

2025  
ANNUAL  
**REVIEW**



**Dogwatch**<sup>™</sup>  
SANCTUARY TRUST





# Dogwatch™

SANCTUARY TRUST

## Overview

Dogwatch Sanctuary Trust is a registered charity that has been dedicated to rescuing, caring for, and rehoming dogs since its establishment in 1982.

Based in Christchurch, Dogwatch focuses on dogs that have been abandoned at pounds or surrendered from private situations.

## Facilities

### Adoption Centre

- A 5-acre site in Bromley
- Two kennel blocks comprising 14 kennels with outdoor yards
- Three exercise paddocks and a Native Walkway
- A reception portacom, an office area for adoption centre staff and an additional portacom office space

### Variety Shop

- Land and buildings at 90 Beresford Street

### Rental Properties

- Two tenanted houses located onsite at the Adoption Centre

## Funding and Support

Dogwatch is not funded through government or council. Instead, it relies entirely on the generosity of its supporters, its own fundraising activities and a large group of volunteers.

### Internal Income Sources:

To support its mission, and contribute to our income, Dogwatch also operates a second-hand variety store in New Brighton and has two on-site residential rental properties.

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## Our People

### Board of Trustees

**Mark Weaver**  
*Chairperson*

**Toni O'Donohue**  
*Treasurer*

**Felicity Price** *ONZM*

**Tyler Brown**

**Graeme Coutts**

### Operations

**Bridget Paterson**  
*General Manager*

**Rae Rossiter**  
*Adoption Centre Manager*

**Suzanne Giddens**  
*Fundraising Manager*

**Patria Carter**  
*Volunteer and Events Manager*

**2 x FTE Adoption Centre staff \***

**1 x FTE Behaviourist\***

**1 x FTE Shop Manager \***

*\* Supported with Part time staff*

*Daisy ( adopted January 2025) with Adoption Centre Manager, Rae.*

## Our Values

Dogwatch Sanctuary Trust's long-term commitment to the welfare of dogs in Canterbury and beyond, make it a vital resource for abandoned and surrendered dogs in New Zealand.

### Our Vision

*Every Dog in a Loving Home*

### Our Purpose

*Improving lives through rescuing and rehoming dogs*

### Our Values

*We are compassionate, we act with integrity, we are generous, we inspire others*



## Chairperson's Update

I am honoured to write the introduction to Dogwatch Sanctuary Trust's inaugural Annual Review - a milestone that reflects not only the achievements of 2025, but the remarkable journey of an organisation that has given more than 6,000 abandoned and surrendered dogs a second chance at life over more than four decades.

In 2022 we marked 40 years of the Trust in operation, and since then, the Board and management have been engaged in a deliberate and purposeful transformation = one focused on building resilience, expanding capacity, and strengthening our advocacy for dogs across our community. This work is grounded in our core mission: to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome dogs who, through no fault of their own, find themselves without a permanent home.

We are seeing an increasing need for community support which we are focussed on providing, to move the ambulance from the bottom of the cliff, towards the top. Helping people in need appropriately care for their dog or rehoming it before it enters the local council pound system, (or worse), is an area that we are allocating more resource to, all to help achieve our vision of every dog in a loving home.

Sound financial stewardship has been a central focus during this period of renewal. A disciplined approach to expense management, prudent capital expenditure, and the appointment of a General Manager and a dedicated Fundraising Manager have together begun to yield a modest but encouraging growth in income across our various revenue streams. This progress is especially meaningful given the challenging economic environment in which we, like so many other charitable organisations, are operating, and we remain deeply grateful to our donors and supporters whose generosity makes our work possible.

We are not council or government funded, which makes the commitment of our community all the more significant and valued.



A special thank you must go to our tireless and dedicated adoption centre staff, past and present, who front up 365 days of the year, dealing with heartbreaking situations, scared dogs who act out or shut down, hundreds of phone calls seeking advice or support and who train our volunteers. Our people celebrate the highs when dogs find their forever homes and shed tears for those that unfortunately we cannot help and their passion is evident every day.

I also extend the Board's sincere gratitude to our other team members, our wonderful volunteers and every individual and organisation who has supported Dogwatch in 2025. We could not achieve what we have without you all.

