

Annual Review 2008–2009

Training assistance dogs to transform the lives
of people with disabilities



CANINE PARTNERS
Opening doors to independence

www.caninepartners.co.uk

Message from The Chairman

I am delighted, as the incoming Chairman, to welcome you to the Canine Partners Annual Review for 2008.

During the past year, I am able to report that Canine Partners again succeeded in creating a record number of partnerships as well as supporting all our existing ones. It is always a pleasure at our graduating occasions to meet with our new Partners. It is a delight to hear how already our dogs are transforming their lives and very humbling to listen to the challenges of day to day life that so many of us take for granted.

The challenge for Canine Partners is to find a way to enable those with disabilities, however severe, to enjoy greater independence and a better quality of life through the help of our specially trained dogs. Anyone with a disability can benefit from a 'Canine Partner' assistance dog; existing Partners include those with Multiple Sclerosis, Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, Parkinson's Disease, Arthritis, paralysis from stroke, head and spinal injuries, amputees and those injured in the Armed Forces too. Now operating also in Scotland, we can provide and support canine partnerships, regardless of location, throughout Great Britain.

In 2008, demand in the form of new applications for a Canine Partner continued to rise and we successfully reached our target 40 new partnerships, leading to 120 active at close of year. From puppy to trained Canine Partner, our dogs take some 18 months to train – a team effort both from our volunteer puppy parents and our in-house trainers. 2008 saw a recruitment drive for more puppy parents and the opening of more puppy training satellites (we now have 9 spread around the country). We ended the year with over 70 puppies in training, and 17 dogs in advanced training, the latter ready for placement in 2009.

Increasing activities are only possible with increased funding and we were immensely

grateful to all those donors - both new and loyal supporters – who made this possible. Our fundraising targets were particularly challenging in 2008 with a capital appeal for our now completed residential facilities as well as increasing revenue requirements. We can only do what we do by your generosity – whether through events, donations or gifts in peoples' Wills – so I would like to thank everyone who has supported the Charity, over the past year in helping to make such a life-changing difference to all our partnerships.

Behind the statistics, both operational and fundraising, lies a huge team effort, for which, on behalf of all the trustees, I should like to express our appreciation. Our royal Patron, our Vice Patrons and Vice Presidents, our immensely dedicated fundraising committees and volunteer fundraisers – you must view our newsletters to see challenges they put themselves through – our experienced staff, our volunteer puppy parents, volunteer fosterers and army of volunteers, our inspiring Partners, our occupational therapy network and aftercare teams across the country. All have been immensely generous in the time and dedication they offer to Canine Partners and we are truly grateful.

2009 promises to be no less busy and demanding a year than 2008. With our new residential training facilities now in operation, we are in a position to build on recent progress and to tailor our training to individual needs. We are mindful of the particular challenges of the current financial environment, and charting our course prudently. Overall, we remain confident that, with a tried and tested system, terrific team work and a continued commitment to good stewardship, 2009 will be another successful year, as we enter our twentieth anniversary celebrations.

Simon Clare
Chairman



With the help of our volunteers, staff, Trustees and generous supporters we had a record year in 2008.



Our Mission

Canine Partners aims to assist people with disabilities to enjoy a greater independence and a better quality of life and, where possible, help them into education and employment, by the provision of specially trained dogs, whose well-being is also a key consideration.

"Daxi is a very bright, kind dog and has brought me the independence that I so love. He is easy to teach new instructions to, or adjust old ones, due to all the hard work at Canine Partners on him and me.

I dropped a ten pound note whilst paying the window cleaner and Daxi had picked it up with his lips and passed it to me before I had time to ask him. Another time while having a very long, and from a dogs point of view boring conversation, he carefully picked the car keys from my wife's lap, put them on the ground then picked them back up and gave them to me. He had been very patient and had not been out yet! It made us all laugh.

He is not only providing help in many physical ways but provides friendship and support during long dark nights full of pain and anxiety. Altogether a great dog and a wonderful kind friend."

Arthur Findlater with Labradoodle Daxi



An Overview of 2008

2008 was a great year seeing our 200th partnership created since the first dogs were placed in 1994. Here are just a few highlights...

Year of the Assistance Dog

2008 saw the first ever Year of the Assistance Dog where members of the association Assistance Dogs UK (ADUK) worked together to celebrate the country's service dogs and raise vital awareness of their public access rights. Assistance dog users nominated retailers, leisure facilities, public premises, parks and transport operators for Dog Star Awards, giving service providers an incentive to make their premises assistance dog friendly.



