

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

England & Wales · Charity number 1095234

Details

Other names	THE LEAGUE TRUST, WORKING FOR WILDLIFE, THE LEAGUE TRUST WORKING FOR WILDLIFE
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	04037610
Registered	2003-01-06
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

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Activities

Objects: 1.1 THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS ("THE OBJECTS") ARE: 1.1.1 THE PREVENTION OF ALL FORMS OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS; 1.1.2 THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION GENERALLY WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE CARE AND PROTECTION OF ANIMALS, ECOLOGY, NATURAL HISTORY, CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES; 1.1.3 THE CONSERVATION, PRESERVATION, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES, NATURAL BEAUTY AND ANIMAL AND PLANT LIFE OF THE WORLD AND LANDS AND BUILDINGS OF BEAUTY, HISTORIC INTEREST OR OF ECOLOGICAL OR SCIENTIFIC IMPORTANCE AND, AS REGARDS LANDS, FOR THE PRESERVATION, AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE, OF THEIR NATURAL ASPECT, FEATURES AND ANIMAL AND PLANT LIFE.

Activities: The League Against Cruel Sports works to expose and bring to an end the cruelty inflicted on animals in the name of sport by raising awareness, lobbying & campaigning.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Animals, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£3,746,571	£3,075,621	£4,767,762	41
2023-12-31	£2,943,830	£2,476,784	£4,096,812	42
2022-12-31	£2,901,626	£3,488,864	£3,629,766	58
2021-12-31	£3,095,599	£3,143,432	£4,217,004	56
2020-12-31	£3,253,207	£3,032,972	£4,264,837	54

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
David Fielding	Chair	2025-10-21
Ashleigh Fiona Brown		2020-06-22
David Osborne		2026-03-24
Firat Caleb Cicek		2026-03-24
Hannah Carter		2025-03-19
Marcia Hagon		2026-03-24
Neil Moulding		2025-03-19
Robert Charles Kinkead Allen		2026-03-24

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1095234

Accounts

England & Wales Charity Registration No. 1095234
Scottish Charity Register No. SC045533
Company Registration No. 04037610 (England and Wales)

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Trustees

Astrid Clifford (Chair)
Neil Moulding (Honorary Treasurer) (appointed March 2025)
Ashleigh Brown
Daniel Dickson-Hope (appointed April 2025)
Hannah Carter (appointed March 2025)
Alan Tapp (resigned April 2024)
Angela Williams (appointed February 2024, resigned May 2024)
Dan Norris (resigned April 2025)
John Hughes (resigned April 2024)
Viktoria Petrova (resigned June 2025)

Senior Management Team

Chief Executive

Emma Slawinski (appointed March 2025)
Chris Luffingham (acting CEO April 2024 to March 2025)
Andy Knott, MBE (resigned March 2024)
Chris Luffingham
Emma Smith (resigned November 2024)
Robbie Marsland
Neal Soleil
Kelly Hack

Deputy Chief Executive
Director of Operations
Director of Scotland & Northern Ireland
Director of Finance
Director of People & Culture

Company Secretary

Neal Soleil (appointed April 2024)
Andy Knott, MBE (resigned March 2024)

Charity Number

1095234

Company Number

04037610

Principal and registered office

New Sparling House
Holloway Hill
Godalming
Surrey GU1 1QZ

Principal professional advisors

Auditor

Haysmacintyre LLP
10 Queen Street Place
London EC4R 1AG

Bankers

The Co-Operative Bank Plc
1 Balloon Street
Manchester M60 1GP

Legal Advisors

Marshall's Solicitors LLP
102 High Street
Godalming
Surrey GU7 1DS

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TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024. The statement of Trustees' responsibilities on page 29 forms part of this report.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 of the accounts and comply with the Charity's governing document, being its memorandum and articles of association, the Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice, applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015), published on 16 July 2014.

Trustees have decided not to take advantage of the exemption from audit available under the Companies Act 2006 and have therefore been audited under both the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

For further information please refer to the League Against Cruel Sports [Annual Review 2024](#)

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

What we do

Animals are at the heart of everything we do. Here to stop animals from being persecuted in the name of sport, we strive to protect them from the horrific acts of hunting, shooting and animal fighting.

We know that every action brings us one step closer to ending cruel sports and our passion drives us forward. Together, with our committed supporters, we are working towards bringing about real change for animals across the UK. As a charity we want to redefine what is acceptable and inspire change. We do this by:

Campaigning for change

We stand up for those who don't have a voice and demand changes to legislation to protect them. Our hard-hitting campaigns inspire actions.



Providing our animal crimewatch service

Our supporter-funded confidential service enables the public to report acts of suspected animal cruelty in the name of sport for us to investigate.



Educating the public and policy makers

Our high-profile work in the media and expert behind-the-scenes lobbying across the devolved nations, ensures we can create awareness of the plight our wildlife faces.



Providing intelligence to law enforcement

Our in-house intelligence team provides packages for local law enforcement about those suspected of illegal activity to bring them to justice.



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Maintaining wildlife reserves

Our ten wildlife reserves provide a safe haven for animals to roam free from those who persecute them.



Sharing our research and evidence

We strive to share our knowledge and highlight the plight that hunting, shooting and animal fighting has on our society and landscape.



Working with schools

Our League of Animals educational resource enables younger generations to be curious about the world around them, from our wildlife to our natural world.



Working with other animal welfare charities

We work in partnership with others to raise our collective voices and inspire change, such as increasing sentences from six months to five years for those found guilty of animal welfare crimes as part of the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Act 2021.



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Our strategic approach



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What we said we would do and what we did

Each year we set our strategic priorities for the next 12 months. In this section we will cover what we achieved against our strategic priorities.

Goal One: End hunting with dogs

Secure manifesto commitments and policy positions from key political parties to strengthen the hunting ban in the lead up to the general election

On 22 May 2024, then-Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced a snap general election for 4 July, catching many by surprise. But we were ready. Since the start of the year, we had been actively preparing our general election campaign, determined to secure key manifesto commitments and policy positions from all major parties.

In June, we were thrilled to see the Green Party commit to banning all blood sports, including trail hunting, in their manifesto. Their recognition of the urgent need to protect animals at risk from hunts was a vital win for wildlife. However, we were deeply disappointed by the Conservative manifesto, which failed to pledge any strengthening of the Hunting Act — despite our polling revealing 67 per cent of Conservative voters support tougher laws to protect animals from being chased and killed. Similarly, the Liberal Democrat manifesto made no mention of fox hunting, even though 78 per cent of their voters backed stronger hunting laws.

Our hope for meaningful change had been bolstered in February 2024, when Labour's shadow environment secretary, Steve Reed MP, publicly committed to banning fox hunting outright. In June, the Labour Party pledged in its manifesto to ban trail hunting — a practice that has long been exposed as a “smokescreen” for illegal fox hunting.

While we welcome this progress, our fight is far from over. We continue to urge the Labour government not to delay in closing the many loopholes in the Hunting Act of 2004, as well as ending trail hunting as it promised during the election. We are calling for custodial sentences for those who chase and harm animals for sport, a position that is backed by 76 per cent of the public, including 85 per cent of Labour voters, according to polling conducted by FindOutNow and Electoral Calculus.

The new government has since reiterated that it is committed to banning trail hunting, telling Parliament that ‘work to determine the best approach for doing so is ongoing’, but our campaign to end this barbaric and cruel practice will not stop until every loophole is closed and animals are fully protected from these outdated and violent blood sports.

Produce the League's public policy proposals on the Hunting Act for the next government to implement

As part of our general election campaign, we published a League mini manifesto containing our key election asks, which can be found here: league.org.uk/general-election/whats-wrong-with-hunting

Delivered to political parties and thousands of election candidates, our manifesto demanded urgent action to strengthen the Hunting Act 2004. We're calling for an outright ban on trail hunting — a tactic often used to disguise illegal hunting — as well as the removal of exemptions that allow hunting to continue. Additionally, we're advocating for custodial sentences for those who violate these laws.

To support these calls, we developed a comprehensive set of proposals detailing the necessary legal changes, backed by thorough analysis of their importance and feasibility. This equipped policymakers with the insights needed to make strong commitments during the election process. We engaged directly with key decision-makers, also submitting in-depth recommendations on issues like the use of cruel snare traps in the shooting industry.

Our momentum continued with a vibrant presence at the first political party conferences after the election. We set up exhibition stands at major party conferences, rallying support for our legislative goals. We also coorganised and participated in panel discussions, sharing the stage with Ministers and party representatives to emphasise the

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urgent need for decisive action to end hunting with dogs once and for all. Together, we're working towards a future where animal welfare is a priority.

Harness Welsh government support for strengthening the hunting ban to ensure trail hunting does not return to National Resource Wales land

Public Affairs in Wales has made significant strides, successfully ensuring that trail hunting remains banned on Natural Resources Wales land. Additionally, we've been proactive in briefing members of the Senedd on hunting-related issues in Wales. A highlight of our efforts was the Senedd reception in June, which celebrated the League's centenary and coincided with the general election. During this event, members of the Senedd proudly posed for a photo to demonstrate their support for strengthening the Hunting Act.

This momentum was further fueled in November 2023 when Joyce Watson MS raised important questions with the then Minister for Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths, regarding the Welsh Government's stance on hunting. The Minister replied: "The Welsh Government does not have legislative competence over the Hunting Act 2004; it is a non-devolved issue and a matter for the UK Government. The Welsh Government would strongly support strengthening the Act to tackle its known deficiencies and enable it to succeed in preventing unnecessary and cruel hunting."

Most recently, in September last year, Jane Dodds, the sole Welsh Liberal Democrat member of the Senedd, wrote to John Healey, the Secretary of State for Defence, urging the Ministry of Defence to ban trail hunting on Ministry of Defence land. This call to action stemmed from our thorough briefing to Senedd members following the UK general election. Jane Dodds expressed her support in local media, stating: "I am proud to back these proposals from the League Against Cruel Sports that call for a ban on trail hunting on land owned by the Ministry of Defence."

This ongoing engagement highlights our commitment to advancing animal welfare in Wales. The full article can be read here:

brecon-radnor.co.uk/news/jane-dodds-ms-joinscampaign-to-ban-trail-huntingon-mod-land-722634

Continue work in Scotland to record behaviour patterns of fox hunts who continue to go out drag hunting or flushing to guns with two or more dogs

The League's Scotland investigation team remains vigilant, closely monitoring the hunting fraternity's activities post-ban. While some hunts claim to be engaging in drag hunting, they're still using fox hounds specifically bred and trained to chase foxes - raising serious concerns.

Others are pushing their luck, hoping to exploit loopholes and use more than two dogs under licence. Shockingly, one hunt last season didn't even bother with a licence at all. After being caught on camera by our field workers, they now await the decision on whether they'll face prosecution.

But we're not stopping there. Our team will continue working closely with Police Scotland and the licensing authority, NatureScot, to ensure the new Act truly puts an end to hunting with dogs in Scotland - once and for all.

Gather evidence of the impact of fox hunts on wild animals and landowners to lobby politicians across the island of Ireland to support legislation to ban fox hunting

While the rest of the UK has made strides to outlaw hunting with dogs, Northern Ireland still lags behind with the pastime remaining legal. But that could change — and with our supporters we are making it happen. We're calling on the public and political leaders in Northern Ireland to unite behind our campaign to finally ban fox hunting in the region.

In collaboration with the Ulster Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals (USPCA), we launched our joint initiative — Together to Ban Hunting with Dogs — and momentum is building.

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We were thrilled when John Blair MLA announced at Stormont his intention to introduce a new private member's bill to ban hunting with dogs. This follows a previous attempt in 2021, when a similar bill was unfortunately blocked, despite indications of support from Sinn Féin leadership. Now, with the return of government in Northern Ireland, the debate is back on the table — and once again we can make sure our voices are heard.

In just the first week of our campaign with the USPCA, more than 2,000 supporters across Northern Ireland signed our petition, showing overwhelming public demand for change. The numbers continue to rise — now standing at more than 7,000.

In addition to what we said we would do, we also:

Unveiled our general election campaign

Our primary goal is to ensure that the laws protecting animals are as strong and effective as possible. Throughout the year, and especially during the general election campaign, we actively engaged with politicians across Westminster, Holyrood, Stormont, and the Senedd, pushing for vital changes that benefit animals.

Elections - whether local, devolved, or national - are a crucial opportunity to secure pledges from politicians to act on animal welfare. They also give the public a powerful moment to raise their voices and demand change. During the six-week general election period, we campaigned tirelessly to achieve one of our strategic priorities: to make this the last election where hunting is a matter of debate. Our aim was clear — to ensure that the next government commits to strengthening the Hunting Act 2004 and fully outlawing trail hunting, putting an end to this cruel practice.

We launched our campaign alongside our Time for Change Coalition Against Hunting partners, creating a striking visual presence outside Parliament. A digital ad van toured the streets of London, broadcasting the chilling sound of hounds in cry, alongside a video exposing trail hunting as a mere smokescreen for illegal fox hunting. To amplify our message, we hand-delivered thousands of signed postcards from our supporters to the headquarters of the three major political parties. This powerful action sent a clear message: voters and animal lovers across the country demand an end to the barbaric activity of fox hunting.

On 22 June we joined the Restore Nature Now march, where hundreds of our supporters, dressed as foxes, took to the streets of Westminster calling on the next government to clamp down on illegal hunting. Our large contingent of supporters demonstrated their passion and commitment to our cause.

Our supporter engagement was also at an all-time high. More than 24,967 campaign emails were sent to local candidates, urging them to take a stand on strengthening hunting laws. Our Time for Change Coalition Against Hunting petition garnered immense support, with almost 70,000 signatures backing our calls for change. To keep our supporters engaged and informed, we launched three special episodes of our Leaguecast podcast, highlighting our progress and efforts.

Digital campaigning was a key focus, with a powerful social media takeover that reached more than 60,000 people across two videos alone, featuring celebrity endorsements of our cause. We also hosted webinars on local and political campaigning, attended by more than 150 supporters eager to make a difference. Our candidate pledge survey was another success, with 305 candidates responding, including 33 who were later elected as MPs, pledging to support strengthening the Hunting Act.

Our new polling provided vital, constituency-specific insights, which helped us secure widespread local media coverage and further amplify the public's demand for tougher hunting laws.

Continued our National Parks campaign

At the start of last year, we proudly launched the second phase of our national parks campaign, aiming to expose and challenge the use of public lands for hunting under the guise of trail hunting. Through our campaigning, we're

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pleased to report significant progress: eight out of the 13 national parks in England and Wales have taken a stand by banning trail hunting on their land, recognising it for what it truly is - a smokescreen for illegal fox hunting. Two additional parks, the Broads and Pembrokeshire, have no policy on trail hunting as it cannot take place due to their landscapes.

However, not all parks are standing up for wildlife. Exmoor and Dartmoor continue to support cruelty by allowing hunts to operate on their land, turning a blind eye to the chasing and killing of foxes, stags, and hares. This blatant disregard for wildlife and the law cannot go unchallenged. No hunts currently operate on Peak District land, but the park refuses to ban the sport as it is 'legal' - despite overwhelming evidence that it is nothing but a smokescreen for old-fashioned illegal hunting.

In the spring, we ramped up the pressure, delivering more than 30,000 campaign postcards to the authorities of Dartmoor, Exmoor, and the Peak District. These postcards, signed by members of the public, demanded an end to trail hunting. Our League's 'fox postie' personally delivered mail sacks stuffed with these heartfelt pleas, showing that the public will no longer tolerate this cruelty.

Leading the way in this fight is North York Moors National Park, a true champion for wildlife with its zero-tolerance policy on hunting and wildlife crime. This is the level of protection the public expects from all national parks, and we are determined to ensure that the remaining parks follow suit.

Through relentless campaigning, we'll continue pushing for Dartmoor, Exmoor, and the Peak District to stop turning a blind eye to the suffering on their land and commit to protecting the animals that call these national treasures home. We are also highlighting the impact of hunts on national park land – recently we received a report via our supporter-funded Animal Crimewatch service about a hunt taking place on Dartmoor. A family watched, horrified, as the hunt's hounds went into cry and were obviously on the trail of a wild animal. They have vowed never to return to the area.

Said you can't rebrand cruelty

As part of our ongoing fight against the cruelty of hunting, we launched a bold campaign in Peterborough to coincide with the rebranded Festival of Hounds (formerly the Festival of Hunting). Our campaign brought the League's iconic fox mascot to local landmarks, where we engaged with the public and urged them to support our petition calling for stronger hunting laws. The message was clear: hunting is still a threat to wildlife, despite being banned nearly two decades ago, and it's time for real change.

To maximise the campaign's impact, we deployed a mobile digital billboard that toured Peterborough and the festival showground. The chilling sound of hunt hounds closing in on a fox played on loop, starkly reminding people of the cruelty still being inflicted on wildlife. We also amplified our message across social media, creating a mini campaign that featured two tongue-in-cheek 'awards' for the hunts with the highest suspected illegal activity, drawing public attention to the havoc these hunts continue to cause.

The rebranding of the event to the Festival of Hounds is nothing more than a public relations stunt attempting to sanitise the brutal reality of hunting. But the people of Peterborough saw through this, and many stood with us by signing our petition, making it clear that it's time to strengthen hunting laws and permanently end this so-called sport.

Launched our Ministry of Defence campaign

Licences allowing trail hunting on Ministry of Defence (MoD) land were set for renewal by 1 September 2024, but the new Labour government had a chance to act before that deadline. Labour's manifesto promised to end trail hunting, so we took immediate action, writing to the newly appointed Secretary of State for Defence, John Healey, and Minister for Defence Procurement, Maria Eagle. We reminded them of the urgent need to follow through on their pledge by cancelling these licences, which would mark an important step in protecting foxes. Given that these licences are issued personally by the Secretary of State, renewing them would be a direct contradiction of Labour's commitment to scrapping trail hunting altogether.

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We also contacted Steve Reed, Secretary of State for the Environment, and together with our Time for Change Coalition Against Hunting partners, co-signed a joint letter to John Healey urging him to revoke the licences. Our campaign didn't stop there. We rallied our supporters, with 4,960 people writing to John Healey to demand an end to trail hunting on MoD land. A follow-up action encouraged supporters to write to their MPs, with 1,389 more stepping up to take action. On 12 September, we were thrilled to see Labour make good on its promise, blocking 11 trail hunts from using government land.

The MoD confirmed that no new licences would be issued for the upcoming hunting season, and ministers are now reviewing 'all options' to deliver fully on their manifesto pledge. The Defence Infrastructure Organisation, the MoD's estate management branch, issued a clear message to hunts: permission for trail hunting on MoD land has been indefinitely suspended pending further ministerial decisions. This decisive move is a huge victory for foxes and we'll continue our campaign until it's permanently banned.

Slammed trail hunting day as a smokescreen

On 14 September 2024, a so-called 'trail hunting day' organised by the hunting lobby turned into a stark reminder of why this activity is nothing more than a cover for illegal hunting. Despite being billed as a demonstration of legal trail hunting, nearly every hunt participating in the event had been accused/convicted of illegal hunting or causing chaos within local communities in their recent history. This so-called demonstration was a PR attempt by hunts to try and prevent Labour's promised ban of trail hunting.

We've long known that trail hunting is a smokescreen, invented by hunts in the aftermath of the fox hunting ban to disguise the continuation of this cruel blood sport. Holding a demonstration of trail hunting doesn't mean the practice is legitimate — far from it. Last season alone, we received nearly 1,400 reports of suspected illegal hunting or disruptive behaviour by hunts, showing just how widespread this problem is.

Even Temporary Assistant Chief Constable Matt Longman, the country's most senior police officer overseeing fox hunting crime, has acknowledged that trail hunting is a "smokescreen for illegal fox hunting" and described illegal hunts as "prolific" across the country.

To counter the misinformation surrounding trail hunting day, we launched a powerful awareness campaign, featuring a video hosted by wildlife campaigner and television presenter Chris Packham. The video shed light on the realities of trail hunting, highlighting its role as a sham designed to deceive the public. With a wide reach, the campaign helped expose the cruelty still taking place under the guise of trail hunting and urged the government to take firm action.

Shaped political debates

Hunting with dogs remained a key focus of our political engagement, supported by strong communications with MPs, government, and supporter activity, keeping the issue high on the agenda.

Early in the year, the then Shadow Environment Secretary, who now holds the position in government, used League-commissioned polling to highlight public support for strengthening the hunting ban among rural voters. Our election manifesto, provided to general election candidates, outlined calls for a tougher hunting ban, supported by detailed briefings to help candidates advocate for our proposals and address voter concerns. Comprehensive policy notes and advice provided high-level policymakers with the background needed to make credible manifesto commitments.

New polling revealed strong support for strengthening the hunting ban across Britain, enabling us to target candidates with localised information specific to their constituencies, influencing their positions. Post-election, our efforts have maintained political pressure, contributing to dozens of parliamentary mentions, including calls for a permanent ban on hunting on Ministry of Defence land, concerns about hunt impacts on communities, and requests for a strengthened legal framework.

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We've kept MPs updated with regular briefings, marked the 20th anniversary of the Hunting Act with targeted materials, and contributed to Wildlife and Countryside Link's influential annual wildlife crime report. Our activities included a House of Commons reception attended by cross-party parliamentarians, high-profile presence at party conferences with exhibitions and panel discussions, including in the run up to the election, and direct meetings with MPs and ministers, ensuring sustained momentum for ending hunting with dogs.

Raised awareness of the Police and Crime Commissioner elections

On 2 May 2024, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) elections offered a vital opportunity to influence policing priorities across the country. As elected representatives, PCCs play a crucial role in shaping law enforcement by setting priorities and holding the police accountable. They have the power to direct focus on issues that matter most to local communities, including tackling rural crimes such as hunting with dogs and other wildlife offences.

Recognising this, we launched a campaign urging our supporters to make their voices heard. We asked them to write to candidates in their area, calling for wildlife crime to be a central focus of the Police and Crime Plan if they were elected. The response was incredible — more than 3,000 supporters took part, generating an impressive 10,475 emails sent to PCC candidates across the country.

This collective action emphasised the importance of prioritising wildlife protection and tackling illegal hunting within local policing strategies. By engaging directly with candidates, we ensured that the message was loud and clear: the public demands stronger enforcement to protect animals and stop illegal hunting practices.

Campaigned against those in support of hunting

We publicly condemned former TV presenter Jeremy Clarkson's brewery, Hawkstone, for sponsoring the point-to-point Cocklebarrow Races, which directly funds the Chipping Norton based Heythrop Hunt. The hunt employs Chris Woodward, who was convicted in late 2023 for offences linked to hunting, including 'deliberately' allowing hounds to chase a fox, admitting to riding his horse at a hunt monitor and threatening to kill him, and driving blocking a badger sett, thus preventing foxes from fleeing underground.

The veneer of respectability accorded to this fundraising event by hunt supporters masks a world of criminality and animal cruelty. The vast majority of the public are appalled by the brutal world of fox hunting and the attempts by fox hunts to deceive the public about their cruel activities are increasingly being exposed.

Last year we welcomed the decision by Chesterfield FC to cancel the planned Barlow Hunt Ball at their premises. The ball was planned to take place at the end of January 2024, but residents and football fans took to social media in their hundreds to express their outrage at the club for hosting the Barlow Hunt Ball. We also wrote to Chesterfield FC directly, asking them not to host the hunt's ball.

In March last year, Channel 4 News broadcast a damning fox hunting report exploring a 'secret protocol' set up between Warwickshire Police and the Warwickshire Hunt after the shock removal of a Community Protection Notice served on the hunt because of its anti-social behaviour. We provided background information for the news piece and put them in touch with key people for the report. The piece tore apart the special arrangement made behind closed doors – described at one point as 'a cosy backroom deal' – and highlighted how it abandoned due process.

It also shone the spotlight on how prolific illegal hunting is in the UK, the anti-social behaviour associated with it, and the requirement for better transparency and training within the police force. The senior police lead on fox hunting crime, Temporary Assistant Chief Constable Matthew Longman, gave an interview during which he spoke about strengthening the Hunting Act. You can watch the news story here: [channel4.com/news/fox-hunting-group-avoid-court-with-secret-police-deal](https://www.channel4.com/news/fox-hunting-group-avoid-court-with-secret-police-deal)

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Goal Two: end shooting of animals for sport

Continue to be a driving force in the REVIVE coalition that focuses on land reforms to benefit animal welfare, the environment and social justice in Scotland

REVIVE, the powerful coalition of animal welfare, environmental, and social justice organisations, continues to thrive. The coalition has already played a key role in protecting mountain hares, banning snares, and introducing the licensing of shooting estates. REVIVE is also shining a light on the questionable mass medication of wild grouse with unlicensed antibiotics — an issue that demands answers.

At REVIVE's third national conference, more than 700 attendees came together in support of these causes. Looking ahead, the next conference will kick off The Big Land Question - a bold, two-year project leading up to the 2026 Holyrood general election. It asks critical questions: Why do just 433 people own more than 50 per cent of Scotland's land, and why is so much of it dedicated solely to grouse shooting?

Continue to campaign for a full ban on snaring in Scotland, to be enacted in 2024

On 21 March 2024, Scotland took a monumental step forward for wildlife protection with the passing of the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill. This groundbreaking legislation, which passed with an overwhelming majority (85 votes in favour, 30 against), will introduce stricter controls on grouse shooting and help combat the longstanding issue of illegal wildlife persecution on Scotland's grouse moors.

For decades, the killing of Scotland's iconic birds of prey has been tied to grouse moor management, a practice often dubbed a 'national disgrace'. With the passage of this Bill, grouse moors now face the loss of their operating licences if any wildlife crime occurs on their land. It's a powerful deterrent that promises to turn the tide on raptor persecution.

The Bill also addresses another key environmental concern — muirburn, the burning of heather on peatlands. These areas, crucial for carbon storage, will now see stricter regulations to protect one of Scotland's most vital natural resources.

Perhaps one of the most crucial victories is the outright ban on snares. These cruel, indiscriminate traps have long been used by shooting estates to protect 'game', but they also cause horrific suffering to non-target species like badgers, hedgehogs, and even pets. This ban marks a major win for animal welfare and strikes a blow against an industry desperate to cling to outdated, inhumane practices.

While the Bill doesn't yet go far enough to completely stop the killing on grouse moors, it represents a significant intervention in land management practices across Scotland. Regulating an industry responsible for so much environmental destruction is a critical step forward, and banning snares is a landmark achievement in the fight for a more humane future.

Gain Welsh government commitment to ban the caged breeding of game birds

The League is actively partnering with Animal Aid on a vital campaign aimed at ending caged game bird breeding. Recently, we contacted the Senedd Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee, urging it to consider an inquiry into this pressing issue. This has stimulated discussion and correspondence on the issue, with indications that the topic could be included in the committee's 2025 Spring work programme, though this remains to be confirmed. It has also provided both the disappointing confirmation that the government's work to examine the issue has been paused, but an assurance that it is nevertheless still committed to restricting the use of cages.

We've sent detailed briefings to members of the Senedd, emphasising the Welsh Government's commitment to 'Restrict the use of cages for Farmed Animals', a crucial aspect of its Animal Welfare Plan 2021- 2026. These briefings also address the government's responses to questions about cage use, helping to clarify the pressing need for reform. We're thrilled that Jane Dodds MS, a passionate advocate for animal welfare, has responded positively, confirming her commitment to championing our issues surrounding caged game bird breeding.

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This year has been quite turbulent in Welsh Government, with three different First Ministers and significant changes in leadership. Huw Irranca-Davies has stepped in as the new Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, taking on the animal welfare brief. We've written to him to congratulate him on his new role, inviting collaboration to create meaningful change for animals in Wales.

To keep momentum, the League actively participated in the Welsh political conferences this spring, particularly with the Welsh Conservatives and Plaid Cymru. These events provided a fantastic opportunity to engage directly with decision-makers, including the new First Minister. Welsh Labour postponed its spring conference to November where we held an exhibition stand solely focused on the urgent need to ban cages. This marked our first engagement at a Welsh Labour conference since the successful ban on snaring, eager to bring back attention to this critical issue.

At Plaid Cymru Autumn Conference, we made valuable connections with the party's Members of the Senedd. While support for banning cages was expressed by some, there's still no official party position on the matter. We're committed to keeping the conversation alive and ensuring that the call for an end to cage breeding remains a top priority in Welsh politics.

Remain a key stakeholder through active engagement in National Resource Wales and Welsh government work on shooting issues

including game bird release The League continues to be an active stakeholder with Natural Resources Wales, engaging in all relevant consultations to advocate for animal welfare. In late 2023, Natural Resources Wales advised the Welsh Government that the release of pheasants and partridges without a licence should be banned. While originally intended to take effect in 2024, implementation was delayed, with the necessary licensing system now expected to be developed in time for the 2025/26 shooting season.

While this created fewer opportunities for input over the last year, we remain vigilant and ready to engage whenever the opportunity arises to promote our mission and ensure that animal welfare is prioritised in all discussions.

Submit proposals to the current government to introduce legislation that will end caged game bird breeding in its current form, and take forward to the next government

Leading up to last July's the general election, we developed detailed proposals to implement a ban on the use of cages to breed game birds at a UK government level, submitting them alongside in-depth analysis of the need for action and the legislative routes available. Working with our partners in the animal welfare sector, we also ensured that birds bred for sport are recognised as an important part of wider proposals to end the cage age in animal farming. This included support for the Votes For Animals election initiative, which encouraged election candidates to pledge to ban the industrial production of pheasants and partridges.

All too often, animals abused for sport are not covered by even the minimal legal protections which apply to other animals. Since the general election, in appearing alongside ministers at public events discussing animal welfare policy and in face-to-face meetings, we have raised ending caged breeding as a pressing priority and key example of the way in which animals such as game birds are failed by the current legal system. We continue to advocate on this issue to ensure it forms part of the government's thinking as it develops a more comprehensive approach to improving animal welfare.

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In addition to what we said we would do, we also:

Campaigned for a snaring ban in England

Ahead of the general election, we provided detailed policy notes on the case for adopting a ban on the use of snares in England, building on previous parliamentary work and the successful campaigns in Wales and Scotland and helping to secure election commitments from political parties. In collaboration with our partners in the animal welfare sector during and since the election, we provided politicians and officials with evidence to demonstrate that snares are cruel, unnecessary, indiscriminate and must be banned without exception. Coinciding with the ban on snares coming into force in Scotland at the end of November, we launched an action which enabled League supporters to urge their MPs to support a ban. With the government having been elected on a manifesto commitment to ban snares in England, this will remain a key area of our work and collaboration with the many charities who back calls for a ban.

Goal Three: end fighting of animals for sport

Produce enhanced intelligence packages for law enforcement agencies on suspected incidents of dog fighting in the UK

It's shocking that there are people who breed, abuse and force dogs to fight other dogs, often to the death. They do it for money and for entertainment. It's illegal but we routinely gather intelligence on dog fighting that's still sadly taking place across the UK.

Through our covert operations, we gather evidence and prepare enhanced intelligence packages for law enforcement agencies. Last year we sent 53 separate intelligence packages relating to dog fighting to 13 police forces and five other organisations across the UK.

In addition to what we said we would do, we also:

Brought perpetrators to justice

Case One

Last year, two brothers, Kristen and Todd Cooper, were sentenced for horrifying animal cruelty and theft. The case involved videos found on Kristen's phone, showing the brothers causing unnecessary suffering to animals, mutilating wildlife, and encouraging dogs to attack injured deer and hares. An expert described the videos as some of the worst cases of animal abuse seen in 24 years.

Kristen received a total prison sentence of five years, while Todd received three years and eight months. Kristen was additionally subject to a 10-year Criminal Behaviour Order, including restrictions on possessing a catapult and being on agricultural or farmland during specific hours, along with a 10-year ban on owning a dog. The positive development in this story is the increase in animal cruelty sentencing in England and Wales, with judges gaining greater powers to increase prison sentences for such offences. This is due to the introduction of the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Act, which increased the legal maximum sentences for many animal cruelty offences to five years, and which was something we led on lobbying for years to achieve.

Additionally, the Sentencing Council for England and Wales issued new guidelines, following input from the League, which now allows judges to treat serious animal cruelty offenses, such as dog fighting and badger baiting, more seriously. The council initially proposed sentences of around 18 months for the most serious offences but revised them to a range of six months to three years and six months, with a starting point of two years in jail. Particularly severe cases may result in a five-year sentence. These new sentencing capabilities were introduced after the League gave important feedback in the consultation process. Not only does the increase in penalty act as

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a deterrent, but they'll also provide law enforcement additional capabilities to investigate these crimes. We're pleased to have played such a crucial role in ensuring those who abuse animals for fun are punished appropriately.

Case Two

We played a pivotal role, alongside other leading animal welfare organisations and the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), in securing the conviction of Jason Kennedy, a ruthless badger baiter and animal abuser. Thanks to the intelligence gathered by our team, in collaboration with the USPCA and Nature Watch, Kennedy was jailed for 27 months for a series of horrific animal cruelty offences. His brutal actions, including setting dogs on badgers, foxes, and cats, resulted in unthinkable suffering and death for these innocent animals.

Our investigation began in May 2021 uncovering disturbing evidence — photos and videos showing Kennedy orchestrating bloody fights between his dogs and wildlife. Injured dogs with severe facial wounds, a common occurrence in badger baiting, were taken into care and successfully rehomed. While badger baiting is outlawed, fox hunting with dogs remains legal in Northern Ireland, allowing terrier men to continue their cruel practice of sending dogs underground to maul or flush out wildlife. However, Kennedy's sentencing, including a 10-year ban from owning animals, sends a powerful message: cruelty of this kind will not go unpunished.

We hope this conviction serves as a stark deterrent to others who would engage in these barbaric acts, as they have no place in a modern, compassionate society.

Closed down a brutal dog fighting ring

Last year we played a critical role in shutting down a brutal dog-fighting ring that spanned across Europe. Our intelligence team provided crucial information to Essex Police, leading to the conviction of three men and one woman at Chelmsford Crown Court for a series of horrific animal welfare offences, including organised dog fighting.

At the centre of our investigation was Billy Leadley, also known online as GSK or Green Street Kennels. Leadley pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to a dog with a severe tail injury, but the jury convicted him of an additional nine charges under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. These crimes ranged from operating a premises for dog fighting to refereeing violent matches and training dogs for fighting. Following the trial, Leadley admitted to further charges of neglecting nine dogs kept in squalid conditions and owning a prohibited breed. A total of 16 dogs, many believed to have been forced into fights, were rescued — some found in appalling conditions in his garage.

This landmark case wasn't just a victory for our team; it was also a collaborative success with Essex Police and the RSPCA's Special Operations Unit. Together, we uncovered evidence leading to the conviction of other key figures involved in this vile underground network. Phillip Harris Ali, infamously known as 'Dr Death', and Stephen Albert Brown were also found guilty of numerous offences.

In June 2024, Leadley was sentenced to four years in prison for 12 animal cruelty offences. The use of new sentencing powers, which we helped push through government, reflected the severity of these abhorrent crimes. Thanks to our joint efforts, one of Europe's most notorious dog fighters is now behind bars, and countless dogs have been spared from further suffering.

Goal Four: win the hearts and minds of a broader audience

Attract new supporters to take our campaigning actions

Supporters are at the heart of all we do. Without them we wouldn't be able to campaign for change. Last year 310 supporters raised their voices with ours and completed an action for animals, be it attending a demonstration, attending webinars or writing to their local paper. Tens of thousands more signed our

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petition (almost 50,000 in fact), and a staggering 70,094 email actions were sent by our supporters last year.

Promote Animal Crimewatch as the go-to reporting service for cruelty in the name of sport through online awareness campaigns

While most people are familiar with reporting general animal cruelty, such as pet neglect or harm, fewer know how to report cruelty linked to sports. These insidious forms of abuse often go unreported, leaving those who harm animals for sport or entertainment unpunished for some of the worst acts of cruelty. Our supporter-funded Animal Crimewatch service bridges that gap. It allows the public to report such crimes, often with valuable intelligence and evidence, which we investigate and pass on to the police for further work. This service is crucial for tackling cruelty in the name of sport, ensuring that offenders don't slip through the cracks.

In addition to email, phone, and post, we launched a new WhatsApp service in October, making it even easier for people to contact us while on the go. It is already proving useful, with people already using it to report suspected animal crime. One example, also mentioned in our national parks section, is of a family using it to report suspected illegal fox hunting in Dartmoor – something that was covered by the local press

- [devonlive.com/news/devon-news/family-tears-after-dartmoor-fox-9748780](https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/family-tears-after-dartmoor-fox-9748780)

Celebrate the League's centenary to engage new and existing supporters

On 25 November 2024, the League proudly marked its 100th birthday — a century of standing strong against cruelty in the name of sport. From our humble beginnings in Morden, Surrey, where visionaries Henry Amos and Ernest Bell founded The League for the Prohibition of Cruel Sports, we've evolved into a formidable force for change.

To commemorate this monumental milestone, we rolled out a year of celebration and reflection. We kicked off by launching our online centenary hub, featuring a powerful film and a fascinating League through the Decades document. Our exclusive centenary merchandise collection, drawing inspiration from the 1950s, 1980s, and the modern day, allowed supporters to wear their history with pride. The Supporter Stories campaign captured the hearts of hundreds, showcasing personal memories, heartfelt dedications, and creative artwork from our community.

Our celebrations included a special event at the Senedd, where we expressed our gratitude to the Welsh government for its significant contributions to animal protection, especially with the recent triumph of banning snares in Wales. The year culminated in a centenary event at the Houses of Parliament, bringing politicians, friends and allies together to honour our collective achievements. And, of course, our centenary edition of Protect quickly became a treasured collector's item for many of our dedicated supporters.

Increase Leaguecast podcast series in the lead up to the next general election to secure and strengthen support

Our podcast - Leaguecast - became a key platform in our general election campaign, allowing us to engage supporters with up-to-date discussions on animal welfare issues and our Time for Change Campaign Against Hunting. Through a three-part miniseries, we explored critical election topics, including what policies the public could expect on animal welfare, how we've campaigned for changes in legislation to protect animals, and what the new Labour government could mean for animal welfare in the UK.

By discussing real-time issues and our strategic plans, we were able to amplify our voice and ensure that animal welfare remained a key topic in public and political discourse. Moving into 2025, Leaguecast will continue expanding its reach, introducing new listeners to our cause and ensuring our campaign messages are heard more widely.

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Develop League wildlife reserves to encourage more visitors

Our wildlife reserves, especially Baronsdown, serve as vital sanctuaries for animals that might otherwise be targeted by hunters. Last year, we were thrilled to host several events at Baronsdown, our flagship reserve. One of the highlights was the two-day red stag rutting event, a spectacular natural phenomenon where stags engage in fierce competition for mates. More than 70 supporters from across the UK participated in this special experience. They enjoyed tours and guided woodland walks, giving them an up-close view of the stunning wildlife and diverse flora and fauna that thrive in this peaceful haven.

These events not only offer a unique glimpse into the life of the majestic red deer but also reinforce the importance of protecting such creatures and their habitats. Through these immersive experiences, we connected our supporters with the natural world and inspired further commitment to our mission of safeguarding animals from cruelty.

In addition to what we said we would do, we also:

Endorsed calls to ban greyhound racing

Greyhound racing is a heartless and outdated practice, where the thrill for spectators comes at the expense of the dogs' wellbeing. While racegoers may be betting on winners, the grim reality is that 109 greyhounds died trackside last year alone, and a staggering 4,238 injuries were reported across the UK's 20 tracks in 2023, according to figures from the Greyhound Board of Great Britain. This means that 28 per cent of all racing greyhounds in the UK are getting injured - numbers that paint a damning picture of a sport that sacrifices these gentle animals for profit.

The call for a ban is growing louder, with increasing scrutiny over the safety and ethics of greyhound racing. In Wales, a petition with 35,000 signatures pushed the government to ask the public for their views on banning the sport, and we responded to the consultation on Animal Welfare Establishments, advocating for a phased ban. Our supporters made their voices heard, submitting more than 300 responses in Wales alone. Similarly, in Scotland, we joined eight other animal welfare organisations in the Unbound the Greyhound campaign, demanding the Scottish Government put an end to this cruel sport.

But our efforts go beyond government lobbying. We even approached Sky Sports, asking the broadcaster to share injury data with their viewers to expose the hidden toll of greyhound racing. While Sky agreed to our suggestion, and published the data online, it's clear that more must be done. It's time to bring an end to greyhound racing in the UK for good.

Focused on digital campaigning

Last year, we took our digital campaigning to new heights, focusing on growing our online presence and mobilising support. We created the Campaigners Against Cruel Sports Facebook group, which quickly gained more than 1,400 passionate members, all committed to ending animal cruelty. This vibrant space keeps supporters updated on our work and broader animal welfare issues, equipping them with the resources, expertise, and information needed to drive our campaigns forward. With more than 1,400 posts and 6,064 comments and 37,824 likes and other reactions, it's a lively, engaged forum that's set to grow.

The group became a central hub during our general election campaign, spearheading a digital takeover that dominated key campaign hashtags and flooded the feeds of prospective Defra secretaries with thousands of posts across multiple platforms. This engaged network of supporters has been vital in amplifying our message, allowing us to quickly pivot and distribute campaign materials more efficiently than ever before.

In addition to the Facebook group, we hosted a series of online webinars leading up to the election, covering local, digital, and political campaigning. These sessions drew more than 370 sign-ups across eight events and empowered supporters with the knowledge and skills to be more effective animal advocates.

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But our standout initiative from last year was Circle, a dedicated online platform that is away from social media sites, and which is a one-stop shop for us to host discussions and share information on all our work. Launching in December, its first month saw 165 supporters join us, and we also used it to host our first live campaigns seminar. Circle is available to download on mobile and computer, and once you've signed up just search for Campaigners Against Cruel Sports to join us. This platform doesn't require membership of any other social media platform and is one we will be using increasingly through the year.

Looking forward, building and nurturing these powerful online communities remains a top priority in 2025 as we continue to amplify our voice and strengthen our impact in the fight against animal cruelty.

Championed stricter controls in horse racing

A day at the races might be thrilling for spectators, but for the horses, it can be a day of danger and suffering. Forced to leap perilous fences and pushed to their physical limits with the whip, many horses pay the ultimate price.

Since the year 2000 (excluding 2001 when the event was cancelled due to foot and mouth disease) at least one horse has died every year at the Cheltenham Festival - totalling a heartbreaking 74 deaths over the past 23 years. These shocking statistics make it clear: tighter safety measures are urgently needed to protect both the horses and their jockeys. We're calling for the creation of an independent regulatory body that puts horse welfare first and foremost.

One of the most critical steps toward achieving this goal is banning the use of the whip. In 2020, an Early Day Motion garnered the support of 97 MPs, urging the British Horse Racing Authority to ban the whip for 'encouragement.'

This blatant disregard for animal welfare has no place in modern, compassionate Britain. It's time to end the cruel use of the whip in horse racing and protect these majestic animals from needless suffering. We're determined to take action and campaign on this before more lives are lost.

Encouraged people to call our Animal Crimewatch reporting service

Our supporter-funded Animal Crimewatch reporting service allows people from across the UK to report animal crimes. In 2024 we received 324 reports from members of the public who were concerned about animal cruelty. Members of the public can contact us by email, phone, post, online or by WhatsApp.

Got our message heard

The year offered an opportunity to put our messages across to the public via the media, but with an ever-more crowded political and environmental news agenda as the year progressed it also offered us significant challenges.

Despite those challenges, across the year the League generated 1,371 separate pieces of media coverage in both national and regional newspapers, as well as featuring in 163 television or radio broadcasts. We appeared on the BBC, ITV National News and Channel 4 News and also in prestigious newspapers such as The Times, Guardian, Mail and Mirror.

It wasn't just the quantity of the media articles we featured in that impressed but also the quality – our key messages featured in 84 per cent of the coverage, ensuring the public understands what we are asking the government to do to protect animals persecuted through sport. Those who support these so-called sports could only offer weak responses – if any – to these stories.

Boxing Day has traditionally been a huge day in the fox hunting world's calendar, and this year we once again effectively challenged their PR exercise by shaping the news agenda to focus on their cruelty. We shared with

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journalists a strong set of figures gathered by the League's intelligence team highlighting the scale of suspected illegal hunting in the countryside, which ensured the hunts' brutal behaviour was kept firmly in the spotlight. This resulted in more than 400 media articles that mainly highlighted the hunts' savagery and smokescreens, rather than focusing on their pomp and pageantry.

Our calls for the Government to set out a timetable for when it would ban trail hunting were picked up across the board. So, too, were our calls for the Government to remove the loopholes in the Hunting Act and introduce jail terms for those that break the law. Those hundreds of media pieces mean that 2024 saw our key messaging reach millions of ordinary people as well as key politicians and policy makers, as we strove to make this country a kinder and safer place for animals and wildlife.

Defended animals on our wildlife reserves

Spring

The first signs of spring came while winter was still with us, as snowdrops forced their way through the soil, goat willows burst into flower, and frogs appeared from nowhere in the ponds. Unfortunately, much of our time was taken up monitoring the hunts as they hunted near to the wildlife reserves. We still need to keep a close eye on the hunts in case they or their supporters are tempted to trespass in pursuit of their victim, as occasionally happens. On the positive side, it is rewarding when you see hunted stags making their way past the cordon of hunt followers onto the reserves, as happening on a few occasions during March and April.

Aside from monitoring hunts, we still had to carry out routine management work to maintain the League's wildlife reserve in good order and to maximise their value to wildlife and to start carrying out surveys to identify the wildlife that is present.

Summer

The appearance of fox cubs, badger cubs, and deer calves on the wildlife reserves heralded the start of summer and it is something that never fails to bring a rush of excitement. Likewise, the return from Africa of small migrant birds, such as pied flycatchers, redstarts and wood warblers to nest on the reserves is nothing short of miraculous. Survey work on the wildlife reserves showed that we still have good populations on insects to feed hungry mouths, despite the wet weather and the impacts of climate change.

On the Cove Down wildlife recovery project, beavers bred successfully, as did goshawks and barn owls. It's great to be working collaboratively with neighbouring landowners for the benefit of wildlife. We have also been working with the National Trust on a landscape recovery project in North Devon, which includes the League's Cowley Wood reserve.

Autumn

The red deer rut featured heavily during the autumn as we held two successful supporter events at Baronsdown to coincide with the spectacle. Against the odds, numerous mature stags managed to return to the wildlife reserves to challenge rivals for the right to breed, although there aren't as many really big stags as there were, due to hunting and shooting pressures. The three staghound packs continued hunting mature stags throughout the rutting period and again lost some of their hunted stags onto the reserves. We were very grateful for the support of neighbouring landowners and other anti-hunt groups who helped to protect the reserves. The fields on Baronsdown once again put on an impressive display of fungi during the autumn, which is testament to sensitive management over many years, and the last hazel dormouse survey of the year found dormice on three of the reserves.

Winter

Winters on the Exmoor wildlife reserves are always dismal affairs, with leaden skies, rain and wind dictating the work we can safely do (thankfully, snow is far less frequent than it was). Nevertheless, we needed to be out there on the reserves to control rhododendron and other invasive plants, deal with lots of fallen trees, maintain the

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buildings, and undertake other essential tasks. Of course, the hunts remained an ever-present threat throughout the period and the pheasant shoots were a constant reminder of the pointless destruction of wildlife going on all around us. It is only through the continued financial help from our supporters that we are able to maintain these magnificent wildlife reserves and keep animals safe.

2025 priorities

Each year we set out our strategic priorities for the year ahead. As we move towards the twentieth anniversary of the Hunting Act coming into force, our primary focus this year will be on holding the government to its manifesto commitments to ban trail hunting, but also demanding it goes further and strengthens the law. We will also be working to support a move in Northern Ireland to ban hunting with dogs; something that has remained legal.

end hunting with dogs

1. Lobby for a timetable from the new government for trail hunting to be outlawed, as per its manifesto commitment, and for changes to include strengthening the hunting ban
2. Continue to harness Welsh government support for strengthening the hunting ban to ensure trail hunting does not return to National Resource Wales land
3. Continue work in Scotland to record behaviour patterns of fox hunts who continue to go out drag hunting or flushing to guns with two or more dogs
4. Support a Private Members' Bill in Northern Ireland and give guidance to politicians on effectively ending hunting with dogs, and lobby politicians across the island of Ireland to support the proposed legislation

end shooting of animals for sport

1. Continue to be a driving force in the REVIVE coalition that focuses on land reforms to benefit animal welfare, the environment and social justice in Scotland
2. Gain Welsh government commitment to ban the caged breeding of game birds
3. Remain a key stakeholder through active engagement in National Resource Wales and Welsh government work on shooting issues including game bird release
4. Submit proposals to the current government to introduce legislation that will end caged game bird breeding

end fighting of animals for sport

1. Implement a targeted online campaign to grow awareness of suspected dog fighting across the UK
2. Continue to produce enhanced intelligence packages for law enforcement agencies on suspected incidents of dog fighting in the UK
3. Work with stakeholders in law enforcement and other organisations to maximise justice for animals harmed through fighting

win the hearts and minds of a broader audience

1. Maximise our digital campaigns and communications activities to attract new, engaged, supporters
2. Continue to promote Animal Crimewatch as the go-to reporting service for cruelty in the name of sport through online awareness campaigns
3. Use the twentieth anniversary of the Hunting Act to raise awareness of the importance of strengthening the law without further delay
4. Develop League wildlife reserves to encourage more visitors
5. Tell the stories of those who are impacted by the activities of those who harm animals through sport, whether hunting, shooting, animal fighting or animal racing

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People Reporting

Diversity, Equity and Staff Engagement

We are deeply committed to fostering a diverse, equitable and inclusive team. While there's room for improvement, our efforts are yielding results, with many of our metrics outperforming national averages.

- **Gender Pay Gap:** Our gender pay gap is four per cent narrower than the national average, with a nearly even split of men and women across our team.
- **Disability Representation:** 25.6 per cent of our staff have a disability or long-term health condition - 11.6 per cent higher than the national average — with a disability pay gap 26 per cent narrower than the national average.
- **Ethnic Diversity:** While we trail the national average by 4.5 per cent for staff from ethnically diverse backgrounds, our ethnic diversity pay gap is 16 per cent narrower than the national average.

Staff Development and Wellbeing

Our people are at the heart of everything we do. In 2024, we delivered a record-high average of 3.3 days of development per employee, achieving this at one of the lowest costs in recent years. From tailored training to knowledge sharing initiatives, initiatives included a staff development day focussed on the Future of Work and the skills required for it, we remain committed to investing in our staff to maximise their potential and advance our mission.

Transparency in Pay

Equity is very important to us, and we have a transparent and fair framework in place for all people practices, from recruitment to training allocation. Our salaries are benchmarked annually to ensure competitiveness, and we are committed to paying above the Real Living Wage.

Sustainability Statement

Driving Sustainable Change: Our Green Commitment

The Green Team, our dedicated staff committee, continues to lead the charge in reducing our charity's environmental footprint. Building on the solid foundation of training and policies already in place, the team is excited to be planning a Sustainability Focus Week in 2025. This initiative will inspire every staff member to actively contribute to advancing our collective sustainability efforts.

At the heart of our mission lies our unwavering commitment to safeguarding the natural environment on our wildlife reserves. Our small but passionate wildlife reserve team works tirelessly to ensure that sustainability guides our every action, even when resources are limited. Here are just a few of the ways we put our principles into practice:

- **Eco-Friendly Land Management:** We avoid harmful pesticides and herbicides on our reserves unless absolutely necessary, choosing more labour-intensive but environmentally responsible alternatives.
- **Sustainable Timber Use:** Repairs and wildlife habitat construction rely on timber either harvested from our own sawmill using sustainably sourced wood or certified sustainable suppliers.
- **Carbon Capture in Nature:** The trees on our reserves act as powerful carbon sinks, locking away atmospheric carbon as they grow. Even as they start to deteriorate with age, these trees become vital habitats for diverse wildlife. Permanent pastures also play a role, storing carbon in their dense root systems.
- **Greener Tools, Smarter Practices:**

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As our old tools wear out, we're replacing them with rechargeable battery-powered models that are better for both the environment and the team. While we continue to use our trusty old tractor and Land Rovers, we are committed to maintaining them responsibly until sustainable alternatives become viable.

- **Water Conservation:** On the Baronsdown reserve, all water is sourced from on-site natural springs. With erratic weather patterns becoming the norm, we are increasingly vigilant about using this precious resource wisely.

Our collaboration with neighbouring landowners has been a highlight of the year, particularly at Cove Down, where a nature restoration project has transformed the landscape into a much more sustainable haven for wildlife. Looking ahead, we're thrilled about the development of a landscape recovery scheme in North Devon in partnership with the National Trust, which includes the League's Cowley Wood reserve.

Together, these efforts reflect our deep commitment to protecting the environment, both within and beyond our wildlife reserves. With your support and our collective determination, we're building a future that prioritises sustainability and celebrates the natural world.

Fundraising Review

Building a kinder world together

Our fundraising approach is as diverse as the people who support us. Whether through one-off donations, regular contributions via direct debit, payroll giving, gifts in wills, or participating in our Lucky League Raffle or League Lotto, each method provides a unique way for people to engage with our cause. Our supporters hear from us through a variety of channels - social media, emails, direct mail and Protect, our supporters' magazine - ensuring they're always connected to the impact their donations are making.

But fundraising for us isn't just about money. It's about building a community of passionate individuals who are ready to take a stand for animals. Our fundraising initiatives raise both funds and awareness, uniting people in our mission to protect wildlife from the cruelty of so-called sport.

Collaborating for greater impact

Our in-house fundraising team leads with passion, but we don't do it alone. We partner with carefully selected experts when needed, allowing us to tap into specialised skills that amplify our impact. This collaboration ensures we are always evolving, pushing the boundaries of what we can achieve for wildlife protection.

We're accountable, transparent, and here for our supporters

Our commitment to transparency is woven through every aspect of our work. As proud members of the Fundraising Regulator, we strictly follow the Code of Fundraising Practice and maintain the highest standards in all our activities. Our team is also fully trained to recognise and support individuals who may be in vulnerable circumstances, offering alternative ways for them to get involved, such as volunteering or campaigning if they are unable to give financially.

We take feedback seriously. Our complaints policy, available on our website, ensures every concern is handled with care and respect. In 2024, we received two fundraising related complaints, all resolved by our dedicated Supporter Services team.

We're also part of the Fundraising Preference Service, making it easy for individuals to opt-out of communications if they choose, and we respect all requests immediately and offer opt-out options in every communication to respect everyone's preferences.

Safeguarding your trust

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We believe that trust is the cornerstone of all our relationships with supporters. Our approach to data protection is robust, ensuring that personal information is always handled responsibly and securely. Our supporters can access our Privacy and Cookies policies on our website, which detail how, when, and where their data is used in compliance with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Investing in the future of wildlife protection

We're proud to operate independently, without government funding, relying entirely on the generosity of individuals, corporate partnerships, and trusts. Every donation not only funds our current work but also builds the foundation for future income. We invest strategically, working with third-party providers where necessary to ensure the sustainability of our income streams and expand our reach.

While fundraising requires investment, every penny is directed with care and purpose. Our strategy ensures that funds we raise today - and tomorrow - continue to fuel our fight to protect wildlife from cruelty.

Together, we can create change

None of our work would be possible without the loyal community of supporters who stand with us. Their generosity allows us to fight harder and dream bigger for a future where no animal suffers for sport. Each donation, each word of support, brings us closer to a world where wildlife is protected and respected.

By standing together, we're changing the narrative and creating a world where kindness leads and cruelty fades into the past.

Structure, Governance and Management

The League Against Cruel Sports is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (Registration No. 1095234) and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (Registration No. SC045533). It is also a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (Company Registered No. 04037610). Its objects and powers are set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Charity has a wholly owned subsidiary, the League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited, which is a private company limited by shares incorporated in England and Wales (Company Registered No. 02880406). Its principle activity is to act solely as a subsidiary company for carrying out trading activities on behalf of The League Against Cruel Sports charity. The company did not trade in 2024.

The governing body of the Charity is the Board of Trustees, comprising of not fewer than three nor more than twelve unpaid members. The Board meet at least three times a year to review performance against its plans, approve future financial plans based on the agreed strategy, setting policies and to make any decisions necessary to its governance and strategic direction. The Board has ultimate responsibility for the conduct and financial stability of the Charity group. The Finance, Risk and General purposes Committee is a sub-committee of the Board and also meets regularly to consider issues appertaining to the Charity group and informs the wider Board. As at December 2024 the Committee members were Dan Norris, Astrid Clifford and Ashleigh Brown. The current Committee members are Astrid Clifford, Ashleigh Brown and Neil Moulding.

Day-to-day financial responsibility and managerial control are delegated by the Board to the Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive and Senior Management Team meet monthly to discuss operations and financial performance.

Trustees are appointed by a majority of the voting members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for a term of up to three years or can be co-opted by the Board of Trustees until the next AGM. A comprehensive recruitment exercise is undertaken for the appointment of new Trustees to ensure the Board have the depth and breadth of skills and experience necessary to be an effective Trustee of The League Against Cruel Sports. The Board appoints a recruitment panel which undertakes the selection process, carries out interviews, and makes recommendations to the Board for their approval. During the year we recruited one new Trustee and three trustees resigned, subsequent to the year-end we recruited three new trustees and two existing trustees resigned.

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New Trustees attend an induction day at the League's headquarters, to learn about the Charity's mission, strategy and objectives. They also learn about their role and responsibilities as a Trustee. We also use the opportunity for them to meet and speak with the League staff. The Trustees receive regular, in house training on new policies and initiatives, and are provided with on-line resources regarding Trustee governance training/ guideline updates.

The Charitable Company has made qualifying third-party indemnity provisions for the benefit of its directors which were made during the year and remain in force at the date of this report.

Remuneration Policy

The Board of Trustees determines the Chief Executive's salary and reviews this each year, in line with the Charity's pay policy. The Board also approves recommendations made by the Chief Executive on any staff pay changes as a result of the annual staff pay review.

Our approach to remuneration of staff is designed to ensure we can attract and retain people with the passion, commitment and talent we need to deliver our mission. We aim to pay competitively in the not-for-profit sector within the context of affordability, using external salary survey to benchmark our salaries against other similar charities.

The annual pay increases are normally awarded in January each year taking into account pay inflation, organisational affordability, and any mandatory statutory increases. Our remuneration policy approach is applied consistently across the organisation, through our annual pay review process.

The League has committed to paying our employees no less than the real living wage and as such is accredited by the Good Business Charter.

Financial Review

Recent historic economic issues continue to impact on the League, much like for other charities in the sector, but we persevere working hard to ensure a stable and sustainable organisation for delivering on our campaigns. As such 2024 income targets were prudently set balanced against a realistic, sustainable expenditure plan but with additional investment for the General Election and the League centenary celebration year from our reserves. In addition, ongoing external probate processing delays continued to frustrate legacy income in the year.

Fundraising has not yet been fully restored to the pre 2022 cost of living crisis level, but we retain a robust supporter base on which to build our fundraising strategy for the future. Our supporters' dedication, commitment and financial support is never taken for granted and this provides us with the strong foundation to ensure the League continues to be the voice for animals persecuted in the name of sport. In return we are committed to ensuring robust financial management and future financial sustainability in order to achieve this mission.

Alongside our pivotal General Election work we continued to deliver on quality programmes and campaigns achieving our 2024 objectives and delivering this with savings on budget. Despite pressures on income but with a determination to fulfil our goals we have realised a £671k surplus result for the year, and along with a £467k surplus in 2023, we have significantly increased our level of reserves over the last two year period.

Into 2025 the League maintains a strong financial position with a robust five-year financial plan underpinning our medium-term strategy, and we have the necessary reserves and adaptability to help us deal with any financial challenges ahead.

Income

Total group income for the year was £3.7m, an increase of 27 percent on last year. The League reports on three key areas of income generation performance: legacies, donations and memberships. Although we also generate income from our trading activities and investment income from cash deposits.

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Legacy income was 51 percent higher than last year at just under £2.5m and represented 66 percent of our total income for the year. Performance during the year was lower than expected in part due to the impact of the HMCTS probate processing delays. However, income had started to increase by the year-end and we had substantial post year end legacy receipts resulting in an exceptional legacy accrual debtor. The League's legacy pipeline remains strong and charity sector reports remain optimistic about future increases in charitable legacy giving. Legacy income is forecast to remain a significant and critical income source for the League in achieving its ambitions. For all charities, legacies are difficult to predict in terms of the amount and timing of receipt, but we work hard to manage this situation as best as we can.

Donations and gifts income amounted to just under £1m for the year, a decrease of 7 percent on last year, and represents 26 percent of our total income for the year. As mentioned above, we believe this income source is still impacted by the economic issues arising in 2022 but despite this so many supporters continue to generously donate what they can, as they can see the amazing achievements the League is accomplishing.

Income from membership fees have reduced to £90k as many new supporters prefer our regular giver supporter package to the more traditional membership. This represents 2 percent of our total income for the year. We always value our loyal members alongside our regular giver supporters and appreciate their enduring commitment to help the League achieve its charitable objectives through their day-to-day support of our work and their participation of 'on the ground' action.

Other trading income was £132k for the year, representing 4 percent of our total income for the year. Raffle and Lotto sales increased by 11 per cent on last year to £88k. Merchandise sales increased by 60 per cent to £44k. All our merchandise products are made to order, in this way the League receives commission from sales with the benefits that we save money by not holding stock and is a more ethical solution as there is no production waste, our new products use natural materials and sustainable packaging, and finished products can be sent for recycling.

Expenditure

Total resources expended in furtherance of our charitable objectives for the year was £3.1m, an increase of £0.6m or 24 percent on last year. The increase in expenditure was mainly due to increased spend on our charitable activities, including additional investment into the General Election campaign and also increased spend on fundraising and our supporter functions. Overall, including an allocation of support costs, charitable activities expenditure was £2.4m for the year, an increase of 17 percent on the previous year, and fundraising costs were £0.7m, an increase of 58 percent, as we continue to invest in income generation and supporter care following the impact of recent global economic issues.

Expenditure on our four core charitable activities amounted to 72 percent in total with 22 percent spent on fund raising publicity and trading, and 6 percent on governance. During the year the average number of staff employed decreased from 42 to 41, and by the year end the staff complement was 40.

The League continues to exercise strict cost control supported by robust financial processes and procedures, ever mindful to obtain the best value for money when spending every penny of our supporter donations on our charitable aims, but also to spend within the parameters of our ethical procurement policy.

Balance Sheet

As at the year end the Group had total net assets of £4.8m; represented by fixed assets (mainly freehold land and buildings) of £1.6m, cash deposits of £1.3m, other current assets of £2.1m and current liabilities of £0.2m.

Group funds consist of £4.7m unrestricted funds (2023: £4m) and £0.1m of restricted funds (2023: £0.1m). At the year-end there were designated funds totalling £1.7m by the Board of Trustees (2023: £1.7m). The funds purposes are detailed in note 13 to the financial statements.

The strong surplus result for the year reinforces the League's stable financial position, and with robust future financial plans in place, our level of total reserves/net assets continue to provide the Group with a strong working capital base for 2025 and into the future.

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Reserves Policy

Reserves are key in ensuring the long-term viability of the Charity. The Board of Trustees regularly monitors the level of retained reserves, when reviewing financial performance in the management accounts, and reviews the overall reserves policy annually as part of the five-year financial plan review. Our policy remains in line with the Charity Commission's advice on managing charity reserves over the current economic climate.

Our reserves policy is based on a risk identification approach calculating an appropriate level of unrestricted reserves to cover our contractual commitments, working capital requirements, and to manage possible fluctuations in future income levels; this calculation also takes into account our fixed asset holdings. Our five-year financial planning aims to achieve a target level of reserves to cover all these identified risks and ensure we have long term financial stability.

At the financial year end the amount of free unrestricted reserves available for general purposes was £3.1m, of which £1.7m has been designated by the Board of Trustees for specific purposes including income and expenditure risk management and building our supporter base. Total free reserves have increased over the year and exceed our minimum target level required to provide sufficient financial stability given the current risks the League is potentially exposed to, as detailed in the Risk Management section on page 27. Reserves provide eleven months operational expenditure cover. With the continuing economic uncertainty, the Board feels it is appropriate to maintain a relatively high level of reserves, including setting aside specific designated funds, to ensure the stability and sustainability of the Charity until the economy recovers and funding confidence returns to previous levels.

The Board will continue to regularly monitor the League's performance against its agreed plans.

Investment Policy

With the continuing instability of the stock markets, the Trustees have agreed that stocks and shares given to or left to the League should be sold at the earliest beneficial opportunity. There was no loss on any investments received or sold during the year. The ongoing uncertainty of the markets has led to the Trustees continuing their policy of holding reserves in either property or cash deposits. Cash deposits are spread over a number of authorised firms to take advantage of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and to reduce the potential risk of any losses occurring. As at the year-end, 41 percent of these funds are available for instant access, and the remaining deposits have notice periods and are repayable within five months.

The policy will be reviewed by the Trustees during 2025 with due regard to our forecast cash flow requirements.

Public Benefit

The Charities Act 2011 requires that Trustees explain in their annual report how it is that their activities demonstrate the public benefit of their work within the meaning of the Act.

In charity law the advancement of animal welfare is recognised as a charitable purpose. The League's main objective is to prevent or reduce cruelty to animals in the name of sport. Whilst the League may use a number of different means to further this objective and will strive to push at boundaries, it is careful to ensure that it remains within the remit of its charitable objectives and within the strict parameters of charity law at all times.

Examples of the League's work are:

- The investigation and monitoring of possible wildlife offences;
- Informing and educating on the impact of the Hunting Act 2004, including amendments or repeal;
- Informing and educating the public about the cruelty aspect of using animals for 'sporting' purposes;
- Informing and educating the public about animal welfare problems associated with 'sport' such as the use of snares and the intensive production of 'game' birds;
- Liaison with elected officials who have the power to both enforce the law and to enhance it.

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Internal Controls and Risk Management

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring the League group has a sound system of internal control to safeguard its assets and funds, and for ensuring that its assets and funds are used only in furtherance of the League's objectives. The system of internal control is intended to manage appropriately rather than to eliminate risks and to provide reasonable rather than absolute assurance. The Charity is one that arouses strong passions and potential threats to it are ever present, particularly from those who challenge its very existence, credibility, and direction.

Trustees have developed an effective risk management framework for the assessment of major risks to which the Charity is exposed, that has been used successfully throughout the year. The assessment and documentation of risk is carried out by the Senior Management Team led by the Chief Executive Officer (and Acting CEO), supported by the Finance Director, both of whom have considerable experience and expertise in this area. Risk factors are identified and assessed for scale, and each risk is assigned to a member of the Senior Management Team to take responsibility for identifying the steps needed to manage or mitigate the risk. These risk assessments are documented in a risk register and are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that new risks are identified and that actions proposed to mitigate or manage risks are being undertaken. The risks to the Charity are also assessed and reviewed by the Trustees quarterly through the Finance Risk and General (FRAG) Committee, with a subsequent update to the full Board at their quarterly meeting. The CEO (and Acting CEO) also raise specific risks through regular communications with the Chair and Honorary Treasurer.

The Charity continues to benefit from strong management and governance, and the dedication and active engagement of its staff. Key indicators of the strength of the Charity include retention, sickness and absence rates being a fraction of the national average, with long serving directors providing the firmest of foundations on which the Charity can operate effectively.

The Charity maintains a risk register that outlines all of the risks it is facing and what actions we have in place to mitigate these risks. These mitigations vary according to the type of risk and although mitigations can be put in place, they cannot eliminate the risk completely.

The register is reviewed regularly by management and quarterly by the Board.

Our current top risks are considered to be:

1. Reputational. The Charity operates in a friction environment where opinions are strong, and where some third parties actively seek to diminish, or some inadvertently would pose threat to the reputation of the Charity. Such risk to reputation could be manifested via social media channels, litigation or other sources. The Charity recognises the potential opportunity for threat and plans prudently to ensure any such risk can be dealt with in an appropriate and proportionate manner. We are fully aware of these risks and we will actively challenge those individuals or organisations that seek to unfairly, or unlawfully, diminish the Charity or those therein. Alongside this, the safety and welfare of the League's trustees, staff and supporters is a primary consideration in all work we undertake, and we actively promote and pride ourselves on our openness and welfare support systems.

2. Impact of economic uncertainty, in particular on our fundraising income. Global instability is still impacting on the UK bringing with it high levels of uncertainty in the economy. Low growth, a relatively high tax burden and inflation still above target are putting pressure on the public's finances and this in turn creates a high risk to the Charity from a decline in donations. This makes it difficult to predict future income with certainty and with it, the ability to plan beyond the very near term. We mitigate against this risk as best as we can through our ongoing, valuable supporter services and development tools which helps to maintain our supporter engagement and commitment, and we aim to strengthen our fundraising base over 2025 with investment into a supporter acquisition programme.

3. Delays to legacy income. The risks to our income are compounded by well-publicised delays at HMCTS in the granting of probate affecting the charity sector. The signs are positive for legacy growth in the sector, but lengthy delays in releasing monies impacts on our cash flow. We understand recruitment of additional HMCTS staff has cleared a significant proportion of the accumulated backlog over the last year, but it is not known how long it will be until the entire backlog is cleared, particularly for the more arduous cases, and when we will see a significant improvement in the timeliness of legacy receipts. For now legacy income and cash flows remain very difficult to

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predict and affect our medium-term planning. With specialist, internal legacy resources we continually monitor the charity legacy market and communicate effectively with other charity legacy teams to resolve issues promptly and have employed resources into more proactive legacy management in 2025. We are also able to manage adverse legacy fluctuations by incorporating legacy risk into our reserves policy and have established a legacy equalisation designated fund.

