



MRS MURRAY'S HOME FOR STRAY DOGS AND CATS



Annual Report 2025-2026

Brickfield, East Seaton, Aberdeen, AB24 1XL

Tel. 01224 483624

**Scottish Charity No. 012708
EST: 1889**



One Hundred and Thirty Sixth Annual Report
for
Mrs Murray's Home for Stray Dogs and Cats

The following Bequests are gratefully acknowledged

Legacies received in the year to 28th February 2026

Maureen Gray Estate	£ 3,278.16
Marlene Imlach Estate	£ 4,081.62
Leslie Ewan Duguid Estate	£ 1,000.00
Isabelle Murray McCormack Estate	£10,607.41
Heather Graham Jhurry Estate	£ 2,000.00
Angus Brown Estate	£ 5,218.73
Mary Bertie Robertson Milne Estate	£ 1,000.00
Corinne Adams Residue of Estate	£ 5,801.58
Corinne Adams Minstrel Legacy	£ 5,000.00
Derek Stephen Buchan Estate	£10,000.00
Barbara Wilson Estate	£ 2,000.00
Robine Jean Cowie Estate	£ 1,000.00
Sharon Joyce Cranna Estate	£ 5,000.00
Marlene Imlach Additional Sum	<u>£ 48.76</u>
Total for year	£56,545.37



Message from the Chairperson

As I reflect on 2025/2026, I can report that Mrs Murray's Home for Stray Cats and Dogs has demonstrated remarkable resilience and growth despite the ongoing economic challenges and cost of living pressures.

Firstly, can I thank the staff for their dedication, commitment and empathy which underpins everything the charity stands for. Their efforts were deservedly recognised when Mrs Murray's was awarded the "Animal Charity of the Year 2025" at the National Pet Awards, Scotland.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the thousands of fundraisers and donors whose feats and contributions ensures Mrs Murray's can continue the vital work of supporting unwanted, abandoned and stray animals within our community.

Continuing with this community focus Mrs Murray's pet foodbank has provided almost 400,000 individual dog meals and 190,000 cat meals provided over the past 12 months. At a time when many household budgets remain under pressure, this practical support can often make the difference between someone having to give up a much-loved pet and being able to keep their family together.

Looking to the future the plans have been finalised for the new Rehoming Kennel Block and work is scheduled to start on our "Big Build" in the Summer of 2026. This new block will provide 21 modern kennel units, each comprising of a heated sleeping area and a dedicated outdoor run. A transformational environment for all the dogs looking for their forever home.

Myself, the staff and the Trustees at Mrs Murray's are incredibly proud of the service that the charity provides and the huge difference it can make to the animals we look after. None of this would be possible without your continued support for which we are very grateful.

Alan Grant

Mrs Murray's Home for Stray Dogs and Cats

Acknowledged as one of the oldest charities in Aberdeen Mrs Murray's Home for Stray Dogs and Cats was founded by Mrs Susan Murray as a place of refuge and shelter for stray and abandoned dogs and cats, it was officially opened by Lord Provost Henderson on the 18th September 1889. The original modest shelter was built on land just off King Street before moving to the Home's current location at Brickfield, East Seaton in 1935. The new premises were again opened by the then Lord Provost, Lady Margaret Alexander, reflecting the uniqueness and importance of such a charity for the city of Aberdeen.

For 135 years, including two world wars, the Great Depression, numerous recessions and two global pandemics the 'institution' of Mrs Murray's has had the primary mission to provide care and rehoming services for stray, abandoned or unwanted animals in Aberdeen City and the surrounding area.

Over the decades Mrs Murray's has expanded and adapted the care and rehoming facilities to cater for a wide variety of small animals and currently rehomes up to 500 animals per year. The Home also now offers animal boarding facilities to help sustain its charitable activities and last year alone boarded over 2,000 animals ranging from hamsters to Great Danes.

Mrs Murray's does not receive any Government or Lottery funding and relies on legacies, donations and the above-mentioned boarding income to support all the work that it does for the animals of the North East.



What's been happening at the Home?