A Pioneering Trailblazer

Young and registered blind, electric-wheelchair user Stephanie Read has had her life completely transformed by the UK's first ever Canine Partner also dual-purpose trained as a Guide Dog.

Miracle dog Vegas is the only registered assistance dog to perform the dual roles of guiding a blind person and helping a wheelchair user; trained in a ground-breaking project between the charities Canine Partners and Guide Dogs.

Stephanie (26), from Torquay in Devon, was a prisoner in her own home, lacking confidence and isolated from the outside world until the arrival of Vegas – a five-year-old black Labrador.

Stephanie has Macular Hyperplasia, meaning she only has a very small amount of vision. She also has Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, which affects her joints and organs; she has been a wheelchair user for the past 10 years.

Requiring help to get dressed and carry out the most basic domestic tasks – from answering the phone to picking up a book or newspaper – Stephanie has previously relied almost entirely upon a carer, sometimes waiting many hours for assistance to arrive.

Now, with Vegas by her side, Stephanie is able to carry out the simple daily tasks that are usually taken so much for granted, putting on her own clothes, using the washing machine, taking money out of a cash point, picking up the telephone, answering the door, and being able to decide what time to turn into bed without having to rely on when a helper is available.

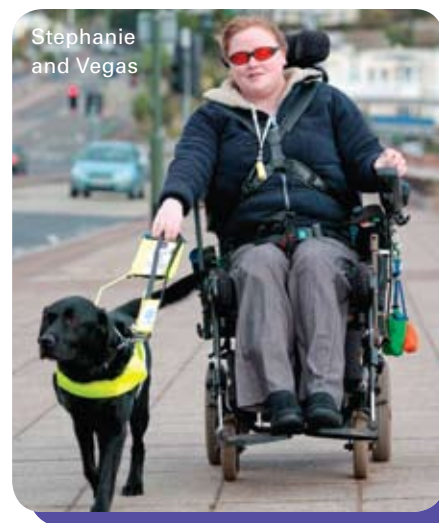
Vegas also provides Stephanie with the freedom and confidence to leave her home when she wants, without needing to wait for a friend or helper to escort her. They enjoy regular outings around Torquay and when at busy roads crossings, Vegas even reaches up and presses the pelican crossing button with her paw.

Vegas has an extra long harness handle, allowing her to walk safely in front of Stephanie's wheelchair. Stephanie recognises if she should stop, or move to the left or right, by sensing the movement in the handle.

Stephanie is now leading a truly independent life. She has confidence to go shopping, meet friends and get out on her own. Although this is a pilot project, we hope there will be further examples of dual trained assistance dogs benefiting visually impaired wheelchair users in the future.

"She's transformed my freedom, mobility and independence," says Stephanie.

More dual purpose dogs are planned for 2009, including a similar project with Hearing Dogs for Deaf People.



HRH visits Heyshott

His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO visited Canine Partners' National Training Centre in West Sussex in December. Our Patron spent his time in Heyshott meeting potential new applicants, experiencing a demonstration of the dogs in action as well as seeing how the new on-site training facility is progressing. He was accompanied by the new Lord-Lieutenant for West Sussex, Mrs Susan Pyper.



HRH The Duke of Gloucester, the Charity's Patron, meets Jenny Lowe, Partner, and Susan Pyper, Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex

Home From Home Appeal

2008 saw a major capital fundraising programme successfully implemented and near fruition of work on site, with 6 modular en-suite chalets, for the training of many more disabled applicants each year. This new building will be officially opened in 2009 and will help the Charity train more partnerships, work more flexibly and efficiently and save money in the long run.



Simon Clare, Project Manager of the new build, receiving the keys to commence the fit out

Canine Partners in Scotland

Canine Partners is unique in Scotland, being the only charity nationally training assistance dogs to work with people with disabilities and in wheel chairs. Canine Partners in Scotland had a successful year in 2008, training more dogs, creating additional human and dog partnerships and crucially establishing a second puppy training satellite covering the West of Scotland.

Our West of Scotland satellite was established in December 2008. The satellite got off to a promising start receiving a very healthy and welcome £10,000 donation from Abbey Charitable Trust, helping us to firmly establish our presence in the West of Scotland.

In the spring we were delighted to receive substantial funding again from the BARCAPEL foundation.

2009 is shaping up to be a very exciting year for Canine Partners in Scotland as the Charity continues to grow and develop, building on existing support and reaching out to new audiences. We have now created our second partnership, and are far advanced in our plans to create a further five partnerships in Scotland.

