

FAT FLUFFS RABBIT RESCUE

Trustee Annual Report

Year end 30th June 2024

Mrs C Hennegan, Ms J Bell, Mr M Johnson

12/08/2024

Fat Fluffs Rabbit Rescue Trustees' Annual Report for year ended 30th June 2024 including general charity operations and financial overview

Fat Fluffs Rabbit Rescue & Rehome

Trustees' Annual Report - Year Ended 30th June 2024

Reference and Administration Details

Charity registration - 26 Diddington Lane, Hampton in Arden, B92 0BZ

Trustees: 3 - Mrs C Hennegan, Ms Jocelyn Bell, Mr Martin Johnson

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document: Constitution

Charity constitution: Association

Trustee selection method: Appointed by existing trustees at trustees' meetings

Objectives and Activities

Fat Fluffs is a rabbit rescue and sanctuary based in Hampton in Arden in the West Midlands. We take in all sorts of rabbits and as far as possible we find them loving forever homes. For those with more challenging personalities or continuing health problems we provide sanctuary for them here and they stay as part of the family and are affectionately known as 'the Fluffs'.

Public Benefit

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the additional Good Practice Code for Rabbit Welfare, updated March 2024, makes owners & keepers responsible for the welfare needs of animals (place to live, suitable diet, normal behaviour, and protection from pain, injury, suffering & disease) as well as making cruelty unlawful. With an ever increasing number of rabbits currently in rescue throughout UK, estimates stand at 67,000+ to date, we see the public benefit of the work of Fat Fluffs as follows:-

- Providing rescue places for unwanted, abandoned & abused rabbits surrendered by the public
- Providing long-term foster care & vet treatment for rabbits with on-going health or behaviour issues surrendered by the public unable to meet the cost of continual treatment
- Give the opportunity of rehome for rabbits to those wishing to provide a permanent, loving home
- Give the opportunity of companionship to individuals or families
- Promoting Rabbit Welfare to the public to educate & raise awareness of their responsibility to meet the needs of rabbits in their care
- Providing advice & support to adopters and the general public on all rabbit welfare matters
- Reducing the number of unwanted rabbits by neutering all incomers to help reduce abandonment and ill-treatment in future
- Ensuring every rabbit who comes through our rescue is protected against diseases with yearly vaccinations.

Review of Year – Achievements and Performance

Financial Review

This year, as we look ahead to our ten year anniversary on site at the beginning of 2025, we have spent time and energy making improvements to the rescue set up we have in place, revamping and giving new life to it to try and ensure we get as much use as possible out of our runs, enclosures and equipment as we can. We have had the drive redone as it was liable to flooding, the paths along the side of the Fluffs' garden and outside the barns have been taken up and replaced with envirogrid and pea gravel to aid drainage as well as look more aesthetically pleasing. The outside rescue runs have been replaced with more secure and attractive gates and enclosures, the hay barn has been rejigged and the permanent Fluffs sanctuary enclosure has been kitted out to maximise space and enrichment and allow them access to even more hay on a permanent basis.

We have made better use of our office area and our rabbit health carer now has her own space to ensure the health and welfare of the rabbits can be maintained amongst the busyness of the rescue. We have new secure fencing around the perimeter of the rescue, low enough to maintain the open feel but high enough that any enthusiastic escapees cannot get too far. We have been delighted with the response of visitors both frequent and new as they have commented on how improved the site looks and have appreciated the hard work that has gone into it. Much of the work has been done by volunteers and we are so appreciative of the time and commitment they have shown us.

Charitable Activities – Rescue, Rehome & Sanctuary

During 2023/24 we took in 153 rabbits. Twenty-two of these had been rehomed from Fat Fluffs previously but were returned as the adopters' circumstances had changed and they no longer felt able to continue caring for the rabbit(s). In most cases the rabbits' partner had passed away and the adopters wanted a break from rabbit ownership. In February 2024, the Hopper Haven Sanctuary Garden in Redditch was closed down and we took in eight of their sanctuary rabbits who were unable to find homes elsewhere. We also took in 15 eight day old kittens from two litters where the mothers had passed away. The hand rearing of such young kittens is rarely successful and sadly we lost all the young. Twenty-nine of the 153 surrendered rabbits passed away before they were offered for adoption. We have maintained our waiting list for the surrender of rabbits throughout the year and there has been little change in the numbers of people looking to find their rabbits an alternative home.

Seven of the surrendered rabbits joined the sanctuary group as they had ongoing health issues and a further five are waiting to be bonded into the group. Our sanctuary group started the year with 11 members and this increased to a maximum of 26 in February. The numbers now stand at 19.

We successfully rehomed 108 rabbits this year, a figure that is down on previous years. Over 80% of the rabbits were rehomed as singles and were bonded with one or more rabbits already owned by the adopters. Requests for adoption of pairs/groups were very low and families looking to take on rabbit ownership for the first time were much scarcer than in previous years. Eleven rabbits who went out to new homes were returned usually because the bond with their partner broke down. Of the returned rabbits, five went on to find a new home, one passed away, one joined the sanctuary group and four are still up for adoption.

All our rabbits are neutered and vaccinated and receive any necessary required vet treatment. We continue to have a good relationship with Vets4Pets in Shirley and we have the invaluable support of Rebecca at Oaks Vets in Cotteridge, who excels at bunny tooth care and continues to be unimpressed with some of the states of the new rabbits coming in. We operate with a "quality of life" ethic and all our rabbits are cared for and treated as long as we, and their vet, feel they have this. We will not let a rabbit suffer unnecessarily and have sadly had to let a few of our long term, and very special, rabbits go this year.

