



# Trustees' Annual Report

2023 - 2024



Podencos in Need



# Contact Information

Podencos in Need (PINS)

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[@podencosinneed](#)

# Board of Trustees

Pam McLeod  
Claire Masterton  
Lorraine Miller  
Katie Glass Williams  
Laura Duncan  
Mary Smith  
Louise Hay  
James Miller Fisher (resigned 31.1.24)



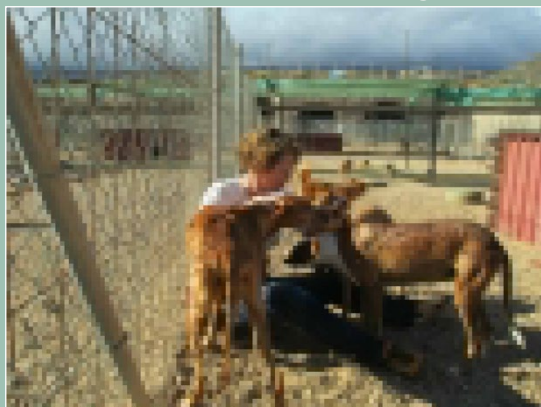
# How it all began

In December 2014, I visited the perrera (pound) Centro de Proteccion Animal Tierra Blanca, Tenerife, to spend a day volunteering.

Tierra Blanca had around 250 dogs, more than half of them abandoned Podenco Canarios. Most of the Podencos were in large outdoor runs, or Patios as they were called, with some makeshift shelters, around 12 - 15 dogs per run. Some were inside in large stalls in a huge warehouse type building with access to small outdoor runs. The inside dogs were usually either alone or with two or three others in their stall. Considering the sheer numbers, although it was far from perfect, the dogs were safe, fed and in reasonably clean conditions.

It was still overwhelmingly heartbreaking.

I spent most of the time with the Podencos in the Patios, finding them all to be friendly and desperate for affection, even from a stranger. That



day I fell in love with the breed, and particularly with Pacita.



Pacita had come into the shelter in late October, around 10 years old and heavily pregnant. She gave birth soon after to nine puppies, who very sadly contracted parvovirus and had to be taken from her and put in the hospital wing. Only three survived, but Pacita didn't get to see her puppies again as it took so long to get them back to health. She was so sad. She stood on her back legs looking over the wall, not particularly interested in me, probably still looking for her puppies. My heart absolutely broke for her.

By the time I left for the day, it was agreed that I would adopt Pacita and get her to the UK. With no clue how to arrange this, it was a very steep learning curve including fundraising the £990 needed to fly her to Edinburgh. Flying Fleeces was born, me sewing coats for dogs, and selling them to add to the fund. Facebook group "Bring Pacita to Scotland" and the countdown to the 13<sup>th</sup> of February flight day began.

Pacita arrived in Edinburgh late at night and by the time she was processed through the animal reception area at the airport, it was after midnight, so Pacita took her first steps on Scottish soil into a cold, dark night, handed over to a person who she clearly didn't remember. It was, fittingly, Valentine's Day.

The rest, as they say, is history.

Pacita very quickly settled into life in a home, showing just how wonderful Podencos can be as companion animals. Over a few months she settled into being the most wonderful, contented dog, and became the ambassador for a fairly unknown breed in the UK.

I started making more contacts in the Canaries and mainland Spain, learning about the process of bringing the dogs into the UK overland with approved transporters and about all the pitfalls involved in setting up an organisation to rescue and rehome dogs. I can't put into words how very special these dogs are and how much they bring to the lives of those lucky enough to share a home with one (or seven!)

There followed several years of frustrations and difficulties, exhaustion, anguish, tears, and sleepless nights that are well known to all involved in rescue. Pacita was with me every step of the way, and somehow, she always gave me the

strength to regroup, pull on another layer of armour and head back into battle for these dogs. She was there to share the pure joy, the satisfaction, the love, the new friends and sometimes the boost of faith in human nature that the journey gave us. Pacita became the mentor and the matriarch, sharing her home with hundreds of foster dogs and with the ones that came and stayed.

The PINS team grew and evolved, and we became a registered charity in 2023.

By the end of 2023, PINS had homed over 600 dogs.

Pacita hung up her lead on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2023, just short of her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday.

It's hard to keep walking the path without her, but I'll continue to try.

And even if I can't, the wonderful volunteers that are the PINS team will continue to rescue Podencos (and Galgos and others) in Pacita's name.

