



CottonTails® Rabbit and Guinea Pig Rescue - Annual Report 2021

Charity Number 1078850

www.cottontails-rescue.org.uk

Established in 1993



Main Name: CottonTails®

Working Name: CottonTails® Rescue

Charitable Objects: To relieve the suffering of rabbits and other animals who are in need of care and attention in particular by providing and maintaining suitable accommodation for the reception and care of unwanted rabbits and other animals.

To advance the education of the public in the care and ownership of animals.

GENERAL

In common with many charities in 2021, CottonTails® has had to continue adapt and change due to the various challenges that the Covid 19 pandemic has presented. We have continued with our free Direct Rehoming Service throughout 2021, and it has proved to be very successful. This service utilises our website and Facebook pages to facilitate the efficient placement of rabbits and guinea pigs into suitable new homes, and whilst the service is free, many satisfied owners made a donation to CottonTails® in gratitude for our services.

An addition to this service this year has been the creation of a neutering grant scheme, whereby the new owner of any un-neutered rabbit or single male guinea pig adopted through the Direct Rehoming Service is offered a £50 grant towards the cost of neutering, payable to the veterinary practice that will carry out the procedure. Many owners have taken up this offer, and all the veterinary practices involved have so far been very supportive.

Ironically, as a result of the Direct Rehoming Service, intake numbers actually increased for both rabbits and guinea pigs during 2021, with a 22% increase in rabbits and 42% increase in guinea pigs. The advantage of most of the intake being rehomed directly from their owners meant that I could assist every single animal rehome enquiry without having to address the practicalities of accommodation limitations. Most were successfully placed in suitable new homes within a month of listing.

Whilst our website continues to receive a consistent national and international audience, our Facebook page subscribers have increased significantly in 2021, with most listings of rabbits or guinea pigs for rehoming receiving over 1,500 views each or more.

I continue to respond to many emails and messages daily regarding advice about rabbit and guinea pig welfare issues, and the claw clipping, grooming and general check-up clinics I run from the centre still prove there is a need for such services.



RABBITS



During 2021, 91 rabbits were rehomed, and increase of 22% when compared to 2020. Of this number, 8 were accepted directly from Bristol Arc (RSPCA) and housed at our centre prior to rehoming. Our rabbit accommodation has not altered since 2020, although various repairs have been undertaken to keep the hutches, runs and aviaries weather proof. I will continue to maintain this accommodation until a decision is reached about future intake at the centre. The rabbit accommodation comprises:

3 x 8' hutches with metal heavy duty runs

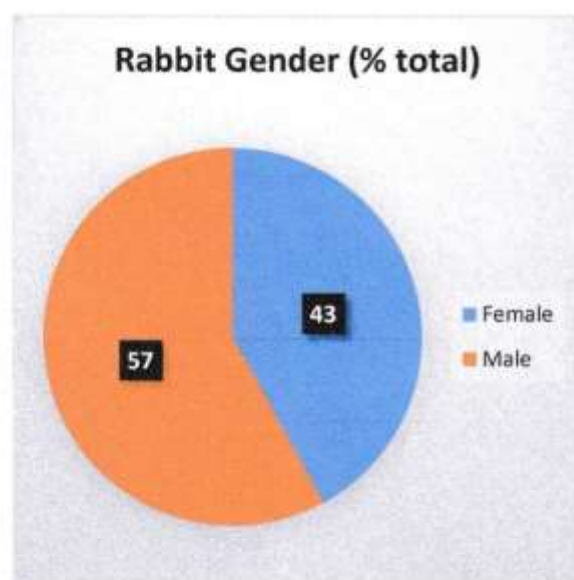
1 x 6.5' hutch with metal heavy duty run

1 x 6' hutch with metal heavy duty run

2 x giant/group rabbit accommodation areas; 1 x 7' spare/isolation hutch; 1 x 6' isolation hutch/run set up.

