

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2022-2023



Registered Charity No.1071200

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date			Period end date		
Day 01	Month 02	Year 2022	Day 31	Month 01	Year 2023
From			To		

### Section A

### Reference and administration details

Charity name	Bentham and District Pet Rescue
Other names charity is known by	Bentham Pet Rescue
Registered charity number (if any)	1071200
Charity's principal address	Far Sunnybank Laithe
	Mewith, High Bentham
	North Yorkshire
Postcode	LA2 7AX

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Phillip Ware	Chairman		Appointed by members at AGM
2	Joanne Hall	Secretary		Appointed by members at AGM
3	Sue Arnott	Treasurer		Appointed by members at AGM
4	Pat Roberts			Appointed by members at AGM
5	Carolyn Linney (Ellis)			Appointed by members at AGM
6	Kath Threlkeld			Appointed by members at AGM
7				
8	Val Marshall	Honorary President	Ceased to act as trustee on 16 March 2020 but retained honorary position	

### Names and addresses of advisers

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Accounts	J S Andrews & Co	22 Dalesview Close, Clapham, North Yorkshire, LA2 8RP

## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <small>(eg. trust deed, constitution)</small>	Constitution dated 6 July 1998 updated at AGM 16 March 2020
How the charity is constituted <small>(eg. trust, association, company)</small>	Unincorporated Association
Trustee selection methods <small>(eg. appointed by, elected by)</small>	Election by Members at Annual General Meeting / Co-option by members of the Executive Committee

## Section C Objectives and activities

### Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The Charity's objects are:

- (1) To relieve the suffering of cats, dogs and other pet animals in Bentham and district who are in need of care and attention, in particular by facilitating the care and re-homing of such animals.
- (2) The relief of pensioners who are unable to afford kennel costs or veterinary bills for their pets.

## Section D Report on performance

### An introduction

Bentham and District Pet Rescue (the Charity) began in 1998, being run from the garage of the original founder (and now Honorary President) Val Marshall. Since then, three others have committed their time, efforts and back gardens to running a rescue centre from their properties - Pat Roberts, Pam Whitehead and Louise Pauley.

The terms of our constitution narrows our field of operation to the Bentham district but that has proved difficult to define with boundaries being somewhat fluid. Essentially the charity aims to work around Bentham in areas not covered by other cat welfare organisations. This normally extends to the north west Craven district of North Yorkshire plus areas of north Lancashire and south Cumbria, extending as far east as Hellifield and west to Kirkby Lonsdale.

Since its inception, Bentham Pet Rescue has responded to calls from members of the community about lost or abandoned animals, for help to manage colonies of feral and farm cats through a neutering scheme supported by our two local vet practices, and for help in the case of financial hardship, with a particular focus on assistance to pensioners struggling to pay for necessary treatment for their beloved pets. Our hands-on facilities for pet rescue have been restricted to cats, with two centres operating at the start of 2021\*, but contacts with other animal rescue charities in the region have enabled us to direct requests for help with other pets.

As always, the Charity has relied on donations from supporters and on volunteers who organise fund-raising events throughout the year and those who give their time to help at the cat sanctuaries. Our volunteers were initially from the Bentham area, but more recently have lived in Burton in Lonsdale, Settle, Hellifield, Paythorne, Clapham, Ingleton, Hornby and Kirkby Lonsdale with trustees from as far afield as Farnhill near Skipton, Newton by Bowland near Clitheroe and Ulverston.

\* Our centre in Burton in Lonsdale closed in 2021.



## Our activities during the year

This has been a year of significant change for the way we operate.

As we anticipated, in June our dedicated volunteer Louise Pauley stepped down from her role as our main cat re-homer and we closed the rescue centre which operated from her garden. Over the previous 6 years, Louise's work for our charity and her dedication to the many cats she helped was outstanding. Although we paid tribute to Louise at our AGM in September, awarding her the 'Marion Casey Volunteer of the Year Award', we continue to be indebted to Louise for steering the charity towards the more professional and outward-looking organisation it is today.

Louise's departure prompted a re-think of how we operate. Calling on the experience of Inga Voit, a colleague from neighbouring charity Eden Animal Rescue, we considered various other models before settling on a fostering scheme as the most practicable way forward for Bentham & District Pet Rescue.

Unsurprisingly, this required a tremendous amount of planning, preparation, research, administration and sheer hard work, particularly from our trustee Carolyn Linney who drafted much of the paperwork necessary to document each stage of the fostering process. Although we learn all the time and plan to regularly review our procedures, it is a tribute to the work done that we have been asked by two other small rescue charities undergoing similar reorganisation for copies of our documents, and of course we have been glad to share.

With the close of the rescue centre at Newby near Clapham, we needed to find a new home for the small cattery building housing 3 individual pens that was installed in 2019. With no other volunteer offering space to take this, the trustees agreed to offer this to another local charity with similar aims. After inviting expressions of interest from a number of animal rescue charities in the region, we were delighted to offer this to Settle Wildlife Rescue.

This building had been funded through a substantial donation from a local supporter, Ian Macdonald, to whom we had rehomed two cats. It came as a shock to the whole community when, in June, he died in a tragic accident. Not only was that devastating for his friends and family, but we sadly lost a potential business partner for our future development. However, we were privileged to be able to find a wonderful new home for Ian's beloved cats.

The departure from our base in Newby also brought to a head another challenge – storage of all our equipment. We have 5 cat traps, 3 free-standing cat pens, more cat litter trays than we can count, cat beds, blankets, toys and all manner of incidental pet-related items that have been donated by kind supporters. In addition, we needed space to store donated food and stock items such as litter and specialist food. By good fortune, at the end of May 2021 we were able to acquire use of a lock-up unit at Pye Mill in High Bentham for a modest rental. After a good clean-up by a group of volunteers, a splash of paint and the purchase of some sturdy shelving, we now have a convenient store from which to distribute items as and when required.

But whilst some things have changed dramatically, some things have stayed the same.