4. Ability to maintain reserves. 2024 was a pivotal campaigning year for the League, and the programmes and activities planned for the coming year will be as equally important and challenging given the chance to finally close the hunting legislation loopholes. Another surplus result for this year puts us on a strong reserves footing to continue the funding of our essential work. There are still factors at large which could undermine the strength of our financial reserves: continuing political and economic upheaval, high inflation and individuals' financial security. The perception is that the world continues to be a much more uncertain and dangerous place and unexpected events, either on a macro level or more specifically localised to the League, could have a significant impact on our reserves and the ability to continue operating at our current level. Due to these continuing uncertainties the League's reserves are currently held at a higher level than normal to provide increased mitigation from this risk at this time; this level is re-evaluated each year during our five-year financial planning cycle, based according to our forecast business need.

5. Health and safety. Unfortunately, adverse physical and verbal behaviour towards staff has always been a relatively high risk for the League, as compared to other organisations, and therefore an area of great concern and requiring close management particularly by the Board of Trustees. To a certain extent this greater risk is inherent in the nature of the work we do but that does not mean that League management find it anymore acceptable or tolerable. This risk is taken very seriously and has all necessary resources deployed in order to be managed effectively. To mitigate against this risk, staff are well trained, and we have robust health and safety and security policies in place and carry out strict risk assessments ahead of any external events. Our premises have strong physical security measures in place with procedures for reporting anything of concern to the appropriate authorities by any member of staff.

6. Data security. Well publicised increases in the incidence of hacking and other data breaches, and the significant penalties they attract, are a risk to the Charity as to all organisations. Included in these risks are ransomware attacks and the hacking of accounts, which threaten both the finances and the reputation of the Charity. The Charity remains committed to data protection and is fully aware of the potential impacts any breaches could have on our ability to deliver our charitable objects. During 2024 we carried out a major IT infrastructure upgrade alongside data security enhancements. In 2025 we have made further IT and data security improvements, including the formation of a new Data Protection Team with representation across the organisation to oversee and strengthen the League's data security.

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Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees, who are also the directors of The League Against Cruel Sports for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year. In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Auditors

A resolution proposing that Haysmacintyre LLP be reappointed as auditors of the company will be put to the members. This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees



Astrid Clifford

Chair

Dated: 22 August 2025

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

We have audited the financial statements of League Against Cruel Sports for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Group and Charitable Company Balance Sheet and the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of the charitable company's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 6 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Report and the Chair's statement. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the

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work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report (which includes the strategic report and the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report included within the Trustees' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report (which incorporates the strategic report and the directors' report).

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made;
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 29, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of noncompliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the group and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to fundraising regulations, GDPR and Charities Act 2011, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Charities Act 2011 and the application of FRS 102, income tax and payroll tax.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries to revenue and management bias in accounting estimate. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included: -

- Enquiries of management regarding correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular, journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Adam Halsey (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Haysmacintyre LLP, Statutory Auditors
Date: 05/09/2025

10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1AG

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**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	3,510,282	41,564	3,551,846	2,785,402
Other trading activities	3	131,762	-	131,762	106,746
Investments	4	62,963	-	62,963	51,682
Total income		3,705,007	41,564	3,746,571	2,943,830
Expenditure on:					
<u>Raising funds</u>					
Fundraising and publicity costs	5	611,393	872	612,265	399,269
Costs of trading activities	5	101,376	-	101,376	53,539
		712,769	872	713,641	452,808
<u>Charitable activities</u>					
End Hunting with Dogs	5	1,038,480	1,481	1,039,961	809,819
End Shooting of Animals for 'Sport'	5	384,589	10,695	395,284	440,163
End Fighting of Animals for 'Sport'	5	211,679	302	211,981	152,533
Win Hearts and Minds	5	674,349	40,405	714,754	621,461
		2,309,097	52,883	2,361,980	2,023,976
Total expenditure		3,021,866	53,755	3,075,621	2,476,784
Net income/(expenditure)		683,141	(12,191)	670,950	467,046
Fund balances at 1 January		3,986,981	109,831	4,096,812	3,629,766
Fund balances at 31 December		4,670,122	97,640	4,767,762	4,096,812

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	7		1,602,620		1,620,972
Current assets					
Stocks	9	13,412		18,666	
Debtors	10	2,013,126		1,007,023	
Cash deposit investments		1,210,350		1,439,490	
Cash at bank and in hand		100,810		121,337	
		<u>3,337,698</u>		<u>2,586,516</u>	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	(172,556)		(110,676)	
Net current assets			<u>3,165,142</u>		<u>2,475,840</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>4,767,762</u>		<u>4,096,812</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year			-		-
Total net assets			<u><u>4,767,762</u></u>		<u><u>4,096,812</u></u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	13		97,640		109,831
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>	13				
Designated funds		1,661,000		1,726,000	
General unrestricted funds		3,009,122		2,260,981	
Total unrestricted funds			<u>4,670,122</u>		<u>3,986,981</u>
Total group funds			<u><u>4,767,762</u></u>		<u><u>4,096,812</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board and authorised for issue on 22 August 2025 and signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by

Astrid Clifford

Astrid Clifford
Trustee

Company Registration No. 04037610

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
CHARITABLE COMPANY BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	7	1,602,620		1,620,972	
Investment in subsidiary	17	12		12	
		<u>1,602,632</u>		<u>1,620,984</u>	
Current assets					
Stocks	9	13,412		18,666	
Debtors	10	2,013,126		1,007,023	
Cash deposit investments		1,210,350		1,439,490	
Cash at bank and in hand		50,455		71,724	
		<u>3,287,343</u>		<u>2,536,903</u>	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	(173,219)		(112,081)	
Net current assets		<u>3,114,124</u>		<u>2,424,822</u>	
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>4,716,756</u>		<u>4,045,806</u>	
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year		-		-	
Total net assets		<u><u>4,716,756</u></u>		<u><u>4,045,806</u></u>	
Income funds					
Restricted funds	13	97,640		109,831	
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds		1,661,000		1,726,000	
General unrestricted funds		2,958,116		2,209,975	
Total unrestricted funds		<u>4,619,116</u>		<u>3,935,975</u>	
Total charity funds		<u><u>4,716,756</u></u>		<u><u>4,045,806</u></u>	

The financial statements were approved by the Board and authorised for issue on 22 August 2025 and signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by

Astrid Clifford

Astrid Clifford
Trustee

Company Registration No. 04037610

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Cashflows from operating activities					
Net cash used in operating activities	a		(296,380)		(92,960)
Cashflows from investing activities:					
Interest from investments		62,963		51,682	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(16,250)		(20,268)	
Net cash provided by/ (used in) investing activities			46,713		31,414
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(249,667)		(61,546)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			1,560,827		1,622,373
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	b		1,311,160		1,560,827

a) Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash from operating activities

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)		670,950	467,046
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation	7	34,602	31,906
Interest from Investments	4	(62,963)	(51,682)
Decrease/(increase) in stocks		5,254	1,846
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(1,006,103)	(546,052)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors current		61,880	3,976
Net cash used in operating activities		(296,380)	(92,960)

b) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Deposits	1,210,350	1,439,490
Cash in hand	100,810	121,337
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,311,160	1,560,827

The cash deposits are invested over a wider range of regulated financial institutions to improve the security of the cash reserves and to take advantage of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme protections. At the end of the financial year all deposits have notice periods of less than five months and all are repayable within five months.

The movements in net debt are all shown in the main cashflow statement.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Charity Information

The League Against Cruel Sports is a registered charity in England and Wales (charity number 1095234) and in Scotland (OSCR charity number SC045533), and a company limited by guarantee (Company Registered Number 04037610) and domiciled in the UK, and is a public benefit entity.

The address of the registered office is: New Sparling House, Holloway Hill, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1QZ.

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) – Charities SORP 2015 (Second Edition, effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The League Against Cruel Sports meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost of transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

1.2 Basis for consolidation

The financial statements consolidate the results of the Charity and its wholly owned subsidiary League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited on a line by line basis. A separate Statement of Financial Activities and income and expenditure accounts are not presented for the Charity itself following the exemptions afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and paragraph 397 of the Statement of Recommended Practice.

1.3 Key judgements and assumptions

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The key judgments and assumptions are legacy accrual and depreciation which are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

1.4 Going concern

Based on the level of reserves held at the year end and the latest five year financial plans the Trustees are confident that The League Against Cruel Sports is financially secure in its immediate future for the next 12 months and that on this basis the Charity is a going concern.

The Trustees regularly review detailed financial budgets and forecasts, which are adjusted to take into account revised assumptions and events. Where such forecasts indicate a potential problem corrective action is taken to protect the future viability of the Charity. The key risks assessed are described in the Trustees' Annual Report.

The trustees believe there are no material uncertainties concerning the going concern status of the charitable group.

1.5 Charitable funds

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

Designated funds are amounts of unrestricted funds which have been earmarked at the discretion of the Trustees for particular future purposes.

Unrestricted funds are available for the use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objectives of the Charity.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1.6 Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income, the amount can be measured with reasonable accuracy and its receipt is probable.

In respect of legacy income, the Charities SORP requires legacy income to be recognised when it is receivable unless it is incapable of financial measurement. The Charity mainly receives pecuniary and residuary legacies and accounts for them as receivable when (i) entitlement has been established (ii) receipt is probable and (iii) the sum involved is measurable. All three tests must be met for the League to accrue a legacy. Entitlement exists when grant of probate has been received evidencing that a gift has been left to the Charity and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Probability exists when there is grant of probate, the executor is satisfied that there are sufficient funds to pay and in the case of residuary legacies that final accounts have been agreed. Measurability is the estimate of the fair value of the income receivable based on the information available, but measured or estimated with sufficient reliability.

Donations income and membership subscriptions are recorded when received.

Grant income is accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Investment income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis.

Income derived from other trading activities are recognised when the goods are dispatched. Income derived from trading relates to primary purpose trading which is acceptable under charity law and exempt from taxation.

1.7 Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) on a basis to reflect the use of the resources. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources as shown in note 5.

Fundraising and publicity costs represent direct and apportioned costs relating to supporter recruitment and retention and fundraising activities and events.

Costs of trading activities represents direct and apportioned costs relating to the sale of merchandise and other sales of goods.

Charitable activity expenditure represents direct and apportioned costs relating to carrying out our strategic objectives as set out in the Trustees Annual Report.

Support costs include governance, staff, office and general management costs including human resources, IT and the finance function incurred to support income generation and delivery of the charitable activities. Support costs also include irrecoverable VAT where it is not able to be directly attributed to specific activities, where this is not possible irrecoverable VAT costs are apportioned.

Governance costs represent direct and indirect costs incurred relating to strategic management and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.8 Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently stated at cost less depreciation.

The Group's capitalisation threshold is £5,000, such that fixed assets costing less than this amount are not capitalised and are therefore included in resources expended under the appropriate heading.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold buildings	2% straight line per annum
Refurbishments	10% straight line per annum
Sanctuary improvements	20% straight line per annum
Equipment, fixtures and fittings	25% reducing balance per annum
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance per annum

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

When freehold land is disposed of, but sporting rights are retained, the value of these rights is written down to £1 as they are not considered to have a residual or realisable value for the Group.

At each reporting end date, the Group reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1.9 Stock

Stock is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stock to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured at the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held on call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank Overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities. During the year the Group had no bank overdrafts.

For the purpose of the cash flow statement, cash comprises cash in hand and short-term deposits.

1.11 Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recognised in the Group and Charity balance sheets when the Group or Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

The League Against Cruel Sports Group has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Financial assets held at amortised cost comprise cash and bank in hand, together with trade and other debtors. Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise trade and other creditors. Financial assets and Financial liabilities classified as receivable or payable within one year are not amortised.

Investment in the subsidiary undertaking is held at cost less impairment.

1.12 Leases

Rentals incurred under operating leases are charged to the SOFA on a straight line basis over the period of the lease. Incentives are treated as income and are credited to the SOFA on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

1.13 Employee pensions

The Group operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the accounts as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

1.14 Value Added Tax

Value Added Tax is partially recoverable by the Group, and as such the irrecoverable portion of VAT is included as a cost in the SOFA and asset values.

1.15 Taxation

The League Against Cruel Sports charitable company is exempt from Corporation Tax on the grounds that it is a charity and all of its income is applied for charitable purposes.

League Against Cruel Sport (UK) Limited is not operated for profit.

1.16 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts.

1.17 Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the Group and Charity has a present obligation resulting from past events that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at the settlement amount allowing for any trade discounts.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Legacies receivable	2,461,445	-	2,461,445	1,625,565
Donations and gifts	949,338	41,564	990,902	1,065,865
Grants receivable	9,068	-	9,068	752
Membership fees	90,431	-	90,431	93,220
	3,510,282	41,564	3,551,846	2,785,402

2023 income includes restricted funds of £nil Legacies receivable and £43,271 Donations and gifts.

At the end of the financial year, the Charity has been advised of a number of legacies which indicated the League as a beneficiary. These have not been included in the Statement of Financial Activities as the Charity's final entitlement has not yet been established by the executors. The estimated values for these legacies amounts to approximately £1.3m (2023: £1.9m). Many of these legacies are residual legacies where the timing of receipt is uncertain.

Grants receivable relates to the Countryside Stewardship Grant £9,068 (2023:£nil)and Government Energy Support scheme £nil (2023: £752).

3 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Raffle and lotto ticket sales	87,516	-	87,516	79,072
Merchandise and other sales of goods	44,246	-	44,246	27,674
	131,762	-	131,762	106,746

There were no restricted funds received in 2023.

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Interest receivable	59,363	-	59,363	48,082
Rental income	3,600	-	3,600	3,600
	62,963	-	62,963	51,682

There were no restricted funds received in 2023.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

5 Expenditure

	Direct Staff costs £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Raising funds					
Fundraising and publicity costs	215,321	260,563	136,381	612,265	399,269
Costs of trading activities	21,253	80,123	-	101,376	53,539
	236,574	340,686	136,381	713,641	452,808
Charitable activities					
End Hunting with Dogs	556,961	251,351	231,649	1,039,961	809,819
End Shooting of animals for 'Sport'	203,888	103,347	88,049	395,284	440,163
End Fighting of animals for 'Sport'	124,777	39,986	47,218	211,981	152,533
Win Hearts and Minds	439,483	116,061	159,210	714,754	621,461
	1,325,109	510,745	526,126	2,361,980	2,023,976
Total expenditure	1,561,683	851,431	662,507	3,075,621	2,476,784

Analysis of Support costs

	Governance costs £	Staff costs £	Office and admin. costs £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Raising funds					
Fundraising and publicity costs	35,305	47,188	53,888	136,381	87,706
Costs of trading activities	-	-	-	-	-
	35,305	47,188	53,888	136,381	87,706
Charitable activities					
End Hunting with Dogs	59,968	80,150	91,531	231,649	177,890
End Shooting of Animals for 'Sport'	22,793	30,465	34,791	88,049	96,689
End Fighting of Animals for 'Sport'	12,224	16,337	18,657	47,218	33,506
Win Hearts and Minds	41,215	55,086	62,909	159,210	136,514
	136,200	182,038	207,888	526,126	444,599
Total expenditure	171,505	229,226	261,776	662,507	532,305

Support costs are allocated on the basis of % of time spent in proportion to direct costs.

Governance costs includes statutory audit fees of £17,500 (2023: £16,300).

Comparative 2023 expenditure is analysed in note 18.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

6 Employees

Staff costs	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	1,522,024	1,408,118
Social security costs	151,983	135,456
Other pension costs	121,394	113,371
	1,795,401	1,656,945

The average number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Fundraising and publicity	5	4
Charitable activities	31	33
Support	5	5
	41	42

The number of employees whose emoluments exceeds £60,000 in the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	1	-
£70,001 - £80,000	1	2
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-
£90,001 - £100,000	-	1

During the year a total of 6 (2023: 6) staff were recognised as key management personnel. At the year end there were 4 key management personnel in post.

The total remuneration and benefits received by senior management personnel in the year was £342,855 (2023: £391,187) and pension contributions paid by the Charity in respect of these employees during the year was £27,301 (2023: £31,295).

Included within staff costs is an amount of £7,850 relating to a payment in connection with a termination of a contract (2023: £Nil).

Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year (2023: £Nil). Three Trustees were reimbursed expenses relating to travel and subsistence costs totalling £582 (2023: Four Trustees totalling £1,159).

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

7 Group and Charity Fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Office and Computer Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 January 2024	1,889,899	19,718	45,457	1,955,074
Additions	16,250	-	-	16,250
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	1,906,149	19,718	45,457	1,971,324
Deprecation and impairment				
At 1 January 2024	275,563	15,692	42,847	334,102
Charge for the year	32,944	1,006	652	34,602
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	308,507	16,698	43,499	368,704
Net book value				
At 31 December 2024	1,597,642	3,020	1,958	1,602,620
At 31 December 2023	1,614,336	4,026	2,610	1,620,972

As at 31 December 2024 there were capital commitments of £Nil (2023: £Nil) not included within fixed assets.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

8 Financial instruments

	Group 2024 £	2023 £	Charity 2024 £	2023 £
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	3,153,718	2,440,405	3,103,363	2,390,793
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	159,545	100,196	160,209	101,601
Total interest income for financial assets held under amortised cost	59,363	48,082	59,363	48,082

For further details please refer to Accounting Policy note 1.11.

9 Stocks

	Group 2024 £	2023 £	Charity 2024 £	2023 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	13,412	18,666	13,412	18,666

10 Debtors

	Group 2024 £	2023 £	Charity 2024 £	2023 £
Prepayments and accrued income	1,960,366	966,961	1,960,366	966,961
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	-	-
Tax recoverable	52,484	39,395	52,484	39,395
Other debtors	276	667	276	667
	2,013,126	1,007,023	2,013,126	1,007,023

Prepayments and accrued income include accruals for legacies where, in accordance with the Charities SORP, we are satisfied that we have entitlement, probability and financial measurement. At the year end accrued legacy income totals £1,821,998 (2023: £809,527), and includes £35,000 (2023: £43,750) due after one year in respect of land held in trust for the League.

11 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2024 £	2023 £	Charity 2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	92,725	55,637	92,725	55,637
Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	-	663	1,405
Accruals and deferred income	78,239	53,988	78,239	53,988
Other creditors	1,592	1,051	1,592	1,051
	172,556	110,676	173,219	112,081

12 Pension costs

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity to the fund. Contributions payable by the Charity for the year amounted to £121,394 (2023: £113,371); as referred to in note 6.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

13 Funds

The income funds of the Group and Charity include unrestricted and restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movements in funds				
	Balance at 1 January 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Restricted funds</u>					
Wentworth Sanctuary legacy	38,398	-	-	-	38,398
Wentworth Godalming office legacy	50,817	-	(4,235)	-	46,582
Greyhounds	5,441	-	(1,336)	-	4,105
Cove Down Sanctuary	15,175	30,000	(36,620)	-	8,555
REVIVE	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Other small restricted funds	-	1,564	(1,564)	-	-
Total Restricted funds	109,831	41,564	(53,755)	-	97,640
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds:					
Legacy equalisation fund	793,000	-	-	50,000	843,000
Fundraised Income equalisation fund	467,000	-	-	(60,000)	407,000
Expenditure risk fund	276,000	-	-	20,000	296,000
Supporter Acquisition	100,000	-	-	15,000	115,000
General Election 2024 campaign	90,000	-	-	(90,000)	-
General funds	2,260,981	3,705,007	(3,021,866)	65,000	3,009,122
Total Unrestricted funds	3,986,981	3,705,007	(3,021,866)	-	4,670,122
Total funds	4,096,812	3,746,571	(3,075,621)	-	4,767,762

Restricted funds

The Wentworth legacies are restricted for use on the sanctuaries property at Baronsdown and the Godalming premises respectively.

The Greyhounds project is being funded by an individual supporter to enable us to undertake special investigations work into Greyhound puppy farming.

The Cove Down sanctuary project is in respect of funding received from the Lister Charitable Trust for development of the sanctuary; involving habitat restoration and rewilding on a protected area of land as a sanctuary for wildlife.

REVIVE is a coalition of social, environmental and animal welfare organisations working together for a common aim to bring about reform to Scotland's grouse moors and the League is a major contributor to the coalition's work. The funding received from the Leet Hill Charitable Trust is in support the REVIVE coalition costs.

Other restricted funds represents funding received towards charitable activities where the individual restricted funds total no greater than £5,000 and their associated expenditure.

General unrestricted funds

The general unrestricted funds are used to support our reserves policy on page 54 and provide additional cover for unexpected risks.

Designated at the end of 2024.

The aim of the legacy equalisation fund is to moderate the effect of fluctuations in the flow of legacy income due to its unpredictability, this is based on an annual income risk assessment.

The aim of the fundraising equalisation fund is to moderate the effect of economic uncertainties on our supporter donations, this is based on an annual income risk assessment.

The aim of the expenditure risk fund is to provide protection to agreed campaign budgets from unexpected increases in costs, for example from high inflation rate increases in the economy.

Supporter acquisition programme is a project for 2025 with the aim to rebuild our supporter base following the impact of recent economic issues, including the 2022 cost of living increase and ongoing overseas conflicts.

General funds include the trading subsidiary League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited reserves of £51,006, please refer to note 17 for further information.

Comparative 2023 figures are detailed in Note 19.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total
	General funds	Designated funds		
	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2024 are represented by:				
Fixed assets	1,556,215	-	46,405	1,602,620
Current assets	1,625,463	1,661,000	51,235	3,337,698
Current liabilities	(172,556)	-	-	(172,556)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	-	-
	3,009,122	1,661,000	97,640	4,767,762

Comparative 2023 figures are detailed in Note 20.

15 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 December 2024 the Charity had lease payment commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Land and buildings		Office equipment	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Payments due:				
Within one year	-	-	13,315	3,428
Between two and five years	-	-	17,336	7,121
Over five years	-	-	-	-
	-	-	30,651	10,549

16 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023: none).

Donations, memberships subscriptions and lottery plays made by the Trustees in the year totalled £733 (2023: £1,128).

17 Investment in subsidiary

The investment of £12 represents 100% of the ordinary £10 share capital in League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited, the principle activity of which is administer the trading activities of the group. League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited is a private company limited by shares registered in England and Wales.

The total income for the year ended 31 December 2024 of the League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited amounted to £Nil (2023: £Nil), expenditure totalled £Nil (2023: £Nil). Net payments, cash and asset transfers totalling £Nil (2023: £Nil) have been made from League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited to its parent company, and registered charity, The League Against Cruel Sports.

As at 31 December 2024 League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited had fixed assets of £Nil (2023: £Nil), net current assets of £51,018 (2023: £51,018) and reserves of £51,006 (2023: £51,006). In 2024 it reported a surplus of £Nil (2023: £Nil).

Details of the Charity's subsidiaries at 31 December 2024 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Nature of business	Class of shares held	% Held	
				Direct	Indirect
League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited	England and Wales	See above	Ordinary £1 shares	100.00	-

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

18 Comparative 2023 Expenditure

	Direct Staff costs £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2023 £
Raising funds				
Fundraising and publicity costs	107,004	204,559	87,706	399,269
Costs of trading activities	8,970	44,569	-	53,539
	115,974	249,128	87,706	452,808
Charitable activities				
End Hunting with Dogs	494,248	137,681	177,890	809,819
End Shooting of Animals for 'Sport'	246,085	97,389	96,689	440,163
End Fighting of Animals for 'Sport'	81,943	37,084	33,506	152,533
Win Hearts and Minds	435,134	49,813	136,514	621,461
	1,257,410	321,967	444,599	2,023,976
Total expenditure	1,373,384	571,095	532,305	2,476,784

Comparative 2023 Analysis of Support costs

	Governance costs £	Staff costs £	Office and admin. costs £	Total 2023 £
Raising funds				
Fundraising and publicity costs	9,167	42,515	36,024	87,706
Costs of trading activities	-	-	-	-
	9,167	42,515	36,024	87,706
Charitable activities				
End Hunting with Dogs	18,593	86,232	73,065	177,890
End Shooting of Animals for 'Sport'	10,106	46,870	39,713	96,689
End Fighting of Animals for 'Sport'	3,502	16,242	13,762	33,506
Win Hearts and Minds	14,268	66,176	56,070	136,514
	46,469	215,520	182,610	444,599
Total expenditure	55,636	258,035	218,634	532,305

Support costs are allocated on the basis of % of time spent in proportion to direct costs.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

19 Comparative 2023 Funds

	Movements in funds				
	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
<u>Restricted funds</u>					
Wentworth Sanctuary legacy	38,398	-	-	-	38,398
Wentworth Godalming office legacy	50,817	-	-	-	50,817
Greyhounds	7,829	-	(2,388)	-	5,441
Cove Down Sanctuary	2,580	32,000	(19,405)	-	15,175
Time for Change Coalition	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Other small restricted funds	-	1,271	(1,271)	-	-
Total Restricted funds	99,624	43,271	(33,064)	-	109,831
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds:					
Legacy equalisation fund	-	-	-	793,000	793,000
Fundraised Income equalisation fund	-	-	-	467,000	467,000
Expenditure risk fund	-	-	-	276,000	276,000
Supporter Acquisition	-	-	-	100,000	100,000
General Election 2024 campaign	-	-	-	90,000	90,000
Designated funds	-	-	-	1,726,000	1,726,000
General funds	3,530,142	2,900,559	(2,443,720)	(1,726,000)	2,260,981
Total Unrestricted funds	3,530,142	2,900,559	(2,443,720)	-	3,986,981
Total funds	3,629,766	2,943,830	(2,476,784)	-	4,096,812

20 Comparative 2023 Analysis of net assets between funds

	<u>Unrestricted funds</u>		Restricted funds	Total
	General funds £	Designated funds £	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2022 are represented by:				
Fixed assets	1,578,028	-	42,944	1,620,972
Current assets	793,629	1,726,000	66,887	2,586,516
Current liabilities	(110,676)	-	-	(110,676)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	-	-
	2,260,981	1,726,000	109,831	4,096,812

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1095234

Accounts

England & Wales Charity Registration No. 1095234
Scottish Charity Register No. SC045533
Company Registration No. 04037610 (England and Wales)

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Trustees

Dan Norris (Chair)
John Hughes (Honorary Treasurer) (resigned April 2024)
Alan Tapp (resigned April 2024)
Angela Williams (appointed February 2024)
Ashleigh Brown
Astrid Clifford
Michelle Berry (resigned September 2023)
Viktoria Petrova

Senior Management Team

Chief Executive
Deputy Chief Executive
Director of Operations
Director of Scotland & Northern Ireland
Director of Finance
Director of People & Culture

Andy Knott, MBE (resigned March 2024)
Chris Luffingham
Emma Smith
Robbie Marsland
Neal Soleil
Kelly Hack

Company Secretary

Andy Knott, MBE (resigned March 2024)

Charity Number

1095234

Company Number

04037610

Principal and registered office

New Sparling House
Holloway Hill
Godalming
Surrey GU1 1QZ

Principal professional advisors

Auditor

Haysmacintyre LLP
10 Queen Street Place
London EC4R 1AG

Bankers

The Co-Operative Bank Plc
1 Balloon Street
Manchester M60 1GP

Legal Advisors

Marshalls Solicitors LLP
102 High Street
Godalming
Surrey GU7 1DS

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023. The statement of Trustees' responsibilities on page 27 forms part of this report.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 of the accounts and comply with the Charity's governing document, being its memorandum and articles of association, the Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice, applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015), published on 16 July 2014.

Trustees have decided not to take advantage of the exemption from audit available under the Companies Act 2006 and have therefore been audited under both the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

For further information please refer to the League Against Cruel Sports [Annual Review 2023](#)

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

What we do

Animals are at the heart of everything we do. Here to stop animals from being persecuted in the name of sport, we strive to protect them from the horrific acts of hunting, shooting and animal fighting.

We know that every action brings us one step closer to ending cruel sports and our passion drives us forward. Together, with our committed supporters, we are working towards bringing about real change for animals across the UK.

As a charity we want to redefine what is acceptable and inspire change. We do this by:

campaigning for change

We stand up for those who don't have a voice and demand changes to legislation to protect them. Our hard-hitting campaigns inspire actions.



providing our animal crimewatch service

Our supporter-funded confidential service enables the public to report acts of suspected animal cruelty in the name of sport for us to investigate.



educating the public and policy makers

Our high-profile work in the media and expert behind-the-scenes lobbying across the devolved nations, ensures we can create awareness of the plight our wildlife faces.



providing intelligence to law enforcement

Our in-house intelligence team provides packages for local law enforcement about those suspected of illegal activity to bring them to justice.



maintaining wildlife reserves

Our ten wildlife reserves provide a safe haven for animals to roam free from those who persecute them.



sharing our research and evidence

We strive to share our knowledge and highlight the plight that hunting, shooting and animal fighting has on our society and landscape.



working with other animal welfare charities

We work in partnership with others to raise our collective voices and inspire change, such as increasing sentences from six months to five years for those found guilty of animal welfare crimes as part of the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Act 2021.



working with schools

Our League of Animals educational resource enables younger generations to be curious about the world around them, from our wildlife to our natural world.



THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Our strategic approach



THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

What we said we would do and what we did

Each year we set our strategic priorities for the next 12 months. In this section we will cover what we achieved against our strategic priorities.

Goal One: end hunting with dogs

launch and lead a national coalition against hunting in the UK.

In June 2023, we officially launched our Time for Change Coalition Against Hunting; a coalition of 32 animal welfare and environmental organisations, who, like us, want to see a proper end to fox hunting in the UK once and for all.

We, and other like-minded organisations, have been calling for the law to be strengthened, for its many exemptions to be removed, and for 'trail' hunting to be outlawed.

This coalition has been many years in its formation. As a group we have previously worked with other charities to see maximum sentences for animal welfare crimes increased ten-fold, culminating in the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Act, and lobbied government on legislation such as the Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill and Animal (Low- Welfare Activities Abroad) Act, the latter resulting from a courageous campaign by Save The Asian Elephants. We have convinced major landowners to ban hunting on more than 2.5 million acres of land and shown we are a loud and powerful lobbying voice calling for an end to injustice and unfairness around animal and wildlife crime. We are delighted that a large proportion of the sector felt able to put their trust in us and join us in this coalition, one of the largest of any kind ever brought in the UK's history.

As part of the launch, we invited supporters to add their voice to our petition to strengthen and improve the Hunting Act 2004. To date, almost 50,000 people have added their voice to our campaign, a clear signal the government must not ignore this issue at the next general election. The coalition will play a key role in shaping our campaign to strengthen the Act as we approach the next general election.

<https://www.timeforchangecoalition.co.uk/>

launch our national parks campaign to ban hunting on public land

Our national parks collectively welcome more than one million visitors every year and state that conservation, enhancement, sustainability and enjoyment are at the heart of the parks' purpose. There are 15 national parks across the UK, with 10 in England, three in Wales and two in Scotland. They cover a significant amount of land across the UK.

In June 2022, the Lake District National Park Authority banned trail hunting on its land. Following our success in winning campaigns to ban trail hunting on well-known land, such as the National Trust's estates, we decided to launch a campaign to see all national parks bring in a similar ban.

Our national parks campaign to ban trail hunting is applying pressure to the government ahead of the next general election to implement any new anti-hunting legislation. The Time for Change Coalition Against Hunting provided its support last year to amplify our message.

The campaign launched in Brighton in July, followed by events in Cardiff and Leeds, and focused on encouraging the public to sign an open letter to the National Park Authority Chairs, asking them to ban both trail hunting on land they own/control and commit to ending trail hunting within their borders. More than 13,000 people signed the open letter which we handed in to the London office of National Parks England. Our CEO was joined by staff, coalition partners, and supporters.

As a result of our work this year, 10 national parks confirmed they do not allow trail hunting on land they own/manage or confirmed that land they own/control sees no hunting on it due to the nature of the land. Hunting is already illegal in Scotland, including its two national parks, thanks to our previous campaigning.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The next part of our campaign saw us apply pressure to the three parks, Dartmoor, Exmoor and Peak District, who either allow trail hunting or view it as a legal activity. We asked supporters to write directly to the Chairs of each park. In the first week alone, more than 7,700 emails were sent to the three national parks. The next phase of the campaign will see us approach individual landowners within the parks, urging them to take action to ban trail hunting.

The National Parks Authority has a duty to protect and preserve nature from the harm that fox hunts cause, and we and our supporters will be willing them on to end this barbaric cruel sport on their land until they do.

continue our Somerset and Gloucestershire campaign to raised awareness of he hunt havoc caused to local communities to drive change

In 2022 we launched our Gloucestershire campaign in Stroud to highlight the prevalence of hunting still taking place.

Gloucestershire was the worst county in England and Wales for incidents relating to suspected illegal hunting and/or hunt havoc, with 90 incidents recorded in just five months during the last hunting season.

In April last year, we launched our campaign calling on the Cotswold District Council to ban fox hunting by denying hunts land they needed to carry out their cruel activities. Along with supporters, we campaigned in Cirencester including outside the Cotswold Show where the Vale of White Horse Hunt was parading.

In June, Gloucestershire County Council put forward a motion, supported by us, to ensure all forms of hunting were banned on its land. There was no time to debate it, so it was delayed until the autumn. We continued to liaise with the Cotswold District Council by providing evidence from our intelligence team of suspected hunting happening near council land. In September, we joined 12 supportive councillors outside Shire Hall for a photo shoot before the council meeting. This time the motion was referred to a scrutiny committee.

We are continuing to liaise with the councillor who proposed the motion and sits on the committee. They referred it to the scrutiny committee in December, but it was deferred and should now be discussed in 2024.

In October we followed up reports of the Cotswold Hunt hunting near council land on Leckhampton Hill. Cheltenham Borough Council owns part of Leckhampton Hill and confirmed to us hunting with hounds is banned on its land. The council went on to promise to contact the Cotswold Hunt about the incident. We also followed up a report of the North Cotswold Hunt trespassing on National Gas land at Wormington. The hunt said it had permission to be there. Three Counties Hunt Saboteurs shared the footage with us, and we wrote to National Gas. It said it would not allow hunting on land it owns or controls and would write to the North Cotswold Hunt.

In Somerset we lobbied the council to uphold its promises to ban hunting on its land. At the start of last year, we wrote to 169 councillors representing both Somerset Council and Bath and north east Somerset Council, sharing a report outlining both the extent of the suspected illegal hunting, and the scale of the havoc hunts are wreaking on rural communities in the counties. We asked for a meeting with council leaders to establish how best to end fox and deer hunting in the county; one of the largest hunting hotspots in the UK. We also called on local residents to sign our petition calling on policy makers to do all in their power to end hunting in Somerset.

The Green Party group leader, Martin Dimery, came forward to support the motion and we have been working with him to secure a council motion. Things looked promising ahead of the Somerton and Frome by-election and a motion was intended to be submitted in July. This didn't happen, and we were instead told the motion would be submitted in September. Again, no motion was submitted. After promises of a motion were broken, we asked supporters to write to their local councillors to find a councillor who would submit a motion.

Further conversations with the Green Party group leader have led him to promise to now take the issue of trail hunting to the Climate and Place Committee, which he chairs. Progress on this has been slow, but we hope to push this further in the coming year and to provide the committee with information about both hunting in the county and evidence of trail hunting being nothing more than a smokescreen for old fashioned illegal hunting.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

engage with nature Scotland to ensure the licensing of the use of more than two dogs will be tightly controlled following the introduction of the new hunting with dogs (Scotland) bill

As a result of our seven-year campaign, the new Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Act came into effect on 3 October 2023, two decades after a flawed attempt by the Scottish parliament to ban hunting with dogs with the introduction of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act, back in 2002.

The new Act brought into force several new measures which will curtail fox hunting, including closing loopholes in the earlier ban on fox hunting, introducing a two-dog limit for all use of dogs in hunting, and also banning trail hunting. The law also introduced a new robust licensing scheme, which will allow the use of more than two dogs in certain limited circumstances.

After the first few months of the new Act, no licenses have been issued and the hunting fraternity is complaining about this.

There are worrying signs that hunts are trying to exploit drag hunting but we, along with government officials, drag hunting organisations and Police Scotland are aware of their actions. The environment minister also has the power to ban drag hunting if it is shown to be used as a smokescreen for illegal hunting.

encourage members of the legislative assembly to reintroduce a private member's bill to successfully ban fox hunting in Northern Ireland

The League has formed a very close working relationship with the Ulster Society for the Protection of Animals (USPCA). Together we are working with the author of a Private Member's Bill to ban fox hunting in Northern Ireland. Due to the nature of politics in this part of the world, it became clear we will need to work on this issue across the island of Ireland. Consequently, we have been canvassing opinion of politicians in both the north and south. The continuing absence of a working Stormont Assembly means there can be little or no legislative progress, but it gives us time to build our evidence against fox hunting and to lobby the relevant politicians who have comparatively more time to listen to us.

In addition to what we said we would do, we also:

celebrated success in Scotland

New legislation to really ban fox hunting was introduced last year, two decades after a flawed attempt by the Scottish parliament to ban hunting with the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act introduced in 2002. We celebrated its Royal Assent in March 2023.

The new Act brings into force several new measures which significantly limit mounted hunting activity, including reducing the number of dogs which can be used to hunt a wild mammal to just two, instead of a full pack, and reducing the number of dogs used below ground to just one.

We welcome the new legislation, and the inclusion of a ban on trail hunting is a significant victory for Scotland, meaning hunts will not be able to use this so-called sport as a smokescreen for traditional hunting.

Scotland now has the most robust law anywhere in the UK to prevent the cruelty of chasing and killing wild mammals for sport - and this is most definitely something to celebrate. Despite a persistent campaign from those determined to keep hunting alive in the Scottish countryside, the Scottish government has been determined to end the sport of hunting, a sentiment which has been supported by parliament.

The new Act also includes a robust licensing system that will allow for a full pack of hounds to be used in certain limited circumstances. Our professional fieldworkers will be continuing to monitor the hunts in Scotland to ensure the new laws are adhered to.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

launched our annual hunting season figures

In April our end of hunting season figures were picked up exclusively in an extensive piece on Channel 4 News, slamming trail hunting and highlighting the hunting ban in Scotland.

The news article showed the shocking scale of the carnage fox hunts caused in just five months in England and Wales between November and April – 621 cases of hunt havoc and 361 incidents of hunts being involved in suspected illegal hunting.

It also highlighted our Ministry of Defence (MoD) campaign and how taxpayers had helped pay for improvements to the Royal Artillery (RA) Hunt Kennels. Channel 4 News approached the UK government to ask what was being done to ban hunting, including on MoD land, and to close hunting loopholes in England, to which they did not respond. In May, our CEO brought further attention to the issue of hunting on the MoD estate, by speed marching for 10km across Salisbury Plain carrying 25kg on his back. Finishing at the RA Kennels in just one hour and 15 minutes, he also raised £33,000 in sponsorship from our generous supporters.

The counties with the highest number of incidents were (in order) Gloucestershire, Dorset, Yorkshire, Somerset and Cheshire. The worst offending hunt was South Dorset followed by the Blackmore and Sparkford Vale, Duke of Beaufort's, Warwickshire and Flint and Denbigh.

exposed hounds out of control

In February, the Duke of Beaufort's Hunt fox hounds were caught on camera marauding through a private garden in Wiltshire and blocking a busy B-road, causing delays for motorists, and risking public safety.

Supporter Bill Butler reported the incident into our supporter-funded Animal Crimewatch service after being disgusted by what they were up to; he said they must have been chasing a fox rather than following a trail for the hounds to be in his garden.

"The arrogance of the hunts is breathtaking in that they think they can do what they like with no respect for other people and the law."

We worked with ITV News, which showed the footage as part of a wider piece exposing the shocking behaviour of the hunt.

Likewise in Oxfordshire, a walker contacted our Animal Crimewatch to tell us how he watched in horror as the baying hounds of a beagle pack ran amok across farmland. He saw a deer running for its life and sheep in a neighbouring field distressed by the out-of-control beagles.

The walker, Alex, said: "I was sickened by what I saw with the beagles running around out of control and clearly targeting animals despite hunting being illegal. It's so sad that wildlife is being treated in this way with the hunts acting with impunity simply for their own enjoyment."

launched our Defra campaign

In her first interview after being appointed as Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Therese Coffey said she wanted to be the "voice of the countryside" and that "Animal welfare is very important. All I would say right now is that we need to think through priorities. England will, however, not follow Scotland's lead in outlawing fox hunting with more than two dogs apart from in 'exceptional' circumstances".

However, in February last year, sickening footage of the Avon Vale Hunt digging up foxes and then setting their hounds on them came into the public domain. Using this footage, we highlighted our campaign calling on Defra to ban hunting on its land, using a variety of supporter actions.

We asked supporters to tweet Therese Coffey directly and more than 700 tweets were sent to her asking for hunting to be outlawed on Defra-owned land. We also asked supporters to write to their MP to urge Defra to listen, and more than 11,000 emails went out. Defra ignored those emails, so instead we asked supporters to email

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Therese Coffey directly. Another 11,300 emails were sent – a massive response. To support our campaign, we invested in advertising across social media and reached more than 208,000 people.

engaged and shaped political debates

Educating and influencing decision makers is key to successfully shaping the political debate and securing changes in the law. From our work briefing politicians and providing detailed policy advice, to hosting party conference events, securing debates, and fighting for bans on blood sports, our work and backing of our supporters is crucial.

Collectively, League supporters sent 11,769 emails to MPs across the year, writing to 644 MPs – nearly every single one in the country. Our supporters also contacted the Secretary of State for the Environment 32,052 times urging both holders of the position in 2023 - Therese Coffey and Steve Barclay - to strengthen the ban and end hunting for good.

Our briefings in support of a ban on snares were quoted by MPs across political parties, and our material led to MSs securing the Welsh government's public backing for the Hunting Act to be strengthened.

Supporters in Wales sent 5,732 emails to MSs asking them to vote for a full ban on the use of snares. By raising our voice to the Welsh parliament, we helped make sure the historic ban on snares in Wales was passed intact. On one occasion alone, 961 Welsh supporters wrote to their MSs urging them to attend our event in the Senedd exposing the cruel reality of the caged breeding of game birds. Thanks to our supporters' efforts 15 MSs did so, a quarter of the entire Welsh parliament.

called for an end to the festival of hunting and other hound shows

Last year we once again continued our campaign calling for the Festival of Hunting to be cancelled. The annual event is held at the East of England Showground and 2023 would be the final year it would be held there before moving to another venue. We acted swiftly, contacting 31 potential showgrounds which may have been invited to host the event, asking them to decline. This was accompanied by an action to supporters to let us know of other local showgrounds near them. An additional 116 showgrounds were provided for us to contact.

In the lead up to the annual Festival of Hunting held on 19 July, we held our own hunting awards across social media, 'celebrating' the winners. Categories included Chaos in the Countryside, Anti- social behaviour and Disruption of Communities, and Bringing Hunting into Disrepute.

The new venue for the event was announced last year; not a showground, but the Milton estate, a private estate connected with the Fitzwilliam Hunt. We contacted supporters to share our dismay and many campaigned in their local area to raise awareness.

We also contacted seven country shows asking them to stop showing hounds and hunts. Thanks to information from the League, other anti-hunt groups including the Hunt Saboteurs Association, and the Angels for Animals Foundation, The White Horse show in Oxfordshire decided not to host the Old Berkshire Hunt at its event. This was a step in the right direction, and we hope other county shows will follow their lead.

Along with League supporters, and Action Against Foxhunting, we campaigned outside the Cotswold Show in Cirencester and the Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show. Our email action to supporters in Dorset generated more than 200 supporter letters to the show. The show indicated they would not allow hunts with criminal charges against them to participate. Despite this, they did go on to host hunts with charges against them, claiming they weren't aware of them.

were the credible voice of authority on deer hunting

Hunting stags with packs of hounds has supposedly been illegal for almost 20 years, although there are some exemptions. However, despite the ban, hunts are continuing with impunity. Channel 4 News once again picked up the anti-hunting mantle, sharing footage of stags being chased on National Trust land involving people on quad bikes as well as horses. Wildlife Guardians captured the footage, exposing the shocking brutality of stag hunting.

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We were invited to give our professional comment and share our work to strengthen the Act to ensure senseless acts like these are finally made illegal across the UK.

launched our groundbreaking making a killing report

When you think of trophy hunting, you probably think of Africa and the Big Five, but it is happening much closer to home. In the UK it is legal and last year our Making a Killing report showed it is widespread, taking place in at least 23 counties throughout the UK.

The sport appears to be readily available to trophy hunters of all levels of experience, in many cases to novices without any prior practice or training. Our first of its kind report sought to uncover the scale and cost of trophy hunting available in the UK.

We uncovered at least 151 opportunities to hunt trophies were available across England and Scotland, with the Highlands, Norfolk, and Oxfordshire having the most opportunities to kill deer for sport. Prices start from as little as £60, mainly to hunt six indigenous deer species, but there are multiple opportunities to hunt wild boar, feral goats, and other introduced species of deer, including the rare Père David's deer.

Companies will not deliberately advertise the opportunity to shoot and kill deer for sport. Some websites do not clearly present advertisements as trophy hunting, instead offering simple deer stalking or wildlife management opportunities. Others disclose only limited information so the exact location and costings including the trophy are contingent upon private contact between a potential client and the provider.

Unbeknown to the public this is taking place in their own communities with prices ranging from as little as £60 up to at least £952 plus the cost of the trophy, and other trophy preparation costs. Our report raises questions around the lack of transparency within the industry and about the laws or regulations in place to monitor the crossover between trophy hunting and wildlife management.

We must now work towards exposing the truth behind this industry that has, until now, remained under the radar.

supported other anti-hunting groups

In December 2022, the Warwickshire Hunt was at the centre of a controversy after being handed a community protection notice (CPN) outlining several steps it had to take to ensure that both the hunt and any member of the public using the roads were safe. The CPN required the hunt to give seven days' notice to the police, along with a map giving the precise location and timings of any road crossings before their meets. In addition to this, the hunt had to provide the rural crime team with a calendar of events, the person in charge and those who had control of the hounds. Failure to comply with a CPN can result in a fine of up to £20,000 and a criminal record. If the Warwickshire Hunt were trail hunting as they say they were, this shouldn't have been a problem. But we know they don't trail hunt; instead they use it as a smokescreen for old fashioned illegal hunting.

In August last year the decision was overturned and the CPN was withdrawn. Instead the police and hunt agreed to adopt a 'protocol' – details of which were not made public.

It seems we were right to be concerned. In October 2023, there was widespread media showing the brutal killing of a fox by the Warwickshire Hunt after the West Midlands Hunt Saboteurs captured the footage. The police were informed and said they would conduct a thorough investigation. Our supporters wrote to their MPs, and Warwick MP Matt Western took up the matter with the Police Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable for Warwick Police. The police still refused to reveal the contents of the protocol. Some Labour councillors were also interested in putting forward a motion to ban hunting on council land as a result. We will provide our full support to this campaign in 2024 to ensure the hunt is held accountable.

Goal Two: end shooting of animals for sport

campaign for the successful passage of legislation banning snaring in Wales, and work to secure a commitment to ban the cage breeding of game birds

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

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Following more than six years of focused campaigning in Wales, we were delighted when the influential Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs (ETRA) Committee's stage one report was published in January last year. It included a recommendation, backed by a majority of its members, in support of the aims of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill which would make Wales the first country in the UK to ban snares. This followed the publication of the monumental legislation the previous autumn, strengthened from initial proposals after a League campaign saw our supporters making up 79 per cent of all consultation responses.

We were instrumental in providing evidence to the ETRA Committee's formal scrutiny of the Bill in November last year, including being invited to appear before it in the Senedd and equipping supporters to engage it its wider consultation. The subsequent report quoted our evidence heavily and we were delighted to see they listened to our calls for a ban on the use of all snares.

We worked tirelessly with Members of the Senedd (MSs) to ensure the ban continued to make its way safely through the Senedd and it covered all types of snares, including so-called 'humane' cable restraints, that cause suffering and cruelty to both the target and non- target species caught in them.

We engaged and briefed committee members to ensure amendments, which could weaken the ban, were rejected. We launched targeted campaigns throughout the year calling on the Welsh public to contact their MSs to support the proposed ban in its current format – with supporters in Wales sending 5,732 emails. We issued informative briefing notes to MSs in advance of key debates, countered industry misinformation and held exhibitions at political party conferences to ensure as many as possible would vote the right way.

In May a pivotal vote in the Senedd paved the way for a complete ban in Wales. This concluded the final amending stage of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill, during which fresh attempts to water down the snaring ban were defeated. As a result, the ban would provide no exemptions for so-called humane cable restraints.

And in June 2023, the Agriculture (Wales) Bill passed with a unanimous vote, and the ban on cruel and indiscriminate wildlife snares came into force in October. As soon as the legislation was passed, jubilant MSs joined League staff and supporters on the steps of the Senedd to celebrate this historic victory.

We want to give huge credit to the Welsh government for banning the use of all snares, which are completely incompatible with high animal welfare standards. They are leading the way in protecting wildlife from cruelty and we are now calling on the UK and Scottish governments to follow their lead and ban these brutal devices – the latter has since committed to introduce its own ban as part of the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill.

This really was an incredible achievement for animals in Wales and followed more than six years of concerted campaigning by the League and our supporters, perhaps beginning in earnest with a petition which led to a formal inquiry into the issue in 2017. Thanks to the thousands of campaigners who backed the ban in Wales and the MSs who gave cross party support. Last year our vision for a snare free Wales became a reality.

continue supporting collaboration and the promotion of increased protections by acting as the secretariat for the Senedd cross-party group on animal welfare in Wales.

The League was re-elected to the position of Secretariat of the Cross-Party Group on Animal Welfare last year, consisting of Labour, Plaid Cymru and Liberal Democrat MSs along with a broad range of animal welfare organisations active in Wales. The group provides a valuable forum for collaboration, raising awareness of emerging issues, linking up stakeholders to coordinate activity and raising the political profile of animal welfare, including wild animals which are often underrepresented. Many members jointly wrote to the Welsh government urging it to reject the shooting industry's ultimately unsuccessful arguments for exemptions to the ban on the use of snares in Wales.

Meetings covered topics including the regulation of animal welfare establishments, the campaign to ban greyhound racing, the link between the abuse of people and animals, the ban on the use of snares, restrictions on the use of cages and the release of gamebirds and the welfare consequences of the ban on XL bully dogs.

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While facilitating collaboration across the animal welfare sector and political spectrum is the main goal, and benefits both animals in Wales and the collective animal protection movement, it also further develops the League's profile in the Welsh Parliament, our working relationships and credibility with political stakeholders strengthens our ability to deliver change for persecuted animals in Wales.

work with the Scottish government to introduce legislation to license shooting estates to reduce the number of grouse shot for sport

In March 2023, the Scottish government published its draft Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill. The Bill was introduced to protect the environment and tackle the persecution of birds of prey. It is expected to significantly change the way in which large areas of Scotland are managed, making it one of the biggest interventions in this area for generations.

The proposed Bill is a major intervention in land management that regulates destructive practices through licensing, instead of stopping them. Intensively managed grouse moors are unnatural monocultures that are burned and stripped of competing wildlife so more grouse can be shot for sport. By creating a circle of destruction around huge areas of our land, biodiversity and more diverse economic opportunities are missed for Scottish people and communities.

The Bill proposes to strictly regulate the use of muirburn, the controlled burning of vegetation on peatland, as well as ending raptor persecution. It also includes measures to ensure grouse moors are managed sustainably, to ban the use of glue traps for rodents and tighten regulations for the use of other types of wildlife traps.

We engaged in this area of work through the REVIVE coalition of animal welfare, environmental and social justice organisations. A measure of REVIVE's success was its third annual conference in November 2023 which was attended by 700 people, which is more than the combined number of people who attended the Scottish Greens and the Scottish Labour conferences and not too far short of the number of delegates to the 2023 Scottish National Party conference.

The League and REVIVE campaigned successfully to fight off concerted attempts by landed interests in Scotland to allow the licensing of snares. We were delighted the environment minister agreed with our case and recently announced that she plans an outright ban on snares with no licensing scheme.

In addition to what we said we would do, we also:

exposed the grim reality of the shooting industry

We released our footage exposing the grim reality of snaring as part of our campaign urging the Scottish parliament to use the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill to ban snares. Our footage showed a dead badger with a snare around its abdomen just a short distance from a stink pit full of rotting animal carcasses surrounded by thin wire snares.

In June the government began its stage one evidence sessions as part of the proposed new Bill. Although perfectly legal, the footage illustrates that even when used lawfully, snares inflict severe cruelty and suffering. The government has explored this issue several times in recent years but always stopped short of an outright ban. It now has the opportunity to be bold and follow in Wales' footsteps and put animal welfare first.

Scotland currently has the most stringent regulations on snare use but despite this, protected species such as badgers are regularly caught and killed. A recent field study of ground predator control by the League found that 57,000 killing devices are deployed each day in Scotland representing the equivalent of more than 10 million active trapping and snaring days per year, with nearly half of animals killed being non-target species such as hedgehogs, dippers and mistle thrush.

In August we welcomed the announcement by the Scottish government that it will consult with a view to banning snares. The consultation ran for six weeks from late August until October 2023. Following this, the new provisions were included in the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill.

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We have been proud to join the loud and anguished call over many years for the use of cruel, primitive, and indiscriminate snares to be banned. While we welcome and applaud the Scottish government's intent to consider a ban, we are under no illusions of the strength of feeling among those who wish to use snares in the countryside. Our professional field workers have documented and photographed an appalling array of mutilated foxes, exhausted badgers and even snared cats and dogs to demonstrate why these devices should be consigned to history.

celebrated United Utilities' decision to ban shooting

In July, England's largest corporate landowner announced, following a review of its position initiated earlier in the year, that grouse shooting leases will not be renewed and no new ones will be issued. This will mean that tens of thousands of grouse will not be shot simply for sport every year and we will see an end to the use of snares used by gamekeepers to eliminate wildlife.

In a statement United Utilities said: "Instead of being maintained for grouse shooting, the company's water catchment moors will be restored for nature, climate and people. We made a commitment that we would no longer renew any existing shooting leases on a long-term basis and that has guided our approach over the last couple of years. I can now also confirm that we will not issue any new shooting leases as United Utilities as we go forward."

We applaud United Utilities in demonstrating how our moorland can be restored and become a more natural and diverse environment, and not one based on animal cruelty.

commissioned the killing to kill ethics report

We commissioned the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics to produce an independent report entitled Killing to Kill, detailing the killing of hundreds of thousands of animals to ensure that more grouse can be shot for sport. While this was commissioned by the League, the research was conducted independently and robustly without the League's input into its findings or conclusions. This ground-breaking report was endorsed by more than 120 academics and signed by numerous ethicists and philosophers, including Scottish academics from the universities of St Andrews, Edinburgh, Stirling and Aberdeen, and the Nobel Laureate, J. M. Coetzee. It was launched at a large reception in the Holyrood parliament, where the Cabinet Secretary for the Environment was the key-note speaker at the event.

Shockingly the report shows that the best available estimates indicate that as many as 260,000 animals are killed because of legal 'predator control' practices each year in Scotland. The report calls for a new charter for free-living animals: "Scotland could lead the way in pioneering legislation that encompasses not only domestic animals, but also free-living ones. This legislation should begin with the recognition of sentience and enshrine in law the value and dignity of free-living animals such that their right to live unmolested is respected."

Goal Three: end fighting of animals for sport

launch an online campaign to raise awareness of Animal Crimewatch to encourage more reports of suspected incidents of animal fighting from the public

Last year we continued to raise the profile of our Animal Crimewatch confidential reporting service. Members of the public continued to contact us about suspected incidents of animal fighting, including dog, cock and badger fighting. Through our social media channels, more than 117,000 people saw our Animal Crimewatch reporting service adverts. Our priority next year is to ensure we build on this to increase awareness and contacts into our reporting hotline.

launch a targeted campaign in areas of the UK with a high prevalence of suspected dog fighting activity to encourage members of the public to report it to our Animal Crimewatch

We continued to promote our work on dog fighting across our social media channels to encourage members of the public to report suspected incidents of dog fighting. Next year we will be focusing on a digital campaign to increase the awareness of our service even further. This will be a key priority for 2024.

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In addition to what we said we would do, we also:

secured arrests

Following the work of our intelligence team, we supplied a comprehensive intelligence package to West Yorkshire police about a suspected dog fighter. The subject was arrested for dog fighting and breeding offences as well as class-A drugs supply offences. Following his arrest, police went to a second address and found seven cockerels they suspect to have been used in animal fighting and more drugs. A second person was arrested as a result. We are pleased our intelligence helped the police uncover suspected animal fighters, but also helped to take drugs off the streets.

In 2021 our Animal Crimewatch team identified a suspected badger baiter based in Northern Ireland. We shared our information with the Ulster Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (USPCA) and Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) providing specific details of his activities. As a result, in December last year Jason Lee Kennedy appeared in the dock of Enniskillen Magistrates Court where the lengthy list of alleged offences was put to him. He was accused of not only causing unnecessary suffering to badgers by instigating six different animal fights but also supplying recordings of animal fights to others. He was charged with more than 30 offences relating to animal welfare offences. He was due to attend crown court in January 2024 but has not yet entered a plea.

exposed suspected dog fighter in Essex

Our intelligence team compiled a detailed operation using a highly skilled and trained external contractor, uncovering a suspected dog fighter in Essex. We have supplied our full intelligence package to Essex police and are awaiting an outcome.

worked with law enforcement partners

Our intelligence team were instrumental in collating and enhancing information, received from our Animal Crimewatch and through their own research, to provide intelligence packages to law enforcements and other non-governmental organisations (NGOs) during the year.

Last year we received 43 Animal Crimewatch reports relating to animal fighting, including cock fighting, dog fighting and badger baiting, representing 11 per cent of the total information received, an increase of six per cent from 2022.

Overall, 75 per cent of all intelligence gathered was related to animal fighting and shared with 32 different NGOs and law enforcement partners.

Goal Four: win the hearts and minds of a broader audience

attract new leaguecast listeners with topical and engaging content

Our podcast, Leaguecast, attracted new listeners over the past 12 months, increasing the audience by 113 per cent from 2022. Last year seven episodes were aired, featuring a range of topics from understanding the Act to all eyes on landowners. In our special episode - What hunting means to me - we spoke to Becky and Nicky, two livestock farmers who grew up in hunting families and had no choice but to hunt from a young age. The episode appeared in the top 25 per cent of podcasts downloaded within the first seven days, which was a huge achievement.

Leaguecast will play a key role in our general election campaign next year; encouraging people to support our calls for the Hunting Act to be strengthened by the next government.

raise the profile of fox day and our work to protect foxes across the uk

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We held our second annual Fox Day in May 2023, reaching more than 222,000 people across social media. More than 7,000 people signed our official record to show their support, which helped us to continue to raise the plight of our foxes across the UK.

launch engaging eco-tourism at the League's wildlife reserves

At the end of 2022, we launched our photography hide hire programme on our flagship wildlife reserve, Baronsdown. Sadly, with this year's unpredictable weather and other competing priorities, we were unable to secure as many visitors as anticipated.

However, we will continue to promote our hides to avid photographers to capture beautiful wildlife living free from persecution on our reserves. The hides were a great resource for supporters attending our stag rutting event in October.

attract new supporters to take our campaigning actions

We had an incredible year in terms of supporters taking one of our actions to support our campaigns to protect animals. Last year alone, more than 100,000 actions were completed by our supporters, be it writing to their MP, sharing our campaigns, writing to their local councils, or writing to their local National Parks authority as part of our most recent campaign. Through our work last year, we also recruited more than 10,500 new supporters to our email distribution list, an increase of 166 per cent from the previous year.

increase the number of supporters donating to the League

The year began tentatively as the economic pressure from 2022 was still felt by much of the UK. Our supporters are some of the most passionate people in the country and more than 12,500 supporters made a financial donation last year to the League. We are extremely grateful to the continued support of our passionate supporters, without whom none of our work would be possible.

In addition to what we said we would do, we also:

strengthened our calls to improve horse welfare

In March and April two of the deadliest horse racing festivals in the UK took place; the Cheltenham Festival and Grand National Festival.

Last year at the Cheltenham Festival there was one horse fatality, Malinello, but our messaging was clear – one death is one too many. The death toll at Cheltenham Festival has now reached 74 horses since 2000. For the last four years, we have supported local activists from Gloucestershire Outreach Advocacy Team during the festival week. Last year we had overwhelming support from local people joining us on the street and through the many positive conversations we had with members of the public.

At the three-day Grand National Festival, a total of three horses died this year, which brings the death toll to 62 horses since 2000. Our messaging remained clear - animal welfare needs to be put before gambling profits and entertainment, and steps need to be taken to end this carnage which is occurring year after year. Our supporter action, which encouraged people to sign our official record to show their support for horse welfare improvements, was signed by more than 7,780 people.

We secured more than 125 articles in the media on the Cheltenham and Grand National Festivals on how horses are being sacrificed for people's entertainment.

launched our business without blood sports pledge

In April, at the Houses of Parliament, we launched our new initiative for ethical companies, the Business Without Blood Sports pledge. Companies were invited to commit to never promoting any activity that has links with fox hunting, game bird shooting and animal fighting.

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Our new community of like-minded businesses opposes animals being persecuted in brutal blood sports and supports our moves to end these barbaric activities. Animal welfare and the environment are key concerns for consumers and the way in which businesses operate increasingly reflects this.

We believe it's time for change and for businesses to get behind our drive to strengthen hunting laws in this country – and showing their compassion makes good business sense. More than 164 companies have signed the pledge, including Forest Green Rovers Football Club and the green energy firm Ecotricity. Our partners will play a key part in our campaigns to help raise our collective voices for animals during 2024.

collaborated to end animal racing

Greyhounds continue to lose their lives or are maimed at tracks up and down the country to generate profits for the gambling industry and people's entertainment. The sacrifice is cruel and flies in the face of animal welfare.

We continued our calls for greyhound racing to be banned in the UK after the governing body for the industry, the Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB), published its annual figures showing the scale of injuries and deaths. Figures for 2022 showed that 4,354 injuries were sustained during races with 306 deaths among greyhounds used for racing, and 99 fatalities at trackside. Although deaths have reduced slightly since 2021, the injury rates remain consistent.

In Scotland, we joined eight other animal welfare organisations in a campaign called Unbound the Greyhound, calling on the Scottish government to end greyhound racing in the country. In Wales, the government is set to ask the Welsh public for their views on banning greyhound racing following a petition signed by 35,000 people calling for an end to this sport.

The League was asked to present at the Global Greyhound Conference, hosted by Grey2K last year at the University of Edinburgh. Along with others from across the international animal welfare sector, we had the chance to talk about the pointlessness of this sport for anyone other than those making a bet, those taking a bet, and those getting rich from both.

We are now members of the United for Greyhounds coalition and will be formulating a strategy on how to work together to ensure these dogs stop being used as a disposable commodity, that they stop disappearing and that they are not just numbers.

raised our voice in the media

In 2023, we were mentioned in 1,851 separate media articles. Our key messages such as 'It's time for change' and 'hunting laws need to be strengthened' featured in 743 of these articles.

The League appeared in 184 TV and radio items across the year including Channel 4 News, Sky News, BBC Regional News, ITV News, GB News, Talk Radio and LBC.

We had exclusives in national newspapers including the Times, Guardian, and Daily Mirror on issues such as the launch of the Time for Change Coalition, our national parks campaign and our concerns about fox hunting.

We also had a series of articles feature in publications across Wales in the run-up and following the ban on snares introduced by the Welsh government after a six-year campaign by the League.

As in previous years, hunting stories were part of the news agenda on Boxing Day, as hunts came out for their parades. In 2023 however, the coverage we secured locally, nationally, and internationally, also mentioned how strengthening the Hunting Act 2004 could be key in the next general election.

Our chairman Dan Norris was interviewed by Sky News and LBC radio stations discussing how trail hunting should be outlawed and the loopholes in the act closed, and how hunting should not be allowed on Ministry of Defence land.

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Press releases we sent to local news outlets, demonstrating that the finery of the Boxing Day Hunt parades masked some of the worst offenders for activities relating to illegal hunting, achieved widespread publication.

We worked with The Mirror on a story it ran which suggested hunting could be used as fuel to stoke the flames of a culture war as we head into the next election. We are aware the hunting community like to talk about “class attacks” by those of us who oppose blood sports, but we have always been clear that our campaign to end hunting for good is all about animal welfare and protecting proper rural values, nothing more.

In total, approximately 539,000 people read, watched, or listened to pieces about the League and our key messages to strengthen the Act on Boxing Day alone.

protected animals on our wildlife reserves

Last year was another varied and exciting year on the League's wildlife reserves.

In June, we held our first virtual Baronsdown wildlife reserve event, giving supporters who are not able to visit in person the opportunity to learn about our vital work protecting wildlife. In October we ran our autumn rutting event giving supporters the opportunity to visit in person. Our supporters also took advantage of the photography hide on Baronsdown too.

We have always known that our wildlife reserves are special places for wildlife, but our recent additions to our database shows the diversity of species living on them. Our database now lists every species that has been identified on each reserve, totalling more than 2,000 species, with almost 700 of those being found on Baronsdown. We have carried out surveys to record birds, mammals, including bats, deer and dormice, butterflies, bees and other invertebrates, plants, fungi, mosses and lichens, and more. This knowledge allows us to better plan how the reserves are managed and to talk with authority to other organisations with an interest in wildlife.

At Cove Down, the joint nature restoration project with neighbouring landowners, continued to grow. The beavers built more leaky dams and created new areas of wetland that have benefitted a host of other wildlife. Our neighbours have brought in a group of white storks that will form the nucleus of a breeding colony, which will hopefully see storks in the skies over Devon for the first time in centuries. In addition, we have formed a partnership with a local college to allow students to use the site for field work and practical activities. This will provide practical help and valuable data, while improving the students' employment prospects.

Unfortunately, hunting with dogs is still rampant in the countryside outside the League's reserves. The three stag hunts continued to be a frequent threat to the deer that come and go freely to and from the reserves. Fox hunts continued hunting close to our boundaries, and occasionally hare and otter hunts came near to the reserves as well. We remained vigilant to the threat whenever we were aware that a hunt was in the area.

increased awareness of animal crimewatch

Our Animal Crimewatch reporting service continued to be a valuable source of intelligence and a vital service for the public to report suspected case of illegal activity relating to cruel sports.

Hunting with hounds remained the most common reason people contacted us, with 50 per cent of all contacts relating to this sport. Shooting animals accounted for eight per cent of all contacts and animal fighting 11 per cent. The remaining contacts related to other aspects of cruel sports.

worked with the electoral commission

In April 2022, a new elections bill was given Royal Assent and became law. The Elections Act 2022 introduced sweeping reforms across a number of different areas of our democracy and how elections are conducted. Included in the reforms were several elements that have an impact on the way the way that charities, or non-party campaigners, can campaign. This is obviously a subject that is very important to us.

In response to the new law, the Electoral Commission, who are the regulators for how elections are run, hosted a series of roundtables to gather expert insight into how the new legislation impacts non- party campaigners.

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Invitations were sent to the very few organisations that have significant experience in running campaigns during elections and could provide expert advice. The League was one of those asked to provide insight and feed into the writing of the Electoral Commission's new code for non-party campaigners. This vital new document informs how all third sector organisations go about campaigning for the causes that are important to them. To be a part of the select group chosen to contribute to this document is a huge recognition of the outstanding work that we do during elections of all types.

2024 priorities

Each year we set out our strategic priorities for the year ahead. As we approach our centenary year, we will reflect on what matters most and celebrate the progress made to protect our wildlife. The next 12 months will see a focus on securing manifesto commitments and policy positions from key political parties as we enter a general election year to ensure that hunting is banned once and for all across the UK.

end hunting with dogs

1. Secure manifesto commitments and policy positions from key political parties to strengthen the Hunting Act 2004 in the lead up to the general election
2. Produce the League's public policy proposals on the Hunting Act for the next government to implement
3. Harness Welsh government support for strengthening the hunting ban to ensure trail hunting does not return to National Resource Wales land
4. Continue work in Scotland to record behaviour patterns of fox hunts who continue to go out drag hunting or flushing to guns with two or more dogs
5. Gather evidence of the impact of fox hunts on wild animals and landowners to lobby politicians across the island of Ireland to support legislation to ban fox hunting

end shooting of animals for sport

1. Continue to be a driving force in the REVIVE coalition that focuses on land reforms to benefit animal welfare, the environment and social justice in Scotland
2. Continue to campaign for a full ban on snaring in Scotland, to be enacted in 2024
3. Gain Welsh government commitment to ban the caged breeding of game birds
4. Remain a key stakeholder through active engagement in National Resource Wales and Welsh government work on shooting issues including game bird release
5. Submit proposals to current government to introduce legislation that will end caged game bird breeding

end fighting of animals for sport

1. Implement a targeted online campaign to grow awareness of suspected dog fighting across the UK
2. Produce enhanced intelligence packages for law enforcement agencies on suspected incidents of dog fighting in the UK

win the hearts and minds of a broader audience

1. Attract new supporters to take our campaigning actions
2. Promote Animal Crimewatch as the go-to reporting service for cruelty in the name of sport through online awareness campaigns
3. Celebrate the League's centenary to engage new and existing supporters
4. Increase episodes of Leaguecast in the lead up to the next general election to secure and strengthen support
5. Develop League wildlife reserves to encourage more visitors

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People Reporting

It is people that set the tone and culture in any organisation and ours is both strong and intensely positive. We believe that putting our people first is not only the right thing to do for them but also for the League. We know that a truly engaged and included workforce, developed to its fullest potential will bring about the best outcomes for animals.