In addition to bidding farewell to trustee Robb McBeth, whose attention to detail, thoughtful insights and passion for the work of the Trust were of great benefit, I would also like to thank the other trustees for their commitment, valued counsel and drive to move the organisation forward.

Looking to the future, the Board has undertaken a thorough needs analysis and scoping of a significant Adoption Centre rebuild. Our current facility, while well-loved, comprises only 14 on-site kennels and aging infrastructure that constrains the number of dogs we are able to assist. The planned development of a larger, modern centre will meaningfully increase our capacity to home dogs — a direct expression of our commitment to ensuring Dogwatch is fit and positioned for the next 40 years of service. Fundraising for this project commenced early in 2026, and we look forward to bringing our community along on that journey.

When most people think of Dogwatch, they generally understand that we rehome dogs, however as you will see from the following pages, we do a lot more than that. I hope you enjoy reading about what we have achieved together, and we look forward to sharing further progress and success stories with you in the year ahead.

## **Mark Weaver**

*Chairperson*



# General Manager's Report

2025 has been a year of meaningful progress and renewed momentum for Dogwatch. Across the organisation we embraced greater flexibility, collaboration and a solutions-focused mindset, enabling us to improve outcomes for dogs while strengthening our impact within the wider community.

During the year Dogwatch accepted 143 dogs into our care, including an increased number of private surrenders. We have seen increasing demand for support, particularly from elderly owners transitioning into care, and more often we are being approached by other community organisations to assist vulnerable people to better manage their and their dog's welfare. We responded by expanding our intake approach and extending our geographical reach. In addition, the team undertook a thorough review and updating of our adoption process to better match people with the right dog for them.

The results have been significant. Dogwatch exceeded its adoption target of 100, achieving 130 confirmed adoptions. A focussed media campaign saw several long-term residents successfully rehomed, and overall, the average length of stay for dogs reduced from 107 days to just 42 days by October. Supporting some surrendering owners to foster their dogs until a suitable home could be found also proved highly effective, helping manage capacity while maintaining positive welfare outcomes.

Improving the wellbeing of the dogs in our care remained central to all decision-making. Upgrades across the adoption centre, including improvements to the Dog Club, construction of a new separate yard to provide a quieter area for easily stressed dogs and improving our off-lead areas, all enhanced wellbeing and provided more enrichment opportunities.



Behaviour and training programmes were strengthened through improved staff capability, enhanced structured training plans for each dog and more consistent behaviour review processes. We also placed greater emphasis on providing additional in-home behaviour support for adopters to help ensure long-term success.

Our foster programme continued to grow, expanding from five to sixteen active foster families and maintaining an average of fifteen dogs in foster care each month. Foster placements were extended to include older dogs, respite care and post-surgical recovery, allowing us to support a wider range of dogs and medical needs.

Staff embraced a shared focus on increasing adoptions, improving dog training outcomes and supporting one another in a more connected way. Ongoing professional development opportunities further strengthened capability and resilience throughout the organisation.

Volunteer engagement also continued to grow through regular training sessions, improved communication and the implementation of volunteer management software. Analysis of an October volunteer survey confirmed increased satisfaction and a stronger sense of inclusion across our volunteer community.

Fundraising results were encouraging, with regular giving increasing by 59% year-on-year. Improved fundraising platforms strengthened donor engagement and campaign delivery, while expanded grant funding and corporate sponsorship opportunities further diversified our revenue streams.

Our bequest programme was revitalised with the launch of the Lasting Pawprints Society to recognise those who have chosen to leave a lasting legacy for our dogs.

Dogwatch's public profile also grew significantly through strong media engagement, social media growth and the generous donation of digital billboard advertising which was used for advertising of our long-term dogs and our Christmas campaign. Notable national media opportunities included appearances on TVNZ's Breakfast and Seven Sharp, alongside a number of stories in the Christchurch Press, Christchurch Star and on Stuff.