As our presence has grown and the Charity has become better known in Scotland we have a growing waiting list of potential Partners. Our aim is to create even more partnerships to meet the growing demand. The Charity has been very well received and supported in Scotland so far. All we can say for 2009 is watch this space!

Currently, we have 10 dogs in training based at satellites in Brechin and Prestwick, all ably assisted by our puppy parents. Our satellites are very supportive of our work and we have recently had their help at Golf Days, Lunches, Talks and even taking part in sermons within Churches!

Dundas Castle

Canine Partners is supported in the work we do, in Scotland, by our Scottish Fundraising Committee, chaired by the Earl of Eglinton and Winton. As part of their ongoing fundraising activities, in October 2008, the Committee organised a highly successful lunch at Dundas Castle, South Queensferry. The event raised a magnificent £14,000 with part of the event being filmed for a national Scottish news programme, allowing the Charity to reach wider audiences within Scotland.

John R Weir Group

Our activities in Scotland are also supported by the John R Weir Group who are currently fundraising to support one of our puppies in training.

Thank you to all our supporters and volunteers who help us in all areas of our work in Scotland.



Marie McIntosh Branch Manager at Abbey Glasgow presents Scottish Satellite Trainer Senga Thorpe with a cheque for £10,000



Kelty



Scottish puppy Gem meeting a young supporter

Other Fundraising News

We receive no Government funding and rely on public donations and gifts in Wills to provide our amazing dogs and to increase the quality of life and independence for more people each year.

We are fortunate to have over 200 volunteers across Great Britain, who help to train and foster our puppies, fundraise for us, organise and help at events and help us with administration, which keeps our costs down.

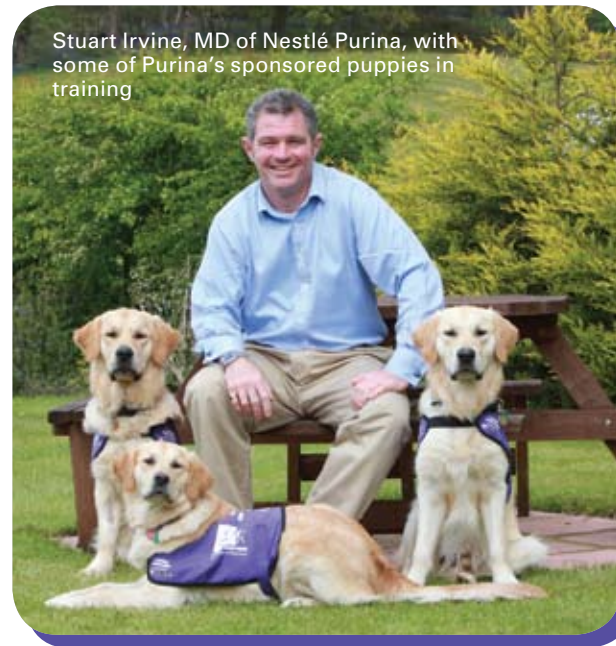
We are also greatly indebted to a number of charitable trusts, organisations and individuals, whose generosity enabled us to acquire and train dogs during the year. Several Corporates of note, including Nestlé Purina and Zurich and also smaller businesses have supported the Charity. Other successes during the year included:

- Holywell Driven Clay Challenge raised £35,000
- Swinley Golf Day raised £36,000
- Dundas Castle raised over £14,000
- Auction Event at Imperial War Museum raised £130,000
- Our Schools Programme presented our work to over 4,000 children
- Lottery Awards for All gave £9,150 for our Volunteer Development Project
- Talks to over 350+ clubs and associations

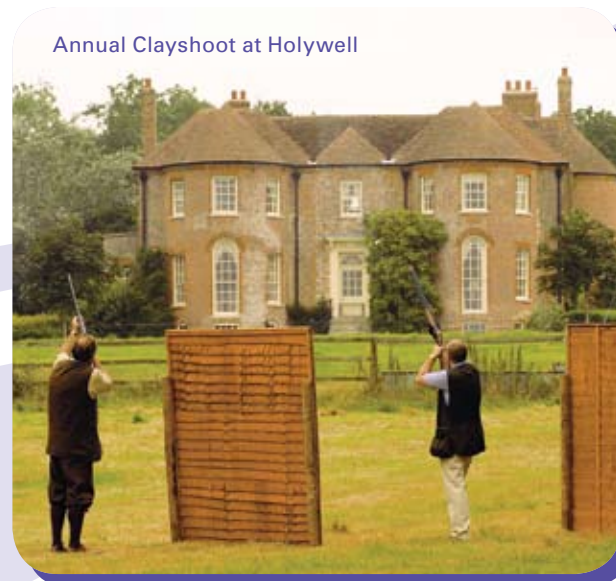
How can you help?