*My eternal thanks to Pacita McLeod,  
Founder of Podencos in Need - 28<sup>th</sup>  
October 2014 - 12<sup>th</sup>  
October 2023*

**Pam McLeod,  
Founder**



# Our Mission

Our aims are to rescue and rehabilitate ex-working animals, primarily, but not exclusively, Podencos, and to provide and maintain rescue homes for them.

We want to promote better understanding of the welfare issues facing these animals and to promote humane behaviour towards them, including provision of appropriate care, protection and treatment during and after their working life.

We also aim to improve awareness and education in matters pertaining to animal welfare in general and the prevention of cruelty and suffering among these animals.

We provide ongoing lifetime rescue back up for the animals in our care and we work alongside other organisations with similar aims.



# My Journey with Ayla

*A testimonial by one of our adopters*

Adopting Ayla, a beautiful Podenco, has been an absolute breeze, thanks to the incredible team at Podencos in Need. They were so thorough throughout the process, and I especially appreciated the thoughtful touch of bringing a dog along during the home check. It was a fantastic way to see how I interacted with a Podenco and ensured a good match from the start.

The team was up front, honest, and managed expectations.

From the moment Ayla came into my life, she's been a joy—quick to learn, loving, and wonderfully friendly with both other dogs and people. Every day, I look forward to giving her the training, comfort, structure, and safe space she deserves.

The support from Podencos in Need didn't stop after the adoption. They provided access to various groups, invaluable advice, and ongoing connections to ensure a smooth transition and continued care. It's been so reassuring to have their guidance as I've settled into life with Ayla.

I'm so grateful for this experience and for Ayla, who has already enriched my life beyond words. She is a partner for life.



***"I'd recommend anyone give Podencos in need a chance, they do great work."***

# Adopting Portia

*A testimonial by one of our adopters*

The process of adopting Portia has been so easy, and the team have been great at communication. The application process was very clear - particularly in terms of the responsibilities of both parties in adopting a dog with high prey drive, from an unknown background, and from abroad. The home visit was a good way to talk to another adopter about what to expect. The support preparing for transport has been useful to chat with other adopters and the team as we make final preparations.

Thank you to the whole team at PINS for their support during the process, and all the work they do to help these lovely dogs.



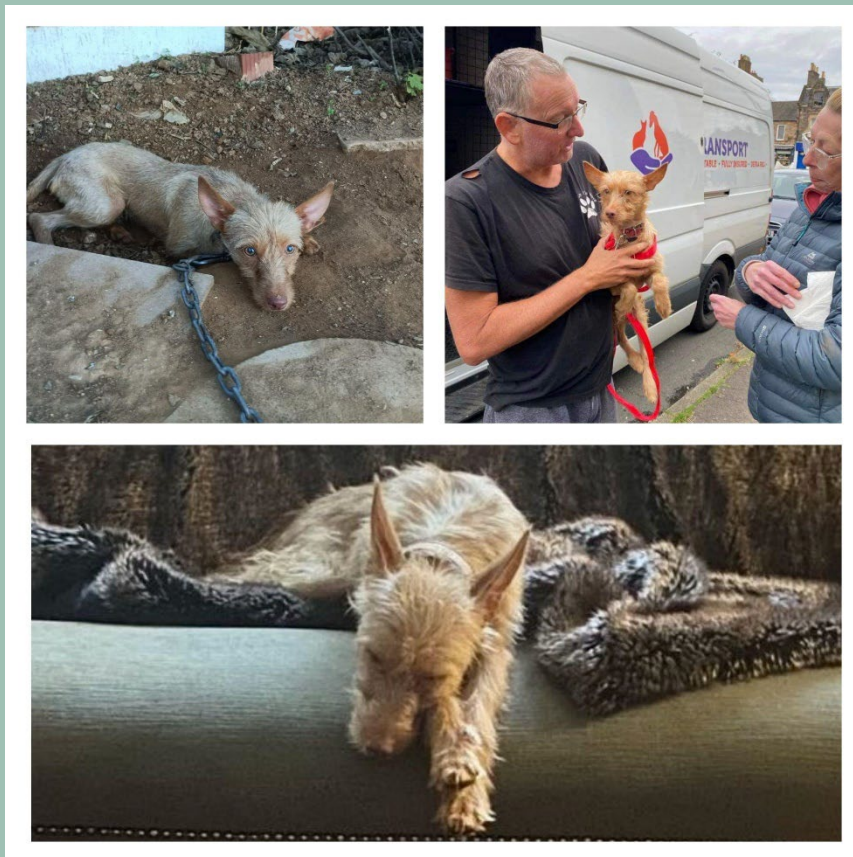


# Structure, Governance & Management

PINS' governing document is a Single Tier Constitution

Our minimum required number of Trustees is three, maximum of eight. We currently have seven Trustees on the team, having recently recruited Louise Hay, who comes with a wealth of experience from running a charity previously

We have a group of volunteers who help to run the charity and normally, we would recruit our trustees from within this group if they are keen to become more actively involved.



