

2020 Operational Report

2020 was a year like no other, with the COVID-19 pandemic affecting operational matters in various ways.

We were required to close our animal viewing areas, Tearooms and charity shops for three months, which impacted on our ability to generate income. Travel restrictions meant that people did not need to use our animal boarding service, which again impacted on income.

Boarding income was affected throughout the entire year, but once the Isle of Man's lockdown restrictions were lifted the Tearooms and shops 'bounced back' and traded very profitably. We also benefitted from government emergency funding and the continued generosity of supporters.



The number of animals coming into Ard Jerkyl for rehoming was almost 40% down on the average for the previous five years. The reasons are unclear but must relate to the pandemic and a desire to have animals in households during lockdown, and with so many employees working from home. The Kennels has no long-term dogs in its care, and has found adopters for even the most challenging (albeit adorable) ones like the American Bull dogs Dodger, left, and Dottie, right:



The Cattery also continued with its Trap, Neuter and Return scheme for feral cats, and dealt with over 70 during the year.



We maintained our animal welfare services throughout 2020 and although there were no prosecutions brought during the year, over 150 cases of suspected cruelty and/or neglect were investigated. Most cases required no further action, with animals being kept in 'good enough' conditions; but in some cases we have worked with owners to improve their standards of husbandry.

In two cases we were able to persuade owners (both of whom have mental health conditions) to sign over their respective dogs to us for subsequent rehoming.

Our work with wild animals carried on as in previous years, with the usual seasonal variations, and the staff team continue to develop their knowledge to ensure that rehabilitation and husbandry of wild mammals and birds is of the highest standard.

