



**BORDER TERRIER WELFARE
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
AGM 10 October 2021**

I would like to thank all of you who are planning to attend our Virtual AGM which sadly is having to be held as an online event again this year due to the still very high levels of Covid 19 Infections. We thought very hard about holding a physical meeting, but in the end had to accept that the risk was too great and we had to consider the wellbeing of our supporters as well as that of our own volunteers. We can only hope that we will be able to meet again safely next year, we hope you will understand. Our virtual meeting does mean however, that we are able to welcome people from all over the UK who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend in person.

Moving on I would like to thank my fellow Officers and Trustees that form our committee, as well as our Area Representatives and everyone who has helped us through what has been another challenging year for all. The help you all give is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

On the subject of Border Terriers and BTW's activity, adoption enquiries continue to be very high with close to a thousand applications having been received since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020. The number of dogs being handed into Welfare is slightly down meaning that waiting lists are continuing to be long. Much of this is due to the continued high demand for dogs of all kinds meaning that many are being sold rather than given up to rescues. We are continuing to see a high level of dogs with severe behavioural conditions making them difficult to place and we do have a few that are still looking for the right homes. There have been a number of younger dogs and puppies purchased in or just before Covid struck that have suffered badly as a result of their owners not being able to properly socialise them. We have also seen a higher level of under two year olds looking for new homes, some not for the first time. The record holders so far; a thirteen week old puppy and an eight month old looking for its fifth home.

You will be hearing from Mel, or will have heard, depending upon the order in which you have read our reports, about our new accounting system known as Xero which seems to have settled in well thanks to a lot of midnight oil burning for both Mel and Paula in getting us set up, I am very pleased to report that Xero recently produced our year end accounts. My thanks to both Mel and Paula for all the hard work.

Now that the accounting transition is complete, we will soon be spending some time in order to update our collaborative online working platform, to help us better manage the administration of the dogs coming through our books and the potential adopters. Our current systems are no longer as effective as more up to date and efficient collaboration software working platforms available. We need to move the systems we are currently using forward to create a better administration environment for the committee and the representatives.

Other activities have included the ongoing development of our online store which has enabled us to continue with some fundraising activities whilst we have been unable to hold any face to face gatherings due to the pandemic. A number of Border Terrier Welfare and Border Terrier themed items have been selling well since the introduction of the store and it continues to gather momentum. The store was also a huge success in the marketing of our Border Terrier Calendar of which we sold over 600 of the 2021 issue. Watch our website for news of the 2022 edition which will be on sale soon together with other items in the run up to Christmas and beyond.

borderterrierwelfare.co.uk/shop

Finally, and on behalf of us all in Border Terrier Welfare, I would like to thank everyone who has helped us throughout the last year or in the past or who plan to do so in the future. Our sincere thanks to all of you who have raised the money that enables us to do what we do to help Border Terriers and their owners in need. It is due to you that we have never had to say no or turn anyone away because we can't afford it. Our thanks to you all.

**Tony Wrenn
Chairman**