Please see our website at www.caninepartners.co.uk for ways to donate tax effectively, volunteering opportunities, how to set up a support group in your area and more.

A big thank you to everyone who helped us in 2008!



Stuart Irvine, MD of Nestlé Purina, with some of Purina's sponsored puppies in training



Annual Clayshoot at Holywell

Chudleigh the wonder dog

"Chudleigh is a little rascal, full of boundless energy. He does wonders for me, and has given me a dog-walker's social life. I've met so many people since having him. Before Chudleigh, no-one in my street would say hello to me but now he breaks down those barriers.

He opens doors for me and helps me with undressing – he loves taking my socks off, and also everyone else's socks too! He's great. I can't thank everyone enough, I love him to pieces."

Labradoodle Chudleigh was placed with Rachel (21) in April 2008. Chudleigh helps Rachel, who has Cerebral Palsy, with all manner of tasks including opening doors, summoning lifts and jumping up to press the button on a pedestrian crossing with his paws.

When Rachel fell out of her chair in the bathroom, he went and fetched her mobile phone from the lounge so she could summon help. And when she unwittingly dropped her wallet while out shopping, Chudleigh dragged her back to the spot where he'd seen her lose it and picked it up for her. "He definitely makes me feel a lot safer," says Rachel. "Since he's been here, life's been really good. I wouldn't be without him now."

With Chudleigh at her side, Rachel is even now considering going away to university in Manchester to study drama. "Without him, that's something I'd probably have struggled to do," she says.



Rachel and Chudleigh

Plans for 2009 and Beyond

It is our long-term vision to supply a Canine Partner to everyone with a physical disability who would benefit from an assistance dog. However, we need the funding to make this happen.

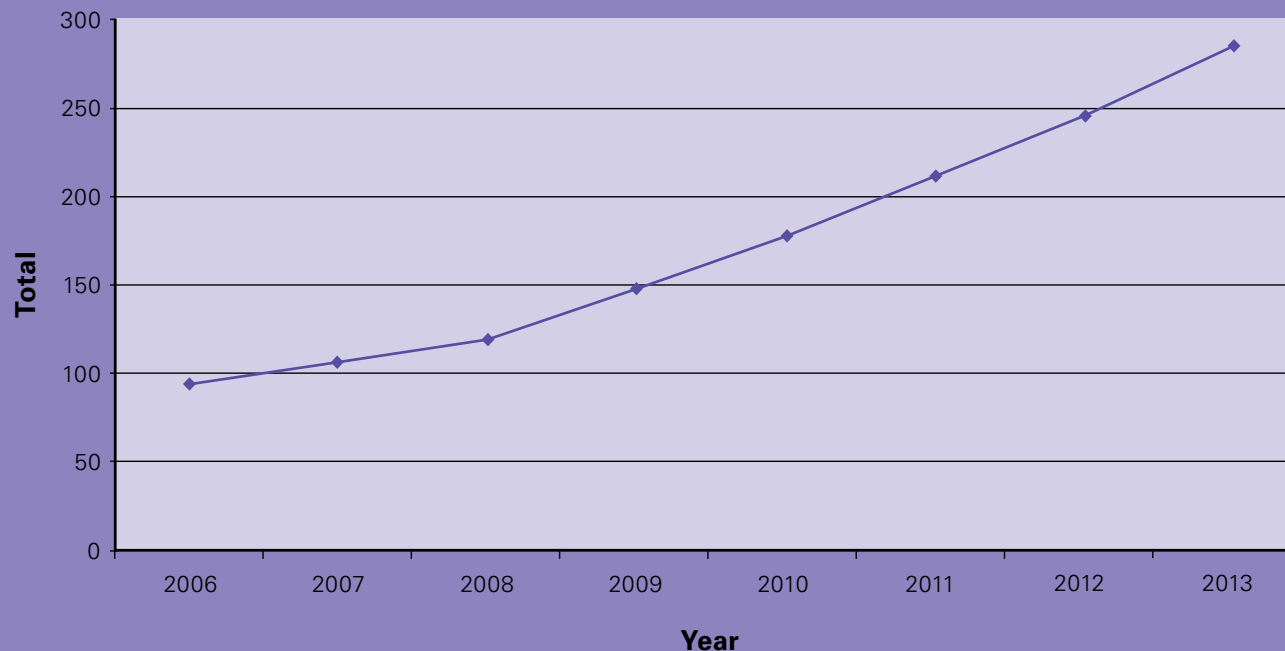
In the short-term we plan to increase the number of partnerships we create and support year on year. In 2009 we aim to create 40 new partnerships, which will take the number of active partnerships nationwide to approximately 150, after retirements. In 2010 we hope to create a further 45 new partnerships. We plan to achieve 300+ active partnerships by 2013/14.