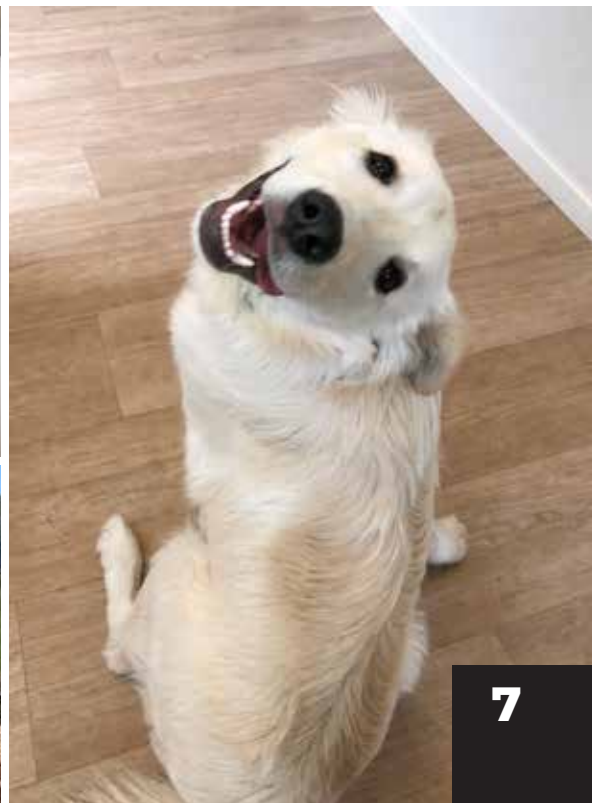
Community initiatives, including vaccination drive days that vaccinated 300 dogs, along with partnerships with organisations such as Police Homeless Outreach and 0800 Hungry, enabled us to support both dogs and the people in our community who care for them.

Looking ahead, the team are working on updating processes and procedures for the upgrade of our Dyers Road adoption centre, with construction expected to begin in early 2027. The new facility will allow us to expand our capacity and provide improved care through modern kennels, mums & pups suites, specialised recovery spaces and upgraded facilities. Our capital campaign to support this redevelopment is now underway.

I am incredibly proud of the dedication shown by our staff, volunteers, supporters and partners and grateful for the never-ending support of our Board. Together, we have built a strong foundation for the future, and I am confident that the organisation is well positioned for the next stage of growth and impact.

## **Bridget Paterson**

*General Manager*



## The quiet power of Fostering

### Rocket's story

Rocket is a young Collie, around a year old, with the bright, thoughtful eyes typical of his breed. Intelligent, observant, and deeply people-focused, Rocket arrived at Dogwatch through the Christchurch City Council shelter after a difficult start to life.

Like many dogs who come through our doors, Rocket simply needed time, patience, and the chance to experience life in a calm, caring home. That opportunity came through fostering.

Adam is one of Dogwatch's wonderful foster carers and has welcomed six rescue dogs into his home over the past few years. Each dog arrives with their own personality and needs, and Adam enjoys helping them build confidence and prepare for their forever homes.

"It's really about consistency," Adam says. "Consistency in how you interact with them, the love you show them, and the routine you create. That's what helps dogs feel safe."

When Rocket arrived, Adam focused on building a steady routine – walks close to his seaside home, quiet time together, and gentle exposure to new experiences. Rocket responded quickly.

"We got to know each other pretty fast," Adam says.

"He settled in here really well."

# 16 foster families fostering an average of 15 dogs every month

Fostering gives dogs the chance to experience everyday life in a home environment while they wait for adoption. Through routine, companionship, and patient guidance, dogs like Rocket gain confidence and learn the skills they need to thrive with their future families.

Adam sees his role as helping each dog take the next step forward. "I want any dog that comes through here to leave in better shape than when they arrived," he says. "So when the right home comes along, they're ready."

Thanks to Adam's care, Rocket is now enjoying life as a happy young dog – and he's well on his way to finding the forever home he deserves.

### CTA (Care and Temporary Accommodation) Fostering saves lives.

Some dogs simply do better in a home environment while they wait for adoption. Fostering provides stability, routine, and connection – all the things that help a dog move confidently toward their future.

At Dogwatch, foster carers are fully supported with food, veterinary care, and guidance from our team. If you have the time to make a dog a priority for a while, fostering can be an incredibly rewarding way to help change a life.

