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Rescue Me Animal Sanctuary (RMA5) Trustees' Annual Report

01.08.2021 - 31.07.2022

Charity Name:

Rescue Me Animal Sanctuary

Address:

Bells Farm, Prescot Road, Melling, Liverpool, L31 1AR

Telephone Number:

07952 017696

Email:

info@rescueme.org.uk

Website and social media:

Website: www.rescuemesanctuary.co.uk

Twitter: @rescuemeanimal

Facebook: rescuemeanimalsanctuary

Legal Status:

Registered Charity No: 1157210

CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

GOVERNING DOCUMENT: Constitution

Charity Objectives:

"For the benefit of the public and in particular the more vulnerable members of our community, to relieve the suffering of animals in need of care and attention and in particular to provide and maintain rescue homes or other facilities for the reception, care and treatment of such animals".

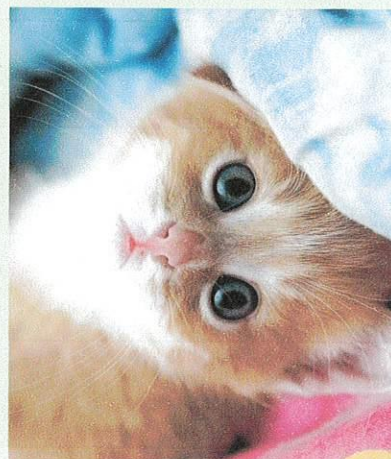
REHOMING

A strict rehoming policy is followed ensuring every rescue animal finds their 'forever home'



VETERINARY

Every animal in need of professional veterinary care receives it promptly



The demand this year again remained overwhelming for Rescue Me Animal Sanctuary with 540 animals (plus numerous small rodents, often pregnant females who gave birth to litters) admitted from desperate situations, many having been turned away from other rescues due to the lack of space. The majority were cats, kittens, guinea pigs and rabbits. Once admitted they were provided with any necessary veterinary treatments and were fed in to our foster home network until rehomed. Sadly, again this year we admitted a high number of diseased kittens from the streets and very young kittens with deceased mothers or who had been abandoned, who needed hand rearing which required a large amount of resources. Notably again this year we admitted some very poorly animals requiring significant veterinary treatments. We did not admit any animals from abroad this year, due partly to the increase in transport fees and the revised paperwork required for them.

We started to take a small number of dogs from the local pound, and also to publicise their plight, so that we succeeded in getting them placed with other rescues. Kind members of the public and our supporters will often offer to rehome them, but we have to insist that they only go to rescues who can properly assess them, as they have often been passed around from home to home and may not have received the appropriate socialization, exercise and positive training. We are aware of the 'fashion' for particular breeds of dogs, which some people buy without regard to how they can meet any particular requirements for the breed, and a lot of these dogs are then abandoned and end up in the pound. For example, there are a large number of bull breeds and Akitas at present. Many of the 'pound dogs' do not have a microchip or it is out of date. A number of Trustees and staff have experience in advising on dog behavioural issues, and we will advise an owner if they want to accept advice which may mean that their dog doesn't need to be rehomed.

This year, notably we have admitted a number of puppies who have cleft palates, most of whom were surrendered to us by their breeders. Some of the clefts were probably caused by inbreeding, as unfortunately some people will want to buy a puppy with a particular colour coat and breeders will often be able to charge a lot more for such puppies. The surrendered puppies were either new born or a couple of days old. The breeders did not have the experience and/or the will to hand rear them, so again this fell to our fosterers and/or our small amount of staff. These puppies face an uphill battle because they need constant monitoring and frequent hand feeding, and we are always devastated when they do not make it, despite the tremendous efforts made by their carers. They also require assessment and ongoing veterinary checks and treatment: the breeders who have surrendered them are not prepared to pay for this. We have also noted the ongoing increase in brachycephalic ('flat faced') dogs who are at risk of breathing-related problems because of the shape of their noses and jaws.

We continue to operate as a member of the Association of Dogs and Cats Homes (ADCH) and we have been grateful for their guidance provided.

We have a staff member on site from 9 to 5 every day, as we have three staff members, one being full time and two part time, plus from October 2020, Steph Taylor as Manager. We continued to run at full capacity making full use of our network of foster homes.

