



THE IRISH BLUE CROSS

A N I M A L W E L F A R E C H A R I T Y

Annual Report & Audited Financial Statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2023



Company Number: 637671

Charity Number: Tax Exemption CHY 22274

Charities Regulatory Authority Number: CRA 20203128

THE IRISH BLUE CROSS

CONTENTS

	Page
Directors' Annual Report	3 - 18
Directors' Responsibilities Statement	19
Independent Auditor's Report	20 - 23
Statement of Financial Activities	24
Balance Sheet	25
Statement of Cash Flows	26
Notes to the Financial Statements	27 - 40

Directors' Annual Report

The Directors of The Irish Blue Cross CLG present their Annual Report. This document combines the Directors' Report, the Trustees' Report and the Audited Financial Statements for the financial year from 1 January to 31 December 2023.

The Irish Blue Cross is a registered Charity and Company Limited by Guarantee. Its Annual Report and Financial Statements are prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (effective 1 January 2015) and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard currently applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

The Directors have agreed to adopt and comply with the SORP format although this is not yet required in the Republic of Ireland.

The Directors' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Trustees' Annual Report under SORP guidelines. The Directors of the Company are also Charity Trustees for the purpose of Charity law; and under the Charity's Constitution are known as Members of the Board of Trustees.

In this report the Directors of The Irish Blue Cross present a summary of its purpose, governance, activities, achievements and finances for the financial year to 31 December 2023.

Welcome from our Chair and CEO

We are delighted to present The Irish Blue Cross Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2023. We hope that the information and stories we share portray the high dedication of our teams incorporating the continued support that this inspires.

2023 was yet another challenging year for pet owners throughout our Capital City whose pets we cared for in large numbers. Our continued focus is on eligible pet owners most in need of support.

We are extremely proud of our teams in reaching so many pets with over 15,000 visitations to our clinics. This was done against a background of rising veterinary costs. The work levels have been maintained without restricting how we helped owners and pets. We recruited a new Head of Veterinary Services, Laura Mock who started with us in September 2023 and we wish her well in her new position. The team has also been enhanced with the addition of hiring an Animal Care Assistant to assist the nurses which has proven to be a great boost to our day-to-day operations.

In our efforts to promote healthy pets and improve animal welfare we have been active in our representation on the Advisory Committee of the Companion Animal Welfare (ACCAW) Stakeholders Group at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and by participating on the Dog Control Stakeholders Group of the Department of Rural and Community Development.

We have collaborated with other animal welfare charities and relevant players on issues such as the recent XL Bully ban, horse welfare and greyhound welfare in an effort to inform public policy. Through these collaborations we broaden our impact to help more animals. We will continue to contribute to the discussions with a view to meeting our mission of promoting animal welfare and responsible pet ownership.

Our horse ambulance team worked tirelessly throughout last year, providing an invaluable core welfare service and achieving welfare standards at race meetings and events while operating as back-up to the equine veterinary teams.

In 2023, we benefited from a very generous 'restricted capital grant' donation from a benefactor. This allows us to complete the replacement of the mobile clinic fleet in 2024 and to upgrade the Inchicore premises with new cost-saving eco measures, including solar panels and insulation. The donation made a positive impact on our income last year, but it is non-operational income. The challenge now is to identify new sources of operational funds as our cost base grows to ensure we run an efficient service and maintain a healthy level of reserves.

The Charity also benefits from legacies over the years for which we are very grateful but unfortunately this is never guaranteed from one year to the next. We are constantly promoting for gifts left in a will to help sustain our services.

In order to improve our operations management we have hired a Chief Operations Officer, Mary Flood as the Charity's governance and compliance requirements increased considerably in recent years. We wish her well and she will be a huge benefit in ensuring continued compliance with The Charities Regulator's requirements.

Next year, the 80th anniversary of the Charity will provide an opportunity for us to garner even more support, and we will be launching our Strategy 2025-2030. You will learn more about our Strategy in this Report. A big feature will be spreading our work further afield with educational videos and extra resources.

Since last year and at this year's AGM, we welcome a new Director to our Board, Ian Cummins, whose depth of knowledge in digital media will be an enormous asset to our Communications subcommittee and our Fundraising team. He replaces Claire Smith, who resigned from the committee last year. We are very grateful for her contributions, commitment and benefit of her expertise while she was a Director.

All that we achieved in 2023 would not have been possible without the hard work of our small core management team along with the Board of Directors and its subcommittees, which ensure the Charity meets all its governance and statutory obligations and requirements.

To each of you who helped us achieve success again last year, thank you. We invite you to continue supporting our Charity's amazing work. Let's spread the word to ensure a bright future for The Irish Blue Cross and the pet communities we serve.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Declan Duggan'.

Declan Duggan
Chair
The Irish Blue Cross

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christina Conneely'.

Christina Conneely
CEO
The Irish Blue Cross

Objectives & Activities

Vision Statement

The vision of The Irish Blue Cross is that care is provided for every animal and all pets should enjoy a healthy life despite the financial circumstances of their owners.

Mission Statement

The mission of The Irish Blue Cross is to offer affordable veterinary care to eligible owners; promote welfare and responsible pet ownership; and alleviate the suffering of animals through veterinary clinics and equine ambulances.

Objectives

The core objective of the Charity's Strategy is to continue to offer and develop veterinary services for the least well-off domestic pet owners who cannot afford private veterinary care and to more broadly support animal welfare. This is being achieved through our Inchicore Veterinary Clinic, our ten mobile veterinary locations in Dublin and through new initiatives.

Under our new upcoming 2025-2030 Strategy "Building on Our Strengths" our focus, over the next 5 years, will concentrate on,

- ✓ Delivering a broad pragmatic veterinary service to reach more pets
- ✓ Extending pet welfare through new initiatives
- ✓ Informing and educating nationally on the responsibilities and benefits of pet ownership; and
- ✓ Maintaining the horse ambulance service which attends all Irish race meetings and main equestrian events

These objectives are dependent on availability of adequate funding and are based on maintaining high welfare standards at all levels.

Four Pillars for Sustainability

Our new Strategy, "Building on Our Strengths" (2025 – 2030) coincides with the Charity's 80th Anniversary next year, and encompasses four key pillars,

- Service Delivery
- Financial Sustainability
- Organisational Excellence
- Education & Engagement

An overarching aim is to ensure the Charity develops and maintains its valued services for pets in the community and looks at new ways to help more pets. Fundamental to the success of this is identifying partnerships, stakeholders and funders to work closely with on our journey to create opportunities for growth and development and a sustainable future for the Charity.

We will continue development of staff talent and equip our veterinary teams with the resources to carry out their work. In addition, we aim to provide excellent clinical facilities for maintaining high standards of patient care.

The strategy is dynamic and flexible and is reviewed on a regular basis to achieve the best possible outcomes to:

- ✓ deliver pragmatic vet animal care to our communities;
- ✓ continuously improve our services and capabilities;
- ✓ create long term value to ensure long term sustainability

The management team works closely with the Board in delivering this strategy and its objectives. Delivery of the strategy is in line with our core values, and in line with the expectations of a registered Irish Charity.

Our Patients

In 2023, our veterinary teams assisted thousands of patients with varying conditions and requirements attending our clinics throughout Dublin. Pets mainly received medical intervention at our clinics.

However, in 2023, more dogs were microchipped than in previous years. Our veterinary teams not only watch out for pets' health, but for owners too, to help them meet their legal obligations – having a microchipping certificate to prove a pet is registered is just one of many.