April



We headed out to **Inverurie Pet supplies** for a community Engagement Day. Linda laid on a doggie food tasting day and held a raffle for Ollie the Octopus an amazing huge doggy soft toy! The raffle then went to their sister shop in Fraserburgh. Where we then visited in May

Huge thank to **Mo Mitchell** for once again completing the Glasgow Kiltwalk and then again, the Aberdeen Kiltwalk in June!



May

We visited **Pets Palace, Fraserburgh** for another Community Engagement Day. Dana and the team Drew the Raffle for Ollie the Octopus and held a fun day for their customers



They also then organised collection for the residents in December! Thank you so much Dana and co, for organising these collections and all their customers for their support



Young **Katie** baked some cat shaped biscuits for her Brownie Badge and raised £70 for our residents!

May was also the month of the Local Pet Awards Scotland – more on that later....



June

The Aberdeen Kiltwalk.



Many thanks to all who walked for Mrs Murray's and took on the Mighty Stride and Wee Wander!



Huge thanks to the **Sunday Football Kickabout Team** who organised a tournament in aid of Mrs Murray's They even had a special strip for the event!

Nicola McIntosh took on a skydive and raised £1070!



And **Owen Restrup** took part in a White Collar Boxing Event - Raising £354 as he stepped into the ring!



July



Many thanks to Nicky from **Nomadic Yoga** who held some outdoor sessions in aid of Mrs Murray's. Raising an amazing £167.40 plus donations for the residents!

August



Celebrate Aberdeen

The team joined other 3rd sector charities and organisations in a Parade down Union Street in Aberdeen. With spectators lining the street staff enjoyed the fun! They were also joined by Team Mini Mrs Murray's also as some of the staff children joined the Parade this year.

September

Iona raised an incredible £100 from selling her old toys for her Brownie Charity Badge! How amazing was that!



October

Kayleigh popped into her local Costa at Westhill and treated the dogs to Puppucinno's!



We also got into the 'Howloween' Spirit on the 31st!



November



For the 2nd year running young Findlay Barnshaw popped in with a donation of treats and food for our residents to help them through Bonfire Night. What an amazing young guy !

Local author Shelly Lawson came and donated books they had written as part of the 'When you get a....' series. These have been added to our rehoming packs for dogs and cats.



December



Huge thanks to Nicky and Co from Ardene House, B/Don and Aberdeen Veterinary Referrals for organising their annual Christmas food drive for local animal charities. Including us,
Your continued support means a lot to us!





We were also invited along to Wrestlezone's 'Christmas Chaos' in December where they raised over £257 for our residents!

New Childrens Book

Budding new up and coming children's author **Sara Smith** also donated the proceeds from her debut Children's Book, '**Ruby the Loveable Labrador**' to Mrs Murray's.



(Link to her publication can be found on the back page)

Zoomies Dog Park

We are very lucky to be gifted sessions at our local dog park 'Zoomies Aberdeen'. Every Tuesday and Thursday morning throughout the year, we head off with some of our residents for fun, frolics and general mayhem as they get to have their best time 'zooming' around the park.

These sessions are invaluable in providing enrichment and mental stimulation. You can gift a visit through their website, selecting Zoomies Charity Visit.

www.zoomiesaberdeen.com/appointments



La Pink at Christmas



Every year local dog groomers Nicola and Nadine from La Pink Dog Spa & Boutique organise a Christmas collection for the dogs and cats of Mrs Murray's.

They have done so for the past 15 years! In 2024 they surpassed themselves with their collection and we never for one moment thought that 2025 would be even bigger!

Their clients are the best and extremely generous with their donations of food, toys, treats, blankets etc.

'Santa' required quite a few cars to help transport it down to us as his sleigh was in for a service in preparation for the big day 😊

Thank you so much La Pink for your continued support!

Santa Paws Doggy Photo Shoot

Our Annual Santa Paws photo shoot was a huge success. Held in November, both days booked up really quickly!

It was fab to see all the dogs coming in for their pics and of course Santa Paws had a gift for each and every one.

Heather of Heather Fowlie Photography was behind the camera and captured the dogs with Santa Paws

Thank you so much Heather for giving up your time to do this each year



Great to see this Annual Event so well supported and lots of returning naughty and nice dogs each year!



Local Pet Awards Scotland 2025

The Local Pet Awards take place in May. 2025 Mrs Murray's was nominated for Animal Charity of the Year.