*Abandoned Collie-mix  
Rocket with Foster Carer  
Adam.*

## 2025 : By the numbers

### Dogs

Number  
of dogs  
rehomed

130

#### Where did our dogs come from?

Canterbury Pounds  
and other Rescue  
Organisations

71

Private Surrenders

72

TOTAL

143

*Note: There has been a recent improvement in the number of dogs being reclaimed directly from Council Pounds by their owners, and with most pounds now actively rehoming the remaining dogs themselves, fewer dogs require uplift.*

*Pound dogs are always our priority, but this has allowed us to focus our resources on supporting the growing demand for private surrenders due to verified health, economic or desperate personal situational changes.*

### Essentials

153+  
dogs

supported with leads, collars, harnesses and muzzles to improve safety and welfare.

### Vaccinations

520  
vaccinations

delivered to shelter and community dogs, including large-scale outreach events.





## Dog Food

Amount of dog food consumed



**Dry Food**



**Wet Food**

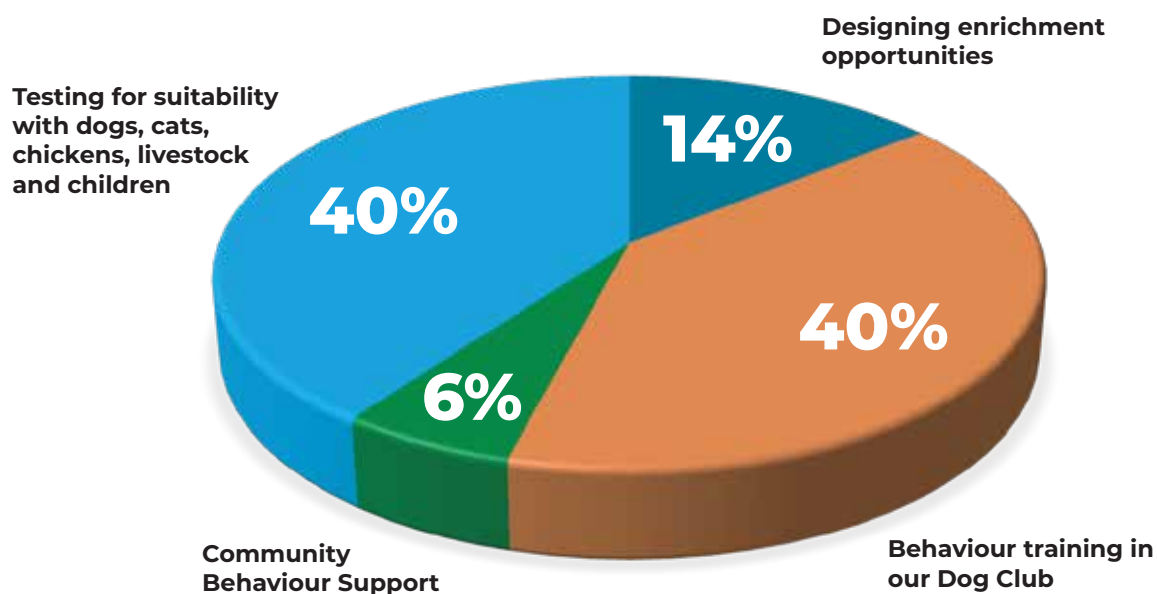


**Rewards**  
used in positive  
training and  
behaviour support



## Behaviour Training and Enrichment

# 1,830 hours Staff Behaviour Time

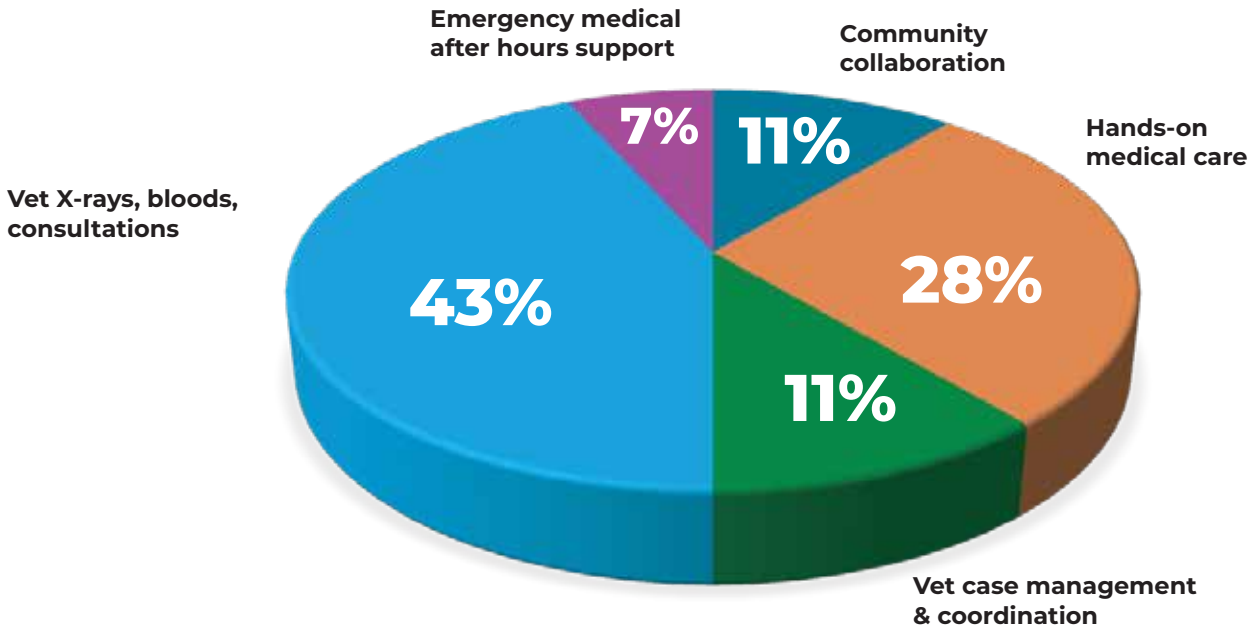


Across **1,830 staff hours** dedicated to behaviour work, our team delivered a broad range of outcomes to support both dogs in care and the wider community. This included behaviour training through our Dog Club and community behaviour support (together making up the majority of time), alongside designing enrichment opportunities to improve welfare and confidence, and undertaking suitability testing with dogs, cats, chickens, livestock and children to help ensure safe and successful placements.



Veterinary Care

# 900 hours Staff Medical Support Time



Over **900 staff hours** dedicated to medical support, the team focused on a range of critical activities. Emergency after-hours care and vet diagnostics (including X-rays, bloods, and consultations) accounted for the largest proportion of time. Hands-on medical treatment for dogs in our shelter represented a significant portion of effort, alongside vet case management and coordination, and collaborative work with community partners.