Ivy attended our Whitehall Mobile Clinic

Puppy Ivy, pictured above, is an American bulldog cross. On this occasion she was brought to our Whitehall mobile clinic to receive her second vaccination. She was also microchipped by our vet, Sophie.

Going forward in 2024, owners of XL Bully type dogs will have to comply with a range of requirements to qualify for a Certificate of Exemption to legally own their pets. This is because of a newly introduced legislative ban on the XL Bully type dogs, the first of its kind in Ireland. Our teams have begun advising owners of the requirements to ensure their XL Bully type dogs are microchipped and neutered by the designated date. We will continue to care for these pets in the same way as we do for all of our patients.



Tess, a patient at our Inchicore Clinic

Tess, pictured above, is just one of many older patients attending our Inchicore clinic for regular check-ups.

Tess is being treated for diabetes which is one of the most serious health risks for dogs. It is incurable and eventually can cause cataracts and blindness.

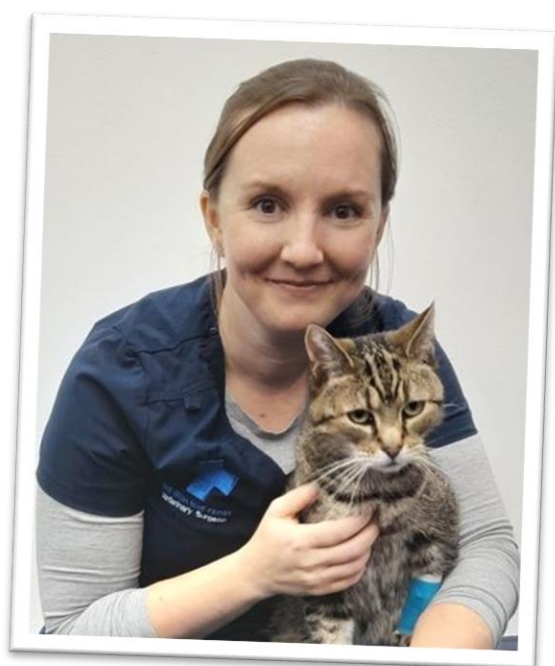
Diabetes requires careful management by pet owners to have a good understanding and awareness of the disease and the supports available from their vets.

Responsible pet ownership is central to the approach taken by the veterinary teams at The Irish Blue Cross to ensure that pet owners understand the importance of diet, exercise and veterinary care for their pets.

Our People

In 2023, our Charity and our teams continued to face challenges in a sector with ever increasing emphasis on compliance, competition for raising funds, and working with animals which can be both rewarding and stressful for workers.

During times of recruitment for key roles, we focus on hiring talented and skilled staff with experience in team management, policies and procedures development. Throughout 2023, as part of our staff and volunteer recruitment process, training and reviews, we operated in line with our core values ensuring that everyone was treated equally, fairly and with respect. New policies embracing diversity and inclusion, flexibility and remote working are also part of our approach going forward to ensure staff stay engaged and feel valued.



Dr. Laura Mock, Head of Veterinary Services and Callie



Dr. Rocio Bayod, Veterinary Surgeon & Jasmin Doyle, Veterinary Services Administrative Co-Ordinator

Staff Development, Recruitment and Remuneration Policy

The Charity has a small and dedicated workforce of twenty (full time equivalent) employees, led by the Executive team as set out in Chart 2 (page 12). The Board ensures that there are adequate resources in place to recruit the best people, invest in their training, development and wellbeing, and reward them in line with relevant sectors. As a values-focused organisation, the Charity works to ensure that equality, diversity and inclusion are an integral part of what we do.

All veterinary staff undertake professional CPD courses, which are subsidised by the Charity. Key staff in finance, management and fundraising participate in professionally run courses and training sessions

provided by relevant institutions. A budget is set aside annually to fund training for all staff. Our incredibly hardworking teams enjoy a friendly, open and inclusive workplace where they are supported with HR resources in an atmosphere of respect and professionalism. Salary reviews are carried out annually by the NERCO Committee.

Our Staff and their work

In 2023, the Head of Veterinary Services and dedicated clinical team worked hard to provide a diverse range of procedures including bloods, consultations, heart scans, tests, treatments, ultrasound, vaccinations and x-rays. The level of work undertaken is presented in Table 2 (page 14).

The team gave priority, care, and attention to clients whose pets needed it the most.

The team placed emphasis on preventative care e.g., vaccinations, neutering and microchipping. The introduction of an automated reminder system improved the uptake on vaccinations last year. 2023 also reflected a year of a very low level of parvo virus cases presenting at the Inchicore clinic, which was very positive.

The Charity’s Management Team manages the working relationship with Horse Racing Ireland and the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board. It ensures that the horse ambulance service meets its objectives and is funded adequately through regular service income and grants, including grants for regular equipment replacements.

In 2023, client and supporter communication were based on preference and consent, in line with GDPR regulations.

Our team included 20 staff (full-time equivalent) in management, marketing/fundraising, and service provision. In 2023 the Charity succeeded in filling two key roles, the Head of Veterinary Services and a new role of Chief Operations Officer, in a very competitive recruitment sector. The new staff are a major boost to the Charity’s management team and its structure.

The efforts of our frontline, administrative and fundraising teams were key to the Charity’s performance during the year. Success was underpinned with regular reviews and updates between management and the Board to guide the decision making of the Charity. The Directors acknowledge the extraordinary input and dedication of staff involved in our main service areas: the Inchicore Clinic and Mobile Clinics, Horse Ambulance Service and Fundraising.

Our Volunteers

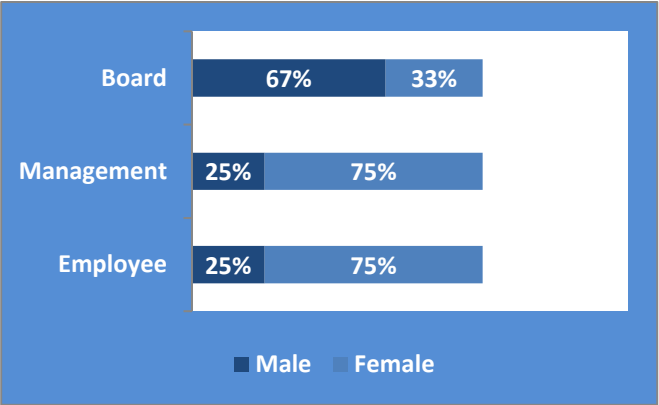
There were 70 volunteers actively engaged in our activities, across fundraising and provision of services in 2023 (2022: 49 volunteers). This included 6 veterinary students on work experience.

Our Mobile Clinic drivers, once again, gave amazing support during last year. Their high level of dedication meant that the Charity provided 477 (2022: 482) mobile clinic services across 10 Dublin communities, including, Ballyfermot, Blanchardstown, Ballybrack, Cabra, Crumlin, Finglas, Smithfield, Tallaght, Walkinstown and Whitehall. In addition, we held 3 microchipping clinics in partnership with Maxi Zoo.

Gender Diversity

The Board of The Irish Blue Cross recognise the importance of gender diversity in the Charity, and the focus our stakeholders place on this, particularly in relation to Board composition. A view of the Charity’s gender diversity across the Board, Management and Staff is set out below.

Chart 1: Gender



Our Core Values and What They Mean

The core values of The Irish Blue Cross are communicated to our employees through regular reviews. These are:

- ✓ **Integrity.** We act in an ethical, transparent, and honourable way;
- ✓ **Dynamic.** We are ambitious and optimistic, striving for success;
- ✓ **Responsible.** We are proud of our professionalism and hold ourselves accountable for the work we do;

- ✓ **Fair and Reasonable.** We aim to be consistent and treat everyone equally and;
- ✓ **Compassionate.** We believe in showing respect and kindness and we aim to be supportive and caring in all that we do

Structure, Governance and Management

2023 (1 January – 31 December) The Irish Blue Cross CLG, (Co. Reg. No. 637671; RCN 20203128, CHY No. 22274).