It went down to a public vote and we were up against 4 other amazing charities who all do fabulous work.

We were unsure how the vote would go but we kept our fingers crossed.

Well.... We only went and won!

Mrs Murray's Home for Stray Dogs and Cats Animal Charity of the Year 2025!

Congratulations have to go to all the finalists as they are all winners 🏆

Huge thanks to all the Team at Mrs Murray's who work tirelessly to care for those in our care.

The award is for all of them. 🧡

It's also for all of you the [#bestsupportersever](#) 💜



We received the award from actress Jane McCarry better known as Isa from 'Still Game'

What an amazing night!



Charity Partnership

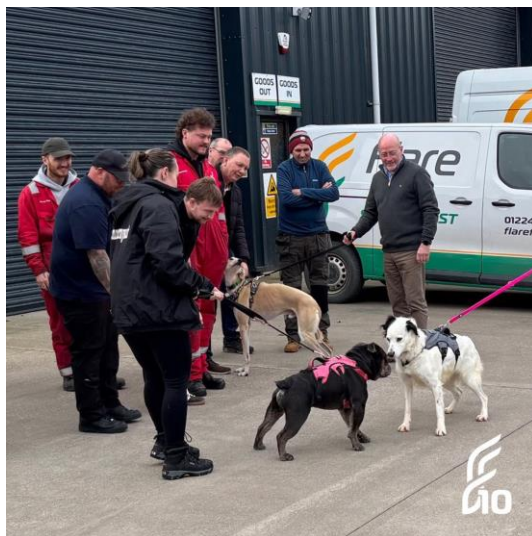
At the end of October we headed off with a few of our residents to meet the friendly folk at **Flare Fire Safety Engineering LTD**

Mrs Murray's had been approached by them with the hope of becoming their Charity Partner for 2026.

Our Chairperson Alan and some of the team and dogs spent the afternoon telling them all about our work and what we do. And indeed how they can help.



Well as you can see our doggies and team wowed the staff and we entered our first Official Charity Partnership with Flare FSE as as part of Flare Cares, our ongoing commitment to giving back to our communities.



Charity Partnerships are new to us at Mrs Murray's, and we can't wait to work with the Team through the Year



Amazon Wishlist

For the Eleventh year running we have had an Amazon wish list for the Home. All things that we use in the kennels that the dogs and cat would love to have. From dog and cat food, to treats, toys, blankets and new beds have been donated. We also added some basic items that we use on a daily basis – Washing powder and softener, disinfectant, hoses and new hose guns.

It has also become a vital part of filling our Pet Food Bank.

Last year on average we helped feed 45 dogs and 22 cats each month. Keeping them with their families during challenging times.

We were overwhelmed by everyone's generosity once again - it has helped reduce our daily costs and kept us going throughout the year!

The list can also be used as a guide and purchased from local pet shops and supermarkets - which in turn helps to support local businesses.
A huge thank you to all for their donations.

Our warmest thanks to everyone who has kindly supported Mrs Murray's this past year. Through monetary donations, food donations and also donations of toys and knitted blankets for the animals. Thank you all!

Fundraising

Taking part in a fundraising event is a fantastic way to support the animals of Mrs Murray's and we are grateful to all those who arranged events this past year.

As an animal charity, we receive no government or lottery funding and rely on public donations to continue our work. Sponsor sheets can be obtained by contacting Mrs Murray's or why not set up a justgiving page for online sponsorship. From Kiltwalks, marathons, 5 and 10k runs to home baking stalls and birthday collections. – **you** can make a difference.



How your fundraising helps

Posey's Story

Posey arrived with us as a welfare case. Severely malnourished and lame on her front leg.

Our vet put her on pain relief and a diet of small frequent meals to build her up. Her leg was still bothering her so off she went for some x-rays.

What we found out was so sad. Posey had an old fracture that had not been treated which had healed and in turn caused pre-mature closure of the growth plate. This meant her leg would never grow - 'short radius syndrome'

Her leg was not only causing discomfort, but it was now affecting her mobility.



After talks with several vets and an experienced vet referral the decision was made to amputate the leg.

Posey's operation went well and according to plan. She stayed with the vets overnight and then returned to us.

Posey recuperated in the staff flat. And soon made her self at home on the sofa!