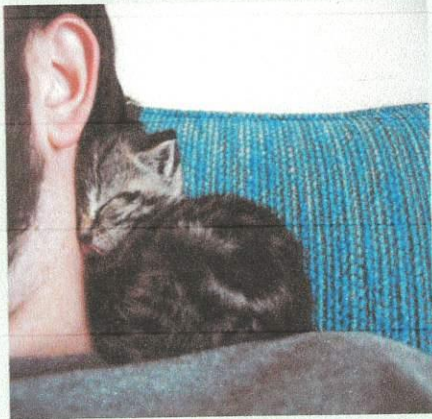
Our amazingly dedicated team of volunteers has continued to tirelessly fundraise towards the property remodeling and refurbishment of our premises. We are fortunate to have a team of highly committed long-term volunteers who have been with us since the start of Rescue Me, and more volunteers have joined us with an interest in fundraising in different ways. Sincere compassion and a genuine determination to help our area's most vulnerable animals enables the team to work together to achieve the shared goal of becoming a truly sustainable charitable animal rescue.



Dr Steph Taylor, Founder and Head Trustee at RMAS

VISION

Every animal will enjoy a healthy, happy life in a loving home



AFTER CARE & SUPPORT

New owners are offered experienced after care and support for their new pet



Our Vision:

RMAS continues to face increasing workloads due to the cruelty and abandonment of animals within Merseyside and the surrounding areas.

The overall vision of RMAS is to grow and develop, to ensure that it is effective and fit for purpose to meet the increasing demand and promote education and animal welfare to the general public.

Animals provide measurable benefits to people's physical and mental health and this is one area that the organisation would like focus on in the future.

The aims of the charity are to:

1. Raise awareness of animal welfare issues and encourage the public to adopt these principles;
2. Assist with the neutering, rescue and rehoming of stray and unwanted animals with special attention to those most at risk;
3. Encourage the local community to become involved through various campaigns;
4. Provide education on animal welfare so that we can put a STOP to animal cruelty at the root level;
5. Provide local employment to like-minded individuals
6. To reduce the numbers of cats living in feral colonies with the expansion of our TNR (Trap, Neuter & Release) programme in partnership with other local rescues.

Our Mission Statement

"Our philosophy is to care based solely on its physical characteristic to accept and care for destruct policy and will care until a forever home

"for the benefit of the public and in particular the more vulnerable members of our community, to relieve the suffering of *animals* in need of care and attention and in particular to provide and maintain rescue homes or other facilities for the reception, care and treatment of such animals".

accept any animal in to our need and not on any other providing we have the space them. We have a strict non-keep every animal in our can be found".

Our Values

The sanctuary's ethos is from a member of the

outside the capabilities of the organisation or falls outside the remit, but to assist through the network of more relevant bodies within the community to help with the call and to ensure both the member of the public and the animal (s) in question are supported and cared for in a kind, compassionate and supportive manner.

to never turn away a call public even if the problem is

Public Benefit Need

RMAAS has been set up to assist members of the public within the Merseyside region in the rescue, care, support, re-homing and adoption of stray and unwanted animals. The general public benefits from knowing that RMAAS will do everything within its capabilities and resources to support both themselves and the animals in need. This includes vulnerable members of the community, people who find they cannot cope, or simply find they no longer can afford to keep their animal due to financial circumstances.

Our activities

Since its formation in July 2013, RMAS has grown from an extremely small organisation to a registered charity with a network of foster homes spread across the Merseyside area and now we have premises.

This has been achieved by the coming together of a group of like-minded, passionate, experienced volunteers who have worked with animals for many years and bring a wealth of experience to the sanctuary.

Every animal that is taken in by RMAS is assessed and they are all: -

- Neutered (if applicable)
- Microchipped
- De-flead and wormed
- Emergency veterinary care is provided if required

On our 5th Anniversary on 20/07/2018 almost 2,500 animals had been admitted into the sanctuary and the demand for our assistance grows daily. During the year ended 31st July 2019 we admitted 458 animals plus 319 hens; to 31st July 2020 563 animals plus 51 birds and small rodents (this number includes the litters they gave birth to) and to 31st July 2021 501 animals plus 76 budgies, pigeons, small rodents (and litters given birth to) and we also arranged for 9 'home to home' adoptions with our staff and volunteers providing the advice and home checks. During the year ended 31st July 2022 we admitted and rehomed 540 animals (plus litters born) This makes a total of 5017 animals helped by Rescue Me. This does not include the animals which we have managed to place with other rescues. The animals rehomed this year were exactly 400 cats and kittens; 31 dogs and puppies; 60 guinea pigs; 23 hamsters; 20 rabbits; 2 ducks; 2 budgies; a pheasant and a lizard.