Governance

There were eight Directors serving on the Board of The Irish Blue Cross as at the 31 December 2023, and one Director who stepped down during the year. Directors serve on the Board and its sub-Committees, which are:

- ✓ **Finance, Audit and Risk (FARCO)** is responsible for reviewing the adequacy of the governance, risk management and internal control processes within the Charity, reporting any concerns and issues to the Board, as well as monitoring the integrity of the Charity's financial statements and the significant financial reporting judgements contained in them;

- ✓ **Services Delivery (SEDCO)** is responsible for overseeing the delivery of all services to clients, whether in respect of small animals or the horse ambulance or others;
- ✓ **Nominations, Employment and Remuneration (NERCO)** is responsible for ensuring that the Board is properly resourced with the Directors needed to fulfil their responsibilities in accordance with law; and ensuring that the Charity has in place effective employment arrangements for Staff which maximise job satisfaction & employee welfare whilst containing employment costs within its means; and
- ✓ **Marketing and Fundraising (COMMS)** is responsible for considering all matters relating to the key commercial and income generating marketing and external communications activities of the Charity. It is the intent for meetings to be collaborative, high energy, constructively challenging and supportive.

Our Board and its work

During 2023 the Board met quarterly and on one other occasion to approve the Directors Report and Financial Statements 2022. The sub-Committees convened at least on a quarterly basis and as required to carry out their responsibilities. In 2023, the Board remained committed to governing and managing the Charity to the highest standards of integrity and accountability.

The Board defines the Charity's vision, mission and values; sets out and reviews the long-term strategic plan; continues to establish policies and procedures to meet governance requirements; develops a risk management infrastructure; and oversees the use of its

financial and other resources in pursuit of the Charity's objectives and long-term sustainability.

The Board and its sub-Committees reviewed the Strategy with management in 2023. Several Directors undertook Diversity and Inclusion training in the last 2 years, provided by the Carmichael Centre and organised through Horse Racing Ireland's training division, Equip.

Directors and Secretary

Recruitment of Directors is the responsibility of NERCO, assisted by the Chair and CEO and can involve recommendations from existing Board members or recruitment through professional bodies, such as Boardmatch Ireland and Volunteer Ireland.

The Charity uses a talent matrix to identify any gaps in the makeup of the Board and to highlight those skills and experience required to continue its development.

New Directors are appointed following Board approval and hold office until the next AGM at which they are eligible for re-election.

A list of Directors, their tenure, Board sub-Committee membership and attendance are set out in Table 1 (below).

In accordance with the Charity's Constitution, at our (fourth) AGM held in 2023 the three longest serving sitting Directors were required to resign, and being eligible, sought re-election. Three Directors will retire by rotation on an annual basis and shall be eligible for re-election.

The Company Secretary who served throughout the financial period was Robert Moynihan.

Table 1: List of Directors and Board sub-Committee Membership 2023

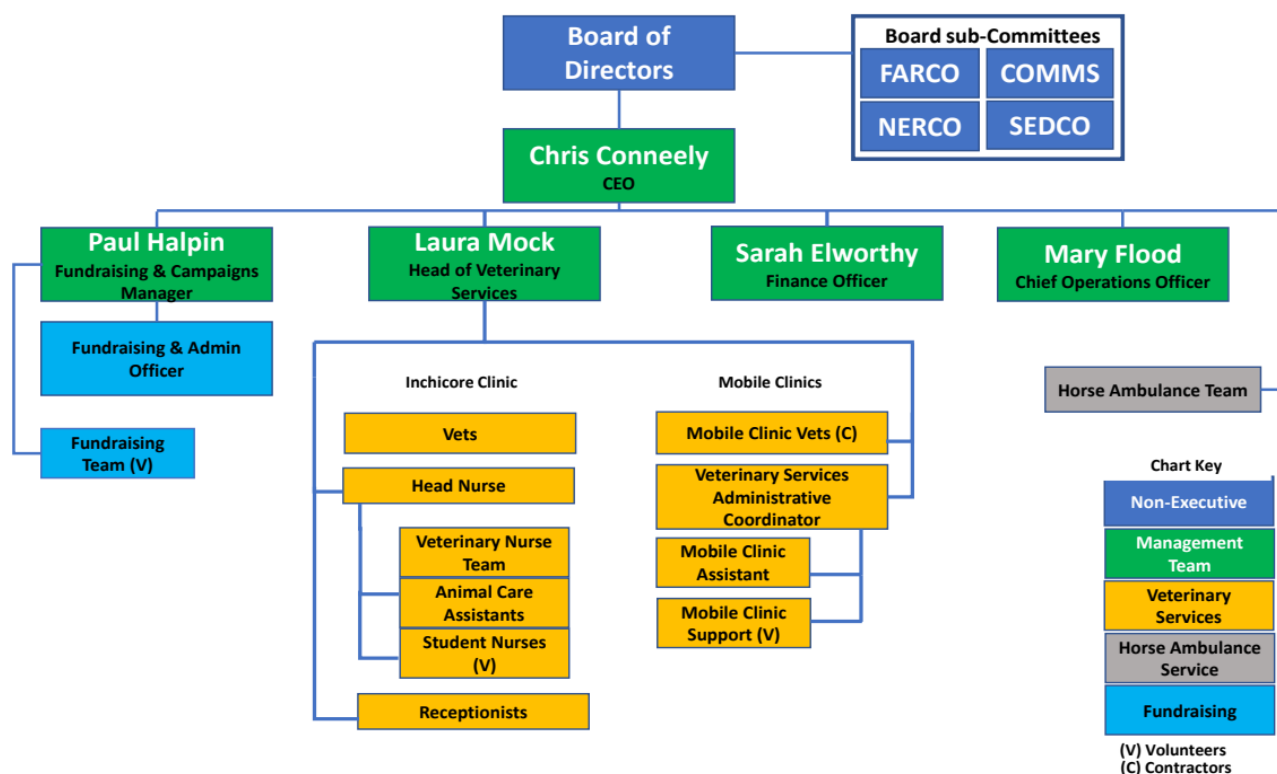
Director	Notes	Tenure ¹	Board		FARCO		SEDCO ²		NERCO		COMMS ²	
			M	A	M	A	M	A	M	A	M	A
Declan Duggan	Chair	4.8 yrs	✓	$\frac{5}{5}$			✓	$\frac{4}{4}$	✓	$\frac{4}{4}$	✓	$\frac{4}{4}$
John Costello MVB, MRCVS	Vice Chair	4.8 yrs	✓	$\frac{5}{5}$			✓ *	$\frac{4}{4}$	✓	$\frac{3}{4}$		
Robert Moynihan QFA	Company Secretary	4.8 yrs	✓	$\frac{5}{5}$	✓	$\frac{4}{5}$			✓*	$\frac{4}{4}$		
Zair Berry FCA		4.8 yrs	✓	$\frac{5}{5}$	✓	$\frac{4}{5}$						
Wayne Brooks ACMA, CGMA		4.8 yrs	✓	$\frac{5}{5}$	✓*	$\frac{5}{5}$						
Christina Lonergan		1.1 yrs	✓	$\frac{4}{5}$					✓	$\frac{4}{4}$		
Gary O'Sullivan Solicitor - England and Wales		4.8 yrs	✓	$\frac{4}{5}$	✓	$\frac{3}{5}$			✓*	$\frac{4}{4}$		
The Hon. Fleur Roper-Curzon		4.8 yrs	✓	$\frac{5}{5}$							✓*	$\frac{4}{4}$
Claire Smith (resigned 27.6.23)		3.6 yrs	✓	$\frac{0}{2}$							✓	$\frac{0}{2}$

Key: * = Chair of Board sub-Committee, M = Member; A = Attendance, reported as $\frac{x}{y}$ where x is attendance & y is the number of meetings held.