After the organisational restructuring in 2022, we have effectively integrated a new operational framework, leading to enhanced collaboration and efficiency. The positive impact is evident in key performance indicators (KPIs) related to our staff, including below- industry-average sickness rates and favourable responses in the annual staff engagement survey. This achievement is a direct outcome of a shared purpose across the charity and our compassionate approach to people-related processes.

fair remuneration

Ensuring equitable compensation for our staff remains a fundamental aspect of being an outstanding employer and ensuring the overall success of the charity.

We conducted a comprehensive review and benchmarking of charity benefits this year to ensure our competitiveness in the sector. Our findings revealed strong competitiveness amongst smaller charities.

Despite limited resources to allocate to staff training and development, we have remained steadfast in prioritising this crucial aspect. Recognising its significance not only for bolstering staff morale and retention but also for optimising skills to achieve our animal-related goals. In 2023 leveraging in-house expertise, fostering cross-team collaboration, and offering secondment opportunities enabled us to dedicate three days per employee to learning and development.

equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI)

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) have been focal points of our initiatives this year. We launched an ongoing awareness training programme, commencing with three internal workshops on neurodiversity and disability, inclusive leadership, and inclusivity and collaboration.

Our biannual EDI survey in early 2023 indicated across-the-board improvements in surveyed areas. An overwhelming 97 per cent of respondents feel the League provides an environment conducive to the free and open expression of ideas, opinions, and beliefs.

Our gender distribution has become more balanced, with a split of 55 per cent female and 45 per cent male, and our gender pay gap remains ahead of the benchmark, four per cent narrower than the national average gap in 2023.

The League's workforce now includes 10 per cent ethnically diverse individuals, with the pay gap slightly widened but still significantly better than the national average at the close of 2023. It's important to acknowledge that, with a total headcount of 40 staff at the year's end, any changes in personnel can significantly impact these statistics.

Please refer to the League Against Cruel Sports annual review 2023 for further information.

Sustainability Statement

Our commitment, driven by our dedicated Green Team, remains twofold: transforming our organisational practices to minimise our environmental footprint and safeguarding the natural environment across all our wildlife reserves.

Last year, the Green Team concentrated on garnering support from all staff for our sustainable work approach. To bring our sustainable policy to life, we developed a presentation distributed to all existing staff and integrated it into the new joiner induction process. Further reinforcement occurred as each staff member adopted an annual goal to assess the environmental impact of their work, with the objective of minimising this impact wherever feasible.

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Additionally, the Green Team initiated a carbon reduction challenge, offering staff guidance on incorporating more eco-friendly practices into their personal lives. This initiative led to various positive changes, such as the adoption of LED bulbs, the preference for walking over driving, and the inclusion of vegetarian and vegan days in their diets, among other endeavours.

Given our small organisational size, our most impactful contributions are made within our wildlife reserves. Last year, staff actively volunteered at the reserves, participating in tasks like painting, building maintenance, and pollinator counting-an essential data-gathering activity enabling us to monitor changes in pollinator (flower-visiting insects) populations.

Although we generally manage the wildlife reserves in a low input manner, without the use of artificial pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers, we are always looking for ways to improve our overall sustainability by adopting new methods and equipment, and by working in partnership with other landowners.

To help us reduce our carbon footprint, we finally replaced a couple of our very old petrol driven brushcutters that have done at least twenty years hard labour, with rechargeable, electric models. These new machines are quieter, and better for the environment and the operators, as there are no longer two- stroke fume emitting engines.

We are also investing in a small, mobile sawmill, which will allow us to make good use of some of the timber that falls down each year or is felled as part of our woodland management. We will be able to make posts and planking that can be used for fencing and the construction of nest boxes and reduce the need for us to buy expensive, and often imported, timber.

An altogether different aspect of our sustainability drive is the measures that we are taking to mitigate the effects of climate change on the nature recovery project at the Cove Down wildlife reserve. In partnership with neighbouring landowners, we are allowing space for wildlife to recover with minimal intervention and after just a few years this has already seen positive results. The woodland, scrub and grassland, and the wetland areas created by the local beavers, are all great natural ways of capturing carbon from the atmosphere and storing it away. A local college has now come on board with the project and students have started using the site to learn practical field skills, which will help us to gain important data and them to improve their employment prospects.

We have agreed in principle to join a coalition of landowners, led by the National Trust Arlington Estate, in a Landscape Recovery Scheme that plans to restore and connect wildlife habitats across a large area of North Devon. The League's Cowley Wood wildlife reserve is already a fantastic example of the Atlantic Rainforest that once covered much of the region, and it would be great to see it eventually extend over neighbouring land.

Fundraising Review

Our vision is to create a kinder society where persecuting animals for sport is in the past. The League's fundraising strategy is full of passion and purpose, it's not just about raising funds; it's about building connections with like-minded people who are devoted to protecting animals. Every supporter is an ally in our mission to redefine what is acceptable and inspire change. Our commitment is weaved into every part of our fundraising programme. We aspire to be transparent, open, and dedicated in our approach - that is our promise.

Diverse approaches, one goal: Our engagement with the public uses a variety of fundraising methods: from individual one-off donations from direct mail, email, social media, online communications, and our supporters' magazine, Protect; regular donations by direct debit and standing orders; payroll giving; gifts in wills; gaming including our League Lotto and Lucky League raffle; and by selling merchandise. These are all vital ways to both raise awareness and funds to support our work.

Guided by best practice: The League is a paid member of the Fundraising Regulator, follows the Code of Fundraising Practice and is a member of the Gambling Commission and the Lotteries Council. We are also registered with the Information Commissioner's Office.

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Collaboration with experts: Our internal fundraising team manages most of our fundraising activity, but we do sometimes join forces with carefully selected professional partners with unique expertise to amplify our impact in the areas in which we have less experience.

Listening to our supporters: We are committed to ensuring we treat our supporters and the public sensitively, fairly and respectfully, taking care to protect those who may find themselves in vulnerable circumstances. Our Supporter Services team members are fully trained to recognise potentially vulnerable people they may speak to. Our approach is in line with the requirements of the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016.

Our complaints policy is clearly published on our website and outlines how to make a complaint. During 2023, we received three fundraising complaints. All complaints were resolved by our in-house Supporter Services team, none were escalated to the Fundraising Regulator. We regularly share supporter feedback across the fundraising team and no complaint is ever disregarded.

Empowering choice: We are registered with the Fundraising Preference Service which enables individuals to opt-out from receiving fundraising communications from us. Last year we actioned three requests from this service, compared to five requests in 2023.

Data integrity: We believe our supporters should trust us and look forward to hearing from us. We provide communication opt-out opportunities in all interactions to enable supporters to update their personal preferences. We respect our supporters' privacy and have robust Supporter Privacy, Cookies and Complaints Policies available to view on our website. If someone no longer wants to hear from us, we respect their wishes. We take our data handling responsibilities very seriously and have a strong General Data Protection Regulation compliant approach to data management. We believe our supporters should be fully informed as to how, when and where we use their personal data in our work.

Structure, Governance and Management

The League Against Cruel Sports is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (Registration No. 1095234) and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (Registration No. SC045533). It is also a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (Company Registered No. 04037610). Its objects and powers are set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Charity has a wholly owned subsidiary, the League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited, which is a private company limited by shares incorporated in England and Wales (Company Registered No. 02880406). Its principle activity is to act solely as a subsidiary company for carrying out trading activities on behalf of The League Against Cruel Sports charity. The company did not trade in 2023.

The governing body of the Charity is the Board of Trustees, comprising of not fewer than three nor more than twelve unpaid members. The Board meet at least three times a year to review performance against its plans, approve future financial plans based on the agreed strategy, setting policies and to make any decisions necessary to its governance and strategic direction. The Board has ultimate responsibility for the conduct and financial stability of the Charity group. The Finance, Risk and General purposes Committee is a sub-committee of the Board and also meets regularly to consider issues appertaining to the Charity group and informs the wider Board. As at December 2023 the Committee members were Dan Norris, John Hughes, Alan Tapp and Astrid Clifford.

Day-to-day financial responsibility and managerial control are delegated by the Board to the Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive and Senior Management Team meet monthly to discuss operations and financial performance.

Trustees are appointed by a majority of the voting members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for a term of up to three years or can be co-opted by the Board of Trustees until the next AGM. A comprehensive recruitment exercise is undertaken for the appointment of new Trustees to ensure the Board have the depth and breadth of skills and experience necessary to be an effective Trustee of The League Against Cruel Sports. The Board appoints a recruitment panel which undertakes the selection process, carries out interviews, and makes

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recommendations to the Board for their approval. One trustee resigned during the year, we recruited a new trustee after the year end in February 2024 and two trustees resigned in April 2024.

New Trustees attend an induction day at the League's headquarters, to learn about the Charity's mission, strategy and objectives. They also learn about their role and responsibilities as a Trustee. We also use the opportunity for them to meet and speak with the League staff. The Trustees receive regular, in house training on new policies and initiatives, and are provided with on-line resources regarding Trustee governance training/ guideline updates.

The Charitable Company has made qualifying third-party indemnity provisions for the benefit of its directors which were made during the year and remain in force at the date of this report.

Remuneration Policy

The Board of Trustees determines the Chief Executive's salary and reviews this each year, in line with the Charity's pay policy. The Board also approves recommendations made by the Chief Executive on any staff pay changes as a result of the annual staff pay review.

Our approach to remuneration of staff is designed to ensure we can attract and retain people with the passion, commitment and talent we need to deliver our mission. We aim to pay competitively in the not-for-profit sector within the context of affordability, using external salary survey to benchmark our salaries against other similar charities.

The annual pay increases are normally awarded in January each year taking into account pay inflation, organisational affordability, and any mandatory statutory increases. Our remuneration policy approach is applied consistently across the organisation, through our annual pay review process.

The League has committed to paying our employees no less than the real living wage and as such is accredited by the Good Business Charter.

Financial Review

In the wake of an extremely challenging year in 2022 where we had to make a number of difficult and stringent business decisions due to the global economic uncertainties and the resultant cost of living crisis, the planning for 2023 was based on the League reflecting on its strategic priorities and refocusing its resources accordingly whilst upholding our status and influence in the animal welfare sector and without diminishing the strength and reach of our campaigning work.

Of course, there are so many worthy campaigns involving animals persecuted in the name of sport and entertainment we would want to tackle if money was no object but the reality of every charity, particularly at this current time, is balancing the books ensuring we remain a stable and sustainable organisation fit for a future world we can only forecast to the best of our knowledge and abilities.

With continuing economic issues and no sign of relief, 2023 income targets were prudently set balanced against a realistic expenditure plan which would still deliver on our campaigning objectives. However, during the year ongoing HMCTS probate processing delays exacerbated legacy income's already underlying capricious nature. Only at the end of 2023 were we starting to realise progress on legacy estates financially, with significant value estate values materialising early in 2024.

Fundraising has traditionally been the source of income where we have greater influence, but general UK cost of living pressures had still not yet been fully resolved in the year and therefore we had to continue with attentive monitoring and management of the resultant supporter income risk. However, once more our dedicated supporters commitment and resilience meant that the League was able to achieve its fundraising target even during these still troubling times for us all as individuals. The League never takes its supporters' income for granted and we value our continuing public support, and in return we will not be complacent in ensuring the League continues to be the voice for animals persecuted in the name of sport supported by robust financial management and future financial sustainability.

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Ever mindful of our finances, the League Trustees, management and staff worked diligently to deliver quality programmes and campaigns achieving our 2023 objectives, and also delivering this with savings on budget. Ultimately in outperforming our income expectations coupled with tight expenditure budgetary control the final result was that the League realised a £467k surplus for the year, a larger surplus than was originally budgeted. This result means that the League has managed to recoup a large proportion of the 2022 £587k deficit.

For 2024 the League is in a stronger financial position and in addition to our ongoing campaigns and programmes we able to invest in a 2024 General Election campaign, recognising the opportunity this brings to ban hunting altogether through political commitments coupled with tougher legislation, and we will be investing further in supporter acquisition development and marking our centenary with planned celebrations. Our strategic campaign programmes and investments are underpinned by our clear, robust five year financial plans. We are mindful that the world economy continues to be challenging, particularly for the Charity sector, but we take comfort knowing that we have the necessary reserves and adaptability to help us deal with any further financial challenges ahead.

Income

Total group income for the year was £2.9m, an increase of 1 percent on last year. The League reports on three key areas of income generation performance: legacies, donations and memberships. Although we also generate income from our trading activities and investment income from cash deposits.

Legacy income was 4 percent higher than last year at £1.6m and represented 55 percent of our total income for the year. At the start of the year performance was lower than expected likely due to the impact of the HMCTS probate processing delays, however at the year-end legacy income significantly increased resulting in an exceptional legacy accrual debtor. The League's legacy pipeline remains strong and charity sector reports remain optimistic about future increases in charitable legacy giving. Legacy income is forecast to remain a significant and critical income source for the League in achieving its ambitions. For all charities, legacies are difficult to predict in terms of the amount and timing of receipt, but we work hard to manage this situation as best as we can.

Donations and gifts income amounted to just under £1.1m for the year, a decrease of 1 percent on last year, and represents 36 percent of our total income for the year. As mentioned above, we appreciate that our supporters will have been impacted by the economic issues over the last few years but despite this so many continue to generously donate what they can, as they can see the achievements the League are still able to make even through these testing times. Our 2023 fundraising campaigns included four themed appeals in the year: For The Foxes, Silent Heroes, Cub Hunting: Stop the cruelty and Be a Boxing Day Hero, three email appeals, and three issues of our Protect magazine to inform and encourage supporter action.

Income from membership fees have reduced to £93k as many new supporters prefer our regular giver supporter package to the more traditional membership. We always value our loyal members alongside our regular giver supporters and appreciate their enduring commitment to help the League achieve its charitable objectives through their day-to-day support of our work and their participation of 'on the ground' action.

Other trading income was £107k. Although 25 percent lower than last year this is mainly due to merchandise income as a result of a change in the way we produce and delivery our League merchandise. During 2023 we transitioned to products being made to order, in this way the League receives commission from sales with the benefits that we save money by not holding stock and is a more ethical solution as there is no production waste, our new products use natural materials and sustainable packaging, and finished products can be sent for recycling. Raffle and Lotto sales were a small increase on last year.

Expenditure

Total resources expended in furtherance of our charitable objectives for the year was £2.5m, a decrease of £1m or 29 percent on last year. Three-quarters of the decrease relates to staff costs as a result of the staff changes we had to make in 2022, as detailed in note 6 to the accounts. The decrease in expenditure was distributed across our charitable activity delivery and our support functions. Overall, including an allocation of support costs, charitable activities expenditure was £2m for the year, a decrease of 34 percent on the previous year, and

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fundraising costs were £453k, an increase of 13 percent, as we aimed to secure our income generation following the impact of global economic issues over the last few years.

Expenditure on our four core charitable activities amounted to 80 percent in total with 18 percent spent on fund raising publicity and trading, and 2 percent on governance. During the year the average number of staff employed decreased from 58 to 42, and by the year end the staff complement was 40.

The League continues to exercise strict cost control supported by robust financial processes and procedures. We are always mindful to obtain the best value for money when spending every penny of our supporter donations on our charitable aims, but also to spend within the parameters of our ethical procurement policy.

Balance Sheet

As at the year end the Group had total net assets of £4.1m; represented by fixed assets (mainly freehold land and buildings) of £1.6m, cash deposits of £1.6m, other current assets of £1m and current liabilities of £0.1m.

Group funds consist of £4m unrestricted funds (2022: £3.5m) and £0.1m of restricted funds (2022: £0.1m). At the year-end there were designated funds totalling £1.7m by the Board of Trustees (2022: Nil). The funds purposes are detailed in note 13 to the financial statements.

Despite the challenging year in 2022 for the whole sector, the League has re-stabilised its finances by the 2023 year-end and with robust future financial plans in place, total reserves/net assets continue to provide the Group with a strong working capital base for 2024 and beyond.

Reserves Policy

Reserves are key in ensuring the long-term viability of the Charity. The Board of Trustees regularly monitors the level of retained reserves, when reviewing financial performance in the management accounts, and reviews the overall reserves policy annually as part of the five year financial plan review. Our policy remains in line with the Charity Commission's advice on managing charity reserves over the current economic climate.

Our reserves policy is based on a risk identification approach calculating an appropriate level of unrestricted reserves to cover our contractual commitments, working capital requirements, and to manage possible fluctuations in future income levels; this calculation also takes into account our fixed asset holdings. Our five-year financial planning aims to achieve a target level of reserves to cover all these identified risks and ensure we have long term financial stability.

At the financial year end the amount of free unrestricted reserves available for general purposes was £2.4m, of which £1.7m has been designated by the Board of Trustees for specific purposes including income and expenditure risk management and investment into the upcoming 2024 General Election campaign and building our supporter base. Whilst total free reserves are more than our historic levels they are within our target range required to provide sufficient financial stability given the current risks the League is potentially exposed to, as detailed in the Risk Management section on page 25. After taking into account the designated funds, reserves provide three months operational expenditure cover. With the continuing economic uncertainty and sustained high inflation, the Board feels it is appropriate to maintain this level of reserves, including setting aside specific designated funds, to ensure the stability and sustainability of the Charity until the economy recovers and funding confidence returns to previous levels.

The Board will continue to regularly monitor the League's performance against its agreed plans.

Investment Policy

With the continuing instability of the stock markets, the Trustees have agreed that stocks and shares given to or left to the League should be sold at the earliest beneficial opportunity. There was no loss on any investments received or sold during the year. The ongoing uncertainty of the markets has led to the Trustees continuing their policy of holding reserves in either property or cash deposits. Cash deposits are spread over a number of

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authorised firms to take advantage of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and to reduce the potential risk of any losses occurring. As at the year end, 18 percent of these funds are available for instant access, and the remaining deposits have notice periods and are repayable within five months.

The policy will be reviewed by the Trustees during 2024 with due regard to our forecast cash flow requirements.

Public Benefit

The Charities Act 2011 requires that Trustees explain in their annual report how it is that their activities demonstrate the public benefit of their work within the meaning of the Act.

In charity law the advancement of animal welfare is recognised as a charitable purpose. The League's main objective is to prevent or reduce cruelty to animals in the name of sport. Whilst the League may use a number of different means to further this objective and will strive to push at boundaries, it is careful to ensure that it remains within the remit of its charitable objectives and within the strict parameters of charity law at all times.

Examples of the League's work are:

- The investigation and monitoring of possible wildlife offences;
- Informing and educating on the impact of the Hunting Act 2004, including amendments or repeal;
- Informing and educating the public about the cruelty aspect of using animals for 'sporting' purposes;
- Informing and educating the public about animal welfare problems associated with 'sport' such as the use of snares and the intensive production of 'game' birds;
- Liaison with elected officials who have the power to both enforce the law and to enhance it.

Internal Controls and Risk Management

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring the League group has a sound system of internal control to safeguard its assets and funds, and for ensuring that its assets and funds are used only in furtherance of the League's objectives. The system of internal control is intended to manage appropriately rather than to eliminate risks and to provide reasonable rather than absolute assurance. The Charity is one that arouses strong passions and potential threats to it are ever present, particularly from those who challenge its very existence, credibility, and direction.

Trustees have developed an effective risk management framework for the assessment of major risks to which the Charity is exposed, that has been used successfully throughout the year. The assessment and documentation of risk is carried out by the Senior Management Team led by the Chief Executive Officer, supported by the Finance Director, both of whom have considerable experience and expertise in this area. Risk factors are identified and assessed for scale, and each risk is assigned to a member of the Senior Management Team to take responsibility for identifying the steps needed to manage or mitigate the risk. These risk assessments are documented in a risk register and are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that new risks are identified and that actions proposed to mitigate or manage risks are being undertaken. The risks to the Charity are also assessed and reviewed by the Trustees quarterly through the Finance Risk and General (FRAG) Committee, with a subsequent update to the full Board at their quarterly meeting. The CEO also raises specific risks at his weekly call with the Chair and Honorary Treasurer.

The Charity continues to benefit from strong and consistent management and governance, and the dedication and active engagement of its staff. Key indicators of the strength of the Charity include retention, sickness and absence rates being a fraction of the national average, with long serving directors providing the firmest of foundations on which the Charity can operate effectively.

The Charity maintains a risk register that outlines all of the risks it is facing and what actions we have in place to mitigate these risks. These mitigations vary according to the type of risk and although mitigations can be put in place, they cannot eliminate the risk completely.

The register is reviewed regularly by management and quarterly by the Board.

Our current top risks are considered to be:

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1. Impact of economic uncertainty on our fundraising income. Global instability is still impacting on the UK bringing with it high levels of uncertainty in the economy. Low growth, coupled with high inflation and a relatively high tax burden are putting pressure on the public's finances and this in turn creates a high risk to the Charity from a decline in donations. This makes it difficult to predict future income with certainty and with it, the ability to plan beyond the very near term. We mitigate against this risk as best as we can through our ongoing, valuable supporter services and development tools which helps to maintain our supporter engagement and commitment, and we aim to strengthen our fundraising base over 2024 with investment into a supporter acquisition programme.

2. Delays to legacy income. The risks to our income are compounded by well-publicised delays at HMCTS in the granting of probate affecting the charity sector. Although the quantum of legacies remains largely unaltered, lengthy delays in releasing monies continue to impact our cash flow. HMCTS have hired an additional 100 staff to alleviate matters, but it is not known how long it will be until the backlog is cleared and when we will see an improvement in the timeliness of legacy receipts. Until then, the previously reliable forecasts in our legacy income and cash flows remain very difficult to predict and affect our medium-term planning. With specialist, internal legacy resources we continually monitor the charity legacy market and communicate effectively with other charity legacy teams to resolve issues promptly. We are also able to manage adverse legacy fluctuations by incorporating legacy risk into our reserves policy.

3. Inflation impact on expenditure. After over a decade of low inflation in the UK, 2022 saw exceptionally high levels of inflation which although have halved over 2023 still remain relatively high. High inflation not only increases our immediate purchasing and payroll costs, but also adds greater uncertainty on future cost planning. If inflation is not brought down further this will continue to put severe pressure on the real value of the money we have available to deliver our charitable objects. In our financial planning we are prudent in our cost planning and provide further protection by incorporating an element of adverse expenditure risk within our reserves policy.

4. Ability to maintain reserves. Although 2023 was a re-stabilisation of our finances and brought a welcome surplus result for the year, as discussed above, there are still factors at large which could undermine the strength of our financial reserves: continuing political and economic upheaval, high inflation and individuals' financial security. The perception is that the world continues to be a much more uncertain and dangerous place and unexpected events could have a significant impact on our reserves and the ability to continue operating at our current level. Due to these continuing uncertainties the League's reserves are currently held at a higher level than normal to provide increased mitigation from this risk at this time; this level is re-evaluated each year during our five year financial planning cycle, based according to our forecast business need.

5. Data security. Well publicised increases in the incidence of hacking and other data breaches, and the significant penalties they attract, are a risk to the Charity as to all organisations. Included in these risks are ransomware attacks and the hacking of accounts, which threaten both the finances and the reputation of the Charity. The Charity remains committed to data protection and is fully aware of the potential impacts any breaches could have on our ability to deliver our charitable objects. During 2023 we carried out a data security audit and independent data penetration assessments, as well as two major upgrades to some of our core IT systems. In 2024 we will be progressing these review findings to further modernise and strengthen the League's data security.

6. Reputational. The Charity operates in a friction environment where opinions are strong, and where some third parties actively seek to diminish the reputation of the Charity for their own ends. We are fully aware of these risks and we will actively seek to challenge those individuals or organisations that seek to unfairly, or unlawfully, diminish the Charity or those therein. Alongside this, the safety and welfare of the League's trustees, staff and supporters is a primary consideration in all work we undertake, and we actively promote and pride ourselves on our openness and welfare support systems.

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Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees, who are also the directors of The League Against Cruel Sports for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year. In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

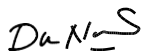
In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Auditors

A resolution proposing that Haysmacintyre LLP be reappointed as auditors of the company will be put to the members. This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees



Dan Norris
Chair
Dated: 8 May 2024

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

We have audited the financial statements of League Against Cruel Sports for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Group and Charitable Company Balance Sheet and the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of the charitable company's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 6 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Report and the Chair's statement. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report (which includes the strategic report and the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report included within the Trustees' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report (which incorporates the strategic report and the directors' report).

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made;
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 27, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of noncompliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the group and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to fundraising regulations, GDPR and Charities Act 2011, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Charities Act 2011 and the application of FRS 102, income tax and payroll tax.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries to revenue and management bias in accounting estimate. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included: -

- Enquiries of management regarding correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular, journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Adam Halsey (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Haysmacintyre LLP, Statutory Auditors
Date: 15 May 2024

10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1AG

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	2,742,131	43,271	2,785,402	2,739,015
Other trading activities	3	106,746	-	106,746	143,073
Investments	4	51,682	-	51,682	19,538
Total income		2,900,559	43,271	2,943,830	2,901,626
Expenditure on:					
<u>Raising funds</u>					
Fundraising and publicity costs	5	399,269	-	399,269	308,758
Costs of trading activities	5	53,539	-	53,539	92,915
		452,808	-	452,808	401,673
<u>Charitable activities</u>					
End Hunting with Dogs	5	799,289	10,530	809,819	1,431,979
End Shooting of Animals for 'Sport'	5	439,522	641	440,163	612,107
End Fighting of Animals for 'Sport'	5	152,533	-	152,533	122,662
Win Hearts and Minds	5	599,568	21,893	621,461	920,443
		1,990,912	33,064	2,023,976	3,087,191
Total expenditure		2,443,720	33,064	2,476,784	3,488,864
Net income/(expenditure)		456,839	10,207	467,046	(587,238)
Fund balances at 1 January		3,530,142	99,624	3,629,766	4,217,004
Fund balances at 31 December		3,986,981	109,831	4,096,812	3,629,766

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

During 2023 a new accounting system was installed which has resulted in a change in the analysis of expenditure. The expenditure analysis in 2022 has been restated for comparative purposes.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	7		1,620,972		1,632,610
Current assets					
Stocks	9	18,666		20,512	
Debtors	10	1,007,023		460,971	
Cash deposit investments		1,439,490		1,328,827	
Cash at bank and in hand		121,337		293,546	
		<u>2,586,516</u>		<u>2,103,856</u>	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	(110,676)		(106,700)	
Net current assets			<u>2,475,840</u>		<u>1,997,156</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>4,096,812</u>		<u>3,629,766</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year			-		-
Total net assets			<u><u>4,096,812</u></u>		<u><u>3,629,766</u></u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	13		109,831		99,624
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>	13				
Designated funds		1,726,000		-	
General unrestricted funds		2,260,981		3,530,142	
Total unrestricted funds			<u>3,986,981</u>		<u>3,530,142</u>
Total group funds			<u><u>4,096,812</u></u>		<u><u>3,629,766</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board and authorised for issue on 8 May 2024 and signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by

Dan Norris

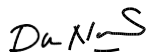
Dan Norris
Trustee

Company Registration No. 04037610

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
CHARITABLE COMPANY BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	7	1,620,972		1,632,610	
Investment in subsidiary	17		12		12
		<u>1,620,984</u>		<u>1,632,622</u>	
Current assets					
Stocks	9	18,666		20,512	
Debtors	10	1,007,023		461,029	
Cash deposit investments		1,439,490		1,328,827	
Cash at bank and in hand		71,724		242,470	
		<u>2,536,903</u>		<u>2,052,838</u>	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	(112,081)		(106,700)	
Net current assets		<u>2,424,822</u>		<u>1,946,138</u>	
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>4,045,806</u>		<u>3,578,760</u>	
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year		-		-	
Total net assets		<u><u>4,045,806</u></u>		<u><u>3,578,760</u></u>	
Income funds					
Restricted funds	13	109,831		99,624	
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds		1,726,000		-	
General unrestricted funds		2,209,975		3,479,136	
Total unrestricted funds		<u>3,935,975</u>		<u>3,479,136</u>	
Total charity funds		<u><u>4,045,806</u></u>		<u><u>3,578,760</u></u>	

The financial statements were approved by the Board and authorised for issue on 8 May 2024 and signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by



Dan Norris
Trustee

Company Registration No. 04037610

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Cashflows from operating activities					
Net cash used in operating activities	a		(92,960)		(122,067)
Cashflows from investing activities:					
Interest from investments		51,682		19,538	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(20,268)		(1)	
Net cash provided by/ (used in) investing activities			31,414		19,537
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(61,546)		(102,530)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			1,622,373		1,724,903
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	b		1,560,827		1,622,373
a) Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash from operating activities					
	Notes	2023 £		2022 £	
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)		467,046		(587,238)	
Adjustments for:					
Depreciation	7	31,906		27,875	
Interest from Investments	4	(51,682)		(19,538)	
Decrease/(increase) in stocks		1,846		(6,490)	
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(546,052)		484,381	
Increase/(decrease) in creditors current		3,976		(21,057)	
Net cash used in operating activities		(92,960)		(122,067)	
b) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents					
		2023 £		2022 £	
Deposits		1,439,490		1,328,827	
Cash in hand		121,337		293,546	
Total cash and cash equivalents		1,560,827		1,622,373	

The cash deposits are invested over a wider range of regulated financial institutions to improve the security of the cash reserves and to take advantage of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme protections. At the end of the financial year all deposits have notice periods of less than five months and all are repayable within five months.

The movements in net debt are all shown in the main cashflow statement.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Charity Information

The League Against Cruel Sports is a registered charity in England and Wales (charity number 1095234) and in Scotland (OSCR charity number SC045533), and a company limited by guarantee (Company Registered Number 04037610) and domiciled in the UK, and is a public benefit entity.

The address of the registered office is: New Sparling House, Holloway Hill, Godalming, Surrey , GU7 1QZ.

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) – Charities SORP 2015 (Second Edition, effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The League Against Cruel Sports meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost of transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

1.2 Basis for consolidation

The financial statements consolidate the results of the Charity and its wholly owned subsidiary League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited on a line by line basis. A separate Statement of Financial Activities and income and expenditure accounts are not presented for the Charity itself following the exemptions afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and paragraph 397 of the Statement of Recommended Practice.

1.3 Key judgements and assumptions

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The key judgments and assumptions are legacy accrual and depreciation which are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

1.4 Going concern

Based on the level of reserves held at the year end and the latest five year financial plans the Trustees are confident that The League Against Cruel Sports is financially secure in its immediate future for the next 12 months and that on this basis the Charity is a going concern.

The Trustees regularly review detailed financial budgets and forecasts, which are adjusted to take into account revised assumptions and events. Where such forecasts indicate a potential problem corrective action is taken to protect the future viability of the Charity. The key risks assessed are described in the Trustees' Annual Report.

The trustees believe there are no material uncertainties concerning the going concern status of the charitable group.

1.5 Charitable funds

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

Designated funds are amounts of unrestricted funds which have been earmarked at the discretion of the Trustees for particular future purposes.

Unrestricted funds are available for the use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objectives of the Charity.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1.6 Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income, the amount can be measured with reasonable accuracy and its receipt is probable.

In respect of legacy income, the Charities SORP requires legacy income to be recognised when it is receivable unless it is incapable of financial measurement. The Charity mainly receives pecuniary and residuary legacies and accounts for them as receivable when (i) entitlement has been established (ii) receipt is probable and (iii) the sum involved is measurable. All three tests must be met for the League to accrue a legacy. Entitlement exists when grant of probate has been received evidencing that a gift has been left to the Charity and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Probability exists when there is grant of probate, the executor is satisfied that there are sufficient funds to pay and in the case of residuary legacies that final accounts have been agreed. Measurability is the estimate of the fair value of the income receivable based on the information available, but measured or estimated with sufficient reliability.

Donations income and membership subscriptions are recorded when received.

Grant income is accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Investment income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis.

Income derived from other trading activities are recognised when the goods are dispatched. Income derived from trading relates to primary purpose trading which is acceptable under charity law and exempt from taxation.

1.7 Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) on a basis to reflect the use of the resources. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources as shown in note 5.

Fundraising and publicity costs represent direct and apportioned costs relating to supporter recruitment and maintenance and fundraising activities and events.

Costs of trading activities represents direct and apportioned costs relating to the sale of merchandise and other sales of goods.

Charitable activity expenditure represents direct and apportioned costs relating to carrying out our strategic objectives as set out in the Trustees Annual Report.

Support costs include governance, staff, office and general management costs including human resources, IT and the finance function incurred to support income generation and delivery of the charitable activities. Support costs also include irrecoverable VAT where it is not able to be directly attributed to specific activities, where this is not possible irrecoverable VAT costs are apportioned.

Governance costs represent direct and indirect costs incurred relating to strategic management and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.8 Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently stated at cost less depreciation.

The Group's capitalisation threshold is £5,000, such that fixed assets costing less than this amount are not capitalised and are therefore included in resources expended under the appropriate heading.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold buildings	2% straight line per annum
Refurbishments	10% straight line per annum
Sanctuary improvements	20% straight line per annum
Equipment, fixtures and fittings	25% reducing balance per annum
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance per annum

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

When freehold land is disposed of, but sporting rights are retained, the value of these rights is written down to £1 as they are not considered to have a residual or realisable value for the Group.

At each reporting end date, the Group reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1.9 Stock

Stock is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stock to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured at the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held on call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank Overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities. During the year the Group had no bank overdrafts.

For the purpose of the cash flow statement, cash comprises cash in hand and short-term deposits.

1.11 Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recognised in the Group and Charity balance sheets when the Group or Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

The League Against Cruel Sports Group has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Financial assets held at amortised cost comprise cash and bank in hand, together with trade and other debtors. Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise trade and other creditors. Financial assets and Financial liabilities classified as receivable or payable within one year are not amortised.

Investment in the subsidiary undertaking is held at cost less impairment.

1.12 Leases

Rentals incurred under operating leases are charged to the SOFA on a straight line basis over the period of the lease. Incentives are treated as income and are credited to the SOFA on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

1.13 Employee pensions

The Group operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the accounts as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

1.14 Value Added Tax

Value Added Tax is partially recoverable by the Group, and as such the irrecoverable portion of VAT is included as a cost in the SOFA and asset values.

1.15 Taxation

The League Against Cruel Sports charitable company is exempt from Corporation Tax on the grounds that it is a charity and all of its income is applied for charitable purposes.

League Against Cruel Sport (UK) Limited is not operated for profit.

1.16 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts.

1.17 Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the Group and Charity has a present obligation resulting from past events that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at the settlement amount allowing for any trade discounts.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Legacies receivable	1,625,565	-	1,625,565	1,562,355
Donations and gifts	1,022,594	43,271	1,065,865	1,072,337
Grants receivable	752	-	752	4,103
Membership fees	93,220	-	93,220	100,220
	2,742,131	43,271	2,785,402	2,739,015

2022 income includes restricted funds of £nil Legacies receivable and £16,193 Donations and gifts.

At the end of the financial year, the Charity has been advised of a number of legacies which indicated the League as a beneficiary. These have not been included in the Statement of Financial Activities as the Charity's final entitlement has not yet been established by the executors. The estimated values for these legacies amounts to approximately £1.9m (2022: £1.6m). Many of these legacies are residual legacies where the timing of receipt is uncertain.

Grants receivable relates to the Government Energy Support scheme £752 (2022: £1,147), and other grants £nil (2022:£2,956).

3 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Raffle and lotto ticket sales	79,072	-	79,072	76,647
Timber sales	-	-	-	7,284
Merchandise and other sales of goods	27,674	-	27,674	59,142
	106,746	-	106,746	143,073

There were no restricted funds received in 2022.

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Interest receivable	48,082	-	48,082	15,932
Rental income	3,600	-	3,600	3,606
	51,682	-	51,682	19,538

There were no restricted funds received in 2022.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

5 Expenditure

	Direct Staff costs £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Raising funds					
Fundraising and publicity costs	107,004	204,559	87,706	399,269	308,758
Costs of trading activities	8,970	44,569	-	53,539	92,915
	115,974	249,128	87,706	452,808	401,673
Charitable activities					
End Hunting with Dogs	494,248	137,681	177,890	809,819	1,431,979
End Shooting of animals for 'Sport'	246,085	97,389	96,689	440,163	612,107
End Fighting of animals for 'Sport'	81,943	37,084	33,506	152,533	122,662
Win Hearts and Minds	435,134	49,813	136,514	621,461	920,443
	1,257,410	321,967	444,599	2,023,976	3,087,191
Total expenditure	1,373,384	571,095	532,305	2,476,784	3,488,864

Analysis of Support costs

	Governance costs £	Staff costs £	Office and admin. costs £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Raising funds					
Fundraising and publicity costs	9,167	42,515	36,024	87,706	71,594
Costs of trading activities	-	-	-	-	-
	9,167	42,515	36,024	87,706	71,594
Charitable activities					
End Hunting with Dogs	18,593	86,232	73,065	177,890	332,043
End Shooting of Animals for 'Sport'	10,106	46,870	39,713	96,689	141,933
End Fighting of Animals for 'Sport'	3,502	16,242	13,762	33,506	28,442
Win Hearts and Minds	14,268	66,176	56,070	136,514	213,430
	46,469	215,520	182,610	444,599	715,848
Total expenditure	55,636	258,035	218,634	532,305	787,442

Support costs are allocated on the basis of % of time spent in proportion to direct costs.

Governance costs includes statutory audit fees of £16,300 (2022: £14,850).

Comparative 2022 expenditure is analysed in note 18.

During 2023 a new accounting system was installed which has resulted in a change in the analysis of expenditure. The expenditure analysis in 2022 has been restated for comparative purposes.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

6 Employees

Staff costs	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,408,118	2,064,335
Social security costs	135,456	192,250
Other pension costs	113,371	156,756
	1,656,945	2,413,341

The average number of employees during the year was:

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
Fundraising and publicity	4	7
Charitable activities	33	43
Support	5	8
	42	58

The number of employees whose emoluments exceeds £60,000 in the year was :

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
£60,001 - £70,000	-	3
£70,001 - £80,000	2	-
£80,001 - £90,000	-	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-

During the year a total of 6 (2022: 7) staff were recognised as key management personnel. At the year end there were 6 key management personnel in post.

The total remuneration and benefits received by senior management personnel in the year was £391,187 (2022: £446,050) and pension contributions paid by the Charity in respect of these employees during the year was £31,295 (2022: £35,342).

In 2022 it was necessary for the charity to embark on a cost saving programme due to the UK economic problems and the resultant impact on the League, the effect of this programme continued into the start of 2023; payments in respect of staff redundancies during the year totalled £1,500 (2022: £105,543).

Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year (2022: £Nil). Four Trustees were reimbursed expenses relating to travel totalling £1,159 (2022: Two Trustees totalling £314).

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

7 Group and Charity Fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Office and Computer Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 January 2023	1,874,999	14,350	45,457	1,934,806
Additions	14,900	5,368	-	20,268
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	1,889,899	19,718	45,457	1,955,074
Deprecation and impairment				
At 1 January 2023	245,869	14,350	41,977	302,196
Charge for the year	29,694	1,342	870	31,906
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	275,563	15,692	42,847	334,102
Net book value				
At 31 December 2023	1,614,336	4,026	2,610	1,620,972
At 31 December 2022	1,629,130	-	3,480	1,632,610

As at 31 December 2023 there were capital commitments of £Nil (2022: £Nil) not included within fixed assets.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

8 Financial instruments

	Group 2023 £	2022 £	Charity 2023 £	2022 £
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	2,440,405	2,537,524	2,390,793	2,485,779
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	100,196	107,515	101,601	107,515
Total interest income for financial assets held under amortised cost	51,682	15,150	15,932	11,543

For further details please refer to Accounting Policy note 1.11.

9 Stocks

	Group 2023 £	2022 £	Charity 2023 £	2022 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	18,666	20,512	18,666	20,512

10 Debtors

	Group 2023 £	2022 £	Charity 2023 £	2022 £
Prepayments and accrued income	966,961	423,775	966,961	423,775
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	-	58
Tax recoverable	39,395	36,495	39,395	36,495
Other debtors	667	701	667	701
	1,007,023	460,971	1,007,023	461,029

Prepayments and accrued income include accruals for legacies where, in accordance with the Charities SORP, we are satisfied that we have entitlement, probability and financial measurement. At the year end accrued legacy income totals £809,527 (2022: £303,390), and includes £43,750 (2022: £43,750) due after one year in respect of land held in trust for the League.

11 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2023 £	2022 £	Charity 2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	55,637	35,922	55,637	35,922
Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	-	1,405	-
Accruals and deferred income	53,988	70,692	53,988	70,692
Other taxes and social security	-	-	-	-
Other creditors	1,051	86	1,051	86
	110,676	106,700	112,081	106,700

12 Pension costs

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity to the fund. Contributions payable by the Charity for the year amounted to £113,371 (2022: £156,756); as referred to in note 6.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

13 Funds

The income funds of the Group and Charity include unrestricted and restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movements in funds				
	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
<u>Restricted funds</u>					
Wentworth Sanctuary legacy	38,398	-	-	-	38,398
Wentworth Godalming office legacy	50,817	-	-	-	50,817
Greyhounds	7,829	-	(2,388)	-	5,441
Cove Down Sanctuary	2,580	32,000	(19,405)	-	15,175
Time for Change Coalition	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Other small restricted funds	-	1,271	(1,271)	-	-
Total Restricted funds	99,624	43,271	(33,064)	-	109,831
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds:					
Legacy equalisation fund	-	-	-	793,000	793,000
Fundraised Income equalisation fund	-	-	-	467,000	467,000
Expenditure risk fund	-	-	-	276,000	276,000
Supporter Acquisition	-	-	-	100,000	100,000
General Election 2024 campaign	-	-	-	90,000	90,000
General funds	3,530,142	2,900,559	(2,443,720)	(1,726,000)	2,260,981
Total Unrestricted funds	3,530,142	2,900,559	(2,443,720)	-	3,986,981
Total funds	3,629,766	2,943,830	(2,476,784)	-	4,096,812

Restricted funds

The Wentworth legacies are restricted for use on the sanctuaries property at Baronsdown and the Godalming premises respectively.

The Greyhounds project is being funded by an individual supporter to enable us to undertake special investigations work into Greyhound puppy farming.

The Cove Down sanctuary project is in respect of funding received from the Lister Charitable Trust for development of the sanctuary; involving habitat restoration and rewilding on a protected area of land as a sanctuary for wildlife.

The Time for Change Coalition is major campaign led by the League in 2023; bringing together like-minded animal welfare charities to unite as one voice in bringing about significant improvements to all animal welfare in the UK. The funding received from the RSPCA was a contribution in support the campaign costs.

Other restricted funds represents funding received towards charitable activities where the individual restricted funds total no greater than £5,000 and their associated expenditure.

General unrestricted funds

The general unrestricted funds are used to support our reserves policy on page 54 and provide additional cover for unexpected risks.

Designated at the end of 2024.

The aim of the legacy equalisation fund is to moderate the effect of fluctuations in the flow of legacy income due to its unpredictability, this is based on an annual income risk assessment.

The aim of the fundraising equalisation fund is to moderate the effect of the increase in cost of living on our supporter donations, this is based on an annual income risk assessment.

The aim of the expenditure risk fund is to provide protection to agreed campaign budgets from unexpected increases in costs, for example from high inflation rate increases in the economy.

Supporter acquisition programme is an exceptional project for 2024 with the aim to rebuild our supporter base after the effects of the 2022 cost of living increase.

The General Election 2024 is exceptional funding set aside for the election campaign in the coming year, to ensure hunting is at the top of the political agenda for the election and is consigned to history once and for all.

General funds include the trading subsidiary League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited reserves of £51,006, please refer to note 17 for further information.

Comparative 2022 figures are detailed in Note 19.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

	<u>Unrestricted funds</u>		Restricted funds	Total
	General funds	Designated funds		
	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2023 are represented by:				
Fixed assets	1,578,028	-	42,944	1,620,972
Current assets	793,629	1,726,000	66,887	2,586,516
Current liabilities	(110,676)	-	-	(110,676)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	-	-
	2,260,981	1,726,000	109,831	4,096,812

Comparative 2022 figures are detailed in Note 20.

15 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 December 2023 the Charity had lease payment commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	<u>Land and buildings</u>		<u>Office equipment</u>	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Payments due:				
Within one year	-	-	3,428	8,304
Between two and five years	-	-	7,121	8,395
Over five years	-	-	-	-
	-	-	10,549	16,699

16 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022: none).

Donations, memberships subscriptions, lottery plays and purchases of goods made by the Trustees in the year totalled £1,128 (2022: £1,037).

17 Investment in subsidiary

The investment of £12 represents 100% of the ordinary £10 share capital in League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited, the principle activity of which is administer the trading activities of the group. League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited is a private company limited by shares registered in England and Wales.

The total income for the year ended 31 December 2023 of the League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited amounted to £Nil (2022: £Nil), expenditure totalled £Nil (2022: £311). Net payments, cash and asset transfers totalling £Nil (2022: £Nil) have been made from League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited to its parent company, and registered charity, The League Against Cruel Sports.

As at 31 December 2023 League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited had fixed assets of £Nil (2022: £Nil), net current assets of £51,018 (2022: £51,018) and reserves of £51,006 (2022: £51,006). In 2023 it reported a surplus of £Nil (2022: Deficit £311).

Details of the Charity's subsidiaries at 31 December 2023 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Nature of business	Class of shares held	% Held	
				Direct	Indirect
League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited	England and Wales	See above	Ordinary £1 shares	100.00	-

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

18 Comparative 2022 Expenditure

	Direct Staff costs £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2022 £
Raising funds				
Fundraising and publicity costs	171,314	65,850	71,594	308,758
Costs of trading activities	20,558	72,357	-	92,915
	191,872	138,207	71,594	401,673
Charitable activities				
End Hunting with Dogs	805,011	294,925	332,043	1,431,979
End Shooting of Animals for 'Sport'	332,521	137,653	141,933	612,107
End Fighting of Animals for 'Sport'	58,605	35,615	28,442	122,662
Win Hearts and Minds	552,892	154,121	213,430	920,443
	1,749,029	622,314	715,848	3,087,191
Total expenditure	1,940,901	760,521	787,442	3,488,864

Comparative 2022 Analysis of Support costs

	Governance costs £	Staff costs £	Office and admin. costs £	Total 2022 £
Raising funds				
Fundraising and publicity costs	6,258	39,732	25,604	71,594
Costs of trading activities	-	-	-	-
	6,258	39,732	25,604	71,594
Charitable activities				
End Hunting with Dogs	29,026	184,269	118,748	332,043
End Shooting of Animals for 'Sport'	12,407	78,767	50,759	141,933
End Fighting of Animals for 'Sport'	2,486	15,784	10,172	28,442
Win Hearts and Minds	18,657	118,444	76,329	213,430
	62,576	397,264	256,008	715,848
Total expenditure	68,834	436,996	281,612	787,442

Support costs are allocated on the basis of % of time spent in proportion to direct costs.

During 2023 a new accounting system was installed which has resulted in a change in the analysis of expenditure. The expenditure analysis in 2022 has been restated for comparative purposes.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

19 Comparative 2022 Funds

	Movements in funds				
	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
<u>Restricted funds</u>					
Wentworth Sanctuary legacy	38,398	-	-	-	38,398
Wentworth Godalming office legacy	52,038	-	(1,221)	-	50,817
Greyhounds	10,489	-	(2,660)	-	7,829
Cove Down Sanctuary	1,732	15,000	(14,152)	-	2,580
Other small restricted funds	6,385	1,193	(7,578)	-	-
Total Restricted funds	109,042	16,193	(25,611)	-	99,624
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	-	-	-	-	-
General funds	4,107,962	2,885,433	(3,463,253)	-	3,530,142
Total Unrestricted funds	4,107,962	2,885,433	(3,463,253)	-	3,530,142
Total funds	4,217,004	2,901,626	(3,488,864)	-	3,629,766

20 Comparative 2022 Analysis of net assets between funds

	<u>Unrestricted funds</u>		Restricted funds	Total
	General funds £	Designated funds £	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2022 are represented by:				
Fixed assets	1,594,809	-	37,801	1,632,610
Current assets	2,042,033	-	61,823	2,103,856
Current liabilities	(106,700)	-	-	(106,700)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	-	-
	3,530,142	-	99,624	3,629,766

Accounts



LEAGUE
AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS



League Against Cruel Sports

Annual Report and Financial Statements 2022

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Message from the Chair



I am delighted to be able to bring you this, my first report as Chair of the League Against Cruel Sports, a charity that is needed now more than ever. In a world where man-made issues continue to dominate, it is even more vital that we don't forget animals as they have no voice of their own. We must not accept their large-scale persecution for the entertainment of a small section of society.

In 2022, the challenges confronting us went way beyond the hunting, shooting, and other cruel sports groups, to include the cost-of-living crisis and delays in the probate system for legacies which affected so many charities. As a result, we took the necessary corrective action to readjust our budgets and refine our focus. Nevertheless, our resolve to protect animals remains undiminished.

This resolve was most evident in the actions of our loyal supporter base. I want to recognise the sacrifices many have made at a time of rising inflation. By digging deep and prioritising animals we were able to continue to deliver our aims and charitable objectives, and through our wider collaboration in the animal charity sector, help others deliver theirs too.

Coalition building and collaboration, which we do so well, has become the best way of achieving meaningful change at scale. During 2022 we worked behind the scenes to assemble what promises to be our most powerful coalition yet. Our new Time for Change Coalition Against Hunting, counting many millions of the public amongst its number, will launch officially in 2023. We are very privileged to have the trust and support of the sector who recognise that hunting is indeed the totem for cruelty to animals in the United Kingdom. Together we will work hard to see it confined to the history books over the coming months and years, and in doing so, elevate the cause of animal welfare in general.

I am looking forward to playing my part in changing the dynamic for animals in this country, as is your board, staff, and the army of volunteers and supporters that make everything we do possible. Cruel 'sports' have had their time – it's now time for change! My thanks go to everyone involved in this great endeavour.

Dan Norris, Chairman

Dan Norris



Message from the CEO



Each year seems to bring yet more challenges for the League Against Cruel Sports. Be it Covid 19 or high inflation, the business of sustaining our charity and delivering on our promises continues to test us like never before. Despite these headwinds, we have kept winning for animals.

At times relying on our financial reserves, as detailed in our report on page 52, we transitioned to a smaller but more agile operating model necessary to thrive in the current uncertain economic environment. We are in a strong position to tackle the big-ticket issues, such as changing the law, that will bring the strongest protections for the most animals throughout the United Kingdom.

As the most recent example, our work strengthening the law on hunting in Scotland resulted in the Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Bill passing into law in January 2023. To much acclaim both north and south of the border, we have rendered hunting in Scotland unviable. In Wales, we now provide the Secretariat to the Cross-Party Group on

Animal Welfare in the Senedd with a ban on the use of snares there expected soon. In England and Wales, we picked up another gold medal for our campaigning, with 2.3 million acres of land now permanently denied to the hunts. The United Kingdom's shooting industry continues to be in our sights, especially caged game bird breeding and the circle of destruction that enables more birds to be shot.

Our most dangerous activity remains the interdiction of animal fighting gangs. Using our intelligence section and specialist investigators, two dozen fighting dogs were saved from a torturous life and a horrible death in 2022. This sort of work shows the League at its most courageous, and I extend our heartfelt thanks to our supporters, without which none of this would be possible.

Whilst 2023 is sure to be another challenging year for the country and charities alike, nevertheless we enter it well placed to maintain and strengthen our finances and with them, deliver some of our biggest wins yet. Our ground-breaking Time for Change Coalition Against Hunting will be front and centre of that as, together with our friends across the Sector, we seek to end hunting in England and Wales. With your support, we will do just that, and much more besides.

Andy Knott MBE, CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Knott'.



What we do

Animals are at the heart of everything we do. Here to stop animals from being persecuted in the name of 'sport', we strive to protect them from the horrific acts of hunting, shooting and animal fighting.

We know that every action brings us one step closer to ending cruel sports and our passion drives us forward. Together, with our committed supporters, we are working towards bringing about real change for animals across the UK.

As a charity we want to redefine what is acceptable and inspire change. We do this by:

Campaigning for change

We stand up for those who don't have a voice and demand changes to legislation to protect them. Our hard-hitting campaigns inspire actions.



Educating the public and policy makers

Our high-profile work in the media and expert behind-the-scenes lobbying across the devolved nations, ensures we can create awareness of the plight our wildlife faces.



Providing our Animal Crimewatch service

Our supporter-funded confidential service enables the public to report acts of suspected animal cruelty in the name of sport for us to investigate.



Providing intelligence to law enforcement

Our in-house intelligence team provides packages for local law enforcement about those suspected of illegal activity to bring them to justice.



Maintaining wildlife reserves

Our ten wildlife reserves provide a safe haven for animals to roam free from those who persecute them.



Working with other animal welfare charities

We work in partnership with others to raise our collective voices and inspire change, such as increasing sentences from six months to five years for those found guilty of animal welfare crimes as part of the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Act 2021.



Sharing our research and evidence

We strive to share our knowledge and highlight the plight that hunting, shooting and animal fighting has on our society and landscape.



Working with schools

Our League of Animals educational resource enables younger generations to be curious about the world around them, from our wildlife to our natural world.

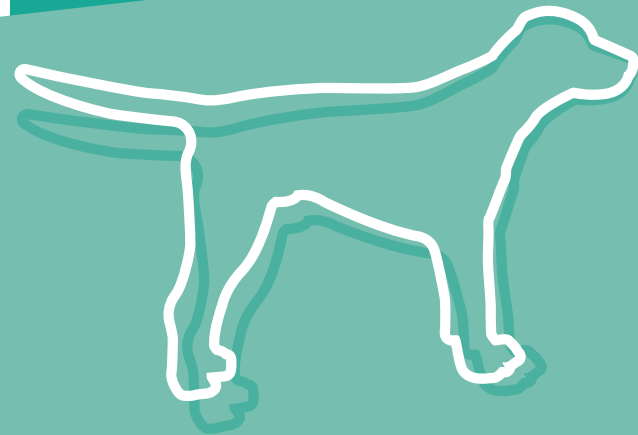


Our Strategic Approach

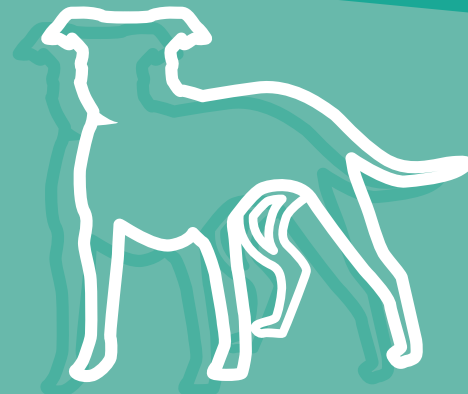
Our Vision

A kinder society where persecuting animals for 'sport' is in the past.

Our Working Priorities



End hunting
with dogs



End fighting
of animals for 'sport'



End shooting
of animals for 'sport'



Win the hearts and minds of
a broader audience

Our Mission

Empowered by knowledge and driven by compassion, we protect animals from being persecuted in the name of 'sport'.
United, we aim to redefine what is acceptable and inspire change.

Our Enablers

Governance

Operations

**Infrastructure
& Support**

**Reserves &
Education**

**People &
Culture**

Our Values

We are Compassionate

We are ethical and committed to creating a world that is caring towards animals and people.

We are Credible

We are law abiding, rely on evidence and have years of experience

We are Courageous

We have the confidence to challenge those who believe in killing animals for 'sport'.

We are Collaborative

We unite with others through honesty to achieve a common goal.

We are Catalysts for Change

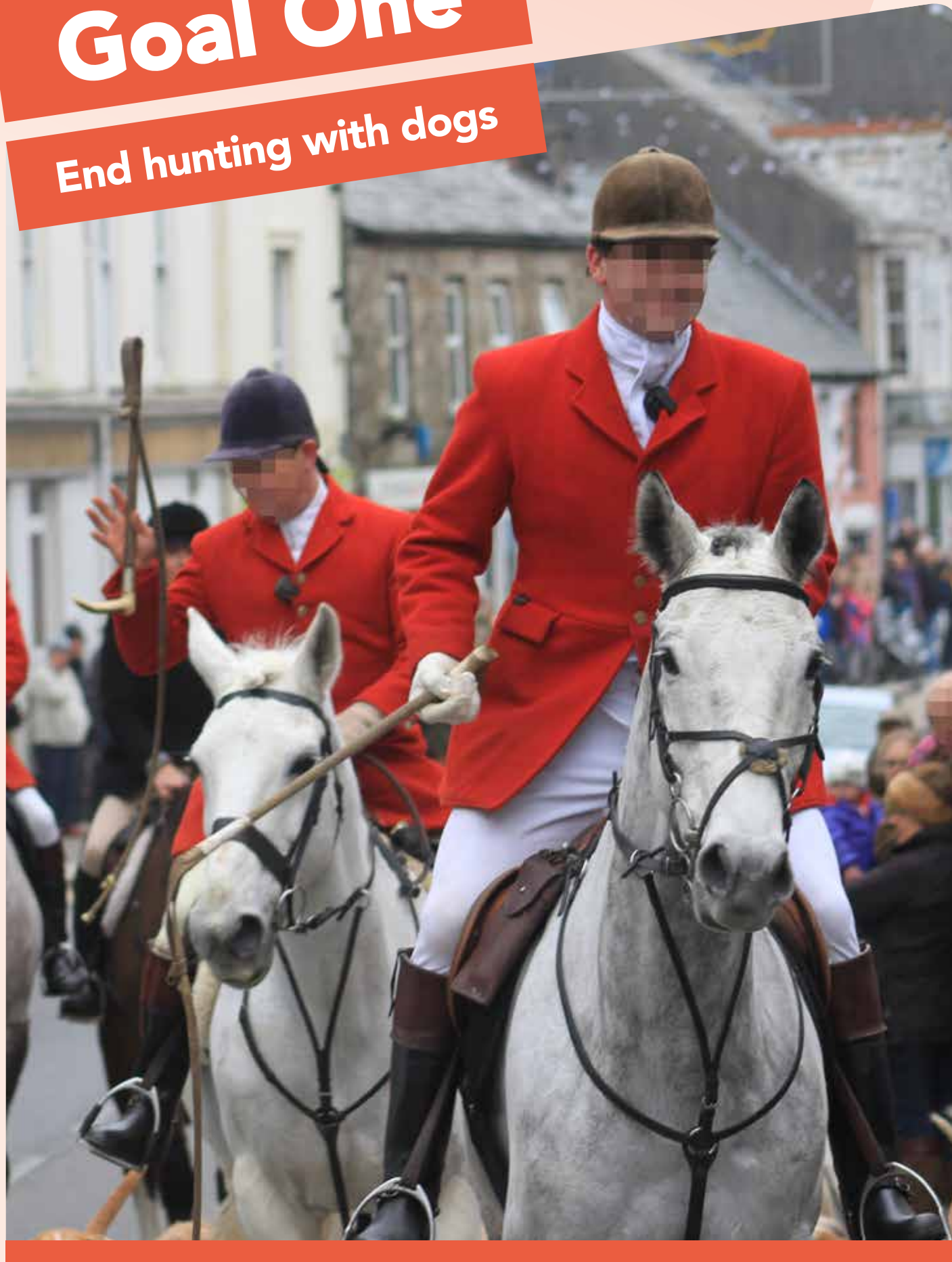
We create opportunities to make change happen.



**What we said we'd
do this year and
what we did**

Goal One

End hunting with dogs



What we said we'd do this year and what we did:

Develop stakeholder and partnership relationships

In Scotland, we developed our relationship and engagement with the Rural Affairs, Island and Natural Environment (RAINE) Committee convenor, clerks and Members of Scottish Parliament (MSP), which included giving oral evidence and participating in a roundtable discussion about the Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Bill.

In Wales, we were delighted to be invited by a number of Members of the Senedd from across the political spectrum to provide the Secretariat to the Cross-Party Group on Animal Welfare. In this role we're collaborating with all parties and across the full range of animal welfare charities in Wales.

We also worked with external Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), law enforcement and other third parties, developing our relationships so that more wildlife is protected. We partnered with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) and the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) on numerous occasions during the year to bring those involved in animal crime to justice.

We worked hard to improve the knowledge of both the police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), training 295 key staff in the Hunting Act 2004 and wildlife crime. We hope this better understanding of the law and their vigour to ensure these crimes are prosecuted, will have a long-lasting effect, and more perpetrators of wildlife crime offences will be brought to justice.

Working with the wider animal charity sector, we've also played a pivotal role in facilitating animal welfare protections that go beyond cruel sports, including areas such as the Kept Animals Bill, trophy hunting and poor animal welfare abroad, such as the promotion of elephant rides. We also played our part as an active member of the Wildlife and Countryside Link, having led the Wildlife Crime & Trade Sub-Committee for the majority of the year, and supported all manner of animal and environmental protections sought by this influential group. We believe in clean habitats in which wildlife can thrive as well as just survive, striving for an environment that everybody can enjoy and be proud of.

Working at Secretary of State and Ministerial level, ours is a strong voice for all animal welfare within the sector, and this is often reciprocated in the support we receive from our friends in the sector. We assembled a wide and varied coalition of NGOs, ranging in size and charitable objectives, all brought together to campaign on a single issue – hunting. When measured by supporter base, we estimate that our Time for Change Coalition Against Hunting could be the biggest coalition campaigning on a single issue ever seen in the UK.

Working with the wider animal charity sector, we've also been played a pivotal role in facilitating animal welfare protections that go beyond cruel sports, including areas such as the Kept Animals Bill, trophy hunting and poor animal welfare abroad



Launch nationwide panel debate Enough is Enough roadshows with leading figures

Our Enough is Enough panel debates were held in Plymouth, Cheltenham, and Peterborough as part of our national Enough is Enough campaign.

The campaign launched at the tail end of 2021 in the wake of the amazing result at the National Trust AGM when it banned trail hunting on its land. The campaign was designed to harness supporter power in key locations in England and Wales.

The campaign was supported by a series of panel events, the first of which was in Plymouth in December 2021. It was a lively debate chaired by former BBC journalist and producer Sam Smith, and included Luke Pollard MP, former shadow secretary of state for the environment, who is also Plymouth MP; and Paul Netherton, former chief constable of Devon and Cornwall Police who was in overall charge of the investigation into the Hankinson webinars.

This event was followed up by similar events in Cheltenham and Peterborough. The former is a hot spot for hunting and the latter being where the Festival of Hunting is held and where, in 2021, we successfully lobbied the council to ban hunting on its land.

These events were well received and provided a much-needed forum for local supporters and activists to come together. New supporter groups were formed across the regions where the events took place.

The Lake District National Park Authority became the latest landowner to suspend 'trail' hunt licences indefinitely, which was another major landowner we've been lobbying for some time as part of the Enough is Enough campaign. It's a hugely significant area with many well-known hunts resident and will likely have a devastating effect on their ability to operate.

Our online action targeted supporters asking them to call on their MPs to show their support to strengthen the Hunting Act. Last year 25,000 actions were taken by supporters to contact their MPs to ban fox hunting as part of the campaign.

Enough is Enough

Campaign for the successful implementation of a Bill that really bans fox hunting in Scotland

Almost 20 years ago, the Scottish Parliament introduced new legislation which tried to prevent registered mounted hunts using packs of hounds to chase and kill foxes in the Scottish countryside. Sadly, this legislation hasn't been effective and has done little to stop the cruelty of hunting. Instead it's created a series of loopholes which allow hunters to ride roughshod over the law.



We've worked tirelessly to secure a Bill that will really ban fox hunting in Scotland. We're thrilled to report that the Bill has been passed and the Act should come into force in the Autumn 2023.

League staff participated in extensive meetings with government officials, Members of the Scottish Parliament and government ministers to bring this about. We gave oral evidence to the government committee scrutinising the Bill and took part in a roundtable discussion with committee members, together with representatives of the hunting community. We worked very closely with OneKind and others in assisting a number of MSPs in tabling amendments to the Bill as it went through the parliamentary process. The League was acknowledged as being the main driving force behind the Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Bill.

We co-organised the For the Foxes march and rally to show the widespread support of residents to really ban fox hunting in Scotland. More than two hundred people attended the march and League ambassador Megan McCubbin joined our supporters too.

We'll continue working with the Scottish Government and Nature Scotland to ensure the new Act is implemented and adequately monitored and upheld.

For the foxes of Scotland, this looks to be a very promising year indeed and we'll focus on ensuring that any breaches of the new legislation are brought to the attention of the police and the Scottish Parliament.

Produce enhanced intelligence packages to provide to law enforcement groups and others

Our Intelligence team continued to develop and enhance information received from our supporter-funded Animal Crimewatch, which was shared with law enforcement and other NGOs.

Using our state-of-the-art technology, in-house expertise, and specialist investigators, three intelligence packages that were shared with the police and RSPCA led to successful search warrants, with arrests and multiple dogs rescued.

During 2022, we shared 376 intelligence packages with more than 50 law enforcement partners. This included 10 different NGOs and councils, and more than 40 police forces.

Support the new nationwide police working group on hunting with dogs

At the end of 2021 we were pleased to announce the creation of a new national police priority group focusing on hunting with dogs. However, while the group met at least three times, we were only invited to attend one meeting. We're very disheartened at the lack of engagement and also upon hearing the priority delivery group has now been downgraded to a working group, indicating this area of crime won't be a priority for the police. Unfortunately, this is typical of the approach we see across the multiple police forces we engage with and we're working hard to rectify this.





In addition to what we said we'd do, we also:

Launched our Ministry of Defence Campaign

Late in December 2022, we received a letter from Ben Wallace, the Secretary of State for Defence, stating that he was unilaterally terminating our long-standing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Defence (MoD), without the pre-requisite three months notice. We still aren't sure why, as no evidence was offered to support his view that we present a security risk to the MoD, and no other details were given to support his decision. What we do know is that this sort of summary justice is not acceptable. More than 10,500 of our supporters agreed with us and emailed Ben Wallace to express their anger too.

We've written to him to ask him to explain and evidence his personal actions but are yet to receive a response, as have the media, and it's a story that's continued well into 2023. Wildlife and Countryside Link has also asked for an explanation, and we are particularly interested to see if any fair process was used in his decision, given that no complaints against our monitoring of hunts on MoD land have ever been received.

The truth is that the hunts will now be able to go about their business without the same level of scrutiny. Indeed, the MoD is the only major landowner in the UK that has banned hunt monitors rather than the hunts themselves. This is a very concerning development and one we will campaign on in 2023.

Generated more support in Gloucestershire

Despite a fox hunting ban coming into force in 2005, we've compiled a series of eyewitness reports showing Gloucestershire to be one of the counties that's the most affected by activity relating to suspected illegal hunting.

Our most recent report from August to October 2022 – the period when fox hunts train their hounds to kill by targeting fox cubs – showed 19 reports of suspected illegal fox cub hunting in the county. There were also 21 reports of hunts wreaking havoc in local communities, including marauding on public and private land and chasing livestock and pets.

In addition, new polling commissioned by us and conducted independently by Find Out Now and Electoral Calculus, showed that three-quarters of voters (76 per cent) in Gloucestershire back moves to strengthen hunting laws.

Given the prevalence of hunting still taking place in the county, we've chosen the area as a major focus for campaign activity. Following on from the successful Enough is Enough event in Cheltenham, new supporter groups were established in the county. Supporters have been really engaged setting up street stalls and interacting with members of the public to inform of the hunting activities that are still taking place.

Significantly, we've gained the support of Dale Vince, the founder and CEO of Ecotricity, and staged a campaign event on match day at Forest Green Rovers, the football club that he owns. Initial activity has been concentrated in Stroud before moving to other locations across the county over the course of 2023.

Launched our campaign to stop cruel sports in Somerset

Together with Action Against Fox Hunting, we handed in letters to councillors and the four main party leaders at the County Hall in Taunton calling for fox and deer hunting to be banned on Somerset Council land. We also took the opportunity to speak to shoppers on the high street about our campaign. Taunton residents were also invited to sign a petition, which calls for an end to trail hunting, exempt hunting, hound exercise and hunt meets on public land in Somerset.

Somerset, as a hunting hotspot, has always been high on our areas of interest. Despite the hunting ban, in the last four years alone we have received reports of nearly 300 incidents in Somerset – marking it out as being in the top five counties in Britain affected by hunting incidents. Significantly, Somerset is also one of only two counties which see deer being hunted, with three stag hound packs based there.

Supporter groups in the region have been very keen to get involved and we held a number of street stalls throughout 2022. Activity in the county stepped up in the last couple of months of the year after it initially looked as if commitments that were made to us by county councillors were being watered down. We're continuing to lobby Somerset Council to uphold its promises to ban hunting on its land. It's a bit early to assess the impact of the most recent activity, but 2023 could be a hugely significant year for the campaign to ban hunting in the county.

Continued with our Parliamentary engagement

We engaged frequently with politicians on hunting, resulting in questions being raised in Parliament and our calls for the law to be strengthened and hunting ended on government land echoed in debates.

We published a briefing which was posted to every MP containing the results of new polling that we commissioned and detailed analysis of its political implications. The polling provided a breakdown on public opinion in each constituency and by party affiliation. It showed that, in every one of the constituencies in Great Britain, there is a majority in favour of strengthening the Hunting Act – irrespective of party affiliation.