## Number of vet visits

**278**

Cost of General Vet Care

**\$86,215**

Cost of Specialist Care Animal Orthopaedics

**\$23,090**

Cost of Specialist Care SVA

**\$4,064**

TOTAL

**\$113,369**



# Fundraising

Fundraising is the lifeblood of Dogwatch, turning goodwill into real-world impact by enabling vital programs, services, and support to continue. It not only fuels our day-to-day operations but also builds a community of engaged supporters who share in our values and help drive lasting change.

We were grateful to receive the following bequests:

- **Estate of Audrey Smith**
- **Estate of Penelope Mary McCambridge and Aileen Dadswell**

Thanks to the generosity of our Community Funders, we received grants from the following:

- **The Trust Community Fund**
- **NZ Lotteries**
- **Department of Corrections**
- **SPCA Desexing**
- **Companion Animals Trust NZ**
- **Selwyn District Council Desexing**
- **Kiwi Gaming Trust**
- **Petstock Foundation**
- **BUPA**

Donations from **Leroy's Legacy** provided **\$19,980** for dog surgeries.

## Fundraising events

Fundraising activities during the year included our annual quiz night, three on-site market days selling merchandise and dog leads, collars, beds and other pet-related items, as well as volunteer and adoption open days held at the adoption centre.

In addition, we attended approximately 30 off-site events by invitation.

We are grateful for the support of organisations including Animates, Bunnings Warehouse, the Christchurch Home Show, the Selwyn Expo, and Petdirect.

Our participation in these events would not have been possible without the generosity and commitment of our dedicated volunteers.



## An adoption dream realised

### Longterm residents Ed and Latte rehomed

After years of waiting, perseverance, and the deepest care, the rehoming of long-term residents Ed and Latte in 2025 marked a profoundly emotional milestone for everyone at Dogwatch, and those in our community.



**Ed spent  
1,352 days  
in our care**



**Latte spent  
1,599 days  
in our care**

their years with us shaped by extraordinary commitment from our adoption centre team and volunteers who never gave up on them.