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RMAS charges a re-homing fee for our animals, highlighting the ongoing financial commitment of pet ownership. It would not be in the best interest of any of our animals to re-home them to people who could not afford their upkeep, financial commitment and care.

Current rehoming fees at 31/07/2022 are;

- Cat: £125
- Kitten: £150
- Rabbit: £50
- Dog: £275
- Puppy: £350
- Smaller animals by minimum donation of £5

We also advise on the minimum acceptable housing set ups for smaller animals, because the set ups sold and regarded as acceptable in pet shops are often far too small and with inadequate exercise facilities with little to no possibilities for enrichment activities. We do not rehome unless the adopter provides the right environment and facilities for any of our animals.

We are proud to offer full 'Rescue Back Up' for all of our animals, and we have become aware that many rescues do not operate to these standards.

We continue to offer a unique approach to tackling the 'bigger picture'. This involves our 'in-reach' on-line free-ad work, where we directly reach out to people currently part of the irresponsible re-homing and breeding 'system' which forms the crux of today's overpopulation of domestic pets and a large proportion of the animals that ultimately require rescue. This promotes responsible pet ownership as we offer to neuter any resident pets for free especially the mothers of the young who are being advertised and offer to undertake home checks for animals being advertised. This approach differs from other neutering/rescue services who offer a more passive approach by helping only people who seek out their service. We believe the 'on-line animal free-ad community' will not seek help as this community makes it both free and easy to 'get rid' of pets they no longer want. We have had huge success by directly approaching these people via comments, private messages or emails in a non-judgmental fashion and offering our help for 'free'.

Funding was secured through Cats Protection (CP) for the in-reach programme in 2015, and they awarded RMAS £13,000 worth of neutering vouchers in 2022.

Main achievements and summary

One of the innovative ways in which we had responded to Covid was to create our onsite Vet Room, because of the difficulty in securing appointments. Volunteers remodeled the inside of what was once a smithy to create a Vet Room which opened in March 2021 which is secure, comfortable, hygienic and with sterile facilities to enable our visiting Vets and Vet Nurses to perform operations safely. We have specific Vet Days when our staff and volunteers ensure a smooth visit from start to finish: animals arrive at precise times with owners driving in through one gate and leaving by the other and they are given times to collect their animal(s) once they have had a suitable recovery to the satisfaction of the Vet/ Vet Nurse. This facility has enabled us to make some inroads into tackling the backlog of spays and neuters. In September 2021 we were delighted to appoint a dedicated Vet Nurse who has quickly become a vital member of our staff team.

We were grateful to receive donations and income via, amongst others, Enthuse (formerly Charity Checkout), PayPal, Online Giving, Payroll Giving, Go Cardless and Justgiving, Petplan, Agria Pet Insurance, Charities Trust, Bristol Animal Rights, Viridian Nutrition, Mad Dog race, Home Roost, Hetty the Groomer and some donations from individuals who would prefer not to be named.

The Amazon Wish List appeals continue to support our work and many necessary supplies are donated by our kind supporters.

We continue to have support from donors who give regularly via standing order for which we are very grateful. Due to the impact of Covid and the cost of living increase, this has decreased.

This year our raffles, Facebook selling group, Ebay selling, street collections and a stall at Bygone Times have continued to bring in funds, as well as sales of clothing, cakes and bric a brac.

The 'Bonus Ball' Lottery brings in a regular income of £195 monthly which is of great help. Some winners have declined to accept their prizes and we are grateful for these extra donations. A lottery has also been set up.

Gifted supporters and volunteers continue to make and sell craft items which are always popular, including knitted, crocheted and wooden items.

We continued to raise money by weighing in clothing, curtains and handbags which were not suitable to sell.

A number of supporters and volunteers kindly donated themselves or asked their friends and families to donate instead of giving presents or sending Christmas cards, and this was much appreciated. Money was raised from carol singing.

We are grateful to those small businesses who hold our charity collection boxes, as well as to those businesses who act as drop off and collection points for pet food, donations and auction items.

Sadly, a number of our supporters passed away during this year and we were extremely honoured to receive donations in their memory. Several volunteers also donated funds in memory of beloved deceased pets.

On 22nd July 2021 work started on the renovations of the roof, in the manner approved via the Planning Application and this has been completed during the current year. We continue pursuing renovations of the building which is all subject to Planning Applications and we have engaged specialists to perform the various surveys as required by Sefton Council.

As can be seen in the Receipts and Payments Account for this year, compared to last, our income has reduced, mainly due to an expected fall in donations in line with national trends and there has been a reduction in adoption fees mainly due to the reduction in the number of dogs and puppies rehomed. However, the amount from fundraising has increased and we remain optimistic about our future.