We continue to treasure our volunteers without whom we could not operate. We still have a wonderful group of people who help at local fund-raising events but we also now have fosterers and a home-check team as well as continued hands-on help from key trustees. We managed only one social event this year – a Christmas lunch – but we have set up a WhatsApp group to help everyone keep in touch with cats - from admission to adoption and all that goes on between!

We still have continued support from our two local veterinary practices: Dalehead Vets at Settle and Westmorland Vets at Kirkby Lonsdale. This year we also worked closely with Carnforth Pet Care whilst we had fosterers based over towards the west of our patch. We are extremely grateful to all three veterinary surgeries for the help they give us.

With the demands on trustee time due to the changed working practices, sadly communication with our supporters has taken a back seat this year. We did not produce our newsletter, 'Pawprint' in 2022, but we intend to bring it back into production. However our Facebook page has continued to be the main means of contact for many people, alongside our website and both have worked effectively. In addition, the website draws attention to ways people can help the charity such as small-scale fund-raising schemes like Easyfundraising, Paypal Giving Fund, Amazon Smile (*closed in 2023*) and our Amazon Wishlist. We have also benefitted substantially from vouchers for Pets at Home through its *Lifelines* scheme.



Our search for an opportunity to establish a permanent rescue centre has continued although it has not been the main thrust of our efforts this year. However this has brought into focus the need to change our charitable status – potentially to a CIO (charitable incorporated organisation). This will be top of the priority list for 2023.

### **Our achievements**

Having shaken off the restrictions brought about through the Covid 19 pandemic, we gradually moved back to full rehoming services this year.

Despite the closure of our centre in Newby, we have been successful in re-homing a total of 15 cats and 35 kittens during the last 12 months – only one less than the previous year. We currently support 4 cats in permanent foster care - Ruby, Mia, Rose Marie and Lucy – most of whom are elderly cats with medical problems or conditions who are unlikely to be adopted. We also continue to support a colony of (neutered) cats that live on the allotments at Settle, providing food and worm treatment to the cats with the help of local volunteers, Kevin and Andy.

There was inevitably a pause in re-homing as the centre was decommissioned and the last cats found homes before our fostering scheme came on stream. However we took in our first rescue cat in June 2022 and have progressed from there.

We were initially joined by two volunteer fosterers who had previously worked with Bay Cat Rescue, Julie Moore and Tina Harrison. It was invaluable to have the benefit of their experience and we were grateful to both for the care they gave to several cats before leaving us to work on other projects.

Our ability to take in cats and kittens is inevitably dependant on the number of foster places available. By the end of the year we had 4 regular fosterers and a three temporary carers on our list. We expect to recruit more but accept that the number is likely to fluctuate from time to time. We aim to ensure that no fosterer is out of pocket in terms of expenses associated with caring for our cats and try to provide all that is needed in terms of food, litter and equipment. However we know that all our carers go the extra mile to make sure the cats placed in their care have the best conditions from which to recover, recuperate and/or rejuvenate in order to move on to their new homes.

This year our cat traps have been much used.

- Two were loaned to a nearby garden retail business which had several visiting semi-feral cats. Four female and one male cat were subsequently trapped, neutered and released, all with the intention that they will stay on the site and be fed.
- Two stray male cats in Settle with no known owners were caught, neutered and released, again with general oversight of their future care arranged.
- One trap was loaned to a lady whose pet cat had been frightened away from the house and now wouldn't go home; the cat was trapped, taken back and happily reunited with her family.
- Another was lent to a lady who was concerned about a stray cat visiting the site of another garden business. With a great deal of patience, she caught the cat, had him neutered, took him into her home and now has a happily settled feline companion.
- One was loaned to a lady concerned about two kittens on a nearby farm. One was trapped, came into foster care and has since settled in permanently with his fosterer; sadly, the other was never found.
- Two were loaned to a farmer with an expanding cat population; two cats were trapped and neutered, four kittens were collected, fostered and rehomed. Others are an ongoing issue.
- One was loaned to a nearby industrial business with a mum cat and two kittens living on its premises. The cat and one kitten were caught but unfortunately the second kitten was not seen again.
- Five kittens were trapped, fostered and rehomed while the mum cat was neutered and returned to a rural location.

Our approach is always to promote neutering, by funding the whole or part of the cost (in line with our agreed policy). Hopefully in future we will establish a small team of volunteers to develop expertise in the skill of trapping feral cats for neutering and release. A wildlife camera, purchased this year through kind donations, and two alarms will help us to monitor traps remotely.



This year we have had only one request for help with vet bills from a 'pensioner in financial hardship' although we continue to remind our vets that the fund is available if needed. However we agreed to support a man who adopted a cat from us with a known medical condition that reoccurred from time to time. Since treatment for such conditions is not normally covered by insurance, we considered it only fair that the Charity met half of the considerable costs of the cat's treatment when the condition flared up again.

### Our trustees

No new trustees were appointed this year. All existing trustees were re-elected at the AGM which had been delayed until 12 September 2022 so as to ensure the annual accounts had been examined. This meeting was held at Bentham Golf Club but with some members attending virtually via Googlemeet.

In fact all 3 trustee meetings this year have been held virtually, in March, August and January. This is the most practical and efficient way to bring together people who live some distance apart for discussion, updates and for decision-making. Fewer meetings have been necessary since our fostering scheme has launched and is now working well.

Despite the continuing (and sometimes heavy) commitment, all trustees gave of their time freely and no remuneration was paid to any during the year. Payments made to trustees as reimbursements for direct costs incurred by the Charity have been declared in our annual accounts. As required, the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

### Our finances

The planned closure of our last rescue centre has brought about savings in some areas of expenditure, primarily the overheads involved in maintaining and heating a small building and the small remuneration paid to our centre manager. However we now incur the cost of renting our small but essential storage facility.

Unsurprisingly, given we have still managed to take in and rehome a good many cats, the cost of food and litter, veterinary checks and treatment continue to represent our main outgoings. In general, all costs have risen slightly with the exception of insurance which has dropped, essentially as a result of changing companies.

In January 2023 the trustees agreed to raise our 'adoption fee' (re-categorised from our previous 'minimum donation for adoption') to £100 per cat or kitten in line with other local rescue charities. Even without this increase, the amount generated through the rehoming process is only slightly below the total for the previous year.