Their adoptions are a celebration of the commitment to our Dogwatch vision of 'every dog in a loving home' - and what's possible when people show up, day after day, for dogs who need more time to prepare for their forever home. But their stories also speak to something bigger.

With an average adoption timeframe at Dogwatch of just three to four weeks, the space Ed and Latte occupied represents the opportunity for more than 100 other dogs to have passed through our doors and into loving homes. With our future plans for redevelopment of our facilities, our capacity for this extra care will be fully realised - we can do more of all the work we undertake each day.

Their happy endings now open the door for the next dogs waiting for the same commitment

*Long-term Dogwatch resident Ed, in his forever home (courtesy The Press)*

*Latte's adoption makes the news on TVNZ's Breakfast*



## Dogwatch Outreach

### Building connections with our Community

Outreach is about more than education - it's about building trust, understanding, and lasting relationships within the communities we serve. By staying connected, we create safer environments for both people and dogs, while fostering a shared sense of responsibility and care that strengthens the whole community.



**155**

**Desexing vouchers issued**

**362**

**Food parcels distributed**

**500+**  
hours

**Community support**  
phone calls covering rehoming, behaviour, other

**25**

**Rest home visits with dogs**

**30**

**Community events attended**

### Getting ahead of Parvovirus in our community

In 2025, Dogwatch took proactive steps to reduce the impact of parvovirus in some of Christchurch's most at-risk communities.

Through our first community vaccination drive in eastern Christchurch, delivered in partnership with Kowhai Vets and Avonside Wainoni Vet Clinic, 298 dogs received life-saving parvovirus vaccinations across two days.

Alongside this, more than 300 dogs were supported with essential supplies including food, blankets, leads and collars, helping families maintain safe and healthy care at home. By removing cost and access barriers to preventive veterinary care, this initiative directly reduced the risk of parvovirus transmission and prevented avoidable loss of life in the community.

**298**  
**dogs**

**received life-saving parvovirus vaccinations across two days.**

## Our Volunteer heroes

### Hands that help, hearts that heal

At Dogwatch Sanctuary Trust, we often say it takes a village to rescue and rehome a dog – and after more than four decades, we know that is absolutely true.

At the heart of that village is our remarkable community of volunteers. They are the heartbeat of Dogwatch, and without them our shelter simply could not operate at the scale, standard, or spirit that it does.

Across three daily shifts, volunteers help keep the sanctuary running smoothly from early morning until evening. They care for our dogs in all weather, keeping kennels and yards tidy, preparing meals, refreshing bedding, and making sure every dog's environment feels safe and comfortable. They help with socialising and walking the dogs, spend time with those needing extra reassurance, and support our team in countless practical ways.

Behind the scenes they also manage supplies, tackle the endless laundry, clean, organise, and keep everything running day to day with generosity and good humour. Our volunteer reception team welcomes visitors and members of the community, while our foster carers open their homes to dogs who need the calm of a family environment while they wait for adoption.

Beyond the sanctuary gates, our wonderful volunteers at the Dogwatch Variety Shop in New Brighton continue to build strong connections with the community, helping raise vital funds and spreading the Dogwatch spirit.

Our volunteers range in age from enthusiastic teenagers to wise eighty-somethings, and come from every walk of life. What unites them is a shared purpose: to make life better for the dogs in our care.

To every member of our Dogwatch volunteer village – thank you.

Your time, compassion, and commitment make an extraordinary difference, and we are deeply grateful for everything you give to the dogs and to our community.