A key process in helping more people with disabilities in the future will be the continued strengthening of current Puppy Training Satellites and the developing of new ones. This itself will encourage a greater spread of information about the work and positive impact of Canine Partners, while enhancing the throughput of trained puppies and fundraising.

The move to kennel all advanced dogs on-site and build accommodation for our on-site training courses for disabled individuals will facilitate the training of dogs and applicants, meaning we can tailor make our services to each client to an even greater extent. The accommodation for our Partners has been designed after extensive consultation with disabled people, our own Partners, and Occupational Therapists. The resulting building, comprising 6 chalets, will lead the way in provision of facilities for people with extreme levels of disability.

2009/10 will also see the launch of our 20th anniversary celebrations.

Active working partnerships at year end across the UK (after retirements)



Working with the Armed Services community

Susi was outgoing, sociable and lived for sport, before she sustained an incomplete spinal injury whilst in the Royal Navy.

She was left unable to walk and discharged from service. She was partnered with Canine Partner Lex six years ago and thanks to the independence he brings there is no limit to what they can achieve together. "Lex is my best friend and I can't function without him. Within two weeks we were sailing around the Isle of Wight on a wheelchair friendly yacht. Lex gave me my confidence back and a reason to get up in the morning and go outside again."

With an estimated 80,000 individuals with disabilities in the UK who could benefit from an assistance dog, and the number of injured Service men and women returning from military operations growing, as well as others who experience physical disabilities, we anticipate ever increasing demand for our assistance dogs. In 2008 we received enthusiastic support from General Sir Richard Dannatt, and began working with DMRC at Headley Court and a number of other Service organisations and personnel to raise awareness of the life changing benefits a Canine Partner can bring to the disabled ex-Service community.

"In the physical dimension the results of our rehabilitation effort are clearly apparent but I sense your assistance dogs not only fulfil practical tasks but also have a positive effect on the less tangible morale aspect of rehabilitation. I feel that the ethos and work of Canine Partners fit perfectly with the challenge that the DMRC faces with the mental rehabilitation of injured members of the Armed Forces. I would enthusiastically support any joint initiative between Canine Partners and the DMRC in this area."

(General Sir Richard Dannatt GCB CBE MC ADC Gen, Chief of the General Staff)

"Lex gave me my confidence back and a reason to get up in the morning and go outside again"



Creating Life Changing, Lifelong Partnerships

What is a 'Canine Partner'?

Canine Partners transform the lives of people with disabilities, providing practical, physiological, psychological and social benefits that help keep people happy and healthy. These benefits include:

- Assistance with everyday tasks
- Increased independence, confidence, motivation and self-esteem
- Reduced tension, anxiety, depression and reliance on others
- Ability to return to work, voluntary positions or further education
- A sense of responsibility for the welfare of their Canine Partner
- Companionship and security
- Reduced need for carers, and therefore reduced social welfare costs to the NHS
- A catalyst for conversation, increasing social interaction
- Therapeutic benefits of the human-animal bond

What everyday tasks can a Canine Partner do?

A Canine Partner can carry out many tasks which are difficult, painful or impossible for their human Partners, such as:

- picking up dropped or difficult to reach items
- opening and closing doors
- helping with the shopping
- helping with undressing
- loading and unloading the washing machine and tumble drier



- pressing pedestrian crossing and lift buttons
- retrieving the telephone, post and medicine when required
- retrieving money from a cash machine
- emergency procedures and problem solving
- helping to stabilise an individual during wheelchair transfers or walking with crutches

How are the dogs trained?

Puppies are recruited into the programme at about 7 weeks old and spend the first year of their lives with volunteer families ("puppy parents"). Puppy parents and trainee dogs attend one of our Puppy Training Satellites around the country for basic training. Training is reward based using the very latest motivational training methods.

At the end of the puppy training period, the dogs enter full time, advanced training. The training course runs for 4-6 months depending upon the ability and maturity of each dog.

Each dog is tailored to its Partner's individual needs, learning specific tasks that are relevant to that particular person's life. Canine Partners prides itself on taking an entirely holistic approach when training a dog for an applicant, collaborating with a whole range of professionals who may already be working with the individual concerned. We liaise on a daily basis with Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Clinical Psychologists, Social Workers and many others.