Note 1: Tenure is calculated from the formation of The Irish Blue Cross CLG and does not count time in the prior trust.

Note 2: Two committees have members who are not Directors - SEDCO (Andrea Gallagher) and COMMS (Miriam Cunningham). These volunteer members provide additional guidance and expertise to support the Charity's activities.

Chart 2: Organisational Structure



Funding & Other Supports

Support from Government and Local Authorities

The Irish Blue Cross receives vital annual grant assistance from central and local government for the provision of its veterinary and welfare services. In 2023, The Department of Agriculture, Food and The Marine generously contributed to the Charity under their Animal Welfare Grants scheme.

We are extremely grateful for this and for other funding received from the Department of Rural and Community Development; Dublin City Council; Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council; South Dublin County Council and Fingal County Council.

The Charity is also grateful for once-off funding it received in 2023 under the Government Temporary Business Energy Support Scheme.

Support from the Horse Racing Industry

The Irish Blue Cross is also extremely grateful for the funding it receives from Horse Racing Ireland for operating the horse ambulance service at race meetings. We work closely with them and The Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board to support good equine welfare at all Irish Racecourses each year.

Support from within the Charity Sector

Throughout 2023, there was continued training and support provided for charities and community groups by The Wheel and The Charities Institute. They continued to work closely with government to secure a brighter future for the sector. The Charities Regulator was also on hand with supports and guidance on governance and other areas in 2023. Blue Cross (UK) also provided practical support and advice.

Support from the wider Community

In 2023 many Irish businesses and individuals once again donated prizes and gift vouchers for our Easter Raffle which continued to be a great success in raising funds for services as well as our annual Bark in the Park events.

During the year, there was strong support from corporates and trusts including the Brownlee Trust, Community Foundation, Data Arch, EI Electronics, Stelios Foundation, Google, PayPal Giving, Maxi Zoo and others.

In 2023, the Charity benefitted from a very generous 'restricted capital grant' donation from an overseas benefactor, under the Immigrant Investor Programme. This will transform our mobile veterinary services allowing us to complete replacement of the fleet in 2024 and to upgrade the Inchicore premises with new cost-saving eco measures, including solar panels and insulation.



Paul Halpin, Campaigns and Fundraising Manager

Many new on-line supporters responded to our campaigns in 2023 donating generously, which made all the difference in keeping our services going.

Through our social media posts, infographics, and videos we covered a broad range of educational topics on responsible pet ownership. We reached 291,542 people via Facebook, 19,200 via Instagram, and a further 217,306 through sponsored posts on these platforms. We also reached approximately 15,000 people on Twitter.

Review of Achievements and Performance

In 2023, our veterinary teams cared for sick and injured pets (dogs and cats) presenting with a range of conditions, relating to skin, heart, age, allergies, tumours, injuries, cancer and other life-threatening conditions.

Our clinics are for owners in receipt of means tested benefits who have no other reasonable option for vet care and rely heavily on the Charity.

The Inchicore Clinic team provided treatments, consultations, bloods and other tests, x-rays, ultrasound, etc. totalling 10,465 (2022: 11,318).

There was an increased level of activity across several areas. More pets were neutered, more dental care was delivered and there was a significantly higher uptake in the number of pets microchipped. There was a consistently high number of pets receiving surgery, x-rays, ultrasound, and post-operative care.

In 2023, our mobile clinic teams treated 2,492 pets (2022: 2,382) and vaccinated a further 2,335 pets (2022: 2,527). This represented a total of 4,827 (2022: 4,909) visitations at the mobile clinics.

The mobile veterinary clinics continue to operate on an appointments basis and our teams provided a total 477 mobile clinics last year (2022: 482).

The Small-Animal Services Metrics set out in Table 2 (Page 14) shows the small-animal veterinary service levels for the 12-month period, 1 January to 31 December 2023 with comparisons for 2022.

The Inchicore Clinic which operates by appointment from 7.30am - 7pm Monday to Friday, and from 9.00am – 1.00pm on Saturdays saw a total of 4,903 patients in 2023.

The emphasis is on providing a more pragmatic service, which is affordable for eligible and means-tested pet owners who are required to register as clients.

Table 2: Small Animal Services Metrics

Achievements from our Small Animal Services:	Jan - Dec 2023	Jan - Dec 2022
Mobile Clinics		
Treatments & Vaccinations	4,827	4,909
Inchicore Small-Animal Clinic		
Neuters	373	352
Vaccinations	221	214
Microchipping	173	116
Dentals	292	238
Surgeries, x-rays, Ultrasound	1,060	1,127
Euthanasia	310	333
Post- operative care	1,072	909
Day procedure	77	
Consultations	3,857	4,623
Hospitalisations	320	354
Laboratory/bloods/biochemistry tests	2,710	3,052
Total	10,465	11,318
Grand Total	15,292	16,227



Our Horse Ambulance fleet is fully funded through Horse Racing Ireland. The fleet is replaced on a rolling basis every 4 to 5 years.

Each year, The Irish Blue Cross horse ambulance service supports the busy on-duty veterinary surgeons at all twenty-four Irish race meetings, north and south and attends main equestrian events. In 2023, our ambulance team were in attendance at 388 race meetings, providing a total of 433 (2022: 434) service days (some meetings requiring more than one operator) to cover those meetings over the twelve-month period.

Our team was present at the RDS Horse Show 5-day event which was back on the calendar in 2023 and at the Tattersalls International Horse Trials, Mill Street for 3 days as well as Tattersalls Breeze Ups held at Fairyhouse on 2 days.

In addition, our service was present for 16 schoolings held at Fairyhouse, Leopardstown, Naas, Navan, Tipperary, Thurles Racecourses, and for 2 barrier trials held at Dundalk Racecourse. The service also transferred 12 equines to the Irish Equine Centre for post-mortems.

The Irish Blue Cross is proud of its longstanding partnership with Horse Racing Ireland, the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board and The Irish Racecourse Trainers Association.

Annually, Horse Racing Ireland provides The Irish Blue Cross with service income, operational and capital grants for running the service.

In 2023, HRI agreed to fund the complete replacement of the horse ambulance units which will be completed in 2024. The new units are being produced by an Irish based supplier identified by the Charity.

The Charity also receives a small fund from The Irish Racehorse Trainers Association and a donation from the Association of Irish Racecourse Veterinary Surgeons.

Financial Review

The fourth full year of trading of The Irish Blue Cross CLG, as laid out in the Financial Accounts, was 1 January – 31 December 2023. The comparative figures given are for a 12-month period ending 31 December 2022.

The results for the financial period are set out on pages 24 and 25 additional notes are provided showing income and expenditure in greater detail.

Income

With the backdrop of strong support, The Irish Blue Cross successfully maintained the running of all its services in 2023. This was made possible from the continued support of government bodies, legacies, other supporters and new initiatives.

The overall income for the twelve-month period from 1 January to 31 December was €2,291,513 (2022: €2,087,255).

Statutory income and legacies were strong again in 2023. Service income from the Inchicore Clinic and the Mobile Clinics were also strong.

