



Transforming Lives  
the Cotswolds Dogs & Cats Home

# Transforming Lives

## the Cotswolds Dogs & Cats Home

### Welcome

Thank you for expressing an interest in becoming a trustee at the Cotswolds Dogs & Cats Home.

At the Cotswolds Dogs & Cats Home we have been providing care and support to vulnerable animals in our community since 1938 and many of the issues encountered then we continue to experience today. A report from 1959 states that 74 cases of cruelty were investigated with 2 prosecutions, one involving two boys for stoning a duck.

Not everything has remained the same and the charity and the work it does has progressed enormously. In September 2016 we proudly opened the doors to our Animal Centre. Our aspiration is for CDCH to be an exemplar facility where every animal in our care receives the treatment and support it needs to ensure it is happy, healthy and free from stress and suffering.

Since opening we have seen hundreds of animals pass through our doors on their journey to lives with wonderful, loving families.

Our work at the Cotswolds Dogs & Cats Home focusses on three key areas:

- Ensuring that no vulnerable animal in our community is without a safe space
- Ensuring that no animal is left to suffer because of a lack of funds
- Working within the local community to prevent suffering and cruelty.

Our affiliation to the RSPCA and our work with the RSPCA Inspectors means that we deal with the worst cases of neglect, abuse and cruelty. Sadly, many of the animals that come into our care are in extremely poor health having suffered sustained abuse and neglect and need extensive veterinary support. We never get used to seeing an animal like Skippy come into our care but we exist to ensure that Skippy and every animal like him is given every chance of living a happy, healthy life.

### Skippy's Story

Our little Skippy was around 9 weeks old when he was found dumped like rubbish in a skip. Skippy had a number of health issues, the most concerning was his eyesight; one of his eyes was completely deformed and had no sight and the other had a very severe bacterial infection. Skippy needed support from a veterinary eye specialist who was confident we could save his infected eye. Skippy was given around the clock care with eye drops being administered every two hours by a nursing team. Skippy made a super recovery and is now living his best life with his new family.



### Working in the Community

A significant part of our work is supporting animals living in our community belonging to families on low incomes. We don't want to see animals suffering from neglect because of cost. We run three subsidised clinics each week; these are manned by vets from our contracted veterinary practice and at each session we see an average of nine animals. These pets are treated for



conditions such as flea allergies and eye infections which left untreated could lead to more significant health issues. We also support pets who have more serious conditions, give access to low cost prescriptions and help with end of life care.

We run a reduced fee neutering scheme, again for animals belonging to families on low incomes. This helps prevent unwanted litters of kittens and puppies being born into households that don't understand and cannot afford the care needs of these vulnerable animals.

#### The Statistics

Annually we support:

- 300 animals through our animal centre
- Treat 900 animals in our subsidised welfare clinics
- Support xxx through voucher schemes

### Nato's Story

Having spent his whole life with the same family, this elderly gentleman had become an inconvenience and when Nato needed his family to step up and make the right decision they didn't and this bewildered old boy found himself in our care. At 15 years old Nato was being kept out in the garden and was brought to us by an RSPCA Inspector. Nato was suffering from a canine form of dementia and just wouldn't settle at the centre, we tried him with a foster home but the whole change for Nato was completely overwhelming; with veterinary advice we made the difficult but compassionate decision to let him go with dignity.



### Fluffy's Story

Fluffy came into our care because her elderly owner couldn't cope with her care. Although Fluffy had been a much-loved companion her vet check revealed that she was suffering from cancer on her one of ears and hyperthyroidism. Fluffy has had an operation to remove her cancerous ear and will receive on-going treatment to treat her thyroid problem. Although Fluffy looks a little the worse for wear she is feeling much better and her happy nature and fighting spirit shine through.



### Board of Trustees

**Our Board of Trustees is fully engaged and committed to ensuring the charity has a long-term sustainable future, that it is well governed and meets all of its charitable objectives.**

The Board currently consists of the Chair and seven Trustees. Trustees, based on their breadth of knowledge and experience, are responsible for setting the long-term vision, strategy and charitable outcomes of the organisation, approving the plans and budgets for achieving them and monitoring performance against them. The Board is responsible for the financial health of the charity and for overseeing its affairs to ensure that its charitable status is maintained. The Board has delegated responsibility for the day to day operational management of the charity to an

operational management team. The Board works through monthly Board Meetings and through ad hoc meetings when necessary.

#### Key Information

- We are affiliated to the National RSPCA and support their work to prevent cruelty and suffering to animals
- We have a paid team of 50 working across income generation and animal welfare
- We have 10 retail outlets within Gloucestershire
- We generate our funding from within our local community and receive no statutory funding from the National RSPCA or Government
- We have an annual turnover of £1.3m

#### Trustee Role Profile

As a Trustee you will bring leadership skills, knowledge and experience, independence and objectivity of judgement, on matters relating to:

- developing and fulfilling the charity's aims and objectives and ensuring that suitable resources are in place;
- constructively challenging and contributing to the development of the strategy of the charity, including setting goals and targets;
- helping develop and implement the charity's values and standards and ensuring its responsibilities to its stakeholders are met;
- scrutinising the performance of the Operational Management Team against the charity's objectives and strategy, and monitoring the reporting of performance;
- ensuring that the charity's income is directed solely to its charitable purposes and using reasonable endeavours to ensure, so far as within the powers of the trustees, the Charity is financially viable;
- protecting and managing the property of the charity;
- ensuring the proper investment of the charity's funds;
- being satisfied that financial information is accurate and that financial and legal controls and systems of risk management are robust and defensible;

#### Trustee Person Specification

We welcome applications from everyone. We really want to have an appropriate mix of Board members from all sectors and backgrounds. To enrich the Board's overall knowledge and experience, we are looking for people to join us who will have operated at a management level and have specific experience and skills in the following areas:

- **Employment Law**
- **Commercial Business Development**
- **Marketing and Brand Development**
- **Facilities Management**

All candidates must have:

- An understanding and belief in the vision and goals of the Cotswolds Dogs & Cats Home.
- A sound appreciation of the responsibilities of a trustee and the role of a non-executive together with the capacity to work alongside our operational team.
- An independent and incisive approach with the capacity to think and contribute strategically

- A collegiate style, who is both approachable and participative
- Effective communication and interpersonal skills
- Sufficient time to commit to the role, with most Trustees committing circa 14 days per year.
- An understanding of the role and responsibilities of being a charity trustee. Please take some time to read the Charity Commission's publication The Essential Trustee available to download on-line at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3>

## Terms and conditions

Trustees are normally appointed annually at the Charity's AGM. CDCH Board members will not be paid a salary, fee or any other remuneration or benefit by the Charity, except for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

All Trustees must declare any interests likely to give rise to a conflict of interest between a Trustee's duty to act solely in the interests of the Charity and any other interest (direct or indirect) and conform to the Code of Conduct.

## How to apply

If you are up for a challenge and would like to apply please send us an up to date CV – ideally this should be no more than three sides of A4. Please also send us a supporting statement telling us why you would like to be a part of the CDCH team, your suitability for the role and how your experience relates to one or more of the skills we are seeking to compliment the Board.

Please send your application to [carolyn.blackburn@cdch.org.uk](mailto:carolyn.blackburn@cdch.org.uk), the closing date for applications is 15 June 2020.

## Our Vision & Mission

We are committed to preventing cruelty and suffering to animals who have no voice and we will ensure that every vulnerable animal in our community has a safe place. We will treat every animal in our care with compassion and dignity and find them a wonderful, loving family who will change their world forever.