This year our trustee team has increased to 3 trustees and 6 core team committee members, after Joyce agreed to join our team, who continue to work hard to keep the running of all the areas of the rescue efficient and safe. We have found a new site manager who has fitted into the team with ease and has hit the ground running. We are delighted to be in a position where we are now running the rescue with 3 full time staff members and one part time. They are a great team and a credit to the rescue.

Our foster co-ordinator, Martin, has continued to support our foster team of volunteers who provide invaluable care to our rabbits not only by giving us additional capacity but also by offering more frequent interaction and socialisation with rabbits who benefit from this before moving on to forever homes. We looked after 43 rabbits

across 10 foster homes during the year. 33 of these have gone on to be successfully rehomed. Of the rest, 3 will remain in long term foster homes, 2 are back in the rescue, 1 passed away and the remaining 4 are still in temporary foster homes.

This year we have seen a decrease in the number of regular and new volunteers, as well as student placements, but as always our core team of volunteers have excelled themselves; we have some who have been with us for many years now and, with our volunteer co-ordinator always encouraging them to give their best, we have appreciated the hard work and effort each and every one of them puts in. We are indebted to everyone, our employees & our volunteers alike, for their on-going commitment, continued hard work and support they give to Fat Fluffs. Everyone involved is key to the existence and growth of Fat Fluffs and we could not have achieved the things we have this year without their help.

Activities for generating funds – Fundraising events & initiatives and Trading

With a lot of volunteer time being allocated to site improvements and a general decline in the number of volunteers coming forward, there have been limited opportunities for undertaking internal fundraising activities. Our Sponsor-a-bun programme continues to deliver a healthy proportion of our annual income and we have been fortunate enough to receive a couple of substantial donations, one from fundraising activities supported by one of our former Trustees and the other from support by a local school. We have undertaken a review of the value of external fundraising activities. Since Covid we have seen a large decline in the number of local and/or animal related events we would normally attend to raise funds and the profile of the rescue. Those we have attended have provided limited financial returns and have not always been aimed at an audience interested in rabbits and the rescue. We continue to look for other opportunities and will be spending more time in this area now that the majority of the site improvement work has been completed.

Reserves Policy

We still have our reserve set to the equivalent to 6 months operating costs, allowing for the additional staffing costs, at £60,000 to cover periods of difficulty encountered. This amount will be reviewed periodically at trustees' meetings. As a team we have agreed that with the housing costs and mortgage rises moving site is not a viable option so we have agreed a five year plan with the owner of the site we currently occupy and, as discussed earlier, have invested some of the funds in developing the site, dealing with drainage issues and making better use of the space we have.

Declaration:

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature:

Full name: Chloe Hennegan

Position: Trustee

Signature:

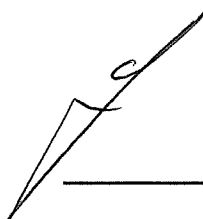
Full name: Martin Johnson

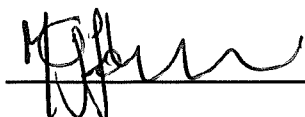
Position: Trustee

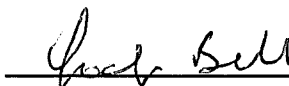
Signature:

Full name: Jocelyn Bell

Position: Trustee







Charitable Accounts (Receipts & Payments Method)
July 2023- Jun 2024

RECEIPTS		
Voluntary receipts		
	Direct Donations	12,281.23
	Funding Grant	0.00
	Indirect Donations	12,954.64
	Gift Aid	5,046.79
	Other	0.00
		30,282.66
Activities for generating funds		
	Fundraising Initiatives (External Third Parties)	0.00
	Fundraising Initiatives (Fat Fluffs)	0.00
	Gifts in kind resale	0.00
	Trade Sales	0.00
		0.00
Charitable activities		
	Rabbit Adoption	9,750.58
	Rabbit Surrender	4,420.50
	Bonding	3,071.31
	Vet cost repayment	133.00
		17,375.39
Investments/dividends/interest		
	Investment Income	0.00
		0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS		47,658.05

PAYMENTS		
Cost of Voluntary Receipts		
	Fees	(1.40)
	Merchandise Purchases	(32.94)
	Other	0.00
		(34.34)
Fundraising Costs		
	Equipment & Assets	0.00
	Stationary Printing & Postage	0.00
	Paypal Fees	0.00
	Trade Merchandise	0.00
	Trade Fees	0.00
	Other	0.00
		0.00

Cost of Charitable Activities		
	Vet fees	(12,679.60)
	Rabbit Upkeep	(3,115.50)
	Rents & Utilities	(4,315.82)
	Equipment & Assets	(917.52)
	Wages & transportation	(666.65)
	Rescue Upkeep	(28,378.27)
		(50,073.36)
Governance & Administration		
	Governance	0.00
	Loan Repayment	0.00
	Website	0.00
	Other	(330.80)
		(330.80)
TOTAL PAYMENTS		(50,438.50)
NET INCREASE FOR YEAR		(-2,780.45)



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Fat Fluffs Rabbit Rescue

On accounts for the year
ended

30th. June 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1124870

Set out on pages

1

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/06/2024.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

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

Signed:

Date:

25/11/24

Name:

J.R. Linn

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

FCA

Address:

20, Gledholt Road, Huddersfield, HD1 4HP

Section B

Disclosure

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

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