STATISTICS

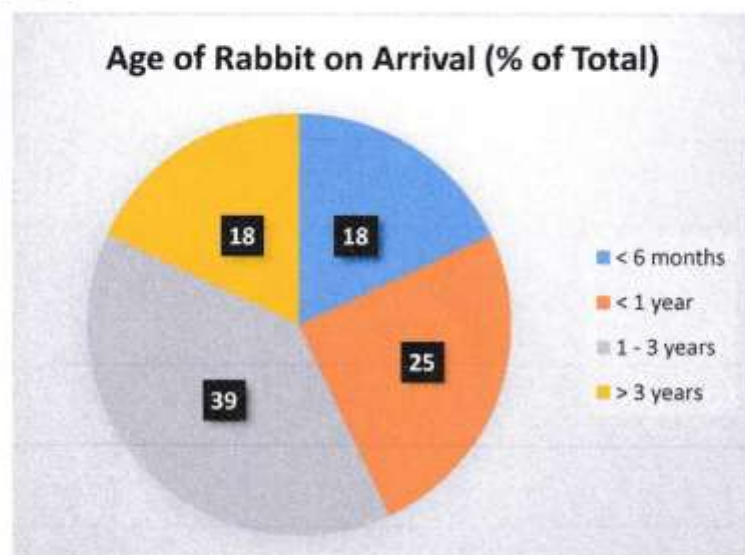
Sexes



Gender differences for 2021 followed the general national trend in respect that many owners found it hard to locate female rabbits to bond with lonely neutered males, compared to the apparent plethora of males. Of our total "intake", 57 % were male, and 43% female. Although there is some evidence that male rabbits can live longer than females (O'Neill et al 2019, Vet Record*), this difference is somewhat overridden if the females are spayed, thus removing the link between uterine and related cancers and premature death. From personal observation, however, I receive far more enquiries from owners needing neutered females for their lonely rabbit than I do for neutered males, but to my knowledge no scientific study has been carried out to definitively answer this question.

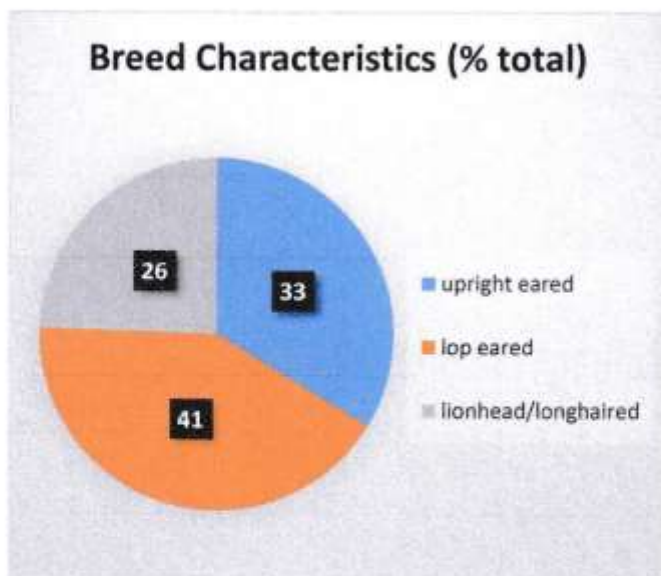
* <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/vetcompass/news/rvc-study-helps-to-fill-the-evidence-gap-on-uk-pet-rabbit-health>

Age



In common with previous years, the category for age with the highest intake was 1-3 years, 39% of total intake. This has consistently shown to be the age at which most rabbits are deemed "unwanted", when the inevitable novelty has worn off. However, other factors such as ill-health and housing problems such as landlords refusing to allow pets is also a factor – not everyone who has to rehome a pet does so out of choice, and this is a very important point to bear in mind when someone reaches out for help.

Breeds



Of our intake in 2021, the variety of rabbit breeds varied but could be divided into three main categories, as shown in the graph.

Lop-eared rabbits continued to be prevalent (41%). Rabbits with upright ears, encompassing various breeds such as Netherland dwarfs, proved to still be a popular choice of many bunny owners at 33% of the total intake. Lionheads still held it's own in the popularity stakes at 26% of intake, its appealing visual characteristics making it much sought after by owners.

