



## **BORDER TERRIER WELFARE**

### **Minutes of AGM Held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2019 THE MAIN HALL - WOODMANSTERNE VILLAGE HALL, SURREY**

**Present :** Tony Wrenn (Chairman) Jimmi Johnston-White (Vice Chairman)  
Wendy Mooney (Treasurer) Jenny Oakshott  
Melanie Robson (Secretary) Bob Bolton  
Jan Gale (Archivist) Diana O'Grady (President)  
Mark Harvey (Database Manger) Joyce Rhodes

Plus 32 supporters / area representatives of Border Terrier Welfare

**Apologies :** Sally Hearnden Sue Bland  
Mike & Sue Hunter Lynn Watts  
Vicci Baker Sue Channer  
Jane Crebbin-Bailey Debora Robertson  
Dolores Pilorz Lou-Lou Troup  
Alison Stagg Nicola Walsh  
Maggi Jones John and Janice Gilmour  
Antonia Harmer Monica Dixon  
Lynne Clarke Adrienne & Jeremy Rickard

The Chairman opened the meeting at 10.55am, and welcomed all those attending.

#### **Minutes of Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

The minutes were proposed as being correct by Mervyn White, seconded by Sarah Mantle and agreed unanimously by those present as a true record of the meeting.

#### **Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

#### **Officers' Reports:**

##### **Chairman's Report:**

I would like to start my report by thanking my fellow Officers, Committee Members, Area Representatives, foster carers and everyone else who has helped us during the year. It has been a busy year with many dogs coming in for rehoming for all the usual reasons, owners needing to go into care homes, new babies arriving, illness, moving house where dogs are not permitted, new work commitments, the list is endless. However the most difficult reason is where the Border has serious behavioural issues and the owners have no alternative but to ask us for help. These dogs can be quite a challenge for us as they cannot be rehomed without assessment, retraining and finding the ideal owner.

The introduction in October last year of the Animal Welfare Regulations intended to strengthen animal welfare particularly around puppy sales in England impacted on our Charity because three of our boarding kennels decided not to apply for a licence which they had to have if they wished to continue to offer kennelling to us. It was sad to have to part company with people who had given us excellent service over many years. It is extremely difficult to find reasonably priced kennelling that won't break the bank but we have been very fortunate to have been offered boarding by Betty Judge of the famous Plushcourt Border Terriers based in Oxfordshire. I am pleased to say that we also welcomed back Helen Freeman as a rep for Somerset and Dorset earlier this year. Helen has the Ponderosa Kennel close to her which is also available to us. Both kennels offer us very generous terms.

Veterinary costs are getting more expensive every year. Being a registered Charity we can often negotiate a discount which helps especially with the dogs we have rehomed which have long term health issues. During the year we have helped a number of owners whose dogs have Cushings, diabetes, skin, ear and dental problems.

Ethical approval has now been given to enable a survey and sample collection to commence research into Paroxysmal Dyskinesia by the Animal Health Trust. Gluten sensitivity has been identified as the main cause of CECS symptoms. For all the information on this please visit the Border Terrier Health web site. There is a lot of information on there about various health issues including Gall Bladder Mucocoele which is a serious condition but if identified early enough the dog can survive. The symptoms are listed on the website and if your dog is displaying any of them please consult your vet and mention this disease. Several dogs have had operations and have made a good recovery.

We are still receiving donations from many fundraisers who continue to come up with lots of clever initiatives to help fill our coffers. There are a number of walks which are organised around the country some of these raise money for us but one very positive outcome from them all is that it helps socialise the dogs. They are "leads on" walks when there are lots of dogs which prevents any scrapping! It is amazing to see the positive results that are the outcome of these meet ups.

Paul Duce managed to complete his Coast to Coast walk in June. His Border Terrier Jess admitted defeat after a few days with sore paws!! She rested and was able to complete the final day. Paul had hoped to attend the AGM with Jess but is unable to join us this time, which is very disappointing as it would have been good to be able to thank him in person for raising a total of £13,423, £6,182 in 2018 before he was taken ill and £7,241 this year.

Some of you will already be aware that we have just launched a new Website, for this we are indebted to Paula Byers who has put in an enormous amount of work to get it up and running. It still requires a few tweaks as these things often do but judging from the very

positive feedback we have had so far it seems to have been well received. Paula has travelled from Devon to be here today and would welcome any comments.

Social media still continues to have its good and bad points, the positive aspects are many

I am pleased to announce that John Jessop will be joining the Committee as an observer with a view to becoming a full member next October. John has BTW dog Leo and has fostered dogs for us. Currently he and his wife Vanessa have Archie who has had various health problems but he is doing very well and will hopefully find a new home soon.