We held a follow up drop-in session in parliament that proved popular and our Public Affairs team were able to speak directly to Members about the numbers and what it meant for their constituency. This resulted in further activity such as MPs pressing the government for answers about the havoc caused by hunts on the rail and road network.



Launched our Hunt Havoc report

In October we published a report on hunt havoc, announced exclusively via a piece in The Times and sent to every Westminster MP. This was not 'new' research, but the first time we've collated hunt havoc incidents reported to the League over multiple seasons. You can view the Hunt Havoc Report [HERE](#).

The information was gathered from reports made into our Animal Crimewatch service, those gathered by our professional investigators, and other sources. The report, and its companion publication on what to do if members of the public see hunt havoc first-hand, has been a huge success. It's one of the most important publications that we've issued in many years.

Hunt havoc is something we've become so familiar with that we've become almost numb to its scale and impact. Knowledge of these types of events is well known and we see them occur across the country every week of the hunting season. In isolation some of these events are shocking enough – hounds killed by trains as they have strayed on to the tracks, a cat being mauled to death by out-of-control hounds, aggression by hunts to members of the public. When they are collected and placed together the picture is truly horrifying and speaks to the continuation of old-fashioned illegal hunting.

Our supporters also helped raise the profile of the report, after over 2,300 emailed a copy to their constituency MP.



Launched our Time for Change campaign

In anticipation of the next general election, we've launched our Time for Change programme of activity which has one aim: to unify our anti-hunting campaigns to ensure that commitments are made at the general election by the next party in power to properly ban hunting.

The campaigns that sit underneath the programme build on the foundations our successful land denial and Enough is Enough campaigns have given us, especially in developing new and existing supporter groups in two geographical areas.

Somerset and Gloucestershire are two of the most prominent hunting counties in England (arguably the UK) and our Regional Campaign Managers have been embedded within these communities with their impact and groundwork starting to bear fruit. Early indications of the Time for Change programme activities suggest both counties will provide the opportunity for multiple wins over the next 12-18 months, but we'll be adding new campaigns to the programme during the next year and beyond.

Furthermore, our Time for Change programme enjoys the support of a considerable proportion of the animal welfare and environmental sector, which understands the importance of really banning fox hunting in this country. With its nine exemptions and the havoc it causes to communities and other species of animals, the Hunting Act is in desperate need of strengthening and improving. Last year was spent building the Time for Change Coalition Against Hunting, and 2023 will see us working together to achieve long overdue changes to the law that will finally see a proper end to hunting with dogs in this country, including the smokescreen of trail hunting.



Exposed the cruelty of stag hunting

We secured damning footage showing the Quantock Staghounds chasing a stag for three hours before the exhausted animal was executed. First it was shot, and then it had its throat slit. At least eight hunters milled around the body, and onlookers soon gathered.

Hunting animals with dogs was outlawed by the Hunting Act, but there are exemptions which allow hunters to get around the law. One of those is hunting the animal for research or observation purposes, if the hunters only use two dogs at a time to track and chase the animal.

But those hounds can be changed continuously during a chase, and no-one has ever seen any research being published following a hunt. Deer are also not adapted to long periods of running.

The sickening killing of a stag clearly demonstrates why the government needs to strengthen the Act. Hunting with dogs is still going on in the UK despite the ban, with the hunts cynically abusing exemptions in the hunting laws.

Those who hunt these animals with dogs often try and describe it as deer management, but there's only one reason you'd chase a stag for hours before killing it - just for the thrill. It's time for change.



Continued our calls to ban hunting in Northern Ireland



We welcomed support from Belfast City Council for a ban on hunting wild mammals with dogs in Northern Ireland. The motion, End of Hunting for Mammals with Dogs, tabled by Councillor Peter McReynolds and seconded by Councillor Nuala McAllister, was supported with 30 for, and 18 against.

We were delighted the council has put its support on record to end the barbaric cruelty of hunting wild mammals with dogs and it shows they are far more in touch with public opinion than Stormont, which voted down a Bill to end hunting with dogs last year.

The Hunting of Wild Mammals (Northern Ireland) Bill, which was intended to prohibit hunting wild animals with dogs, prohibit trail hunting, and to prohibit terrier-work, work failed at stage two after Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) voted 38 for, and 45 against.

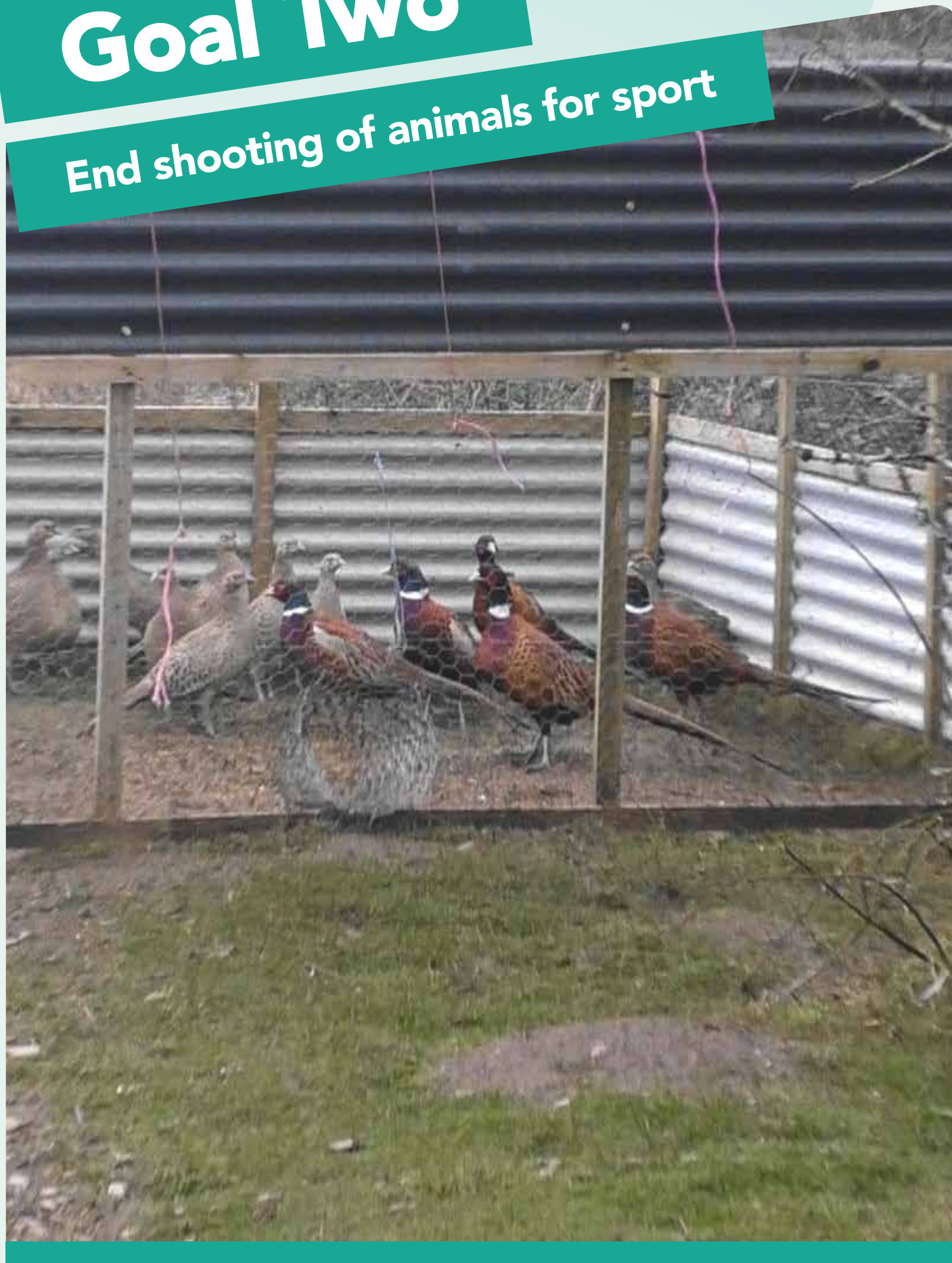
Sinn Féin blocked the Bill after being whipped to vote against it, and this pattern continued when Sinn Féin councillors failed to support Councillor McReynolds' motion.

Northern Ireland is way behind its UK counterparts when it comes to legislating to end the cruelty of hunting wild mammals with dogs. Last year we had an historic opportunity to rectify this but sadly the attempt failed.

We'd like to applaud Belfast City Council, which has sent a clear message that this is an issue which is not going to go away quietly. Public support is firmly in favour of ending this cruelty and we'll continue to campaign to end this cruel blood sport in Northern Ireland once and for all.

Goal Two

End shooting of animals for sport



What we said we'd do this year and what we did:

Work with the Welsh Government to implement manifesto commitments on the snaring and game bird breeding

In 2021 we secured commitments from the Labour-run government in the Senedd to ban snares. We began 2022 with a major push to accelerate the progress of the promised Agriculture (Wales) Bill and with it, the ban on snares. Throughout the first half of the year, we worked closely with policymakers in the Senedd and conducted grass roots activity across the nation and staged a series of roadshow events designed to engage the Welsh public in key areas.



We were invited to provide oral evidence to the Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee in the Senedd specifically on the use and banning of snares. This is a major milestone on the passage of legislation. We are recognised as being a major driver of this specific element of the legislation and as such we were a key contributor for the committee.

As a result, it is now anticipated that new legislation banning snares will be passed in late summer/autumn 2023. This will be truly historic.

It will also add to the pressure in Westminster to finally start addressing this issue and with it the broader subject of the shooting industry. The example set in Wales featured heavily in a recent debate on snares in the House of Commons, alongside mentions of our work on the issue. Success in Wales will likely see a reaction from the shooting industry in England. This will be particularly true if we also make progress in Scotland.

We also continued to raise awareness of the cruelty of game bird breeding cages, securing the backing of politicians at a reception at the Senedd and presenting our investigative findings to the Senedd's Cross Party Group on Animal Welfare. Our activity resulted in the issue being raised in the debating chamber, with the Rural Affairs Minister acknowledging the importance of the issue and signalling that the Welsh Government will examine it further in the coming year.

Work with the REVIVE coalition and the Scottish Government, towards a licensing system of shooting estates to reduce the possibility of grouse shooting

Last year the Scottish Government announced a consultation on the licensing of shooting estates. Our response was to call on the Scottish Government to tackle the circle of destruction surrounding grouse moors. Vast areas of heather are burned, chemicals are spread across the moors and hundreds of thousands of foxes, stoats, weasels and crows are killed - all to ensure an overabundance of grouse that can then be shot for entertainment. And it's not even as if there's any great financial benefit as the grouse shooting industry contributes a tiny pittance to the Scottish economy.



Over the year we continued building our relationships and increasing engagement with government ministers and officials about the new legislation. The REVIVE coalition continues to be recognised as the major stakeholder in the national debate about shooting estates. The Scottish Government consultation of their intention to license shooting estates closed in December 2022.

REVIVE's draft licensing scheme has had considerable coverage in the media and was a part of the REVIVE submission as part of the consultation.

We also held a Play Your Cards Right stand inside the members' area of the Scottish Parliament which illustrated the circle of destruction surrounding grouse moors and how little this 'industry' contributes to the Scottish economy. We are very concerned about the environmental impacts that go hand in hand with the shooting industry, such as polluting effects of muir burn, the use of lead shot and its potential impact on the water supply and humans, and the use of medicated grit.

We launched a campaign in partnership with REVIVE about the hundreds of thousands of animals that are killed each year so that there can be an over-abundance of grouse to shoot for support. To highlight this 'killing to kill' every MSP was sent a toy fox, hedgehog or badger with a label reminding them of how many animals are killed just so more grouse can be shot. As a result, we had several meetings with Scottish Government ministers and many MSPs and officials on this issue.

In addition to what we said we'd do, we also:

Exposed the shocking world of shooting

Our team obtained damning video evidence showing dozens of dead 'game' birds being dumped into a mineshaft on the Dyfi Falls shooting estate in mid-Wales. The footage was captured at the Welsh beauty spot in Powys.

We reported this shocking incident to Natural Resources Wales and police amid strong concerns that the dead pheasants and partridges will contaminate water flowing into the nearby River Llyfnant and potentially pose a risk to human life.

The video was taken on a trail camera set up by the mineshaft and shows what is believed to be a shoot employee dumping at least 45 dead pheasants and partridges into the cavern, with more loaded up on his quadbike ready for disposal.

Exposed shooting on Unilever-owned land

Following a report made to our supporter-funded Animal Crimewatch, consumer goods giant Unilever ended game bird shooting on its land following our subsequent investigation.

We were contacted about a suspected game shooting site on a farmland in Bedfordshire, thought to be owned by the multinational company.

Our team visited the site and found release pens and feeders. Our intelligence team confirmed the farm was part of Unilever's estate, and our CEO Andy Knott wrote to the company to ask it to clarify its position on commercial game bird shooting and commit to ceasing its operation on its land.

To its credit, Unilever speedily agreed and is committed to ending the so-called sport on its land. Unilever acted swiftly, and as a result many animals will now be able to live free from harm.



Exposed shooting estate shame

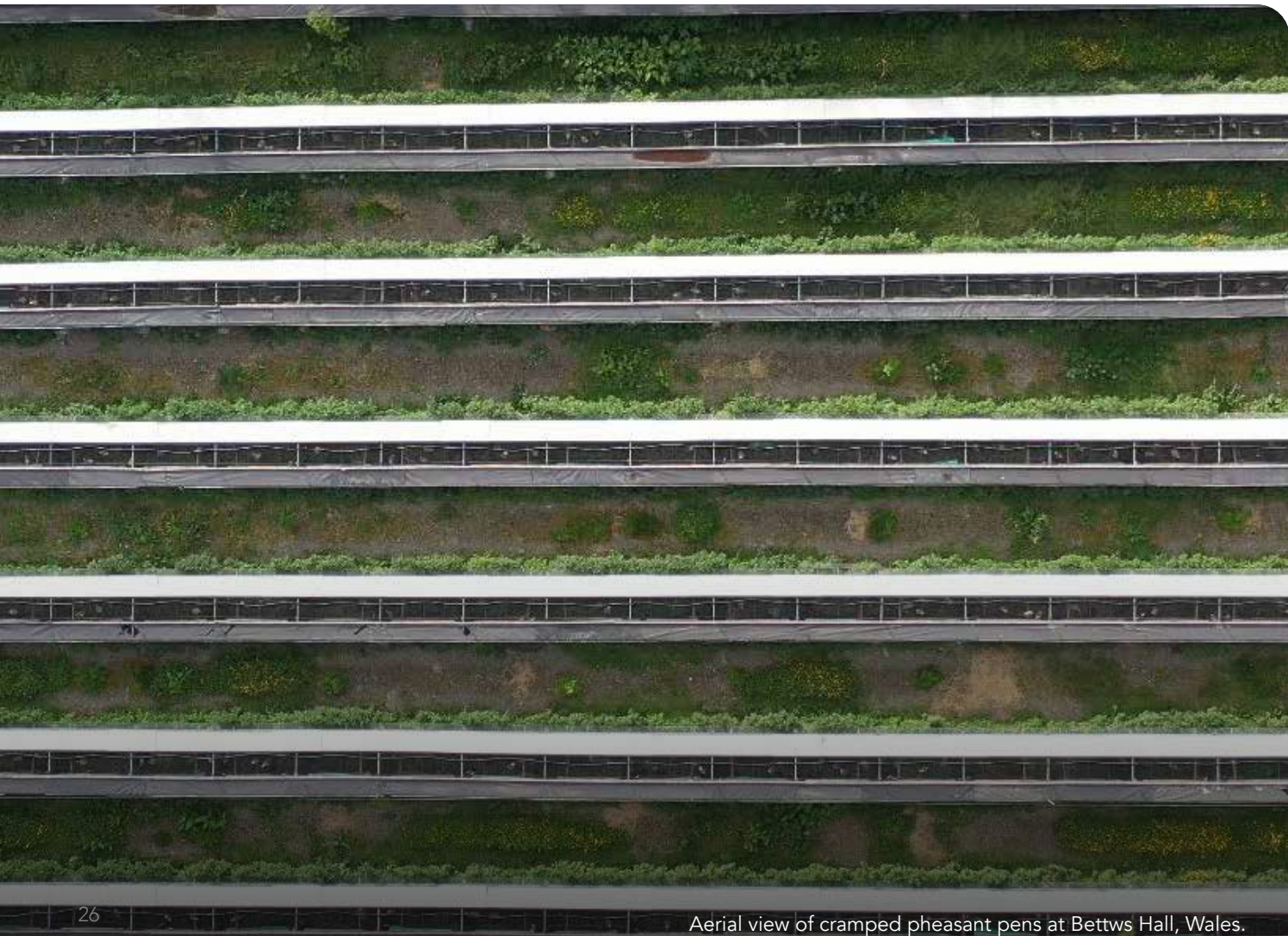
We obtained footage showing game birds illegally trapped and killed on the Chargot Shooting Estate, Somerset, during the closed shooting season.

Our undercover footage shows the birds being caught and killed during the closed shooting season on one of Britain's most prestigious shooting estates. Pheasants can be seen entering a funnel cage – designed to trap birds – and a man entering the cage several hours later. He's believed to be an employee of the Chargot Estate and is seen swinging each male bird by the neck to kill it, leaving some dead and others visibly distressed and flapping about.

On another occasion a different man and a woman are seen stuffing female birds into crates, treating them roughly and holding them by the wings. Catching up, as collecting the pheasants is known, is illegal outside of the shooting season.

We prepared a file which was passed to Avon and Somerset Police in May 2022 and, much to our disappointment, the suspects made no admissions to the allegation and no further action was taken. This is another example of the barriers we face when providing intelligence to police forces to progress to bring those guilty to justice. Another reason why it's time for change and the law to be strengthened and enforced.

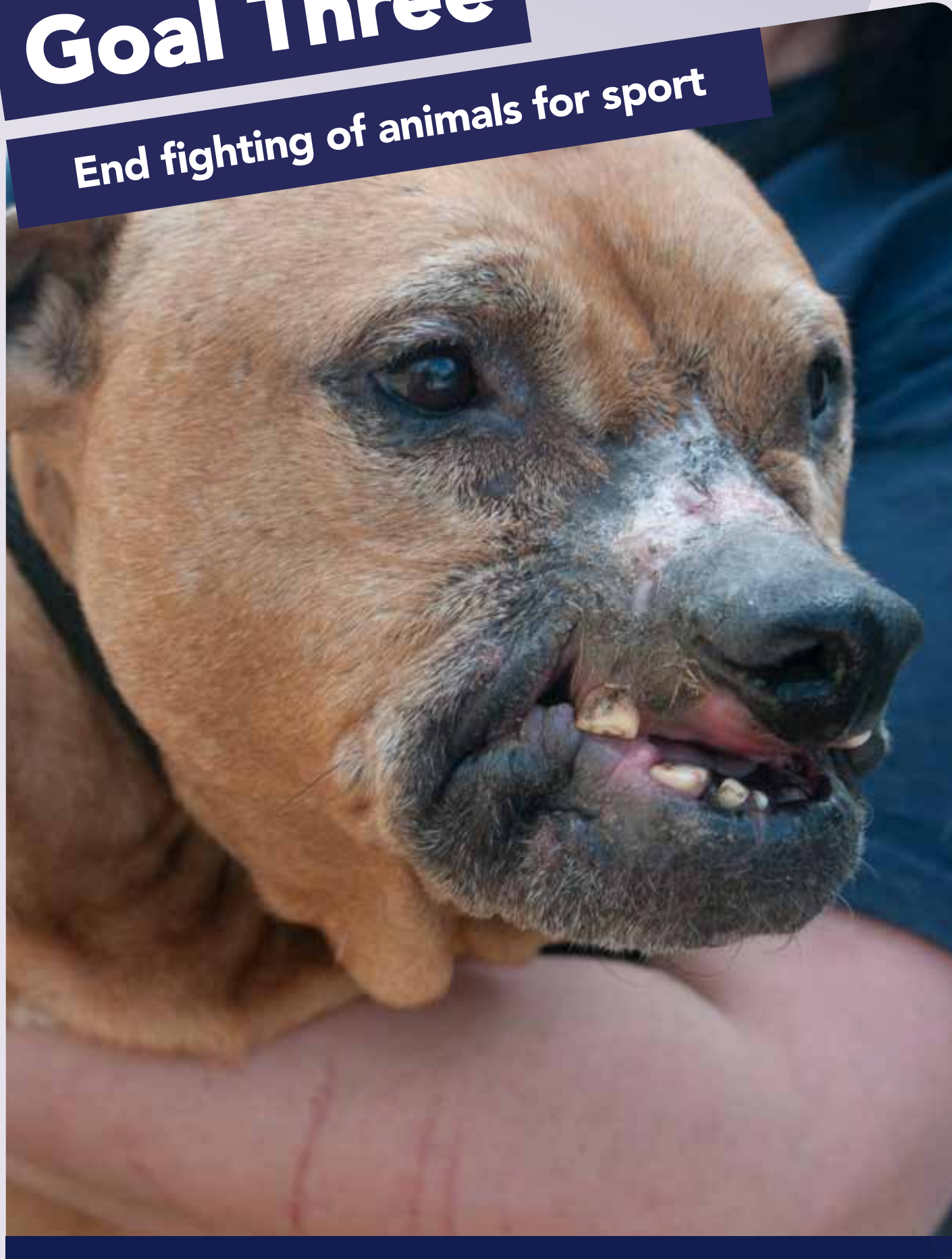
Behind the genteel façade often portrayed by the shoots and some parts of the media, there lies enormous cruelty, and the effects extend from the animals to the environment and humans. Indiscriminate trapping and snaring results in slow deaths, including pets, and their carcasses are thrown in stink pits where the stench is used to lure in yet more animals, which are then caught and killed. This poses a risk to human health, including through the water course, as does the use of lead shot. Be it the carbon dioxide emissions derived from the transportation of game bird eggs or the burning of moorland, to the noise pollution from shooting, that can also scare domestic animals, all are avoidable negative impacts of this cruel and unpopular industry.



Aerial view of cramped pheasant pens at Bettws Hall, Wales.

Goal Three

End fighting of animals for sport



What we said we'd do this year and what we did:

Manage and enhance the supporter-funded Animal Crimewatch reporting service to enable more members of the public to be aware of the service to report suspected dog fighting

SUSPECT ONE

Reports into our Animal Crimewatch reporting service led to a long-term investigation over several years. The culmination was a raid by the police, accompanied by the RSPCA on a suspected dog fighter, resulting in numerous dogs and dog fighting equipment being seized. Five people have been charged with multiple offences, and if convicted at crown court, this could be the first time that the new powers of the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Act, which we led the campaign for, are used. The suspects will go on trial in March 2024.

SUSPECT TWO

Animal Crimewatch information also led to an investigation into a suspected dog fighter and supplier of fighting dogs. Our intelligence package was passed to the police who raided the location in December. The suspect was arrested and nine dogs were seized. During the raid, equipment and related material associated with dog fighting were also found. This case is currently still under investigation.

Raising awareness of Animal Crimewatch

We launched a social media campaign to raise awareness of our supporter-funded Animal Crimewatch service. It was shown to people online nearly 300,000 times, thanks to people liking and sharing it, and achieved higher than average engagement rates across all our content.

We also launched a targeted social media campaign focusing on raising awareness of cock fighting which reached 12,300 people. Many people only associate dogs with animal fighting, but this illegal activity is also sadly very popular, and we want to raise awareness so more people report suspected incidents to our Animal Crimewatch reporting service for us to investigate.

In September, we ran a Facebook advertising campaign to raise awareness of dog fighting, asking for anyone with information to report it to Animal Crimewatch. Our campaign aimed to encourage those who have witnessed dog fighting to report it and make those who are involved in dog fighting

aware that their activities may be reported. Hotspot areas of the UK were chosen, and again, thanks to people liking and sharing it, it was shown more than 220,000 times, reaching a wide section of the public in our identified priority areas.



ANIMAL CRIMEWATCH



In addition to what we said we'd do, we also:

Built powerful partnerships

Through our work with the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA), we uncovered one of the worst cases of animal cruelty inspectors had ever seen.

Callum Muir, 25, used his three pet dogs to fight badgers and foxes and was seen in videos encouraging his dogs to attack wild animals as they screamed in pain. He also failed to seek veterinary treatment for any of the injuries his three dogs - terrier Pip, lurcher Bella and bull lurcher Mig - sustained as a result of the fights.

He was jailed for just six months and has been banned from owning and keeping animals indefinitely.

We would like to commend the SSPCA for such a comprehensive investigation which was critical in bringing this abuser to justice.

Worked to secure a sentence for a known dog fighter

A gamekeeper who worked for one of Scotland's leading grouse shooting estates was jailed after pleading guilty to animal cruelty charges. It followed his exposure for arranging animal fighting with dogs including badger baiting.

Rhys Davies, who was employed at Mildens Estates in Angus, was sentenced to eight months imprisonment. He was also banned from keeping or owning animals for 15 years.

He was exposed as being part of a dog fighting ring after sending 58 grotesque trophy photographs of dogs, badgers and foxes that had been the victims of organised animal fighting to be developed.

Again, working with the SSPCA and police, we were able to offer our expertise and support in delivering crucial intelligence which saw the imprisonment of the offender. Our Intelligence team are leading experts in their field who support other charities and NGOs to bring suspected animal offenders to justice.

Secured badger baiter footage that lead to a conviction

A badger baiter was caught by our investigators mistreating dozens of animals and convicted of animal welfare offences.

Hunt master David William Lloyd Thomas, 56, and his son Carwyn Lloyd Fazakerley, 18, both of Cwm Bowydd Farm, Blaenau Ffestiniog, were charged following our covert investigation.

Both men pleaded guilty to offences under the Animal Welfare Act in relation to the dogs, which led to the seizure of a whole pack of hunting hounds – the first time this has ever happened.

Thomas was originally sentenced to 24 weeks in prison, just two weeks more than when he was convicted of dog fighting and badger baiting in 2018. He was also given a second ban from owning dogs for 10 years, having breached his original ban handed to him when he was convicted of badger baiting.

Fazakerley was sentenced to 160 hours community service, to be served over 12 months. He also received a 10-year disqualification order from owning dogs.

Sadly, on appeal, Thomas' sentence was reduced to 13 weeks, suspended for 12 months. Worse, the additional 10-year ban on keeping dogs was lifted despite him breaching his original ban.

Thanks to our work all the animals on his farm are now safe, but this sentence is nowhere near enough to deter those who would do harm to animals.

Worked with law enforcement agencies

Dog fighting is secretive and operates deep underground. It's difficult and often dangerous to find information about what's going on and who's involved. It's an extremely challenging and dangerous world to operate in. Our confidential supporter-funded Animal Crimewatch service is at the forefront of our work.

Last year we received 34 Animal Crimewatch reports relating to animal fighting, representing five per cent of the total information received.

Overall 32 per cent of all intelligence gathered was related to animal fighting and shared with law enforcements and NGOs.



Goal Four

Win the hearts and minds of a broader audience



What we said we'd do this year and what we did:

Launch the League Corporate Pledge

Following on from our successful lobbying of well-known firms such as KAYAK and EasyJet, asking them to stop the use of blood sports imagery in their advertising, we've long aspired to having our own corporate pledge organisations can sign up to.

After the pandemic delayed our original launch, we've now begun to recruit businesses to join our Business Without Blood Sports pledge with a view to officially launching later in 2023.

The pledge is a way to create a community of organisations that not only refuse to use blood sports in their materials, but which also adhere to ethics around both animal welfare and the environment.

The pledge states: "We share the belief of the overwhelming majority of the British public that animals should be defended from persecution in the name of 'sport', and therefore we pledge to ensure we will never allow, promote or otherwise enable blood sports such as hunting, shooting or animal fighting."

So far we've signed up more than 100 businesses, including energy giant Ecotricity. We have high hopes many more will join us both at our launch and within the pledge community going forward.

**BUSINESS
WITHOUT
BLOOD SPORTS**



Increase the number of supporters donating regularly

Sadly we weren't immune to the economic pressure which gripped the country last year. After carefully considering the financial constraints on the general public, we decided to pause our supporter acquisition programme.

During the year we sadly lost the regular support of five per cent of our supporters who donate regularly. We know this won't have been an easy decision, as our supporters are the most loyal and committed group of people dedicated to ending cruelty in the name of sport. For many, it would have been the choice between heating, eating and us.

We would like to thank those supporters for their gifts and the support of current donors during a very difficult time. This has also included incredible support of our cash appeals, gaming products and purchases from our Gifts Against Cruel Sports online shop.

Focus on creating engaging supporter content to share across social media to raise our collective voices

Last year we focused on creating engaging content across all our platforms.

Our League of Animals channel produced teacher-specific content available on our online educational platform.

Our Instagram channel engagement rates increased by 130 per cent over the year as we designed more lively content to engage with a younger audience. We launched our podcast, called Leaguecast, and created a variety of engaging content aimed at a diverse audience. Collectively, Leaguecast's social media content has reached nearly 70,000 people since its launch.

We've focused on bringing content creation in-house to drive down costs while also maintaining our high engagement rates. Our organic video content was well received, and thanks to being shared by influencers such as Chris Packham, Megan McCubbin and Gemma Atkinson has reached people who might not already follow our own social feeds.

Work with key influencers to help raise awareness of our campaigns

Last year we were fortunate to secure the support of a number of high-profile celebrities and influencers. Special thanks to the below for their unrivalled support during the year.

Our successful podcast, Leaguecast, hosted a wide range of topics from the difficulties in attracting diverse groups

of people into the environmental sector to politicians and barristers on how best to really ban fox hunting. Our youth ambassador, Megan McCubbin, also answered questions posed by our supporters in a very lively and engaging edition.



Top row (L-R): Vanessa Mae, Chris Packham, Megan McCubbin, Michaela Strachan

Second row (L-R): Minnie Driver, Josh Widdicombe, Gemma Atkinson, Dr Amir Khan,

Third row (L-R): Carl Bovis, Andy Parkinson, Carol Royale, Mike Dilger

Bottom row (L-R): Kate Stephenson, Indy Greene



Continue working with Wildlife & Countryside Link to improve the wider conservation efforts across the country

Develop the wildlife reserves to encourage a more diverse group of visitors



We were an active member of the [Wildlife and Countryside Link](#), having led the Wildlife Crime & Trade Sub-Committee for the majority of the year. We played a significant role in the production of the Annual Wildlife Crime Report which covers hunting with dogs as an area of concern. We also supported the work on a wide range of environmental issues, including its efforts to stop government plans to scrap or weaken a host of environmental regulations.

As part of our efforts advocating for racial diversity in the environment sector, we've taken part in the Link RACE (Racial Action on Climate Emergency) for Nature initiative and signed up to the Route Map on Ethnic Diversity, as we believe we must try harder to become more representative of our community.

At the end of the year, we launched a photography hide hire programme at our wildlife reserves, giving people the opportunity to observe and capture the beautiful wildlife that lives there. This new initiative gives people who may not have had access to our reserves the opportunity to observe wildlife in their natural environment free from persecution.

Photography hides can be booked for half or full days, to give you the opportunity to take some of the best wildlife photography you may ever capture.

In addition to what we said we'd do, we also:

Launched our Animals in Action photography competition

We held our annual photography competition with the theme Animals in Action, which called for supporters to submit their best animal images ranging from beautiful birds, wild mammals and beloved dogs. We received 678 entries, and our image library is now full of outstanding images to share across our materials, celebrating all the animals we strive to protect through our work.

Our celebrity judges this year included Andy Parkinson, Carl Bovis and Michaela Strachan.

Launched our Forever Free Campaign

Gifts in wills play a huge part in all that we achieve to protect animals at risk from hunting, shooting and animal fighting. Gifts in wills have enabled us to maintain wildlife reserves that offer safe havens for wildlife at risk. They have supported the campaigning that has achieved protection for wildlife through landmark legislation and social change. A gift in your will gives a lasting gift of freedom to animals threatened by cruel sports.

Last year 58 people kindly remembered us in their will and pledged to support our work to protect our wildlife – now and in the future. We're extremely grateful for their lasting support.

Last year, we launched Forever Free, a campaign to highlight how gifts in wills make it possible for us to give animals a voice and enact positive, permanent change in animal welfare. We also spoke to our supporters at a legacy event in London and, for the first time, our supporters in Scotland at an event in the Falkirk Wheel.

Launched the UK's first Fox Day

Last year we launched Fox Day, a day to celebrate everything we do to protect foxes, from campaigning, to investigating acts of cruelty, managing wildlife reserves for them to live free from persecution, and raising funds to support our work. As part of the celebrations, our CEO, Andy Knott, took on a gruelling 10km run whilst carrying a 10kg weight, feeling his lungs close to bursting just as many wild mammals do when fleeing for their lives. Andy raised an incredible £35,000 to support our work.

We reached more than 250,000 people across social media with 3,000 of those signing our official record to show their support for foxes across our countryside. We also secured the support of a number of high-profile influencers. Our supporters also joined in our celebration of foxes by sharing fox images and wearing orange for the day, as well as taking on fundraising challenges. The inaugural Fox Day was a great success and we're looking forward to a bigger, bolder, brighter orange fox day in 2023.



Continued promoting our essential Animal Crimewatch service

Our supporter-funded Animal Crimewatch service continues to be a valuable source of intelligence and a vital service for members of the public to report suspected cases of illegal activity relating to cruel sports.

Over the year, contacts to our service increased by 37 per cent. Hunting with dogs remains the most common reason people contacted us with 65 per cent of all contacts relating to this barbaric cruel sport.

Shooting animals for sport accounted for 10 per cent of all calls and animal fighting five per cent. The remaining calls related to other aspects of cruel sports.

During the year we've increased the visibility and visits to our Animal Crimewatch webpage. During the year we saw a 500 per cent increase in traffic from the previous year.

Our information leaflets have proved to be an invaluable resource with a 93 per cent increase in visitors from 2021. You can view our leaflets [HERE](#).

Continued protecting more animals on our wildlife reserves

Whereas elsewhere in the country we've seen hunts closing, amalgamating, or switching to drag hunting, on Exmoor, Dartmoor and the Quantock Hills deer hunting, fox hunting and hare hunting have continued unabated. These are also the areas where most of the League's wildlife reserves are situated. Exmoor and Dartmoor are designated National Parks and the Quantocks is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which makes the inability of the relevant authorities to take action to enforce the law even more bewildering.

The three stag hunts have caused us the most problems during the year, with hounds chasing deer onto the reserves on numerous occasions. Hunted deer are saved from the hounds by our reserves every season, where they go to seek sanctuary. However, sometimes it's difficult to stop hounds or hunt supporters from chasing the hunted deer off again. It doesn't happen often, but when it does it's both devastating and infuriating.

Despite the avian flu epidemic and outbreaks of the disease on Exmoor shoots, pheasant and partridge shooting carried on. With local shoots seemingly taking on customers from other shoots that had been forced to cancel days or to close altogether, shooting around the reserves was relentless from October onwards.



Launched our campaign to improve horse welfare

Our campaign to see higher standards for racehorse welfare stepped up a gear in 2022 after the Cheltenham Festival claimed the lives of four horses in as many days.

A month later we launched our campaign targeting the Grand National at Aintree, a race similarly notorious for horse fatalities. Ahead of the festival we released a press release to national media and renewed our urgent calls for stronger animal welfare standards as four horses died during races – two in the Grand National itself. We received national coverage, as well as huge engagement on social media, which shows us what an important issue this is to the general public.

Using a national betting company's own Grand National branding we had our own static advert outside Aintree racecourse called Fail to Finish, though instead of promising to pay out on bets if a horse didn't finish, our advert showed why horses might not finish their races due to injury or death.

Around 150,000 people attend the three-day Aintree Festival, and more than 6,000 people saw the picture of our advert on our social media platforms. We also re-launched a compelling film which we sent to supporters to view and share.

Continued our campaign to ban greyhound racing in Oxford

Last year our campaign to stop greyhound racing coming back to Oxford went from the city centre and the council chamber to campaigning outside the track on its opening weekend in August.

We've been campaigning to stop greyhound racing in Oxford since 2018 but sadly in August racing returned to the Oxford Stadium in Blackbird Leys. Collaborating with Oxford Vegan Action, PETA and sympathetic Green and Labour councillors, we continued to campaign about the cruelty of greyhound racing on the streets, talking to local residents and supporting Oxford Vegan Action's petition calling on the council to support leisure facilities at the stadium that don't include greyhound racing and gambling.

The petition was heard in July in the council chamber but with no move from the council to support our calls.

On the opening weekend the coalition and supporters joined together for a protest outside the stadium. We're now planning our next steps to spread awareness that cruel greyhound racing should be banned in the city, and the UK.



Celebrated our National Trust Campaign success

Last year we won Gold in the Chartered Institute of Public Relations' PRide awards for our National Trust - End Hunting campaign, which won the Regional Campaign of the Year award. We also won silver in the same category for our Lifting the Smokescreen campaign, which focused on the Hunting Office webinars and ensuing trial. Our National Trust campaign also won silver in the Best Not-For-Profit category.

We were also selected as finalists in the national CIPR Excellence Awards in both the Best Integrated Campaign and Best Publication categories, for our Lifting the Smokescreen campaign and for our 2021 League Impact Report, which showcased the achievements of the League and our incredible supporters.

Amplified our voice to reach more people

In 2022 we were mentioned 1,883 times in separate media articles.

On TV and radio our name and key messages were mentioned 232 times including frequent prime-time coverage on BBC News, ITV News and Sky News.

On Boxing Day our articles in the Mirror and Guardian newspapers and websites alone had a combined audience reach of 49.8 million. Along with our inclusion in The Times, decision-makers at government level couldn't miss our key message that it's time for change. In fact, that message was repeated 566 times across all media both at home and abroad.

We had advertorial content in the House Magazine and Conservative Home ensuring our messages to end so-called trail hunting were put in front of those in power. We also booked a series of advertorials in Welsh media to promote our campaign to end caged breeding and snaring, again ensuring Members of the Senedd were aware of our campaign.



2023

Priorities

End hunting with dogs

- Launch and lead the national Coalition Against Hunting in the UK
- Launch our National Parks campaign to ban hunting on public land
- Continue our Somerset and Gloucestershire campaigns to raise awareness of the hunt havoc caused to local communities to drive change
- Engage with Nature Scotland to ensure the licensing of the use of more than two dogs will be tightly controlled following the introduction of the new Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Bill
- Encourage Members of the Legislative Assembly to reintroduce a private members Bill to successfully ban fox hunting in Northern Ireland



End shooting of animals for sport

- Campaign for the successful passage of legislation banning snaring in Wales, and work to secure a commitment from the Welsh Government to ban the cage breeding of game birds
- Continue supporting collaboration and the promotion of increased protections by acting as the Secretariat for the Senedd Cross-Party Group on Animal Welfare in Wales
- Work with the Scottish Government to introduce legislation to license shooting estates to reduce the number of grouse shot for sport



End fighting of animals for sport

- Launch an online campaign to raise awareness of Animal Crimewatch to encourage more reports of suspected incidents of animal fighting from the public
- Launch a targeted campaign in areas of the UK with a high prevalence of suspected dog fighting activity to encourage members of the public to report it to our Animal Crimewatch



Win the hearts and minds of a broader audience

- Attract new Leaguecast listeners with topical and engaging content
- Launch engaging eco-tourism at the League Wildlife Reserves
- Raise the profile of Fox Day and our work to protect foxes across the UK
- Attract new supporters to take our campaigning actions
- Increase the number of supporters donating to the League





People Reporting

Organisational restructure

When the cost-of-living crisis started to negatively impact us, we took early action to combat rising costs and a reduction in income. This included early and transparent communication with staff so they could make informed decisions, a rigorous non-staff budget review, an invitation for hours reduction and voluntary redundancies and finally, a redundancy programme. These measures combined to reduce staff headcount from 58 to 46 as at 31 December 2022 (ultimately decreasing to 44 in early 2023), and was necessary to bring costs to a level sustainable with the reduced income and inflation.

During the staff consultation all views were carefully considered and factored into plans and despite the headcount reduction the new structure lends itself to a more agile and collaborative team approach.

The restructure process was challenging for all involved but our strong purpose and dedicated staff (the staff survey saw 100 per cent of respondents saying they would give extra effort to the League) helped maintain our focus and efforts on our animal outcomes throughout. Our staff benefits package was reviewed and can be viewed [HERE](#).

Fair Pay

Ensuring fair remuneration for our staff is a key element of being an excellent employer and ensuring organisational success. The wider financial situation has meant we are unable to increase staff salaries at this time. However, we continue to commit to pay staff the Real Living Wage as a minimum and have been able to make a non-consolidated payment to assist staff navigate the cost-of-living crisis. We have also raised staff awareness of the available benefits working at the League has to offer and external avenues for support.

Pay Ratio	2020	2021	2022
Highest paid salary (£,000)	89,279	93,451	88,778
Median (£,000)	29,866	30,034	31,810
Ratio	2.99	3.1	2.79

The highest salary is showing as a reduction as the CEO took a voluntary pay decrease to assist in cost reduction. Pay figures in the above table are based on actual staff pay during the financial year.

	2022
90,001 – 100,000	
80,001 – 90,000	
70,001 – 80,000	
60,001 – 70,000	
50,001 – 60,000	
40,001 – 50,000	
30,001 – 40,000	
20,001 – 30,000	
Total	female:27 male:19 46

Staff numbers and salary figures are based on full time equivalent of staff salary entitlements as at 31 December 2022.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

Our staff Diversity and Inclusion Group, established in 2020 to champion EDI, seeks to improve the inclusivity of our policies and processes and encourage greater adoption of inclusive practices. Results of this work can be seen in our annual engagement survey results:

93%

of staff feel the organisation treats them like a person, not a number

88%

of staff believe the organisation enables a culture of diversity

86%

of staff feel valued and able to provide input to leaders

Gender split **59% female / 41% male**

Our gender pay gap is significantly better than benchmark and when the senior leaders are removed the gap decreases further to 1.78%

Disability

19 per cent of our staff have declared a disability, higher than the national average of 14 per cent. Our disability pay gap, a negative percentage figure, reveals that overall employees without a declared disability have lower pay than employees that have declared a disability.

Pay Gap (minus CEO)	National Average Pay Gap	2020	2021	2022
Gender Pay Gap	17.3%	13.84%	12.06%	9.68%
Disability Pay Gap	17.2%	15.2%	4%	-23.88%
Ethnicity Pay Gap (white ethnicities and those identifying as people of colour and racially or ethnically marginalised group or mixed ethnicities)	21.7%	19.9%	6.78%	-2.28%

Ethnic origin

Despite the positive work internally on inclusion, we recognise that people of colour and racially or ethnically marginalised groups are under-represented in our organisation at 6.5 per cent against a national average of 12.2 per cent.

Research commissioned by Wildlife and Countryside Link shows that the environment, climate, sustainability and conservation sector is one of the least diverse in the country. As part of our efforts advocating for racial diversity in the environment sector we have signed up to Link's Route Map on Ethnic Diversity as we believe we must try harder to become more representative of our community.

This year we took part in the inaugural RACE (Racial Action on Climate Emergency) Report which aims to progress diversity in the environment sector. Participation required some additional EDI data collection, having more complete information has resulted in some changes to our disability and ethnicity pay gaps. **With a total headcount of 46 staff, any changes to personnel can significantly impact the statistics.** In all three cases our pay gaps have narrowed (improved).



Sustainability Statement

Our focus, led by our staff Green Team, continues to be two-fold: changing our organisation behaviours to decrease the impact of our actions on the environment and protecting the natural environment at all at our wildlife reserves.

Changing Behaviours

All electricity at our premises continues to be allocated to renewable energy sources and we continue to seek energy savings across the organisation by reducing the lighting in use and by replacing life-expired light fittings with new LED systems.

Embedding our new ways of hybrid working post-pandemic has also reduced energy use in our premises. Recent research has shown the energy used at home has been calculated to be less than that used in offices in terms of heating and equipment, and the additional reduction in travel emissions adds up to an overall reduction in carbon emissions. By going digital we've also greatly reduced both our paper (recycled) usage and our travel. We also expected our office commute to increase in 2022 as our hybrid working settled in with no enforced lockdowns, but in fact our office commute has reduced a further 67 per cent on 2021 which is a massive 90 per cent less than pre-pandemic levels. In addition to this huge decrease on staff commuting, 75 per cent of board meetings have moved from in-person to video conferencing, reducing travel significantly.

We've also continued to look at more sustainable travel options – promoting e-cars, relaunching a cycle to work scheme, and our investigations team in Northern Ireland and Scotland use eBikes to get around.

Managing our wildlife reserves

Recent research by University College London has revealed that the value of mature trees as carbon sinks has been greatly underestimated. On our wildlife reserves we have more than 250 acres of semi-natural ancient woodland, with many trees well over a century old, so their capacity to store carbon from the atmosphere is massive. Old permanent grassland, like that found on Baronsdown and Cove Down reserves, is also effective at capturing carbon from the atmosphere and storing it away in the soil.

In May our staff each planted an additional tree on our reserves to offset our annual carbon emissions.

The collaborative Cove Down wilding project with three neighbouring landowners stretches over 300 acres and incorporates fields, woodland, streams, and ponds that have been given back to nature to allow natural processes to take charge. The removal of cutting and grazing regimes on our reserve has seen more areas of tussocky grass form on the fields, which favours small mammals and invertebrates that in turn attract larger predators. The huge numbers of butterflies on the fields during the summer was quite extraordinary. In time, small patches of scrub will form that will provide nurseries for trees to propagate and the eventual aim is to create a patchwork of wildlife habitats across the project.

One of our neighbours has introduced a few longhorn cattle, which can roam over our land using no fence collars, to add some variety to the grazing provided by wild deer and rabbits. They also have some iron age pigs that are kept in a large enclosure where they do a good job turning over the grass. One of the ponds our neighbours have created has been taken over by a pair of beavers that soon got busy building dams and raising the water level. The pond has attracted

many other species, including otters, kingfishers and dragonflies. There are plans to introduce a breeding programme for white storks on the site in the near future.

The beavers at Cove Down have done more than create a valuable wildlife habitat. When water comes gushing down the stream that feeds the pond at times of high rainfall, it is full of sediment and pollutants from farmland upstream. The water is held back in the pond, reducing the risk of flooding downstream, and the sediment settles, so the water that seeps out through the beaver dams is cleaner. These free services provided by the beavers can save local authorities and water companies money that they would usually spend on flood prevention and water purification. We plan to replicate leaky beaver dams on Baronsdown in places where spring water cuts runnels down the hillside, using tree thinnings cut on-site.

During the summer we brought in contractors to fell trees in St Johns Wood that had been badly damaged by the storms. The work was carried out to UK forestry standards to protect biodiversity, soil, water, landscape and the historical environment. Whenever we take out blocks of trees we are compelled to plant more, and sometimes budget constraints mean that we have to replace conifers with conifers. However, our eventual goal is to replace all conifers with deciduous trees.

Once again, we were able to work with the Somerset Badger Group to vaccinate badgers on Baronsdown. It is a sad fact that badger populations have been devastated by a combination of illegal persecution by gamekeepers and farmers, and legal persecution through culling. We are pleased that we are able to maintain a healthy badger population on the reserve.

Fundraising Governance

Our Donor Approach

We value every person with whom we come into contact. We're committed to providing a high-quality service across all areas of the League and working in an open and accountable way. All supporters donating to us can be assured we comply with the regulatory fundraising standards.

We receive no government funding and raise funds from individuals through one-off donations, regular donations by direct debit and standing orders, payroll giving, gifts in wills and gaming such as our lotto and raffle. We also raise income through corporate partnerships and trusts and foundations. We regularly communicate with our supporters through a selection of mailings and emails, updating them on how their donations allow us to continue to protect our wildlife from the cruelty inflicted by so-called 'sport'. We also share resources with supporters to help them understand how they can support wildlife in their local communities.

We recruited new donors during the year through online activity including direct debit payment collections. As a charity, we incur expenditure to raise income and expenditure incurred in 2022 not only resulted in income being raised in the year but will also generate future income. We worked with third party providers to use their skills and expertise that we don't have in-house.

We strictly adhere to the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice and all relevant Chartered Institute of Fundraising rulebooks and guidance. We have safeguards in place to protect our supporters and the reputation of the League.

We're committed to ensuring we always treat the public sensitively, fairly and respectfully, taking care to protect people who may find themselves in vulnerable circumstances. Our Supporter Services Team are fully trained to recognise potentially vulnerable people we may speak to and offer other ways in which they could support us, such as volunteering or campaigning, if they are unable to commit to a financial gift. Our approach is in line with the requirements of the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016.

Our complaints policy is published on our website and clearly outlines how an individual can make a complaint. We're committed to dealing with all complaints constructively, impartially and effectively and will make every effort to ensure all complaints receive a complete, accurate and timely response. No complaint is ever disregarded.

During the financial year, we received three complaints relating to our fundraising activities (a very small increase from two complaints from 2021). We're also signed up to the Fundraising Preference Service to enable individuals to opt-out from receiving fundraising communications from us. We actioned five requests from this service during the year (compared to six requests from the previous year).

Our General Data Protection Regulation Framework is robust, and our Privacy and Cookies policies are regularly updated on our website so donors are fully informed as to how, when and where we use their personal data in our work.



We value every person with whom we come into contact. We're committed to providing a high-quality service across all areas of the League and working in an open and accountable way.

Structure, Governance and Management

The League Against Cruel Sports is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (Registration No. 1095234) and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (Registration No. SC045533). It is also a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (Company Registered No. 04037610). Its objects and powers are set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Charity has a wholly owned subsidiary, the League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited, which is a private company limited by shares incorporated in England and Wales (Company Registered No. 02880406). Its principle activity is to act solely as a subsidiary company for carrying out trading activities on behalf of The League Against Cruel Sports charity. The company did not trade in 2022.

The governing body of the Charity is the Board of Trustees, comprising of not fewer than three nor more than twelve unpaid members. The Board meet at least three times a year to review performance against its plans, approve future financial plans based on the agreed strategy, setting policies and to make any decisions necessary to its governance and strategic direction. The Board has ultimate responsibility for the conduct and financial stability of the Charity group. The Finance, Risk and General purposes Committee is a sub-committee of the Board and also meets regularly to consider issues appertaining to the Charity group and informs the wider Board. As at December 2022 the Committee members were Dan Norris, John Hughes, Alan Tapp and Astrid Clifford.

Day-to-day financial responsibility and managerial control are delegated by the Board to the Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive and Senior Management Team meet monthly to discuss operations and financial performance.

Trustees are appointed by a majority of the voting members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for a term of up to three years or can be co-opted by the Board of Trustees until the next AGM. A comprehensive recruitment exercise is undertaken for the appointment of new Trustees to ensure the Board have the depth and breadth of skills and experience necessary to be an effective Trustee of The League Against Cruel Sports. The Board appoints a recruitment panel which undertakes the selection process, carries out interviews, and makes recommendations to the Board for their approval. During the year two long serving trustees resigned and we recruited three new trustees.

New Trustees attend an induction day at the League's headquarters, to learn about the Charity's mission, strategy and objectives. They also learn about their role and responsibilities as a Trustee. We also use the opportunity for them to meet and speak with the League staff. The Trustees receive regular, in house training on new policies and initiatives, and are provided with on-line resources regarding Trustee governance training/ guideline updates.

The Charitable Company has made qualifying third-party indemnity provisions for the benefit of its directors which were made during the year and remain in force at the date of this report.

Remuneration Policy

The Board of Trustees determines the Chief Executive's salary and reviews this each year, in line with the Charity's pay policy. The Board also approves recommendations made by the Chief Executive on any staff pay changes as a result of the annual staff pay review.

Our approach to remuneration of staff is designed to ensure we can attract and retain people with the passion, commitment and talent we need to deliver our mission. We aim to pay competitively in the not-for-profit sector within the context of affordability, using external salary survey to benchmark our salaries against other similar charities.

The annual pay increases are awarded in January each year taking into account pay inflation, organisational affordability, and any mandatory statutory increases. Our remuneration policy approach is applied consistently across the organisation, through our annual pay review process.

The League has committed to paying our employees no less than the real living wage and as such is accredited by the Good Business Charter.



Financial Review

Exiting the Covid restrictions in 2021 the League was in a strong financial position, alongside huge positive achievements on our charitable aims and expansion of our resources and operations supported by growth in our fundraising programmes. Accordingly, for 2022 the Board of Trustees planned an annual expenditure budget in excess of the target income for the year in order to further invest a proportion of the League's retained reserves into expanding our charitable activity operations; in line with Charity Commission guidelines on managing reserves.

In the first months of 2022 we saw increasing legacy and fundraised income, in excess of our targets, however global economic uncertainties largely resulting from the conflict in Ukraine manifested itself into unprecedented UK cost of living increases. This had the adverse impacts of increasing our running costs but also many of our supporters were not able to donate as generously as they had in the past. Coupled with protracted probate completions at HMRC, from mid-2022 we started to suffer a downturn in our funding as did many other charities over this period and for many charities this continues to date.

Fortunately, we had sufficient reserves to provide us with the headroom to make necessary, bold financial decisions in order to protect the stability and sustainability of the Charity. As a consequence of these financial measures regrettably we were forced to reduce the staff complement and restructure the remaining team in order to optimise our outcomes with fewer staff. Despite these major changes we have rallied around the new organisational structure and are continuing to deliver for animals, as can be read about in the Annual Report above.

As a result of the impact from these unprecedented global economic issues, we are reporting an excess of expenditure over income of £587k for the year which we have funded from our reserves. But with our new structure and strategic refocus the board has confidence in our finances to continue to support the vital charitable work of the League into the future.

Our financial stability could not be achieved without the commitment and resilience of our members and supporters, who individually have all been impacted by the cost of living crisis. These economic difficulties may be with us for some time and we value our continuing public support, and in return we will not be complacent in ensuring the League continues to be the voice for animals persecuted in the name of sport supported by robust financial management and future financial sustainability.

At the start of 2023 we are still in a relatively financially strong position and have clear, robust five year financial plans in support of our strategy, but we are mindful that the world economy will continue to be challenging, particularly for the Charity sector and the League. We take comfort knowing that we have the necessary reserves and adaptability to help us deal with any further financial challenges ahead.

Income

Total group income for the year was £2.9m, a decrease 6 percent on last year. The League reports on three key areas of income generation performance: legacies, donations and memberships. Although we also generate income from our trading activities and investment income from cash deposits.

Legacy income was 5 percent lower than last year at just under £1.6m and represented 54 percent of our total income for the year. This performance is disappointing and lower than expected. Charity sector reports continue to be optimistic about increasing supporter legacies generally, however we are aware of continuing issues around probate completions which has resulted in income delays to those charities. Our legacy data indicates that the League has been impacted by this issue; our supporter legacies pipeline remains strong but there have been increasing delays to legacy income materialising as cash. Legacy income is a significant income source and is crucial to the League in achieving its ambitions. At any time, legacies are difficult to predict in terms of the amount and timing of receipt, so we are working hard to redress this situation as best as we can.

Donations and gifts income amounted to just under £1.1m for the year, a decrease of 4 percent on last year, and represents 37 percent of our total income for the year. As mentioned above, we appreciate that our supporters will have been impacted by the economic issues but despite this so many continue to generously donate what they can, as they can see the achievements the League are still able to make even through these testing times. Our 2022 fundraising campaigns included: Forever Free legacy campaign, three major donor appeals and four themed appeals in the year: Enough is enough, Animal Crimewatch – business as usual, Andy's appeal – In it together and A home in your heart Christmas appeal, and three issues of our Protect magazine to inform and encourage supporter action.

Income from membership fees reduced slightly to £100k as some supporters continue to move to our regular giver

supporter package. We always value our loyal members alongside our regular giver supporters and appreciate their enduring commitment to help the League achieve its charitable objectives through their day-to-day support of our work and their participation of 'on the ground' action.

Other trading income was £143k, 2 percent higher than last year. This increase is from merchandise and other sales, as we continue to explore new, improved product offerings. Raffle and Lotto sales were reduced in the year as we trialled a new more environmentally conscious Lotto scheme.

Expenditure

Total resources expended in furtherance of our charitable objectives for the year was £3.5m, an increase of 11 percent on last year. Almost all of this increase was expenditure on charitable activities. Including allocated support costs, charitable activities expenditure was £3.1m, an increase of 12 percent on the previous year, and fundraising costs were £403k, an increase of 6 percent.

Expenditure on our four core charitable activities amounted to 88 percent in total with 11 percent spent on fund raising publicity and trading, and 1 percent on governance. During the year the average number of staff employed increased from 56 to 58. However, by the year end the staff complement had decreased to 46 as a result of the necessary cost cutting measures and restructure.

The League continues to exercise strict cost control supported by robust financial processes and procedures. We are always mindful to obtain the best value for money when spending every penny of our supporter donations on our charitable aims, but also to spend within the parameters of our ethical procurement policy.

Balance Sheet

As at the year end the Group had total net assets of £3.6m; represented by fixed assets (mainly freehold land and buildings) of £1.6m, cash deposits of £1.3m, other current assets of £0.8m and current liabilities of £0.1m.

Group funds consist of £3.5m unrestricted funds (2021: £4.1m) and £0.1m of restricted funds (2021: £0.1m). At the year-end there were no designated funds by the Board of Trustees (2021: Nil). The funds are detailed in note 13 to the financial statements.

Despite the challenging year, with robust future financial plans in place, total reserves/net assets continue to provide the Group with a strong working capital base for 2023 and beyond.

Reserves Policy

Reserves are key in ensuring the long-term viability of the Charity. The Board of Trustees regularly monitors the level of retained reserves, when reviewing financial performance in the management accounts, and reviews the overall reserves policy annually as part of the five-year financial plan review. Our policy remains in line with the Charity Commission’s advice on managing charity reserves over the current economic climate.

Our reserves policy is based on a risk identification approach calculating an appropriate level of unrestricted reserves to cover our contractual commitments, working capital requirements, and to manage possible fluctuations in future income levels; this calculation also takes into account our fixed asset holdings. Our five-year financial planning aims to achieve a target level of reserves to cover all these identified risks and ensure we have long-term financial stability.

At the financial year end the amount of free unrestricted reserves available for general purposes was £1.9m. This is more than our customary target level of reserves, but is within our target range of reserves required to provide sufficient financial stability given the current risks the League is potentially exposed to, as detailed in the Risk Management section on page 56. With the continuing economic uncertainty and sustained high inflation, the Board feels it is appropriate to maintain this relatively higher level of reserves to ensure the stability and sustainability of the Charity until the economy recovers and funding confidence returns to previous levels.

The Board will continue to regularly monitor the League’s performance against its agreed plans.

Investment Policy

With the continuing instability of the stock markets, the Trustees have agreed that stocks and shares given to or left to the League should be sold at the earliest beneficial opportunity. There was no loss on any investments received or sold during the year. The ongoing uncertainty of the markets has led to the Trustees continuing their

policy of holding reserves in either property or cash deposits. Cash deposits are spread over a number of authorised firms to take advantage of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and to reduce the potential risk of any losses occurring. As at the year end, 27 percent of these funds are available for instant access, and the remaining deposits have notice periods and are repayable within five months.

The policy will be reviewed by the Trustees during 2023 with due regard to our forecast cash flow requirements.

Public Benefit

The Charities Act 2011 requires that Trustees explain in their annual report how it is that their activities demonstrate the public benefit of their work within the meaning of the Act.

In charity law the advancement of animal welfare is recognised as a charitable purpose. The League’s main objective is to prevent or reduce cruelty to animals in the name of sport. Whilst the League may use a number of different means to further this objective and will strive to push at boundaries, it is careful to ensure that it remains within the remit of its charitable objectives and within the strict parameters of charity law at all times.

Examples of the League’s work are:

- The investigation and monitoring of possible wildlife offences;
- Informing and educating on the impact of the Hunting Act 2004, including amendments or repeal;
- Informing and educating the public about the cruelty aspect of using animals for ‘sporting’ purposes;
- Informing and educating the public about animal welfare problems associated with ‘sport’ such as the use of snares and the intensive production of ‘game’ birds;
- Liaison with elected officials who have the power to both enforce the law and to enhance it.



Internal Controls and Risk Management



The Trustees are responsible for ensuring the League group has a sound system of internal control to safeguard its assets and funds, and for ensuring that its assets and funds are used only in furtherance of the League's objectives. The system of internal control is intended to manage appropriately rather than to eliminate risks and to provide reasonable rather than absolute assurance. The Charity is one that arouses strong passions and potential threats to it are ever present, particularly from those who challenge its very existence, credibility, and direction.

Trustees have developed an effective risk management framework for the assessment of major risks to which the Charity is exposed, that has been used successfully throughout the year. The assessment and documentation of risk is carried out by the Senior Management Team led by the Chief Executive Officer, supported by the Finance Director, both of whom have considerable experience and expertise in this area. Risk factors are identified and assessed for scale, and each risk is assigned to a member of the Senior Management Team to take responsibility for identifying the steps needed to manage or mitigate the risk. These risk assessments are documented in a risk register and are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure

that new risks are identified and that actions proposed to mitigate or manage risks are being undertaken. The risks to the Charity are also assessed and reviewed by the Trustees quarterly through the Finance Risk and General (FRAG) Committee, with a subsequent update to the full Board at their quarterly meeting. The CEO also raises specific risks at his weekly call with the Chair and Honorary Treasurer.

The Charity continues to reap the benefits of strong and consistent management and governance. This was tested during the very severe challenges that the War in Ukraine and effects of the cost-of-living crisis brought to the country and the charity sector in general. Key indicators of the strength of the Charity include retention, sickness and absence rates being a fraction of the national average, with now long serving directors providing the firmest of foundations on which the Charity can operate effectively. Staff engagement also rose to record levels, showing the very high degree of trust placed in the Charity's senior management throughout the organization.

The Charity maintains a risk register that outlines all of the risks it is facing and what actions we have in place to mitigate these risks. These mitigations vary according to the type of risk and although mitigations can be put in place, they cannot eliminate the risk completely.

The register is reviewed regularly by management and quarterly by the Board.

Our current top risks are considered to be:

1. Impact of economic uncertainty on our fundraising income. As is widely reported in the press, global instability which has been particularly keenly felt in the UK, has introduced high levels of uncertainty in the economy. Low growth, coupled with high inflation and increases in taxation are weighing on the minds of the public and the risks to the Charity from a decline in donations remains high. This makes it difficult to predict future income with certainty and with it, the ability to plan beyond the very near term.

2. Delays to legacy income. The risks to our income are compounded by well-known delays in the granting of probate affecting the charity sector. Although the quantum of legacies remains largely unaltered, lengthy delays in releasing monies continue to impact our cash flow. HMRC have hired an additional 100 staff to alleviate matters, but it is not known how long it will be until we see an improvement in the granting of probate, and at what rate those improvements will show in our balance sheet. Until then, the previously reliable forecasts in our legacy income remain highly uncertain and affect our medium-term planning.

3. Inflation impact on expenses. After over a decade of low inflation, the UK is experiencing high levels of inflation which increases our purchasing costs as well as our payroll costs. If inflation is not brought under control this will put severe pressure on the real value of the money we have available to deliver our charitable objects.

4. Ability to maintain reserves. 2022 saw a decline in our financial reserves, mainly as a result of unexpected events in Ukraine and political events both at home and abroad. This followed the unexpected pandemic in 2020/2021. The world now seems to be a much more uncertain and dangerous place and unexpected events could have a significant impact on our reserves and the ability to continue operating at our current level.

5. Data security. Well publicised increases in the incidence of hacking and other data breaches, and the significant penalties they attract, are a risk to the Charity. Included in these risks are ransomware attacks and the hacking of accounts, which threaten both the finances and the reputation of the Charity. The Charity remains committed to data protection and is fully aware of the potential impacts any breaches could have on our ability to deliver our charitable objects.

6. Reputational. The Charity operates in a friction environment where opinions are strong, and where some third parties actively seek to diminish the reputation of the Charity for their own ends. We are fully aware of these risks and we will actively seek to challenge those individuals or organisations that seek to unfairly, or unlawfully, diminish the Charity or those therein.



Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees, who are also the directors of The League Against Cruel Sports for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year. In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice); - make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Auditors

A resolution proposing that Haysmacintyre LLP be reappointed as auditors of the company will be put to the members. This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees

Dan Norris

Dan Norris
Chair

Dated: 19 June 2023

Independent auditor’s report to the members and trustees of the League Against Cruel Sports Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the League Against Cruel Sports for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Group and Charitable Company Balance Sheet and the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group’s and of the parent charitable company’s affairs as at 31 December 2022 and of the group’s and parent charitable company’s net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC’s Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees’ use of the going concern basis of

accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group’s ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees’ Report and the Chair’s statement. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees’ Report (which includes the strategic report and the directors’ report prepared for the purposes of company law) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors’ report included within the Trustees’ Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and the parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees’ Report (which incorporates the strategic report and the directors’ report).

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees’ remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies’ regime and take advantage of the small companies’ exemptions in preparing the trustees’ report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the trustees’ responsibilities statement set out on page 58, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group’s and the parent charitable company’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error,

and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of noncompliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the group and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to fundraising regulations, GDPR and Charities Act 2011, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Charities Act 2011 and the application of FRS 102, income tax and payroll tax.

We evaluated management’s incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries to revenue and management bias in accounting estimate. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Enquiries of management regarding correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management’s controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular, journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates;

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor 's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Adam Halsey (Senior Statutory Auditor)

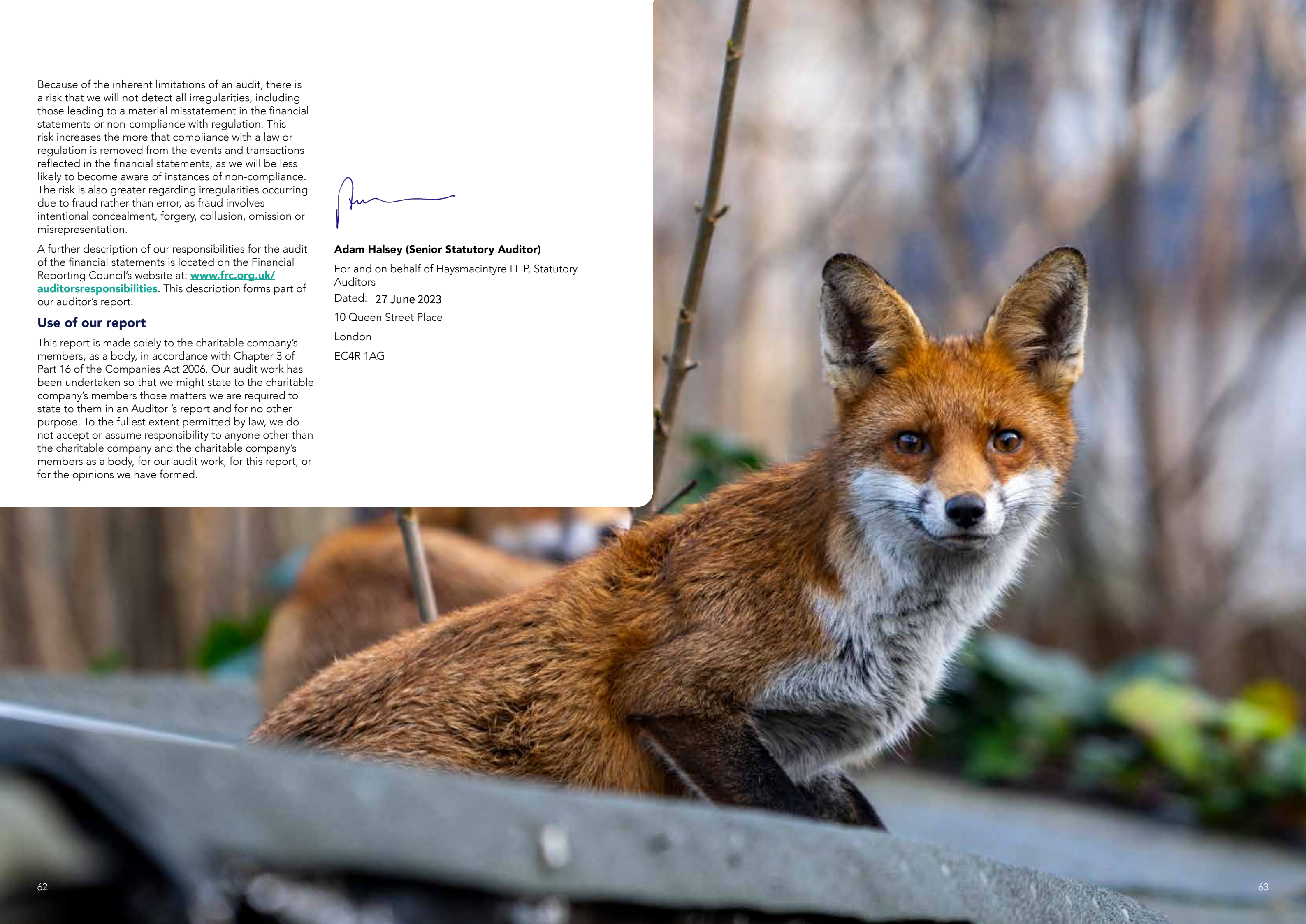
For and on behalf of Haysmacintyre LL P, Statutory Auditors

Dated: 27 June 2023

10 Queen Street Place

London

EC4R 1AG



The League Against Cruel Sports

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities including income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	2	2,722,822	16,193	2,739,015	2,940,760
Other trading activities	3	143,073	-	143,073	139,689
Investments	4	19,538	-	19,538	15,150
Total income		2,885,433	16,193	2,901,626	3,095,599
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds					
Fundraising and publicity costs	5	310,563	112	310,675	312,889
Costs of trading activities	5	92,470	-	92,470	68,480
		403,033	112	403,145	381,369
Charitable activities					
End Hunting with Dogs	5	1,417,366	9,158	1,426,524	1,212,257
End Shooting of Animals for 'Sport'	5	605,390	673	606,063	412,765
End Fighting of Animals for 'Sport'	5	115,020	5,597	120,617	97,623
Win Hearts and Minds	5	922,444	10,071	932,515	1,039,418
		3,060,220	25,499	3,085,719	2,762,063
Total expenditure		3,463,253	25,611	3,488,864	3,143,432
Net income/(expenditure)		(577,820)	(9,418)	(587,238)	(47,833)
Fund balances at 1 January		4,107,962	109,042	4,217,004	4,264,837
Fund balances at 31 December		3,530,142	99,624	3,629,766	4,217,004

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The League Against Cruel Sports

Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

	Notes	£	2022 £	£	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7		1,632,610		1,660,484
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	9	20,512		14,022	
Debtors	10	460,971		945,352	
Cash deposit investments		1,328,827		1,472,299	
Cash at bank and in hand		293,546		252,604	
		2,103,856		2,684,277	
LIABILITIES					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	(106,700)		(127,757)	
Net current assets			1,997,156		2,556,520
Total assets less current liabilities			3,629,766		4,217,004
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year			-		-
Total net assets			3,629,766		4,217,004
INCOME FUNDS					
Restricted funds	13		99,624		109,042
Unrestricted funds	13				
Designated funds		-		-	
General unrestricted funds		3,530,142		4,107,962	
Total unrestricted funds			3,530,142		4,107,962
Total group funds			3,629,766		4,217,004

The financial statements were approved by the Board and authorised for issue on 19 June 2023 and signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by

Dan Norris

Dan Norris
Trustee
Company Registration No. 04037610

The League Against Cruel Sports
Charitable Company Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

	Notes	£	2022 £	£	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7		1,632,610		1,660,484
Investment in subsidiary	17		12		12
			1,632,622		1,660,496
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	9	20,512		14,022	
Debtors	10	461,029		945,768	
Cash deposit investments		1,328,827		1,472,299	
Cash at bank and in hand		242,470		200,859	
		2,052,838		2,632,948	
LIABILITIES					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	(106,700)		(127,757)	
Net current assets			1,946,138		2,505,191
Total assets less current liabilities			3,578,760		4,165,687
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year			-		-
Total net assets			3,578,760		4,165,687
INCOME FUNDS					
Restricted income funds	13		99,624		109,042
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds		-		-	
General unrestricted funds		3,479,136		4,056,645	
Total unrestricted funds			3,479,136		4,056,645
Total charity funds			3,578,760		4,165,687

The financial statements were approved by the Board and authorised for issue on 19 June 2023 and signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by

Dan Norris

Dan Norris
Trustee
Company Registration No. 04037610

The League Against Cruel Sports
Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Notes	£	2022 £	£	2021 £
CASHFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Net cash used in operating activities	a		(122,067)		(452,008)
CASHFLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:					
Interest from investments		19,538		15,150	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1)		(27,073)	
Net cash provided by/ (used in) investing activities			19,537		(11,923)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(102,530)		(463,931)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			1,724,903		2,188,834
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	b		1,622,373		1,724,903

a. Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash from operating activities

	Notes		2022 £		2021 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)			(587,238)		(47,833)
ADJUSTMENTS FOR:					
Depreciation	7		27,875		34,314
Interest from Investments	4		(19,538)		(15,150)
(Increase)/decrease in stocks			(6,490)		262
(Increase)/decrease in debtors			484,381		(341,380)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors current			(21,057)		(82,221)
Net cash used in operating activities			(122,067)		(452,008)

b. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

			2022 £		2021 £
Deposits			1,328,827		1,472,299
Cash in hand			293,546		252,604
Total cash and cash equivalents			1,622,373		1,724,903

The cash deposits are invested over a wider range of regulated financial institutions to improve the security of the cash reserves and to take advantage of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme protections. At the end of the financial year all deposits have notice periods of less than five months and are repayable within five months. The movements in net debt are all shown in the main cashflow statement.