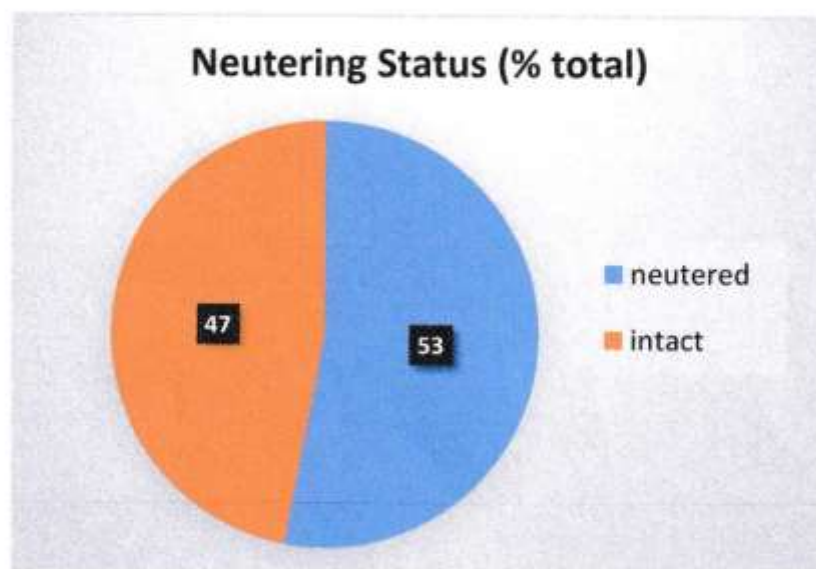
These figures once again demonstrate that there is no one particular breed that is dominant in regards to rabbits brought in for rehoming. However, our intake tends to reflect general trends of rabbits purchased in recent years by pet owners, and in 2021 this has again proved to be the case as demonstrated in a study of rabbit breeds sold in the UK (Gosling et al,

2018**). This study showed that the most common breeds sold were lops, dwarfs, and lionheads, in agreement with our findings. It is an unfortunate fact that of three most popular rabbit breeds sold in the UK, at least two (lops and dwarfs) are brachycephalic, which means they have shortened skulls as a result of selective breeding by humans over many years, and this often results in compromised health and well-being as shown by the presence of dental disease and middle ear infections. The lionhead breed originated by crossbreeding angoras with Netherland dwarfs, so too introducing this problematic trait and thus predisposing the breed to potential dental problems, as we have found by personal experience in previous years.

As most of our "intake" was not directly examined by myself due to their participation in the Direct Rehoming Service, I am unable to report what percentage had dental disease. In previous years, significant dental disease accounted for around 10% of our annual intake.

** <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6262429/>

Neutering Status of intake



As the majority of our rabbit intake during 2021 was via the Direct Rehoming Scheme, it was interesting to compare the number of rabbits that had been neutered by their owners, and those that had not. Surprisingly, 53% of rabbits were neutered by their owners prior to being put up for adoption, and it just proves that money spent either on purchase or maintenance is not the deciding factor as to whether to find a new home or not.