Expenditure

The overall expenditure for the twelve months to 31 December was €1,693,830 (2022: €1,632,415). This was essential for the provision of the Charity's veterinary and welfare services and the support required to deliver them. The main categories of expenditure relate to veterinary/staff costs, medical supplies, fleet and maintenance as shown in the Restricted and Unrestricted Expenditure Section on page 24.

Financial Results

The surplus for the 12-month period to 31 December 2023 was €597,683 and was transferred to reserves (2022: €454,840). At the end of the financial period the Charity has Fixed Assets of €1,099,927 (2022: €1,186,623), Current Assets of €2,692,621 (2022: €1,911,573) and Liabilities of €248,295 (2022: €151,626). The total funds of the Charity amounted to €3,544,253 (2022: €2,946,570). Directors were satisfied with the level of reserves at the end of the financial year.

Reserves, Liquidity & Investment Policy

The Charity's Reserves, Liquidity & Investment Policy is set by FARCO and approved by the Board of Directors annually. It allows for regular review; careful management and adequacy of reserves to protect the viability and operations of the Charity.

In 2023, the Reserves, Liquidity & Investment Policy stated that should bank balances fall below 6 months of operational budgeted expenditure (excluding depreciation) plus committed capital expenditure there would be heightened monitoring by the CEO and Finance Officer. In a scenario where bank balances fall below 4 months of budgeted expenditure (excluding depreciation) plus committed capital expenditure, then FARCO would notify the Board to review the Charity's financial position without delay. Under this policy, the Charity operated above its minimum level of reserves during all of 2023.

The Charity's bank balances on 31 December 2023, were €2,233,890 when compared to 6 months of budgeted operational expenditure (Jul - Dec 23) €867,522 plus committed capital expenditure €428,485 (*this relates to IIP funding for 2 new mobile veterinary clinics and upgrading the Inchicore Clinic*), totalling €1,296,007.

The bank balances did not fall below the requirement under our Minimum Reserves Policy, so therefore no heightened monitoring nor action was needed.

In the interests of maximising capital security, all investments are held with either of the two main bank (AIB, Bank of Ireland). During 2023 bank deposit interest rates started to recover. The option for improved returns on deposits was taken up by the Charity in early 2024.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Charity has defined a risk management approach to protect it from negative events where possible, by reducing the likelihood of each risk occurring and minimising the impact of each risk where possible.

The Irish Blue Cross has established a risk register to support it in identifying and evaluating key risks the Charity faces, supporting management in effectively managing all of the risks within the Charity. Due to the nature of risk management, the risk register is dynamic and will evolve over time as risk management increasingly matures in The Irish Blue Cross.

In completing the risk register, an assessment of risk occurs considering at a minimum the likelihood and impact of the risk, and the effectiveness of controls in place to mitigate these risks. The Charity takes a risk-based approach to risk response, which may include heightened monitoring or specific actions to close control gaps.

FARCO is primarily responsible for the oversight of the risk register, noting specific risks may have been allocated to other committees based on their terms of reference.

The primary risks facing the Charity are:

1. **Compliance risk**, arising primarily from the nature of our services and the need to meet robust Veterinary Council of Ireland standards at all times. Compliance with the Charities Regulator Governance Code and GDPR compliance are regularly monitored under our risk register. In addition the Charity has specific obligations relating to its role as an employer to ensure employment practices are consistent with legal requirements.
2. **Operational risk**, arising primarily through the delivery of our services both in our main Inchicore clinic and mobile clinics, relating to business continuity; public safety and security; and risks specific to maintaining our ageing mobile clinic fleet which is a key part of our strategy.
3. **Financial risk**, arising primarily through the variable nature of fundraising in an increasingly competitive environment with rising costs and inflation which may impact on the financial strength of the Charity and delivery of our charitable purpose.
4. **Environmental risk**, arising primarily through factors outside the Charity's control including demand for our services, economic challenges, as well as on-going and more common adverse weather conditions.
5. **Reputational risk**, arising primarily through the impact of negative social media or other sources and the effect this may have on The Irish Blue Cross brand, its funding, resourcing, and client demand.

For all of the above risks, the CEO or a member of the wider management team have been appointed as responsible for overseeing the risk on a day-to-day basis, with the support of relevant Board sub-Committees and the Board itself. Mitigants employed include documented procedures and controls, initial and ongoing training, as well as regular monitoring and oversight routines.

Specific to Health and Safety, The Irish Blue Cross Health and Safety Statement is updated on a regular basis by management and was last professionally reviewed by Qualtec Training and Consulting in May 2021.

Reference and Administrative Details

Compliance with Sector-wide Legislation and Standards

The Irish Blue Cross engages proactively with the legislation, standards and codes that apply to the sector. The Charity is compliant with the Companies Act 2014 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

During 2023, the Board and Executive worked closely on compliance with the Charities Regulator's Charities Governance Code and the charity's continued compliance in October 2023.

Compliance with Guiding Principles for Fundraising

The Irish Blue Cross is compliant with the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising. The Charity's Donor Charter is consistent with this Statement, which it considers when planning all fundraising activity.

The Charity gives honest, open and transparent disclosure when raising funds from the public. It ensures that fundraising staff have the information and training they need to implement the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising. All donations are tracked and recorded in compliance with data protection (GDPR) requirements, in this and all other areas.

Taxation Status

No charge to current or deferred taxation arises as the Charity has been granted charitable status under Sections 207 and 208 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, Charity No CHY 22274. The Charity is eligible under the "Scheme of Tax Relief for Donations to Eligible Charities and Approved Bodies under Section 848A Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997". Income tax refunds arising from donations exceeding €250 per annum are included in unrestricted funds.

Irrecoverable value added tax is expended as incurred, however the Government has introduced a Value Added Tax ("VAT") Compensation Scheme for Charities which aim to reduce the VAT burden on charities and to partially compensate them for VAT paid.

The scheme applies to VAT paid on expenditure on or after 1 January 2018. Charities are entitled to claim a refund of a proportion of their VAT costs based on their level of non-public funding.

Bankers

Our bankers are Bank of Ireland, 177 Drimnagh Road, Walkinstown, Dublin, D12 RX01 and Allied Irish Bank, 7-12 Dame Street Dublin 2, D02 KX20.

Solicitors

Our solicitors are Dechert, 5 Earlsfort Terrace, Saint Kevin's, Dublin 2, D01 X5X0 and Matheson, 70 Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin Docklands, Dublin 2, D02 R296.

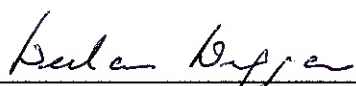
Auditors

Our auditors are Leonard Accountancy Ltd, Chartered Certified Accountants, P/A Leonard and Co., Unit 5D, Nutgrove Office Park, Unit D5, Dublin 14, D14 X343. They have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

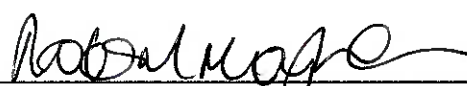
Accounting Records

To ensure that adequate accounting records are kept in accordance with Sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014, the Directors have employed appropriately qualified accounting personnel and have maintained appropriate computerised accounting systems. The accounting records are located at the company's office at 15A Goldenbridge Industrial Estate, Tyrconnell Road, Inchicore, Dublin 8.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 21 August 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Declan Duggan - Chair
Director



Robert Moynihan - Co. Secretary
Director

The Irish Blue Cross CLG

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and applicable regulations.