We have benefited again from a small number of legacies, funeral collections and major donations from charitable trusts focussed on animal welfare which have significantly enhanced the income we are able to raise from local fund-raising events, regular supporters who make monthly donations and other incidental gifts. Our commission from Agria Insurance has increased\*, as has the interest earned on our cash deposits.

Our local events were limited to coffee mornings and afternoon teas but nonetheless provided us with good support from the local community if not huge sums of money. Despite raising modest amounts for a lot of hard work, we recognise the value of local events in terms of raising awareness of our work. Indeed, our coffee morning in Hellifield in April 2022 was held specifically to raise money to help animals in Ukraine; from the proceeds we were delighted to send £150 to each of two charities actively helping pets in the war-troubled country – IFAW and PETA.

Sales of Christmas cards were successful once again and we are indebted to Westmorland Vets, Bentham Post Office, Wholesome Bee and the Pet Shop in Settle for selling these on the charity's behalf. We are also grateful to a number of small businesses in the area who host the Charity's collecting cans for small change, and to a local volunteer who devised a quiz that raised a small amount but much appreciated nonetheless.

*\* (Free pet insurance for 5 weeks is offered for all cats adopted from us, bringing us a small commission if the policy is maintained.)*



As we noted last year, we were notified of a legacy bequest of £50,000 from a former trustee of our charity, Rosemary Jenkins, formerly of Clapham. The funds were not received until after 31 January 2022 and this was therefore recorded in last year's accounts.

Rosemary was a keen volunteer in the early days of our charity, taking a turn on the rota for cleaning the pens in the cat sanctuary, covering the lunchtime slot on the bric-a-brac stall at Clapham Street Fair, as well as taking on the role of trustee. She adored cats, having many of her own but also helping several strays in the village and letting them use her garage for shelter. Rosemary was much loved by those who remember her.

With this substantial donation to our funds, it was agreed that we should set up a dedicated on-line savings account specifically to hold capital reserves as a 'building fund'. Seeking a convenient and efficient system with an ethical bank led us to add a Community Savings account with the Co-operative Bank to sit alongside our Co-op Community current account. Funds from our (off-line) account at Skipton Building Society were also transferred into this new savings account and the old SBS account closed.

As at 31 January 2023, the Charity holds reserves of £144,095, none of which is restricted. It continues to be our intention that the Charity should hold sufficient reserves to cover operating costs for two years in case fund-raising efforts should fail. Our estimate is that £25k per annum should be set aside for this. It is intended that funds over and above this operating reserve should form our 'building fund' to enable us to secure a new site on which to establish a permanent cat rescue centre.

## The year ahead

This year has seen the start of a new chapter in our evolution.

The ending of our operations based on a rescue centre brought to a close more than twenty years of pet rescues essentially managed by the volunteer(s) in whose garden(s) these were sited. We continue to acknowledge the contributions of those individuals - the original founder (and now Honorary President) Val Marshall (1997-2001), Pat Roberts (2001-2021), Pam Whitehead (2009-2016) and Louise Pauley (2016-2022) – and we celebrate the huge numbers of pets these people were able to help.

However 2023 saw the beginnings of a new way of working, one that is developing into a team-based approach, so that all the responsibility is not placed solely on one individual. We are still expecting a huge commitment from certain key individuals – perhaps too much at times – and need to address this.

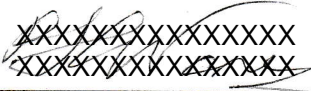

We recognise that to become more sustainable we must change our charitable status to open up the possibility of appointing a part-time manager to co-ordinate our operations and to bid for funds to support this. The year ahead will be committed to bringing about that step change whilst reviewing and improving our new fostering processes.

As this happens, we will need to reinvigorate communications with our supporters, both local and online, and to seek out more committed volunteers and, most essentially, new trustees to take the charity positively into the future.

## Section E Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Phillip Ware	Sue Arnott
Position	Chairman	Treasurer

Date 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023



**Bentham & District Pet Rescue**  
Charity number 1071200 - England and Wales

**Statement of Accounts  
for the  
Year Ended 31 January 2023**

## **Bentham & District Pet Rescue**

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## **Bentham & District Pet Rescue**

### **Independent Examiner's Report from J S Andrews FCCA to the Trustees of Bentham & District Pet Rescue**

In respect of the statement of accounts for the year ended 31 January 2023 on pages 8 to 15:

- Responsibilities of the trustees

As trustees, you have responsibilities within the following:

The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 ('the Regulations').

The Charities Act 2022 ('the Act').

The Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Financial Reporting Standard 102) October 2019 ('the SORP').

Any other directives, conditions or restrictions imposed upon the charity by regulation, benefactors or other relevant parties.

As trustees, your responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Preparation of a statement of accounts which shows a true and fair view.

Preparation of sufficient accounting records and other relevant information.

Preparation of a trustees' annual report which should accompany and accurately reflect the information contained in the statement of accounts.

Ascertaining whether the charity is required to have an audit of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information.

Ascertaining whether the charity is required to have an independent examination of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information.

Ascertaining whether the charity is required to have any other examination or review of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information.

- Responsibilities of the independent examiner

As independent examiner, I have responsibilities within the following:

The Regulations.

The Act.

Directions given by the Charity Commission for England and Wales in the guidance document 'Independent Examination of Charity Accounts: Directions and Guidance for Examiners (CC32) December 2017' ('the Directions').

Any other directives, conditions or restrictions imposed upon the charity by regulation, benefactors or other relevant parties.

Continued

## **Bentham & District Pet Rescue**

### **Independent Examiner's Report from J S Andrews FCCA to the Trustees of Bentham & District Pet Rescue Continued**

As independent examiner, my responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Completion of an independent examination of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information.

Stating whether particular matters have come to my attention in completing my independent examination of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information.

- **Basis of my independent examiner's report**

I completed an independent examination of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information in accordance with the Regulations, the Act and the Directions.

An independent examination includes the following:

A review of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information, and a comparison of those items.

Consideration of any unusual items included in the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information, and seeking explanations from the trustees regarding such items.

