

# **Annual Report**

**September 2022 to September 2023**

## **Reference and Administration Details**

**Charity Name:** Ash Rescue Centre

**Registered Charity Number:** 1153339

**Principal Address:** Ash Rescue Centre, Ash Tree Farm, Dartmouth, TQ6 0LR

**Charity Trustees who manage the charity:**

Julie Tomkinson - Chair

Jenny Rogers - Treasurer

David Wilding

Craig Irons

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

**Type of governing document:** Trust Deed adopted 6th August 2013

**How the Charity is constituted:** Charitable Trust

**Trustee selection method:** Trustees are appointed or reappointed every three years by a resolution of the trustees passed at a special meeting.

## **Objectives and Activities**

**Summary of objects of the Charity set out in the Governing Document:**

To relieve the suffering of elderly equines and other animals by providing care, rehabilitation and a permanent sanctuary facility.

To provide people with learning opportunities in animal care and welfare matters through information sharing, volunteering and courses.

## **Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects:**

In planning our activities for the year we kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our trustee meetings. Our main activities are as follows:

- Maintaining health and providing habitat enrichment for the animals in our care
- Inducting and retaining new volunteer team members including a regular group via the local Social Prescribing network
- Managing financial stability and continuing to improve working and financial practices

These activities benefit not only the animals in our care but the families, organisations and individuals that approach us for help. Horses come into our care from many different backgrounds: abandonment, homelessness due to owner's death, rescues from cruelty/neglect cases.

We have seen an increase in need for wildlife rescue and rehabilitation from the local and wider community which has expanded our workload and experience over the past 12 months. Our volunteering opportunities provide people with a variety of ways to get involved and help, boosting self-esteem, combatting isolation, and encouraging social interaction while learning new skills and becoming part of a team.

We are extremely grateful to our volunteers and supporters; their help, support, donations and encouragement are the lifeblood of the charity.

## **ACTIVITIES AND PERFORMANCE**

### **Summary of the main Achievements of the charity during the year:**

#### October – December 2022

The first quarter of the year included an Autumn wedding and varied festive fundraising initiatives with our handmade festive wreaths being sold at markets and events around the area and our annual calendar and cards available through our online shop.

We held our first Mindfulness and Horses retreat with the ‘Rewild your Heart’ group, this proved to be very popular so we will hopefully be holding more in the future.

Our annual entry at the Stoke Fleming Christmas Tree Fair – ‘Birds of a feather’ brought together a huge collection of donated feathers ranging from eagle owls to kingfishers which was admired by everyone.

We held our first Table top sale in a local village hall and took pony Bean to visit a few local care homes.

We took on two new rescues in conjunction with The Mare and Foal Sanctuary, ex race horses Monty and Tamar.

#### January – March 2023

The year started with one of our hedges being laid by local rural Craftsman Bramble Oak.

In the New Year we released a Sparrowhawk and a Kestrel who had both come in through Vets to be rehabilitated.

January saw another Ex race horse (Tigger) join us, this time through World Horse Welfare.

We had new concrete pads and new water troughs and pipes put in two fields, this now means all our fields have water access which is a huge help.

In February we had the brilliant teams from Force4Nature and Till The Coast Is Clear all here doing jobs around the farm, we cleared all the brambles from one of the wildflower meadows and dug up self seeded saplings and replanted in the hedges.

We had a new horse arrive called Winston who had spent most of his life on a tether, he has settled in well.

### April – June 2023

April saw quite a few wildlife emergencies, we had a Roe deer, two Buzzards, three Swans join us, all were released happily after a few weeks spent in our care.

The Force4Nature team came back again in May to help plant over 1000 wildflower plugs over 3 different meadows.

All our staff and volunteers did their First Aid in the Workplace CPD.

We had the Barn Owl Trust come and kindly put up two new boxes and replace one of our old boxes for our resident Barn Owl and others who hopefully will move in.

We had a first sighting of a Hare on our land which has been a long time coming but hopefully they will make it their home now.

Our first Gull chick arrived on the 27th May and by the end of June we had over 100 of them.

In June we had our first wedding of the year and it was a big one with over 200 guests, it was a great event with everything locally sourced.

We had our Annual visit from Keith Evans our Equine dentist and his helpers Ian and Gemma getting all our horses done over 2 days. Only two needed sedation and extra work.

We had a few social prescribing events including a willow weaving course with Stone Willow and a Wildflower walk and talk, all were well attended and funded by South Hams Community Recovery Fund.

Lastly we held our Community Consultation day for our Planning application. This event gave neighbours, local groups and other interested parties a chance to view our plans and chat to our advisors about the amazing new facilities we are hoping to build here.

### July – September 2023

The end of July saw us get the keys to our first Charity shop. We gave ourselves a week to get it painted and ready. With an amazing team of tradesmen and volunteers we did it and opened our doors on 8th August.

August saw us celebrate our 10 year anniversary with a new logo and branding brilliantly designed by Be Curious a local company who managed to capture all that Ash represents in the logo design.

We managed to cut 50 round bales of our own hay this year saving us over £1500, this means we have all the hay we need for the next 12 months.

We had a photoshoot with Largeaslife Photography who offered to take free pictures of our horses and wildlife, this has helped us with promotional shots and pictures for our Calendar.

## **In Summary**

Opening our Charity shop has created a lot of links with local people, businesses and organisations; spreading awareness and knowledge of the charity and our work. We have had amazing donations, offers of help and people buying and supporting the Charity.

Our group of volunteers who joined us via the social prescribing network is a regular, reliable team. We now have more options for people to volunteer with us whether they like to help with the horses, wildlife, Charity shop, admin or people. Finances remain buoyant, and we continually seek areas to save money, raise funds and work more leanly.

**Julie Tomkinson – Chair 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023**





CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

ASH RESCUE CENTRE

On accounts for the year  
ended

30 SEPTEMBER 2023

Charity no  
(if any)

1153339

Set out on pages

1-3

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/09/2023

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent  
examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [ ] if not applicable.

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report 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:

14/06/2024

Name:

MR GARY R WEBB.

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body

FCPA.

(if any):

Address:

I.A.W Accountancy Services

5 Hyde Road, Paignton

Devon TQ4 5BW

paignton@iawaccountancy.co.uk

## Section B

### Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material 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.