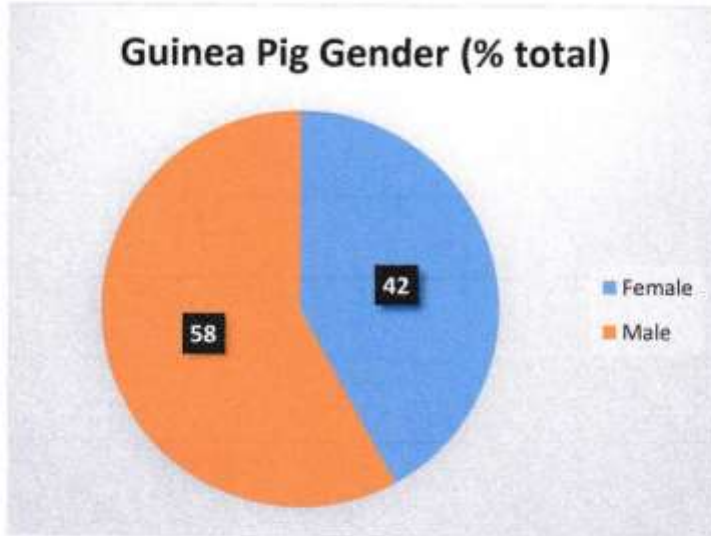


GUINEA PIGS



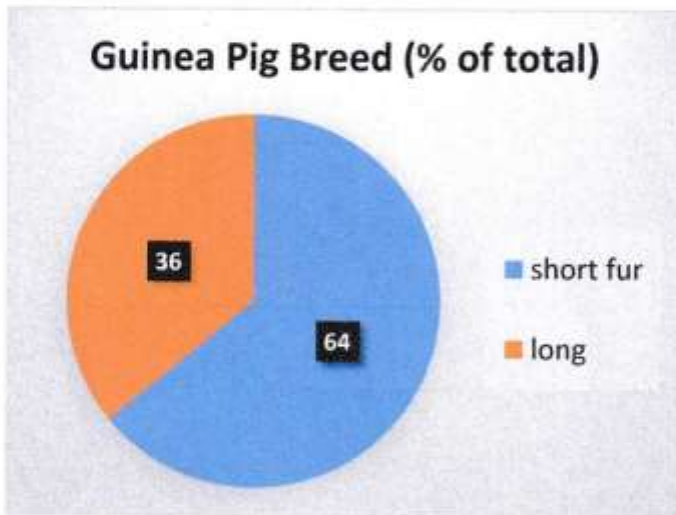
The intake of guinea pigs for 2021 was 59, an increase of 42% compared to 2020.

Sexes



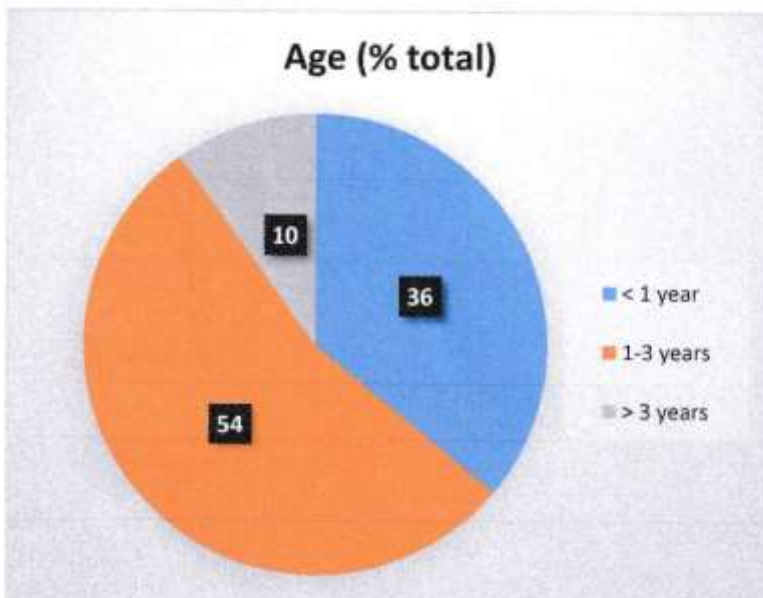
It is no surprise that **more** male guinea pigs were put up for adoption in 2021 compared to females (16% difference), as females are relatively straightforward to integrate with another female or group, whereas most adult males will not accept another male unless they have grown up together. This means that males either have to be neutered to enable them to live with a female, or they have to live side by side with others or simply be on their own. This bias in gender would have been even more obvious but for an intake of a herd of 14 females that we collected from someone who was being evicted – this would have increased the difference to 52%.

Breeds



As in previous years, the majority (64%) of guinea pigs for rehoming were short haired, the remaining 36% being either long haired or semi long haired. This reflects the preference of owners not wanting to take on a long haired pet that is perceived (rightly) to be harder to keep clean and healthy, and undoubtedly also influences the decision of an owner to put their pet up for adoption.