Dogs are selected which have a high level of trainability and likelihood to enjoy life as an assistance dog. We select dogs with strong retrieve instincts, who take happily to tasks such as picking up items and who enjoy exploring with their mouths. Our training simply reinforces what a dog does naturally, and then refines these responses into increasingly complex tasks. We use specific breeds such as golden retrievers, labradors or, for those humans allergic to moulting dog hair, the labrador/poodle cross known as labradoodles or retriever/poodle often known as goldiepoos.

Once the dog is fully trained and successfully passed careful and rigorous assessment, the matching process between each applicant and their Canine Partner occurs, selecting the right dog for the right person and vice versa. The final stage of training is an intensive two-week residential course where our 'Partners' learn how to train, manage and care for their dogs, which results in the beginning of a unique, fulfilling long-term partnership.

And then?

In order to provide the best possible service to our clients, we have developed a national network of Occupational Therapists and Aftercare Assistants. The Charity provides ongoing support through regular aftercare visits, emergency 24hour hotline and advice to ensure a long and happy union. This ensures that every Partner has local support available to them, not only throughout the life of their Canine Partner but also throughout the course of their own life, which may involve partnership with several Canine Partners over the years: this is a lifelong relationship.

How much does it cost?

Our services are provided free of charge but we must fundraise to cover the costs of training and supporting each partnership. It costs the charity:

- £10,000 to train each puppy over an 18 month period
- £5,000 to assess and train an applicant
- £5,000 to provide on-going support for an average 8-10 year placement

How long does each dog work for?

A partnership may last for as long as the dog remains fit and healthy and the Partner is able to manage and care for the dog (on average 8-10 years). We are dedicated to ensuring that our dogs continue to enjoy happy and contented lives during retirement. This may involve the dog remaining with their Partner, or a friend or relative of the Partner, or to someone on our waiting list for a retired Canine Partner. The dog's well-being remains at the heart of all our decisions. We provide successor dogs to our Partners as a priority when their dog retires or passes away.



Fundraising Summary

In 2008 we received £1,897,708 (2007: £1,198,497) in gifts through the generosity of our community, companies, charitable trusts and the hard work of our support groups. Of this amount £458,770 was raised through our 'Home From Home' Capital Appeal for our new building development, leaving £1,419,663 as general funds and £19,275 restricted in accordance with the donor's wishes.

A further £113,490 (2007: £181,978) was raised through activities for generating funds including fundraising events and sale of charitable merchandise.

Interest on deposited funds brought in £21,229 (2007: £17,903).

