trustees to provide bookkeeping services for the Charity. I have followed the Charity Commission's guidance under direction two to ensure that I provide an objective independent opinion and maintain the appropriate segregation of duties.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Mr J L Coombs MA (Cantab) FCA

for and on behalf of Simpkins Edwards LLP

Michael House
Castle Street
Exeter
Devon
EX4 3LQ

Dated: 13 December 2019

VETERANS WITH DOGS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

		Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Total 2018 £
	Notes		
<u>Income from:</u>			
Donations and legacies	3	148,763	69,333
Charitable activities	4	9,140	11,456
Other trading activities	5	3,883	1,788
Total income		<u>161,786</u>	<u>82,577</u>
<u>Expenditure on:</u>			
Raising funds	6	21	-
Charitable activities	7	136,790	88,834
Other	11	9,545	2,543
Total resources expended		<u>146,356</u>	<u>91,377</u>
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		15,430	(8,800)
Fund balances at 1 April 2018		43,250	52,050
Fund balances at 31 March 2019		<u>58,680</u>	<u>43,250</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2019

	Notes	2019 £	£	2018 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		1,611		2,609
Current assets					
Stocks	13	2,943		-	
Debtors	14	3,675		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		67,731		45,974	
		<u>74,349</u>		<u>45,974</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(17,280)</u>		<u>(5,333)</u>	
Net current assets			57,069		40,641
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>58,680</u>		<u>43,250</u>
Income funds					
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	16	8,000		-	
General unrestricted funds		<u>50,680</u>		<u>43,250</u>	
			58,680		43,250
			<u>58,680</u>		<u>43,250</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2019.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 9 December 2019

Mrs C Maclellan
Trustee

Company Registration No. 08443724

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Veterans With Dogs is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Basepoint Business Centre, Yeoford Way, Matford Park, Exeter, Devon, EX2 8LB.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents amounts receivable for goods and services provided in the normal course of business, net of discounts and other sales related taxes.

1.5 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	20% straight line per annum
Computers	33% straight line per annum

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.8 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Total
	2019 £	2018 £
Donations and gifts	148,763	69,333

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

4 Charitable activities

	Other revenue 2019 £	Giftaid income 2019 £	Total 2019 £	Other revenue 2018 £
Other income	3,636	5,504	9,140	11,456

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Fundraising events	1,980	46
Shop income	1,903	1,742
Other trading activities	3,883	1,788

6 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Fundraising and publicity		
Other fundraising costs	21	-
	21	-

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

7 Charitable activities

	Charitable Expenditure 2019 £	Charitable Expenditure 2018 £
Staff costs	11,921	9,335
Programme purchases	20,802	13,931
Admin subcontractor	10,211	-
Residential training	41,808	30,874
Travel and subsistence	4,381	5,154
Consultancy and training	12,000	620
Registration fees	92	84
Software and IT consumables	4,736	2,575
Volunteers expenses	11,348	4,136
Shop purchases	238	-
Insurance	542	815
Telephone	88	84
Postage and stationery	2,203	1,592
Advertising	5,001	2,596
Sundries	3,514	9,923
Repairs and maintenance	415	-
Subscriptions	866	415
Rent	6,624	6,700
	<u>136,790</u>	<u>88,834</u>
	<u>136,790</u>	<u>88,834</u>

8 Independent examiner's remuneration

The analysis of independent examiner's remuneration is as follows:

	2019 £	2018 £
Fees payable to the charity and associates:		
Audit of the annual accounts	2,100	2,100
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Non-audit services		
All other non-audit services	1,944	612
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

9 Trustees

During the year, one trustee received reimbursements of expenses totalling £116 (2018: £Nil).

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

10 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2019 Number	2018 Number
	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Employment costs	2019 £	2018 £
Wages and salaries	11,650	9,190
Social security costs	-	145
Other pension costs	271	-
	<u>11,921</u>	<u>9,335</u>

There were no employees who received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 (2018 - none).

11 Other

	Unrestricted funds	Total
	2019	2018 £
Depreciation	998	805
Accountancy and legal fees	6,316	1,149
Other expenditure	2,231	589
	<u>9,545</u>	<u>2,543</u>

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Computers £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2018	2,994	1,203	4,197
At 31 March 2019	2,994	1,203	4,197
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 April 2018	1,379	209	1,588
Depreciation charged in the year	600	398	998
At 31 March 2019	1,979	607	2,586
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2019	1,015	596	1,611
At 31 March 2018	1,615	994	2,609

13 Stocks

	2019 £	2018 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	2,943	-

14 Debtors

	2019 £	2018 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	40	-
Other debtors	2,272	-
Prepayments and accrued income	1,363	-
	3,675	-

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2019 £	2018 £
Other taxation and social security	619	402
Trade creditors	14,561	2,831
Accruals and deferred income	2,100	2,100
	17,280	5,333

VETERANS WITH DOGS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

16 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds		Balance at 31 March 2019 £
	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	
The Betty Messenger Foundation	10,000	(2,000)	8,000
	<u>10,000</u>	<u>(2,000)</u>	<u>8,000</u>

17 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2019 £	2018 £
Within one year	13,634	-
Between two and five years	13,634	-
	<u>27,268</u>	<u>-</u>

18 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2018 - none).