



January 2020

**ST FRANCIS DOGS HOME CLOSES ITS DOORS IN  
PREPARATION FOR A NEW CHAPTER**

St Francis Dogs Home, a well-known and loved dog rehoming Charity located in Porth, Newquay, has announced it will close its doors in preparation for a new chapter. Following careful consideration, the Trustees decided that the Charity would suspend operations whilst exciting future plans for St Francis Dogs Home are developed. These plans are likely to include carrying out much needed site works to improve the facilities for the dogs in the Charity's care.

In order for its staff to focus on rehoming dogs which are currently in its care, St Francis Dogs Home is closing to the public with immediate effect and will be taking on no further animals. Anyone who has already reserved one of the dogs in the Home's care, has already applied or would like to apply for a dog through St Francis Dogs Home's website will be contacted as soon as possible to continue the adoption journey with the Charity. St Francis Dogs Home is committed to rehoming all of its current dogs.

Unfortunately, the closure also means the loss of five jobs at the Centre – St Francis Dogs Home will be working very closely with the team to support them during this transition period.

The Dogs' Home, which was established by a group of animal lovers in 1955, has a long history of caring for unwanted pets and strays, ultimately finding these animals loving forever homes. A new, improved centre would bring St Francis Dogs Home into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, helping to ensure that the shelter is able to provide the best possible care to dogs for many years to come. A full review of the current site layout will take place,

including a potential reconfiguration or partial rebuild to replace some outdated buildings and infrastructure.

Part of the improvement work will also include an overhaul of the Charity's current business model against a very challenging financial climate within the sector.

Additionally, Trustees will be working to ensure that St Francis Dogs Home meets all current and future legislation and offers best practice for both its staff and the dogs moving forward.

Throughout the closure, St Francis Dogs Home will still be active in the community, continuing to attend and oversee events. Additionally, the Charity will provide support to other organisations with the same charitable objectives whilst the review takes place in order to continue to deliver benefit to the public.

Tracey Collins, St Francis Dogs Home's Chair of Trustees, comments: "Closing the doors of the Charity is an extremely sad time for all of us, however the closure will enable us to take the necessary steps to future proof St Francis Dogs Home. After experiencing a challenging three years as a result of tighter finances, and dog rehoming numbers steadily reducing by over 50%, the decision was made by our Trustees to review the future direction of our important work."

Tracey continues: "Throughout the closure, we will still play a role in the community and provide vital support to other like-minded organisations – something which is close to our heart as a Charity. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support and we look forward to sharing updates across our social media platforms as we progress with our plans."



## **Q&A DOCUMENT**

### **Why are you closing?**

St Francis Dogs Home experienced a challenging three years as a result of tighter finances and dog rehoming numbers steadily reducing by over 50%.

Consequently, the decision was made by our Trustees to review our important work and develop new plans which will future proof St Francis Dogs Home.

These plans are likely to include carrying out much needed site works and a review of the business model in order to improve the facilities for the dogs in the Charity's care.

### **What will the work entail and how will this improve the facilities and your service?**

A new, improved centre would bring St Francis Dogs Home into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, helping to ensure that the shelter is able to provide the best possible care to dogs for many years to come.

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### **What will happen to the staff whilst you are closed?**

Unfortunately, the closure means the loss of five jobs at the centre – St Francis Dogs Home will be working very closely with the team to support them during this transition period.

### **What will happen to the dogs you currently have?**

We have made a commitment to rehome all dogs that are currently in our care. As always, it is our priority to ensure that these dogs find loving forever homes. All the dogs which are currently in our care will be rehomed before we gradually wind down towards the end of March 2020.

### **I'm interested in adopting one of your dogs – can I still apply?**

Yes – we are still accepting applications through the St Francis Dogs Home's website. All of our available dogs are listed under the 'Our Dogs' section. Please fill in an application and we will be in contact as soon as possible. We are committed to rehoming all of our current dogs in suitable, loving forever homes.

### **I have already reserved / applied for one of the dogs in your care – what happens next?**

Anyone who has already reserved one of the dogs in St Francis Dogs Home's care or has already applied through St Francis Dogs Home's website will be contacted as soon as possible to continue the adoption journey with us.

### **When will you reopen?**

We are unable to give a definitive answer regarding when we will reopen. However, we can confirm the closure is intended as a temporary measure whilst we roll out these vital changes.

### **Could you not stay open whilst doing the improvement works?**

Our main priority will always be the dogs in our care. We would be unable to provide sufficient facilities and appropriate care to the animals during this time.

### **Will you still be fundraising?**

Yes, we will still be an active part of the community, raising money for works and also much needed funds for the future.

### **Will you still be attending events?**

Throughout the closure, St Francis Dogs Home will still be active in the community, continuing to attend and oversee events. Additionally, the Charity will support other organisations with the same charitable objectives whilst the review takes place.

### **What will happen to dogs in the area that need to be rehomed during the period you are closed?**

Throughout the period we are closed, we will work closely with other dog homes in the area to ensure other dogs in need are given the chance to find loving forever homes.

### **What do I do if I have a St Francis Dogs Home collection pot or give a monthly amount to support the Charity?**

For all the businesses that support us with collection pots and for those supporters that give via Direct Debit, your continued support will help St Francis Dogs Home. However, we of course understand if you wish to direct your support elsewhere. We can collect pots for you at your convenience.

### **Is there anything I can do to support you whilst you are closed?**

We are always so grateful for the support that we receive from the local community. There will be lots of opportunities to support us still from attending events to helping us with our continuing fundraising efforts.

We will shortly be sharing some ideas about how you can help us to do this.

### **How will I be kept up to date with developments?**

We will be posting regular updates on social media to keep everyone updated on our progress.

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