Her recovery went to plan and Posey then found a home with a family who had adopted a tripaw from us some years ago!



Christmas

The Christmas food appeal continues to grow and is a large part of our fundraising for the animals of Mrs Murray's.

Once again, we were overwhelmed with the generosity of the public of the North East and their kindness in supporting our Annual appeal.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone again for their support and for taking the time to think of the animals in the Home who did not have a home of their own and brought gifts to ensure they all had a wonderful Christmas.

Santa Paws comes to every dog and cat at Mrs Murray's, leaving each their very own parcel of goodies, toys, treats, cosy blanket etc..

They also had their very own Christmas Dinner – kindly donated by the amazing Donald Slicer who has supported the Christmas dinners for more years than we can remember 😊

Dogs tucked into a meal of Chicken, mini sausages, carrots, broccoli Yorkshire puddings and a touch of gravy – all washed down with Adams Ale

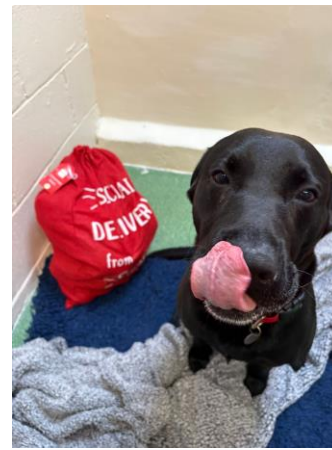


Our puss cats were treated to a selection of Chicken, Ham and Tuna



Our dogs and cats who had all been amazing residents during these times were also treated by Santa Paws. Santa Paws never forgets about them - he always comes at Christmas to deliver pressies and blankets and lots of toys and treats for the dogs and cats waiting for their new homes.

Without your support we could not do these things – Thank you all for your donations and ensuring none of the animals went with out at this special time of year. Big thank you also goes to the main man himself – Santa Paws – thank you for never forgetting about us



MANAGERS MESSAGE

It's been another steady year here at Mrs Murray's.

Our income from the boarding side of the Home remains a vital revenue, and the boarding numbers have remained steady.

Our Pet Food Bank continues to be a vital resource in these difficult times. Price increases, and heating costs affect not only the humans but also the animals in our families.

Providing support to those who are struggling, helps to keep animals in their family homes and out of rescue.

Our Amazon Wishlist remains a lifeline for us, and we can't thank the public and local companies enough for their kindness, generosity and support through the year. And for supporting our Pet Food Bank with donations when stocks are low.

High of the year was Mrs Murray's winning Pet Charity of the Year 2025 at the Local Pet awards Scotland.

Low of the year, we sadly lost our sanctuary cat Nellie in November. This affected us all deeply but our work carries on with many kittens being hand reared and fostered over the past year.

Thanks must go also to the staff of Mrs Murray's for their support and dedication to the animals of Mrs Murray's during this past year.

Marie Simpson, Manager

Thank you

We would like to thank the following companies/organisations who have made donations to the Centre/supported us throughout the year:

Inverurie Pet Supplies * La Pink Dog Spa and pet Boutique * Pets Palace * Debbie's Burger Bar, * Pets at Home * Ashgrove Vets * Cumath Pet Surgeons * Secretaries of Block A, Royal Cornhill Hospital * Aberdeenshire Council * Wards 102 and 103, ARI * Technip FMC * Grampian Pet Supplies * Smoke & Soul * Strathhunker Lab and Treats * Domesticats at Aberdeen Maternity Hospital * * Banana Moon Nursery * Aberdeen Spiritualist Centre and Healing Sanctuary * Tesco Danestone * Ardene House Bridge of Don & Kingswells * 6.1.0. Dance Academy * Hound Heart Collars * The Pet Stop (Grampian) * Mintlaw vets & Emma's Pet Fair * Zoomies Aberdeen * AberK9 Walks * Blooming Glowing by Gail * Charlie & Craig Bremner * Dyzer Dey * Forehill Primary & Community Council * 38th Aberdeen Brownies * Pets & Care * TAQA * Woodside Kids and Community Centre * Wrestlezone * Alba Bagpipes * Gail Irvine – Solo Walkies * Zander Whyte * Barrett Family * Flare FSE LTD *

Huge thanks also to the communities of Aberdeen and the North East of Scotland for your continued support



NELLIE

With tears streaming down our faces, It is with great sadness that we have to tell you all that our Nellie, our sanctuary Cat gained her Angel Wings on 11th of November 25 with us, her beloved carers by her side.