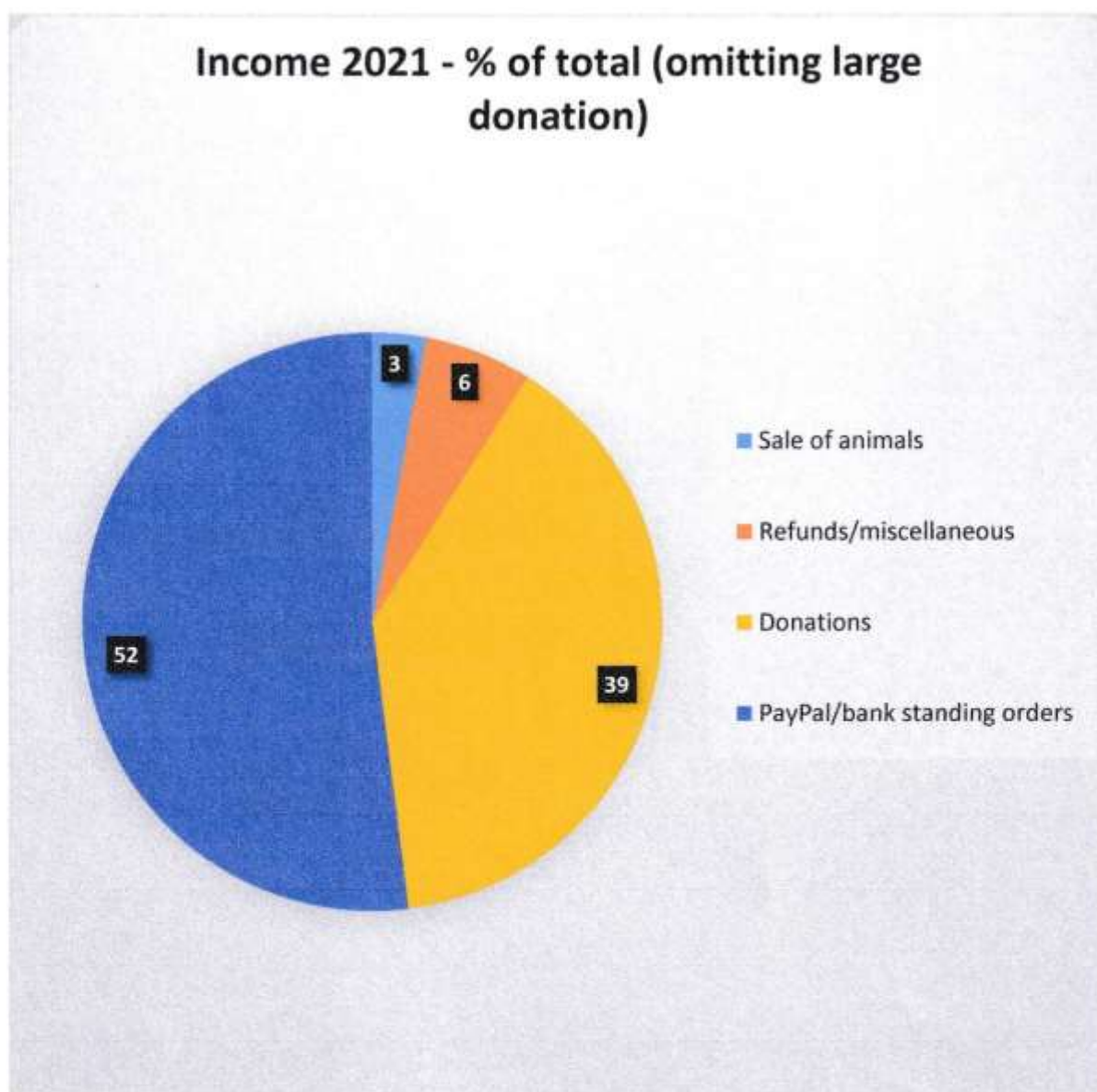
Age



In common with previous years, the majority of guinea pigs put up for adoption were aged between 1-3 years (54%), with 36% being under 1 year and just 10% over 3 years old.

ACCOUNTS

RECEIPTS



2021 saw us in receipt of a very generous legacy, which made up over 90% of our total income. Without this legacy we would have had a total income of £12,429.78. The graph illustrates our income/receipts without the legacy, as this gives a more accurate representation of the total. Total income including the legacy was £127,637.24.

Donations made through our website were responsible for 33% of our income (omitting the legacy from the total), and of that figure, almost half was made up of one-off donations, with an almost equal amount from the adopt-a-hutch scheme. This proves that the website donation option is still well worth having.

Several individuals and organisations have been invaluable to the continuation of CottonTails® financially. I would like to give a **very big thank you** to each and every one who helped even in a small way, and my *sincere* apologies if I have accidentally omitted anyone from the list.

Some people have very kindly raised funds for us by using the Easy Fundraising, Charities Trust, and PayPal Smile fundraising-as-you-shop schemes, but as I only receive totals of these funds, I am unable to name individual donors.

