



retired greyhound trust

2012

annual review

Charity Number 269668

retired greyhound trust **annual review 2012**



CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the 2012 Annual Review of the Retired Greyhound Trust, in which we have tried to provide you with a summary of our activities and achievements over the past year.

The welfare of the greyhound is of course at the heart of everything we do and this is always so evident to me when I visit branches and see the attention and love given to every greyhound in our care and the efforts that are made to match each dog to a suitable household. Our volunteers work tirelessly, showing extraordinary enthusiasm, dedication and commitment and, on behalf of the Trustees, I would like to record my sincere thanks to every one. I would also like to commend the other members of our 'RGT Family' – the Head Office staff and all of the Trust's supporters, many of whom have been involved with RGT for several years. Their hard work, loyalty and generosity throughout 2012 are truly appreciated.

I am pleased to report that the Trust continues to perform well on all fronts. Last year we found 3,910 homes, a very satisfactory result given the challenges we faced including persistent wet weather throughout the summer that washed out many important promotional events and shows. We were pleased to boost rehoming across our six branches in Scotland, as well as in the North West, London and the South East and in mainland Europe through our links with trustworthy rehoming organisations in France and the Czech Republic.

The economic climate impacted on many charities in 2012 but our income held up reasonably well with total income, including funds held by our branches and some restricted income, reaching £3,634,560. But we do remain entirely reliant on

donations, and I am hugely grateful to all who have contributed to our cause, including many individual donors, our regular sponsors, charitable trusts, legators and organisations such as the British Greyhound Racing Fund, the Greyhound Board of Great Britain, Bookmakers Afternoon Greyhound Services Ltd, Satellite Information Services Ltd and Vitesse PLC. Without such generous support we would simply not be able to help as many greyhounds as we do. Every single donation is vital to us and greatly appreciated.

During 2012 I was privileged to work alongside my fellow Trustees and colleagues on our supporting committees. Trustees are also volunteers and I would like to thank them all for giving up their time for the benefit of the charity. We were pleased to welcome Patrick Nixon as a new Trustee and member of the Finance Committee in April 2012, but it was sad that our old friend and colleague Arthur Hammond decided the time had come to retire as Honorary Vice President in November after a great many years' service to RGT.

These are exciting but challenging times for the Trust as we strengthen our operations and diversify our fundraising and promotional work to help more greyhounds in the years to come. Thank you so much for supporting our work and making it all possible. If you have any questions about this Review or indeed about any part of the work of RGT, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Dr Andrew Higgins
Chairman



Volunteers are the life blood of the charity



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The year 2012 can best be summarised as one of consistent progress and solid results and it was pleasing that, thanks to the wonderful efforts of our volunteers and supporters, we were able to help nearly 4,000 greyhounds and that rehoming remained fairly resilient to the challenges presented by the economic climate. Increasingly diversified income streams, strong operational and financial controls and a commitment to focusing on the charity's core objectives have helped us reinforce our position as a cost-effective organisation and we are really proud to be the country's largest single-breed rehoming charity.

Promotion

We have worked hard to strengthen our brand and identity, in line with the strategic objectives of raising awareness that greyhounds make fantastic pets and spreading the news about the work of the Trust to as many people as possible.

We were represented at a large number of shows and events during 2012, including Crufts, the 50+ Show, the Spirit of Summer Fair and the London Vet Show. A narrow boat, Indigo Dream, owned by Trust supporters and carrying the RGT flag, proudly participated in The Queen's Jubilee Pageant. Branches attended several hundred other events, ranging from county shows and fairs to village fetes and 'meet and greet' sessions in town centres, supported on occasions by the use of an RGT show trailer.

The third Greyhound Extravaganza took place in May at Newmarket and the Great Greyhound Gathering was held for the sixth year running at Nottingham Racecourse in September. Both events were a huge success and enjoyed by thousands of people and greyhounds. I am very grateful to all those involved in the organisation,

sponsorship and hosting of these superb events.

The development of our online profile has been accompanied by considerable growth in the number of followers to the Trust's social media platforms, such as Twitter and Facebook. Further promotional highlights included welcome editorial coverage across a range of newspapers and magazines and features on our work were included in the Alan Titchmarsh show on ITV1 as well as on SKY Sports and Racing Post Greyhound TV. Our thanks go to the production teams for their interest and wide-ranging support. We were delighted to work too with some well-known greyhound-lovers including Twiggy, Jilly Cooper, Craig Levein and Uri Geller.