An independent examination is a form of external scrutiny that provides a limited check on specific matters. An independent examination does not provide all the evidence that is required in an audit. Therefore, I do not express an audit opinion on the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information, and neither do I express an opinion on whether the statement of accounts shows a true and fair view. My independent examiner's report is limited to those matters contained in the following statement:

- **Independent examiner's statement**

In completing my independent examination of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information, none of the following came to my attention:

Any matters which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material aspect the trustees' responsibility to prepare sufficient accounting records and other relevant information in accordance with the Regulations and the Act has not been met.

Any matters which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material aspect the trustees' responsibility to prepare a statement of accounts from the accounting records and other relevant information in accordance with the Regulations, the Act and the SORP has not been met.

Any matters to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the statement of accounts to be reached.

Continued

**Bentham & District Pet Rescue**

**Independent Examiner's Report from J S Andrews FCCA  
to the  
Trustees of Bentham & District Pet Rescue  
Continued**

To the fullest extent within laws and regulations, I do not accept responsibility to any third parties for my work relating to the statement of accounts or for this report.

This report has been prepared only for your use as trustees and to be sent to the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

~~15A xxxxx~~  
~~xxxxxxx~~

J S Andrews FCCA  
J S Andrews & Co  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
22 Dalesview Close  
Clapham  
North Yorkshire  
LA2 8RP

30 June 2023



## **Bentham & District Pet Rescue**

### **Accountants' Report from J S Andrews & Co Chartered Certified Accountants to the Trustees of Bentham & District Pet Rescue**

In respect of the statement of accounts for the year ended 31 January 2023 on pages 8 to 15:

As trustees, you have responsibilities within the following:

The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 ('the Regulations').

The Charities Act 2022 ('the Act').

The Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Financial Reporting Standard 102) October 2019 ('the SORP').

Any other directives, conditions or restrictions imposed upon the charity by regulation, benefactors or other relevant parties.

As trustees, your responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Preparation of a statement of accounts which shows a true and fair view.

Preparation of sufficient accounting records and other relevant information.

Preparation of a trustees' annual report which should accompany and accurately reflect the information contained in the statement of accounts.

Ascertaining whether the charity is required to have an audit of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information.

Ascertaining whether the charity is required to have an independent examination of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information.

Ascertaining whether the charity is required to have any other examination or review of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information.

To assist you with your responsibilities and in accordance with your instructions, we have prepared the statement of accounts on your behalf in accordance with the Regulations, the Act, the SORP and generally accepted accounting practice.

To assist you with your responsibilities and in accordance with your instructions, we have completed an independent examination of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information that you have made available to us, in accordance with the independent examiner's report on pages 1 to 3.

We have completed our work on your behalf from the accounting records and other relevant information that you have made available to us.

We have relied on the accounting records and other relevant information that you have made available to us as being true, correct and complete. Other than the procedures explained in the independent examiner's report on pages 1 to 3, we have not completed extensive procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records and other relevant information that you have made available to us, and our work relating thereto has not been designed to identify significant errors or weaknesses therein. Therefore, other than the independent examiner's report on pages 1 to 3, we do not give any comment on the statement of accounts or the accounting records and other relevant information that you have made available to us.

Continued

**Bentham & District Pet Rescue**

**Accountants' Report from J S Andrews & Co Chartered Certified Accountants  
to the**

**Trustees of Bentham & District Pet Rescue**

Continued

Our work on your behalf is subject to the professional standards of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants and has been undertaken within those professional standards.

To the fullest extent within laws and regulations, we do not accept responsibility to any third parties for our work relating to the statement of accounts or for this report.

The statement of accounts and this report have been prepared only for your use as trustees and for information contained therein to be sent to the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

~~J S Andrews & Co~~  
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

J S Andrews & Co  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
22 Dalesview Close  
Clapham  
Lancaster  
North Yorkshire  
LA2 8RP

30 June 2023

**Bentham & District Pet Rescue**

**Declaration from the Trustees of Bentham & District Pet Rescue  
to  
J S Andrews & Co Chartered Certified Accountants**

In respect of the statement of accounts for the year ended 31 January 2023 on pages 8 to 15 :

We approve the statement of accounts.

We acknowledge that, as trustees, we have responsibilities within the following:

The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 ('the Regulations').

The Charities Act 2022 ('the Act').

The Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Financial Reporting Standard 102) October 2019 ('the SORP').

Any other directives, conditions or restrictions imposed upon the charity by regulation, benefactors or other relevant parties.

We acknowledge that, as trustees, our responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Preparation of a statement of accounts which shows a true and fair view.

Preparation of sufficient accounting records and other relevant information.

Preparation of a trustees' annual report which should accompany and accurately reflect the information contained in the statement of accounts.

Ascertaining whether the charity is required to have an audit of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information.

Ascertaining whether the charity is required to have an independent examination of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information.

Ascertaining whether the charity is required to have any other examination or review of the statement of accounts, financial records and other relevant information.

To assist us with our responsibilities, we have instructed you to prepare the statement of accounts on our behalf in accordance with the Regulations, the Act, the SORP and generally accepted accounting practice.

To assist us with our responsibilities, we have instructed you to complete an independent examination of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information that we have made available to you, in accordance with the independent examiner's report on pages 1 to 3.

We confirm that an audit or any other examination or review of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information is not required.

We have made available to you all accounting records and other relevant information necessary to enable you complete your work on our behalf.

Continued



**Bentham & District Pet Rescue**

**Declaration from the Trustees of Bentham & District Pet Rescue  
to  
J S Andrews & Co Chartered Certified Accountants  
Continued**

The accounting records and other relevant information that we have made available to you are true, correct and complete. We acknowledge that, other than the procedures explained in the independent examiner's report on pages 1 to 3, you have not completed extensive procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records and other relevant information that we have made available to you, and your work relating thereto has not been designed to identify significant errors or weaknesses therein. We acknowledge that, therefore, other than the independent examiner's report on pages 1 to 3, you do not give any comment on the statement of accounts or the accounting records and other relevant information that we have made available to you.

We acknowledge that your work on our behalf is subject to the professional standards of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants and has been undertaken within those professional standards.