Irish company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law the Directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council. Under company law, the Directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the charity as at the financial year end date and of the net income or expenditure of the charity for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the Directors are required to:

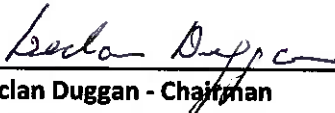
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

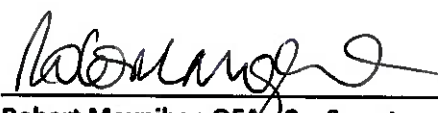
The Directors confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The Directors are responsible for ensuring that the charity keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the charity, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and net income or expenditure of the charity to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and the Directors' Annual Report comply with Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the Republic of Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 21 August 2024 and signed on its behalf by:


Declan Duggan - Chairman
Director


Robert Moynihan QFA - Co. Secretary
Director

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the Members of The Irish Blue Cross CLG

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the charity financial statements of The Irish Blue Cross CLG ('the Charity') for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Charity as at 31 December 2023 and of its surplus for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described below in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report.

We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the Members of The Irish Blue Cross CLG

Other Information

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- in our opinion, the information given in the Directors' Annual Report is consistent with the financial statements;
- in our opinion, the Directors' Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014; and
- the accounting records of the charity were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the Directors' Annual Report. The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of Directors' remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not complied with by the charity. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of Directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 19, the Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the Members of The Irish Blue Cross CLG

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Further information regarding the scope of our responsibilities as auditor

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by Directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditor's Report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditor's Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT to the Members of The Irish Blue Cross CLG

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Keith M. Mooney

for and on behalf of

LEONARD ACCOUNTANCY LTD

Chartered Certified Accountants and Statutory Auditors

P/A Leonard & Company

Unit D5, Nutgrove Office Park

Dublin 14

D14 X343

21.8.2024

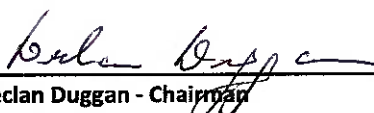
.....

The Irish Blue Cross CLG
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted Funds 2023 €	Restricted Funds 2023 €	Total Funds 2023 €	Unrestricted Funds 2022 €	Restricted Funds 2022 €	Total Funds 2022 €
	Notes						
Income							
Donations and legacies	3.1	345,800	523,620	869,420	538,208	6,350	544,558
Charitable activities	3.2	1,422,093	-	1,422,093	1,384,258	158,439	1,542,697
Total incoming resources		1,767,893	523,620	2,291,513	1,922,466	164,789	2,087,255
Expenditure							
Raising funds	4.1	187,726	16,571	204,297	208,257	-	208,257
Charitable activities	4.2	1,456,563	32,970	1,489,533	1,413,355	10,803	1,424,158
Total Expenditure		1,644,289	49,541	1,693,830	1,621,612	10,803	1,632,415
Net income/(expenditure)		123,604	474,079	597,683	300,854	153,986	454,840
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the financial year		123,604	474,079	597,683	300,854	153,986	454,840
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds beginning of the year	15	2,679,598	266,972	2,946,570	2,378,744	112,986	2,491,730
Total funds at the end of the year		2,803,202	741,051	3,544,253	2,679,598	266,972	2,946,570

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the financial year.
All income and expenditure relate to continuing activities.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 21 August 2024 and signed on its behalf by:


Declan Duggan - Chairman
Director


Robert Moynihan QFA - Co. Secretary
Director

The Irish Blue Cross CLG
BALANCE SHEET
as at 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 €	2022 €
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	8	<u>1,099,927</u>	<u>1,186,623</u>
Current Assets			
Stocks	9	60,347	60,690
Debtors	10	398,384	98,413
Cash at bank and in hand	11	<u>2,233,890</u>	<u>1,752,470</u>
		<u>2,692,621</u>	<u>1,911,573</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>(248,295)</u>	<u>(151,626)</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>2,444,326</u>	<u>1,759,947</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<u><u>3,544,253</u></u>	<u><u>2,946,570</u></u>
Funds			
Restricted funds		741,051	266,972
General fund (unrestricted)		<u>2,803,202</u>	<u>2,679,598</u>
Total funds	15	<u><u>3,544,253</u></u>	<u><u>2,946,570</u></u>

Approved by the Board of Directors on 21 August 2024 and signed on its behalf by:


Declan Duggan - Chairman
Director


Robert Moynihan QFA - Co. Secretary
Director

The Irish Blue Cross CLG

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 €	2022 €
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net movement in funds		597,683	454,840
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation		90,663	75,079
		<u>688,346</u>	<u>529,919</u>
Movements in working capital:			
Movement in stocks		343	(24,658)
Movement in debtors	10	(299,971)	119,195
Movement in creditors		96,669	7,988
		<u>485,387</u>	<u>632,444</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments to acquire tangible assets		(3,967)	(83,540)
Donation in kind of tangible asset	15.2	-	(89,929)
		<u>(3,967)</u>	<u>(173,469)</u>
Net cash used in investment activities			
		<u>481,420</u>	<u>458,975</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,752,470	1,293,495
		<u>2,233,890</u>	<u>1,752,470</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	11	2,233,890	1,752,470

The Irish Blue Cross CLG

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Irish Blue Cross CLG is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in Ireland. The registered office of the company is 15A Goldenbridge Ind Est., Tyrconnell Road, Inchicore, Dublin 8, D08 EY92 which is also the principal place of business of the Charity. The financial statements have been presented in Euro (€) which is also the functional currency of the charity.

The Irish Blue Cross commenced charitable activities on 1 March 2019, prior to that date the charitable activities were carried on by the old Irish Blue Cross Charitable Trust. All the assets, liabilities and undertakings of the old trust were transferred to the new Irish Blue Cross with effect 1 March 2019.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's financial statements.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102".

The Charity has applied the Charities SORP on a voluntary basis as its application is not a requirement of the current regulations for charities registered in the Republic of Ireland. As permitted by the Companies Act 2014, the charity has varied the standard formats in that act for the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet. Departures from the standard formats, as outlined in the Companies Act 2014, are to comply with the requirements of the Charities SORP and are in compliance with section 4.7, 10.6 and 15.2 of that SORP.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements of the charity for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102".

Fund accounting

The following are the categories of funds maintained:

Restricted funds

Restricted funds represent income received which can only be used for particular purposes, as specified by the donors. Such purposes are within the overall objectives of the Charity.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds consist of General and Designated funds.

- General funds represent amounts which are expendable at the discretion of the Board, in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.
- Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that the Board has, at its discretion, set aside for particular purposes. These designations have an administrative purpose only, and do not legally restrict the Board's discretion to apply the fund.

The Irish Blue Cross CLG

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Income

Income is recognised by inclusion in the Statement of Financial Activities only when the charity is legally entitled to the income, performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, the amounts involved can be measured with sufficient reliability and it is probable that the income will be received by the charity. Income includes donations, gifts, legacies, donated goods and services, income from grant funding and from the Charity's small-animal veterinary and horse ambulance services.

Income from Donations

Donations income arises primarily from a variety of fundraising activities including direct mail, the Easter raffle, online campaigns, events and from supporters. Donations received in the financial year ended 31 December 2023 included but were not limited to cash, cheques, postal orders, standing orders, direct debits, direct lodgements, credit card transactions via Elavon and also came through Benevity, iDonate, LIKE CHARITY, PayPal and PayPal Giving Fund, JustGiving, Facebook, SumUp and through our website via Stripe.

Income from charitable activities

Income from charitable activities includes income earned from the supply of goods and services under contractual arrangements. These include the Charity's small-animal veterinary and horse ambulance services. It also includes performance related grants which have conditions that specify the provision of particular services to be provided by The Irish Blue Cross. Income from government and other co-funders is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to the income because it is fulfilling the conditions contained in the related funding agreements. Where a grant is received in advance, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, it is accrued in debtors.