Finally two more Committee announcements. Bob Bolton handed over the reins of Treasurer to Wendy Mooney on 1<sup>st</sup> January this year but remained on the Committee to offer his wealth of experience to help Wendy in her new role for which I am sure she was very grateful. I am sad to have to report that Bob has decided to retire from the Committee after this AGM. His enormous contribution to the Charity over many years is appreciated by us all. He will be greatly missed especially by me. His help to me when I became Chairman in 2014 was enormous and I cannot thank him enough. We wish him good luck and better health in his much deserved retirement.

That concludes my report. Thank you.

Before moving on Michelle Barnett asked that everyone acknowledge thanks to Paul Duce for his fundraising efforts and a round of applause was given. Thanks and applause were also given to John and Vanessa Jessop in recognition of their continued fostering of BTs, Jan Gale for her work with the calendars, Mick 'Snowievan' for the many miles travelled rehoming BTs and Wendy Mooney for taking on the role of Treasurer. Alison Putman also personally thanked Paula Byer for the excellent work on the new website.

Tony also mentioned that Paula would be taking photos during the day and if there was anyone present who did not want their photo taken and / or published on the website to please make themselves known to Tony/Paula.

#### **Vice Chairman**

Another busy year for Border Terrier Welfare and it has flown by. There have been changes along the way, new legislation on boarding and breeding over the last 12 months have meant that we have had to lose some of our boarding establishments. The licensing on breeding has not really affected us as yet, as the majority of dogs that we get in are over 2 years old, the roll on effect of changes to the law on breeding will take a while to reflect on our numbers of dogs up for rehoming. We are after all still seeing dogs that are not microchipped and that law has been in place for years now.

I have to say it is very good to see the charity ticking along well financially in times of economic uncertainty. We are very fortunate in our supporters and all that they do to raise

money, allowing us to continue with the wonderful work achieved by our trustees, volunteers and supporters. It is a good thing that we have such money behind us in case we meet choppy waters.

Finally I would like to give my thanks to our many supporters for all that they do to help raise funds for our work to continue, to our volunteers, reps and their families who ensure that the good work continues.

**Treasurer:**

A copy of the 'Receipts and Payments' Account together with the 'Statement of Assets and Liabilities' as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 was circulated to all those present.

**Treasurers Q4 Report (year end 30 June 2019)**

I have pleasure in presenting my First Treasurer's Report. My thanks going to Bob, who has been a huge help to me during the hand-over. Having been elected to this position at the last AGM, I took on the role from 1<sup>st</sup> January. We have therefore done 6 months each.

THE ACCOUNTS -

The accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis as is the usual accounting convention for charities of our size.

Receipts totalled **£83,771** (£89,439) down £5,668

Payments totalled **£72,250** (£77,437) down £5,187

This gave us a surplus of **£11,521** (£12,002) down £481

The Balance Sheet at the year-end was **£117,078**.

The Income comes mostly from General Donations **£55,526** (£59,380) including sundry initiatives such as the Feelwells/BT Posse calendar of £4,000. Specific challenges on Just Giving contributed almost £10,000 which includes Paul Duce's Coast to Coast (also known as the Long Walk Home) raising a phenomenal **£6,186** and the two gruelling challenges undertaken by members of my family – The Paris marathon and the Weymouth Half Ironman raising almost **£2,000**. The various walking groups dotted around the country collectively raised £2,672; the PayPal Giving Fund collected £2,205 on our behalf and Amazon Smile brought in another £394.

We ran our own Fundraiser, thought up and organised by Jimmi which he named Give A Dog A Day – this made £350 for the charity. We a supporter who got married and decided to ask for donations to BTW instead of a wedding gift – a lovely idea and this raised £350 for the charity.

There are many other initiatives, but this isn't meant to overlook the fantastic ongoing supporters who together raise a large proportion of our Receipts

Rehoming Donations amount to **£12,466** and relates directly to the dogs taken into BTW (74). Some adopters donate additional sums to BTW and therefore would be included in the General Donations.

In some instances, donations are eligible for Gift Aid, and for the current year this is **£4,022** (£7,573). Legacies and memorials this year amounted to **£3,787** (£2,329)

Fund-Raising Activities raised **£7,626** (£6,808) of which **£830** was raised at our own events. Sales includes our very popular calendar organised by Jan Gale of **£3,949** (£2,189)

And now turning to the Expenses – Our biggest cost continues, for now, to be kennelling costs, this year amounting to **£33,135** for 57 dogs (£44,072 – 79 dogs), a significant reduction of the previous year in terms of actual cost and number of dogs in need of kennelling.

The next largest cost is vets' fees of **£28,398** treating 56 dogs (£19,733 was for 98 dogs). This is a significant increase on last year and includes a few dogs who required some very expensive treatment or surgery. So, we had fewer dogs in total, needing financial assistance for vet fees, some dogs leave our care but have ongoing health issues that we feel we should provide continuing support. If we did not offer this, we would have some dogs who could not be rehomed as they would produce too big a financial burden on their new family.