We acknowledge that, to the fullest extent within laws and regulations, you do not accept responsibility to any third parties for your work relating to the statement of accounts or for the reports on pages 1 to 5.

We acknowledge that the statement of accounts and the reports on pages 1 to 5 have been prepared only for our use as trustees and for information contained therein to be sent to the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Signed on behalf of the trustees.

XXXXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXX  
P Ware  
Trustee  
Chairperson

30 June 2023

XXXXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXX  
S Arnott  
Trustee  
Treasurer

30 June 2023

XXXXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXX  
J Hall  
Trustee  
Secretary

30 June 2023

# **Bentham & District Pet Rescue**

## **Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 January 2023**

	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds - income</b>	2 and 4		
Donations, grants and miscellaneous fundraising		8,837	13,947
Gift aid		-	7,061
Legacies		12,774	50,000
Animal adoptions		4,900	5,175
Insurance commission		401	193
Interest		775	29
Donated professional services		1,250	950
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		28,937	77,355
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Unrestricted funds - expenditure</b>	2 and 4		
Veterinary		7,354	-
Catteries		448	3,346
Food and litter		1,271	2,641
Miscellaneous fund raising		631	787
Rent		1,120	-
Electricity		165	426
Repairs, renewals and miscellaneous equipment		252	183
Travelling		259	1,521
Telecommunications		142	219
Software and related training		429	299
Postage and stationery		146	37
Accountancy fee (waived)		1,000	750
Independent examiner's fee (waived)		250	200
Legal fee		663	210
Insurance		567	594
Transaction charges		38	73
Bad debt		100	-
Meetings		-	111
Donations and gifts		1,065	462
Depreciation of equipment	3	4,038	2,494
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		19,938	14,353
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Unrestricted funds - net surplus</b>		8,999	63,002
		<hr/>	<hr/>

Continued

**Bentham & District Pet Rescue****Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 January 2023**  
Continued

	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds - summary</b>	2 and 4		
Brought forward		135,096	72,094
Net surplus		8,999	63,002
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Carried forward		144,095	135,096
		<hr/>	<hr/>

Continued



**Bentham & District Pet Rescue**

**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 January 2023**  
Continued

	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
<b>Restricted funds - income</b>	2 and 5		
Donations and grants		3,000	10,000
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Restricted funds - expenditure</b>	2 and 5		
Veterinary		4,775	12,660
Food and litter		423	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		5,198	12,660
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Restricted funds - net deficit</b>		(2,198)	( 2,660)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Restricted funds - summary</b>	2 and 5		
Brought forward		2,198	4,858
Net deficit		(2,198)	( 2,660)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Carried forward		-	2,198
		<hr/>	<hr/>

# Bentham & District Pet Rescue

## Balance Sheet at 31 January 2023

	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Equipment	2 and 3	1,103	4,430
<b>Current assets</b>	2		
Stock		344	364
Debtors		1,553	58,605
Prepayments		182	230
Paypal account		3,033	4,307
Cash at bank and building society		138,852	69,894
Cash in hand		202	869
		<u>144,166</u>	<u>134,269</u>
<b>Creditors</b>	2		
Amounts falling due within one year:			
Creditors		( 1,174)	( 1,405)
		<u>142,992</u>	<u>132,864</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>			
		<u>144,095</u>	<u>137,294</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>			
		<u>144,095</u>	<u>137,294</u>
<b>Capital and reserves</b>			
Unrestricted funds	4	144,095	135,096
Restricted funds	5	-	2,198
		<u>144,095</u>	<u>137,294</u>

On behalf of the trustees, we approve the statement of accounts on pages 8 to 15 .

XXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXX

P Ware  
Trustee  
Chairperson

30 June 2023

XXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXX

S Arnott  
Trustee  
Treasurer

30 June 2023

XXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXX

J Hall  
Trustee  
Secretary

30 June 2023

## **Bentham & District Pet Rescue**

### **Notes to the Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31 January 2023**

#### **1 Charity objectives**

The charity's main objectives are:

To relieve the suffering of dogs, cats and other pet animals in Bentham and district which are in need of care and attention, and in particular by facilitating the care and re-homing of such animals.

To offer financial assistance to pensioners who are unable to afford kennel or veterinary costs for their pet animals.

#### **2 Accounting policies**

##### **Basis of preparation of statement of accounts**

The statement of accounts is prepared in accordance with:

The historical cost convention.

The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008.

The Charities Act 2022.

The Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Financial Reporting Standard 102) October 2019.

##### **Income**

Accounting policy applied to all income:

All income is included gross in the statement of accounts on the accruals basis and when all the following criteria have been met:

Control over the rights or other access to the economic benefits relating to the income has passed to the charity.

It is probable the economic benefits relating to the income will pass to the charity.

The monetary value of the economic benefits relating to the income and any costs incurred relating to the transactions can be measured reliably.

Accounting policies applied to specific transactions:

Donated goods for sale are included in the statement of accounts at the monetary value realised when sold or disposed of.

Donated facilities, goods or services for use by the charity are included in the statement of accounts at a reliable estimate of their monetary value where information is available to calculate such an estimate.

The monetary value of volunteer help is not included in the statement of accounts. Information relating to volunteer help is included in the trustees' annual report.

Continued



## **Bentham & District Pet Rescue**

### **Notes to the Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31 January 2023**

Continued

Debtors are included in the statement of accounts at the amounts the charity anticipates it will receive in respect of debts owed to it at the balance sheet date.

Prepayments are included in the statement of accounts at the amounts the charity has paid in advance for goods or services not yet received by it at the balance sheet date.

#### **Expenditure**

Accounting policy applied to all expenditure:

All expenditure is included gross in the statement of accounts on the accruals basis and when all the following criteria have been met:

A present legal or constructive obligation exists as a result of a past event that commits the charity to the expenditure.

It is probable the economic benefits relating to the obligation will pass from the charity.

The monetary value of the economic benefits relating to the obligation can be measured reliably.

Accounting policies applied to specific transactions:

Equipment is included in the statement of accounts at cost less depreciation and impairment.