The League Against Cruel Sports
Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

Charity Information

The League Against Cruel Sports is a registered charity in England and Wales (charity number 1095234) and in Scotland (OSCR charity number SC045533), and a company limited by guarantee (Company Registered Number 04037610) and domiciled in the UK, and is a public benefit entity.

The address of the registered office is: New Sparling House, Holloway Hill, Godalming, Surrey , GU7 1QZ.

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) – Charities SORP 2015 (Second Edition, effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The League Against Cruel Sports meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost of transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

1.2 Basis for consolidation

The financial statements consolidate the results of the Charity and its wholly owned subsidiary League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited on a line by line basis. A separate Statement of Financial Activities and income and expenditure accounts are not presented for the Charity itself following the exemptions afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and paragraph 397 of the Statement of Recommended Practice.

1.3 Key judgements and assumptions

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The key judgments and assumptions are legacy accrual and depreciation which are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

1.4 Going concern

Based on the level of reserves held at the year end and the latest five year financial plans the Trustees are confident that The League Against Cruel Sports is financially secure in its immediate future for the next 12 months and that on this basis the Charity is a going concern.

The Trustees regularly review detailed financial budgets and forecasts, which are adjusted to take into account revised assumptions and events. Where such forecasts indicate a potential problem corrective action is taken to protect the future viability of the Charity. The key risks assessed are described in the Trustees’ Annual Report.

The trustees believe there are no material uncertainties concerning the going concern status of the charitable group.

1.5 Charitable funds

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

Designated funds are amounts of unrestricted funds which have been earmarked at the discretion of the Trustees for particular future purposes.

Unrestricted funds are available for the use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objectives of the Charity.

The League Against Cruel Sports

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

1.6 Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income, the amount can be measured with reasonable accuracy and its receipt is probable.

In respect of legacy income, the Charities SORP requires legacy income to be recognised when it is receivable unless it is incapable of financial measurement. The Charity mainly receives pecuniary and residuary legacies and accounts for them as receivable when (i) entitlement has been established (ii) receipt is probable and (iii) the sum involved is measurable. All three tests must be met for the League to accrue a legacy. Entitlement exists when grant of probate has been received evidencing that a gift has been left to the Charity and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Probability exists when there is grant of probate, the executor is satisfied that there are sufficient funds to pay and in the case of residuary legacies that final accounts have been agreed. Measurability is the estimate of the fair value of the income receivable based on the information available, but measured or estimated with sufficient reliability.

Donations income and membership subscriptions are recorded when received.

Grant income is accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Investment income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis.

Income derived from other trading activities are recognised when the goods are dispatched. Income derived from trading relates to primary purpose trading which is acceptable under charity law and exempt from taxation.

1.7 Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) on a basis to reflect the use of the resources. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources as shown in note 5.

Fundraising and publicity costs represent direct and apportioned costs relating to supporter recruitment and maintenance and fundraising activities and events.

Costs of trading activities represents direct and apportioned costs relating to the sale of merchandise and other sales of goods.

Charitable activity expenditure represents direct and apportioned costs relating to carrying out our strategic objectives as set out in the Trustees Annual Report.

Support costs include governance, staff, office and general management costs including human resources, IT and the finance function incurred to support income generation and delivery of the charitable activities. Support costs also include irrecoverable VAT where it is not able to be directly attributed to specific activities, where this is not possible irrecoverable VAT costs are apportioned.

Governance costs represent direct and indirect costs incurred relating to strategic management and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.8 Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently stated at cost less depreciation.

The Group’s capitalisation threshold is £5,000, such that fixed assets costing less than this amount are not capitalised and are therefore included in resources expended under the appropriate heading. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold buildings	2% straight line per annum
Refurbishments	10% straight line per annum
Plant, equipment, fixture and fittings	25% reducing balance per annum
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance per annum

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

When freehold land is disposed of, but sporting rights are retained, the value of these rights is written down to £1 as they are not considered to have a residual or realisable value for the Group.

At each reporting end date, the Group reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss.

1.9 Stock

Stock is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stock to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured at the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held on call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank Overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities. During the year the Group had no bank overdrafts.

For the purpose of the cash flow statement, cash comprises cash in hand and short-term deposits

1.11 Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recognised in the Group and Charity balance sheets when the Group or Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

The League Against Cruel Sports Group has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Financial assets held at amortised cost comprise cash and bank in hand, together with trade and other debtors. Financial liabilities held at amortised cost

comprise trade and other creditors. Financial assets and Financial liabilities classified as receivable or payable within one year are not amortised.

Investment in the subsidiary undertaking is held at cost less impairment.

1.12 Leases

Rentals incurred under operating leases are charged to the SOFA on a straight line basis over the period of the lease. Incentives are treated as income and are credited to the SOFA on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

1.13 Employee pensions

The Group operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the accounts as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

1.14 Value Added Tax

Value Added Tax is partially recoverable by the Group, and as such the irrecoverable portion of VAT is included as a cost in the SOFA and asset values.

1.15 Taxation

The League Against Cruel Sports charitable company is exempt from Corporation Tax on the grounds that it is a charity and all of its income is applied for charitable purposes.

League Against Cruel Sport (UK) Limited is not operated for profit.

1.16 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts.

1.17 Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the Group and Charity has a present obligation resulting from past events that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at the settlement amount allowing for any trade discounts.

2. Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Legacies receivable	1,562,355	-	1,562,355	1,648,610
Donations and gifts	1,056,144	16,193	1,072,337	1,114,477
Grants receivable	4,103	-	4,103	72,459
Membership fees	100,220	-	100,220	105,214
	2,722,822	16,193	2,739,015	2,940,760

2021 income includes restricted funds of £1,386 Legacies receivable and £12,934 Donations and gifts.

At the end of the financial year, the Charity has been advised of a number of legacies which indicated the League as a beneficiary. These have not been included in the Statement of Financial Activities as the Charity's final entitlement has not yet been established by the executors. The estimated values for these legacies amounts to approximately £1.6m (2021: £1.7m). Many of these legacies are residual legacies where the timing of receipt is uncertain.

Grants receivable relates to the Government Energy Support scheme £1,147 (2021: £nil), and other grants £2,956 (2021:£4,838). No Government Job Retention Scheme funding was claimed during the year (2021:£67,621).

3. Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Raffle and lotto ticket sales	76,647	-	76,647	91,896
Timber sales	7,284	-	7,284	4,856
Merchandise and other sales of goods	59,142	-	59,142	42,937
	143,073	-	143,073	139,689

There were no restricted funds received in 2021.

4. Investment Income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Interest receivable	15,932	-	15,932	11,544
Rental income	3,606	-	3,606	3,606
	19,538	-	19,538	15,150

There were no restricted funds received in 2021.

5. Expenditure

	Direct Staff costs £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
RAISING FUNDS					
Fundraising and publicity costs	171,308	62,226	77,141	310,675	312,889
Costs of trading activities	20,557	71,913	-	92,470	68,480
	191,865	134,139	77,141	403,145	381,369
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES					
End Hunting with Dogs	805,010	267,306	354,208	1,426,524	1,212,257
End Shooting of Animals for 'Sport'	332,521	123,056	150,486	606,063	412,765
End Fighting of Animals for 'Sport'	58,604	32,063	29,950	120,617	97,623
Win Hearts and Minds	552,879	148,091	231,545	932,515	1,039,418
	1,749,014	570,516	766,189	3,085,719	2,762,063
Total expenditure	1,940,879	704,655	843,330	3,488,864	3,143,432

ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Governance costs £	Staff costs £	Office and admin. costs £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
RAISING FUNDS					
Fundraising and publicity costs	2,859	43,217	31,065	77,141	81,095
Costs of trading activities	-	-	-	-	-
	2,859	43,217	31,065	77,141	81,095
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES					
End Hunting with Dogs	13,126	198,440	142,642	354,208	314,194
End Shooting of Animals for 'Sport'	5,576	84,308	60,602	150,486	106,981
End Fighting of Animals for 'Sport'	1,110	16,779	12,061	29,950	25,302
Win Hearts and Minds	8,581	129,719	93,245	231,545	269,397
	28,393	429,246	308,550	766,189	715,874
Total expenditure	31,252	472,463	339,615	843,330	796,969

Support costs are allocated on the basis of % of time spent in proportion to direct costs.
Governance costs includes statutory audit fees of £14,850 (2021: £12,933).
Comparative 2021 expenditure is analysed in note 18.

6. Employees

	2022 £	2021 £
STAFF COSTS		
Wages and salaries	2,064,335	1,693,184
Social security costs	192,250	171,138
Other pension costs	156,756	138,417
	2,413,341	2,002,739

	2022 Number	2021 Number
THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES DURING THE YEAR WAS:		
Fundraising and publicity	7	7
Charitable activities	43	43
Support	8	6
	58	56

	2022 Number	2021 Number
THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES WHOSE EMOLUMENTS EXCEEDS £60,000 IN THE YEAR WAS:		
£60,001 - £70,000	3	2
£70,001 - £80,000	-	-
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-
£90,001 - £100,000	-	1

During the year a total of 7 (2021: 7) staff were recognised as key management personnel. At the year end there were 6 key management personnel in post.

The total remuneration and benefits received by senior management personnel in the year was £446,050 (2021: £417,745) and pension contributions paid by the Charity in respect of these employees during the year was £35,342 (2021: £33,458).

Due to the UK economic problems during 2022 and the resultant impact on the League’s income and expenditure, it was necessary for the Charity to make a number of staff redundancies; payments in respect of these staff redundancies during the year totalled £105,543 (2021: £nil).

Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year (2021: £Nil). Two Trustees were reimbursed expenses relating to travel totalling £314 (2021: Three Trustees totalling £512).

7. Group and Charity Fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Office and Computer Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
COST				
At 1 January 2022	1,874,998	14,350	45,457	1,934,805
Additions	1	-	-	1
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2022	1,874,999	14,350	45,457	1,934,806
DEPRECIATION AND IMPAIRMENT				
At 1 January 2022	219,155	14,350	40,816	274,321
Charge for the year	26,714	-	1,161	27,875
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2022	245,869	14,350	41,977	302,196
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 December 2022	1,629,130	-	3,480	1,632,610
At 31 December 2021	1,655,843	-	4,641	1,660,484

As at 31 December 2022 there were capital commitments of £Nil (2021: £Nil) not included within fixed assets.

8. Financial Instruments

	Group 2022 £	2021 £	Charity 2022 £	2021 £
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	1,964,568	2,537,524	1,913,492	2,485,779
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	77,008	107,515	77,008	107,515
Total interest income for financial assets held under amortised cost	19,538	15,150	15,932	11,543

For further details please refer to Accounting Policy note 1.11.

9. Stocks

	Group 2022 £	2021 £	Charity 2022 £	2021 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	20,512	14,022	20,512	14,022

10. Debtors

	Group 2022 £	2021 £	Charity 2022 £	2021 £
Prepayments and accrued income	423,775	901,221	423,775	901,221
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	58	416
Tax recoverable	36,495	42,869	36,495	42,869
Other debtors	701	1,262	701	1,262
	460,971	945,352	461,029	945,768

Prepayments and accrued income include accruals for legacies where, in accordance with the Charities SORP, we are satisfied that we have entitlement, probability and financial measurement. Accrued legacy income incudes £43,750 (2021: £43,750) due after one year in respect of land held in trust for the League.

11. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2022 £	2021 £	Charity 2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	35,922	72,266	35,922	72,266
Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	-	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	70,692	52,009	70,692	52,009
Other taxes and social security	-	754	-	754
Other creditors	86	2,728	86	2,728
	106,700	127,757	106,700	127,757

12. Pension costs

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity to the fund. Contributions payable by the Charity for the year amounted to £156,756 (2021: £138,417); as referred to in note 6.

13. Funds

The income funds of the Group and Charity include unrestricted and restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

Movements in funds					
	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Wentworth Sanctuary legacy	38,398	-	-	-	38,398
Wentworth Godalming office legacy	52,038	-	(1,221)	-	50,817
Greyhounds	10,489	-	(2,660)	-	7,829
Cove Down Sanctuary	1,732	15,000	(14,152)	-	2,580
Other small restricted funds	6,385	1,193	(7,578)	-	-
Total Restricted funds	109,042	16,193	(25,611)	-	99,624
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
Designated funds	-	-	-	-	-
General funds	4,107,962	2,885,433	(3,463,253)	-	3,530,142
Total Unrestricted funds	4,107,962	2,885,433	(3,463,253)	-	3,530,142
Total funds	4,217,004	2,901,626	(3,488,864)	-	3,629,766

Restricted funds

The Wentworth legacies are restricted for use on the sanctuaries property at Baronsdown and the Godalming premises respectively.

The Greyhounds project is being funded by an individual supporter to enable us to undertake special investigations work into Greyhound puppy farming.

The Cove Down sanctuary project is in respect of funding received from the Lister Charitable Trust for development of the sanctuary; involving habitat restoration and rewilding on a protected area of land as a sanctuary for wildlife.

Other restricted funds represents funding received towards charitable activities where the individual restricted funds total no greater than £5,000 and their associated expenditure, this includes a £5,000 donation towards our dog fighting work.

General unrestricted funds

The general unrestricted funds are used to support our reserves policy on page 54 and provide additional cover for unexpected risks.

No funds have been designated at the end of 2022.

General funds include the trading subsidiary League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited reserves of £51,006, please refer to note 17 for further information.

Comparative 2021 figures are detailed in Note 19.

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds			
	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
FUND BALANCES AT 31 DECEMBER 2022 ARE REPRESENTED BY:				
Fixed assets	1,594,809	-	37,801	1,632,610
Current assets	2,042,033	-	61,823	2,103,856
Current liabilities	(106,700)	-	-	(106,700)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	-	-
	3,530,142	-	99,624	3,629,766

Comparative 2021 figures are detailed in Note 20.

15. Commitments under operating leases

At 31 December 2022 the Charity had lease payment commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Land and buildings		Office equipment	
	2022 £	2021 £	2022 £	2021 £
PAYMENTS DUE:				
Within one year	-	-	8,304	8,321
Between two and five years	-	-	8,395	16,698
Over five years	-	-	-	-
	-	-	16,699	25,019

16. Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2021: none).

Donations, memberships subscriptions, lottery plays and purchases of goods made by the Trustees in the year totalled £1,037 (2021: £769).

17. Investment in subsidiary

The investment of £12 represents 100% of the ordinary £10 share capital in League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited, the principle activity of which is administer the trading activites of the group. League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited is a private company limited by shares registered in England and Wales.

The total income for the year ended 31 December 2022 of the League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited amounted to £Nil (2021: £Nil), expenditure totalled £311 (2021: £312). Net payments, cash and asset transfers totalling £Nil (2021: £Nil) have been made from League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited to its parent company, and registered charity, The League Against Cruel Sports.

As at 31 December 2022 League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited had fixed assets of £Nil (2021: £Nil), net current assets of £51,018 (2021: £51,329) and reserves of £51,006 (2021: £51,317). In 2022 it reported deficit of £311 (2021: Deficit £312).

Details of the Charity’s subsidiaries at 31 December 2021 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Nature of business	Class of shares held	Percentage held	
				Direct	Indirect
League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited	England and Wales	See above	Ordinary £1 shares	100.00	-

18. Comparative 2021 Expenditure

	Direct Staff costs £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2021 £
RAISING FUNDS				
Fundraising and publicity costs	157,664	74,130	81,095	312,889
Costs of trading activities	18,920	49,560	-	68,480
	176,584	123,690	81,095	381,369
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
End Hunting with Dogs	645,665	252,398	314,194	1,212,257
End Shooting of Animals for 'Sport'	189,893	115,891	106,981	412,765
End Fighting of Animals for 'Sport'	41,303	31,018	25,302	97,623
Win Hearts and Minds	553,065	216,956	269,397	1,039,418
	1,429,926	616,263	715,874	2,762,063
Total expenditure	1,606,510	739,953	796,969	3,143,432

Comparative 2021 Analysis of Support costs

	Governance costs £	Staff costs £	Office and admin. costs £	Total 2021 £
RAISING FUNDS				
Fundraising and publicity costs	2,223	40,294	38,578	81,095
Costs of trading activities	-	-	-	-
	2,223	40,294	38,578	81,095
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
End Hunting with Dogs	8,612	156,116	149,466	314,194
End Shooting of Animals for 'Sport'	2,932	53,156	50,893	106,981
End Fighting of Animals for 'Sport'	693	12,572	12,037	25,302
Win Hearts and Minds	7,384	133,857	128,156	269,397
	19,621	355,701	340,552	715,874
Total expenditure	21,844	395,995	379,130	796,969

Support costs are allocated on the basis of % of time spent in proportion to direct costs.

19. Comparative 2021 Funds

Movement in funds					
	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2021 £
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Wentworth Sanctuary legacy	44,935	-	(6,537)	-	38,398
Wentworth Godalming office legacy	58,038	-	(6,000)	-	52,038
Greyhounds	13,000	-	(2,511)	-	10,489
Cove Down Sanctuary	7,942	-	(6,210)	-	1,732
Dog Fighting	-	8,000	(3,000)	-	5,000
Silent Enemy	-	4,688	(4,688)	-	-
Other small restricted funds	-	1,622	(237)	-	1,385
Total Restricted funds	123,915	14,310	(29,183)	-	109,042
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
Designated funds:	-	-	-	-	-
General funds	4,140,922	3,081,289	(3,114,249)	-	4,107,962
Total Unrestricted funds	4,140,922	3,081,289	(3,114,249)	-	4,107,962
Total funds	4,264,837	3,095,599	(3,143,432)	-	4,217,004

20. Comparative 2021 Analysis of net assets between funds

Unrestricted funds				
	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
FUND BALANCES AT 31 DECEMBER 2021 ARE REPRESENTED BY:				
Fixed assets	1,615,615	-	44,869	1,660,484
Current assets	2,620,104	-	64,173	2,684,277
Current liabilities	(127,757)	-	-	(127,757)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	-	-
	4,107,962	-	109,042	4,217,004

The League Against Cruel Sports

corporate directory

The information shown below is correct as of 1 January 2022 to 19 June 2023 the date of signing the accounts

Trustees

Dan Norris (Chair) (Appointed April 2022)
John Hughes (Honorary Treasurer)
Alan Tapp
Ashleigh Brown
Astrid Clifford
Michelle Berry (Appointed April 2022)
Viktoria Petrova (Appointed April 2022)
Caroline Hawkins (Resigned May 2022)
Tim Holmes (Resigned May 2022)

Senior Management Team

Chief Executive	Andy Knott, MBE
Deputy Chief Executive	Chris Luffingham
Director of Operations	Emma Smith
Director of Scotland and Northern Ireland	Robbie Marsland
Director of Finance	Neal Soleil
Director of People & Culture	Kelly Hack

Charity Number	1095234
Company Number	04037610
Company Secretary	Andy Knott
Principal and registered office	New Sparling House Holloway Hill Godalming GU7 1QZ

Principal professional advisors

Auditor	Haysmacintyre LLP 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1AG
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Bankers	The Co-Operative Bank Plc 1 Balloon Street Manchester M60 1GP
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Legal Advisors	Marshall's Solicitors LLP 102 High Street Godalming Surrey GU7 1DS
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LEAGUE
AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

League Against Cruel Sports

New Sparling House
Holloway Hill
Godalming
GU7 1QZ

01483 524 250
supportercare@league.org.uk
www.league.org.uk

The League Against Cruel Sports is a registered charity in England and Wales (no. 1095234) and Scotland (no. SC045533), and is registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee (no. 04037610).

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1095234

Accounts



LEAGUE
AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

League Against Cruel Sports

Annual Report and Financial Statements 2021

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A message from the Chair, Dr Tim Holmes



I am writing this at the close of what has truly been an exceptional year for wildlife. Despite the constraints that we all have had to live with and work around, the gains we have collectively made towards giving persecuted animals a brighter future have been vast.

Firstly, we finally welcomed the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Act 2021 onto the statute books. This important piece of legislation has taken years to get over the line, and it was only with a concerted effort of a coalition of animal welfare charities, with the League at the forefront, that the law was passed. It means, crucially, that maximum sentences for the worst abuses of animals now attract a custodial sentence of up to five years rather than the paltry six months they were before.

This doesn't just protect pets; it protects those animals that are abducted and forced to be part of illegal dog fighting rings. It protects hunting hounds treated cruelly by those who claim to have animal welfare in their hearts. It protects the terriers they send into dens and setts.

In Wales we saw an assembly returned to the Senedd that pledged to ban snares. We will be holding them to that and asking them to add the barbaric caged breeding of 'game' birds to their list of cruelty to outlaw in the country.

In Northern Ireland we helped Stormont achieve what has been hailed as the largest consultation in its history, with a majority of residents there saying they'd back a ban on hunting with dogs.

Unfortunately, the Private Member's Bill that resulted was sabotaged and fell short of legislation, but rest assured the League's work there has not finished. It will not be until we help secure a robust ban.

But we know the biggest win for animals has been the conviction of Mark Hankinson, former director of the Masters of Foxhounds Association, for encouraging or assisting others to break the Hunting Act 2004. But it wasn't just him on trial that day, it was the whole of hunting – and it was found guilty. No longer do landowners have confidence that hunters lay the trails they say they do. They stopped licensing hunts in droves, with most notably the National Trust and Wales's largest landowner Natural Resources Wales banning them for good. No longer do the police welcome their voice on wildlife crime panels.

These victories that I am delighted to share with you in this report have each been extraordinary, but at every turn one thing was clear, we could not have achieved them without you, our incredibly generous supporters. Without you we simply could not do the work we need to do to ensure cruel sports are consigned to the past where they belong.

I have been Chair of the Board for four years and it is now time for me to move on. At the commencement of my time with the League there were a number of challenges for the Board but these were overcome and the stability of the past couple of years has allowed the League to focus on the issues that matter: animal welfare, retention of highly skilled staff and financial management. There is much more to be done but I am confident that the formula is working for us to extend our reach and undertake even more.

“...despite the constraints that we all have had to live with and work around, the gains we have collectively made towards giving persecuted animals a brighter future have been vast.”

A message from the CEO, Andy Knott MBE



delighted to play such a public and leading role in shaping how we think about animals and the environment in this country.

2021 brought us so much, not only in terms of incredible wins for animals, but also in the lessons and experience that helped us achieve them. Amongst these is the importance of winning more hearts and minds, as well as presenting compelling arguments. We have been

Our strategy in 2022 will seek to bring about change more quickly and comprehensively than ever before. This is a pressing imperative for animals and humans alike, the well-being of each is often intertwined.

These issues include enabling activities that allow cruel sports to take place. We have been focusing on land denial for some years, with the recent announcement by the National Trust to stop hunting on their land perhaps our most significant success. Now the argument that cruel sports are a necessary way of country life is one that needs challenging more comprehensively, particularly as many of the jobs it brings are low paid, with poor conditions, and better alternatives exist.

Cruel sports impact the public in other ways too. Destroying or polluting the environment or introducing children to violent practices dressed up as being 'sporting', risks the mental and physical well-being of all of us. The countryside and the wildlife that inhabits it forms part of our collective, national heritage and we should all be able to enjoy it. It is not

for one tiny minority to claim it as their own, and in the process kill tens of millions of animals, be they hunted, shot, snared, poisoned, raced or made to fight.

More legislation and greater deterrence will be needed to protect our land and us, as well as animals, from the effects of cruel sports. As the country's leading anti-hunt charity, we will seek to render the issue of hunting, one that is currently one of the most contentious of any in this country, to being no longer worthy of debate at the next General Election. Our investigative, educational, and campaigning work will ensure we achieve this.

Central to all of this is winning hearts and minds. Our arguments are compelling and our appeal and reach wider than ever. People really love what we do. However, that is not enough. More people are required to stand up and be counted if we are to rid this country of all cruel sports. Therefore, winning more hearts and minds will be our 'main effort' underpinning all we do next year.

2021 was brought to you by a dedicated and experienced Board and Staff, all of whom rely on our amazing supporters to provide them the firm foundations necessary to work well. As always, it is a close-knit team effort. Heading up all of this is our Chair, Dr Tim Holmes, who will hand over to his successor later in the year. I salute him for his outstanding service to the League, and for the countless animals now safe from persecution as a result. Thank you.

“...central to all of this is winning hearts and minds. Our arguments are compelling and our appeal and reach wider than ever. People really love what we do. However, that is not enough. More people are required to stand up and be counted if we are to rid this country of all cruel sports.”





**Our
Focus**

Our Strategic Approach



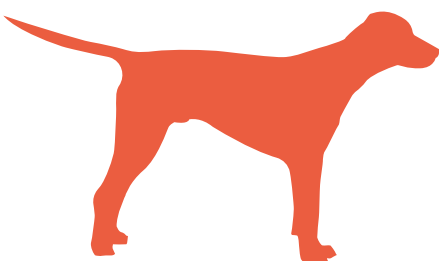
Our Vision

A kinder society where persecuting animals for 'sport' is in the past.

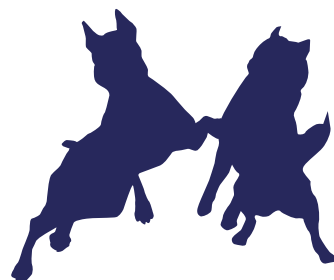
Our Mission

Empowered by knowledge and driven by compassion, we protect animals from being persecuted in the name of 'sport'.
United, we aim to redefine what is acceptable and inspire change.

Our Working Priorities



End hunting
with dogs



End fighting of
animals for
'sport'



End shooting of
animals for
'sport'



**Win the hearts
and minds**
of a broader
audience

Our Enablers

Governance

Operations

Infrastructure
& Support

Reserves &
Education

People &
Culture

Our Values

We are Compassionate

We are ethical and committed to creating a world that is caring towards animals and people.

We are Credible

We are law abiding, rely on evidence and have years of expertise.

We are Courageous

We have the confidence to challenge those who believe in killing animals for 'sport'.

We are Collaborative

We unite with others through honesty to achieve a common goal.

We are Catalysts for Change

We create opportunities to make change happen.

2021 Our Successes



January

Land Denial

Our Land Denial campaign ensured more than 2.3 million acres of land were denied to hunts. The UK's largest landowners, including the National Trust, United Utilities, Forestry England, Lake District National Parks and Natural Resources Wales suspended hunting licences following our campaign, which saw the public contacting them to ask that hunts be banned from using their land.

Northern Ireland

We helped bring a Private Members' Bill that, if successful, would see hunting with dogs banned in Northern Ireland. John Blair (MLA) put forward the bill that would prohibit hunting wild animals with dogs, prohibit 'trail' hunting and prohibit terrier work. Northern Ireland is the only part of the UK where hunting with dogs is still legal.



February

We took to the streets of Peterborough calling for the Festival of Hunting to be cancelled.

A new League supporter group, covering Cambridgeshire, was created by residents who were unhappy about blood sport events taking place in their county. Peterborough City Council took the landmark decision to ban trail hunting on its land and was the first council to do so after hunt officials were heard in two webinars appearing to describe trail hunting as a "smokescreen" for real hunting.

Sadly, the vote to cancel the festival lost by a narrow margin but we plan to take our new 'Enough is Enough' campaign to Peterborough in 2022 to encourage local residents to strengthen the calls for the event to be banned from the city.

Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, a public consultation on the future of hunting with dogs carried out by the Alliance party and supported by us, achieved overwhelming support for a ban on hunting with dogs.

In what is believed to have been the largest consultation in Stormont's history, 18,425 residents responded, with more than 80 per cent in favour of the proposals.



March

We launched an action targeting online auction houses to drop their support for hunting from their websites after the Devon-based Eggesford Hunt raised more than £13,000 from an online auction. These auction sites have helped fox hunts raise hundreds of thousands of pounds across the country and overseas. Our CEO Andy Knott also wrote to many different sites politely inviting them to end all associations with hunting and to end all hunt auctions.

As a result of the action, our supporters leapt into action and sent more than 2,600 emails to one auction site alone asking the company to stop funding hunts.

Many of the online auction sites have now gone on record to state they would not host an auction for a fox hunt. One site, in particular, went so far as to state on its website that auctions that sell assault weapons and adult content, and those raising money for fox hunts were not welcome. Past and present users of auction sites have informed us that they have moved their business to sites that publicly declare their opposition to funding hunting.



April

A host of celebrity naturalists joined us in our campaign to see snaring and caged 'game' bird breeding outlawed in Wales.

We called on every party in May's Senedd elections to make a manifesto commitment to ban these cruel practices, which are associated with the 'game' shooting industry in Wales.

The campaign was backed by Lizzie Daly, Megan McCubbin, Indy Greene, Mya-Rose Craig (BirdGirl), David Lindo and Hannah Stiffall. On our Bred to Die website, they explained more about the shooting industry and why snaring and caged breeding should be banned.

On 29 April, the long-awaited Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Act gained Royal Assent, increasing custodial sentences for the most serious animal cruelty from six months to five years. The League and RSPCA jointly formed and led the coalition of eleven Charities that campaigned for this piece of legislation. The League CEO was singled out in parliament for the leading role he played throughout.



May

On 6 May, Welsh Labour gained a clear win at the polls with exactly half of the seats in the 60-seat Welsh Parliament. We were delighted to see its manifesto commitment to ban the manufacture, sale, possession, and use of snares and for a ban on the use of cages for the breeding of 'game' birds.



The Conductor by Joanne Goostrey



The Scottish parliament voted to extend legal protection of mountain hares and ban mass killing of the species. Evidence of the destructive nature of the mass culling of these creatures, gathered by our professional investigators in early 2019, was decisive in securing this legislation. On 17 June, MSPs voted to give the species year-round protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and prevent the killing or injuring of mountain hares unless a specific licence is issued.

We welcomed the official start of the process for a Government bill to really ban fox hunting in Scotland. This came about after six years of League campaigning, including filming hunts, extensive media coverage, supporter mobilisation and lobbying Government until they agreed that the law needed strengthening.

June

July/August

On 13 July, Lord Randall of Uxbridge tabled a Private Members' Bill to prohibit the use of raised laying or battery cages to keep certain 'game' birds for producing eggs and to set minimum requirements for such enclosures. This bill, supported by the League, will make the large-scale of caged bird breeding in the UK commercially unviable.

Over the summer, we took to the streets with our supporters to call on the National Trust to stop licensing 'trail' hunting on its land. To its credit, the National Trust paused the licensing of trail hunting after the webinar exposure of former director of the Masters of Foxhounds, Mark Hankinson, but our campaign called for the ban to be made permanent.

We ended the campaign with a day of action in York ahead of the National Trust's AGM in Harrogate in October, when a vote would give members the chance to call for a permanent ban on the licensing of trail hunting.



We released our annual figures showing the appalling scale of fox cub hunting taking place in the countryside this autumn. Sadly, between the middle of August and the end of October, there were 300 reported incidents of suspected illegal fox cub hunting across England and Wales. These include 15 eye-witness reports of foxes being chased and killed, despite the fox hunting ban.

September

October

'Trail' hunting is a "smokescreen"

It's taken more than 15 years but finally a judge ruled that fox hunters have been riding roughshod over the law – and enough is enough! We celebrated outside Westminster Magistrates' Court as the conviction of Mark Hankinson, director of the Masters of Foxhounds Association, was read out.

Following a formal complaint made by the League in 2020, Hankinson was found guilty of intentionally encouraging or assisting others to commit an offence under Serious Crimes Act 2007 by telling them how to use the excuse of so called 'trail' hunting to get away with hunting real animals.

His Honour, Deputy Chief Magistrate for England and Wales, Tan Ikram, read out key parts of the webinar transcripts in his remarks, before saying "In my judgement he was clearly encouraging the mirage of trail laying to act as a cover for old fashioned hunting". He described trail hunting as "a sham and a fiction".



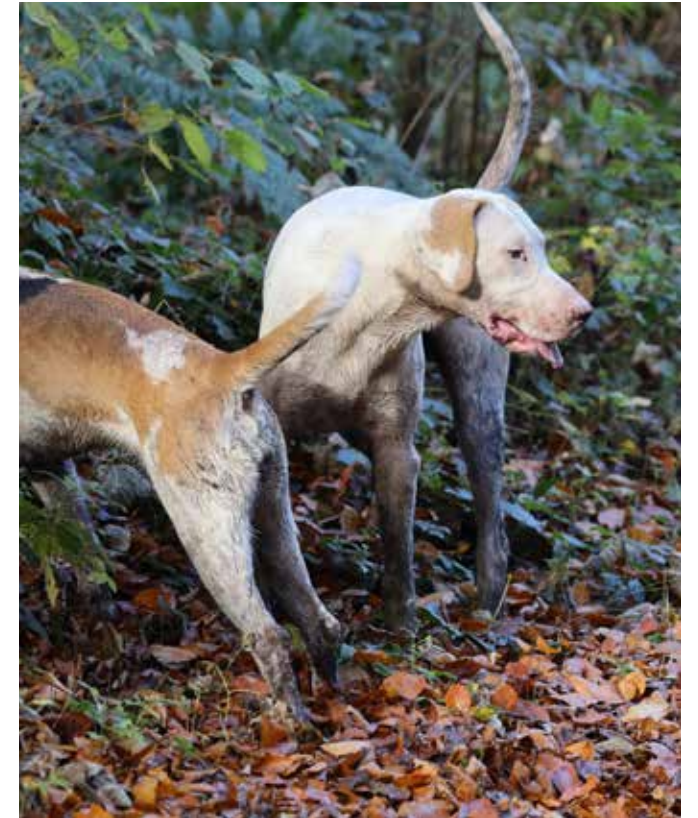
National Trust

We celebrated the decision outside the National Trust AGM in Harrogate as members voted to ban trail hunting on its land. As one of the UK's largest landowners who owns or is responsible for managing 620,000 acres of land, the banning of trail hunting will make it that much more difficult for hunters to continue their thirst for blood sports. The motion to ban trail hunting gained 76,816 members' votes, a majority of 38,632 over the 38,184 who voted against – a near two to one vote in support of a ban and represented a crushing defeat for the Countryside Alliance who had argued against our motion right up to the final votes being cast.



November

We cautiously welcomed the news that the National Trust Trustees honoured the members' wishes to ban trail hunting with the official ending of licensing of so-called trail hunting on its land. We are, however, concerned that without a full and explicit ban, fox hunting could still take place.



Northern Ireland

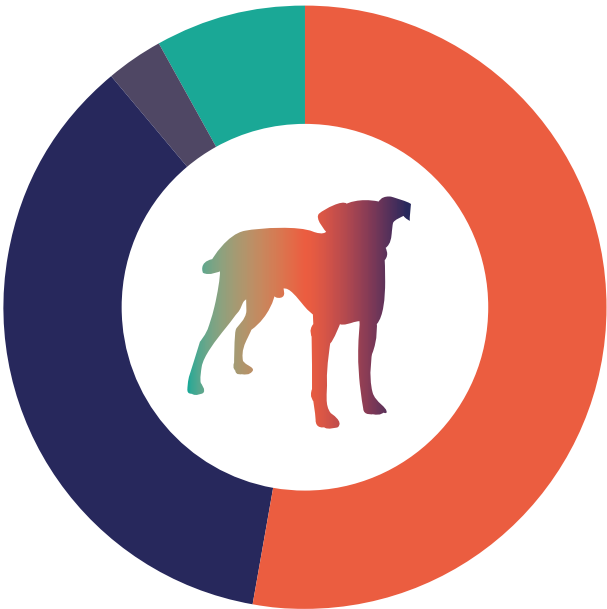
An historic opportunity to ban hunting with dogs in Northern Ireland sadly failed at the second stage. The Northern Ireland Assembly voted against the Private Members' Bill to ban hunting with wild dogs, by 38 for and 45 against. It was a devastating day for animals in Northern Ireland, as it's the only part of the UK not to have legislation in place to ban hunting with dogs. We are not defeated and are planning our next move!

Natural Resources Wales

We celebrated Natural Resources Wales/Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru permanently ending trail hunting on its land. The organisation is one of the largest landowners in Wales and suspended trail hunting after the damning webinars were leaked. It is a robust condemnation of the hunts in the wake of the recent conviction. We hope that other major landowners that had also suspended so-called trail hunting ahead of the trial must now be in the process of ending this activity for good.

December

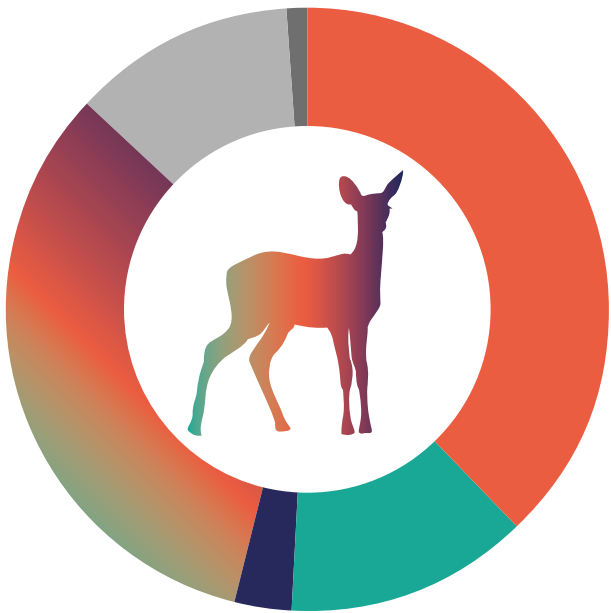
How funds were raised and spent in 2021



Total Income: **£3,095,599**

Income

Legacies:	53%
Donations & Gifts:	36%
Membership:	3%
Other Income:	8%

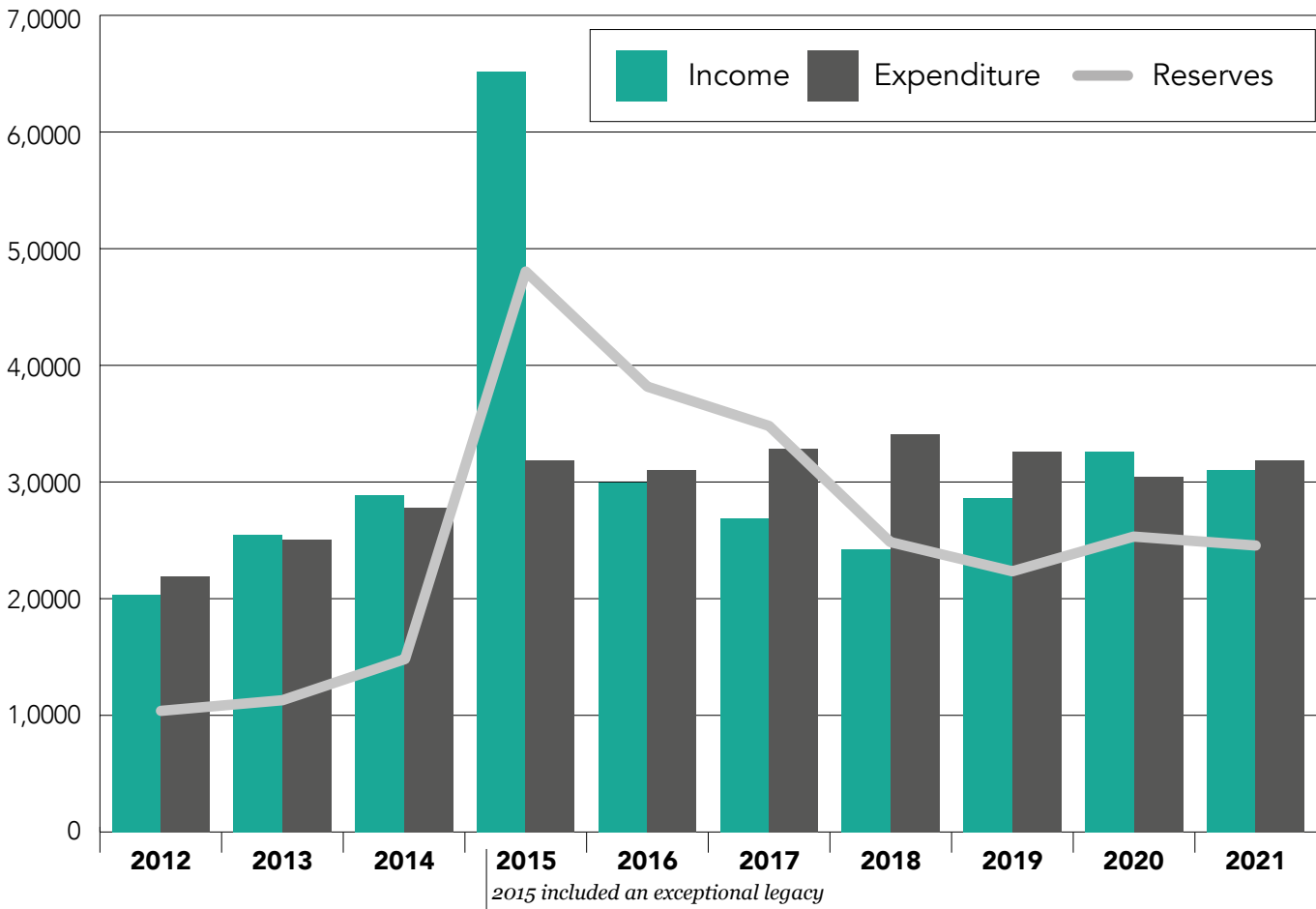


Expenditure

End Hunting with dogs:	38%
End Shooting of animals for sport:	13%
End Fighting of animals for sport:	3%
Win Hearts and Minds:	33%
Fundraising, Publicity & Trading:	12%
Governance:	1%

Total Expenditure: **£3,143,432**

Historic Financial Performance & Reserves £000



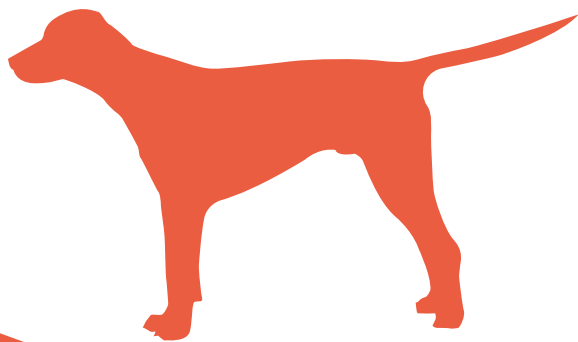
How we spend every £

	Charitable Objectives: 87p
	Fundraising: 12p
	Governance: 1p



2021 Priorities and Achievements

End hunting with dogs



Secure a permanent end to 'trail' hunting on National Trust land

In November 2021, following a long campaign, we cautiously welcomed the National Trust officially ending the licensing of so-called 'trail' hunting on its land. In a landslide vote at the trust's annual meeting in October, its members said enough is enough and voted overwhelmingly to ask the trustees to ban trail hunting and hound exercise, which is routinely used as a smokescreen for old fashioned illegal hunting. However, we are still unclear whether it has prohibited exempt hunting activities – those activities that exploit loopholes in the law which could still potentially lead to animals being chased and killed. This was also voted by the membership to be banned and we continue to ask that the National Trust clarifies its position. This is an overwhelming victory for wildlife in our countryside, as the National Trust is one of the UK's major landowners.

Secure a permanent end to 'trail' hunting on major landowner's land

Natural Resources Wales/Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru ended trail hunting on its land at the end of 2021. The organisation is one of the largest landowners in Wales and had suspended trail hunting after damning webinars were leaked in which a director of the Masters of Foxhounds Association was heard explaining to more than half the registered hunts in England and Wales how to use the activity as a "smokescreen" for real hunting.

'...Malvern Hills Trust banned trail hunting on its land after concerns were raised about the behaviour of two local fox hunts. Its trustees voted to suspend trail hunting licences for its land indefinitely.'

Facilitate local authorities to end hunting on their land

One of the North West's largest fox hunts was prevented from meeting in Keswick town centre on Boxing Day or any other time, as Keswick Town Council voted to write to the Blencathra Foxhounds – also known as the John Peel Hunt – explaining they were no longer welcome in the town.

Councillors at Cheshire West and Chester Council also voted to pause trail hunting on its land while it prepares for the publication of a report into the practice. We, along with other local hunt monitor groups, provided data to the council for its report, and following its publication the practice was banned.

Malvern Hills Trust banned trail hunting on its land after concerns were raised about the behaviour of two local fox hunts. Its trustees voted to suspend trail hunting licences for its land indefinitely following a series of infringements by the Ledbury Hunt and the Croome and West Warwickshire Hunt.

Councillors in Bolsover also voted to conduct an urgent county-wide and national debate on the issue of trail hunting.

In 2020 Peterborough City Council and in 2019 Nottinghamshire County Council also voted to ban hunting on their land.





Create an environment in Northern Ireland where all hunting of mammals with dogs is banned by supporting the Alliance Party's Private Members' Bill to pass into law

At the start of the year the Northern Ireland Assembly began the landmark process to ban hunting wild mammals with dogs.

The League was instrumental in gathering support for a Northern Ireland wide public consultation on whether a bill should be introduced to ban hunting with hounds. A staggering 18,425 people responded, which is thought to be by far the largest response to a consultation in the history of the Northern Ireland Assembly, with 78 per cent saying all hunting with dogs should be banned.

Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), John Blair, brought the Hunting of Wild Mammals (Northern Ireland) Bill to its first hearing at Stormont, giving MLAs an historic opportunity to end the cruelty of hunting.

Sadly, in November they voted against the bill. Members voted 38 for, and 45 against. While this is bitterly disappointing, we are encouraged that in January 2021, Belfast City Council supported a ban for hunting mammals with dogs despite strong opposition from Sinn Féin. Following the council debate, 34 councillors backed the Alliance proposal to write to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) expressing disappointment at the lack of legislative progress in "ending this barbaric practice" – with 18 opposing the motion.

Ensure the Scottish Government's bill to strengthen the fox hunting ban becomes an Act of Parliament that really bans fox hunting in Scotland

We know that more than 80 per cent of Scotland's residents wish to see fox hunting really banned. But we also acknowledge there is a chance the public would not notice the Government's bill to strengthen the existing loophole-riddled law.

To combat this, we launched our petition to really ban fox hunting and empower the people of Scotland to have their say on the matter. So, combined with the hours of video evidence captured by League's professional Investigators, we created a film revealing that illegal hunting is still taking place. Bringing the notion that fox hunting is still happening in Scotland, the film focuses on one lone fox hunter in full regalia who calmly rides through the city of Edinburgh to the Holyrood parliament building. When he gets there, he smiles into the camera and turns to reveal an embroidered message on the back of his red coat that says, 'I'm still allowed to hunt foxes'. It's a statement no Government can ignore.

We launched our film across social media platforms, targeting Scottish residents and gained 26,809 signatures to really ban fox hunting in Scotland. We met government officials at the end of the year, who confirmed the new bill would be introduced in early 2022. We will follow the progress of the bill throughout 2022, calling on our supporters to lobby their Member of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) at an appropriate time and continue to use the media to expose suspicious and illegal behaviour captured on film in the field.

Lobby and secure a national police working group on hunting with dogs

We are pleased to report that this has been achieved. A new national police working group on hunting with dogs was launched at the 2021 National Wildlife Enforcers Conference, with the League in attendance. The working group launched in January 2022.

'...we launched our film across social media platforms, targeting Scottish residents and gained 26,809 signatures to really ban fox hunting in Scotland.'

2021 Priorities and Achievements

End shooting of animals for 'sport'



End the transport of live birds and ready-to-hatch eggs into and out of the UK, focusing on EuroTunnel and Stena

Due to Covid-19 this activity was postponed

Release shooting report for England and Wales

Due to Covid-19 this activity was postponed. Our professional Investigators did, however, secure footage of both commercial shoots and the caged bird breeding industry. This included drone footage of Bettws Hall, Europe's biggest game bird hatchery, which according to its website, produces 800,000 game bird eggs each week. This was turned into a film to promote our work to end caged breeding and snaring in Wales.

Secure manifesto commitments to end cage breeding and the sale of snares in Wales by the time the Assembly elections happen in May 2021

We achieved both priorities, and the detail has moved even further from the manifesto commitments. The manifesto reads: "we will ban the use of snares and restrict the use of cages for farmed animals." To read the Welsh Labour Manifesto click [HERE](#).

Since the publication of the manifesto, these commitments have developed even further to read, "As part of our commitment to improving standards of farmed animal welfare we are working with the UK and Scottish governments to examine the evidence around the use of cages in farming, including enriched cages for laying hens, farrowing crates for pigs and breeding cages for gamebirds." To read the full document click [HERE](#).

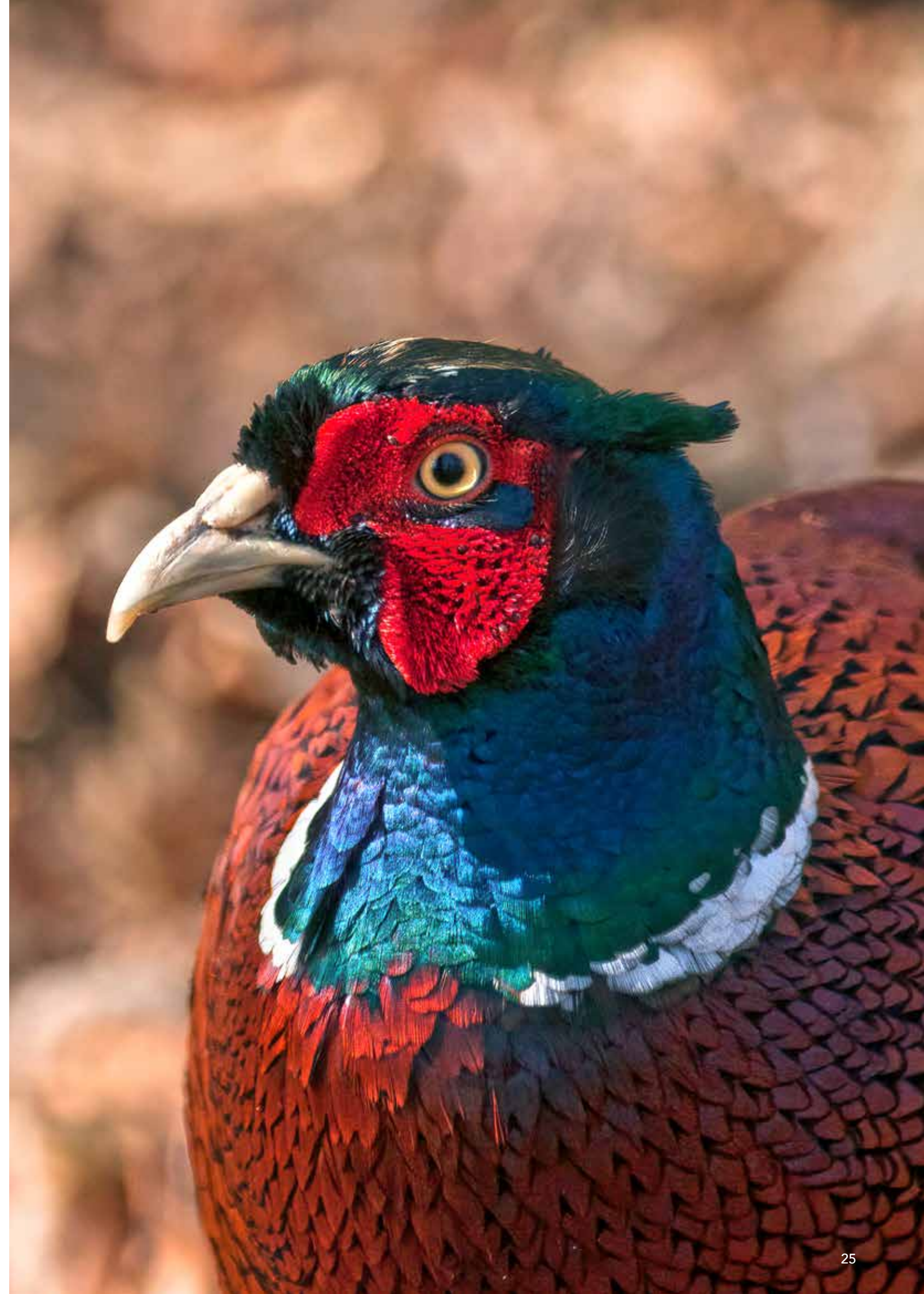
This extension to explicitly include game birds was repeated in a letter to organisations including the Countryside Alliance and British Association for Shooting and Conservation – that letter also explicitly said the Welsh Government is opposed to game shooting as a leisure activity.

Commitment from Yorkshire Water to review all leases by August 2021

In 2021 the League kept in regular contact with both Yorkshire Water and the grouse moor restoration organisation Wild Moors. Following the commitment to review its grouse shooting leases, Yorkshire Water has developed a robust mechanism to analyse and measure the benefits and weaknesses of allowing shooting to continue. At the end of 2021, the League has been shown a draft of this process and has been invited to give feedback to make sure the process is as robust as possible. We expect the review process to be finalised and implemented in 2022.

“...we will ban the use of snares and restrict the use of cages for farmed animals.”

Taken from the **Welsh Labour Manifesto**





Work with the REVIVE coalition to end the circle of destruction surrounding Scottish Grouse Moors

The League is a founding member of the Revive coalition, which in 2021 further built on three years of successful momentum since its formation. Last year the Revive national conference was attended by around 400 people who came to find out what they can do to help bring about radically reforming grouse moors.

We continued working with an MSP on a Member's Bill that would place responsibility on Scottish Government ministers to ensure that no wild animal is killed without reference to the internationally agreed seven principles of ethical wildlife control.

Secure ban of snaring in Scotland

The Scottish Government announced a review of snaring that will also consider banning their use. We will closely follow developments in 2022 and utilise existing data, videos and photographs that clearly illustrate snares are primitive, cruel and indiscriminate.

Virtual and physical outreach to local political and community groups

Last year we formed two new supporter groups, bringing our total to 15 active groups across England and Wales, and delivered nine bespoke training sessions to these groups.

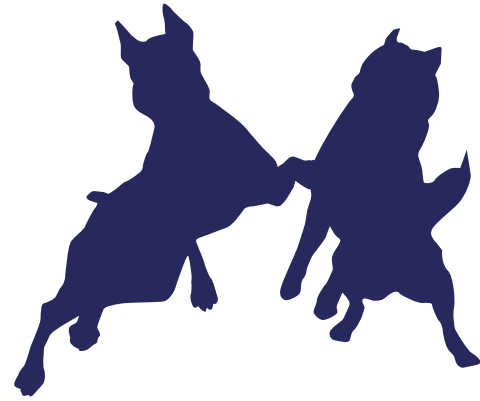
During the National Trust campaign, we answered more than 1,000 specific information requests from National Trust members, questioning the position of trail hunting on trust land and the details of our campaign.

Of these supporters, 210 went on to not only take part in the campaign but volunteered to help us raise awareness at their local National Trust properties by distributing campaign materials - including volunteers who also managed to doorstep the National Trust's Director-General!

‘...the Scottish Government announced a review of snaring that will also consider banning their use. We will closely follow developments in 2022.’

2021 Priorities and Achievements

**End
fighting** of
animals for
'sport'



Ensure the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Bill passes into law in 2021

In April 2021, the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Bill gained royal assent and was passed into law in June, meaning those committing the most heinous acts of violence against animals face a punishment more suited to their crimes.

We have been campaigning for many years to see maximum sentences increased from a paltry six months to five years. The League and RSPCA jointly formed and led the coalition of eleven charities that campaigned for this bill with the League CEO credited in Parliament for the leading role he played throughout.

Produce packages for external contractors to develop our intelligence on more complex animal fighting investigations

We have provided a number of intelligence packages and footage to police and law enforcement agencies, including one that led to a warrant being executed by North Wales Police, Natural Resources Wales, the RSPCA and Trading Standards. This case is still under investigation by the relevant authorities, and we are awaiting an update as to how this matter is proceeding within the criminal justice system.

Secure a dog fighting prosecution

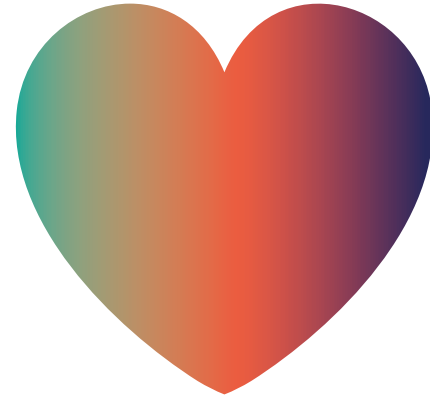
Sadly, though intelligence suggested dog fighting continued during the pandemic, no dog fighting convictions were secured during 2021.

‘...we have been campaigning for many years to see maximum sentences increased from a paltry six months to five years.’



2021 Priorities and Achievements

**Win the hearts
and minds
of a broader
audience**



Launch League Against Cruel Sports pledge

We began the process of launching the new corporate pledge in 2019, but its official launch was postponed due to Covid-19 in early 2020. We will begin this project again in earnest in 2022.

Regular communications with our supporters and stakeholders on campaign progress

At the start of lockdown in 2020, we launched League Life, a monthly email broadcast with updates, actions and progress on campaigns. We continued broadcasting these each month to our supporters, and achieved a high level of engagement from supporters. Our professional Investigators wrote detailed blogs for supporters providing insight and commentary on our latest campaigns.

Develop opportunities for partnership working to reduce animal cruelty and wildlife crime

Our work with Wildlife and Countryside LINK has greatly expanded our partnership working. Our multi-agency approach has also seen us work with more police and law enforcement agencies this year too. We also sit on the National Badger Persecution Priority Delivery Group and the National Cyber-Crime Priority Delivery Group. We also head up the Animal Intelligence Meeting which we reinstated in 2020.

We are part of a 50-strong animal welfare coalition urging the Government not to waste a 'once-in-a-generation opportunity' to redefine our relationship with animals through a new animal health and welfare strategy. The group released a new vision for animal welfare called Act Now For Animals, which sets out the sector's priorities for creating a society which rebalances the way we rear, live and work with animals. Included in the recommendations is banning the sale and use of all glue traps and snares, banning the intensive breeding of 'game' birds, banning trail hunting on government-

owned land and phasing out the mass culling of badgers.

Increase our reach through a diversified programme of fundraising activities

Last year we introduced new products to our Gifts Against Cruel Sports merchandise collection, including new T-shirts and a bespoke mindfulness colouring and activity book. We captured images of the wildlife living on our wildlife reserves to create eye-catching Christmas cards. We re-launched our League Lotto, increasing our player base by seven per cent. In the autumn we launched our new sports and challenges programme and 21 people took part in personal challenges while raising money for the League.

Increase the number of supporters donating regularly to the League

In 2021 we continued our digital acquisition campaign to recruit new long-term regular supporters to the League. More than 7.8 million people had the opportunity to see our campaign on social channels and we successfully recruited over 800 new regular donors.

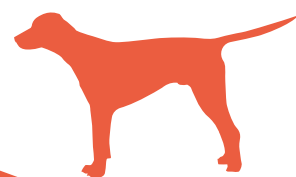
Launch the League of Animals education platform to Primary and Secondary schools across the UK

We were very proud to launch our new League of Animals free online educational resource in August 2021, with new Facebook and Instagram accounts. A targeted social media campaign reached 800,000 educational professionals and we established nearly 1,000 new followers on our League of Animals channels. Since launch, we have received more than 20,000 visitors to the site, with nearly 3,500 worksheets downloaded for students in Key Stage 1, 2 and 3. It is hoped this new resource will engender a greater awareness in our younger generation about the natural world around them and the wildlife with which we share our world.



2022 Priorities

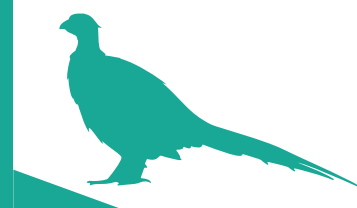
End hunting with dogs



- Develop stakeholder and partnership relationships
- Launch the nationwide panel debate Enough is Enough roadshows with leading figures from the animal welfare movement, politicians, and representatives from the enforcement community
- Campaign for the successful implementation of a new fox hunting act that really bans fox hunting in both Scotland and Northern Ireland
- Produce enhanced intelligence packages to provide to law enforcement groups and other non-governmental organisations
- Support the new national police working group on hunting with dogs



End shooting of animals for 'sport'



- Work with the Welsh Government to implement manifesto commitments on snaring and game bird breeding
- With the REVIVE coalition, work with the Scottish Government towards a licensing system of shooting estates to reduce the possibility of grouse shooting



End fighting of animals for 'sport'



- Manage and enhance the supporter-funded Animal Crimewatch reporting service to enable more members of the public to be aware of the service to report suspected dog fighting.



Win the hearts and minds of a broader audience



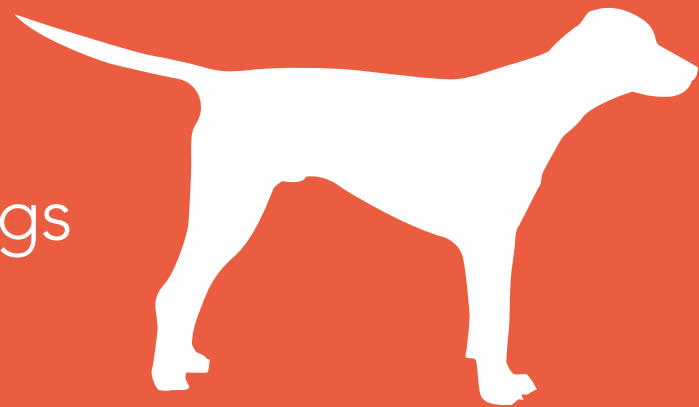
- Launch the League's corporate pledge
- Develop our Supporter Group network across the UK
- Increase the number of supporters donating regularly
- Focus on creating engaging supporter content to share across social media to raise our collective voices
- Work with key influencers to help raise awareness of our campaigns
- Continue working with Wildlife and Countryside LINK to improve the wider conservation efforts across the country
- Develop the wildlife reserves to encourage a more diverse group of visitors

A large group of beagles, mostly in shades of brown, white, and black, are gathered in a field. Many of the dogs have their long, floppy ears perked up, looking towards the camera. In the background, a dark-colored cow is partially visible, standing in a muddy or wet area. The overall scene suggests a hunting or training exercise.

Trustees' Strategic Report

Goal One

End
hunting
with dogs



It's taken more than 15 years but finally a judge has ruled that fox hunters have been riding roughshod over the law – and enough is enough!

In 2020 we ended the year with explosive revelations from leaked webinars organised by the Hunting Office, where once and for all the lid was blown off the Countryside Alliance's now debunked claims that 'trail' hunting is a legal activity.

We had been in constant discussion with Rupert Evelyn from the ITV News as he, along with others, had been aware of the webinar's existence. Together we worked on a plan to try and get them released nationally.

The League made a formal complaint to Devon and Cornwall Police, which prompted an investigation leading to the webinars to be published.

Once it was released, we amplified our campaign urging landowners across the country to suspend access to the hunts. We were amazed at how quickly the landowners acted – within a week more than 200,000 emails were sent by our supporters asking them to ban trail hunting on their land.

In February 2021 we finally heard that Mark Hankinson, one of the six people who spoke on the webinars, had been charged with intentionally encouraging or assisting others to commit an offence under the Hunting Act 2004, contrary to Section 44 of the Serious Crimes Act 2007.

Hankinson pleaded not guilty at a hearing at Plymouth Magistrates' Court in March, and the case was referred to Westminster Magistrates Court in London for September. It's a court more used to dealing with extradition or terrorism cases or high-profile cases that other magistrates' courts in the UK won't deal with.

We worked to make parliament and those in highest levels of the government aware of the webinars and we also wrote about it in the government publication for parliamentarians, House Magazine.

Our planning for the court case began weeks in advance, completing pre-recorded interviews, crafting our messaging, and planning our 'smokescreen' stunt outside the first day of court, reflecting one of the key phrases used in the webinars. We also took the message to the heart of hunting community by placing advertising vans at addresses relating to the key people on the webinars.

On 15 October we reassembled at Westminster Magistrates Court, as the decision was now in the hands of Deputy Chief Magistrate for England and Wales, Judge Tan Ikram, to decide whether Mark Hankinson was guilty or not guilty.

It is hard to describe the magnitude of what would happen if the verdict was guilty. But as the judge started reading, we began to raise our hopes. A lot of quotes were taken directly from webinars and the judge dealt blow after blow after blow to the defendant. Until finally...he was found guilty. You can read the news article [HERE](#).

While the £1,000 fine, £2,500 contribution to costs and £100 victim surcharge he had to pay is paltry, the wider implications are more far reaching:

The cost to the hunts must be that they can surely never, ever use the defence of trail hunting in court again.

The cost to the hunts must be a new, robust, Hunting Act 2004 being passed through parliament.

The cost to the hunts must be that the land they have been able to hunt on belonging to major landowners will be permanently denied to them.

The cost to the hunts must be that those who fundraise and sponsor them will now have to stop.

The cost to the hunts must be that those who insure them will now never pay out if a hunt uses an excuse of trail hunting when in court.

Because all those who have enabled the hunts in the past, will now be complicit in criminal activity if they enable trail hunting in the future.

The smoke screen has been lifted. With the continued support and determination of our supporters - not to mention all the anti-hunt organisations involved in obtaining and distributing the webinars - behind it should be a bright future for foxes.

A monumental victory for animals

This year we achieved our most significant victory in years, as our campaign to end 'trail' hunting on National Trust land came to an end.

National Trust issue trail hunting licences, in which hunts are supposed to follow pre-laid scents rather than real foxes. But if trail hunting is real, why are foxes still being killed by hounds? Why do they run amok on busy roads and railways?