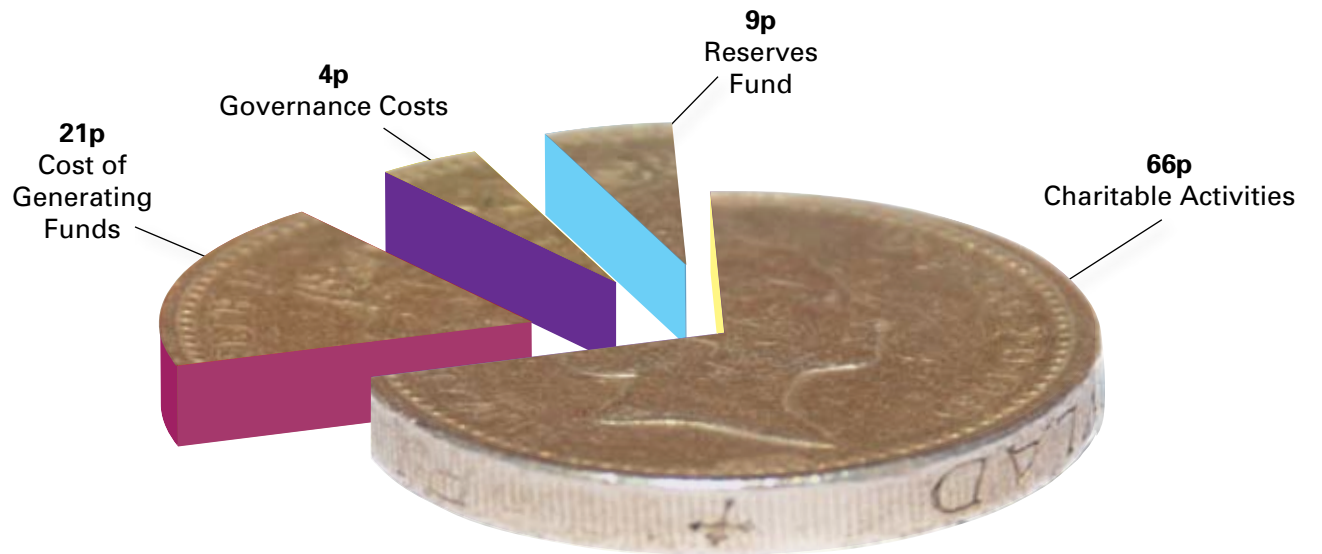
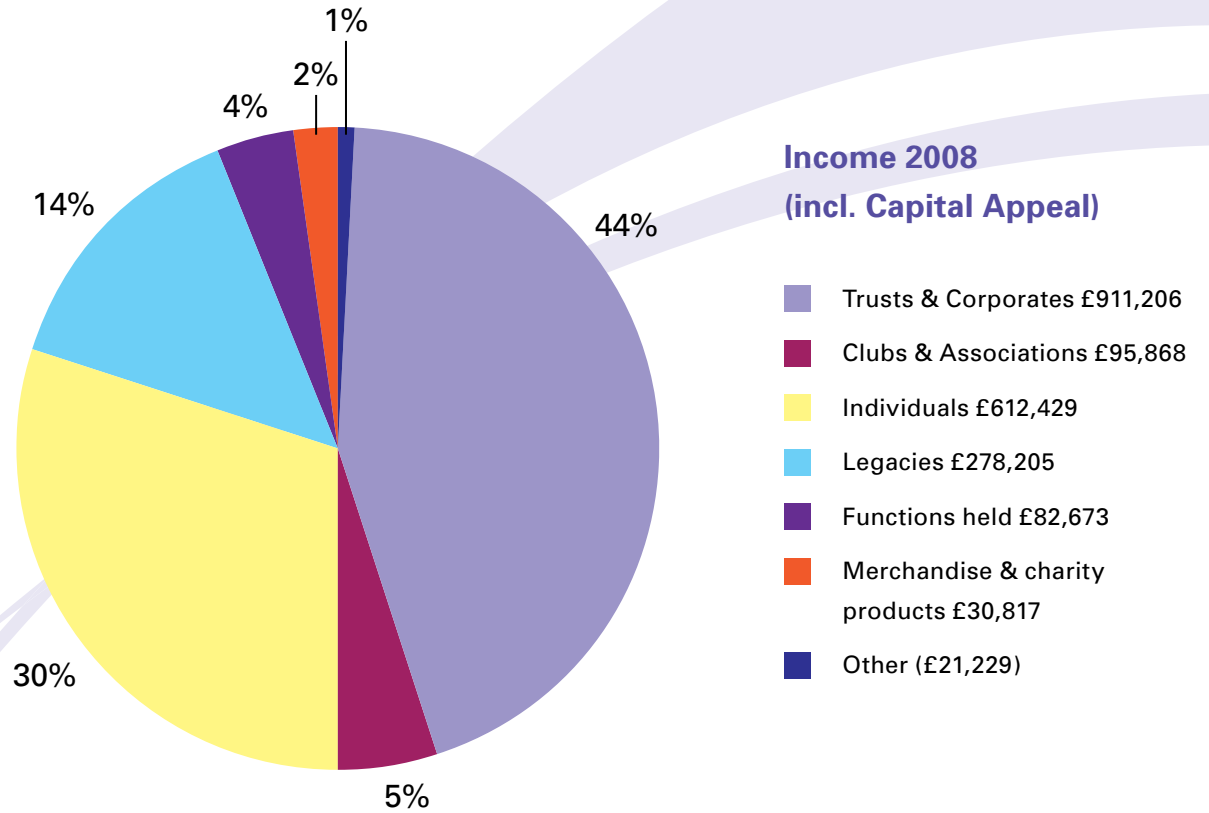
Fundraising Expenditure

The costs of raising voluntary income amounted to £314,484 (2007: £226,456), the costs of activities for generating funds were £51,768 (2007: £148,619).

Where your pound donation has gone!

Every pound given for the new accommodation has wholly gone to the building fund.

A pound given to fund the working of the charity has been spent or reserved this year as follows:



Financial Review and Summarised Accounts 2008

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31 December 2008 and Balance Sheet at that date, shown on the following page, have been drawn up in conformity with SORP 2005.

The Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet are an exact copy of those incorporated in the Trustees Report and Financial Statements for 2008 which received an unqualified audit opinion on 31 March 2009. A copy of the full Trustees Report and Financial Statements for 2008 may be obtained

from the Company Secretary on application to the Charity's registered office or from the Charity Commission at www.charitycommission.gov.uk

The Trustees have established the level of reserve (that is those funds freely available) that the charity ought to have. Reserves are needed to cover costs of maintaining aftercare of Partnerships during any period of shortfall of incoming funds. The Trustees assess that on the current level of

partnerships and the planned output over the next few years the reserve should now be built up to, at least, six months of general operating costs.

Based on budgeted cost for 2009 the reserve should be £682,000. The general operating reserve at Balance Sheet stands at £852,532. The Trustees, whilst acknowledging the reserve is in excess of policy level, are mindful of the extraordinary financial circumstances likely in the year ahead.

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income & Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31 December 2008

	Unrestricted Fund General	Restricted Funds General	Funds Building	Total Funds 2008 £	Total Funds 2007 £
Incoming resources					
From generated funds					
Voluntary income	1,419,663	19,275	458,770	1,897,708	1,198,497
Activities for generating funds	113,490	-	-	113,490	181,978
Interest on deposited funds	21,229	-	-	21,229	17,903
Other incoming resources	-	-	-	-	-
Total incoming resources	1,554,382	19,275	458,770	2,032,427	1,398,378
Resources expended					
Costs of generating funds					
Voluntary income	304,021	10,463	-	314,484	226,456
Activities for generating funds	51,768	-	-	51,768	148,619
	355,789	10,463	-	366,252	375,075
Charitable activities	922,863	22,358	32,136	977,357	863,099
Governance costs	51,669	-	-	51,669	52,699
Total resources expended	1,330,321	32,821	32,136	1,395,278	1,290,873
Net incoming (outgoing) resources	224,061	(13,546)	426,634	637,149	107,505
Total funds brought forward	628,471	34,690	1,457,969	2,121,130	2,013,625
Total funds carried forward	852,532	21,144	1,884,603	2,758,279	2,121,130

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2008

	December 2008 £	December 2007 £
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Fixed Assets	2,460,764	1,986,322
Current Assets		
Sundry Stocks	36,891	27,739
Sundry Debtors	125,552	139,258
Short Term Deposits	561,404	427,304
Cash at Bank and in Hand	165,462	32,939
	889,309	627,240
Creditors Amounts falling due within one year	207,544	93,578
Net Current Assets	681,765	533,662
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	3,142,529	2,519,984
Liabilities Amounts falling due after more than one year	384,250	398,854
Net Assets	2,758,279	2,121,130
Funds		
Unrestricted Funds		
General operating	852,532	628,471
Restricted Funds		
General operating	21,144	34,690
New building	1,884,603	1,457,969
	2,758,279	2,121,130

Patron

HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO

Vice Patrons

The Countess of Clarendon DL

Lord Kindersley

Mr Roger Jefcoate CBE Hon DSc

Vice Presidents

Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson DBE

Ms Elisabeth Ormerod BVMS MRCVS

Trustees Council

Mr Simon Clare BSc EdM FInstPet (Chairman)

Capt David Newberry MSc RN (Vice Chairman)

Mr John Barwick MBE FRSA

Miss Kate Dowding

Mr David Filmer

Mrs Claire Graham

Mrs Sue Harrison FCIPD

Mrs Nicky Pendleton DipCOT MSc(Rehab) MBAOT

Lady Rankin

Mr Mark Richardson MICM

Mr Spiro Sueref BSc (Hons) PGCert NutrMed RNutr

Mrs Gillian Taylor MRCVS

Executive Staff**Chief Executive**

Mr Terry Knott MC FRSM

Director Finance & Company Secretary

Mr Bruce Jenkins

Director Operations

Mr Andy Cook MA (Cantab)

Director Fundraising & Marketing

Miss Isabel Campbell

Bankers

Lloyds TSB plc, 4 West Street, Havant, Hampshire PO9 1PE

Auditors

Casson Beckman, 3 East Street, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1TR

Registered and Head Office

Canine Partners, Mill Lane, Heyshott, West Sussex GU29 0ED

Tel: 08456 580480 Fax: 08456 580481

E-mail: info@caninepartners.co.uk

Website: www.caninepartners.co.uk

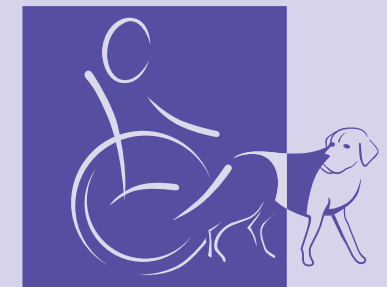
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