Depreciation of equipment is included in the statement of accounts at a rate calculated to write off the cost of equipment, less its estimated residual value, on a straight line basis over the expected useful economic life of the equipment.

Impairment of equipment is considered at each balance sheet date and included in the statement of accounts as necessary.

Stock is included in the statement of accounts at an estimate of the lower of cost or net realisable value, after making allowance for obsolete or slow moving stock. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of related overhead costs.

Creditors and accruals are included in the statement of accounts at the amounts the charity anticipates it will pay in respect of debts owed for goods or services received by it at the balance sheet date.

Continued

## Bentham & District Pet Rescue

### Notes to the Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31 January 2023 Continued

#### 3 Equipment

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cost:		
Brought forward	8,897	8,552
Acquisitions	711	345
Disposals	(1,222)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Carried forward	8,386	8,897
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation:		
Brought forward	4,467	1,973
Provision	4,038	2,494
Written back on disposals	(1,222)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Carried forward	7,283	4,467
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Written down value:		
Carried forward	1,103	4,430
	<hr/>	<hr/>

#### 4 Unrestricted funds

The charity's unrestricted funds are available for application at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's objectives.

#### 5 Restricted funds

The charity's restricted funds are available for application at the discretion of the trustees only in accordance with the restrictions placed on the restricted funds by the benefactors of the donations and grants which form the restricted funds.

#### 6 Trustees' remuneration, benefits and expenses

There were no trustees' remuneration or benefits arising from employments with the charity during the two years ended 31 January 2023.

#### 7 Related party transactions

The charity received from trustees and volunteers the benefit of free use of land on which to conduct its activities. It has not been practicable to place a monetary value on the economic benefits to the charity relating to its use of that land.

Continued

**Bentham & District Pet Rescue**

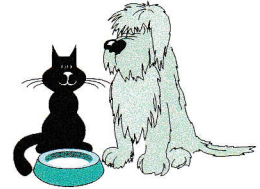
**Notes to the Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31 January 2023**

Continued

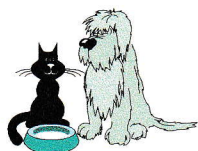
**8 Going concern**

The trustees are of the opinion there are no material uncertainties regarding the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the statement of accounts.





## ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2022-2023



Registered Charity No.1071200

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date			Period end date		
Day 01	Month 02	Year 2022	Day 31	Month 01	Year 2023
From			To		

### Section A

### Reference and administration details

Charity name	Bentham and District Pet Rescue
Other names charity is known by	Bentham Pet Rescue
Registered charity number (if any)	1071200
Charity's principal address	Far Sunnybank Laithe
	Mewith, High Bentham
	North Yorkshire
Postcode	LA2 7AX

#### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Phillip Ware	Chairman		Appointed by members at AGM
2	Joanne Hall	Secretary		Appointed by members at AGM
3	Sue Arnott	Treasurer		Appointed by members at AGM
4	Pat Roberts			Appointed by members at AGM
5	Carolyn Linney (Ellis)			Appointed by members at AGM
6	Kath Threlkeld			Appointed by members at AGM
7				
8	Val Marshall	Honorary President	Ceased to act as trustee on 16 March 2020 but retained honorary position	

#### Names and addresses of advisers

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Accounts	J S Andrews & Co	22 Dalesview Close, Clapham, North Yorkshire, LA2 8RP

## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <small>(eg. trust deed, constitution)</small>	Constitution dated 6 July 1998 updated at AGM 16 March 2020
How the charity is constituted <small>(eg. trust, association, company)</small>	Unincorporated Association
Trustee selection methods <small>(eg. appointed by, elected by)</small>	Election by Members at Annual General Meeting / Co-option by members of the Executive Committee

## Section C Objectives and activities

### Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The Charity's objects are:

- (1) To relieve the suffering of cats, dogs and other pet animals in Bentham and district who are in need of care and attention, in particular by facilitating the care and re-homing of such animals.
- (2) The relief of pensioners who are unable to afford kennel costs or veterinary bills for their pets.

## Section D Report on performance

### An introduction

Bentham and District Pet Rescue (the Charity) began in 1998, being run from the garage of the original founder (and now Honorary President) Val Marshall. Since then, three others have committed their time, efforts and back gardens to running a rescue centre from their properties - Pat Roberts, Pam Whitehead and Louise Pauley.

The terms of our constitution narrows our field of operation to the Bentham district but that has proved difficult to define with boundaries being somewhat fluid. Essentially the charity aims to work around Bentham in areas not covered by other cat welfare organisations. This normally extends to the north west Craven district of North Yorkshire plus areas of north Lancashire and south Cumbria, extending as far east as Hellifield and west to Kirkby Lonsdale.

Since its inception, Bentham Pet Rescue has responded to calls from members of the community about lost or abandoned animals, for help to manage colonies of feral and farm cats through a neutering scheme supported by our two local vet practices, and for help in the case of financial hardship, with a particular focus on assistance to pensioners struggling to pay for necessary treatment for their beloved pets. Our hands-on facilities for pet rescue have been restricted to cats, with two centres operating at the start of 2021\*, but contacts with other animal rescue charities in the region have enabled us to direct requests for help with other pets.

As always, the Charity has relied on donations from supporters and on volunteers who organise fund-raising events throughout the year and those who give their time to help at the cat sanctuaries. Our volunteers were initially from the Bentham area, but more recently have lived in Burton in Lonsdale, Settle, Hellifield, Paythorne, Clapham, Ingleton, Hornby and Kirkby Lonsdale with trustees from as far afield as Farnhill near Skipton, Newton by Bowland near Clitheroe and Ulverston.

\* Our centre in Burton in Lonsdale closed in 2021.



## Our activities during the year

This has been a year of significant change for the way we operate.

As we anticipated, in June our dedicated volunteer Louise Pauley stepped down from her role as our main cat re-homer and we closed the rescue centre which operated from her garden. Over the previous 6 years, Louise's work for our charity and her dedication to the many cats she helped was outstanding. Although we paid tribute to Louise at our AGM in September, awarding her the 'Marion Casey Volunteer of the Year Award', we continue to be indebted to Louise for steering the charity towards the more professional and outward-looking organisation it is today.