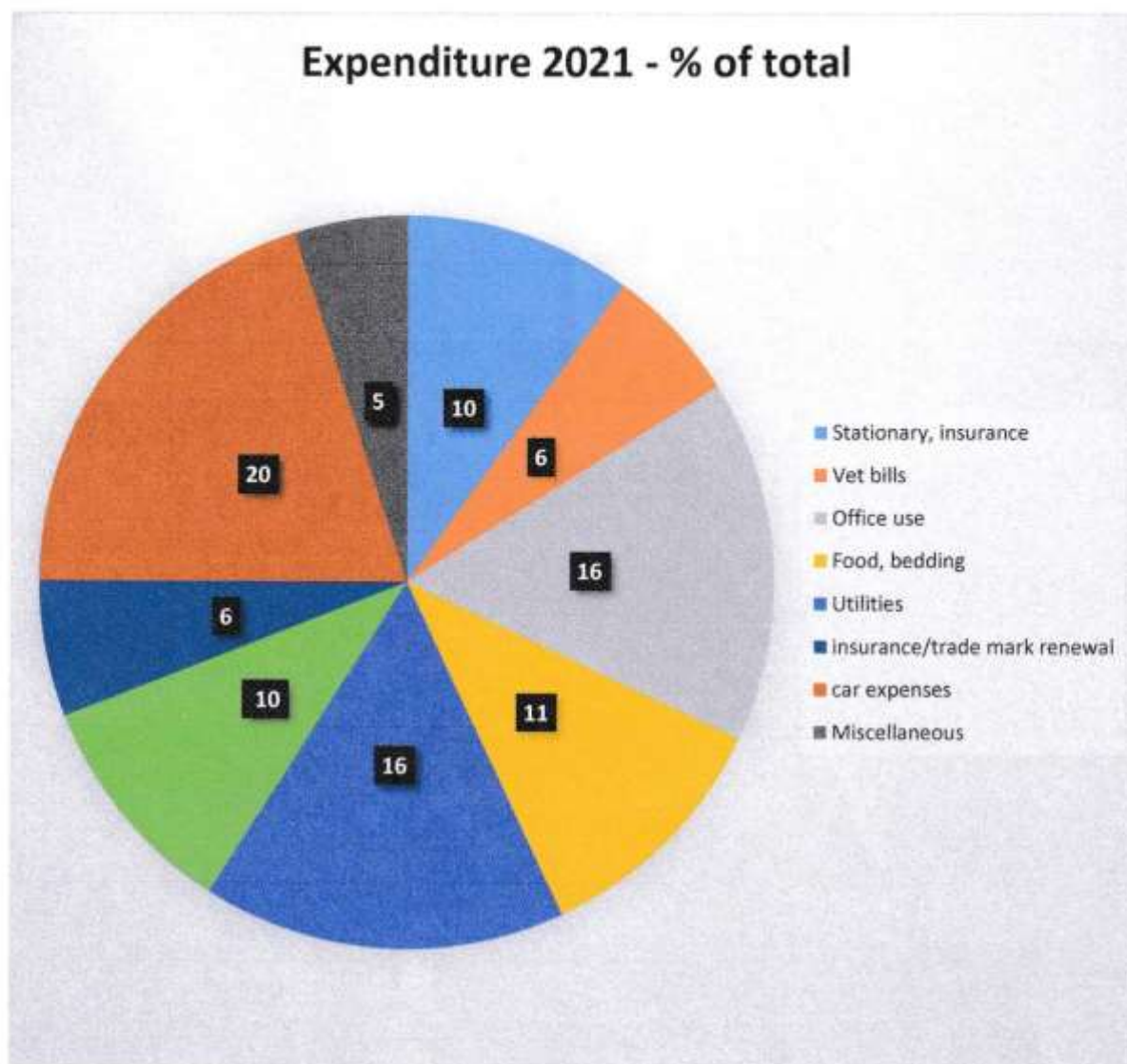
Organisations/groups:

ANIMAL AFFAIRS	£500
CHARITIES TRUST	£240
EASYFUNDRAISING/EVERYCLICK/AMAZON SMILE	£60.50
MENDIP PRACTICE	£100

Individuals (including adopt-a-hutch)