# Achievements & Performance

**In this financial year, we rescued and homed 69 dogs, with a further 25 brought into our care and currently awaiting being matched with adoptive homes.**

Our biggest single rescue event in the year was taking in 18 Galgos, all of whom were no longer required and whose prospects were bleak.

The Team put together an appeal for people who would like to help financially with this huge undertaking, by becoming sponsors for each of the 18 dogs.

This meant we had enough funds to do the necessary preparations, including internal transportation to some of the "residencia" kennel facilities we use.



*Petra exploring the Scottish Highlands*



*Grady chilling in the garden*

The dogs were all blood tested, neutered, vet checked, and treatment undertaken where needed, and all vaccinations brought up to date.

14 out of the 18 are now in the UK in homes or foster homes, with the others booked to travel very soon.

Normally we take on dogs singly or in small numbers where the need arises, so organising such a large-scale rescue was a challenge, but with our team and a wonderful following of supporters, we managed to save all 18.

Over the past year we have made some significant improvements to our IT infrastructure, to improve the security, efficiency and visibility of the charity.

**Website:** We have obtained a new domain that reflects the organisation's charity status and name ([podencosinneed.org](http://podencosinneed.org)) and have developed a new website aimed at raising online presence and visibility. This includes an integration with our Facebook pages so that information about dogs available for foster and adoption is synchronised and can be found and browsed by individuals who do not have (or do not want to have) access to Facebook.

**Fundraising:** we have set up infrastructure to support fundraising activities. Orders for merchandise and other fundraising items, such as our annual calendar, have been brought online and integrated into the website. We have also built a custom system for managing auctions. This automates much of the time-consuming and error-prone parts of the process for our volunteers.

**Google workspace:** We have set up a dedicated Google Workspace for the [podencosinneed.org](http://podencosinneed.org) domain (via Google's Workspace for Nonprofits offering). This has allowed us to provide trustees and core admin team members with dedicated email addresses, and to set up shared mailboxes for team members.

**Instagram:** Not too long after adopting my boy Aros, I took over PINS Instagram. This was an easy decision to make because I was drawn to PINS in the first place by the Facebook page. I haven't seen many rescues who share quite so many updates about their dogs and this made PINS stand out as a rescue who are really, truly in it for the dogs. From the minute he jumped out of his foster mum's van, tail wagging, jumping up to give us (complete strangers to him) hugs, Aros proved this to be the case.

A young Podenco who had been found on the streets and taken to kennels, he'd only been in the country a few weeks and had every reason to be terrified, yet he was a confident, happy soul. I genuinely think this is because of his foster mum Katherine, who not only showed him love, patience and what life is supposed to be like, but also matched him with me - he is thriving. I think this is the same for each PINS dog: every dog has the ideal home, and PINS find it. Even for the dogs like Tally, who after so many months, turned out had been home all along.

Since July 17<sup>th</sup> 565 posts have been added and the account has gone from 700 followers to >1200. This is roughly 1 follower gained per post - I add 4-5 posts daily spread across the most popular times of the day. 83 accounts have interacted via private message including at least 2 who have gone onto adopt.

The lucky ones finding forever homes since I started my list of dogs in July: Coco, Yaki, Hercules, Hanna, Kira, Lily, Mitzy, Sauron, Clio, Theo, Forrest, Murray, Dana, Milo & Dulce, Turco, Bonnie, Aris, Angel, Aroa, Clara, Carla, Milan, Portia, Carita, Ayla, Tally, Kai.

Breaking down interactions on the account in the past three months, beginning 12<sup>th</sup> September, the posts have been seen by 15,141 accounts - 4,408 of these have visited the page, 205 have clicked external links (General fundraising: auctions, Kiltwalk, 50/50, calendar sales). We have had 148,254 impressions - overall number of times stories/reels/posts have been seen. 22,355 likes, 801 comments and 275 saves (Instagram's version of bookmarking to view again later) have been received on our posts from 1,039 accounts. Stories are also popular on Instagram; I post several each day because they get minimum 100 views each and are often shared by viewers to their own profile.