Louise's departure prompted a re-think of how we operate. Calling on the experience of Inga Voit, a colleague from neighbouring charity Eden Animal Rescue, we considered various other models before settling on a fostering scheme as the most practicable way forward for Bentham & District Pet Rescue.

Unsurprisingly, this required a tremendous amount of planning, preparation, research, administration and sheer hard work, particularly from our trustee Carolyn Linney who drafted much of the paperwork necessary to document each stage of the fostering process. Although we learn all the time and plan to regularly review our procedures, it is a tribute to the work done that we have been asked by two other small rescue charities undergoing similar reorganisation for copies of our documents, and of course we have been glad to share.

With the close of the rescue centre at Newby near Clapham, we needed to find a new home for the small cattery building housing 3 individual pens that was installed in 2019. With no other volunteer offering space to take this, the trustees agreed to offer this to another local charity with similar aims. After inviting expressions of interest from a number of animal rescue charities in the region, we were delighted to offer this to Settle Wildlife Rescue.

This building had been funded through a substantial donation from a local supporter, Ian Macdonald, to whom we had rehomed two cats. It came as a shock to the whole community when, in June, he died in a tragic accident. Not only was that devastating for his friends and family, but we sadly lost a potential business partner for our future development. However, we were privileged to be able to find a wonderful new home for Ian's beloved cats.

The departure from our base in Newby also brought to a head another challenge – storage of all our equipment. We have 5 cat traps, 3 free-standing cat pens, more cat litter trays than we can count, cat beds, blankets, toys and all manner of incidental pet-related items that have been donated by kind supporters. In addition, we needed space to store donated food and stock items such as litter and specialist food. By good fortune, at the end of May 2021 we were able to acquire use of a lock-up unit at Pye Mill in High Bentham for a modest rental. After a good clean-up by a group of volunteers, a splash of paint and the purchase of some sturdy shelving, we now have a convenient store from which to distribute items as and when required.

But whilst some things have changed dramatically, some things have stayed the same.

We continue to treasure our volunteers without whom we could not operate. We still have a wonderful group of people who help at local fund-raising events but we also now have fosterers and a home-check team as well as continued hands-on help from key trustees. We managed only one social event this year – a Christmas lunch – but we have set up a WhatsApp group to help everyone keep in touch with cats - from admission to adoption and all that goes on between!

We still have continued support from our two local veterinary practices: Dalehead Vets at Settle and Westmorland Vets at Kirkby Lonsdale. This year we also worked closely with Carnforth Pet Care whilst we had fosterers based over towards the west of our patch. We are extremely grateful to all three veterinary surgeries for the help they give us.

With the demands on trustee time due to the changed working practices, sadly communication with our supporters has taken a back seat this year. We did not produce our newsletter, 'Pawprint' in 2022, but we intend to bring it back into production. However our Facebook page has continued to be the main means of contact for many people, alongside our website and both have worked effectively. In addition, the website draws attention to ways people can help the charity such as small-scale fund-raising schemes like Easyfundraising, Paypal Giving Fund, Amazon Smile (*closed in 2023*) and our Amazon Wishlist. We have also benefitted substantially from vouchers for Pets at Home through its *Lifelines* scheme.



Our search for an opportunity to establish a permanent rescue centre has continued although it has not been the main thrust of our efforts this year. However this has brought into focus the need to change our charitable status – potentially to a CIO (charitable incorporated organisation). This will be top of the priority list for 2023.

### **Our achievements**

Having shaken off the restrictions brought about through the Covid 19 pandemic, we gradually moved back to full rehoming services this year.

Despite the closure of our centre in Newby, we have been successful in re-homing a total of 15 cats and 35 kittens during the last 12 months – only one less than the previous year. We currently support 4 cats in permanent foster care - Ruby, Mia, Rose Marie and Lucy – most of whom are elderly cats with medical problems or conditions who are unlikely to be adopted. We also continue to support a colony of (neutered) cats that live on the allotments at Settle, providing food and worm treatment to the cats with the help of local volunteers, Kevin and Andy.

There was inevitably a pause in re-homing as the centre was decommissioned and the last cats found homes before our fostering scheme came on stream. However we took in our first rescue cat in June 2022 and have progressed from there.

We were initially joined by two volunteer fosterers who had previously worked with Bay Cat Rescue, Julie Moore and Tina Harrison. It was invaluable to have the benefit of their experience and we were grateful to both for the care they gave to several cats before leaving us to work on other projects.

Our ability to take in cats and kittens is inevitably dependant on the number of foster places available. By the end of the year we had 4 regular fosterers and a three temporary carers on our list. We expect to recruit more but accept that the number is likely to fluctuate from time to time. We aim to ensure that no fosterer is out of pocket in terms of expenses associated with caring for our cats and try to provide all that is needed in terms of food, litter and equipment. However we know that all our carers go the extra mile to make sure the cats placed in their care have the best conditions from which to recover, recuperate and/or rejuvenate in order to move on to their new homes.

This year our cat traps have been much used.

- Two were loaned to a nearby garden retail business which had several visiting semi-feral cats. Four female and one male cat were subsequently trapped, neutered and released, all with the intention that they will stay on the site and be fed.
- Two stray male cats in Settle with no known owners were caught, neutered and released, again with general oversight of their future care arranged.
- One trap was loaned to a lady whose pet cat had been frightened away from the house and now wouldn't go home; the cat was trapped, taken back and happily reunited with her family.
- Another was lent to a lady who was concerned about a stray cat visiting the site of another garden business. With a great deal of patience, she caught the cat, had him neutered, took him into her home and now has a happily settled feline companion.
- One was loaned to a lady concerned about two kittens on a nearby farm. One was trapped, came into foster care and has since settled in permanently with his fosterer; sadly, the other was never found.
- Two were loaned to a farmer with an expanding cat population; two cats were trapped and neutered, four kittens were collected, fostered and rehomed. Others are an ongoing issue.
- One was loaned to a nearby industrial business with a mum cat and two kittens living on its premises. The cat and one kitten were caught but unfortunately the second kitten was not seen again.
- Five kittens were trapped, fostered and rehomed while the mum cat was neutered and returned to a rural location.