Mrs Jane Anne Brettell (legacy)	Harbir Jhaj
J Merrick	Debi Barry
Christine Tuckerman	Claire Ridley
E Abbott	Cathy Burton
M Loughlin	Jenny Oliver
J Arrowsmith-Brown	Petra Lawson
J Holmes	Thomas Mulcroe
L Smith	Amy Hamilton
B Coe	Louise Cattellone-Luton
H Lambert and B Moth	Holly Young
J Cuss	Helen Stobart
C Muddiman	Edyta Szymczak
John Farrell	Gemma Alford
J and B Vaughan	Amanda Barnes
S and E Semple (in memory of Warren)	Sarah Webb
Charlotte Taylor	Miss M Armstrong
Dianne Ellard	Steve Morrell
India Coles	Elaine Ford
Wayne Sheardown	William Iredale
Samuel Newlove	Ben Guth
Freya Barker	Vanessa Long
Jonathan Fisher	Carol Anne Steele
Mrs K Kebby	Ruth Lees
Tammy Hassel	Sophie Mason
Colette Mears	An Harber
Ruth Baughan	Sidney Howse
Kirsty Robertson	Claire Hopper
Carolynn Jureidini	Teresa Batten
Tracy Benford	Kate Stott
Margaret Clotworthy	Anya McGovern
Katie Graef	

PAYMENTS



The total expenditure for 2021 was **£11,747.40**, a decrease of 25% compared to last year.

Major asset expenditure included:

- Covid PPE and lateral flow tests
- Public Liability and Employer Insurance
- Replacement water bottle/bowl systems
- Website hosting fees
- Trade Mark Renewal
- Mobile phone replacement
- Transport (car) repairs

Total Income £127,637.24

Total Expenditure £11,747.40

Profit at end of 2021 = £115,889.84

Our bank account remains healthy and will see us through the next year comfortably, although an increase in costs is to be expected post-Covid.

Acknowledgements

CottonTails® could not continue its valuable work if it was not for the excellent support from some wonderful people who have given help in various ways. Sincere apologies for any omissions:

The **Trustees** for their continued support.

My husband **Francis** for transporting and collecting rabbits and guinea pigs as required, and the miscellaneous trips throughout the year that are required to keep the charity going.

Jon Humphrey (of “Random Precision”) for his support with issues relating to the web site.

My sons **Fraser** and **Ben** for providing essential holiday cover.

You, our loyal friends, for continuing to support the charity financially and in other practical ways.

CottonTails® 2021 annual report written and compiled by Mairwen Guard, MBE, Trustee.

CottonTails® Registered Charity 1078850

Accounts 2021

RECEIPTS

Animal adoption donations	£320.00
Refunds and Miscellaneous	£795.90
General donations by cheque or cash	£120,052.22
Donations by Paypal, direct bank standing orders	£6,464.12
Petty Cash	£5
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£127,637.24

PAYMENTS

Stationary, computer miscellaneous	£1,118.94
Veterinary expenses	£768.94
Office rent	£1,920
Animal food, bedding	£1,311.72
Utilities	£1,926.82
Repairs and replacements	£1,176.41
Insurance, trade mark renewal	£649.60
Car expenses	£2327.39
Miscellaneous	£547.58
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£11,747.40
PROFIT FOR 2020	£115,889.84

ASSETS

Office: computer, printer, photocopier, mobile phone
Animal equipment/sundries: hutches, aviaries
Merchandise: limited remaining stock of sweatshirts, T shirts, bags, tabards

Accounts: Summary Statement 2021

Total Income 2021 **(A) = £127,637.24**

Total Expenditure 2021 **(B) = £11,747.40**

Profit for 2021 = **£115,889.84** (**A** £127,637.24 – **B** £11,775.60)

Bank account end 2020 + petty cash = **£55,992.38** * see statement

Bank account balance 31/12/2021 = **£171,877.22** (**£171,905.42** – pending payments of £28.20 included in 2021 accounts) * see statement

Petty cash 31/12/2021 = £5.00

PayPal balance 31/12/2021 = £0

Total = **£171,882.22**

Bank account end for 2020 + profit from 2021 = **£171,882.22**
(**£55,992.38** + **£115,889.84**)

Accounts balance.



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

CottonTails®

**On accounts for the year
ended**

2021

**Charity no
(if any)**

1078850

Set out on pages

1 - 12

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2021.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

M. Gaynor

Date:

13.01.2022

Name:

MARGARET GAYNOR

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Address:

76 EDENVALE ROAD
WESTBURY
WILTS BA13 3NU.

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.