Our Nellie had celebrated her 21st Birthday in June 25 - an amazing achievement for any cat.

For those who don't know Nellies background here's her story



"Our Nellie was a regular boarder with us over the years when her mum went in to hospital. She often spent months in our care at a time till her mum was able to get her home.

Nellie was a typical Torti and could be stand offish. But over the years we understood her quiriness and she would quickly settle in like she'd always been here strutting up the cattery like she owned the place. Nellie had been staying with us for a number of years as her mums health had declined, when we received the news that her mum had sadly passed away. It was then that we became Nellie's lifetime guardians.

Nellie spent her latter years in the staff flat, waited on by all the staff like the Queen she was. Her bed beside the window she would survey the world outside from her throne.



She was quirky, she was feisty, she was a Torti, but oh my word was she loved!

Oh did we love that ball of Torti attitude!

She loved to sit on the sofa beside you in an evening with a paw stretched out touching you. Sometimes even eyeing up your supper.

Over the last couple of years her health started to decline and she gave us a few scares along the way but each time the amazing vets Ashgrove

Veterinary Centre stabilised her and on she went.

Sadly this time our road that we walked together came to an end and Nellie let us know that it was time. She was tired.

We can't thank Kevin from Ashgrove Veterinary Centre enough for his compassion and kindness as we all came to say goodnight to our Queen Nellie. and for the calmness and dignity as Nellie skipped over the Rainbow bridge whilst we spoke to her and stroked her fur to let her know it was ok and we loved her.

We know her mum will have been waiting for her.

Jean and Nellie together again.



Much tears have been shed ,

Good night Nellie , sleep tight

You will be so missed but know that you were so loved.



Donate to Mrs Murray's

You can make a donation to Mrs Murray's by sending your gift direct to the Home or by donating on line at:

www.justgiving.com/straydogscats/donate

You can also set up a monthly donation to Mrs Murray's (details on page 18)

Donations of food, blankets and toys are greatly appreciated

Legacies and Bequests



You can make a difference and support Mrs Murray's by leaving a gift in your Will to
Mrs Murray's Home for Stray Dogs and Cats

If you wish to leave a legacy to our charity it must be done through a solicitor
who will guide you through the necessary steps.

Remember to quote our Charity Registration Number: SC012708

Pets are a lifetime commitment and indeed can outlive us. They are family and one to
think of and make plans for should anything happen to you.



Set up a Standing Order to Support our Rescue

Supporting the Home with a monthly donation is easy to set up through your online banking account/Mobile Banking App using the details below

Bank: Royal Bank of Scotland, 40 Albyn Place, Aberdeen, AB10 1YN

Account name: Mrs Murrays Home for Dogs & Cats

Sort Code: 83-49-40

Account: 00208268



Choose how much you wish to donate monthly and you're good to go

Your support will help to ensure shelter, warm cosy beds, full tummies and veterinary care for stray and abandoned dogs and cats from Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire

Further information on Mrs Murray's Home can be obtained from:

ledingham|chalmers^{LLP}
SOLICITORS

Company Secretaries
Johnstone House
52-54 Rose Street
ABERDEEN AB10 1HA
Tel: 01224 408445 Fax: 01224 408404

Mrs Murray's Home for Stray Dogs and Cats
is a company Limited by Guarantee Registered in Scotland No.227450
Registered Office: Johnstone House, 52-54 Rose Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1HA



Our Vet

Many thanks to Kevin and the Team at Ashgrove Veterinary Centre
for their compassion and support
They continue to provide excellent care to all the animals who come through our door



From the vets, veterinary nurses, animal care assistants through to all the reception
and Admin staff, thank you for looking after us so well.

Directors of the Home who served in 2025/2026

Alan Grant (Chair)

Carol Pike (Retired Nov 25)

Douglas Armstrong (Resigned Dec 25)

Nicola Reid

Helen Miskelly B.VSc M.R.C.V.S

Jonathon Entwistle

Lisa Burnett

Donna Vass (Resigned Dec 25)

Fiona MacLeod