We began the most recent phase of our campaign in 2020, calling on our supporters who are also National Trust members, to pledge their support for a motion to ban trail hunting at the organisation's Annual General Meeting (AGM). Our supporters' response was incredible, and the motion was accepted, meaning it would be debated by its membership and ultimately put to a vote. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 the AGM was postponed, but the motion carried over to 2021. Together with our supporters, our work was not wasted. Additionally, the pandemic may have changed the world, but our donors support throughout these turbulent times has meant our work could continue unabated.

Once restrictions began to ease last year we began our campaign. We held Covid-safe roadshows in 22 towns and cities across the UK, supported other events organised by our supporters, ran online and print advertising as well as using street billboards and ad vans to carry our message.

On 30 October, National Trust members attended the AGM in Harrogate. It was the largest voting turnout in its history and our staff and supporters were there to celebrate the result. The motion to ban trail hunting gained 76,816 members' votes, a majority of nearly two to one over the 38,184 who voted against.

In December the National Trust Trustees ended the official licensing of so-called trail hunting. We cautiously welcome their decision to act upon the wishes of their members, but we are concerned it still doesn't go far enough. It's still unclear whether it has prohibited exempt hunting activities, where hunts use loopholes in the law that could potentially lead to animals being chased and killed.

Our campaign to end trail hunting on National Trust is a huge landmark win for our wildlife.

Trail hunting land. Denied.

Following the explosive revelations of the leaked webinars from the Hunting Office, we amplified our land denial campaign. In 2021 we ensured more than 2.3 million acres of land were denied to hunts. The UK's largest landowners, including the National Trust, United Utilities, Forestry England, Lake District National Parks and Natural Resources Wales suspended hunting licences following our campaign, which urged the public to contact them to ask they ban hunts from using their land.

Our supporters sent more than 400,000 emails to the top landowners in the country over a 12-month period, keeping up the pressure until the trial of Mark Hankinson and beyond. Subsequently, circa one million acres of land, including the largest landowners in England and Wales (National Trust and Natural Resources Wales), permanently ended the licensing of trail hunting in December 2021.

We placed less focus on targeting councils last year, but we did manage to successfully ban hunting on Cheshire West and Cheshire land, a significant hotspot for hunting. Other councils have also taken up the call and have clearly seen and learnt from our campaign. We expect more councils to follow suit in 2022 and ban trail hunting on their land.

'...our supporters sent more than 400,000 emails to the top landowners in the country over a 12-month period.'



Let's Really Ban Fox Hunting in Scotland

We all thought fox hunting was banned in Scotland, but our courageous fieldworkers exposed that this is not the case. Right now, hunts continue to exploit loopholes in the law.

In May 2021, following the delay of the fox hunting ban due to Covid-19, at the end of last year the Scottish Government officially kicked off the process of strengthening the fox hunting ban by releasing a six-week consultation on two main elements of their proposed legislation – reducing the numbers of dogs to two and stopping trail hunting from being introduced into Scotland.

With the aid of our filmed evidence and with 87 per cent of the Scottish public thinking that fox hunting should be illegal, parliament began the process of strengthening the law by saying they wish to listen to the public about what they think should happen.



We sprang into action and launched our campaign asking Scottish residents to lend their support to our calls to Really Ban Fox Hunting in Scotland. At the end of the year, we met with government officials who confirmed the new bill would be introduced in early 2022. You can watch our film [HERE](#).

In December our professional fieldworkers secured footage showing a fox fed to dogs after being legally flushed out, along with another film showing a man tossing a fox to dogs and encouraging them to rip it apart in Howwood, Renfrewshire. The cruelty involved in fox hunting is alive and well, despite the law banning dogs from hunting down the animals in the traditional way in Scotland. Now is the time to Really Ban Fox Hunting in Scotland.

Northern Ireland misses its chance to be at the forefront of animal welfare in the UK

At the start of the year, we helped bring a Private Members' Bill that, if successful, would see hunting with dogs banned in Northern Ireland. We supported Alliance Party Member John Blair MLA, who put forward the bill that would prohibit hunting wild animals with dogs, prohibit trail hunting and prohibit terrier work. Northern Ireland is the only part of the UK where hunting with dogs is still legal. Fox hunting is a controversial subject, polarising opinion in the country.

The Government launched a consultation, supported and promoted by the League, and a staggering 18,425 people responded, which is thought to be the largest response to a consultation in the history of the Northern Ireland Assembly, with 78 per cent saying all hunting with dogs should be banned.

The consultation finally gave voters the opportunity to make their voice clearly heard on the issue of hunting live mammals with dogs. We met with Ulster

Society for the Prevention Cruelty to Animals, and other interested groups and the Police Service of Northern Ireland with a view to support our campaign.

Our work saw us calling on the Northern Ireland Assembly to ensure the wording of the bill made it a robust piece of legislation, closing the loopholes that allow hunts to get away with killing wild mammals in Scotland, England and Wales, despite bans already being in place there.

In November the Northern Ireland Assembly started its landmark process with its first hearing at Stormont giving MLAs an historic opportunity to end the cruelty of hunting. Whilst it is to be celebrated that the bill was put before Stormont, sadly it was narrowly defeated and stopped during its passage through to becoming law. So the scene is set for this to be a key issue going into the May assembly elections this year.

Festival of Hunting – a cause for celebration?

In February 2021 we launched our Festival of Hunting campaign, by taking to the streets of Peterborough calling for the festival to be cancelled.

Along with League staff and volunteers, residents gathered outside Peterborough Cathedral to campaign for the event, which promotes the world of hunting with hounds, to be cancelled. The Festival of Hunting takes place in July and attracts 5,000 spectators. Local residents were so appalled about the event taking place in their city that we established a new Supporter Group covering Cambridgeshire.

Holding the festival in this city is an unusual location, as Peterborough City Council was one of the first councils to take the landmark decision to ban so-called trail hunting on its land.

In July we welcomed a cross-party motion by councillors calling on the council to recognise that Peterborough is no longer an appropriate city to host the event. Sadly, councillors voted in favour of the event.

While this is bitterly disappointing, we have established a new supporter network in a location where we had previously little formal structure, in a very short space of time. We implemented a thorough training programme, mobilised activists to establish a new foothold in Cambridgeshire and have trialled a new supporter model which we shall roll out to other areas in 2022.

‘...local residents were so appalled about the event taking place in their city that we established a new Supporter Group covering Cambridgeshire.’



Map of Cruel Sports

In 2020 we launched an interactive map as part of our campaign to show the territory of the hunts still operating across the British countryside and the species they target – foxes, hares or deer.

Last year we developed the map to include mink hunting. Our prior knowledge had been sparse, but through our long-running investigations we identified how many mink hunts still exist and the locations of where they meet. This clandestine form of hunting is very rarely seen unless you are a member of a hunt or know the signs to look out for. Our work, which is now available on the Map of Cruel Sports, has been praised by the International Otter Society, which was horrified at the number of hunts still operating. It has now used our online infographic to show its followers how otter conservation and mink hunting are closely linked. In 2022 we will use drones to cover several mink hunts still operating.

Mink hunting vs. otter conservation

Mink hunting is an **illegal activity under the Hunting Act 2004**. Due to the indiscriminate nature of the hunting hounds, otters will be killed if discovered before a mink.

Mink (*Neovison vison*)

- Similar size to ferrets
- Have pointed noses
- Usually very dark, almost black in colour
- Mink swim higher with their back out of the water
- Bushy tails when dry
- Similar size to ferrets
- Found beside rivers, streams and lakes.

Source: www.discoverwildlife.com

Otter (*Lutra lutra*)

- Distinctly bigger than a cat
- A protected species
- Have round noses
- A swimming otter is mostly submerged
- Found beside rivers, streams and lakes
- Nocturnal animals
- Usually, pale brown in colour.

Source: www.discoverwildlife.com

Mink hunting season:

April - October

18

Mink hunts in Britain (November 2021)



6 mink hunts share their kennels with other hunts (mostly fox).

Source: www.league.org.uk

Eurasian otter populations are still declining worldwide

Source: www.otter.org

Contact our Animal Crimewatch team if you suspect any illegal mink hunting happening in your area

ANIMAL CRIMEWATCH

Otters are a protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Police training and liaison

Last year we continued to share our expertise in the Hunting Act 2004 by training police forces and those involved with the criminal judicial system. We supported police forces throughout the UK, including Wiltshire, Devon and Cornwall, Kent, Cambridgeshire, Sussex, West Mercia and Ministry of Defence Police during their investigations into allegations of illegal hunting. We also worked with the Officer in Charge in the Hunting Act with regards to the prosecution of Mark Hankinson.

One of our main priorities last year was to lobby and secure a national police working group on hunting with dogs, which we are pleased to report was established and announced at the National Wildlife Enforcers Conference. The working group, involving the League, had its first meeting in January 2022.

A brighter future

Last year joint work by our investigations and intelligence teams led to 34 dogs and two ferrets being rescued from a farm in North Wales, and a man arrested by local police.

Among the dogs rescued was an entire pack of hunting hounds, which we believe is the first time this has happened in the UK. The investigation by North Wales Police will focus on the condition of the animals and whether a court order preventing

keeping of dogs has been breached. If found guilty, he could be sentenced up to a maximum of five years in prison, following the introduction of the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Act 2021, which we were instrumental in securing.

Cubbing – a traditional autumn sport?

Our 2020 figures showed the appalling scale of fox cub hunting taking place in the countryside over the autumn, despite the continuing pandemic. Between the middle of August and the end of October, there were 300 reported incidents of suspected illegal fox hunting across England and Wales.

These include 15 eye-witness reports of foxes being chased and killed, despite the fox hunting ban. The suspected illegal hunting took place in 56 different counties and involved 108 different hunts – showing the sheer scale of this across the UK.

Gloucestershire had the highest number of suspected illegal hunting incidents with 43 cases in less than a three-month period. The Duke of Beaufort's Hunt topped the hall of shame across England and Wales with the highest number of suspected illegal incidents with 21 cases. Our professional Investigators filmed hounds from the hunt chasing a fox through a barbed wire fence on Hawkesbury Common in Gloucestershire.

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Goal Two

End shooting
of animals
for sport



A new era for 'game' birds in Wales?

In January we launched our new polling, carried out by YouGov, showing the overwhelming majority of the Welsh public want both snares and the caged breeding of 'game' birds banned.

It showed that 78 per cent of the Welsh public wanted snares to be made illegal and 72 per cent said cages to breed pheasants and partridges should be made illegal. Support for the bans came from across the political spectrum showing a majority in favour from Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrats and Plaid Cymru voters.

We launched our campaign that called on all the main political parties to back a ban on snares and caged breeding of game birds and to include it in their manifestos for the forthcoming Senedd elections. You can watch the campaign film [HERE](#).

A host of celebrity naturalists joined our calls to see snaring and caged 'game' bird breeding outlawed in Wales. The creation of www.bredtodie.co.uk answered questions from the public to overcome the obstacles presented by the pandemic, as we were unable to deliver face to face campaigning events.

We secured funding to launch our Silent Enemy film, showing the horrors of snaring and the impact it has on indiscriminate animals. Up to 50,000 snares are laid at any one time in Wales according to UK government research on the issue. You can watch the Silent Enemy film [HERE](#).

Our professional Investigators secured drone footage of Bettws Hall, Europe's biggest game bird hatchery, which according to its website produces 800,000 game bird eggs each week, to show the sheer scale of the operation. Our campaign film urged members of the Welsh government to take action. You can watch the campaign film [HERE](#).

The campaign was a success and gained a commitment from the Labour party in Wales which was re-elected at the ballot box, to end snaring and undertake a review of cage breeding in Wales.

‘...our professional Investigators secured drone footage of Bettws Hall, Europe’s biggest game bird hatchery, which according to its website produces 800,000 game bird eggs each week, to show the sheer scale of the operation.’

Grouse Moor Reform

Our work in Scotland continued apace. As one of the founding members of the Revive coalition for grouse moor reform, we continued to highlight the circle of destruction surrounding Scottish grouse moors.

An important part of this is the potential environmental damage of thousands of medicated grit stations that litter the land on shooting estates. The medication is left out in the hope it will protect wild grouse from disease, but no one knows what impact it has on other flora or fauna. At the start of the year, the Scottish Government commissioned an agency to report on the issue. As part of this we offered over 8,000 photos and the GPS positions of over 7,000 grit stations that were documented in our 15-month survey of seven Scottish shooting estates to provide crucial intelligence for their report.

The League inspired the Revive coalition's ground-breaking report, *Our Land*, which outlines a comprehensive toolkit of policies and actions to provide a roadmap towards land reform in Scotland. The report, by the New Economics Foundation and the Common Weal think tank, has been described by land reform expert Andy Wightman as "the tipping point in the debate". *Our Land* addresses issues of social justice and questions why more than a million hectares of Scotland is uneconomically set aside for shooting grouse for entertainment. It analyses why concentrated land ownership is harming Scotland, sets out a comprehensive plan for proper reform, demonstrates that it is legal, and possible within the powers Scotland already has, and sets out a vision for what a new Scottish landscape could look like.

The report was extensively covered by the *National*, a pro-independence newspaper, popular with the Scottish National Party and campaigning journalist Lesley Riddoch's column in the same paper was very complimentary about the report. You can read the report [HERE](#).

In the spring we hosted a very successful Revive hustings in the run up to the Scottish elections on 6 May. It's a mark of Revive's credibility that nearly 200 people turned up online to listen to what candidates from all the major political parties thought about the need for radical reform of grouse moors. This wouldn't have happened at the last election and is testament to both the political and public support for Revive's aim. It shows how successful the campaign has been in shifting the political discourse in the past three years.

We managed to secure different opinion pieces in five Scottish newspapers at the beginning of the grouse shooting season. People talk less and less about "the glorious twelfth" and more and more about "controversial grouse shooting".

In November, the Revive coalition held its second national conference at the Concert Hall in Perth. More than 400 paying guests attended to hear Chris Packham host an all-star line-up of speakers on the animal welfare, social justice and environmental circle of destruction surrounding grouse moors. Bringing together a broad spectrum of people and asking them to take political action will be crucial when the government announces how it intends to introduce a licensing system of shooting estates in Scotland by the end of this parliament in 2026. There's still a lot to be done to get this legislation through parliament, but we are determined to reform the Scottish countryside.

Our professional fieldworkers went to the Cairngorms to obtain footage of the devastating impact of muirburn on Cairngorms National Park. The footage shows the sheer scale of heather burning at the very same time as a global summit on climate change was being held in Glasgow. The film was shown at COP26 and you can see the devastation first-hand [HERE](#).

‘...we offered over 8,000 photos and the GPS positions of over 7,000 grit stations that were documented in our 15-month survey of seven Scottish shooting estates to provide crucial intelligence for their report.’



Goal Three

End fighting
of animals
for sport



Sentences for acts of animal cruelty increased

In 2019 we led a delegation of animal welfare charities to urge the Government to stand by its promise to push the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Bill through Parliament. We are proud to report that in April the bill was passed into law and on 29 June the maximum sentence for crimes under the Animal Welfare Act increased from a paltry six months to five years.

We have been working tirelessly to ensure this important bill was passed into law to act as a strong deterrent for those who would consider mistreating animals. We will continue our calls on the courts to use these new sentences to bring about an end to cruel and savage 'sports' like dog fighting, which is still sadly taking place in the UK today.

Partnership working

We provided intelligence packages to three police forces on the movements of a well-known animal fighter who was moving between Northern Ireland, Scotland and Derbyshire. Subsequent warrants were executed at addresses in Northern Ireland and resulted in the recovery of 14 dogs, five of which had recent badger-type wounds.

Our intelligence led us to a suspected dog fighter in south-east England and to a second man wanted by police for a serious aggravated burglary 14 years ago. At the time of his original arrest the second man had numerous dogs, severely injured from fighting, seized from him. Our research assisted the police, who set up a fugitive task force which led to him being arrested. He attended court last summer and received eight years imprisonment for robbery from two elderly people.

We uncovered numerous fox baiting cases and produced intelligence packages which have been passed to police for investigation. Following the shocking footage obtained by the North London Hunt Saboteurs of a man attacking a fox after it was initially bitten by a dog, we supported the Essex police in the case which saw a 48-year old man arrested on suspicion of offences under the Hunting Act 2004.

We provided support to the Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in a badger baiting case, in which during the investigation a mobile phone was seized. We provided analysis support and assisted them identify new suspects and further lines of enquiry. This is still an on-going investigation.

We provided various cock fighting intelligence reports to police forces, which resulted in visiting one location and one being forwarded to Trading Standards. The police and Trading Standards executed a search warrant at a site and recovered a number of stolen dogs and found evidence of cock fighting.

Sadly, we are at the hands of local police forces to feedback outcomes from the intelligence packages we provide. Often, we do not hear anything back, which is frustrating and doesn't allow us to fully assess the impact of our investigative packages provided.

'...our intelligence led us to a suspected dog fighter in SE England and to a second man wanted by police for a serious aggravated burglary 14 years ago. At the time of his original arrest the second man had numerous dogs, severely injured from fighting, seized from him.'

Goal Four

Win the hearts and minds of a broader audience



A harmless bet at the races?

We called for a parliamentary debate on greyhound racing after a petition on the UK parliament website, calling for it to be banned, reached over 100,000 signatures. According to the industry's own figures, at least 200 greyhounds tragically died trackside at stadiums across Britain last year and 3,575 were injured, despite a racing schedule reduced by a third due to Covid-19.

The petition called on the Government to introduce legislation that abolishes greyhound racing via a managed shutdown of activities that ensures the welfare of the redundant dogs through a levy on the industry.

The Government responded towards the end of the year stating, "DEFRA supports high welfare for racing greyhounds, considers that welfare concerns are being addressed in many ways, and believes a ban is unnecessary". We disagree, as do more than 100,000 others and we await the date of when this will be debated in parliament.

In July we joined a protest with the Shut Down Towcester Racecourse group, outside Towcester racecourse ahead of the industry's most high-profile event, the Greyhound Derby. Since the reopening of the racecourse there has been a lot of support from local residents who do not want this 'sport' on their doorstep.



In November we partnered with PETA and Oxford Vegan Action, asking residents to back our campaign to prevent greyhound racing returning to the Blackbird Leys Stadium. Despite being closed in 2012 due to the declining popularity of the sport and the area around the stadium becoming very run down, Galliard Homes, which owns the stadium, was forced to make a U-turn and signed a 10-year lease with greyhound racing promoter Kevin Boothby, managing director of Henlow Racing.

League staff and volunteers gathered on the streets of Oxford to urge the public to take action and sign the online petition calling on Oxford City Council to stop the return of this 'sport'. More than 3,000 residents signed the online petition. The motion was brought by Cllr Lucy Pegg and was due to be debated on 29 November. Unfortunately, the council ran out of time to debate this matter and the motion was not discussed at the next meeting in January 2022.

Due to the number of people who signed, the petitioner will put forward to the council to debate at a future meeting.

Animal Crimewatch

Our supporter-funded Animal Crimewatch reporting service allows people from across the UK to report animal crimes. In 2021 we received 409 reports from members of the public who were concerned about animal cruelty. As in previous years, fox and cub hunting account for just over 50 per cent of all Animal Crimewatch reports received.

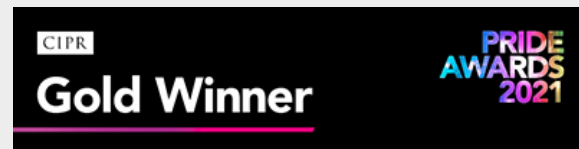
Members of the public can contact us by email, phone, post or by completing an online form; email and online remain the preferred choice of contact. Our revised website, which launched in September last year, made it easier for people to contact us online.



Award Winning

Last year we won the Gold Award in the Chartered Institute in Public Relations Pride Awards 2021 in the Best Not-For-Profit Campaign for our work at the 2019 General Election. Our campaign saw us take to many towns across the UK asking residents to approach candidates on their views on hunting. It was the first time since the introduction of the Hunting Act 2004 that the Conservative Party took a position that was not absolute repeal, safeguarding the Act. This award is for our supporters and volunteers who made the campaign the success that it was.

We were also joint winners of Birdwatch Birders Choice 2021 Awards in the Campaign of the Year category for our campaign to end trail hunting on National Trust land. We are grateful to the readership for celebrating the culmination of our campaign which resulted in National Trust members voting overwhelmingly to ban trail hunting on its land.



Police and Crime Commissioner Elections

In the spring we launched our campaign urging voters to find out the views of their Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) candidates on wildlife crime and their commitment to make it a local and national priority. We called on all election candidates to commit to making hunting with dogs a national wildlife crime priority and to tackle animal cruelty in the countryside.

As part of our campaign, more than 22,000 emails were sent by our supporters to PCC candidates across England and Wales. Over 36 per cent of candidates responded, and we collated these to produce an action of each candidates' views on wildlife crime. Although hunting with dogs was banned in 2005, we still repeatedly receive reports from the public and our own investigators about hunts chasing and killing foxes, deer and hares. Despite the national lockdown throughout much of last year, we still received more than 300 reports relating to suspected illegal hunting.

We now have the names of the 34 per cent of the PCCs in England and Wales who responded which is significant, as they have the power to administer policing budgets in key priority areas. Making wildlife crime one of those priorities will, we hope, ensure police forces have the funding they need to properly enforce the law and the Hunting Act 2004.

Countryside Collaboration

Through our leadership of the Wildlife and Crime subcommittee of the Wildlife and Countryside LINK, we delivered training to the Crown Prosecution Service's lawyers and barristers in the Hunting Act 2004 to assist them in successfully prosecuting hunting-related cases. We also secured a chapter on hunting with dogs within LINK's fourth national wildlife crime report – only the second time the subject has been accepted for inclusion.

‘...more than 22,000 emails were sent by our supporters to PCC candidates across England and Wales. Over 36 per cent of candidates responded.’

League of Animals

Last year, we launched our League of Animals online educational platform, providing teachers with lesson plans to help inspire young people to discuss and make informed opinions about their attitude to wildlife. We reached nearly 800,000 educational professionals across social media and more than 20,000 visitors accessed our website

www.leagueofanimals.org.uk, resulting in 3,500 worksheets being downloaded for students in primary and secondary schools across England.

This free resource was created in partnership with teachers, with teachers at its heart. Materials enable students to have honest discussions about conservation and wildlife. Feedback has been very positive, and we will continue to advocate and promote our unbiased resources to educational establishments throughout the country for the next generation of animal welfare advocates.



Creating a louder voice for animals

Last year more than 5,000 new supporters added their voices to our calls to protect animals from cruel sports by making a financial contribution to support our campaigns. Through our continued digital investment, we reached more than 7.8m people across social media with over 800 new supporters donating regularly to the League.

Our social media channels achieved high levels of engagement from our followers and our work with key influencers and celebrities enabled us to reach more than five million new people through their networks by sharing our key campaigns and calls to action.

We launched our new look website www.league.org.uk, enabling us to improve the online experience for visitors, giving greater clarity on the strands of our work and how they can get involved, be it through campaigning, advocacy or fundraising.

Growing our reach

In 2021 the League was mentioned 2,826 times in separate media articles. On TV and radio, our name and key messages were mentioned 151 times, including frequent prime time coverage on ITV News, BBC News and Sky News.

On Boxing Day, articles in the Mirror and Guardian newspapers and websites alone had a combined audience reach of 37.7 million.

Our advertorial content in publications such as The Spectator and House Magazine ensured our messages were put in front of those in power, resulting in positive feedback from members of both Houses of Parliament. This included comprehensively referencing our advertorial to strengthen the arguments in favour of the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Bill.

Our Wildlife Reserves wildlife

It has been a busy year on our wildlife reserves, which also increased in number from nine to ten.

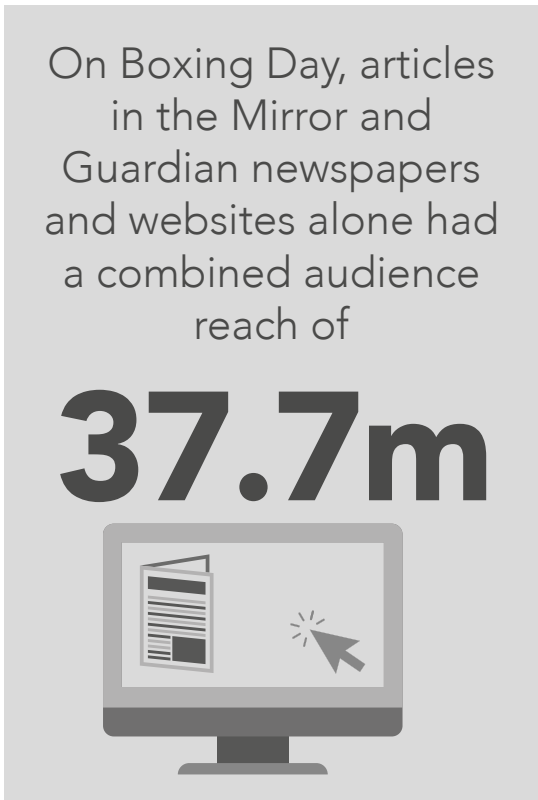
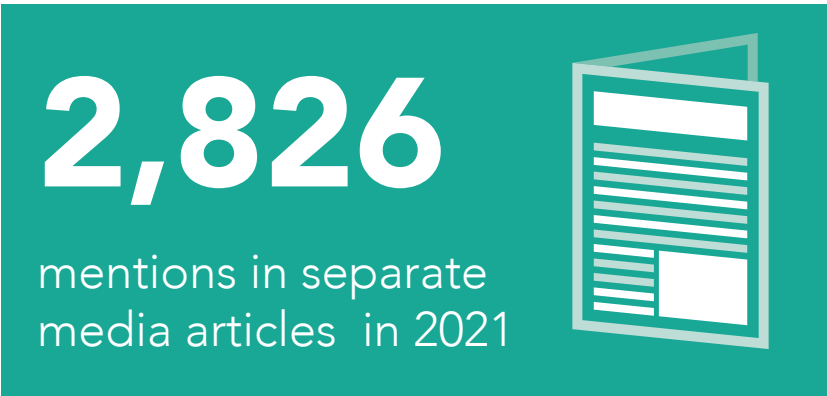
At the start of the year, a rare barbastelle bat was found roosting in a hide on our flagship reserve, Baronsdown, bringing the number of bat species we know which are using the reserve to seven. Freezing temperatures created spectacular ice sculptures where springs drain through the old Baronsdown gardens.

As spring arrived, chiffchaffs and willow warblers returned to the reserves after their journey to Africa and back, followed by redstarts, wood warblers and cuckoos. Pied flycatchers returned to Baronsdown and made use of bird boxes that had been replaced in Barlynch Wood. Badger and fox cubs ventured above ground, and regular sightings of fallow deer on Baronsdown made an interesting addition to the fauna on the reserve.

As summer began, red deer calves were born on the reserves, and we held our first supporter visit since the outbreak of Covid-19. In the height of summer, a beautiful bonanza of butterflies dazzled the reserves, and three badger cubs were vaccinated on Baronsdown as part of an ongoing programme. Survey tubes placed in St Johns Wood produced their first hazel dormice, which was a first for the site.

As autumn set in, we discovered a barn owl using a nest box on Baronsdown and started our work repairing the wildlife hides on the land. These will be developed during 2022 as photography hides for paying visitors. Towards the end of the year we held our annual legacy event and were delighted to be invited to give a presentation to Exeter University ecology students on our joint Cove Down project, which is part of the larger Devon Rewilding Network.

Towards the end of the year, we were gifted an ecologically diverse and flourishing new reserve, Stoke Brook Wood, from a generous couple who have been supporting us for many years.



People Reporting



At the League we believe in fair and consistent remuneration. We became an accredited Living Wage employer in 2020 demonstrating our commitment to ensure all employees and third party contracted staff earn a wage that meets the genuine cost of living. We annually benchmark to ensure our staff receive a fair and competitive salary, so we can attract and retain the best people to achieve our animal outcomes.

As part of our people policy, we actively work to ensure pay gaps are minimised and exceed the national average. Hand in hand with fair remuneration is providing equal access to training so that all staff benefit from exposure to development opportunities.

The environmental sector as a whole is under-representative of society, particularly in relation to ethnic minority backgrounds. The League’s Diversity and Inclusion Group looks not only to ensure that League policy and operations are inclusive for everyone, but also explores avenues to reach out to underrepresented groups.

Our staff survey points to very high levels of engagement and satisfaction. Staff turnover remains low at 12.44 per cent, two per cent under the sector benchmark. For the fourth year in row, there has been no turnover amongst the senior management team. Our staff benefits package can be viewed [HERE](#).

Pay Gap (minus CEO)	National Average Pay Gap	2020	2021	Change from previous year
Gender Pay Gap	17.3%	13.84%	12.06%	-1.78%
Disability Pay Gap	12.2%	15.2%	4%	-11.2%
Ethnicity Pay Gap (white background and ethnic minority background)	21.7%	19.9%	6.78%	-13.12%

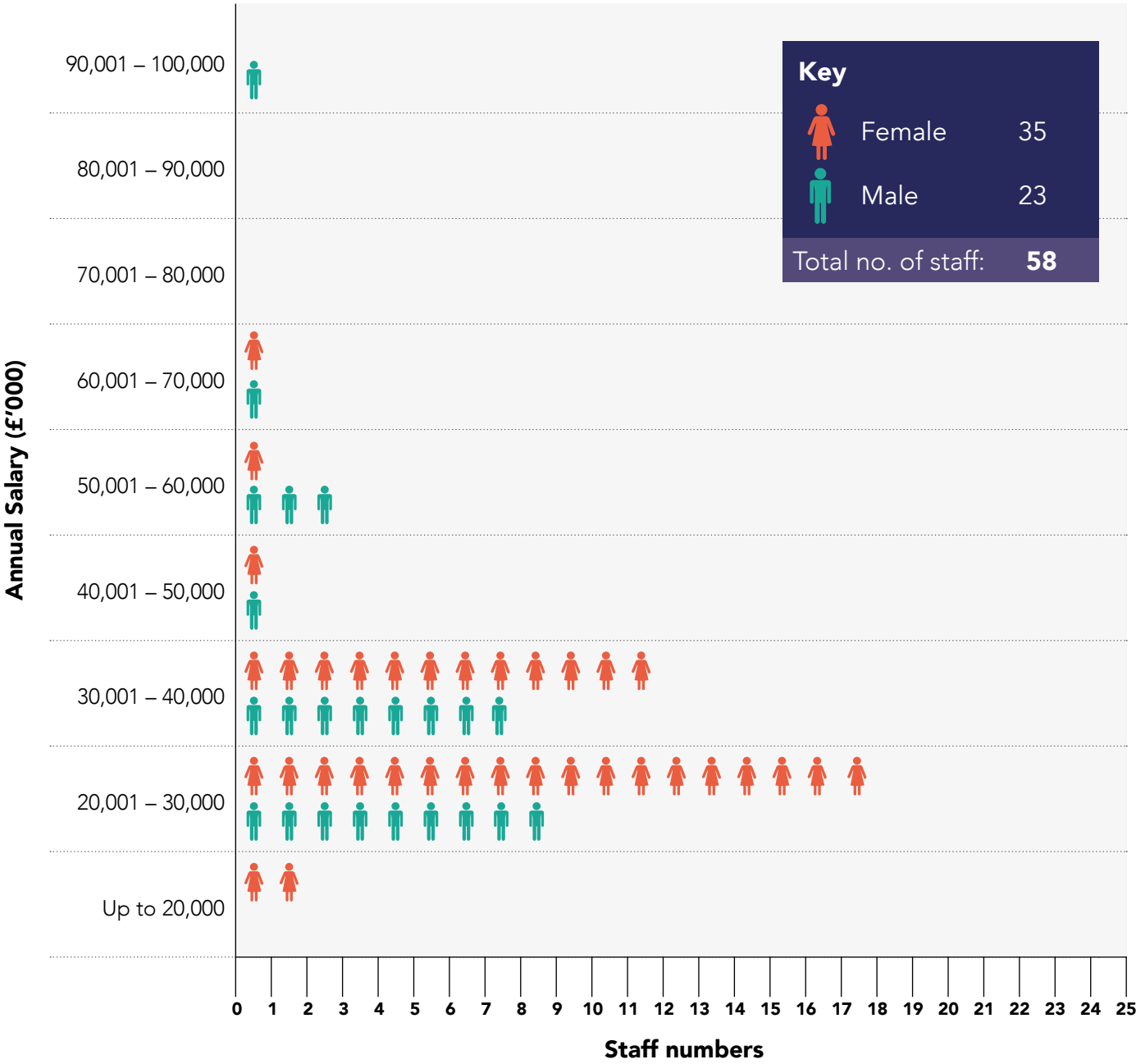
With a total headcount of 58 staff, any changes to personnel can significantly impact the statistics

Change from previous year indicating negative figures show a narrowing (improvement) in the pay gaps.

Pay Ratio	2019	2020	2021
Highest paid salary (£)	91,350	89,279	93,451
Median (£)	29,196	29,866	30,034
Ratio	3.1	2.99	3.1

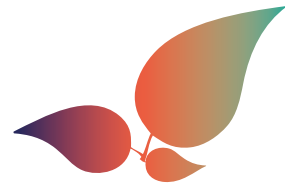
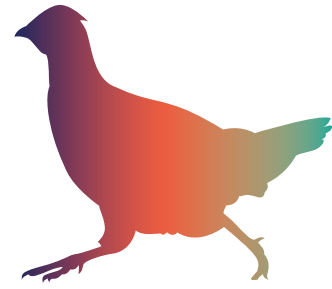
All staff received a pay increase in January 2020, the CEO took a voluntary pay cut during 2020 due to the pandemic and had pay reinstated at 2020 level in 2021. Pay figures on the above tables are based on actual staff pay during the financial year.

Annual Salary entitlements



Staff numbers and salary figures are based on the full time equivalent of staff salary entitlements as at 31 December 2021

Sustainability Statement



Managing our Wildlife Reserves

Most ecosystems around the world have been adversely impacted by human activities, which has resulted in a

breakdown of the natural systems that sustain life. We are now starting to feel the results of these failing systems through climate change, extreme weather events, flooding, soil erosion, desertification, displaced people, and the mass extinction of wildlife.

Rewilding is about working with nature to allow natural processes to restore ecosystems and to restart natural systems. It is also about connecting ecosystems over a landscape scale to help reverse the catastrophic declines in wildlife. As ecosystems are restored, biodiversity increases, and the nature recovery process accelerates. Rewilding takes a minimal intervention approach, and it is largely left to nature, rather than humans, to determine the outcomes.

On the League's Cove Down reserve in Devon, we have been working with neighbouring landowners for almost four years to 'rewild' land that was previously managed for livestock production and forestry. Cove Down reserve is about 60 acres and our neighbours have added another 120 acres to the project.

As part of the project, we have stopped cutting grass and sheep are no longer grazed on the land. Grazing is currently left to the deer and rabbits that frequent the reserve. Where sheep (and rabbits) graze grass to a uniformly close-cropped sward, deer are more selective and already the fields have become tussocky, which is great for insects, small mammals and predatory species. Our project partners have constructed a series of ponds to slow water flowing through the entire site. They have also bought four Iron Age pigs and are considering buying two Longhorn cattle that are trained for 'no-fence' grazing as part of the project.



Changing Behaviours

We foster a 'think green' culture, providing staff with relevant environmental training and initiated a Green Team in 2020. Their role is to ensure League activity promotes sustainability

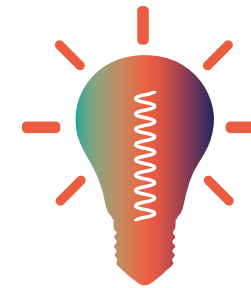
to reduce our environmental impact. This year the Green Team initiatives have included defining eco-friendly, cruelty-free standards for suppliers and the launch of our ethical procurement policy. Current suppliers have all been reviewed in line with this policy, ensuring they have strong eco credentials, including our bank and pension scheme. Office supplies have been reviewed to be greener, with a local refill station to minimise packaging, and recycled paper used for printing. The team have also undertaken an eco-swap initiative which saw them trial different environmentally friendly alternatives, before reporting on their effectiveness and promoting to staff.



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Our passion is to reduce, reuse and recycle. As part of our new hybrid working structure and spending less time in the office, we reorganised our office workspace and had a number

of surplus office items that were no longer used or required. We were able to repurpose or recycle 83 per cent of materials as part of this project. All our campaigns and marketing materials are produced using recyclable materials and can be recycled after use. Paper is our largest consumable, and we had a specific target to reduce usage during 2021. We successfully reduced our paper purchase by 42 per cent last year.



Reducing our impact with reduced office usage

Our electricity is 100 per cent green – derived from the sun, wind and sea. The energy provider generates around 20 per cent of it themselves and the rest is certified green energy bought from other

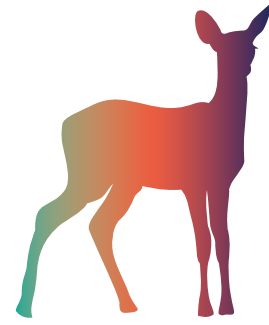
green generators or via the wholesale market. They are building new wind and sun parks across the country to increase the number of renewables in Britain rather than just trading what already exists. They're also always researching and developing newer, bigger and more efficient ways of generating green energy.

One benefit the pandemic has brought is a reduction in commuting to the office, thereby reducing the overall greenhouse gas emissions, fossil fuel consumption and energy usage. On average 2020 saw a 64 per cent decrease in staff commuting and in 2021 a further 57 per cent year on year decrease. Lockdowns and government directives to work from home over the last two years have contributed to this and we anticipate a slight increase next year without such guidance. However, with our new long-term hybrid way of working we expect commuting to be on average 68 per cent less than pre-pandemic levels.

As part of our continued effort to 'think green' our Green Team will put in formal metrics to measure trends and our success in reducing our environmental impact during 2022.

'...On the League's Cove Down reserve in Devon, we have been working with neighbouring landowners for almost four years to 'rewild' land that was previously managed for livestock production and forestry. Already the fields have become tussocky, which is great for insects, small mammals and predatory species.'

Fundraising Governance



‘...we are committed to ensuring that we always treat the public sensitively, fairly, and respectfully, taking care to protect people who may find themselves in vulnerable circumstances. Our Supporter Care Team are fully trained to recognise potentially vulnerable people they may speak to.’

This report covers the requirements set out in The Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016.

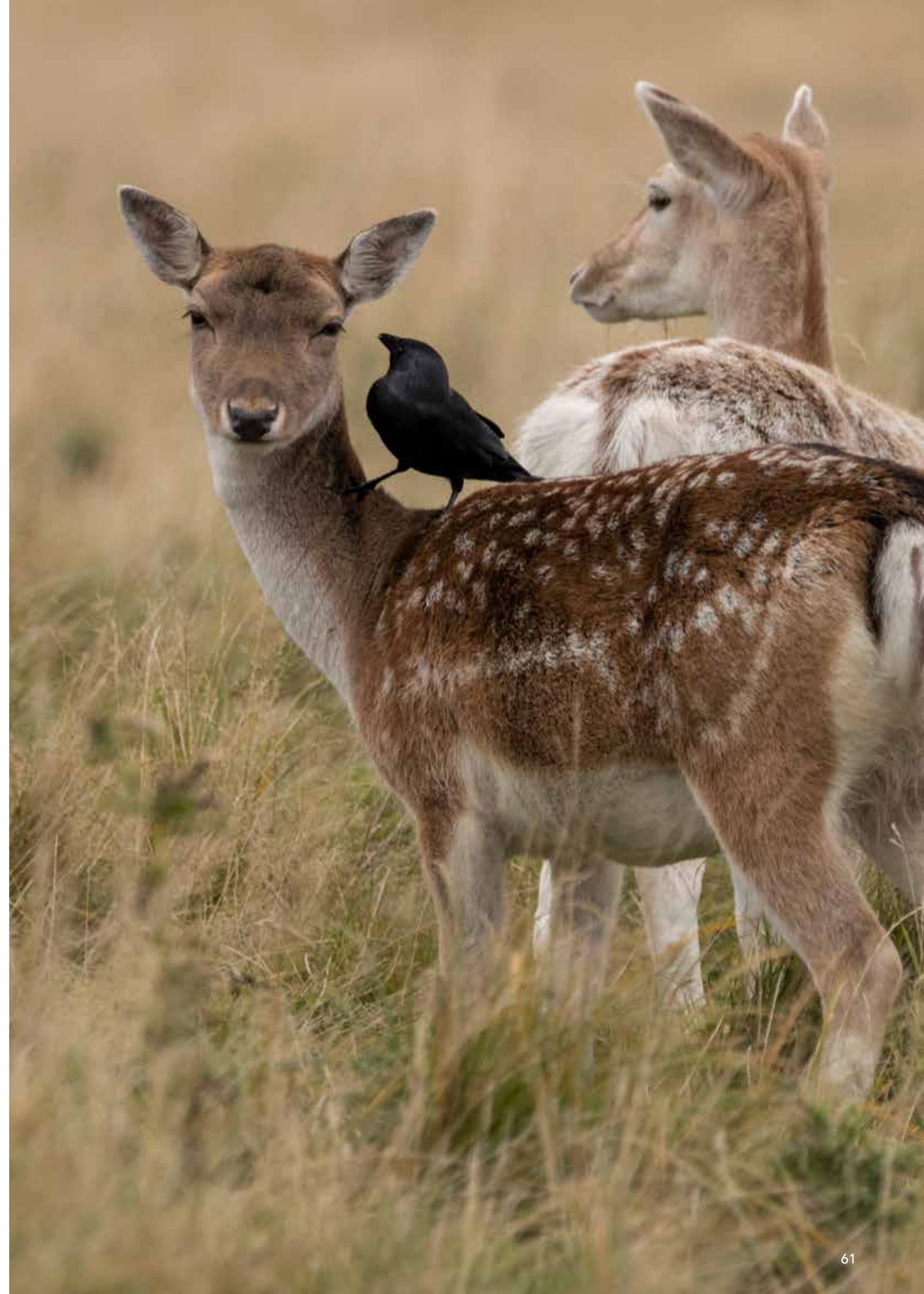
We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and are committed to the Fundraising Promise and adherence to the Chartered Institute of Fundraising (CioF) Code of Fundraising Practice. All supporters donating to the League can be assured that we comply with the regulatory standards for fundraising.

We use a range of fundraising activities to generate income. These include sending letters and emails to our supporters, running online acquisition campaigns, holding seasonal raffles each year, our League Lotto, gifts in wills, trusts and foundations. corporate partners and building relationships with philanthropists. We complete thorough due diligence before entering any new partnerships to ensure associates are aligned with our values.

In 2021 we continued our successful digital acquisition campaign using social media platforms to recruit new regular supporters. We use third-party suppliers to help us raise funds, particularly where we do not have the in-house expertise. We have safeguards in place when working with suppliers, so we protect our supporters and the reputation of the League. In 2021 we launched an Ethical Procurement Policy to ensure that we work with suppliers who meet our high standards, with goods and services which are environmentally and socially responsible.

Our website outlines our complaints policy for the public and clearly explains how an individual can make a complaint. We received just two complaints about our fundraising activities in 2021, a decrease of 33 per cent from the 2020 financial year. We responded to all complaints within three working days and they are dealt with in line with our Supporter Care Policy. We are also signed up to the Fundraising Preference Service to enable individuals to opt-out from receiving fundraising communications from us. We actioned six requests from this service in 2021, a 50 per cent decrease from the previous year.

We are committed to ensuring that we always treat the public sensitively, fairly, and respectfully, taking care to protect people who may find themselves in vulnerable circumstances. Our Supporter Care Team are fully trained to recognise potentially vulnerable people they may speak to. This approach is in line with the requirements of the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 and the CioF Treating Donors Fairly guidance. We have a robust General Data Protection Regulation framework in place to ensure we are compliant with a designated Data Protection Officer. Our privacy and cookies policies are regularly updated to ensure supporters are fully informed as to how, when and where we use their data.



Structure, Governance and Management



The League Against Cruel Sports is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (Registration No. 1095234) and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (Registration No. SC045533). It is also a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (Company Registered No. 04037610). Its objects and powers are set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Charity has a wholly owned subsidiary, the League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited, which is a private company limited by shares incorporated in England and Wales (Company Registered No. 02880406). Its principle activity is to act solely as a subsidiary company for carrying out trading activities on behalf of The League Against Cruel Sports charity. The company results and financial position are detailed in note 17 to the financial statements.

The governing body of the charity is the Board of Trustees, comprising of not fewer than three nor more than twelve unpaid members. The Board meet at least three times a year to review performance against its plans, approve future financial plans based on the agreed strategy, setting policies and to make any decisions necessary to its governance and strategic direction. The Board has ultimate responsibility for the conduct and financial stability of the charity group. The Finance, Risk and General purposes Committee is a sub-committee of the Board and also meets regularly to consider issues appertaining to the charity group and informs the wider Board. Over 2021 the Committee members were Tim Holmes, John Hughes and Astrid Clifford.

Day-to-day financial responsibility and managerial control are delegated by the Board to the Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive and Senior Management Team meet twice monthly to discuss operations and financial performance.

Trustees are appointed by a majority of the voting members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for a term of up to three years or can be co-opted by the Board of Trustees until the next AGM. A comprehensive recruitment exercise is undertaken for the appointment

of new Trustees to ensure the Board have the depth and breadth of skills and experience necessary to be an effective Trustee of The League Against Cruel Sports. The Board appoints a recruitment panel which undertakes the selection process, carries out interviews, and makes recommendations to the Board for their approval.

New Trustees attend an induction day at the League's headquarters, to learn about the charity's mission, strategy and objectives. They also learn about their role and responsibilities as a Trustee. We also use the opportunity for them to meet and speak with the League staff.

The Charitable Company has made qualifying third-party indemnity provisions for the benefit of its directors which were made during the year and remain in force at the date of this report.

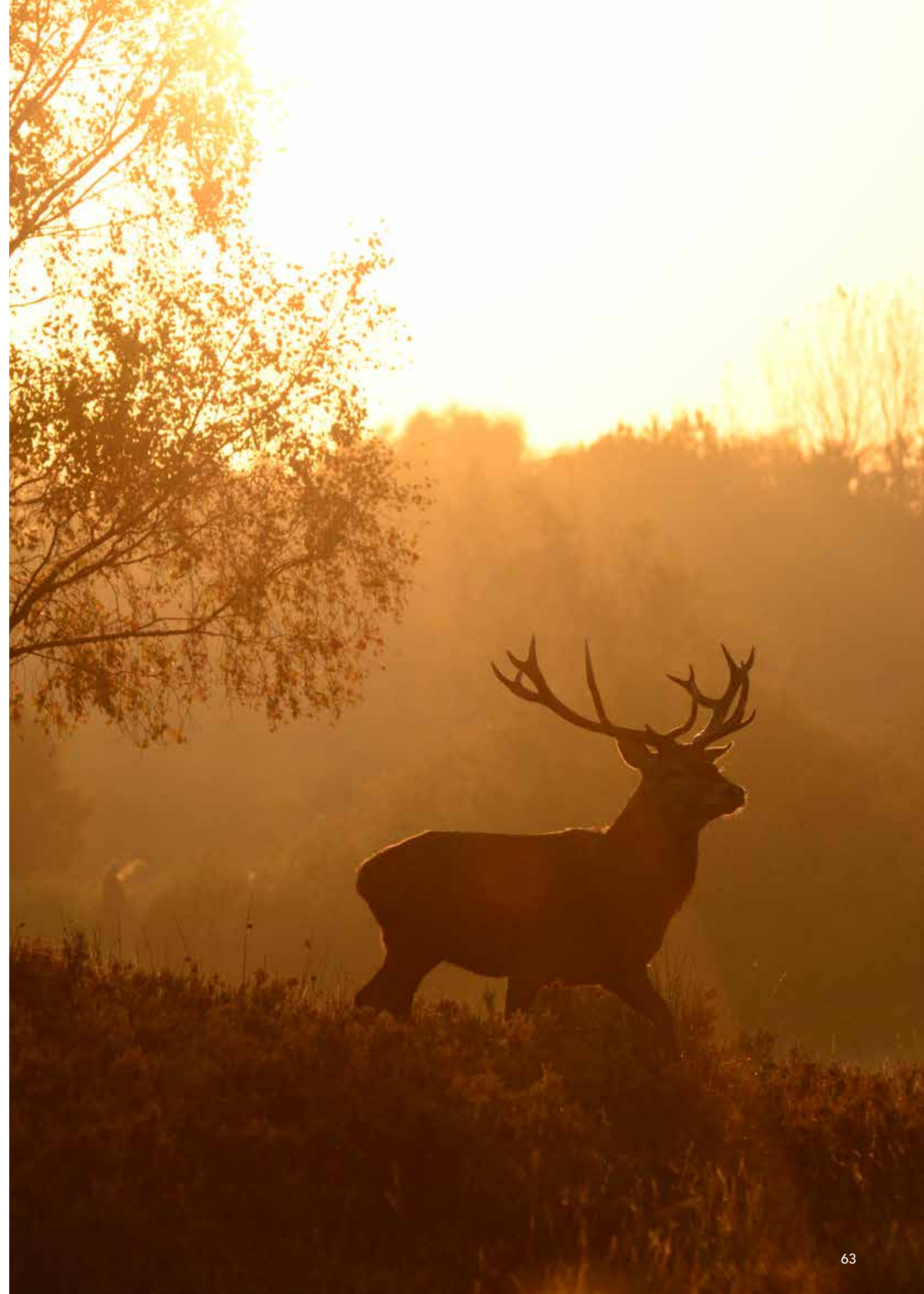
Remuneration Policy

The Board of Trustees determines the Chief Executive's salary and reviews this each year, in line with the Charity's pay policy. The Board also approves recommendations made by the Chief Executive on any pay changes to the Senior Management Team salaries, and other staff pay changes as a result of the annual staff pay review.

Our approach to remuneration of staff is designed to ensure we can attract and retain people with the passion, commitment and talent we need to deliver our mission. We aim to pay competitively in the not-for-profit sector within the context of affordability, using external salary survey to benchmark our salaries against other similar charities.

The annual pay increases are awarded in January each year taking into account pay inflation, organisational affordability, and any mandatory statutory increases. Our remuneration policy approach is applied consistently across the organisation, through our annual pay review process.

The League has committed to paying our employees no less than the real living wage and as such is accredited by the Good Business Charter.



Financial Review



2021 was the second year of Covid-19 restrictions and whilst this whole period has had a significant negative impact on many charities, the League has not only once again ‘weathered the storm’ but made some incredible achievements in pursuance of our charity work whilst maintaining strong financial stability.

We are able to report another financially successful year with our performance significantly exceeding the 2021 annual budget plan; income achieving in excess of target coupled with savings on expenditure budgets resulting in an overall small excess of expenditure over income of £48k.

With the easing of the lockdown restrictions in the second half of the year we were able to restart some of our key activities that had been on hold, in particular our field investigations, campaign events and supporter campaigning work. Furthermore, we plan to expand our campaigning and supporter resources in the next year to achieve even more.

All of this could not have been achieved without the commitment and fortitude of our members and supporters, who individually have all been impacted in some way by Covid-19 and the ensuing economic problems. These economic difficulties may be with us some time and we value our continuing public support, and in return we will not be complacent in ensuring the League continues to be the voice for animals persecuted in the name of sport supported by robust financial management and future financial sustainability.

We are in a financially strong position to start 2022 and have clear, robust five year financial plans in support of our strategy, but we are mindful that the world economy will continue to be challenging for the charity sector and the League. It is comforting to know that we have reserves to help us deal with the financial challenges ahead during these testing times.

Income

Total group income for the year was £3.1m, a decrease of £158k or 5% on last year. The League reports on three key areas of income generation performance: legacies, donations and memberships. Although we also generate income from our trading activities and investment income from cash deposits.

Legacy income was slightly lower than last year at £1.6m and represented 53% of our total income for the year. Given the continuing reports of charity sector’s legacy problems, this performance has once again been better than expected. Legacy income is a significant income source and is crucial to the League in achieving its ambitions. However, legacies are difficult to predict in terms of the amount and timing of receipt. Like other charities, the League has experienced a delay to legacy income materialising as cash receipts due to delays in obtaining probate and estates being finalised, nevertheless our records indicate that our supporter legacies pipeline remains strong.

Donations and gifts income amounted to £1.1m for the year, an increase of 8% on last year. Our new fundraising strategies and expansion in our pro-active supporter acquisition campaign have produced year-on-year growth, that we plan to continue to build upon. Our 2021 fundraising campaigns included: the launch of the League Life monthly campaigns update, new products in our merchandise range, re-launch of League Lotto, new sports and challenge events, four themed appeals in the year: Campaigns update, Will you help me keep wild deer out of harm’s way, Cub hunting, Christmas kindness campaign and three issues of our Protect magazine to inform and encourage supporter action.

In the year we received grants of £68k in connection with the Government Job Retention Scheme funding to help support the costs of staff not fully utilised during 2021 due to covid lockdown restrictions.

Income from membership fees reduced slightly to £105k as some supporters chose to move to our regular giver supporter package. We continue to value our loyal members alongside our regular

giver supporters and appreciate their enduring commitment to help the League achieve its charitable objectives through their day-to-day support of our work and their participation of ‘on the ground’ action.

Other trading income was £140k, marginally higher than last year. This increase is from merchandise and other sales, with new product offerings in the year, and Raffle and Lotto sales.

Expenditure

Total resources expended in furtherance of our charitable objectives for the year was £3.1m, an increase of £110k or 4% on last year. With the easing of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions during the year we were able to restart certain operations that had been on hold. Including allocated support costs, expenditure on charitable activities was £2.76m, an increase of 4% on the previous year, and fundraising costs were £381k, an increase of 5%.

Expenditure on our four core charitable activities amounted to 87% in total with 12% spent on fund raising publicity and trading, and 1% on governance. During the year the number of staff employed increased from 54 to 56.

Balance Sheet

As at the year end the Group had total net assets of £4.2m; represented by fixed assets of £1.6m, current assets of £2.7m and current liabilities of £0.1m.

Group funds consist of £4.1m unrestricted funds (2020: £4.1m) and £0.1m of restricted funds (2020: £0.1m). At the year end there were no designated funds by the Board of Trustees (2020: Nil).

The funds are detailed in note 13 to the financial statements.

Total reserves/net assets continue to provide the Group with a strong working capital base for the start of 2022 and beyond.

Reserves Policy

Reserves are key in ensuring the long-term viability of the Charity. The Board of Trustees regularly monitors the level of retained reserves, when reviewing financial performance in the management accounts, and reviews the overall reserves policy annually as part of the five-year financial plan review. Our policy remains in line with the Charity Commission’s advice on managing charity reserves over the pandemic.

Our reserves policy is based on a risk identification approach calculating an appropriate level of unrestricted reserves to cover our contractual commitments, working capital requirements, and to manage possible fluctuations in future income levels; this calculation also takes into account our fixed asset holdings. Our five-year financial planning aims to achieve a target level of reserves to cover all these identified risks and ensure we have long-term financial stability.

At the financial year end the amount of free unrestricted reserves available for general purposes was £2.4m, equivalent to 7.5 months operating expenditure. Although this is more than our normal target level of reserves, given the continuing economic uncertainty the Board feels it is appropriate to maintain a relatively higher level of reserves whilst at the same time encouraging our continuing ambitious expansion plans. Despite the challenges of the Covid lockdown the League has made significant gains both in our delivery and in supporter income growth, and the Board is eager to maintain this momentum with continuing investment of reserves into delivery programmes and improving our supporter experience.

The Board will continue to regularly monitor the League’s performance against its agreed plans.

Investment Policy

With the continuing instability of the stock markets the Trustees have agreed that shares and stock given to or left to the League should be sold at the earliest beneficial opportunity. There was no loss on any investments received or sold during the year. The ongoing uncertainty of the markets has led to the Trustees continuing their policy of holding reserves in either property or cash deposits and not by investing in the stock markets. Cash deposits are spread over a number of authorised firms to take advantage of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and to reduce the potential risk of any losses occurring.

The policy will be reviewed by the Trustees during 2022 with due regard to our forecast cash flow requirements.

Public Benefit

The Charities Act 2011 requires that Trustees explain in their annual report how it is that their activities demonstrate the public benefit of their work within the meaning of the Act.

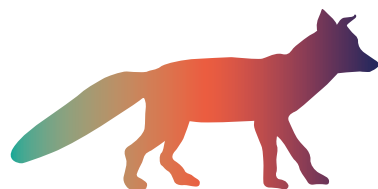
In charity law the advancement of animal welfare is recognised as a charitable purpose. The League's main objective is to prevent or reduce cruelty to animals in the name of sport. Whilst the League may use a number of different means to further this objective and will strive to push at boundaries, it is careful to ensure that it remains within the remit of its charitable objectives and within the strict parameters of charity law at all times.

Examples of the League's work are:

- The investigation and monitoring of possible wildlife offences;
- Informing and educating on the impact of the Hunting Act 2004, including amendments or repeal;
- Informing and educating the public about the cruelty aspect of using animals for 'sporting' purposes;
- Informing and educating the public about animal welfare problems associated with 'sport' such as the use of snares and the intensive production of 'game' birds;
- Liaison with elected officials who have the power to both enforce the law and to enhance it.



Internal Controls and Risk Management



The Trustees are responsible for ensuring the League group has a sound system of internal control to safeguard its assets and funds, and for ensuring that its assets and funds are used only in furtherance of the League's objectives. The system of internal control is intended to manage appropriately rather than to eliminate risks and to provide reasonable rather than absolute assurance. The Charity is one that arouses strong passions and potential threats to it are ever present, particularly from those who challenge its very existence, credibility, and direction.

Trustees have developed an effective risk management framework for the assessment of major risks to which the Charity is exposed, that has been used successfully throughout the year. The assessment and documentation of risk is carried out by the Senior Management Team led by the Chief Executive Officer, supported by the Finance Director, both of whom have considerable experience and expertise in this area. Risk factors are identified and assessed for scale, and each risk is assigned to a member of the Senior Management Team to take responsibility for identifying the steps needed to manage or mitigate the risk. These risk assessments are documented in a risk register and are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that new risks are identified and that actions proposed to mitigate or manage risks are being undertaken. The risks to the charity are also assessed and reviewed by the Trustees twice yearly, with quarterly updates to the Finance Risk and General (FRAG) Committee. The CEO also raises specific risks at his weekly call with the Chair and Honorary Treasurer.

Risk to the Charity has diminished considerably for the fourth year running, with the League reaping the rewards of the necessary changes in governance and management made in 2018. The consistency and courage in our approach to malicious trolls and fake stories has proven highly effective and illustrates what can be done when staff and Trustees are protected

from harm. As a result, trolling has gone from near pandemic levels experienced in the past, to near zero during this reporting period as well as the last. Sickness and absence rates (half of which is generally accepted as related to poor mental health/stress) has decreased ten-fold since January 2018, reflecting the safe space that working for the League affords staff, and continues to remain at a fraction of the national average. The net result is that the Charity has been able to focus on its charitable objects without distraction, as seen in its operational results.

Despite the challenges of Covid 19, the Charity operated with little impact. Covid 19 safety measures, including much of the year spent with staff working from home and for some, on furlough for a short time, were continued from the previous year according to the situation. The health and jobs of all staff have been preserved, including through the continued careful stewardship of our finances and the generosity of our supporters.

Our top five risks are considered to be:

1. Reputational. False allegations and/or reporting that unnecessarily malign or diminish the Charity or those therein. This includes from fake websites, social media, officials outside of the Charity, and from those formerly associated with the Charity, or through the use of knowing or unwitting proxies. Careful consideration is made on a case-by-case basis, with risks associated with each circumstance considered and actions, including legal and using the regulatory process, adopted.

2. Breaches in data protection. This includes IT security, software vulnerabilities, and GDPR. Considerable investment has gone into assuring our systems and processes, including multilayer IT security, training and the adoption of best practice. These have protected us. Individuals that have engaged in malicious actions designed to breach GDPR protocols have failed.

3. Health, Safety and Environment. New procedures, the continuing strengthening of policies, tighter managerial oversight, together with the continued inculcation of strong safety culture that includes safety training, continue to be highly effective. Safety measures and precautions, in line with Government guidelines, have protected staff throughout the Coronavirus pandemic. Close and meaningful engagement with staff, flexible working, access to a variety of mental health support and a continued pulling together of an already close-knit team has minimised the incidence of sickness and absence and has ensured our individual and collective well-being.

4. Finances. Having sufficient funds to continue our charitable objectives is essential. Our robust in year and five-year financial planning has proved effective and has enabled us to make accurate judgements on operational spending. It is based on achievable income targets and built-in flexibility within its spending plans, backed by a strong reserves base which is largely unchanged from 2020. Despite the Charity being affected by more universal legal delays in the processing of legacies, our pipeline remains strong. Our total fundraised income was up five per cent from previous year and we expect this trend to continue. Our 'Grow to Win' approach is working, and we will seek to continue with our strategy of focusing resources where we can best achieve our charitable objectives, including the use of reserves to do so.

Fraud is an ever increasing risk for all businesses. To combat this risk, the League has good internal control systems in place, supported by our annual review of internal controls as well as the external audit review, regular fraud awareness reviews and staff training. In addition, the League also has a comprehensive "whistle blowing" policy in place.

5. Skills and experience. Having the required skills in house is vital if we are to be an effective charity. Once again there has been no churn amongst the 13 key personnel that constitute the Board and Senior Management team, the latter now well into their fifth year working together. Looking forward, the Board has recently completed a successful and heavily over-subscribed Trustee recruitment process, which will add additional areas of expertise and allow those coming to their planned end of volunteering as Trustees to hand over their duties later this year. More generally, the level of corporate knowledge, skill and expertise is as likely as high as it has ever been, with attrition rates at all levels of the staff extremely low and many staff now considered as being long-standing. Our external relationships, especially in the wider animal charity sector and amongst senior politicians is stronger than ever. A myriad of operational wins and a general feeling of satisfaction means that morale remains very high. More staff are being hired to increase our momentum still further.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees, who are also the directors of The League Against Cruel Sports for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year. In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Auditors

A resolution proposing that Haysmacintyre LLP be reappointed as auditors of the company will be put to the members. This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees



Dr Tim Holmes
Chair

Dated: 26th April 2022





Financial Statements

Independent auditor's report to the members and trustees of the League Against Cruel Sports

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the League Against Cruel Sports for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Group and Charitable Company Balance Sheet and the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2021 and of the group's and parent charitable company's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the

FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a

material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report (which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the Trustees' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and the parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report (which incorporates the directors' report).

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or

- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 70, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group's and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the group and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to fundraising regulations, GDPR and Charities Act 2011, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Charities Act 2011 and the application of FRS 102, income tax and payroll tax.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries to revenue and management bias in accounting estimate. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Enquiries of management regarding correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular, journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates;

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, section 44(1) (c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

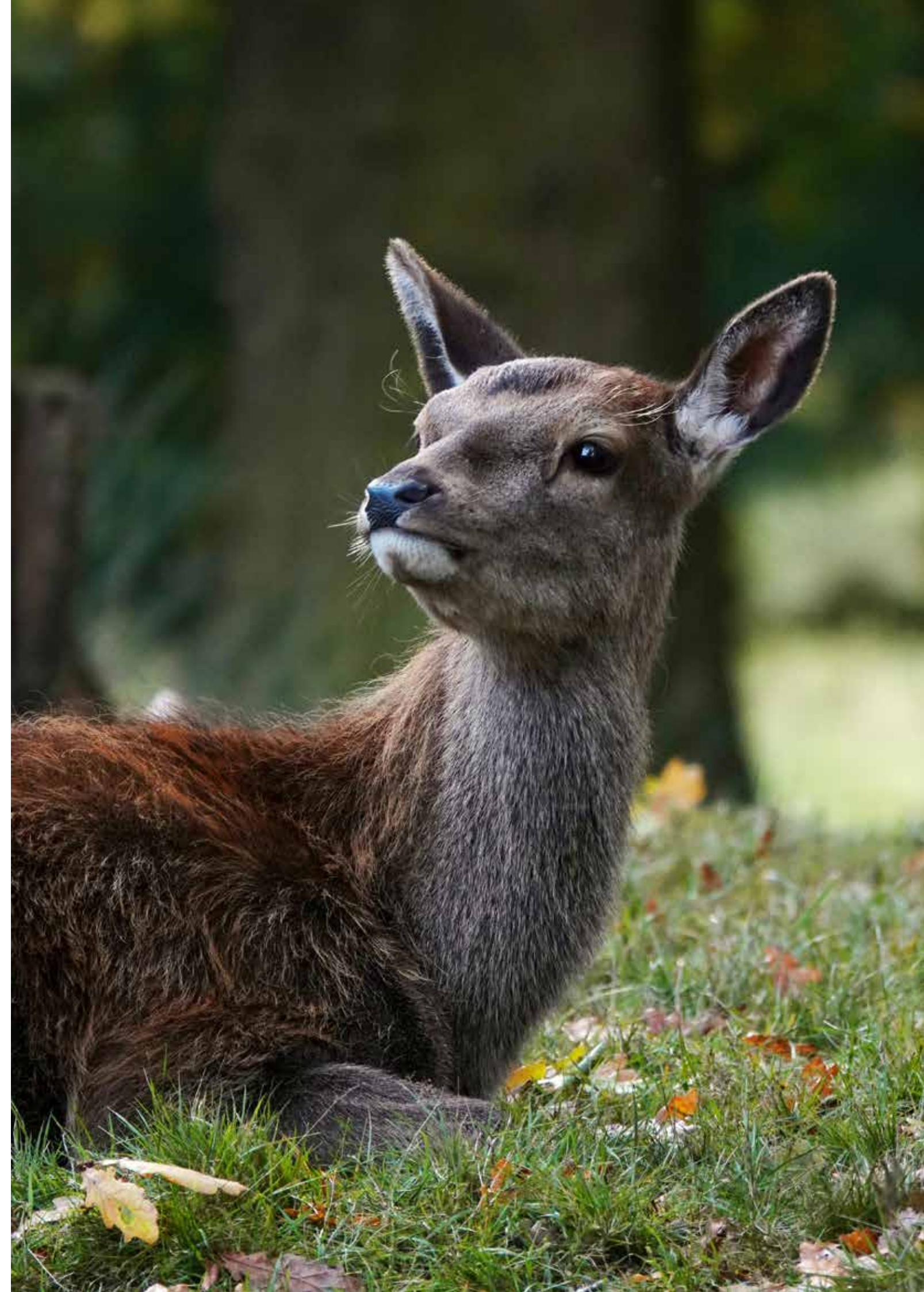


Adam Halsey (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Haysmacintyre LLP, Statutory Auditors

Dated: 26th April 2022

10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1AG



The League Against Cruel Sports

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities including income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 December 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	2	2,926,450	14,310	2,940,760	3,087,096
Other trading activities	3	139,689	-	139,689	138,490
Investments	4	15,150	-	15,150	27,621
Total income		3,081,289	14,310	3,095,599	3,253,207
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds					
Fundraising and publicity costs	5	312,279	610	312,889	277,195
Costs of trading activities	5	68,480	-	68,480	84,684
		380,759	610	381,369	361,879
Charitable activities					
End Hunting with Dogs	5	1,204,730	7,527	1,212,257	1,110,689
End Shooting of Animals for 'Sport'	5	405,263	7,502	412,765	465,542
End Fighting of Animals for 'Sport'	5	94,338	3,285	97,623	140,719
Win Hearts and Minds	5	1,029,159	10,259	1,039,418	954,143
		2,733,490	28,573	2,762,063	2,671,093
Total expenditure		3,114,249	29,183	3,143,432	3,032,972
Net income/(expenditure)		(32,960)	(14,873)	(47,833)	220,235
Fund balances at 1 January		4,140,922	123,915	4,264,837	4,044,602
Fund balances at 31 December		4,107,962	109,042	4,217,004	4,264,837

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The League Against Cruel Sports

Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021

	Notes	£	2021 £	£	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7		1,660,484		1,667,725
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	9	14,022		14,284	
Debtors	10	945,352		603,972	
Cash deposit investments		1,472,299		2,000,052	
Cash at bank and in hand		252,604		188,782	
		2,684,277		2,807,090	
LIABILITIES					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	(127,757)		(209,978)	
Net current assets			2,556,520		2,597,112
Total assets less current liabilities			4,217,004		4,264,837
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year			-		-
Total net assets			4,217,004		4,264,837
INCOME FUNDS					
Restricted funds	13		109,042		123,915
Unrestricted funds	13				
Designated funds		-		-	
General unrestricted funds		4,107,962		4,140,922	
Total unrestricted funds	13		4,107,962		4,140,922
Total group funds			4,217,004		4,264,837

The financial statements were approved by the Board and authorised for issue on 11th April 2022 and signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by



Dr Timothy Holmes
Trustee
Company Registration No. 04037610

The League Against Cruel Sports

Charitable Company Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021

	Notes	£	2021 £	£	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7		1,660,484		1,667,725
Investment in subsidiary	17		12		12
			1,660,496		1,667,737
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	9	14,022		14,284	
Debtors	10	945,768		604,183	
Cash deposit investments		1,472,299		2,000,052	
Cash at bank and in hand		200,859		136,930	
		2,632,948		2,755,449	
LIABILITIES					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	(127,757)		(209,978)	
Net current assets			2,505,191		2,545,471
Total assets less current liabilities			4,165,687		4,213,208
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year			-		-
Total net assets			4,165,687		4,213,208
INCOME FUNDS					
Restricted income funds	13		109,042		123,915
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds		-		-	
General unrestricted funds		4,056,645		4,089,293	
Total unrestricted funds			4,056,645		4,089,293
Total charity funds			4,165,687		4,213,208

The financial statements were approved by the Board and authorised for issue on 26th April 2022 and signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by



Dr Timothy Holmes
Trustee
Company Registration No. 04037610

The League Against Cruel Sports

Statement of Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 December 2021

	Notes	£	2021 £	£	2020 £
CASHFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Net cash used in operating activities	a		(452,008)		(89,296)
CASHFLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:					
Interest from investments		15,150		27,621	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(27,073)		-	
Net cash provided by/ (used in) investing activities			(11,923)		27,621
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(463,931)		(61,675)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			2,188,834		2,250,509
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	b		1,724,903		2,188,834

a. Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash from operating activities

	Notes		2021 £		2020 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)			(47,833)		220,235
ADJUSTMENTS FOR:					
Depreciation	7		34,314		30,088
Interest from Investments	4		(15,150)		(27,621)
(Increase)/decrease in stocks			262		2,758
(Increase)/decrease in debtors			(341,380)		(234,932)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors current			(82,221)		(79,824)
Net cash used in operating activities			(452,008)		(89,296)

b. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

			2021 £		2020 £
Deposits			1,472,299		2,000,052
Cash in hand			252,604		188,782
Total cash and cash equivalents			1,724,903		2,188,834

The cash deposits are invested over a wider range of regulated financial institutions to improve the security of the cash reserves. The majority of deposits have notice periods of less than 6 months and all are repayable within 12 months.