#### Volunteers

128

#### Volunteer hours

13,870





## 12 Volunteers

on shift 7 days a week, 365 days a year

Equivalent full time roles **6.5+**

Number of new enrolments **155**

### Training done:

Basic dog handling **257 hours**

Moving dogs **52 hours**

Dog walking  
(*paddock, community, specialist*) **55 hours**

Front of House Admin Training **6 hours**

### Other:

Number of towels & blankets washed **7,300**

Kilometres walked with our dogs **20,220**

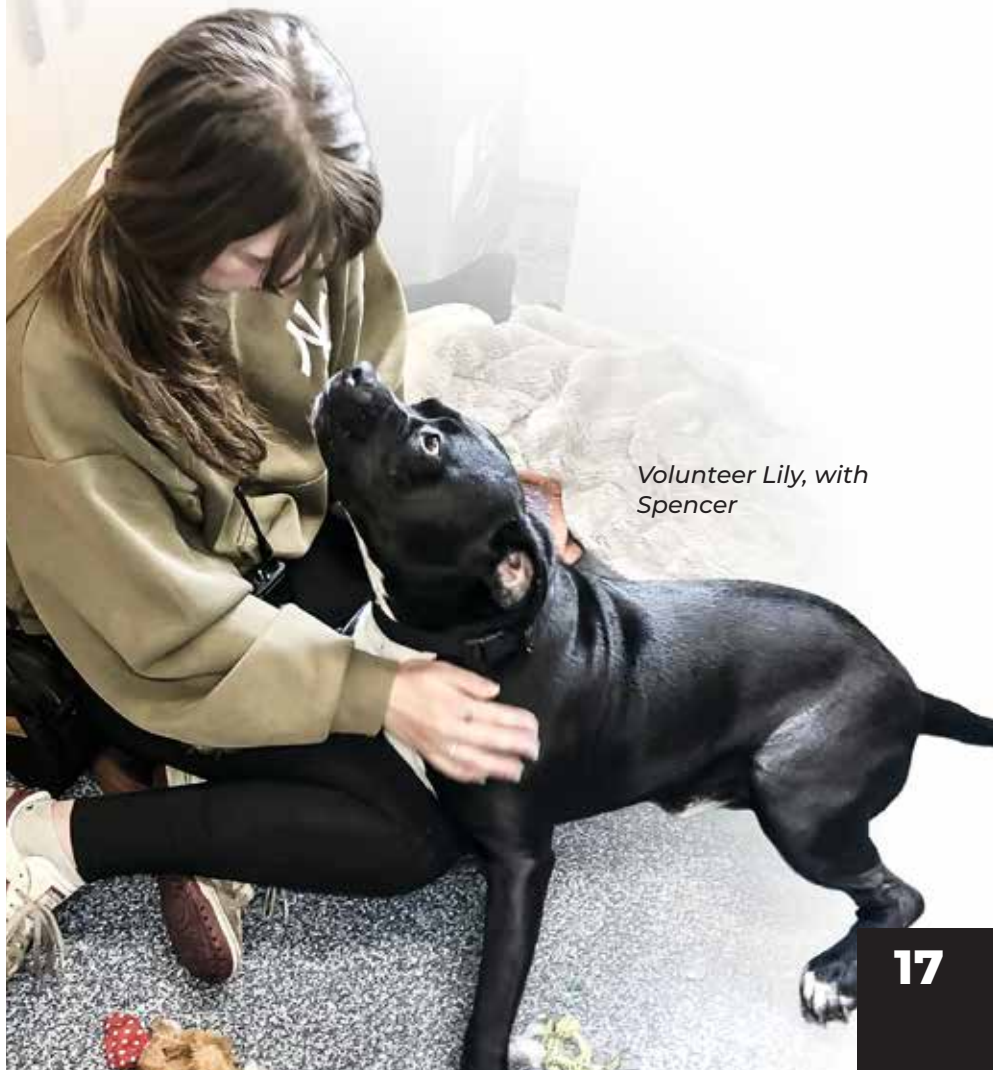
Kilometres driven  
(*vet visits, home visits etc*) **23,725**

Native trees & shrubs planted (*to date*) **4,000+**

Number of Variety Shop customers **18,042**

Number of Clothing Items resold **27,800**

Corporate Volunteer day groups  
(*avg. 8 pax per group*) **8**



Volunteer Lily, with Spencer

## Macy's story of resolve

When Macy arrived at Dogwatch, she looked like many young dogs who come through our gates – gentle, bright-eyed, and quietly hopeful. The one-year-old Collie mix had been found wandering alone on a central Christchurch street with no microchip and no owner coming forward.

At first, Macy enjoyed time in the paddock and walks with our wonderful volunteers. But further veterinary investigations revealed something more serious.

As a young puppy, Macy had sustained a significant hip fracture that had never been treated. It had healed incorrectly, leaving her with a painful joint that made everyday movement difficult.

Our veterinary team advised that the best way to give Macy a comfortable, active future is the amputation of her right hind leg – a procedure that many dogs adapt to incredibly well.