Our newsletter, Homer, was sent to approximately 60,000 supporters in March and September and benefited from a new design and layout and improved content. In November, we held our annual Reception at the House of Commons hosted by Trustee Andrew Rosindell MP, and attended by Trust supporters and donors as well as Parliamentarians from both Houses.

Throughout 2012 we were particularly pleased to work with the British Veterinary Nursing Association (BVNA) as its Charity of the Year. We are most grateful to all members of the Association for their support and we remain excited about promoting greyhounds and our work via its membership in the years ahead.

Financial summary

Implementation of our fundraising strategy continued during 2012 with some encouraging results. In addition to the vital funding we received from the off-course betting industry, our legacy income totalled £385,000 and gross proceeds from the Autumn Raffle were 31% greater than in 2011. Local



BVNA President Louisa Baker and past President Claire Fraser present a cheque for £3,321 to Dr Andrew Higgins and Andrew Rosindell MP

fundraising by our branches was well rewarded too whilst the Greyhound Sponsorship scheme grew in popularity and direct mail campaigns in 2012 exceeded targets.

Our merchandise trading subsidiary, Retired Greyhound Events Ltd, showed a notable 35% increase in sales in 2012. We anticipate reasonable future growth, and we hope the company will continue to deliver a worthwhile and valuable promotional benefit to the Trust.

We constantly work hard to control costs and overheads and to deliver services in a highly cost-effective manner. Our overall costs were reduced by 2.8% to £3,579,029 in 2012 and our direct and administrative expenses were kept in line with budget. We've benefited too by bringing expertise in-house in several areas and reducing our dependency on external consultants and service-providers.

Public affairs

We continue to work closely with a number of other charities and organisations to identify and share best practice and help promote greyhound welfare, including membership of the Association of Dogs and Cats Homes, the Greyhound Forum, the International Greyhound Forum and the Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare. We are pleased to provide regular briefings to the All Party Parliamentary Greyhound Group and we have a seat on the Greyhound Board of Great Britain's Welfare Standing Committee.

The year ahead

In 2013 we are looking forward to strengthening our branch network, increasing the recognition of the contribution made to the charity's success by our volunteers, maximising the benefits of new and innovative promotional opportunities and establishing partnerships with organisations with an affinity for our work. Developing our online presence and social networks remain vitally important and a comprehensive review of Trust advertising should lead to more focused and cost-effective campaigns.

Expanding and diversifying our income streams remains critical to our future sustainability and development. We expect our fundraising to be boosted by greater awareness, understanding and trust in the RGT brand.

Although evidence of a broad economic recovery in Britain remains limited we must envisage growth in both rehoming and fundraising in the years to come. Meanwhile, we remain committed to finding loving homes for as many greyhounds as our resources allow, whilst operating in an open, accountable, efficient and professional manner.

Thank you for your interest and continued support

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Peter Laurie'.

Peter Laurie
Chief Executive

GOVERNANCE

Chairman

Dr A J Higgins MRCVS

Trustees

Mr J Akerman CPFA (Chair, Finance Committee)

Mrs F Allen MRCVS (Chair, Veterinary Committee)

Mr R Cearns

Mr J Haynes

Mr P Nixon

Mr A Rosindell MP

Mr J Simpson

Mr M Watkins CBE

Chief Executive

Mr P Laurie

Executive

Mrs A Ainsworth

Mrs J Greenshields

Mrs C Murphy

Mrs H Perrin

Mrs P Stonebridge

Mr S Zelman-Jackson



Twiggy and greyhound Monty fronted a national campaign for the Retired Greyhound Trust

THANK YOU

The Trust is pleased to acknowledge the tremendous generosity of those who left bequests in their Wills during 2012, including: Ms M Batchelor; Ms M Bevens; Ms D Bryant; Ms E Cotter; Ms D Cullen; Mr J Fletcher; Ms J Fryer; Ms B Hembery; Ms E Holt; Ms C Honnywill; Mr A Jones; Ms L Lyster-Todd; Ms S McGuigan; Ms J Miller; Mr A Morris; Ms D Mummery; Mr A Nash; Ms C Pearson; Mr D Ricketts; Mr D Taylor; Ms P Tilyard; Ms P Tonkin; Ms T Toole; Mr M Vaquer; Mr R Wright; Mr C Wills.