Grants from governments and other co-funders typically include one of the following types of conditions:

- Performance based conditions: whereby the Charity is contractually entitled to funding only to the extent that the core objectives of the grant agreement are achieved. Where the Charity is meeting the core objectives of a grant agreement, it recognises the related expenditure, to the extent that it is reimbursable by the donor, as income.
- Time based conditions: whereby the Charity is contractually entitled to funding on the condition that it is utilised in a particular period. In these cases the Charity recognises the income to the extent it is utilised within the period specified in the agreement.

In the absence of such conditions, assuming that receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured, grant income is recognised once the charity is notified of entitlement.

Grants received towards capital expenditure are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when received or receivable, whichever is earlier.

Donated goods/services

Donations in kind may take the form of goods or services provided to the charity free of charge. Where valuation can be measured with reasonable certainty, donations in kind are recognised in full as income in the year of receipt. Donations in kind are valued at the cost to the donor or the amount normally chargeable by the donor for the goods or services provided. If such a valuation is not available, reasonable prevailing market rates are used.

Volunteers time

The Charity does not attempt to put a financial value on the hours of work that it receives for free each year from its many volunteers. Therefore the accounts do not include any income or costs with respect to this time.

The Irish Blue Cross CLG

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Expenditure

Expenditure is analysed between costs of charitable activities and raising funds. The costs of each activity are separately accumulated and disclosed and analysed according to their major components. Expenditure is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists as a result of a past event, a transfer of economic benefits is required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be reliably measured.

Support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the Charity but cannot be attributed to one activity. Such costs are allocated to activities in proportion to staff time and head count spent for each activity.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or at valuation, less accumulated depreciation. The charge to depreciation is calculated to write off the original cost or valuation of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives as follows:

Land and buildings freehold	- 2% Straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 10% / 20% / 33% Straight line
Motor vehicles	- 20% Straight line

Stock

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving items. Stocks comprise drugs and related products. It is not considered practicable to value stock of unsold donated goods at the financial year end.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due. Income recognised by the charity from government agencies and other co-funders, but not yet received at financial year end, is included in debtors.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand comprises cash on deposit at banks requiring less than three months' notice of withdrawal.

Taxation and deferred taxation

No current or deferred taxation arises as the Charity has been granted charitable exemption. Irrecoverable valued added tax is expensed as incurred.

The Irish Blue Cross CLG is eligible under the "Scheme of Tax Relief for Donations to Eligible Charities and Approved Bodies under Section 848A Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997". Income tax refunds arising from donations exceeding €250 per annum are included in unrestricted funds. Irrecoverable value added tax is expensed as incurred, however the Irish Government has introduced a Value Added Tax (VAT) Compensation Scheme for Charities. This scheme aims to reduce the VAT burden on charities and to partially compensate for VAT paid by the charity. The scheme applies to VAT paid on expenditure on or after 1 January 2018. Charities are entitled to claim a refund of a proportion of their VAT costs based on their level of non-public funding.

Pensions

The Irish Blue Cross CLG operates a defined contribution pension scheme for employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity. Annual contributions payable to the Charity's pension scheme are charged to the income and expenditure account in the period to which they relate.

The Irish Blue Cross CLG

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

3. INCOME

3.1 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES	Unrestricted Funds €	Restricted Funds €	2023 €	2022 €
Donations, Gifts and Raffle	190,749	520,470	711,219	205,549
Legacies	135,252	-	135,252	302,926
Events	19,799	3,150	22,949	36,083
	<u>345,800</u>	<u>523,620</u>	<u>869,420</u>	<u>544,558</u>
3.2 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds €	Restricted Funds €	2023 €	2022 €
Inchicore Small Animal Clinic	489,320	-	489,320	462,681
Mobile Clinics	125,929	-	125,929	220,767
Horse Ambulance	264,606	-	264,606	309,755
Government Grants and other Public Funding				
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	480,313	-	480,313	480,313
Department of Rural & Community Development	32,500	-	32,500	32,500
Dublin City Council	12,500	-	12,500	22,885
South Dublin County Council	5,000	-	5,000	4,000
Fingal County Council	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council	750	-	750	900
Temporary Business Energy Support Scheme	4,082	-	4,082	-
Other				
VAT Compensation Scheme	6,093	-	6,093	7,896
	<u>1,422,093</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,422,093</u>	<u>1,542,697</u>

Included in the total income of €220,767 from the Mobile Clinics in 2022 is a non-cash amount of €89,929 which was the value of a new mobile clinic vehicle donated to the Charity.

The Irish Blue Cross CLG

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

4. EXPENDITURE

4.1 RAISING FUNDS	Direct Costs €	Support Costs €	2023 €	2022 €
Events	51,797	18,774	70,571	82,072
Donations, Gifts, Raffle & Legacies	94,697	39,029	133,726	126,185
	<u>146,494</u>	<u>57,803</u>	<u>204,297</u>	<u>208,257</u>

4.2 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Direct Costs €	Support Costs €	2023 €	2022 €
Inchicore Small Animal Clinic	827,860	119,853	947,713	875,152
Mobile Clinics	194,139	34,150	228,289	250,424
Horse Ambulance	223,448	90,083	313,531	298,582
	<u>1,245,447</u>	<u>244,086</u>	<u>1,489,533</u>	<u>1,424,158</u>

Please see note 15.2 for details of restricted expenditure.

4.3 SUPPORT COSTS

	Cost of Raising Funds €	Charitable Activities €	2023 €	2022 €
Support	57,803	244,086	301,889	246,525

5. NET INCOME

	2023 €	2022 €
Net Income is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of tangible assets	90,663	75,079
Auditor's remuneration:		
- Audit services	15,990	12,330
- Non-audit services	7,410	738

Included in the cost of €7,410 for non- audit services are costs in relation to the migration of the Charity's accounting records to a new a software model.

The Irish Blue Cross CLG

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

6. EMPLOYEES AND REMUNERATION

Number of employees

The average number of full-time equivalent persons employed during the financial year was as follows:

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
Inchicore Small Animal Clinic	12	13
Mobile Clinics	2	2
Horse Ambulance Operators	3	3
Fundraising	1	2
Administration	2	2
	20	22

The staff costs comprise:

	2023	2022
	€	€
Wages and salaries	821,016	802,846
Social security costs	85,484	86,970
Pension costs	35,934	38,452
	942,434	928,268

7. SALARY BAND

The number of employees whose total employee benefits (excluding employer social welfare and pension costs) for the reporting period fell within the bands below were:

	2023	2022
	Number of	Number of
	Employees	Employees
€70,001 - €80,000	1	2
€60,001 - €70,000	1	-

The Irish Blue Cross CLG

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land and buildings freehold €	Fixtures, fittings and equipment €	Motor vehicles €	Total €
Cost				
At 1 January 2023	1,013,148	142,781	282,311	1,438,240
Additions	1,703	2,264	-	3,967
At 31 December 2023	1,014,851	145,045	282,311	1,442,207
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2023	82,842	76,538	92,237	251,617
Charge for the financial year	19,027	24,845	46,791	90,663
At 31 December 2023	101,869	101,383	139,028	342,280
Net book value				
At 31 December 2023	912,982	43,662	143,283	1,099,927
At 31 December 2022	930,306	66,243	190,074	1,186,623

9. STOCKS

	2023 €	2022 €
Stock	60,347	60,690

Stock of drugs and related products is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

10. DEBTORS

	Note	2023 €	2022 €
Trade debtors		21,036	22,775
Legacies		114,202	1,698
Prepayments	17	240,782	63,895
Accrued Income		22,364	10,045
		398,384	98,413

Included in prepayments as at 31 December 2023 is an amount of €178,350 which represents payments on account of part of the cost of acquiring two mobile clinics, the completion of which will not happen until 2024.