To support her while we prepared for surgery, Macy was given a quieter space during the day with familiar people, gentle walks, and time to relax away from the busy shelter environment. With the help of pain relief and routine, she quickly began to settle. Her appetite returned, she rested more easily, and her sweet nature began to shine again.

"Macy has shown incredible spirit," says Dogwatch General Manager Bridget Paterson. "Now that she's feeling more comfortable, we're starting to see the playful young dog she truly is."

Macy's surgery is scheduled for mid-May, generously funded by a kind donor. It will give her the chance to live free from pain and enjoy the full, active life every young dog deserves.

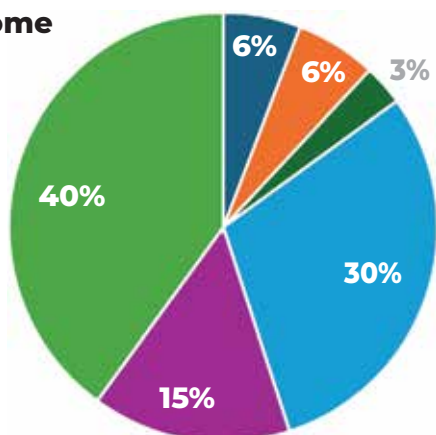
Macy is currently in foster care with a Dogwatch staff member, learning what life in a loving home feels like. When she is ready, our Adoption Centre team will find her the wonderful forever home she deserves.



*Long-term Volunteer  
Adrian, with Macy.*

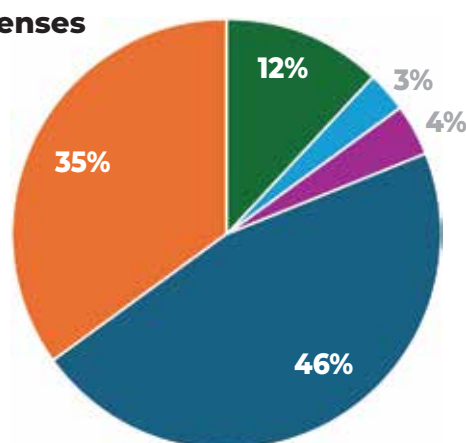
# Financial

**Income**



- Adoption fees
- Merchandise and events income
- Grants received
- Bequests
- Donations
- Operational and investment income

**Expenses**



- Animal Services
- Operations
- Fundraising
- Property
- Community desexing and vaccination

## A heartfelt thank you to our supporters

2025 has been a remarkable year for Dogwatch, and none of our achievements would have been possible without the incredible support of our community. We are deeply grateful to our sponsors, funders, donors, volunteers, business volunteer groups, and everyone who has stood alongside us in our mission to care for and rehome dogs in need. Your generosity, time, and dedication have allowed us to provide life-changing outcomes for over 1,800 dogs this year.

A special thank you to our valued sponsors whose partnership makes so much of our work possible:

**Vast Billboards**  
**MasterPet**  
**Zeal IT**  
**VIP Trade**  
**Mitre 10**

**Bunnings**  
**Petstock Foundation**  
**RD Petroleum**  
**Dakins**  
**Companion Animals NZ**

**Jolly Billboards**  
**Blueprint**  
**Kakatu Retreat**

Your support enables us to continue delivering high-quality care, expand our programs, and reach more dogs and families than ever before.

To our volunteers and business volunteer groups, your passion and commitment inspire us every day. Whether it's walking, training, fostering, building projects or helping with events and day-to-day operations, your contribution is the heart of our organisation.

Every gift, every hour of your time, and every word of encouragement has helped us achieve incredible things in 2025. From all of us at Dogwatch, thank you for being part of our journey and for helping us make a difference - one dog at a time.



230 Dyers Road  
Bromley  
Christchurch 8062

[info@dogwatch.co.nz](mailto:info@dogwatch.co.nz)

Adoption Centre phone  
03 981 4708

**Adoption Centre open hours**  
Open: Tuesday to Sunday, 12pm to 4pm  
Closed: Mondays and public holidays



**Dogwatch**<sup>TM</sup>  
SANCTUARY TRUST

[www.dogwatch.co.nz](http://www.dogwatch.co.nz)

Dogwatch Sanctuary Trust is a registered charity,  
Charities Commission registration number CC30434.