Examples of some of the animals whom we have had the pleasure to care for this year

Ally & Tippy: Guinea Pigs

Ally & Tippy were a pair of young female guinea pigs who were found dumped in an alleyway after being thrown out with the rubbish. It was clear they'd been there for a while as their cage was full of faeces and urine, and they had no food or water. They are now settled into a loving new home, where they are flourishing and living their best lives.

Nellie-May: Cat

Nellie-May was at risk of being euthanised after she arrived at a local veterinary surgery as a stray. She luckily found her way to Rescue Me, however she required a lot of medical intervention as not only was she an old girl, she was riddled with arthritis, was in the process of kidney failure and had a heart condition. She never let her health dampen her confident character and she has just celebrated her one-year anniversary in her forever home.

Phoenix: Dog

Phoenix came to Rescue Me at 3 days old with a cleft palate, after being abandoned by his breeder for being 'unsellable' due to his appearance! He is a victim of the current fashion for XL bully breeds and his health has suffered due to this industry. During his time with us, it has been discovered that he has got epilepsy, bad skin and weak joints, and is in the later stages of kidney failure, so we are providing him with palliative care. He continues to live each day to the full.

Board of Trustees:

Dr Stephanie Taylor, experience in direct animal rescue, management skills and team working

Mr. David Callender, experience of direct animal rescue work, previously managed an established rescue centre for over 5 years.

Mrs. Heather Prescott, experience in direct rescue and veterinary work, with excellent IT skills

Miss Faye Robinson, experience in direct rescue work, working with vulnerable people and qualified to Masters Level in animal behaviour.

Ms Barbara Connolly, experience in direct rescue work and has a wealth of experience in education



Dr Stephanie Taylor
Chair and Founder of Rescue Me Animal Sanctuary
14th April 2023

Receipts and Payments Accounts

Charity Name Rescue Me Animal Sanctuary
Charity Number 1157210
For the period from 01/08/2021 **to** 31/07/2022

Section A	Receipts and Payments				
A1 Receipts	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds £	Last Year £
Donations	62429			62429	102903
Care of Fred		120		120	3693
Vet Room Set Up					1120
Adoption Fees	61795			61795	70880
Fundraising	45790			45790	29409
Gift Aid	2805			2805	2915
Contribution to Bills	800			800	800
Interest Received	21			21	33
VAT Reclaim					
Backdated to 2013					16022
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sub Total	173640	120		173760	227775
A2 Asset and Investment Sales					
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Receipts	173640	120		173760	227775
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
A3 Payments					
Care of Fred		120		120	3693
Vet Room Set Up					1120
Vets, Medicines, Food And Microchips	26786			26786	22096
Animal Transport	75			75	21742
Wages, HMRC, Pension	55869			55869	43307
Care of Frog and Newt					800
Fundraising Expenses	2782			2782	2289
Paypal, Go Cardless and					
Facebook Fees	2885			2885	3310
Heat and Light	5420			5420	3610
Council Tax	5454			5454	8122
Insurance	1887			1887	3465
Postage and Stationery	864			864	1382
Telephone, Internet	649			649	593
Legal, Professional and					
Architect Fees	10025			10025	15180
Repairs and Skips	2415			2415	2173
Loan Repayment	600			600	150
Staff Travel	124			124	281

Bank Charges and					
Currency Conversion	185			185	181
Sundry	57			57	43
Refurbishment of premises:					
New roof	37405			37405	
VAT Paid	3010			3010	
A4 Asset and Investment Purchases					
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Payments	156492	120		156612	133537
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net of Receipts/ Payments				17147	94238
A5 Transfers Between Funds				Nil	Nil
A6 Cash Funds Last Year End				241644	147406
				-----	-----
Cash Funds This Year End				258791	241644
				-----	-----

Section B Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the End of the Period

B1 Cash Funds	Details	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £
	Cash Held in Petty Cash	84		
	Paypal	2988		
	Bank Current Account	45690		
	Bank Deposit Account	210029		
		-----	-----	
	Total Cash Funds Agreed with Receipts and Payments Accounts	258791		
		-----	-----	
B2 Other Monetary Assets				
	HMRC Gift Aid	4420		
	Insurance	1882		
	HMRC VAT Charged in Error	3010		
	HMRC VAT Reclaimed	14968		