The Irish Blue Cross CLG

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

11. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	2023 €	2022 €
Cash and bank balances - Unrestricted	1,360,928	1,119,508
Cash and bank balances - Restricted	487,500	37,500
Bank Deposits	385,462	595,462
	<u>2,233,890</u>	<u>1,752,470</u>

Included in the total cash and bank balances as at 31 December 2023 is €450,000 which the Charity is obligated to spend on capital projects before 31 March 2025. A significant part of this €450,000 has already been spent since 31 December 2023. See Note 15.2.

12. CREDITORS Amounts falling due within one year	2023 €	2022 €
Trade creditors	153,559	74,370
Taxation and social security costs	26,643	19,882
Other creditors	1,512	2,669
Pension accrual	5,220	1,414
Accruals	59,178	51,108
Deferred Income	2,183	2,183
	<u>248,295</u>	<u>151,626</u>

13. PENSION COSTS - DEFINED CONTRIBUTION

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund. Pension costs amounted to €35,934 (2022: €38,452).

14. STATE FUNDING

Government Department	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Grant Programme	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Animal Welfare Grant
Purpose of the Grant	Service provision/Charitable activity: Animal welfare
Term	12 months
Received/receivable in the financial year and included as income in the period	€480,313
Fund deferred	Nil
Restriction on use	Delivery of service as per annual submission

The Irish Blue Cross CLG

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Agency	Department of Rural and Community Development
Grant Programme	Animal Welfare
Purpose of the Grant	Charitable Small Animal Veterinary Services & Dog Control
Term	12 months
Received/receivable in the financial year and included as income in the period	€32,500
Fund deferred	Nil
Restriction on use	Delivery of service as per annual submission

Agency	Dublin City Council
Grant Programme	Animal Welfare
Purpose of the Grant	Charitable Small Animal Veterinary Services & Dog Control
Term	12 months
Received/receivable in the financial year and included as income in the period	€12,500
Fund deferred	Nil
Restriction on use	Delivery of service as per annual submission

Agency	South Dublin County Council
Grant Programme	Animal Welfare
Purpose of the Grant	Charitable Small Animal Veterinary Services
Term	12 months
Received/receivable in the financial year and included as income in the period	€5,000
Fund deferred	Nil
Restriction on use	Delivery of service as per annual submission

The Irish Blue Cross CLG
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Agency	Fingal County Council
Grant Programme	Animal Welfare
Purpose of the Grant	Charitable Small Animal Veterinary Services
Term	12 months
Received/receivable in the financial year and included as income in the period	€1,000
Fund deferred	Nil
Restriction on use	Delivery of service as per annual submission
Agency	Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council
Grant Programme	Animal Welfare Grant Scheme
Purpose of the Grant	Charitable Small Animal Veterinary Services
Term	12 months
Received/receivable in the financial year and included as income in the period	€750
Fund deferred	Nil
Restriction on use	Delivery of service as per annual submission

The Irish Blue Cross CLG
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Agency	Horse Racing Ireland
Grant Programme	Operational Annual Grant
Purpose of the Grant	To maintain and manage the operations of the horse ambulance service
Term	12 months
Received/receivable in the financial year and included as income in the period	€40,000
Fund deferred	Nil
Restriction on use	The grant must be spent on maintaining and managing the operations of the horse ambulance service.
Capital Grant	In addition to the operational grant above the HRI 2023 budget includes a sum of €90,000 which HRI are prepared to reimburse to the Irish Blue Cross CLG in 2024 for the acquisition of new horse ambulance units. This sum is not reflected in the 2023 financial statements.

Agency	Revenue Commissioners
Grant Programme	Temporary Business Energy Support Scheme (TBESS)
Purpose of the Grant	Support businesses impacted by the unprecedented increase in energy costs.
Received/receivable in the financial year and included as income in the period	€4,082
Fund deferred	Nil

The Irish Blue Cross CLG

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

15. FUNDS

15.1 RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds €	Restricted Funds €	Total Funds €
At 1 January 2022	2,378,744	112,986	2,491,730
Movement during the financial year	300,854	153,986	454,840
At 31 December 2022	2,679,598	266,972	2,946,570
Movement during the financial year	123,604	474,079	597,683
At 31 December 2023	2,803,202	741,051	3,544,253

15.2 ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS ON FUNDS

	Balance 1 January 2023 €	Income €	Expenditure €	Transfers between funds €	Balance 31 December 2023 €
Restricted funds					
Inchicore Small Animal Clinic	14,969	225,212	27,892	-	212,289
Mobile Clinic	194,722	298,408	10,524	-	482,606
Horse Ambulances	57,281	-	11,125	-	46,156
	<u>266,972</u>	<u>523,620</u>	<u>49,541</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>741,051</u>
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted General	2,679,598	1,767,893	1,644,289	-	2,803,202
Total funds	<u>2,946,570</u>	<u>2,291,513</u>	<u>1,693,830</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,544,253</u>

The restricted funds income includes a one-off donation from the Immigrant Investor Programme to be used towards the acquisition of new mobile clinics and development at the Inchicore Small Animal Clinic.

Mobile Clinics

The Charity's current policy in relation to the mobile clinic fleet is to firstly maintain the vehicles in good working order and upgrade where possible. Otherwise new replacement vehicles will be acquired either through sponsorship or committing significant funds from the Charity's reserves. Accordingly, the use of the restricted funds to either absorb this expenditure to maintain, renew and upgrade or alternatively to fund replacement vehicles is appropriate.

Depreciation is provided for over the expected useful life of the vehicles and expensed above on an annual basis.

The Irish Blue Cross CLG

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

16. STATUS

The Charity is limited by guarantee not having a share capital.

The liability of the members is limited.

Every member of the Charity undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Charity in the event of its being wound up while they are members, or within one financial year thereafter, for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the Charity contracted before they ceased to be members, and the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves, such amount as may be required, not exceeding €1.

17. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	2023 €	2022 €
Details of capital commitments at the accounting date are as follows:		
Contracted for but not provided in the financial statements	119,308	-
Approved but not yet contracted for	180,827	-
	<u>300,135</u>	<u>-</u>

As at 31 December 2023, the Charity has contracted to acquire two new mobile clinics at a cost of €148,829 each (Total €297,658). Part of this (€178,350) was invoiced as at 31 December 2023 and is included in debtors and prepayments (see note 10). The balance of €119,308 is being paid in 2024 and the acquisition of the vehicles will be completed in 2024.

The Charity has also committed to a spend of €180,827 to improve the energy efficiency of the property (solar panels and insulation) and to improve roller shutter access in the garage area in Inchicore.

18. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

John Costello, a Director of The Irish Blue Cross formerly owned Animark, a supplier of microchips to the veterinary sector, his ownership ceased on 30 June 2022. Animark Limited is operated by the Costello Family and sold microchips to the value of €4,323 (2022: €1,350) to the Charity in the year to 31 December 2023. There was no balance outstanding at 31 December 2023 in respect of the provision of these microchips.

19. POST-BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There have been no significant events affecting the Charity since the financial year-end.

20. DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION

None of the Directors received any remuneration during the year. Incidental travel and meeting expenses are reimbursed where incurred. These expenses amounted to €2,466 (2022: €781) for the year.

The Irish Blue Cross CLG
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

21. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 21 August 2024.