**Reels:** Short videos are very popular as the algorithm really pushes these, and these are the type of posts most often seen by non-followers. I am limited with which videos from Facebook I can post as they can't be saved directly. I can screen record, but not all videos record in the best quality. **18 reels posted have gained a total of 28,412 views** - 6,447 of these were for Bonnie including her eventual forever family, 4,164 for Maui, 7,591 for Murray including his forever family.

72% of our followers are from the UK (majority Glasgow, Edinburgh, London and Paisley), with the rest mainly from Spain, US, Germany, Italy. 82% are woman, 18% are men.



*Tally at home, looking pleased with herself in her cosy Christmas pyjamas*



*Careto and Rayito enjoying foster life on the beach*

# Fundraising

As we only ask for an adoption donation that covers the transportation costs to bring the dogs to the UK, our fundraising efforts are a huge part of what we do.

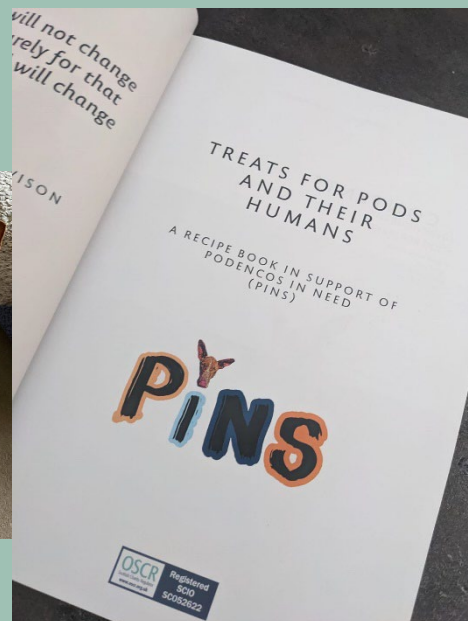
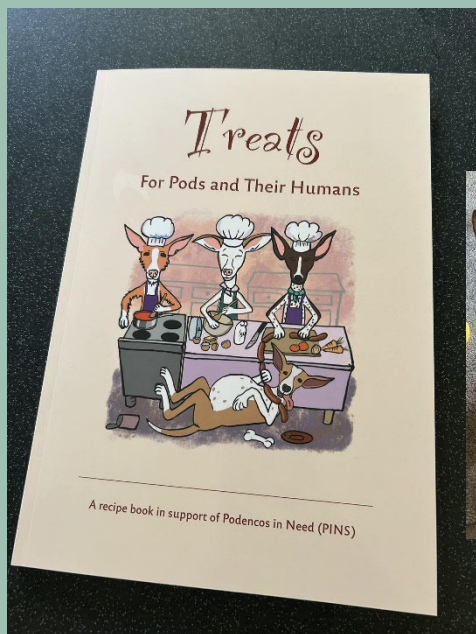
The core fundraising comes from our auctions, regular donations from people who are sponsoring our dogs, a proportion of the proceeds from Flying Fleeces - making custom dog coats, fleeces and pyjamas, and our Kiltwalkers, who raise sponsorship from the four organised Scottish Kiltwalk charity events every year.

We also raise funds from sales of other items: our calendar is a regular fundraiser each winter, with people paying for the professional photoshoot for their dogs to star in the finished product, as well as from the sales of the calendars themselves

Other items regularly for sale include PINS leads and harnesses, PINS t-shirts and other apparel, cards in the lead up to Christmas and other special promotions like the tea towels, the recipe book, etc.



The PINS Recipe Book was a collaborative fundraising effort with our PINS supporters. Supporters "purchased" a page in the book for their recipe and submitted their recipe (for dogs or humans), along with a photo and brief caption. Over 60 recipes and photos were compiled into a book, with cover artwork by another PINS supporter, and additional articles and features by members of the PINS team. It was then professionally printed and bound.



The Tea Towels promotion involved our supporters drawing their dogs, or getting their children to draw them, then submitting them to be made into a novelty tea towel.

We have also been fortunate enough to have one of our trustees attending many car boot sales, plus hosting a few sales herself, which has boosted the coffers significantly.