		24280		
B3 Investment Assets				
B4 Assets Retained for the Charity's Own Use				
	Bells Farm Property	410000		

B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund	Due £
Loan Repayable to Stephanie Taylor		Restricted	64940
Veterinary Bills Due		Unrestricted	8320
Water Rates		Unrestricted	1700
EDF Energy		Unrestricted	258
NEST Pension		Unrestricted	266
Council Tax		Unrestricted	209
Bonus Ball Prizes		Unrestricted	100
HMRC Tax and NIC		Unrestricted	748
Fundraising Expenses		Unrestricted	88
Staff Travel		Unrestricted	11
Self Employed Manager to 31/07/21		Unrestricted	20833
Self Employed Manager to 31/07/22		Unrestricted	25000

			122473

Signed on Behalf of all Trustees:

Signature



Name
S Taylor

Date of Approval
14/04/2023

Signature



Name
H Prescott

Date of Approval
14/04/2023

Notes to the Accounts

1 Rescue Me Animal Sanctuary purchased premises, Bells Farm, in Melling during year ended 31st July 2018. This comprises of a house, land and outbuildings and the total purchase price was £410,000. The trustees consider that because refurbishment of the premises includes splitting the house into part dwelling and part animal rescue premises, the amounts spent on refurbishment have not added any value to the premises overall.

2 Rescue Me Animal Sanctuary had been outbid on similar properties in previous years, and in order to secure Bells Farm, Stephanie Taylor, Founder and Trustee, loaned the charity the sum of £66,990. Trustees were of the opinion that Bells Farm was the most suitable property available to date and agreed to this arrangement.

The Loan Agreement for this was signed by all Trustees on 12th February 2018. Clause 2 states that:

This Loan will be repaid in consecutive yearly instalments of £10,000 each commencing on 6 February 2019 and continuing on the 6th February of each following year until 8 February 2025 with the balance then owing under this Agreement being paid at that time providing the borrower has sufficient reserves to do so and ALL the Trustees are in agreement to release the instalment.

On 6 February 2019, a decision was made to defer repayment of the loan and these funds became restricted to be used for renovation work to enable the site to become fit for purpose with adequate facilities as soon as possible.

3 In December 2018, Stephanie Taylor moved in to the accommodation created at one end of the premises at Bells Farm. There are outstanding repairs required to the accommodation which the Trustees have discussed, including leaks to the windows, broken gates, difficulty with getting hot water and electric and outside lighting tripping and going off in rain.

The priority is to have the rest of the building works to be planned and overseen by a specialist architect, with experience in planning and building for animal rescues, and for this to be completed as soon as possible.

During this time, Stephanie Taylor has used her accommodation to run the rescue, which has afforded her very little privacy. Animals have been housed there and one room has three crates and cages in it, which have at times been occupied by cats with litters of kittens. The living room contains a crate used for cats and/ or kittens. Administrative work is carried out in her accommodation; volunteers use facilities such as kitchen and bathroom. Meetings have been held in the accommodation. Contractors also use the bathroom and kitchen.

The Trustees therefore decided that as they will not be making any payment off the interest free loan from Stephanie Taylor, that they wish to charge a nominal sum only, being £800 included in the accounts as income, and which has been deducted from the loan. Stephanie Taylor put £200 into the petty cash account this year. This leaves a sum outstanding of £64940 to Stephanie Taylor. The original interest free loan of £66,990 has been in place with an agreement that the charity does not need to pay it back until in a position to do so. This affects Stephanie Taylor's ability to purchase her own property, which is her intention.

4 After discussion by Trustees excluding Stephanie Taylor, and having taken appropriate legal advice, a General Meeting of the Trustees took place on 30th September 2020 at which it was resolved that Stephanie Taylor be paid remuneration of £25,000 per annum to provide full time management services, including to oversee the care and maintenance of the sanctuary, staff supervision and animal welfare. The Trustees were satisfied that this is reasonable and that the remuneration does not exceed market rates, and that this is beneficial for the charity. Appropriate Agenda, Notes and Resolution were minuted and provided by a specialist Legal firm.

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Rescue Me Animal Sanctuary

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Rescue Me Animal Sanctuary (the charity) for the year ended 31st July 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the charity 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 charity'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

I am a member of the AAT and I am bound by the code of ethics issued by FRC's Revised Ethical Standard 2016.

Accounts preparation services were provided by Sefton CVS, my employer, and I as examiner have applied the ethical standard to my work.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



Anthony Deegan, MAAT, MICB, Pm.dip
Community Accountant
Sefton Council for Voluntary Service
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Burlington House, Crosby Road North,
Waterloo, Liverpool. L22 0LG