The Trust was fortunate to receive financial support in the form of grants from a number of charitable trusts and foundations during 2012. We extend our thanks to: The Agnes West Dunlop Charity Fund; The Mrs DM France-Hayhurst Charitable Trust; The Doris E Clarke Charitable Trust; The Dunn and Whieldon Charitable Trust; The George and Margaret Trotter Charitable Trust; The Greyhound Board of Great Britain Retired Greyhound Fund; The Pedigree Adoption Drive; and Support Adoption for Pets.



Visitors from across the UK enjoyed the Great Greyhound Gathering

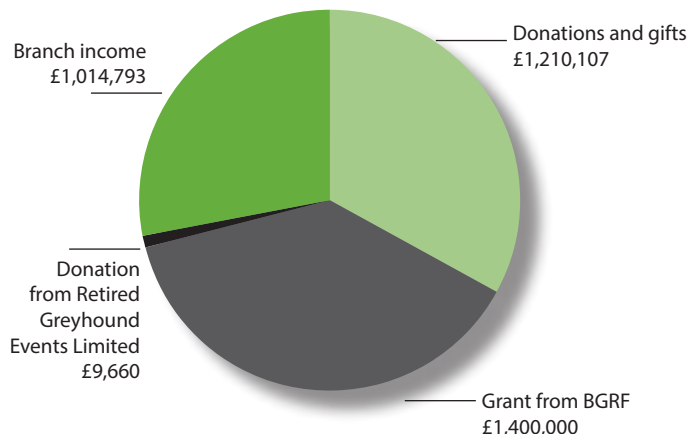
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2012

	2012 £
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds	
Voluntary Income:	
Donations and gifts	1,210,107
Grant from BGRF	1,400,000
Donation from Retired Greyhound Events Limited	9,660
Branch Income	1,014,793
Total Incoming Resources	3,634,560
Resources Expended	
Charitable activities:	
Branch expenditure	1,072,245
Kennel charges	1,432,801
Veterinary fees	567,214
Hardship expenditure	9,723
Homefinding expenses	88,303
Education and awareness	321,999
Wimbledon Greyhound Welfare	0
Cost of Generating Funds	83,444
Governance Costs	2,400
Total Resources Expended	3,579,029
Net incoming /(outgoing)resources for the Year and Net Movement in Funds	55,531
Fund balances brought forward at 1 January 2012	825,359
Fund balances carried forward at 31 December 2012	880,890

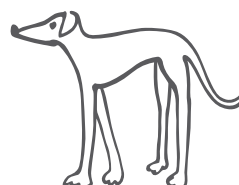
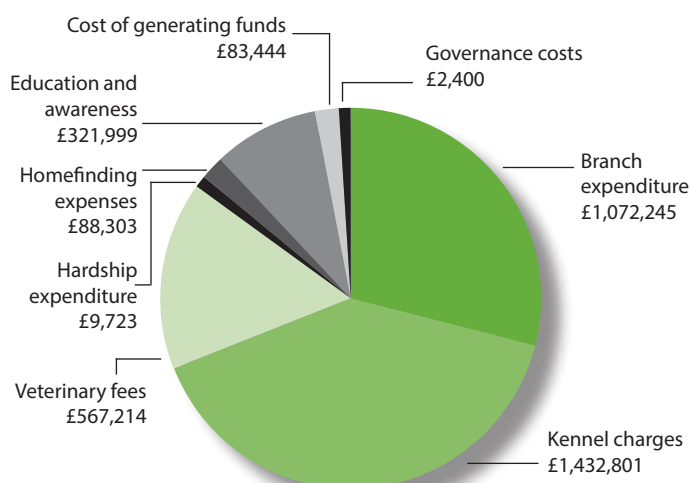
Of the fund balances carried forward, the sum of £12,560 is held as a restricted fund.

All of the above results were derived from continuing activities. The Charity has no recognised gains or losses other than those dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Incoming Resources



Resources Expended



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Charity Number 269668

Retired Greyhound Trust

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If you would like more information or to view a copy of the 2012 Trustees' Report and Audited Accounts please visit:

www.retiredgreyhounds.co.uk