The League Against Cruel Sports
Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

Charity Information

The League Against Cruel Sports is a registered charity in England and Wales (charity number 1095234) and in Scotland (OSCR charity number SC045533), and a company limited by guarantee (Company Registered Number 04037610) and domiciled in the UK, and is a public benefit entity.

The address of the registered office is: New Sparling House, Holloway Hill, Godalming, Surrey , GU7 1QZ.

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) – Charities SORP 2015 (Second Edition, effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The League Against Cruel Sports meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost of transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

1.2 Basis for consolidation

The financial statements consolidate the results of the Charity and its wholly owned subsidiary League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited on a line by line basis. A separate Statement of Financial Activities and income and expenditure accounts are not presented for the Charity itself following the exemptions afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and paragraph 397 of the Statement of Recommended Practice.

1.3 Key judgements and assumptions

In the application of the Charity’s accounting policies the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and

other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

1.4 Going concern

Based on the level of reserves held at the year end and the latest five year financial plans the Trustees are confident that The League Against Cruel Sports is financially secure in its immediate future for the next 12 months and that on this basis the Charity is a going concern.

The Trustees regularly review detailed financial budgets and forecasts, which are adjusted to take into account revised assumptions and events. Where such forecasts indicate a potential problem corrective action is taken to protect the future viability of the Charity. The key risks assessed are described in the Trustees’ Annual Report. The trustees believe there are no material uncertainties concerning the going concern status of the charitable group.

1.5 Charitable funds

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

Designated funds are amounts of unrestricted funds which have been earmarked at the discretion of the Trustees for particular future purposes.

Unrestricted funds are available for the use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objectives of the Charity.

1.6 Income

All income is accounted for when due.

In respect of legacy income, the Charities SORP requires legacy income to be recognised when it is receivable unless it is incapable of financial measurement. The Charity mainly receives pecuniary and residuary legacies and accounts for them as receivable when (i) entitlement

The League Against Cruel Sports

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

has been established (ii) receipt is probable and (iii) the sum involved is measurable. All three tests must be met for the League to accrue a legacy. Entitlement exists when grant of probate has been received evidencing that a gift has been left to the Charity and the executor is satisfied that there are sufficient funds to pay and in the case of residuary legacies that final accounts have been agreed. Measurability is the estimate of the fair value of the income receivable based on the information available, but measured or estimated with sufficient reliability.

1.7 Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) on a basis to reflect the use of the resources. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources as shown in note 5.

Fundraising and publicity costs represent direct and apportioned costs relating to supporter recruitment and maintenance and fundraising activities and events.

Costs of trading activities represents direct and apportioned costs relating to the sale of merchandise and other sales of goods.

Charitable activity expenditure represents direct and apportioned costs relating to carrying out our strategic objectives as set out in the Trustees Annual Report.

Support costs include governance, staff, office and general management costs including human resources, IT and the finance function incurred to support income generation and delivery of the charitable activities. Support costs also include irrecoverable VAT where it is not able to be directly attributed to specific activities, where this is not possible irrecoverable VAT costs are apportioned.

Governance costs represent direct and indirect costs incurred relating to strategic management and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.8 Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently stated at cost less depreciation. The Group's capitalisation threshold is £5,000, such that fixed assets costing less than this amount are not capitalised and are therefore included in resources expended under the appropriate heading.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold buildings	2% straight line per annum
Refurbishments	10% straight line per annum
Plant, equipment, fixture and fittings	25% reducing balance per annum
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance per annum

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

When freehold land is disposed of, but sporting rights are retained the value of these rights is written down to £1 as they are not considered to have a residual or realisable value for the Group.

Freehold land is not depreciated.

At each reporting end date, the Group reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss.

1.9 Stock

Stock is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stock to their present

location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured at the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held on call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank Overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities. During the year the Group had no bank overdrafts.

For the purpose of the cash flow statement, cash comprises cash in hand and short-term deposits.

1.11 Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recognised in the Group and Charity balance sheets when the Group or Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

The League Against Cruel Sports Group has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Financial assets held at amortised cost comprise cash and bank in hand, together with trade and other debtors. Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise trade and other creditors. Financial assets and Financial liabilities classified as receivable or payable within one year are not amortised.

Investment in the subsidiary undertaking is held at cost less impairment.

1.12 Leases

Rentals incurred under operating leases are charged to the SOFA on a straight line basis over the period of the lease. Incentives are treated as income and are credited to the SOFA on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

1.13 Employee pensions

The Group operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the accounts as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

1.14 Value Added Tax

Value Added Tax is partially recoverable by the Group, and as such the irrecoverable portion of VAT is included as a cost in the SOFA and asset values.

1.15 Taxation

The League Against Cruel Sports charitable company is exempt from Corporation Tax on the grounds that it is a charity and all of its income is applied for charitable purposes. League Against Cruel Sport (UK) Limited is not operated for profit.

1.16 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts.

1.17 Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the Group and Charity has a present obligation resulting from past events that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at the settlement amount allowing for any trade discounts.

2. Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Legacies receivable	1,647,224	1,386	1,648,610	1,796,910
Donations and gifts	1,101,553	12,924	1,114,477	1,033,210
Grants receivable	72,459	-	72,459	143,354
Membership fees	105,214	-	105,214	113,622
	2,926,450	14,310	2,940,760	3,087,096

2020 income includes restricted funds of £Nil Legacies receivable and £2,711 Donations and gifts.

At the end of the financial year, the Charity has been advised of a number of legacies which indicated the League as a beneficiary. These have not been included in the Statement of Financial Activities as the Charity's final entitlement has not yet been established by the executors. The estimated values for these legacies amounts to approximately £1.7m (2020: £1.4m). Many of these legacies are residual legacies where the timing of receipt is uncertain.

Grants receivable relates to the Government Job Retention Scheme funding claimed during the year £67,621 (2020:£143,354) and other grants £4,838 (2020:£Nil).

3. Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Raffle and lotto ticket sales	91,896	-	91,896	90,224
Timber sales	4,856	-	4,856	7,524
Merchandise and other sales of goods	42,937	-	42,937	40,742
	139,689	-	139,689	138,490

There were no restricted funds received in 2020.

4. Investment Income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Interest receivable	11,544	-	11,544	24,015
Rental income	3,606	-	3,606	3,606
	15,150	-	15,150	27,621

There were no restricted funds received in 2020.

5. Expenditure

	Direct Staff costs £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
RAISING FUNDS					
Fundraising and publicity costs	157,664	74,130	81,095	312,889	277,195
Costs of trading activities	18,920	49,560	-	68,480	84,684
	176,584	123,690	81,095	381,369	361,879
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES					
End Hunting with Dogs	645,665	252,398	314,194	1,212,257	1,110,689
End Shooting of Animals for 'Sport'	189,893	115,891	106,981	412,765	465,542
End Fighting of Animals for 'Sport'	41,303	31,018	25,302	97,623	140,719
Win Hearts and Minds	553,065	216,956	269,397	1,039,418	954,143
	1,429,926	616,263	715,874	2,762,063	2,671,093
Total expenditure	1,606,510	739,953	796,969	3,143,432	3,032,972

Analysis of support costs

	Governance costs £	Staff costs £	Office and admin. costs £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
RAISING FUNDS					
Fundraising and publicity costs	2,223	40,294	38,578	81,095	69,738
Costs of trading activities	-	-	-	-	-
	2,223	40,294	38,578	81,095	69,738
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES					
End Hunting with Dogs	8,612	156,116	149,466	314,194	279,432
End Shooting of Animals for 'Sport'	2,932	53,156	50,893	106,981	117,123
End Fighting of Animals for 'Sport'	693	12,572	12,037	25,302	35,403
Win Hearts and Minds	7,384	133,857	128,156	269,397	240,047
	19,621	355,701	340,552	715,874	672,005
Total expenditure	21,844	395,995	379,130	796,969	741,743

Support costs are allocated on the basis of % of time spent in proportion to direct costs.
Governance costs includes statutory audit fees of £12,933 (2020: £11,975).
Comparative 2020 expenditure is analysed in note 18.

6. Employees

	2021 £	2020 £
STAFF COSTS		
Wages and salaries	1,693,184	1,671,780
Social security costs	171,138	153,132
Other pension costs	138,417	130,532
	2,002,739	1,955,444

	2021 Number	2020 Number
THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES DURING THE YEAR WAS:		
Fundraising and publicity	7	5
Charitable activities	43	43
Support	6	6
	56	54

	2021 Number	2020 Number
THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES WHOSE EMOLUMENTS EXCEEDS £60,000 IN THE YEAR WAS:		
£60,001 - £70,000	2	2
£70,001 - £80,000	-	-
£80,001 - £90,000	-	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-

During the year a total of 7 (2020: 7) staff were recognised as key management personnel. At the year end there were 7 key management personnel in post.

The total remuneration and benefits received by senior management personnel in the year was £417,745 (2020: £405,894) and pension contributions paid by the Charity in respect of these employees during the year was £33,458 (2020: £32,212).

Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year (2020: £Nil). Three Trustees were reimbursed expenses relating to travel totalling £512 (2020: One Trustee reimbursed £102).

7. Group and Charity Fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Office and Computer Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
COST				
At 1 January 2021	1,847,925	14,350	45,457	1,907,732
Additions	27,073	-	-	27,073
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2021	1,874,998	14,350	45,457	1,934,805
DEPRECIATION AND IMPAIRMENT				
At 1 January 2021	192,441	8,296	39,270	240,007
Charge for the year	26,714	6,054	1,546	34,314
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2021	219,155	14,350	40,816	274,321
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 December 2021	1,655,843	-	4,641	1,660,484
At 31 December 2020	1,655,484	6,054	6,187	1,667,725

As at 31 December 2021 there were capital commitments of £Nil (2020: £7,308) not included within fixed assets.

8. Financial Instruments

	Group 2021 £	2020 £	Charity 2021 £	2020 £
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	2,537,524	2,617,505	2,485,779	2,565,653
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	107,515	126,926	107,515	126,926
Total interest income for financial assets held under amortised cost	15,150	27,621	11,543	24,015

For further details please refer to Accounting Policy note 1.11.

9. Stocks

	Group 2021 £	2020 £	Charity 2021 £	2020 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	14,022	14,284	14,022	14,284

10. Debtors

	Group 2021 £	2020 £	Charity 2021 £	2020 £
Prepayments and accrued income	901,221	554,309	901,221	554,309
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	416	211
Tax recoverable	42,869	49,359	42,869	49,359
Other debtors	1,262	304	1,262	304
	945,352	603,972	945,768	604,183

Prepayments and accrued income include £43,750 (2020: £43,750) due after one year in respect of land held in trust for the League.

11. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2021 £	2020 £	Charity 2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	72,266	69,803	72,266	69,803
Accruals and deferred income	52,009	122,989	52,009	122,989
Other taxes and social security	754	14,836	754	14,836
Other creditors	2,728	2,350	2,728	2,350
	127,757	209,978	127,757	209,978

12. Pension costs

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity to the fund. Contributions payable by the Charity for the year amounted to £138,417 (2020: £130,532); as referred to in note 6.

13. Funds

The income funds of the Group and Charity include unrestricted and restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

Movements in funds					
	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2021 £
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Wentworth Sanctuary legacy	44,935	-	(6,537)	-	38,398
Wentworth Godalming office legacy	58,038	-	(6,000)	-	52,038
Greyhounds	13,000	-	(2,511)	-	10,489
Cove Down Sanctuary	7,942	-	(6,210)	-	1,732
Dog Fighting	-	8,000	(3,000)	-	5,000
Silent Enemy	-	4,688	(4,688)	-	-
Other small restricted funds	-	1,622	(237)	-	1,385
Total Restricted funds	123,915	14,310	(29,183)	-	109,042
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
Designated funds	-	-	-	-	-
General funds	4,140,922	3,081,289	(3,114,249)	-	4,107,962
Total Unrestricted funds	4,140,922	3,081,289	(3,114,249)	-	4,107,962
Total funds	4,264,837	3,095,599	(3,143,432)	-	4,217,004

Restricted funds

The Wentworth legacies are restricted for use on the sanctuaries property at Baronsdown and the Godalming premises respectively.

The Greyhounds project is being funded by an individual supporter to enable us to undertake special investigations work into Greyhound puppy farming.

The Cove Down sanctuary project is in respect of funding received from the Lister Charitable Trust for development of the sanctuary; involving habitat restoration and rewilding on a protected area of land as a sanctuary for wildlife.

We received two major donations in the year in connection with developing our dog fighting campaign work.

Funding was received through a specific supporter appeal for our Silent Enemy campaign.

Other small restricted funds represents funding received towards charitable activities where the individual restricted funds total under £1,500 and their associated expenditure.

Designated funds

No funds have been designated at the end of 2021.

Comparative 2020 figures are detailed in Note 19.

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds			
	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
FUND BALANCES AT 31 DECEMBER 2021 ARE REPRESENTED BY:				
Fixed assets	1,615,615	-	44,869	1,660,484
Current assets	2,620,104	-	64,173	2,684,277
Current liabilities	(127,757)	-	-	(127,757)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	-	-
	4,107,962	-	109,042	4,217,004

Comparative 2020 figures are detailed in Note 20.

15. Commitments under operating leases

At 31 December 2021 the Charity had lease payment commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Land and buildings		Office equipment	
	2021 £	2020 £	2021 £	2020 £
PAYMENTS DUE:				
Within one year	-	-	8,321	2,180
Between two and five years	-	-	16,698	5,733
Over five years	-	-	-	-
	-	-	25,019	7,913

16. Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2020: none).

Donations, memberships subscriptions, lottery plays and purchases of goods made by the Trustees in the year totalled £769 (2020: £781).

17. Investment in subsidiary

The investment of £12 represents 100% of the ordinary £10 share capital in League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited, the principle activity of which historically was to receive and administer legacy entitlements and manage its portfolio of land and buildings. League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited is a private company limited by shares registered in England and Wales.

In 2019 the Investment in subsidiary was revalued to £12 reflecting the transfer of all the fixed assets and most of the cash at bank assets from League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited to the parent charity.

The total income for the year ended 31 December 2021 of the League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited amounted to £Nil (2020: £Nil), expenditure totalled £312 (2020: £445). Net payments, cash and asset transfers totalling £Nil (2020: £Nil) have been made from League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited to its parent company, and registered charity, The League Against Cruel Sports which is treated as a gift aid donation.

As at 31 December 2021 League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited had fixed assets of £Nil (2020: £Nil), net current assets of £51,329 (2020: £51,641) and reserves of £51,317 (2020: £51,629). In 2021 it reported deficit of £312 (2020: Deficit £445).

Details of the Charity's subsidiaries at 31 December 2021 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Nature of business	Class of shares held	Percentage held	
				Direct	Indirect
League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited	England and Wales	See above	Ordinary £1 shares	100.00	-

18. Comparative 2020 Expenditure

	Direct Staff costs £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2020 £
RAISING FUNDS				
Fundraising and publicity costs	130,900	76,557	69,738	277,195
Costs of trading activities	15,708	68,976	-	84,684
	146,608	145,533	69,738	361,879
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
End Hunting with Dogs	665,247	166,010	279,432	1,110,689
End Shooting of Animals for 'Sport'	252,037	96,382	117,123	465,542
End Fighting of Animals for 'Sport'	66,129	39,187	35,403	140,719
Win Hearts and Minds	454,095	260,001	240,047	954,143
	1,437,508	561,580	672,005	2,671,093
Total expenditure	1,584,116	707,113	741,743	3,032,972

Comparative 2020 Analysis of Support costs

	Governance costs £	Staff costs £	Office and admin. costs £	Total 2020 £
RAISING FUNDS				
Fundraising and publicity costs	5,154	34,912	29,672	69,738
Costs of trading activities	-	-	-	-
	5,154	34,912	29,672	69,738
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
End Hunting with Dogs	20,653	139,888	118,891	279,432
End Shooting of Animals for 'Sport'	8,657	58,633	49,833	117,123
End Fighting of Animals for 'Sport'	2,617	17,723	15,063	35,403
Win Hearts and Minds	17,742	120,171	102,134	240,047
	49,669	336,415	285,921	672,005
Total expenditure	54,823	371,327	315,593	741,743

Support costs are allocated on the basis of % of time spent in proportion to direct costs.

19. Comparative 2020 Funds

Movement in funds

	Balance at 1 January 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2020 £
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Wentworth Sanctuary legacy	53,729	-	(8,794)	-	44,935
Wentworth Godalming office legacy	58,038	-	-	-	58,038
Links Research work	11,410	-	(11,410)	-	-
Greyhounds	13,000	-	-	-	13,000
Cove Down Sanctuary	9,386	-	(1,444)	-	7,942
General Election 2019	(1,713)	2,061	(348)	-	-
Other small restricted funds	-	650	(650)	-	-
Total Restricted funds	143,850	2,711	(22,646)	-	123,915
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
Designated funds:					
Programmes and fundraising growth	390,000	-	-	(390,000)	-
General funds	3,510,752	3,250,496	(3,010,326)	390,000	4,140,922
Total Unrestricted funds	3,900,752	3,250,496	(3,010,326)	-	4,140,922
Total funds	4,044,602	3,253,207	(3,032,972)	-	4,264,837

20. Comparative 2020 Analysis of net assets between funds

Unrestricted funds

	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
FUND BALANCES AT 31 DECEMBER 2020 ARE REPRESENTED BY:				
Fixed assets	1,616,421	-	51,304	1,667,725
Current assets	2,734,479	-	72,611	2,807,090
Current liabilities	(209,978)	-	-	(209,978)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	-	-
	4,140,922	-	123,915	4,264,837

The League Against Cruel Sports

corporate directory

The information shown below is correct as of 1 January 2021 to 11 April 2022 the date of signing the accounts

Trustees

Tim Holmes (Chair)
John Hughes (Honorary Treasurer)
Ashleigh Brown
Alan Tapp
Astrid Clifford
Caroline Hawkins

Senior Management Team

Chief Executive	Andy Knott, MBE
Deputy Chief Executive	Chris Luffingham
Director of Scotland	Robbie Marsland
Director of Development & Engagement	Emma Smith
Director of Investigations	Martin Sims
Director of Finance	Neal Soleil
Director of People & Culture	Kelly Hack

Charity Number	1095234
Company Number	04037610
Company Secretary	Andy Knott
Principal and registered office	New Sparling House Holloway Hill Godalming GU7 1QZ

Principal professional advisors

Auditor	Haysmacintyre LLP 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1AG
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Bankers	The Co-Operative Bank Plc 1 Balloon Street Manchester M60 1GP
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Legal Advisors	Brabners LLP Horton House Exchange Flags Liverpool L2 3YL
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League Against Cruel Sports

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Holloway Hill
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supportercare@league.org.uk

www.league.org.uk

The League Against Cruel Sports is a registered charity in England and Wales (no. 1095234) and Scotland (no. SC045533), and is registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee (no. 04037610).

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1095234

Accounts



LEAGUE
AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

League Against Cruel Sports

2020 Annual Report and Financial Statements

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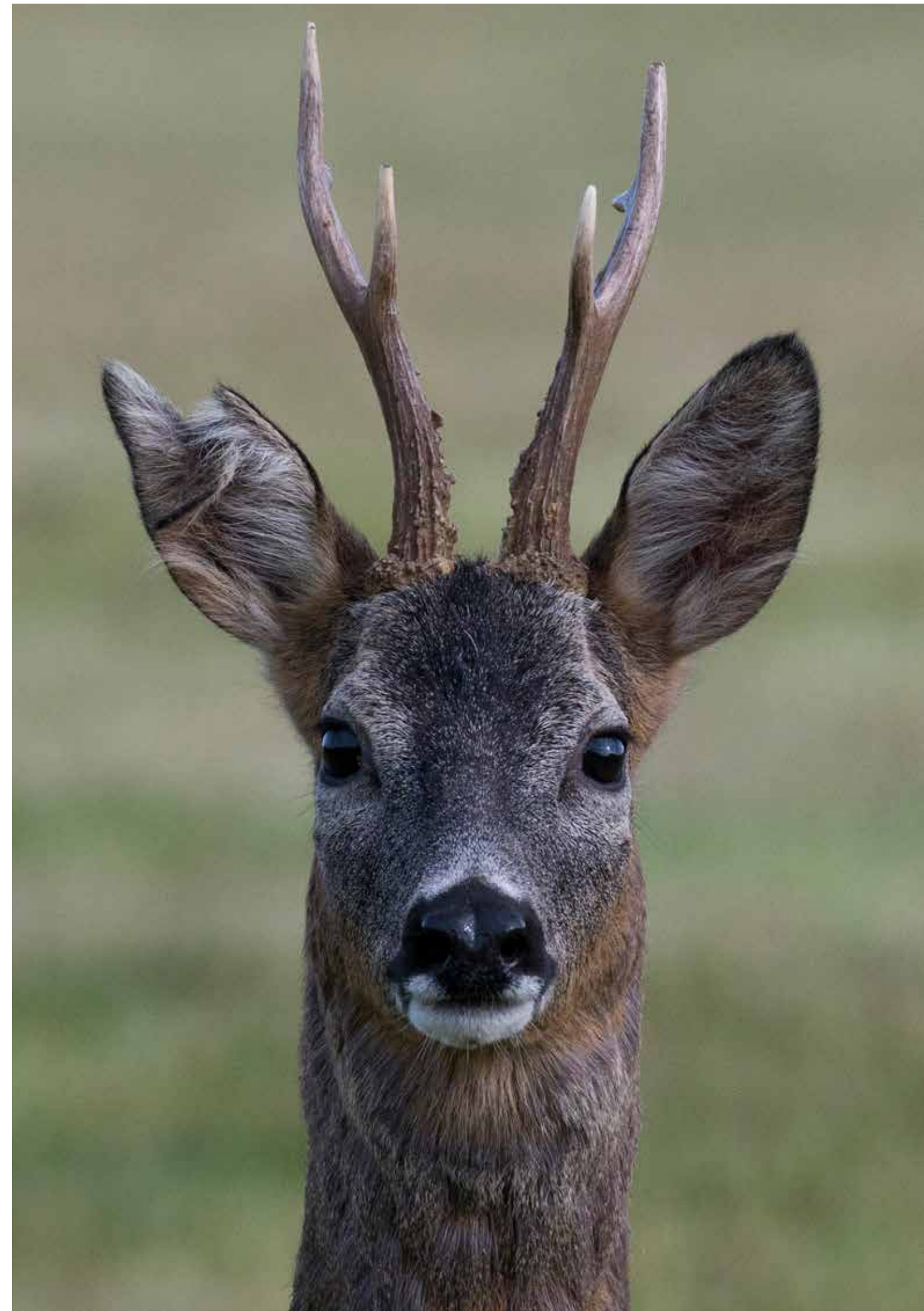
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Message from the Chairman, Dr Tim Holmes



In the introduction to our Annual Report last year, I wrote about a future of light and hope for the welfare and protection of animals. The devastating impact of Covid-19 and a year of lockdown has changed us all and had a profound impact on our daily lives, and our future remains uncertain. However, if there has been a single positive to this most extraordinary of years, it is perhaps that the wildlife that surrounds us has had some respite from the brutalities routinely subjected to it.

We will have all seen the reports during the first lockdown of wildlife moving into areas with reduced human activity. Who can forget the footage of grazing fallow deer in suburban London gardens or wild goats moving into the town of Llandudno? More than ever during this enforced isolation, we are spending more time in nature and benefitting from the positive impacts on our wellbeing. We must do everything we can to make sure that when the impact of the virus reduces, society does not return as a destructive force to our natural environment. The protection of biodiversity is important for its own sake, but human survival depends on it.

The League Against Cruel Sports continues to play its part in ending the barbarism and destruction of the blood sports industry and its devastating impact on our wildlife and the environment. In 2020, the shooting and hunting industries suffered one of their worst years on record and I am proud of the role we have played in hastening their demise. We have led much of our work but have also successfully collaborated with other charities and individuals to achieve our objectives across all four countries of the UK. The end of the year saw a police investigation launched in response to the leaking of “training” webinars. In these films, senior members of the hunting community called ‘trail’ hunting nothing but a smokescreen – the same language we have used to describe their activities over many years.

Now the hunting community’s mask has slipped, we asked major landowners to stop hunting taking place on their land. In response, over 2.3 million acres were removed from the hunter’s use. Could 2021 finally see hunting consigned to the history books?

My greatest praise and thanks are reserved for you, our loyal and generous supporters. We have had many successes this last year despite the extreme difficulties of Covid-19, of all of which are only made possible by your continued support, and I am delighted to share them with you in this report.

“...the League Against Cruel Sports continues to play its part in ending the barbarism and destruction of the blood sports industry and its devastating impact on our wildlife and the environment...”



Message from the CEO, Andy Knott MBE



2020 illustrated that not all things go as planned. For us, the Covid-19 pandemic substantially changed the way we could operate. The challenge was to mitigate the negative effects without losing the focus on our animal welfare outcomes, all the while keeping our responses agile and our people safe.

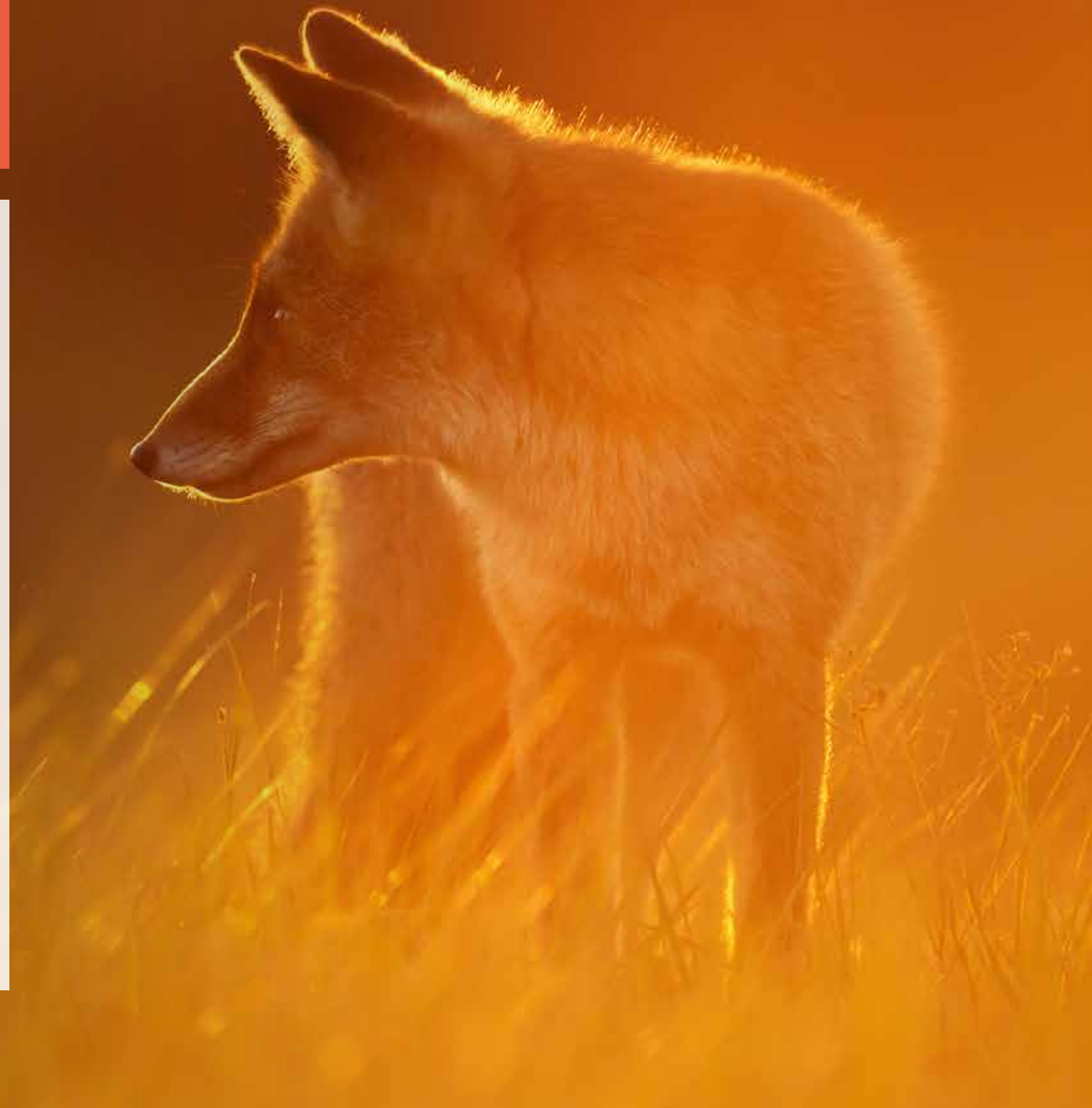
With the incredible help and trust from all quarters of our Charity and beyond, we did just that. Some of our successes were in the making for some time, others taken when the moment arose; some were a mix of both. Land denial for instance, be it to the hunts or shoots, has been our operational 'main effort' for a few years now. Following revelations released from the Hunting Office, the opportunity arose to focus our expertise and make substantial gains. As a result, more animals than ever thrive in hunt free zones, at least for the present. Our aim remains to live in a country where there is no hunting, shooting or animal fighting taking place – permanently.

In turning to that future, it is as well to remember the past. In 1967, a legal drink driving limit was introduced. However, it wasn't more police standing outside pubs at closing time that eventually called time on drink driving. Rather it was effective campaigning, leading to an increasingly aware and outraged public withdrawing any tolerance or social licence from those intent on flouting the law, whether they lived in the town or countryside. You could say that it brought everyone together, united in a common cause that seems so obvious to us now.

Could the same now be true for cruel sports, be they illegal or plain unacceptable to our nation of animal lovers? Our reconnection with nature and animals presents an opportunity to open more eyes, win more hearts, and change more minds than ever before, and we will invest heavily in making it so in 2021 and beyond.

I hope you enjoy reading this report, whether you have been supporting us your whole life, or are new to our burgeoning supporter base. In a year of accolades, mine goes to 'Team League.' Independently rated the 12th best charity to work for we emerged from a testing year stronger than ever. We will continue to ensure your voice for animals will be heard.

“ *...our reconnection with nature and animals presents an opportunity to open more eyes, win more hearts, and change more minds than ever before...* ”





Our Focus

Strategic Approach

Our Vision

A kinder society where persecuting animals for 'sport' is in the past.



Our Mission

Empowered by knowledge and driven by compassion, we protect animals from being persecuted in the name of 'sport'.

United, we aim to redefine what is acceptable and inspire change.

Our Enablers

Governance

Operations

Infrastructure
& Support

Sanctuaries &
Education

People &
Culture

Our Working Priorities



End
hunting
with dogs



End
shooting of
animals for
'sport'



End
fighting of
animals for
'sport'



Win the
hearts and
minds of
a broader
audience

Our Values

We are Compassionate

We are ethical and committed to creating a world that is caring towards animals and people.

We are Credible

We are law abiding, rely on evidence and have years of expertise.

We are Courageous

We have the confidence to challenge those who believe in killing animals for 'sport'.

We are Collaborative

We unite with others through honesty to achieve a common goal.

We are Catalysts for Change

We create opportunities to make change happen.

2020 - At a Glance

January: Hunting or pest control?

At the beginning of the year, we released new footage showing a pack of hounds on the scent of an exhausted fox and reported the incident to Police Scotland. We believe the Jed Forest Hunt was encouraging its hounds to search for, and chase foxes, which would be illegal. The footage was released 12 months after the Scottish Government announced its intentions to bring forward a Bill to strengthen the current fox hunting legislation to 'really ban fox hunting in Scotland' as it believes the current law is too weak. The Jed Forest Hunt Trial is scheduled for April 2021.



February: Uniting with farmers to protect our countryside

Northern Ireland is the only part of the United Kingdom without a ban on hunting with dogs. In February, pre Covid-19 restrictions, we organised an event, with the help of Alliance Councillor Patrick Brown, for County Down farmers to meet local councillors to try and find a way to deal with the impact trespassing hunts and their hounds have on their land.

Hunts have been accused of damaging property, worrying livestock and engaging in anti-social behaviour as they chase wild animals across the countryside. The farmers are growing increasingly concerned about individual terrier men and men with lurchers terrorising the countryside as they seek to hunt foxes and hares. Similarly, the farmers have reported these men to the police for making threats and behaving in an abusive manner.



March: On the high street

In March, our staff, League volunteers and the Gloucestershire Outreach Advocacy Team campaigned and spoke to members of the public ahead of the first day of the horse racing festival at Cheltenham.

On Gold Cup day we returned with a headstone commemorating all the horses that have died at the festival in recent years. The Cheltenham Festival in 2019 saw the tragic deaths of Invitation Only, Sir Eric and Ballyward. A total of 67 horses have lost their lives at the Festival since 2000.

One horse death is one too many. With horses regularly dying on racetracks, and Cheltenham among the worst offenders, it's clear the racing industry needs to take animal welfare more seriously.

April: Fox saved thanks to Sir Paul McCartney

In April, our professional Investigators filmed a fox escaping onto a League wildlife sanctuary donated by Sir Paul McCartney as hounds chased.

The incident took place at St John's Wood, a nature reserve set up thanks to the donation of land by the former Beatle, to protect animals such as foxes and deer from being hunted in West Somerset. The fox was fleeing from the Dulverton Farmers Foxhounds.

Our Head of Conservation and Education, Paul Tillsley, filmed the hounds in full cry in fields adjacent to St John's Wood, where we own the sporting rights which prevents hunts from operating. Our professional Investigators filmed the fox escaping onto our sanctuary land.

The incident follows on from another case in the West Country earlier in 2020 where the Four Burrow Hunt ran amok on two other wildlife sanctuaries.



NATIONAL TRUST: END HUNTING

May: Can we trust the National Trust to really ban 'trail' hunting?

In May, we launched our publicity campaign to urge members of the National Trust to back a motion to ban 'trail' hunting on its land.

The National Trust issues 'trail' hunting licences in which hunts are supposed to follow pre-laid scents rather than real foxes.

We launched our first film which asked the question, if 'trail' hunting is real, then why are animals still being chased and killed by hunting hounds? This was the first of a series of films created to raise awareness of the utter destruction 'trail' hunting causes to our countryside, wildlife and even domesticated pets.

The motion was lodged by a member of the National Trust, with the help of more than 200 of our own supporters who signed to support it. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, the Trust's AGM was postponed, and the motion will carry forward to 2021.

June: Protected status for the iconic Scottish mountain hare

An amendment to the Animals and Wildlife (Penalties, Protections and Powers) (Scotland) Bill to protect mountain hares was passed in June. The amendment, tabled by Green MSP Alison Johnstone, was voted for in the Scottish Parliament gaining 60 votes for and 19 against.

The League is part of Revive, the coalition for grouse moor reform, and has supported the amendment which will offer protected status to mountain hares, ending recreational killing and mass culling of the iconic species. Scottish Government figures show that on average 26,000 are killed every year on grouse shooting estates, and last year their conservation status was elevated to 'unfavourable' due to declining numbers.

2020 - At a Glance

July: Trespassing terror

In July, two wildlife sanctuary managers in South England contacted us to describe how they face ongoing issues with hunts and their hounds trespassing on their land.

Talking to us they both recounted seeing their local hunts chasing live foxes, despite the hunts claiming they are 'trail' hunting.

Our Head of Conservation & Education, who has run our wildlife sanctuaries for almost 20 years said: "There's absolutely no visible difference between what they're doing now and what they were doing back before the hunting ban. The hunts have never accepted our right to be here because they think they can hunt where they like, and to an extent they still do. We have to be on our guard the whole time if we know that there's a hunt around."



August: A ruined cycle ride in the countryside

In August, Georgina, aged 16 and her mum decided to go on a bike ride in the Suffolk countryside. After getting lost but finding what looked like a path to the main road, the pair made a gruesome discovery.

The girl found a 'stink pit' – used by gamekeepers to lure predators like foxes to their deaths to protect pheasants being reared on a game estate nearby. Pheasants that will be shot anyway. She reported what she saw to our supporter-funded Animal Crimewatch service, and our professional investigators swooped into action, monitoring the pit for evidence of illegal activity.

There were dozens of carcasses in the pit, and snares to trap hungry animals at each entrance, so they had no chance of getting away. This is the dark side of shooting that most taking part have no idea takes place. We will continue our campaigning to see all snares banned, as well as an end to commercial 'game' shooting.



September: Partnering with the police

In September, campaigning group Action Against Fox Hunting launched a report which highlighted an inconsistent approach by police forces across the UK in response to reports of illegal hunting activity.

Our dedicated members of staff who train police officers in wildlife crime understand this all too well. We continue to work with forces across the country to help them understand how to apply the current legislation to suspected incidents of illegal fox hunting.

Not only does there need to be greater investment in police training on all aspects of legislation that covers hunting-related issues, but the police need to be assisted in their investigations by the Hunting Act 2004 being strengthened to remove the current exemptions and a recklessness clause being introduced. Our work to strengthen the Act will help the police achieve this.

October: Professional Investigators capture sickening scenes of brutality

Our professional Investigators filmed riders from the Devon and Somerset Stag hounds chasing and cracking a whip over a deer's head during a hunt in October.

The footage taken on Exmoor showed sickening scenes of animal cruelty by the riders who chased an exhausted stag, surrounding it and tormenting it, in a bid to either hold it down and shoot it or steer it to where it could be shot.

The deer is seen hurtling across a road to escape the riders despite the screams and hollering of hunt supporters trying to head it off. The stag is believed to have been shot shortly afterwards.

November: Fox hunting lobby admit 'trail' hunting is a smokescreen

In November, we launched a major campaign calling on land owners to sit up and pay attention after senior figures within the fox hunting lobby were caught on camera appearing to admit that 'trail' hunting is a "smokescreen" for the chasing and killing of foxes.

The explosive revelations were contained within a leaked Zoom training meeting involving those involved at the very heart of hunting and more than 100 hunt masters, representing more than half of the country's fox hunts.

We have always dismissed 'trail' hunting as a smokescreen for illegal hunting ever since it was created in the wake of hunting with dogs being banned 15 years ago.

Now the hunters have been caught out admitting trail hunting creates "the element of doubt" that has allowed them to get away with hunting wild animals even when taken to court. Thanks to our campaigning the revelations led to five of England and Wales' largest landowners suspending 'trail' hunting and more than two million acres of land taken away from hunts. A huge victory for animals.

December: Appalling scale of fox cub hunting during Autumn 2020

At the end of the year, we released new figures showing the appalling scale of fox cub hunting taking place in the countryside during autumn.

Between the middle of August and the end of October, there were 300 reported incidents of suspected illegal fox cub hunting across England and Wales. These included 15 eye-witness reports of foxes being chased and killed, despite the fox hunting ban.

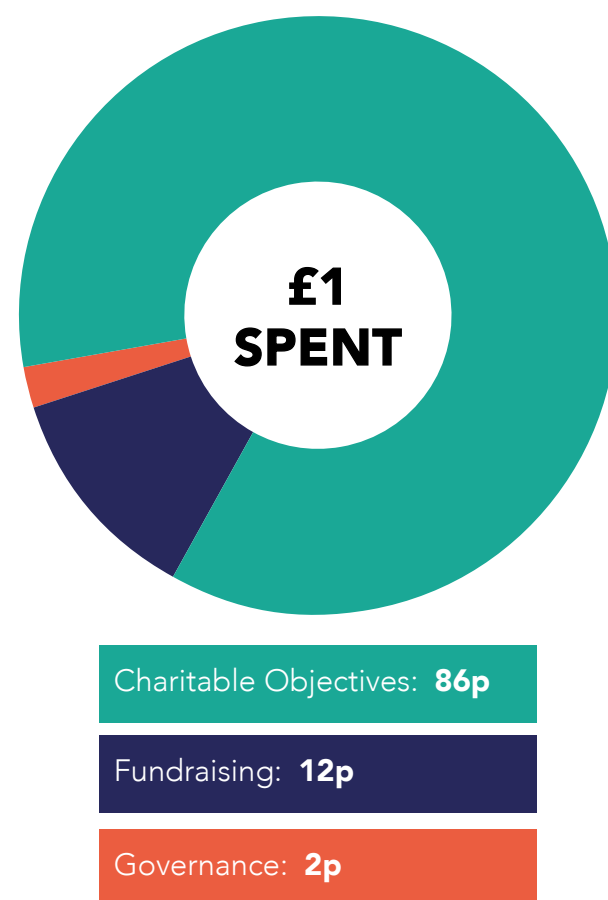
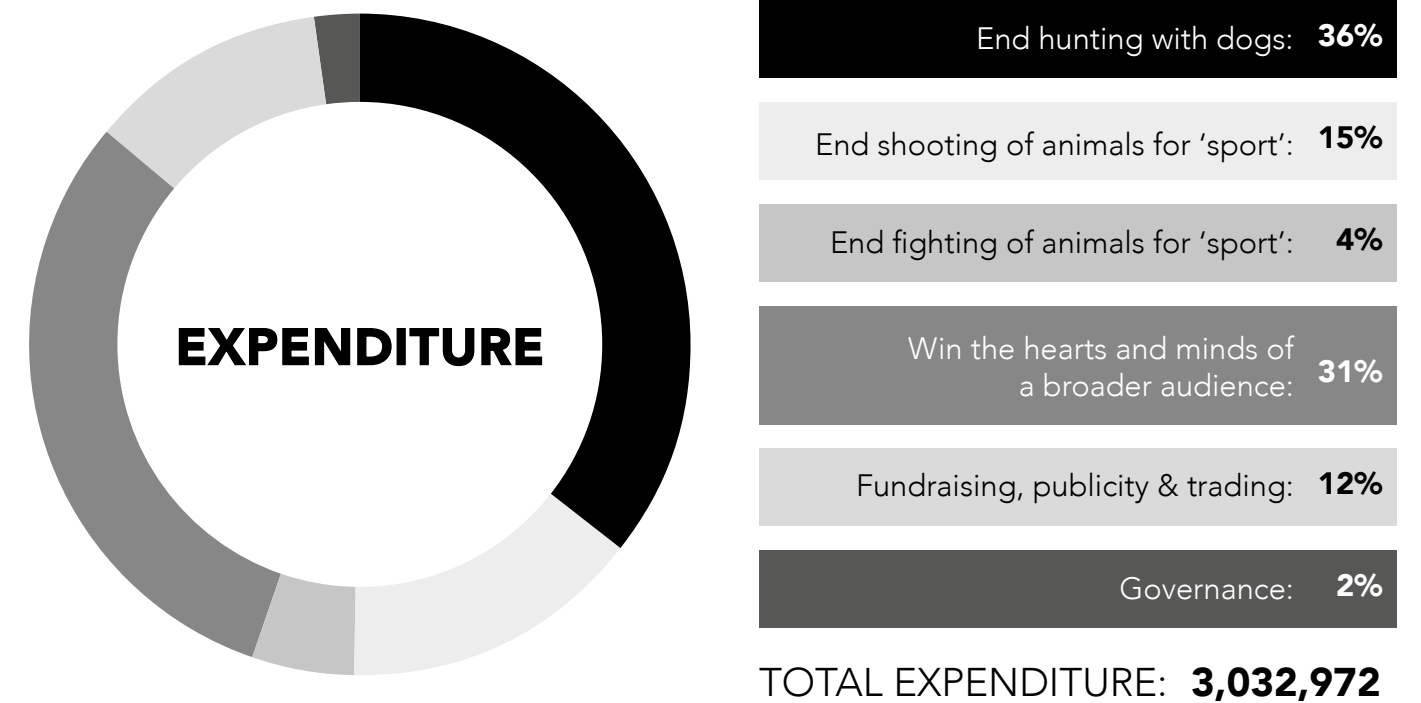
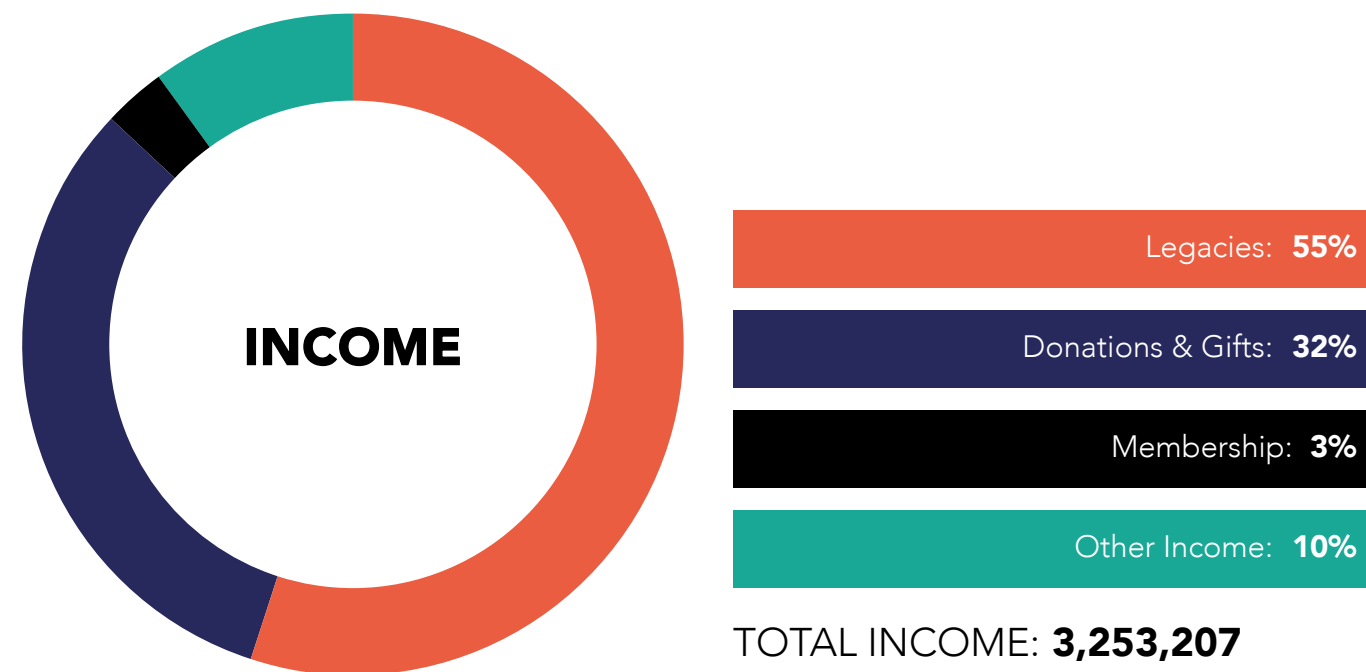
The suspected illegal hunting took place in 56 different counties and involved 108 different hunts.

The total number of highly suspected illegal fox cub hunting incidents includes kills, but also chases of foxes, and behaviour that is in line with traditional cub hunting practices as used before the ban.

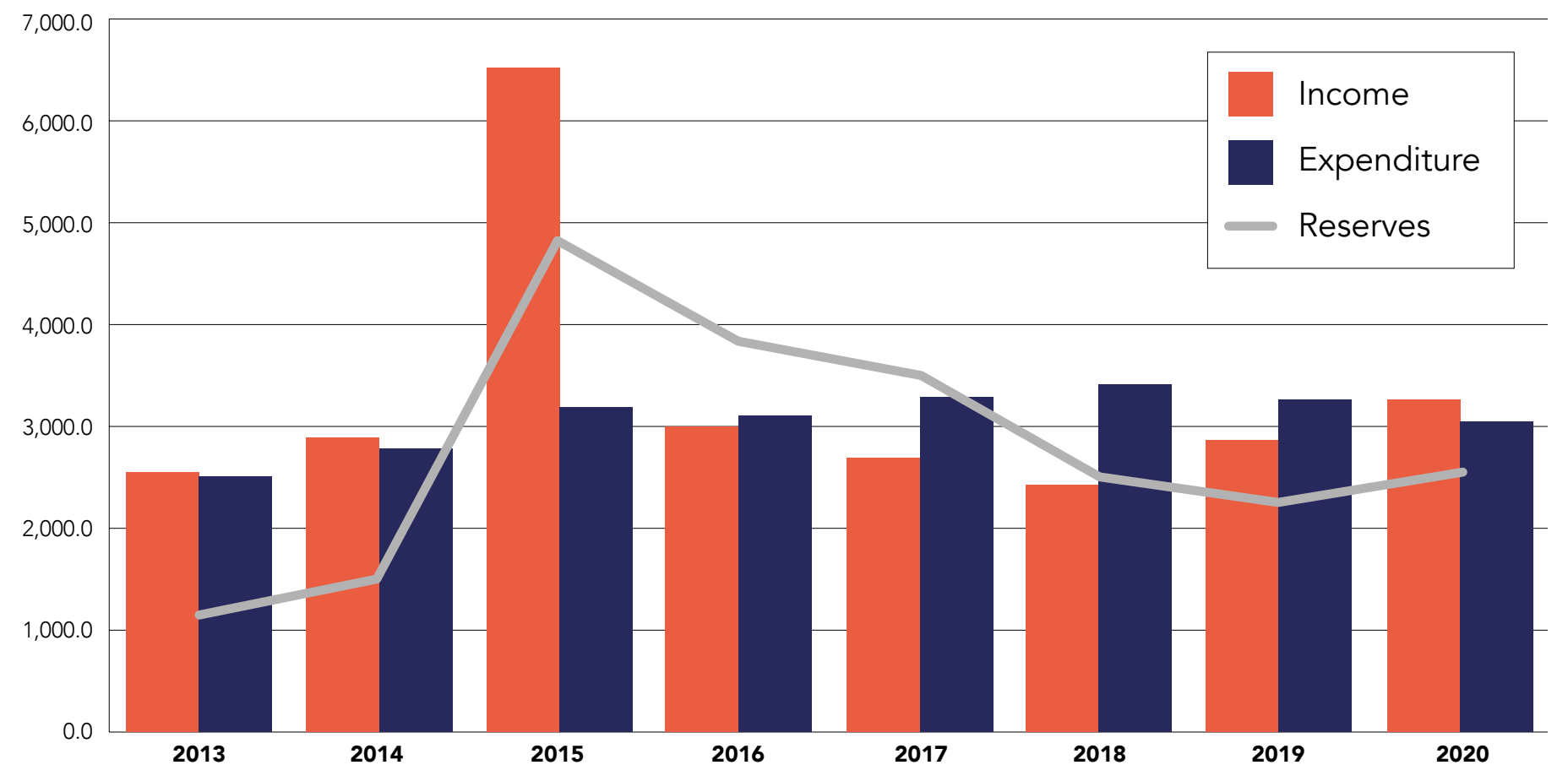
Gloucestershire was the county with the highest number of suspected illegal hunting incidents with 43 cases in less than a three-month period.

The Duke of Beaufort's Hunt topped the hall of shame as the hunt across England and Wales with the highest number of suspected illegal hunting incidents with 21 cases.

How funds are raised and spent



HISTORIC FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE & RESERVES £000



GOAL ONE: End hunting with dogs



End
hunting
with dogs

Strategic Priority

Our stated priorities and achievements in 2020

Support members to secure a motion to National Trust members at the AGM to end 'trail' hunting on their land

We overhauled our plans at the start of the Covid-19 crisis, as our original plans had a high degree of grass roots campaign activity located at major public events across the country. With social distancing and the cancellation of virtually all events, this was no longer feasible. To counteract these restrictions, we pivoted to primarily digital and social media driven campaigns. With lockdown restrictions in place, achieving the requirements for the submission of a motion was not easy. A Proposer for the motion was identified and a new motion was written, and we secured the necessary signatures (50 were required, we secured 230+) and the motion and signatures were submitted. 2020 was scheduled to be the first opportunity for a new motion to ban 'trail' hunting to be presented to their AGM. With the situation unclear regarding the status of the AGM, we did all we could to organise and submit a supporter motion that met the Trust's governance requirements. Whilst the AGM was ultimately cancelled, the motion will roll over to 2021 AGM.

Successfully lobby the Scottish Government to strengthen the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act in time for the next Scottish election in 2021

Political connections began to revive in September, and we met with Government and political parties. We are pleased to see that the resolve to really ban fox hunting in Scotland has not gone away and we look forward to seeing that resolve in their political manifestos in advance of the 2021 election.

Lobby local authorities to end hunting on their land

The biggest event of the year was the leaking of the Hunting Office's Zoom meeting in November. The webinars exposed 'trail' hunting to be nothing more than a "smokescreen", language we have used for many years, being used by the hunting community themselves. We launched our campaign urging some of the country's largest landowners to ban 'trail' hunting on their land; five immediately acting to suspend hunting. The webinars were reported on extensively through the media. We worked very closely with ITV News, which ran pieces on three consecutive nights. The BBC, The Times, The Mirror, Daily Mail, and Telegraph all published items and continue to report on the webinars.

The National Trust, United Utilities, Forestry England, National Resources Wales, The Church Estate, Lake District National Park have all suspended 'trail' hunt activities. Peterborough and Cheshire West councils were also proactive in starting the process of banning hunting from their jurisdictions. A police investigation is ongoing into the contents of the webinar.

Whilst we secured ground-breaking commitments from the Conservative Party during the 2019 General Election, we will continue to press for a strengthened Hunting Act 2004

Despite legislation being in place to stop animals being hunted in the name of 'sport' we have continued to make a compelling case for the Hunting Act 2004 to be strengthened, making sure it has remained on the agenda at Westminster.

It can now only be harder to deny that loopholes and exemptions in the ban must be removed to stop hunts getting away with killing animals for 'sport'. We have presented politicians from across the political spectrum with the case for change in a variety of ways. We ensured that the lie of 'trail' hunting and the imperative to strengthen the law were debated in Parliament and met with Ministers and Shadow Ministers on the need to stamp out illegal hunting.

Thousands of supporter emails were delivered calling for change, prompting many MPs in turn to press Ministers for answers. Our message against the flouting of the law by hunts appeared in the leading publication for MPs and peers, new opinion polling showed that most of the public want 'trail' hunting banned, and we ensured that illegal hunting was included for the first time in an annual report on wildlife crime delivered to elected representatives.

2021 Priorities

- Secure a permanent end to 'trail' hunting on National Trust land
- Secure a permanent end to 'trail' hunting on major landowners' land
- Facilitate local authorities to end hunting on their land
- Create an environment in Northern Ireland where all hunting of mammals with dogs is banned by supporting the Alliance Party Private Members Bill to pass into law
- Respond to the Scottish Government legislative process and provide Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSP) briefing packs
- Launch a new campaign project in Scotland to 'Really Ban Fox Hunting'
- Lobby for and secure a National Police Working Group on Hunting with Dogs

GOAL TWO: End shooting of animals for ‘sport’



Strategic Priority	Our stated priorities and achievements in 2020		2021 Priorities
	Influence Scottish political manifestos to include policies that will reform grouse moors and lead towards the end of driven grouse shooting Revive’s own manifesto was published and sent to all MSPs, as well as Revive members meeting with Manifesto teams from all political parties. End cage rearing in Wales by the time the Assembly elections happen in May 2021 We made good progress towards ending the suffering caused to gamebirds by the use of cages. We await the full result of the review of the ‘game’ bird rearing code of practice, which began in summer 2019 but which has still not yet been fully concluded. We have kept the issue on the agenda in Wales by way of Senedd questions and our recent petition calling for a ban on cages. The petition is in the process of being scrutinised by the Senedd Petitions Committee and we are pleased that the Committee agreed to ask the Minister why the Welsh Government is content to allow the current system of using cages to raise ‘game’ birds to be used in Wales at all. As we move towards the Senedd elections, planned for May 2021, we will continue to press for commitments from all Welsh political parties to end the cruelty and to ban the use of cages for rearing ‘game’ birds in Wales	End transport of live birds and ready-to-hatch eggs into and out of the UK, focusing on Eurotunnel and Stena Following the outbreak of Covid-19, the decision was taken to streamline our output, which meant this priority was paused. This was also partly due to the impact of Covid-19 on a court case taking place in France that was due to be heard involving Brittany Ferries and their ban on the transport of ‘game’ bird chicks. The global pandemic resulted in the court date being postponed. We are monitoring the situation and will return to this issue in due course. 	• Ending the transport of live birds and ready-to hatch eggs into and out of the UK, focusing on EuroTunnel & Stena • Release shooting report for England and Wales • Secure manifesto commitments to end cage rearing in Wales by the time the Assembly elections happen in May 2021 • Commitment from Yorkshire Water to review all leases by August 2021 • Member’s bill on legal killing of predators on and around grouse moors • Secure pledge to ban the sale of snares in Wales, before or after the elections • Virtual and physical outreach to local political and community groups

GOAL THREE: End fighting of animals for 'sport'



**End fighting
of animals for
'sport'**

Our stated priorities and achievements in 2020

Present Animal (Sentencing) Bill to new Parliament

In June 2019, we led a delegation of animal welfare charities to Number 10 to urge the government to stand by its promise to push the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Bill through parliament. We worked hard throughout 2020 to keep this bill on track, collaborating with other like-minded charities. After several postponements, the Second Reading took place on 23 October. On the day a compelling editorial written by our CEO and appearing in House Magazine, and the front page of Politics Home, was read out by the Shadow Defra Minister, Daniel Zeichner MP, to frame the debate. The Bill passed Second Reading the same day and progressed to Committee Stage on 3 February 2021. On 12 March 2021, the Bill passed Third Reading in Parliament and has moved to the House of Lords. Lord Sir John Randall is sponsoring the Bill as a Private Members Bill, with Her Majesty's Government support. At the time of writing, it is scheduled for Second Reading on 16 April 2021.

Along with others in our delegation, we are still fighting for it to become law. When passed it will raise the maximum sentence for the worst animal cruelty offences from six months to five years.

Compile a piece of work to investigate and determine the level of cruel 'sports' in the UK to raise awareness of its prevalence

We launched a ground-breaking interactive map as part of our new campaign to show the territory of the 299 hunts still operating in the British countryside and the species they target – foxes, hares or deer.

Over time, the map will continue to grow to show other cruel animal sports.

Research and enrich intelligence on known dog and cock fighters

Our intelligence team is responsible for developing information and investigation leads received through our supporter-funded Animal Crimewatch reporting service relating to animal fighting.

Much of the information is referrals from social media or more community-based information. Using our specialist intelligence team, we endeavour to progress all reports to confirm those that may be involved in dog fighting and when possible develop an intelligence package to share with the relevant police force. This work is complex and specialised which can take time to develop using our various capabilities.

This year, we developed three dog fighting cases which we passed to enforcement agencies. Due to the global pandemic, the incidence of animal fighting crime reported to us and our operations to address it, were seriously impacted.



2021 Priorities

- Ensure the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Bill passes into law in 2021
- Produce intelligence packages for external contractors to develop our intelligence on more complex animal fighting investigations
- Secure a dog fighting prosecution

GOAL FOUR: Win the hearts and minds of a broader audience



Win the hearts and minds of a broader audience

Strategic Priority	Our stated priorities and achievements in 2020		2021 Priorities
	Build more and stronger relationships with like-minded organisations The year was spent strengthening our relationship with other charities and the coalitions we are involved with. In Scotland, our Revive Coalition is strong and thriving. We work with a wide array of charities lending our support to a range of other initiatives calling on the Government to make legislative changes and introduce other initiatives that advance animal welfare. Our coalition calling for the Animal (Welfare) Sentencing Bill is more determined than ever, and we were also able to bring a smaller coalition together before Christmas to call on the Government to suspend hunting on its land. This resulted in a meeting on 4 March 2021, led by our CEO, with Environment Secretary George Eustice and the members of the coalition. In December 2020 we reignited a coalition of animal welfare intelligence practitioners called AIM (Animal Intelligence Meeting), which had been in existence some years ago but ended. The concept is to unite intelligence practitioners to share common experiences and exchange best practice with an overall objective of ensuring we are all working to a similar standard. It enables us to build relationships and work towards the common aim of helping animals. There are currently ten organisations and is led by our Head of Intelligence. These monthly meetings enable us to discuss a range of topics including modern day slavery, GDPR and data protection, intelligence sharing, intelligence training and investigation software.	Increase our reach through new fundraising campaigns Last year we continued with our Digital Acquisition Campaign, successfully recruiting 2,262 new regular giving supporters. Our fundraising campaign achieved online impressions of over 19 million, helping to raise awareness of our work across hunting, shooting and animal fighting to a broader audience. Representation of the League across a broad range of Wildlife and Countryside LINK working groups The League currently has representatives on the following LINK working groups: Wildlife Crime, Legal Strategy, Animal Welfare, and Land Use planning group. Our CEO plays an active role within the CEO’s group and several of our Directors sit on the Policy Directors and Media groups.	

A photograph of a deer running through a green field towards the left. The deer is in mid-stride, with its front legs extended forward and its back legs pushing off. The background is a dense, dark green forest. The overall scene is captured in a cinematic style with soft lighting.

Trustees' Strategic Report

GOAL ONE:

End hunting with dogs



Fox hunting is illegal in England, Scotland and Wales. It is still legal in Northern Ireland.

Fox hunting was banned by the Hunting Act 2004 in England and Wales, and the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 in Scotland. But while these were both welcome and hard-fought pieces of legislation, overwhelming evidence suggests both are either being ignored or exploited by hunts on a regular basis.

Hunting Hounds

In January 2020 we received reports from passengers and staff about 30 loose hounds on a main line at Chipping Sodbury, South Gloucestershire. Some hounds were sadly struck by a train and killed.

The hounds belonged to the Beaufort Hunt, which was involved in a similar incident in 2010. The hunt apologised but we secured national press coverage in the Daily Mirror online, as to why the hounds were there in the first place.

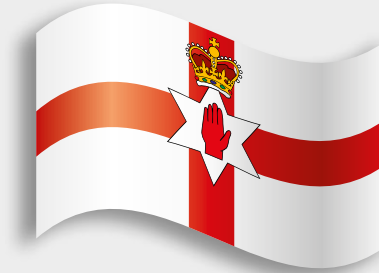
An owner of an animal rescue centre based in South East England also described to us an incident of hounds worrying livestock. Many of her rescue animals were left "very distressed" after hunting hounds trespassed onto her small-holding whilst in pursuit of a fox, despite claims they were 'trail' hunting.

During the last full hunting season, we received reports of 65 incidents of livestock being worried by hunts; 12 involved hounds chasing and attacking livestock - sometimes fatally.

Sadly, beloved pets are the latest casualties of reckless hunting in Britain. We received 18 reports of hunting hounds disturbing domestic pets during the last full hunting season. Ten of these incidents involved pet dogs and four involved cats, during which the animals were chased and sometimes killed.

We believe this shows hounds are both out of control and are still being trained to kill.

In what we believe is a first under a Conservative Government, on 4 March 2021 our CEO attended a meeting with Environment Secretary of State, George Eustice MP. Talks centred around the permanent banning of Hunting on Government Land, and Strengthening the Hunting Act, with other animal charities also attending in close support of our position. Further meetings are planned and a Paper presenting our arguments and calling for action will be presented shortly.



Northern Ireland

Hunting is still legal in Northern Ireland. It's now the only nation within the UK that has not introduced a complete ban on fox and stag hunting. The farming community in Northern Ireland reached out to us due to the overwhelming amount of harassment they were experiencing from local mounted hunts, and lurcher and terrier men trespassing on their land.

Before Covid-19 restrictions, we organised an event in County Down with help from Alliance Councillor Patrick Brown for local farmers and councillors to try and find a way to deal with the impact trespassing hunts and their hounds have been having on their land and the countryside.

Hunts have been accused of damaging property, worrying livestock and engaging in anti-social behaviour as they chase wild animals. Research shows that hunting with hounds also presents a significant biosecurity threat to livestock when hunts trample across farmland.

We provided each farmer with a support pack containing legal fact sheets regarding hunt trespass, anti-social behaviour and public order offences along with supporting materials to assist them in gathering evidence and how to ensure each incident is properly reported to the police.

The reception helped forge stronger working links between farmers and their local councillors which will enable them to work together to overcome the threat to the farming community associated with hunt havoc.



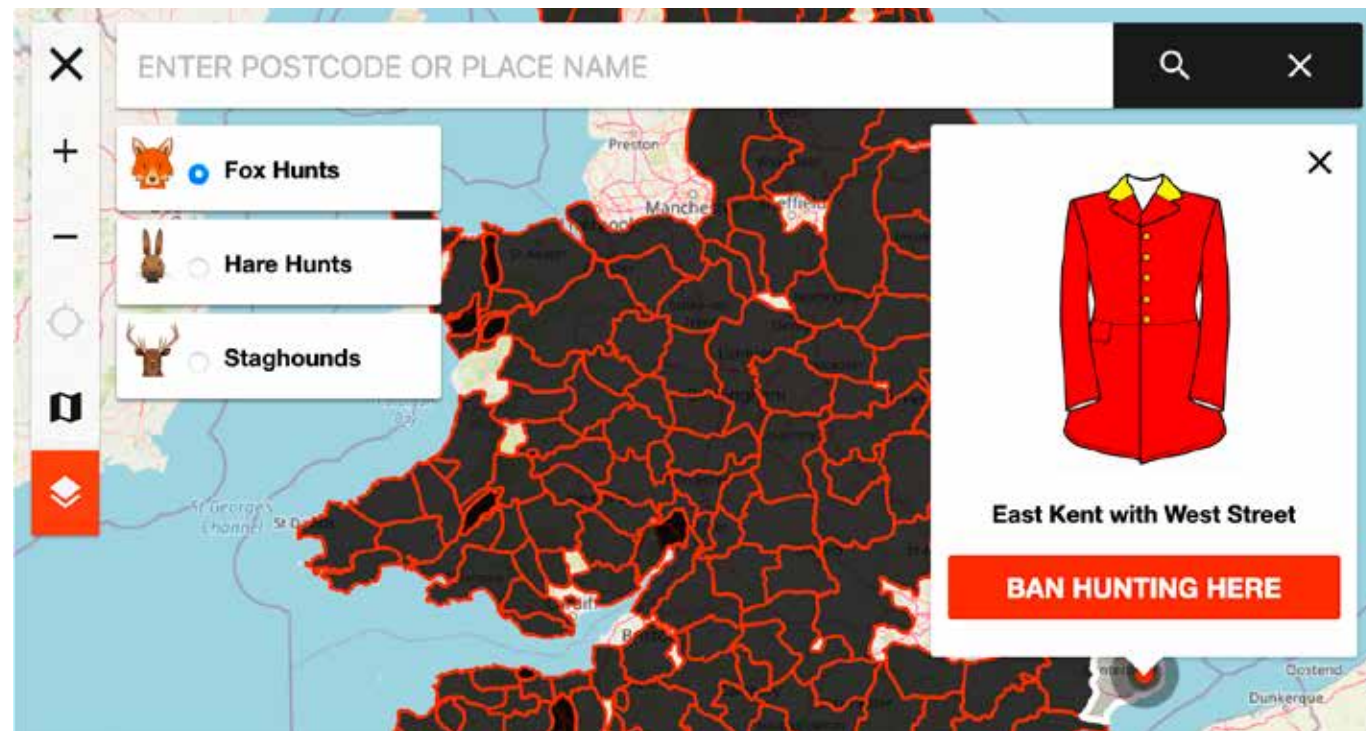
Scotland

Fox hunting in Scotland is currently controlled by the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act, which came into force in 2002. This in effect banned hunting with dogs, but included an exemption allowing them to be used to flush foxes out of cover so they can be shot as a 'pest' control measure.

In January our professional Investigators captured footage showing the Jed Forest Fox Hunt chasing an exhausted fox with a pack of hounds in the Scottish Borders. We reported the incident to Police Scotland, as we believe the Jed Forest Hunt was encouraging its hounds to search for, and chase foxes, which would be illegal. A trial has been set for April 2021.

At the start of the year, we held meetings with Government Ministers and senior civil servants about how the fox hunting ban in Scotland would be strengthened before the end of the year. We met with opposition Labour, Conservative and Green politicians and they were all on side with our programme of work. We even had our first meeting with the Deputy First Minister in the diary for mid-March.

But, as we feared might happen, due to Covid-19, in April the Government announced that the Bill to strengthen the hunting ban was one of six Bills being delayed until after the May 2021 Scottish election. Obviously, this is a huge disappointment, but as political connections began to revive in September we again met with Government and political parties. We are pleased the resolve to really ban fox hunting in Scotland has not gone away and look forward to seeing that resolve in their political manifestos in advance of the 2021 election.