Our approach is always to promote neutering, by funding the whole or part of the cost (in line with our agreed policy). Hopefully in future we will establish a small team of volunteers to develop expertise in the skill of trapping feral cats for neutering and release. A wildlife camera, purchased this year through kind donations, and two alarms will help us to monitor traps remotely.



This year we have had only one request for help with vet bills from a 'pensioner in financial hardship' although we continue to remind our vets that the fund is available if needed. However we agreed to support a man who adopted a cat from us with a known medical condition that reoccurred from time to time. Since treatment for such conditions is not normally covered by insurance, we considered it only fair that the Charity met half of the considerable costs of the cat's treatment when the condition flared up again.

### Our trustees

No new trustees were appointed this year. All existing trustees were re-elected at the AGM which had been delayed until 12 September 2022 so as to ensure the annual accounts had been examined. This meeting was held at Bentham Golf Club but with some members attending virtually via Googlemeet.

In fact all 3 trustee meetings this year have been held virtually, in March, August and January. This is the most practical and efficient way to bring together people who live some distance apart for discussion, updates and for decision-making. Fewer meetings have been necessary since our fostering scheme has launched and is now working well.

Despite the continuing (and sometimes heavy) commitment, all trustees gave of their time freely and no remuneration was paid to any during the year. Payments made to trustees as reimbursements for direct costs incurred by the Charity have been declared in our annual accounts. As required, the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

### Our finances

The planned closure of our last rescue centre has brought about savings in some areas of expenditure, primarily the overheads involved in maintaining and heating a small building and the small remuneration paid to our centre manager. However we now incur the cost of renting our small but essential storage facility.

Unsurprisingly, given we have still managed to take in and rehome a good many cats, the cost of food and litter, veterinary checks and treatment continue to represent our main outgoings. In general, all costs have risen slightly with the exception of insurance which has dropped, essentially as a result of changing companies.

In January 2023 the trustees agreed to raise our 'adoption fee' (re-categorised from our previous 'minimum donation for adoption') to £100 per cat or kitten in line with other local rescue charities. Even without this increase, the amount generated through the rehoming process is only slightly below the total for the previous year.

We have benefited again from a small number of legacies, funeral collections and major donations from charitable trusts focussed on animal welfare which have significantly enhanced the income we are able to raise from local fund-raising events, regular supporters who make monthly donations and other incidental gifts. Our commission from Agria Insurance has increased\*, as has the interest earned on our cash deposits.

Our local events were limited to coffee mornings and afternoon teas but nonetheless provided us with good support from the local community if not huge sums of money. Despite raising modest amounts for a lot of hard work, we recognise the value of local events in terms of raising awareness of our work. Indeed, our coffee morning in Hellifield in April 2022 was held specifically to raise money to help animals in Ukraine; from the proceeds we were delighted to send £150 to each of two charities actively helping pets in the war-troubled country – IFAW and PETA.

Sales of Christmas cards were successful once again and we are indebted to Westmorland Vets, Bentham Post Office, Wholesome Bee and the Pet Shop in Settle for selling these on the charity's behalf. We are also grateful to a number of small businesses in the area who host the Charity's collecting cans for small change, and to a local volunteer who devised a quiz that raised a small amount but much appreciated nonetheless.

*\* (Free pet insurance for 5 weeks is offered for all cats adopted from us, bringing us a small commission if the policy is maintained.)*



As we noted last year, we were notified of a legacy bequest of £50,000 from a former trustee of our charity, Rosemary Jenkins, formerly of Clapham. The funds were not received until after 31 January 2022 and this was therefore recorded in last year's accounts.

Rosemary was a keen volunteer in the early days of our charity, taking a turn on the rota for cleaning the pens in the cat sanctuary, covering the lunchtime slot on the bric-a-brac stall at Clapham Street Fair, as well as taking on the role of trustee. She adored cats, having many of her own but also helping several strays in the village and letting them use her garage for shelter. Rosemary was much loved by those who remember her.

With this substantial donation to our funds, it was agreed that we should set up a dedicated on-line savings account specifically to hold capital reserves as a 'building fund'. Seeking a convenient and efficient system with an ethical bank led us to add a Community Savings account with the Co-operative Bank to sit alongside our Co-op Community current account. Funds from our (off-line) account at Skipton Building Society were also transferred into this new savings account and the old SBS account closed.

As at 31 January 2023, the Charity holds reserves of £144,095, none of which is restricted. It continues to be our intention that the Charity should hold sufficient reserves to cover operating costs for two years in case fund-raising efforts should fail. Our estimate is that £25k per annum should be set aside for this. It is intended that funds over and above this operating reserve should form our 'building fund' to enable us to secure a new site on which to establish a permanent cat rescue centre.

## The year ahead

This year has seen the start of a new chapter in our evolution.

The ending of our operations based on a rescue centre brought to a close more than twenty years of pet rescues essentially managed by the volunteer(s) in whose garden(s) these were sited. We continue to acknowledge the contributions of those individuals - the original founder (and now Honorary President) Val Marshall (1997-2001), Pat Roberts (2001-2021), Pam Whitehead (2009-2016) and Louise Pauley (2016-2022) – and we celebrate the huge numbers of pets these people were able to help.

However 2023 saw the beginnings of a new way of working, one that is developing into a team-based approach, so that all the responsibility is not placed solely on one individual. We are still expecting a huge commitment from certain key individuals – perhaps too much at times – and need to address this.

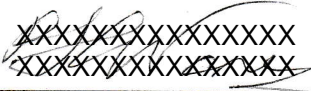

We recognise that to become more sustainable we must change our charitable status to open up the possibility of appointing a part-time manager to co-ordinate our operations and to bid for funds to support this. The year ahead will be committed to bringing about that step change whilst reviewing and improving our new fostering processes.

As this happens, we will need to reinvigorate communications with our supporters, both local and online, and to seek out more committed volunteers and, most essentially, new trustees to take the charity positively into the future.

## Section E Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Phillip Ware	Sue Arnott
Position	Chairman	Treasurer

Date 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023