Another feature of the BTW work is Transporting our dogs around the country, be it to get them in suitable temporary kennelling, or to get them to their new home. Travel costs are **£4,921** (£6,449) covering 15,099 miles moving 64 dogs (18,836 miles – 77 dogs).

**Secretary:**

The Secretary proposed dates for next year's events as follows:-

*Mid Year Event 2019 - Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup>*

*AGM 2019 - Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>. It will most likely be the 11<sup>th</sup> October as Discover Dogs has now been announced as 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020.*

**Database Manager:**

My report is centred of course around my *tool of office*, the BTW spreadsheet.

The spreadsheet is a record of BTW's rehoming activity, containing essential information on the Border Terriers we work with, the potential adopters we know of, and in the final analysis, which BTs we placed and with whom, and when it all happened.

The spreadsheet as a *Microsoft Excel Workbook* has been functioning now for ten years, give or take a month or two, and over that ten years there has been extra data fields added from time to time. Its simple essentials list the Border Terriers we work with sequentially on one sheet, and the potential adopters and their contact details also sequentially on another.

Initially I filled all the details for each entry alone, but for the past 3 years the spreadsheet has been held centrally on an internet folder system called DropBox, and all the BTW committee and reps have live access to it, by specific, BTW controlled invitation, and the idea is that the reps record additions and updates in all fields as they go about their BTW business.

In practice, this universal franchise has not always happened, largely caused by DropBox not being quite as universally available as we had hoped, and therein lies the route further evolution, hopefully with the aid of our website guru Paula Byers.

In the 10 years we have had some 1,558 BTs referred to us for rehoming, which some simple maths works out at about 156 per year. Our busiest year was 2013 when 200+ needy BTs were logged and our least busy 2015 when there were 122 BTs asking for help. 2019 has had 134 so far, so overall, we remain averagely busy.

The first BT on the spreadsheet is Taz Keeble who has been a regular attender at BTW AGM and Fun Day.

I have fielded one query this past year on whether we could place the BTW spreadsheet on Facebook. My answer is - no we couldn't as Facebook or any other *social media* site cannot be considered secure enough for the personal information held in the database.

-End of Officer's reports -

### **Election of Officers**

The President proposed that Tony Wrenn be re-elected as Chairman. The proposal was seconded by the Vivian Smith and accepted unanimously.

The Chairman asked for a proposal to re-elect Jimmi Johnston-White as Vice Chairman. The proposal was put forward by Alison Putman, seconded by Michelle Barnett and accepted unanimously.

The Chairman asked that someone propose Wendy Mooney be re-elected as Treasurer. The proposal was put forward by Mel Robson (Secretary) seconded by Jan Gale (Archivist) Barnett and accepted unanimously.

The Chairman asked that someone propose Mel Robson be re-elected as Secretary. The proposal was put forward by Mervyn White seconded by Vanessa Jessop and accepted unanimously.

The Chairman asked for a proposal to re-elect Mark Harvey as Database Manager. This was proposed by Mel Robson, seconded by Jenny Oakshott and accepted unanimously.

### **Election of Committee Members**

The Chairman advised that the members of the committee standing for re-election are : Jan Gale, Joyce Rhodes, Jenny Oakshott and Sally Hearnden. The proposal was put forward by Sarah Mantle, seconded by Alison Putman and accepted unanimously.

The Chairman advised that since the committee can be comprised of up to 7 committee members in addition to co-opted members as and when necessary, there are currently some vacancies and anyone interested should approach an Officer or Committee member during the day.

### **Honoraria**

The Chairman suggested that the honoraria paid to the Secretary, Archivist and Treasurer remain at £400 per year. This was proposed by Bob Bolton, seconded by Jenny Oakshott and accepted unanimously.

### **Constitution & Rules**

Copies of the proposed changes to the C&R had been handed out for everyone present to review with the changes highlighted and the Secretary read out the change proposed as follows:-

#### **2. OBJECTS**

The Association's (charity's) objects (the Objects) are: For the benefit of the any member of the public to relieve the suffering of the breed of dog known as the Border Terrier by providing shelter and rehoming for these dogs and assisting in veterinary care where owners are in need of financial help.

In furthering these purposes the Association shall not act as an agent for breeders but may give assistance where the association deems it appropriate and it is in the best interests of the dog.

Add

***The Association may also occasionally make grants on a case by case basis where it is considered that the award is Border Terrier or canine related.***

The change was proposed by Sarah Mantel, accepted by Alison Putman and accepted unanimously.

### **Any Other Business**

Mr Chris Pooley asked everyone to be vigilant when walking as has experienced badgers are biting dogs.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 11.35am.

After the meeting a gift was handed to Bob Bolton the retiring Treasurer. He gave a brief speech thanking everyone for their support during his 31 years with BTW in which he had worked alongside 3 Chairmans.