Police Partnership

At the end of the year a meeting chaired by the National Wildlife Crime Unit, discussed whether hunting with dogs might become a national wildlife crime priority. Our Intelligence Team produced extensive materials and evidence to support the case for it to be included. It was a productive meeting, and whilst this is still under review, a working group has been established to consider the issues further. We are yet to hear who the delegates of this group are, but we are hopeful we will be invited to participate and influence this decision.

A safe haven

In February, the Dulverton Farmers Foxhounds were caught hunting on land where we own the sporting rights. The hunted fox managed to escape by running to the adjacent League-owned St John's Wood sanctuary and the hunt was forced to call off the hounds because of the presence of League staff.

In September 2020, when everyone was under Covid-19 restrictions, the Devon and Somerset Staghounds met next to our flagship sanctuary, Baronsdown, and hunted with a large crowd of supporters. League sanctuary staff were able to capture images and footage, which made the national press.

The location of the League's wildlife sanctuaries makes them a constant thorn in the side of the hunts and the sanctuaries directly saved the lives of many animals during the year.

Footage and images of wildlife living free from persecution on the wildlife sanctuaries have been used to support our campaign to 'End hunting with dogs' through online and printed publications.

Map of Cruel Sports

In February, fifteen years after the Hunting Act 2004 came into force, we launched a ground-breaking interactive map as part of our new campaign to show the territory of the 299 hunts still operating in the British countryside and the species they target – foxes, hares or deer.

We encouraged all members of the public and our supporters to contact their local council to urge them to table a motion calling for an end to 'trail' hunting, exempt hunting and the exercising of packs of hounds on their land – all excuses used by hunts to justify their behaviour.

Our map allows the public to find out what hunts are local to them, which animals are being targeted, and how much land is still being used for this brutal blood sport. **Click [HERE](#) to view the Map of Cruel Sports**

Enough is enough

Coronavirus may have signalled an early end to the fox hunting season in 2020, but we have compiled eye-witness reports relating to 485 incidents of suspected illegal fox hunting activity last season between October 2019 and early March 2020. One gruesome report also included a ginger kitten being ripped apart by hunt hounds.

In total, we received reports of 38 foxes witnessed being killed by the hunts during the past season and 15 reports of highly suspected fox kills.

Backed up by these figures, we commissioned new polling, undertaken by Survation, which shows that more than two thirds of the British public believe hounds still hunt foxes.

Research & Observation?

In October, our professional Investigators filmed riders from the Devon and Somerset Staghounds chasing and cracking a whip over a deer's head during a hunt.

The footage, taken on Exmoor, showed sickening scenes of animal cruelty by the riders who chased an exhausted stag, surrounding it and tormenting it, in a bid to either hold it down and shoot it or steer it to where it could be shot.

The deer is seen hurtling across a road to escape the riders despite the screams and hollering of hunt supporters trying to head it off. The stag is believed to have been shot shortly afterwards.

This is animal cruelty at its most shocking. The stag was clearly exhausted and suffering. It would have been running for miles. The film shows the hunt cracking a whip over its head, urging it on while baying supporters stand in the road to harass and confuse the stag some more to prevent it from escaping.

The Devon and Somerset Staghounds meet three times a week and are the largest of three deer hunts operating in the west country. The hunts involve between 30-40 riders and 70-100 vehicles with hunt supporters, despite the restrictions on gatherings due to Covid-19.

They also received a taxpayer-backed £50,000 Government coronavirus loan and a £10,000 small business grant by the local district council in 2020.

'Trail' Hunting Smokescreen

We secured shocking footage showing hounds from the Duke of Beaufort's Hunt chasing a fox. Three of our professional Investigators followed the hunt throughout the day to monitor its activities to establish they were hunting foxes. The fox was filmed running for its life and jumping through a barbed wire fence with hounds following closely behind.

The incident was filmed on Hawkesbury Common in Gloucestershire. The main body of the hunt was seen pursuing the fox, and no attempt was made to call the hounds back. This footage was also shown on ITV West Country and we have passed it to Avon and Somerset Police for them to investigate.

At the end of the year explosive revelations were made from a leaked Zoom training meeting. It involved those at the very heart of hunting and more than 100 hunt masters, representing over half of the country's fox hunts.

We worked very closely with ITV News to expose the cover up in a hard-hitting news story to show the notion of 'trail' hunting is being used by hunts to deceive the police, the courts, the media and the public about their fox hunting activity.

We have consistently dismissed 'trail' hunting as a smokescreen for illegal hunting ever since it was created in the wake of hunting with dogs being banned 15 years ago. Now the hunters have been caught out admitting 'trail' hunting creates "the element of doubt" that has allowed them to get away with hunting wild animals even when taken to court.

After the news story aired, we began a targeted campaign, urging large landowners and local councils to suspend 'trail' hunting on their land. Nearly 10,000 emails were sent by our supporters to their councils urging them to act.

We secured many victories from those who allow 'trail' hunting on their land. Responses to our letters requesting action from the following landowners were immediate:

26th November

National Trust, Forestry England and United Utilities suspend 'trail' hunting

27th November

Lake District National Park and National Resources Wales suspend 'trail' hunting

9th December

Councillors in Peterborough took a landmark decision and voted to ban 'trail' hunting on public land.

10th December

Councillors at Cheshire West and Chester Council voted for a motion which paves the way for a ban on 'trail' hunting on public land. The motion calls on the council's cabinet to develop a policy on 'trail' hunting which considers the threat posed by hunts to the environment and animals.

To date, nearly two and a half million acres of land has been taken away from hunts.

A huge victory for animals.

GOAL TWO: End shooting of animals for 'sport'



'Game' bird shooting appears to many as a classic British countryside sport, where wild birds are skilfully shot by marksmen and eaten as part of a delicious home-cooked meal.

However, investigations, undercover filming, scientific research and economic analysis have all revealed that perceptions of commercial 'game' bird shooting in the UK are deceptive and the reality is very different.

The financial benefit to the economy is exaggerated, whilst animal welfare laws are exploited, and our environment and landscape are put at risk.

In terms of the numbers of animals persecuted and killed, no other cruel sport in the UK has such a devastating impact on animals as commercial 'game' bird shooting.

Grouse Moor Reform

The League, one of the founding members of Revive - a coalition for grouse moor reform - became the first group in Scotland to publish a manifesto, exactly one year ahead of the Scottish Parliament elections. We also commissioned a major land reform report in Scotland leading the way for better land uses than grouse moors.

We compiled stunning data from thousands of photographs taken during our long-term survey of traps and snares on seven Scottish shooting estates and had booked a thousand-seater auditorium for the second Revive public conference in August, which sadly had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

We premiered a Dragon's Den-inspired film to a group of cross party MSPs, before launching to the public, which imagined what would happen if driven grouse shooting hadn't been invented and someone tried to suggest it. So far it has been viewed 100,000 times – Click [HERE](#) to watch the Government's Den.

In September we published two reports, Hanged by the Feet until Dead, an in-depth scientific analysis, and a shorter summary report called Calculating Cruelty. They are the most comprehensive and robust field studies of ground predator control on Scotland's shooting estates. Over 15 months, a surveyor, with over 20 years' experience of 'game' management recorded the scale, distribution and use of legal grouse moor management equipment and practices across seven shooting estates to calculate the true extent of animal killing as a result of predator control to sustain the driven grouse shooting industry. The reports showed that around 200,000 foxes, stoats, weasels and mountain hares are being killed each year to make sure there are more grouse to shoot. Watch the video [HERE](#)

The media coverage around the report was greatly assisted when the new owners of one of the estates, Kildrummy, announced it was no longer going to manage the land for grouse. The estate was purchased by American couple Chris and Camille Bently, Directors of the Bently Foundation. The couple plan to rewild much of the estate, bringing it to a more natural state to create a better habitat for wildlife wherever possible.

Camille Bently said: "My husband and I oppose all forms of animal cruelty and abuse of wildlife as our family foundation focuses on grant making to wildlife protection causes worldwide. We have every intention for Kildrummy to operate at the highest ecological and wildlife conservation standards and to be a positive example of supporting a healthy, biodiverse environment while taking all possible measures to protect threatened species. We applauded the study done by the League Against Cruel Sports and support their mission to create greater transparency and accountability for the treatment of wildlife".

We ran polling on the subject and revealed that 71 per cent of the Scottish public were against this "War on Wildlife". Later in the year, working closely with 38 Degrees, around 53,000 people signed a petition calling on the Scottish Government to stop this needless killing.

In December, our League Director of Scotland, was asked to make a case for banning grouse shooting and to debate with the chairman of Scottish Land estates. Watch our case to decide for yourself [HERE](#)



Mountain Hares

In June, an amendment to the Animals and Wildlife (Penalties, Protections and Powers) (Scotland) Bill to protect mountain hares was passed. As part of the Revive coalition, we worked on supporting the amendment to offer protected status to mountain hares, ending recreational killing and mass culling of the iconic species. Scottish Government figures show that on average 26,000 hares are killed every year on grouse shooting estates, and last year their conservation status was downgraded to 'unfavourable' due to declining numbers.

This was a real victory for animal welfare and the League is hugely grateful to Alison Johnstone, Green MSP for bringing this important issue back onto the political agenda.



Beautiful Birds

The League's wildlife sanctuaries provide a home for hundreds of pheasants and red-legged partridge that have been released to be shot on adjacent shooting estates.

Throughout 2020, the League's wildlife sanctuaries continued to protect species of mammals and birds, such as badgers, foxes, stoats, pied flycatchers, redstarts, wood warblers and buzzards, that are heavily persecuted on the neighbouring shoots.

Footage and images of pheasants and red-legged partridge living happily on the League's wildlife sanctuaries were used to for marketing and campaigns purposes.

Campaigning for Change

In 2019 we campaigned with Ban Bloodsports on Yorkshire's Moors against driven grouse shooting because of the cruelty inflicted on the birds and because we agree with research by the University of Leeds that burning grouse moors degrades peatland habitat, releases climate-altering gases, reduces biodiversity and increases flood risk.

Our campaign was a success and Yorkshire Water agreed it would tighten up its licensing arrangements. In 2020, Yorkshire Water, United Utilities and the National Trust estates of Marsden, Braithwaite Hall and Dark Peak should be commended for banning routine heather moor burning on their land. This decision, by three major landowners means that 30 tracts of land are now unavailable for commercial grouse shoots.

Not only does this mean protection for the birds, but it's also good news for the ecology of these areas.

We will be continuing our work in 2021, urging these landowners to make this ban permanent.

Supporters Story

In August, Georgina, aged 16, and her mum decided to go on a bike ride in the Suffolk countryside. After getting lost but finding what looked like a path to the main road, the pair made a gruesome discovery.

The girl found a 'stink pit' – used by gamekeepers to lure predators like foxes to their deaths to protect pheasants being reared on a 'game' estate nearby. Pheasants that will be shot anyway.

She reported what she saw to our supporter-funded Animal Crimewatch service, and our professional Investigators swooped into action, monitoring the pit for evidence of illegal activity.

Speaking to the League after the evidence had been gathered, Georgia said she cried when she found the massive pit.

Our professional Investigators were shocked by what they saw, so it's no surprise a teenager, stumbling across it, was reduced to tears by what she saw.

Stink pits are the dark side of commercial shooting that most people don't see. This one had snares placed carefully at each corner which meant no hungry animal could escape unscathed. This stink pit shows how easily the Defra guidelines on snares are ignored – it's time these cruel traps were outlawed completely.



GOAL THREE:

End fighting of animals for 'sport'



Many find it surprising that dog fighting was outlawed nearly 200 years ago. Sadly, it continues in the 21st century and is a significant animal welfare issue for the UK.

It's one of the most horrific forms of organised animal cruelty, not only for the violence the dogs endure during fights but because of the trauma they suffer throughout their lives.

Dogs forced to fight suffer terrible injuries, both from the fights and at the hands of their vicious 'owners'. Most will ultimately be killed in the ring or die soon after from their injuries. Those who can no longer fight are often brutally killed.

Of the

129

suspected dog fighting suspected records....



The importance of Animal Crimewatch

Our Intelligence Team is responsible for developing information and investigation leads received through our supporter-funded Animal Crimewatch reporting service. Most of these reports relate to suspected dog fighters.

Much of the information we receive are leads from social media or the community. Using our specialist team, we endeavour to progress all reports to confirm those that may be involved in dog fighting and when possible develop an intelligence package to share with the relevant police force. This work is complex and specialised which can take time to develop using our various software capabilities.

Dog Fighting Reports

In 2020 we recorded 129 dog fighting related reports into our intelligence system. This was the second largest animal cruelty reported and represents seven percent of the total reports in 2020. Fox hunting remains the number one animal cruelty reported with 1,158 incidences.

Of the 129 reports recorded, 49 were received from our Animal Crimewatch service, the remaining were self-generated by our Head of Intelligence following Animal Crimewatch investigations and from our own research.

We also prioritised our efforts towards uncovering a suspected dog fighter and organiser who is believed to be networked across the UK and wider, with access to potential banned breed American Pit Bull terriers. This complex investigation was challenging, and we are grateful to our specialist contractors who provided the much-needed information verification that enabled us to deliver to a police force for their review. Despite our every effort to ensure an operational outcome, the police still have not taken any action. We have now begun a formal complaint process.

Our dog fighting intelligence gathering and investigations feeds into our public affairs work and provides the valuable background on dog fighting in the UK to facilitate discussions from a standpoint of knowledge and experience with influential stakeholders.



GOAL FOUR:

Win the hearts and minds of a broader audience



Despite the uncertainty caused by a global pandemic, the restrictions placed on our usual supporter facing events and the anxiety of being isolated from family and friends, our supporters remained steadfast in their determination to protect persecuted animals.

It is our pleasure and passion to protect animals, but none of our work could happen without an incredible group of people: our supporters. It's their support that fuels our ambition to end hunting, shooting and animal fighting in the name of 'sport'.

Animal Crimewatch

Our supporter-funded Animal Crimewatch reporting service allows people from across the UK to report animal crimes. Last year we received 706 calls from members of the public who were concerned about animal cruelty in the name of sport. Suspected illegal fox hunting continues to be the number one concern, accounting for 62 per cent of all intelligence submissions.



Growing awareness

Our Intelligence Team published a suite of information leaflets, available on our website, that gives general information and legal advice on a range of subjects about which we often receive calls to our Animal Crimewatch. These resources have been used to grow awareness of the lesser-known cruelty inflicted by snares, traps, fox baiting and hare coursing.

Educating the police

We continued our conversations with police forces across the UK, providing training in the Hunting Act 2004. Frustrations remain around some investigating officers' ability to identify offences of illegal hunting when viewing footage and trying to apply pertinent legislation. This was highlighted when one case review showed a clear disparity between the film and the report submitted. A formal complaint by the witness was raised and it featured on BBC South East news. Issues like this exemplify why police liaison remains a crucial part of our work to ensure fewer mistakes are made by law enforcement.

Countryside Collaboration

Our Director of Investigations now chairs the Wildlife and Countryside Link wildlife crime working group. LINK is a coalition of 57 larger NGOs and charities that lobby parliament and others, providing a louder voice for nature. The Wildlife Crime Working Group is responsible for putting together LINK's annual crime report. The 2019 report, launched in 2020, contained a chapter on Hunting with the Dogs. This is the first time this has been included and was due to our involvement and is significant as the report goes to every MP at Westminster.

We also sit on the National Badger Persecution Priority Delivery Group and the National Wildlife Cyber-Crime Priority Delivery Group.

Growing our reach

We featured in 3,573 separate media articles or TV and radio news bulletins in 2020. ITV News at Ten featured the League on two separate occasions as well as running two other pieces on the leaked webinar revelations in which the hunt lobby appeared to admit that 'trail' hunting was a "smokescreen" for the chasing and killing of animals. We reached over 4.8m viewers.

We reached an audience of over four million after The Times ran an article of the footage captured on camera by our professional Investigators of a stag being chased and whipped on Exmoor. The Guardian online also ran a story on Boxing Day featuring the suspension of 'trail' hunt licences by major landowners and councils curtailing the traditional Boxing Day hunts, which has a monthly reach of 37.5m (due to links with the New York Times).

League Leaders

In December 2020 we reignited a coalition of animal welfare intelligence practitioners called AIM (Animal Intelligence Meeting), which had been in existence some years ago but ended.

The concept is to unite intelligence practitioners to share common experiences and exchange best practice with an overall objective of ensuring we are all working to a similar standard. It enables us to build relationships and work towards the common aim of helping animals. There are currently ten organisations and is led by our Head of Intelligence.

These monthly meetings enable us to discuss a range of topics including modern day slavery, GDPR and data protection, intelligence sharing, intelligence training and investigation software.



People Reporting

Our approach to remuneration of staff is designed to ensure we can attract and retain people with the passion, commitment and talent we need to deliver our mission. We aim to pay competitively in the not-for-profit sector within the context of affordability, using external salary survey to benchmark our salaries against other similar charities.

We believe we should be honest and open with our supporters about how their donations are used to ensure we can protect animals at greatest risk from hunting, shooting and animal fighting for ‘sport’. The information in this report highlights some of the key benchmarks we monitor to ensure everyone can access a fair wage.

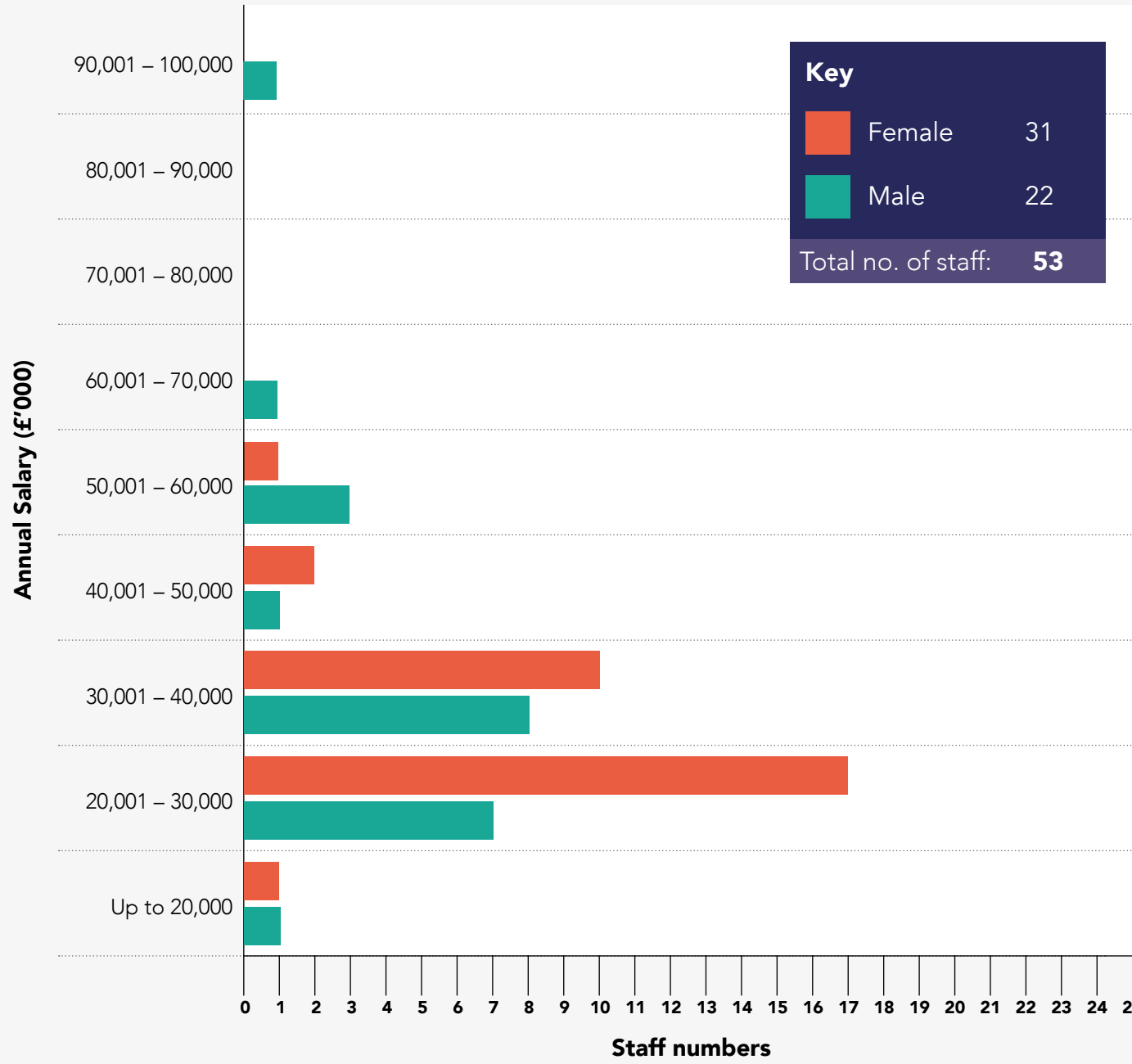
Pay Gap (minus CEO)	National Average Pay Gap	League 2020
Gender	17.3%	13.84%
Disability Pay Gap	12.2%	15.2%
Ethnicity Pay Gap White and BAME (Black, Asian, and minority ethic)	21.7%	19.9%

	2019	2020
Highest paid salary (£'000)	91,350	89,279*
Median (£'000)	29,196	29,866
Ratio	3.1	2.97

*CEO took a temporary voluntary reduction in salary for three months during 2020

Pay figures on the above tables are based on actual staff pay during the financial year

Annual Salary entitlements



Salary figures are based on the full time equivalent of staff salary entitlements as at 31 December 2020

Living Wage Statement

The League became an accredited Living Wage employer in 2020. This is our commitment to pay all employees and third party contracted staff the real Living Wage. We voluntarily choose to pay the real Living Wage because we believe that a hard day’s work deserves a fair day’s pay. The government minimum wage ‘national living wage’ is based on a target to reach 66 per cent of median earnings by 2024. The real Living Wage rates are higher because they are independently calculated based on what people need to get by, ensuring employees earn a wage that meets the genuine cost of living.

The impact of the Covid-19 coronavirus outbreak on our people

The arrival of Covid-19 was an unprecedented time in terms of people. Pre-empting the official lockdown in March 2020, we had already taken the decision to close the office, putting the safety of staff first and moved to remote working, which for many was a first with various challenges. The pandemic has been an exceptional circumstance for all. In 2020 the furlough scheme was used for some staff, with those affected brought back to work in a phased way as circumstances allowed. The last remaining staff member returned from furlough on 21 September 2020.

As testimony to our team's resilience, operational and technological hurdles were taken in their stride, but physical and mental wellbeing, of both furloughed and active staff has remained a top priority. Our first step was making sure there were adequate communication channels, ensuring the whole team had transparent and regular information through regular contact within teams, weekly emails from the CEO and monthly all-organisation video meetings.

We also utilised manager 1:1s and periodic check-in calls from both HR and the CEO to ensure everyone had an opportunity to speak about their situation and needs. A safety-first, flexible, open and individual approach was paramount to helping everyone through. We ensured our regular communication gave staff access to guidance and support for the many challenges they might face.

One difficulty has been the loss of social interaction with colleagues, due to the office closure throughout the pandemic, outside of the daily work remit. To address this, we held a range of online activities from virtual quiz nights and coffee breaks to pet and wildlife photo competitions, shared our desert island discs and some even took part in a weekly fitness class. In such an extraordinary time it has been important to draw on our team spirit, and our united purpose to end animal cruelty in the name of sport makes this all the easier.

Like many other animal welfare and charities in the Third Sector, we were concerned with the impact that Covid-19 would have on our income. It is testament of our loyal supporters that, despite seeing an early drop in charitable donations, we were able to regroup and finish the year in a slightly stronger financial position than when we started. This, together with a range of other measures taken early on in the pandemic, helped to assure the future of the League and the animal welfare objectives we work so hard to secure.



Sustainability Statement

We recognise the importance of combatting climate change and are committed to be an environmentally responsible organisation, understanding that this is an ongoing and continuous process. We incorporate environmental factors into business decisions and promote environmentally responsible ways of working to our staff and suppliers.

1

Managing our wildlife sanctuaries

As far as possible we follow sustainable practices, generally interfering with nature as little as is possible, whilst maintaining the sanctuaries in suitable condition for a wide diversity of wildlife and complying with the relevant legislation.

When it is necessary to carry out forestry operations on the sanctuaries, we follow the UK Forestry Standard to ensure protection of biodiversity, soil, water, landscape and the historic environment.



2

Reducing energy consumption

The electricity on Baronsdown, our flagship wildlife sanctuary, is supplied by a company that uses 100 per cent renewable energy and plans include investment in solar PV panels. The water supply comes from a spring located on-site.

Our head office electricity is 100 per cent green – made from the sun, wind and sea. We utilise features to help reduce energy use such as on-demand hot water boilers and future plans include LED lighting.

We will seek to reduce the amount of energy used as much as possible. We encourage all staff to switch off all electrical items at the end of the day and during the day when not in use and using power save settings to do this automatically where possible. We use the most energy efficient settings on devices where possible and turn off unnecessary lighting and heating, adjusting the heating/air conditioning with energy consumption in mind and when using ensuring windows and doors are closed.

3

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

We encourage staff to reduce consumption of materials as a priority, aiming to reuse materials and when things must be thrown away, we recycle as much as possible. There are clearly labelled waste and recycling bins at all of our premises.

Paper is our biggest consumable: we will minimise the use of paper by using electronic methods where possible, utilising double-sided printing, reducing packaging as much as practicable and we only use licensed and appropriate organisations to dispose of waste.

4

Reducing our impact from travel

We promote alternatives to travel such as the use of email, phone and video conferencing for meetings and will restrict travel to necessary trips only. Where possible we will use public transport. We encourage staff to use green travel alternatives, our main office is situated near public transport links, we provide bicycle racks and will favour 'green' vehicles when required for business use.

5

Changing behaviour

We foster a 'think green' culture, providing staff with relevant environmental training and this year initiated a Green Team. Their role is to improve the environmental responsibilities of the League's operations, promote across staff and encourage a greater adoption of environmentally beneficial practices. The Green Team is responsible for making recommendations and improvements to the League's policies and working environment to reduce our environmental impact.

Fundraising Governance

We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and are committed to the Fundraising Promise and adherence to the Chartered Institute of Fundraising (CioF) Code of Fundraising Practice. All donors to the League can be assured that we comply with the regulatory standards for fundraising. This report covers the requirements charities must follow as set out in the Charities Act 2016.

We receive no government funding, and all our income is from fundraising, including gifts in wills.

We use a range of fundraising activities to generate income. These include sending letters and emails to our supporters, running online acquisition campaigns, holding three raffles per year, monthly League Lotto, legacies, applications to trusts & foundations, corporate partners and building relationships with philanthropists. We complete thorough due diligence before entering any new partnerships to ensure associates are aligned with our mission and vision. In 2020 we continued with our successful digital acquisition campaign using social media platforms to recruit new supporters, achieving exceptional results even in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. This initiative will continue in 2021.

We use third-party suppliers to help us raise funds, particularly where we do not have the in-house expertise. We have safeguards in place when working with suppliers, so we protect our supporters and the reputation of the League.

Our website outlines our complaints policy for the public and clearly explains how an individual can make a complaint. We received six complaints about our fundraising activities in the 2020 financial year. In contrast, in 2019 we received eight, representing a 25 per cent decrease in 2020.

We responded to all complaints within three working days. Complaints are dealt with in line with our Supporter Care Policy and we report to the Fundraising Regulator on the total number of complaints received. We are also signed up to the Fundraising Preference Service to enable individuals to opt-out from receiving fundraising communications from us. We actioned 12 requests from this service in 2020, a 33 per cent decrease from the previous year.

We are committed to ensuring that we always treat the public sensitively, fairly and respectfully, taking special care to protect people who may find themselves in vulnerable circumstances. Our Supporter Care Team are fully trained to recognise potentially vulnerable people they may speak to. This approach is in line with the requirements of the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 and the CioF Treating Donors Fairly guidance.

We have a robust General Data Protection Regulation framework in place to ensure we are compliant. Our Privacy and Cookies Policies are regularly updated to ensure supporters are fully informed as to how, when and where we use their data.



Structure, Governance and Management

The League Against Cruel Sports is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (Registration No. 1095234) and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (Registration No. SC045533). It is also a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (Company Registered No. 04037610). Its objects and powers are set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

A new Memorandum and Articles were successfully adopted by the membership on 6 April 2019.

The Charity has a wholly owned subsidiary the League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited, which is a private company limited by shares incorporated in England and Wales (Company Registered No. 02880406). Its principle activities have been to receive and administer legacy entitlements and manage its portfolio of land and buildings.

In 2019 we undertook a corporate restructuring whereby the subsidiary transferred the 'rights' to future donated income and the company's land and buildings, and most of the cash at bank assets to the parent charity. The League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited now acts solely as a subsidiary company for carrying out trading activities on behalf of The League Against Cruel Sports charity.

The company results and financial position are detailed in note 17 to the accounts.

The governing body of the charity is the Board of Trustees, comprising of not fewer than three nor more than twelve unpaid members. The Board meet at least three times a year to review performance against its plans, approve future financial plans based on the agreed strategy, setting policies and to make any decisions necessary to its governance and strategic direction. The Board has ultimate responsibility for the conduct and financial stability of the charity group. The Finance, Risk And General purposes Committee is a sub-committee of the Board and also meets regularly to consider issues appertaining to the charity group and informs the wider Board.

Day-to-day financial responsibility and managerial control are delegated by the Board to the Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive and Senior Management Team meet twice monthly to discuss operations and financial performance.

Trustees are appointed by a majority of the voting members at the AGM for a term of up to three years or can be co-opted by the Board of Trustees until the next AGM. A comprehensive recruitment exercise is undertaken for the appointment of new Trustees to ensure the Board have the depth and breadth of skills and experience necessary to be an effective Trustee of The League Against Cruel Sports. The Board appoints a recruitment panel which undertakes the selection process, carries out interviews, and makes recommendations to the Board for their approval.

New Trustees attend an induction day at the League's headquarters, to learn about the charity's mission, strategy and objectives. They also learn about their role and responsibilities as a Trustee. We also use the opportunity for them to meet and speak with the League staff.

Remuneration Policy

The Board of Trustees determines the Chief Executive's salary and reviews this each year, in line with the charity's pay policy. The Board also approves recommendations made by the Chief Executive on any pay changes to the Senior Management Team salaries, and other staff pay changes as a result of the annual staff pay review.

Our approach to remuneration of staff is designed to ensure we can attract and retain people with the passion, commitment and talent we need to deliver our mission. We aim to pay competitively in the not-for-profit sector within the context of affordability, using external salary survey to benchmark our salaries against other similar charities.

The annual pay increases are awarded in January each year taking into account pay inflation, organisational affordability, and any mandatory statutory increases. Our remuneration policy approach is applied consistently across the organisation, through our annual pay review process.

The League has now committed to paying our employees no less than the real living wage and as such is accredited by the Good Business Charter.

Financial Review

2020 has been a challenging year for the League, with previously agreed financial plans having to be re-written early in the year and planned investments put on hold in light of the impact of Covid-19. Every new financial year presents uncertainties, but Covid-19 added a significant additional layer of concern not only in whether we would be able to achieve our fundraising targets, with evidence of donation income plummeting generally across the charity sector, but also whether would we be able to deliver on our necessary programmes and operations to meet our strategic objectives given the government imposed lockdown restrictions.

Our revised business plans were agreed with new more prudent income targets and expenditure budgets reflecting our analysis of the expected impact of Covid-19 specifically on the League, but still providing the necessary resources to allow us to deliver on our objectives, albeit in a more unconventional, creative manner; whilst retaining confidence in the stability and sustainability of our finances.

By the end of the year our renewed fundraising efforts and prudent budgeting has paid off as we achieved a surplus of income over expenditure of £220k, increasing our reserves further and providing even greater stability for the League as we enter 2021; which continues to be challenging period for the sector and the League.

With the Board's confidence in the League's financial strength, we start 2021 as a continuing viable, long-term sustainable organisation with ambitious future growth plans; and we hope to bring some of these plans to fruition in the coming year by building on our fundraising successes and investing some of our surplus reserves despite ongoing Covid-19 economic difficulties.

Income

Total group income for the year was £3.3m, an increase of £351k or 12 per cent on last year. The League reports on three key areas of income generation performance: legacies, donations and memberships. Although we also generate income from our trading activities and investment income from cash deposits.

Legacy income was £1.8m, an increase of £240k, or 15 per cent on last year; this represented 55 per cent of our total income for the year. Legacy income is a significant income source and is crucial to the League in achieving its ambitions and over the last three years we have benefitted from year on year increases. However, legacies are difficult to predict in terms of the amount and timing of receipt thereby making accurate forecasting somewhat problematic and we take a prudent approach when setting annual budget targets. In order to reduce this uncertainty risk on achieving our overall annual income target, we continue to develop of our fundraising goals prioritising the building of our regular giving, supporter and member generated income potential over the five-year period of our financial plan.

Donations and gifts income were over £1m for the year, the same as for last year. These are excellent results given that early in 2020 sector predications were for a 48 per cent downturn in fundraised income. The League was less impacted than other charities who were more dependent on public fundraising events, sponsorships etc. Adapting quickly to new fundraising strategies coupled with an expansion in our pro-active supporter acquisition campaign, we have managed to maintain a healthy, sustainable level of fundraised income for the year.

Our other 2020 fundraising campaigns included: fostering new trust and major donor relationships and developing our supporter appeal programme with four themed appeals in the year: Not fair game; Caught in the Act; Running for their lives; No place like home, we sent out two issues of our Protect magazine to inform and encourage supporter action and League Life, launched during lockdown.

In the year we received grants of £143k in connection with the Government Job Retention Scheme funding to help support the costs of staff not fully utilised during 2020 due to lockdown restrictions.

Income from membership fees decreased by £6k, as some supporters have chosen to move to our regular giver supporter package. We continue to value our loyal members alongside our regular giver supporters and appreciate their enduring commitment to help the League achieve its charitable objectives through their day-to-day support of our work and their participation of 'on the ground' action.

Other trading income was £138k, a decrease of 20 per cent on the previous year. Most of the decrease was due to significant funds generated last year from timber sales in connection with tree management on our sanctuaries. Income from our three annual raffles and monthly lotto decreased slightly by £4k in the year. We upgraded our Lotto programme to improve the experience and prize fund and expect the new format will appeal to a wider supporter group.

Investment income increased by £10k, or 55 per cent on the previous year, despite the significant decrease in bank interest rates over the year. This increase has been generated primarily from more effective cash and bank deposit management.

Expenditure

Total resources expended in furtherance of our charitable objectives for the year was over £3m, a decrease of £203k or 6 per cent on the previous year; a significant factor in this reduction is the impact of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions on the League's field operations and the temporary head office closure. Including allocated support costs, expenditure on charitable activities was £2.67m, a decrease of 8 per cent on the previous year, and raising funds was £362k, an increase of 7 per cent.

Direct expenditure on our four core charitable activities increased by 2 per cent, with the overall proportion of expenditure on direct charitable programme delivery increasing by 8 per cent, to 76 per cent of total spend in 2020. Support costs decreased by £278k or 27 per cent. Year on year decreases in support costs are providing additional funding for our charitable activity delivery.

Balance Sheet

As at the year end the group had total net assets of £4.26m; represented by fixed assets of £1.67m, current assets of £2.8m and current liabilities of £0.21m.

Group funds consist of £4.14m unrestricted funds (2019: £3.9m) and £0.12m of restricted funds (2019: £0.14m). At the year-end there were no designated funds by the Board of Trustees (2019: £0.39m).

The funds are detailed in note 13 to the financial statements.

Total reserves/Net assets continue to provide the group with a strong working capital base for the start of 2021 and beyond.

Reserves Policy

Reserves are key in ensuring the long-term viability of the charity. The Board of Trustees regularly monitors the level of retained reserves, when reviewing financial performance in the management accounts, and reviews the overall reserves policy annually as part of the five-year financial plan review.

Our reserves policy is based on a risk identification approach calculating an appropriate level of unrestricted reserves to cover our contractual commitments, working capital requirements, and to manage possible fluctuations in future income levels; this calculation also takes into account our fixed asset holdings. Our five-year financial planning aims to achieve a target level of reserves to cover all these identified risks and ensure we have long-term financial stability.

Based on our reserves policy, at their meeting in December 2020 to approve the 2021 five-year financial plan, the Board agreed to set a free reserves target at an average of four months planned operating expenditure for the term of the plan.

At the financial year end the amount of free unrestricted reserves available for general purposes was £2.5m, equivalent to over eight months operating expenditure. Particularly at this time of economic uncertainty, and until the Government indicates the country is emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic, the Board feels it is appropriate to maintain a level of reserves comfortably in excess of the five year target whilst at the same time encouraging our continuing ambitious expansion plans. Our policy remains in line with the Charity Commission's advice on managing charity reserves over the pandemic.

On the other side of the pandemic the Board are keen to expand the investment of reserves into delivery programmes and further funding initiatives.

The Board will continue to regularly monitor the League's performance against its agreed plans.

Investment Policy

With the continuing instability of the stock markets the Trustees have agreed that shares and stock given to or left to the League should be sold at the earliest beneficial opportunity. There was no loss on any investments received or sold during the year. The ongoing uncertainty of the markets has led to the Trustees continuing their policy of holding reserves in either property or cash deposits and not by investing in the stock markets. The policy will be reviewed by the Trustees during 2021 with due regard to our forecast cash flow requirements.

Going Concern

The trustees, having reviewed the latest financial information and forecasts, and considered the main risks facing the charity are confident that the League Against Cruel Sports is financially secure and that it is appropriate for the Report & Accounts to be drawn up on a going concern basis.



Internal Controls and Risk Management

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring the League group has a sound system of internal control to safeguard its assets and funds, and for ensuring that its assets and funds are used only in furtherance of the League's objectives. The system of internal control is intended to manage appropriately rather than to eliminate risks and to provide reasonable rather than absolute assurance. The Charity is one that arouses strong passions and potential threats to it are ever present, particularly from those who challenge its credibility and direction.

Trustees have developed an effective risk management framework for the assessment of major risks to which the charity is exposed, which has been used successfully throughout the year. The assessment and documentation of risk is carried out by the Senior Management Team led by the Chief Executive Officer, supported by the Finance Director, both of whom have considerable expertise in this area. Risk factors are identified and assessed for scale, and each risk is assigned to a member of the Senior Management Team to take responsibility for identifying the steps needed to manage or mitigate the risk. These risk assessments are documented in a risk register and are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that new risks are identified and that actions proposed to mitigate or manage risks are being undertaken. The risks to the charity are also assessed and reviewed by the Trustees twice yearly, with quarterly updates to the Finance Risk And General (FRAG) Committee. The CEO also raises specific risks at his weekly call with the Chairman and Honorary Treasurer.

Risk to the charity has diminished considerably for the third year running, with the League reaping the rewards of the necessary changes in governance and management made in 2018. The consistency and courage in our approach to malicious trolls and fake stories has proven highly effective and illustrates what can be done when staff and Trustees are protected from harm. As a result, trolling has moved from near pandemic levels experienced in the past, to near zero during the reporting period. Sickness and absence rates (half of which is generally accepted as related to poor mental health/stress) has decreased eight-fold since 2017, decreasing steadily year on year and ending at 0.5 per cent in 2020. This reflects the safe space that working for the League affords staff, and is a fraction of the 3.3 per cent charity sector average. The net result is that the charity can now focus solely on its charitable objects without distraction.

Despite the challenges of Covid 19, the charity seems to be bucking the general trend. Covid safety measures, including much of the year spent with staff working from home and for some, on furlough, were adopted early on. The health and jobs of all staff have been preserved, including through the continued careful stewardship of our finances and the generosity of our supporters. Despite facing a significant budget deficit forecast at the start of the pandemic, fundraised income was unchanged from 2019 and along with other measures, we finished the year with a modest surplus. Throughout the year, the Senior Management Team acted early, decisively and with good judgement to ensure the needs of the charity, its people and its charitable outcomes were both met and balanced, and the future of the charity assured.

Our top three risks are considered to be:

1. Reputational. False allegations and/or reporting that unnecessarily malign or diminish the charity or those therein. This includes from fake websites, social media, officials outside of the Charity, and from those formerly associated with the Charity, or through the use of knowing or unwitting proxies. Careful consideration is made on a case by case basis, with risks associated with each circumstance considered and actions, including legal and using the regulatory process, adopted.

2. Breaches in data protection. This includes IT security, software vulnerabilities, and GDPR. Considerable investment has gone into assuring our systems and processes, including multilayer IT security, training and the adoption of best practice. These have protected us. Individuals that have engaged in malicious actions designed to breach GDPR protocols have failed.

3. Health, Safety and Coronavirus. New procedures, the continuing strengthening of policies, tighter managerial oversight, together with the continued inculcation of strong safety culture that includes safety training, have all been effective. Safety measures and precautions, in line with Government guidelines has protected staff against the virus. Close and meaningful engagement with staff, access to a variety of mental health support and a general pulling together of an already close-knit team has minimised the incidence of sickness and absence and has ensured our individual and collective well-being.

Moving in to 2021, the League has a robust five-year financial plan in place, based on achievable income targets and built-in flexibility within its spending plans, backed by a strong reserves base which is slightly higher than the same time last year. There has been no churn in the Board and Senior Management, the latter now well into their fourth year working together. Corporate knowledge and team resilience is well proven and relationships up, down and external to the charity are very strong and morale is generally high. Early indications suggest that legacy income and fundraised income are rising, with a 20 per cent increase in regular givers in 2020, together with other incomes streams, showing no sign of abating. The defensive positioning of the charity throughout most of last year has already given way to a more forward leaning stance focused on growth, including the recruitment of the additional staff required to maintain our current momentum. Our actions are designed to continue our outperformance, taking advantage of the strength of our position and our ever growing influence in the sector, so as to further the welfare of animals.



Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees, who are also the directors of The League Against Cruel Sports for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year. In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditors

A resolution proposing that Haysmacintyre LLP be reappointed as auditors of the company will be put to the members. This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees



Dr Tim Holmes

Chair

Dated: 12th April 2021





Financial Statements

Independent auditor's report to the members and trustees of the League Against Cruel Sports

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the League Against Cruel Sports for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Group and Charitable Company Balance Sheet and the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of the group's and parent charitable company's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 .

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report (which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the Trustees' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and the parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report (which incorporates the directors' report).

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 27, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group's and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the group and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to fundraising regulations, GDPR and Charities Act 2011, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Charities Act 2011 and the application of FRS 102, income tax and payroll tax.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries to revenue and management bias in accounting estimate. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Enquiries of management regarding correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular, journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates;

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, section 44(1) (c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

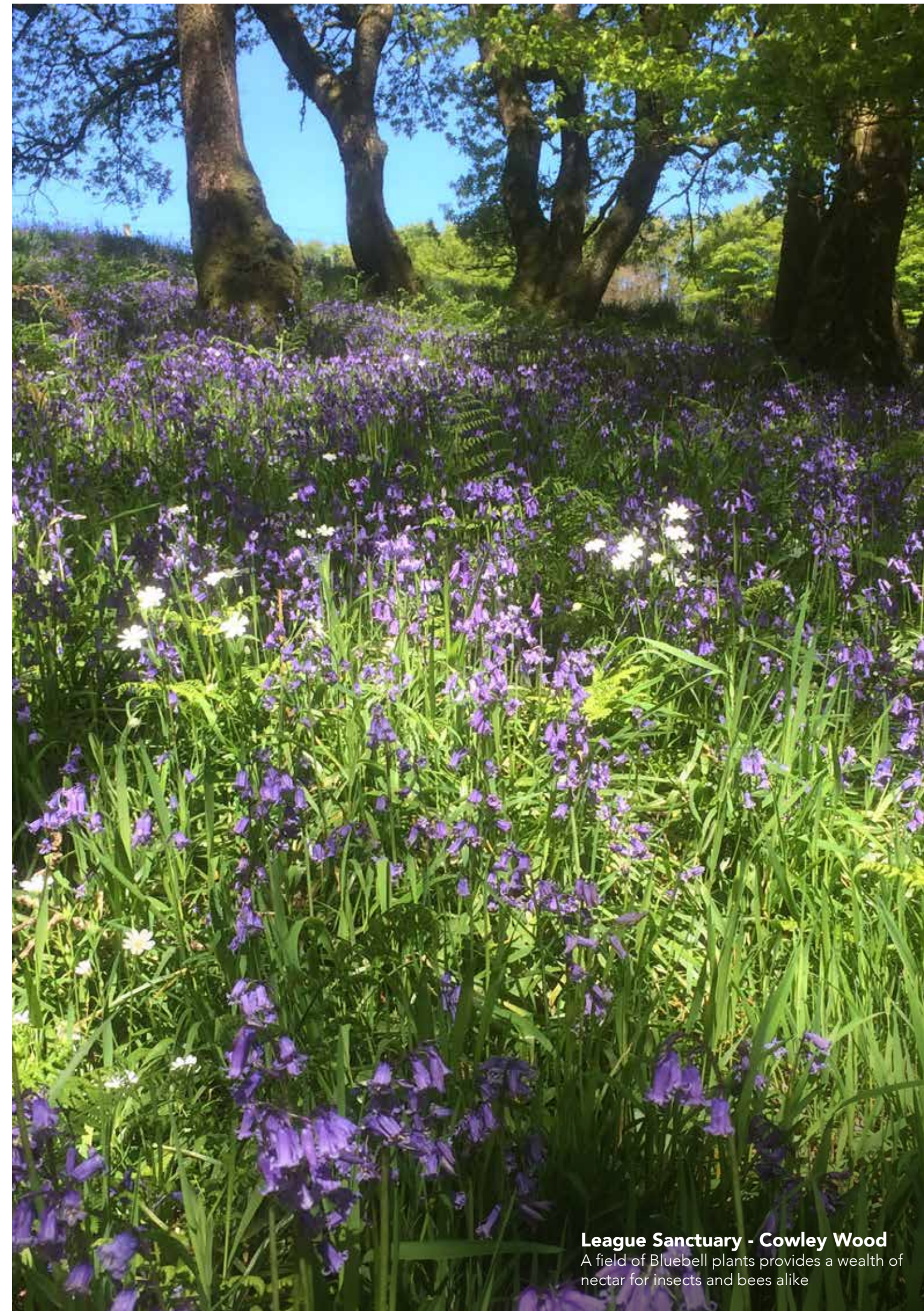


Adam Halsey (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Haysmacintyre LLP, Statutory Auditors

Date: 16th April 2021

10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1AG



League Sanctuary - Cowley Wood
A field of Bluebell plants provides a wealth of nectar for insects and bees alike

The League Against Cruel Sports

Consolidated statement of financial activities Including income and expenditure account

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	2	3,084,385	2,711	3,087,096	2,710,283
Other trading activities	3	138,490	-	138,490	174,261
Investments	4	27,621	-	27,621	17,840
Total income:		3,250,496	2,711	3,253,207	2,902,384
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds					
Fundraising and publicity costs	5	277,195	-	277,195	277,980
Costs of trading activities	5	84,684	-	84,684	61,798
		361,879	-	361,879	339,778
Charitable activities					
End Hunting with Dogs	5	1,106,795	3,894	1,110,689	1,075,444
End Shooting of Animals for 'Sport'	5	462,794	2,748	465,542	660,531
End Fighting of Animals for 'Sport'	5	140,418	301	140,719	287,170
Win Hearts and Minds	5	938,440	15,703	954,143	873,101
		2,648,447	22,646	2,671,093	2,896,246
Total expenditure		3,010,326	22,646	3,032,972	3,236,024
Net income/ (expenditure)		240,170	(19,935)	220,235	(333,640)
Fund balances at 1 January		3,900,752	143,850	4,044,602	4,378,242
Fund balances at 31 December		4,140,922	123,915	4,264,837	4,044,602

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The League Against Cruel Sports

Consolidated Balance Sheet

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 £	£	2019 £	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7		1,667,725		1,697,813
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	9	14,284		17,042	
Debtors	10	603,972		369,040	
Cash deposit investments		2,000,052		1,980,108	
Cash at bank and in hand		188,782		270,401	
		2,807,090		2,636,591	
LIABILITIES					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	(209,978)		(289,802)	
Net current assets			2,597,112		2,346,789
Total assets less current liabilities			4,264,837		4,044,602
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year			-		-
Total net assets			4,264,837		4,044,602
INCOME FUNDS					
Restricted funds	13		123,915		143,850
Unrestricted funds	13				
Designated funds		-		390,000	
General unrestricted funds		4,140,922		3,510,752	
Total unrestricted funds	13		4,140,922		3,900,752
Total group funds			4,264,837		4,044,602

The financial statements were approved by the Board and authorised for issue on 12th April 2021 and signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by



Dr Timothy Holmes
Trustee
Company Registration No. 04037610

The League Against Cruel Sports

Charitable company balance sheet
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 £	£	2019 £	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7		1,667,725		1,697,813
Investment in subsidiary	17		12		12
			1,667,737		1,697,825
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	9	14,284		17,042	
Debtors	10	604,183		369,040	
Cash deposit investments		2,000,052		1,980,108	
Cash at bank and in hand		136,930		218,315	
		2,755,449		2,584,505	
LIABILITIES					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	(209,978)		(289,802)	
Net current assets			2,545,471		2,294,703
Total assets less current liabilities			4,213,208		3,992,528
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year			-		-
Total net assets			4,213,208		3,992,528
INCOME FUNDS					
Restricted income funds	13		123,915		143,850
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds		-		390,000	
General unrestricted funds		4,089,293		3,458,678	
Total unrestricted funds			4,089,293		3,848,678
Total charity funds			4,213,208		3,992,528

The League Against Cruel Sports

Statement of cash flows
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 £	£	2019 £	£
CASHFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Net cash used in operating activities	a		(89,296)		(197,937)
CASHFLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:					
Interest from investments		27,621		17,840	
Opening balance adjustment fixed assets		-		20,120	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-		(37,644)	
Net cash provided by investing activities			27,621		316
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(61,675)		(197,621)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			2,250,509		2,448,130
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	b		2,188,834		2,250,509

The financial statements were approved by the Board and authorised for issue on 12th April 2021 and signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by



Dr Timothy Holmes
Trustee
Company Registration No. 04037610

a. Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash from operating activities

	Notes		2020 £		2019 £
Net income / (expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial			220,235		(333,640)
ADJUSTMENTS FOR:					
Depreciation	7		30,088		31,447
Interest from Investments	4		(27,621)		(17,840)
Decrease in stocks			2,758		2,606
(Increase) in debtors			(234,932)		(17,748)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors current			(79,824)		137,238
Net cash used in operating activities			(89,296)		(197,937)

b. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

			2020 £		2019 £
Deposits			2,000,052		1,980,108
Cash in hand			188,782		270,401
Total cash and cash equivalents			2,188,834		2,250,509

The cash deposits are invested over a wider range of regulated financial institutions to improve the security of the cash reserves. The majority of deposits have notice periods of less than 6 months and all are repayable within 12 months.

The League Against Cruel Sports

Notes to the financial statements
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Charity Information

The League Against Cruel Sports is a registered charity in England and Wales (charity number 1095234) and in Scotland (OSCR charity number SC045533), and a company limited by guarantee (Company Registered Number 04037610) and domiciled in the UK, and is a public benefit entity.

The address of the registered office is: New Sparling House, Holloway Hill, Godalming, Surrey , GU7 1QZ.

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) – (Charities SORP 2015 (Second Edition, effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The League Against Cruel Sports meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost of transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

1.2 Basis for consolidation

The financial statements consolidate the results of the Charity and its wholly owned subsidiary League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited on a line by line basis. A separate statement of Financial Activities and income and expenditure accounts are not presented for the Charity itself following the exemptions afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and paragraph 397 of the Statement of Recommended Practice.

1.3 Key judgements and assumptions

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

1.4 Going concern

Based on the level of reserves held at the year end and the latest five year financial plans the Trustees are confident that The League Against Cruel Sports is financially secure in its immediate future for the next 12 months and that on this basis the Charity is a going concern.

The Trustees regularly review detailed financial budgets and forecasts, which are adjusted to take into account revised assumptions and events. Where such forecasts indicate a potential problem corrective action is taken to protect the future viability of the Charity. The key risks assessed are described in the Trustees’ Annual Report.

1.5 Charitable funds

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

Designated funds are amounts of unrestricted funds which have been earmarked at the discretion of the Trustees for particular future purposes.

Unrestricted funds are available for the use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objectives of the Charity.

1.6 Income

All income is accounted for when the criteria of entitlement, measurement and probability are met.

Legacy income is recognised when the group is advised by the personal representative of an estate that a payment will be made or property transferred and the amount involved can be reliably quantified.

Pecuniary legacies - the group recognises pecuniary legacies once probate has been granted and receives confirmation from the executor that there are sufficient assets in the estate, after settling any liabilities, to pay the legacy and the amount involved is notified by the executor.

The League Against Cruel Sports

Notes to the financial statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Residuary legacies - the group recognises residuary legacies once probate has been granted and at the earlier of the estate accounts being settled or cash received, such that the amount involved can be quantified or can be reasonably estimated.

For the purpose of calculating legacy income to be accrued for in the year end accounts, the group applies a cut-off date of the end of February for any legacies received after the year end. Any further receipts beyond that date are only considered for inclusion in the year end accounts if the amount received is deemed to be material to the financial statements.

1.7 Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and allocated between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis to reflect the use of the resources. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources as shown in note 5.

Fundraising and publicity costs represent direct and apportioned costs relating to supporter recruitment and maintenance and fundraising activities and events.

Costs of trading activities represents direct and apportioned costs relating to the sale of merchandise and other sales of goods.

Charitable activity expenditure represents direct and apportioned costs relating to carrying out our strategic objectives as set out in the Trustees Annual Report.

Support costs include governance, staff, office and general management costs including human resources, IT and the finance function incurred to support income generation and delivery of the charitable activities. Support costs also include irrecoverable VAT where it is not able to be directly attributed to specific activities, where this is not possible irrecoverable VAT costs are apportioned.

Governance costs represent direct and indirect costs incurred relating to strategic management and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.8 Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently stated at cost less depreciation.

The Group’s capitalisation threshold is £5,000, such that fixed assets costing less than this amount are not capitalised and are therefore included in resources expended under the appropriate heading.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Buildings	2% straight line per annum
Refurbishments	10% straight line per annum
Plant, equipment, fixture and fittings	25% reducing balance per annum
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance per annum

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

When freehold land is disposed of, but sporting rights are retained the value of these rights is written down to £1 as they have no residual or realisable value for the group.

At each reporting end date, the Group reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss.

1.9 Stock

Stock is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stock to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured at the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held on call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank Overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities. During the year the Group had no bank overdrafts.

For the purpose of the cash flow statement, cash comprises cash in hand and short-term deposits.

1.11 Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recognised in the Group and Charity balance sheets when the Group or Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

The League Against Cruel Sports group has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Financial assets held at amortised cost comprise cash and bank in hand, together with trade and other debtors. Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise trade and other creditors.

Financial assets and Financial liabilities classified as receivable or payable within one year are not amortised. Investment in the subsidiary undertaking is held at cost less impairment.

1.12 Leases

Rentals incurred under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease. Incentives are treated as income and are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

1.13 Employee pensions

The group operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the accounts as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

1.14 Value Added Tax

Value Added Tax is partially recoverable by the group, and as such the irrecoverable portion of VAT is included as a cost in the Statement of Financial Activities and asset values.

1.15 Taxation

The League Against Cruel Sports charitable company is exempt from Corporation Tax on the grounds that it is a charity and all of its income is applied for charitable purposes.

League Against Cruel Sport (UK) Limited is not operated for profit and is taxable only on its investment income.

1.16 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are values at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.17 Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting from past events that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at the settlement amount allowing for any trade discount due.

2. Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Legacies receivable	1,796,910	-	1,796,910	1,556,488
Donations and gifts	1,030,499	2,711	1,033,210	1,033,793
Grants receivable	143,354	-	143,354	-
Membership fees	113,622	-	113,622	120,002
	3,084,385	2,711	3,087,096	2,710,283

2019 income includes restricted funds of £Nil Legacies receivable and £48,807 Donations and gifts.

At 31 December 2020, in addition to legacy income that had been included in the accounts, the League expected to benefit from a number of legacies from estates for which the administration had yet to be finalised. The League’s future income from these legacies is estimated at £1.4m (2019: £0.8m).

Grants receivable relates to the Government Job Retention Scheme funding claimed during the year.

3. Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Raffle and lotto ticket sales	90,224	-	90,224	93,917
Timber sales	7,524	-	7,524	47,000
Merchandise and other sales of goods	40,742	-	40,742	33,344
	138,490	-	138,490	174,261

There were no restricted funds received in 2019.

4. Investment Income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Interest receivable	24,015	-	24,015	14,234
Rental income	3,606	-	3,606	3,606
	27,621	-	27,621	17,840

There were no restricted funds received in 2019.

5. Expenditure

	Direct Staff costs £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
RAISING FUNDS					
Fundraising and publicity costs	130,900	76,557	69,738	277,195	277,980
Costs of trading activities	15,708	68,976	-	84,684	61,798
	146,608	145,533	69,738	361,879	339,778
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES					
End Hunting with Dogs	665,247	166,010	279,432	1,110,689	1,075,444
End Shooting of Animals for 'Sport'	252,037	96,382	117,123	465,542	660,531
End Fighting of Animals for 'Sport'	66,129	39,187	35,403	140,719	287,170
Win Hearts and Minds	454,095	260,001	240,047	954,143	873,101
	1,437,508	561,580	672,005	2,671,093	2,896,246
Total expenditure	1,584,116	707,113	741,743	3,032,972	3,236,024

ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Governance costs £	Staff costs £	Office and admin. costs £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
RAISING FUNDS					
Fundraising and publicity costs	5,154	34,912	29,672	69,738	89,282
Costs of trading activities	-	-	-	-	-
	5,154	34,912	29,672	69,738	89,282
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES					
End Hunting with Dogs	20,653	139,888	118,891	279,432	345,411
End Shooting of Animals for 'Sport'	8,657	58,633	49,833	117,123	212,150
End Fighting of Animals for 'Sport'	2,617	17,723	15,063	35,403	92,233
Win Hearts and Minds	17,742	120,171	102,134	240,047	280,422
	49,669	336,415	285,921	672,005	930,216
Total expenditure	54,823	371,327	315,593	741,743	1,019,498

Support costs are allocated on the basis of % of time spent in proportion to direct costs.

Governance costs includes statutory audit fees of £12,090 (2019: £11,625).

2019 expenditure is analysed in note 18.

6. Employees

	2020 £	2019 £
STAFF COSTS		
Wages and salaries	1,671,780	1,551,452
Social security costs	153,132	140,846
Other pension costs	130,532	122,565
	1,955,444	1,814,863

	2020 Number	2019 Number
THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES DURING THE YEAR WAS:		
Fundraising and publicity	5	5
Charitable activities	43	42
Support	6	6
	54	53

	2020 Number	2019 Number
THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES WHOSE EMOLUMENTS EXCEEDS £60,000 IN THE YEAR WAS:		
£60,001 - £70,000	2	-
£70,001 - £80,000	-	-
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-
£90,001 - £100,000	-	1

During the year a total of 7 (2019: 7) staff were recognised as key management personnel. At the year end there were 7 key management personnel in post.

The total remuneration and benefits received by senior management personnel in the year was £405,894 (2019: £380,912) and pension contributions paid by the charity in respect of these employees during the year was £32,212 (2019: £29,073).

Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year (2019: Nil). One Trustee was reimbursed expenses relating to travel totalling £102 (2019: Four Trustees reimbursed £4,812).

7. Group and Charity Fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Office and Computer Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
COST				
At 1 January 2020	1,847,925	14,350	45,457	1,907,732
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2020	1,847,925	14,350	45,457	1,907,732
DEPRECIATION AND IMPAIRMENT				
At 1 January 2020	166,435	6,278	37,206	209,919
Charge for the year	26,006	2,018	2,064	30,088
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2020	192,441	8,296	39,270	240,007
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 December 2020	1,655,484	6,054	6,187	1,667,725
At 31 December 2019	1,681,490	8,072	8,251	1,697,813

As at 31 December 2020 there were capital commitments of £7,308 (2019: £nil) not included within fixed assets.

In 2019 the League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited transferred all of its land and property assets to its parent entity The League Against Cruel Sports charity.

8. Financial instruments

	Group 2020 £	2019 £	Charity 2020 £	2019 £
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	2,617,505	2,631,116	2,565,653	1,437,027
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	126,926	124,850	126,926	122,913
Total interest income for financial assets held under amortised cost	27,621	14,282	24,015	10,152

For further details please refer to Accounting Policy note 1.11.

9. Stocks

	Group 2020 £	2019 £	Charity 2020 £	2019 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	14,284	17,042	14,284	17,042

10. Debtors

	Group 2020 £	2019 £	Charity 2020 £	2019 £
Prepayments and accrued income	554,309	341,502	554,309	341,502
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	211	-
Tax recoverable	49,359	25,608	49,359	25,608
Other debtors	304	1,930	304	1,930
	603,972	369,040	604,183	369,040

Debtors include £43,750 (2019: £87,500) due after one year in respect of land held in trust for the League.

11. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2020 £	2019 £	Charity 2020 £	2019 £
Trade creditors	69,803	50,905	69,803	50,905
Accruals and deferred income	122,989	235,725	122,989	235,725
Other taxes and social security	14,836	1,715	14,836	1,715
Other creditors	2,350	1,457	2,350	1,457
	209,978	289,802	209,978	289,802

12. Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund. Contributions payable by the charity for the year amounted to £130,532 (2019: £122,565); as referred to in note 6.

13. Funds

The income funds of the group and Charity include unrestricted and restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

Movements in funds					
	Balance at 1 January 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2020 £
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Wentworth Sanctuary legacy	53,729	-	(8,794)	-	44,935
Wentworth Godalming office legacy	58,038	-	-	-	58,038
Greyhounds	13,000	-	-	-	13,000
Links Research work	11,410	-	(11,410)	-	-
Cove Down Sanctuary	9,386	-	(1,444)	-	7,942
General Election 2019	(1,713)	2,061	(348)	-	-
Other small restricted funds	-	650	(650)	-	-
Total Restricted funds	143,850	2,711	(22,646)	-	123,915
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
Designated funds:					
Programmes and fundraising growth	390,000	-	-	(390,000)	-
General funds	3,510,752	3,250,496	(3,010,326)	390,000	4,140,922
Total Unrestricted funds	3,900,752	3,250,496	(3,010,326)	-	4,140,922
Total funds	4,044,602	3,253,207	(3,032,972)	-	4,264,837

Restricted funds

The Wentworth legacies are restricted for use on the sanctuaries property at Baronsdown and the Godalming premises respectively.

The Greyhounds project is being funded by an individual supporter to enable us to undertake special investigations work into Greyhound puppy farming.

The Links Research work relates to a donation received to fund research work linking violence to animals and human violence.

Cove Down sanctuary project is in respect of funding received from the Lister Charitable Trust for development of the sanctuary; involving habitat restoration and rewilding on a protected area of land as a sanctuary for wildlife.

We received many individual donations from members of the public in support of our General Election 2019 campaign work, to ensure the Hunting Act remained a high priority in the general election debate.

Other small restricted funds represents funding received towards charitable activities where the individual restricted funds total under £1,000 and their associated expenditure. These activities were in respect of: Malta wild birds appeal; Dog Fighting campaign and equipment for our sanctuaries.

Designated funds

No funds have been designated at the end of 2020.

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds			
	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
FUND BALANCES AT 31 DECEMBER 2020 ARE REPRESENTED BY:				
Fixed assets	1,616,421	-	51,304	1,667,725
Current assets	2,734,479	-	72,611	2,807,090
Current liabilities	(209,978)	-	-	(209,978)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	-	-
	4,140,922	-	123,915	4,264,837

15. Commitments under operating leases

At 31 December 2020 the Charity had lease payment commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Land and buildings		Office equipment	
	2020 £	2019 £	2020 £	2019 £
PAYMENTS DUE:				
Within one year	-	-	1,300	11,365
Between two and five years	-	-	3,900	5,200
Over five years	-	-	-	-
	-	-	5,200	16,565

16. Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2019: none).

Donations, memberships subscriptions, lottery plays and purchases of goods made by the Trustees in the year totalled £781 (2019: £884).

17. Investment in subsidiary

The investment of £12 represents 100% of the ordinary £10 share capital in League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited, the principle activity of which historically was to receive and administer legacy entitlements and manage its portfolio of land and buildings. League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited is a private company limited by shares registered in England and Wales.

In 2019 the Investment in subsidiary was revalued to £12 reflecting the transfer of all the fixed assets and most of the cash at bank assets from League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited to the parent charity.

The total income for the year ended 31 December 2020 of the League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited amounted to £Nil (2019:£Nil), expenditure totalled £445 (2019: £2,957). Net payments, cash and asset transfers totalling £Nil (2019: £1,538,351) have been made from League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited to its parent company, and registered charity, The League Against Cruel Sports which is treated as a gift aid donation.

As at 31 December 2020 League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited had fixed assets of £Nil (2019: £Nil) and net current assets of £51,641 (2019: £52,086). Its reserves amounted to £51,629 (2019: £52,074) with a reported deficit of £445 (2019: Deficit £42) for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Details of the Charity's subsidiaries at 31 December 2019 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Nature of business	Class of shares held	Percentage held	
				Direct	Indirect
League Against Cruel Sports (UK) Limited	England and Wales	See above	Ordinary £1 shares	100.00	-

18. Comparative 2019 Expenditure

	Direct Staff costs £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2019 £
RAISING FUNDS				
Fundraising and publicity costs	117,510	71,188	89,282	277,980
Costs of trading activities	14,101	47,697	-	61,798
	131,611	118,885	89,282	339,778
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
End Hunting with Dogs	505,113	224,920	345,411	1,075,444
End Shooting of animals for sport	301,788	146,593	212,150	660,531
End Fighting of animals for sport	136,170	58,767	92,233	287,170
Win Hearts and Minds	389,640	203,039	280,422	873,101
	1,332,711	633,319	930,216	2,896,246
Total expenditure	1,464,322	752,204	1,019,498	3,236,024

Comparative 2019 Analysis of Support costs

	Governance costs £	Staff costs £	Office and admin. costs £	Total 2019 £
RAISING FUNDS				
Fundraising and publicity costs	5,338	30,698	53,246	89,282
Costs of trading activities	-	-	-	-
	5,338	30,698	53,246	89,282
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
End Hunting with Dogs	20,652	118,765	205,994	345,411
End Shooting of animals for sport	12,684	72,944	126,522	212,150
End Fighting of animals for sport	5,515	31,713	55,005	92,233
Win Hearts and Minds	16,767	96,420	167,235	280,422
	55,618	319,842	554,756	930,216
Total expenditure	60,956	350,540	608,002	1,019,498

Support costs are allocated on the basis of % of time spent in proportion to direct costs.

19. Comparative 2019 funds

	Balance at 1 January 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2019 £
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Wentworth Sanctuary legacy	79,657	-	(25,928)	-	53,729
Wentworth Godalming office legacy	70,450	-	(12,412)	-	58,038
Links Research work	11,410	-	-	-	11,410
Greyhounds	13,000	-	-	-	13,000
Cove Down Sanctuary	9,802	-	(416)	-	9,386
General Election 2019	-	43,363	(45,076)	-	(1,713)
Baronsdown Education Centre	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Other small restricted funds	500	444	(944)	-	-
Total Restricted funds	184,819	48,807	(89,776)	-	143,850
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
Designated funds:					
Programmes and fundraising growth	800,000	-	-	(410,000)	390,000
General funds	3,393,423	2,853,577	(3,146,248)	410,000	3,510,752
Total Unrestricted funds	4,193,423	2,853,577	(3,146,248)	-	3,900,752
Total funds	4,378,242	2,902,384	(3,236,024)	-	4,044,602

20. Comparative 2019 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds			
	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
FUND BALANCES AT 31 DECEMBER 2019 ARE REPRESENTED BY:				
Fixed assets	1,637,230	-	60,583	1,697,813
Current assets	2,161,609	390,000	83,267	2,634,876
Current liabilities	(288,087)	-	-	(288,087)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	-	-
	3,510,752	390,000	143,850	4,044,602

THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS CORPORATE DIRECTORY

The information shown below is correct as of 1 January 2020 to 12 April 2021 the date of signing the accounts

Trustees

Tim Holmes (Chair)
John Hughes (Honorary Treasurer)
Alan Tapp
Astrid Clifford
Caroline Hawkins
Ashleigh Brown (Appointed July 2020)

Senior Management Team

Chief Executive	Andy Knott, MBE
Deputy Chief Executive	Chris Luffingham
Director of Scotland	Robbie Marsland
Director of Marketing & Fundraising	Emma Smith
Director of Investigations	Martin Sims
Director of Finance	Neal Soleil
Director of HR	Kelly Hack

Charity Number	1095234
Company Number	04037610
Company Secretary	Andy Knott
Principal and registered office	New Sparling House Holloway Hill Godalming GU7 1QZ

Principal professional advisors

Auditor	Haysmacintyre LLP 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1AG
Bankers	The Co-Operative Bank Plc 1 Balloon Street Manchester M60 1GP
Legal Advisors	Brabners LLP Horton House Exchange Flags Liverpool L2 3YL



LEAGUE
AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

League Against Cruel Sports

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The League Against Cruel Sports is a registered charity in England and Wales (no. 1095234) and Scotland (no. SC045533), and is registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee (no. 04037610).