# Raising Awareness

## The Million Paws March

This year we held an organised event - The Million Paws March for Justice - held in Princes Street, Edinburgh, where many of our supporters and adopters gathered together with their PINS dogs, and marched from the Scott Monument, through Princes Street Gardens and on to the Spanish Consulate where we delivered a letter urging the Spanish government to re-appraise their animal welfare laws to include Podencos and Galgos. The March was a peaceful, fun event (all appropriate permissions and insurances were in place) where we engaged with many people en route, telling them what PINS do and handing out flyers with information.



## Podencos in Scotland Book

We also worked in collaboration with photographer and author, Andi Prima, to produce a book - Podencos in Scotland. Andi visited several rescues to write about what they do and their experiences. The book tells many stories and, as you'd expect when put together by a very talented photographer, is filled with wonderfully evocative photos. Andi continues to share the royalties from sales of Podencos in Scotland with PINS and the other organisations who were involved.





# Our Volunteers

Our volunteers are an incredible group of dedicated, passionate individuals, with a wide range of skills and interests. From giving up their time to steward at events like The March or to sell donations at car boot sales, to running our social media pages sharing the dogs and raising awareness of what PINS do.

From designing and creating merchandise to raise funds, to working in the background on the mountain of administration that is essential to the whole process of bringing dogs over to the UK. Our volunteers also help with homechecking applicants and sharing their knowledge and experience, then subsequently becoming "support buddies" for new adopters and fosterers.

As well as giving their time freely, we have a raft of volunteers who donate their talents such as artwork, technical expertise, sewing, photography and so much more.

An organisation we work alongside, Hope For Podencos, has the motto "Together We Are Stronger" and nothing could be more true.

Without the Trustees' hard work and the wide skill set of all our volunteers, we wouldn't have been able to achieve a quarter of what we have done.

To give an idea of the bigger picture, including the work and achievements prior to becoming a registered charity, PINS have, since the rescue of Pacita, 10 years ago, rescued and rehomed almost 700 dogs.

Unfortunately, until the laws change to include Podencos and Galgos under Spanish welfare regulations, this will continue to be a tiny proportion of the numbers that need help. It is indeed like trying to empty the ocean with a teaspoon, but for each of those 700 and the families who adopted them and love and care for them, it has been truly life changing.

# Financial Review

## Statement on our reserve policy

### 1. Purpose of Reserves

Our reserves are designed to ensure the continuity of support provided for dogs under our care, maintain operational stability, and ensure the charity can weather unexpected financial challenges.

### 2. Reserve Targets

Our goal is to maintain reserves that cover between 3 and 6 months of operating expenses to provide a buffer against unexpected income fluctuations.

### 3. Funding Reserves

Our reserves are funded through a combination of annual fundraising efforts, unrestricted donations, and any operating surpluses.

### 4. Use of Reserves

The reserve may be used to manage day-to-day operational needs in the event of temporary financial shortfalls.

### 5. Oversight and Management

The Board of Trustees shall regularly review our reserve levels to ensure they align with the needs of the charity, aiming to strike a balance between financial security and the ability to sustain the support provided to dogs in our care.

### 6. Review of the Policy

Our Reserve Policy shall be reviewed annually to ensure its relevance and effectiveness in meeting the evolving needs of the charity and the dogs we serve.

At 31st March 2024, the Charity held a reserve covering 2.5 months of average operating costs. Funds will continue to be assigned to the reserve in order to meet the desired level of 3-6 months.

# Donated facilities and services

The Faithful Hound (Photography)

Between the Woods and Sea (Artist)

Heather Christie (Artist)

Flying Fleeces (sewing)

Follow My Lead (Dog Training)

Busy Bees (Dog Training)

BlackRock Rosie (collars)

Amanda Owenson (Artist)

# Future Plans

Over the next year we hope to continue to rescue and rehome as many dogs as we can. We also hope to be able to work more with the shelters in the Canaries whose options for homing their dogs are much more limited.

We have implemented various working groups to further develop different areas, for instance, fundraising, sponsorship and developing a range of merchandise.

We intend to further develop our Support Buddy system to help new adopters and fosterers settle their new dogs into their families.

We hope to create a "library" of training protocols to share on our website, so that people can have easy access to approved training methods addressing some of the common hurdles such as dogs having separation anxiety, reactivity, crate training, etc.



*Vizu, from an abused and terrified boy to the most loved and cherished family member*



## Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Print name

Katie Glass Williams

Designation

Treasurer

Date

31/12/2024