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# Rescue Me Animal Sanctuary (RMAS) Trustees' Annual Report

01.08.2023 - 31.07.2024

**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:**

**X, formerly 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".**

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## **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 456 animals (again 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, dogs, puppies, guinea pigs and rabbits. Once admitted they were triaged, provided with the necessary veterinary treatments and were then placed into 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 continued this year 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, especially French bulldogs, plus an increasing number of "pocket bullies" and 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 again 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 staff team. Quite often, one or more of the puppies will have died before the breeder will reach out for help. These puppies face an uphill battle because they need constant monitoring and frequent hand feeding, they will need to stay in an incubator and we are always devastated when they do not make it, despite the tremendous efforts made by their dedicated 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 again this year 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.

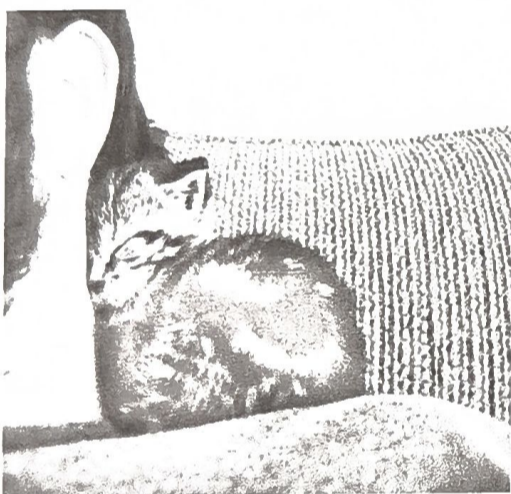
We have a staff member on site from 9 to 5 every day, as we have five staff members, one being full time and four part time, plus from October 2020, Steph Taylor continues as Manager. We have a Veterinary Nurse who works almost full time. We continued to run at full capacity making full use of our network 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, many of whom have been with us since the start of Rescue Me. 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 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 to never turn away a call from a member of the public even if the problem is 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.

### Public Benefit Need

RMAS 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 RMAS 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 together with our Trustees.

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

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

On our 5<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 we admitted 458 animals plus 319 hens; to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020 563 animals plus 51 birds and small rodents (this number includes the litters they gave birth to) and to 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022 we admitted and rehomed 540 animals (plus litters born) being 400 cats and kittens; 31 dogs and puppies; 60 guinea pigs; 23 hamsters; 20 rabbits; 2 ducks; 2 budgies; a pheasant and a lizard. During the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 we admitted and rehomed 478 animals, being 370 cats and kittens; 71 dogs and puppies; 12 rabbits; 21 guinea pigs; 2 rats; 1 hamster and 1 parrot. During the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024 we admitted and rehomed 456 animals (plus litters born) being 328 cats and kittens; 119 dogs and puppies; 6 guinea pigs and 3 rabbits. This makes a total of 5951 animals helped by Rescue Me. This does not include the animals which we have managed to place with other rescues. During this year we had a lot of building work completed which meant that some of our facilities were closed for short periods of time and this meant that the number of animals admitted is slightly lower.

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 31/07/2024 are;

- Cat: £125
- Kitten: £150
- Rabbit: £50
- Dog: £275
- Puppy: £375
- 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'.

### **Main achievements and summary**

We have continued to utilise our onsite Vet Room to the full, and now have a fully operational Vet Suite in the refurbished premises. 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.

As it is now compulsory for all cats to be microchipped before they are 20 weeks old, with the details stored on a DEFRA approved microchipping database, the trustees decided that we would neuter and chip all our kittens at 9 weeks' old before they are adopted, which saves them from being recalled so is more convenient.

We continue to make best use of our Hospice/Hospital due to the number of very sick and/or palliative animals that we have increasingly been asked to take in. This was constructed and named "Angel's Place" after Angel, an elderly palliative dog who was cared for at HQ.

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, Raismore, Vet Club. The Big Help awarded us a grant of £1,000 and we received some donations from individuals who would prefer not to be named. We received £300 from the Mad Dog Race; various amounts from Aughton Meadows Pet Crematorium, from the clientele of the Pear Tree Cattery and from Colormatrix; £5430 from R McGinnis; £1000 from Animal Friends. We also receive grants and do fundraising activities at Pets at Home, both the Edge Lane and the Southport branches.

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. Even with the impact of the cost-of-living increase, this has remained steady.

This year our raffles, Facebook selling group, Ebay selling, street collections and a dog walk 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 to bring in another welcome regular income.

Gifted supporters and volunteers continue to make and sell craft items which are always popular, including knitted, crocheted and wooden items such as hog houses for hedgehogs.

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

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.

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.

We have made progress with further 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.

We work in a collaborative way with other likeminded rescue organisations.

As can be seen in the Receipts and Payments Account for this year, compared to last, our income has remained steady, owing to an increase in donations, decrease in adoption fees, roughly the same in fundraising and gift aid and an increase in the contribution (individually assessed depending on the person's circumstances) for Vet Costs, Neutering and Microchipping. We also received reimbursement from VAT Claims. Our expenditure increased in terms of Vet, medicine, kennels and animal transport costs and payroll costs (there was an increase in the National Minimum Wage); we also spent £256666 on refurbishment of the building to create the "Vet Suite" with a suitable operating theatre, recovery room, consulting room and specialist cages and equipment.

We remain optimistic about our future

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

Zazu: (Cat)

Zazu came to us from a farm in rural Lancashire at approximately 8 weeks old. He was born within a colony of feral cats, and although he had 3 siblings, he was the smallest and very underweight for his age. It was clear he had some congenital issues and all of his feet were deformed, likely as a result of generations of close genetic breeding. All adults were neutered at our on site clinic, and his siblings have gone on to find lovely homes through Rescue Me.

When he arrived at our veterinary clinic, his prognosis was quite guarded. He was also suffering with cat flu, and was unable to use one of his back legs. Zazu, however, did not let this get him down and had such a zest for life that he passed on to everyone who met him. After a course of medication, Zazu's medical condition improved greatly, and although physically he looks different, this did not slow him down and he was usually up to all kinds of mischief.

He can climb, run and play just like a normal cat with no signs of pain or discomfort. He enjoys life in his forever home and is completely adored by his owners. He has three new friends, one cat and two dogs, and even enjoys going on holiday!



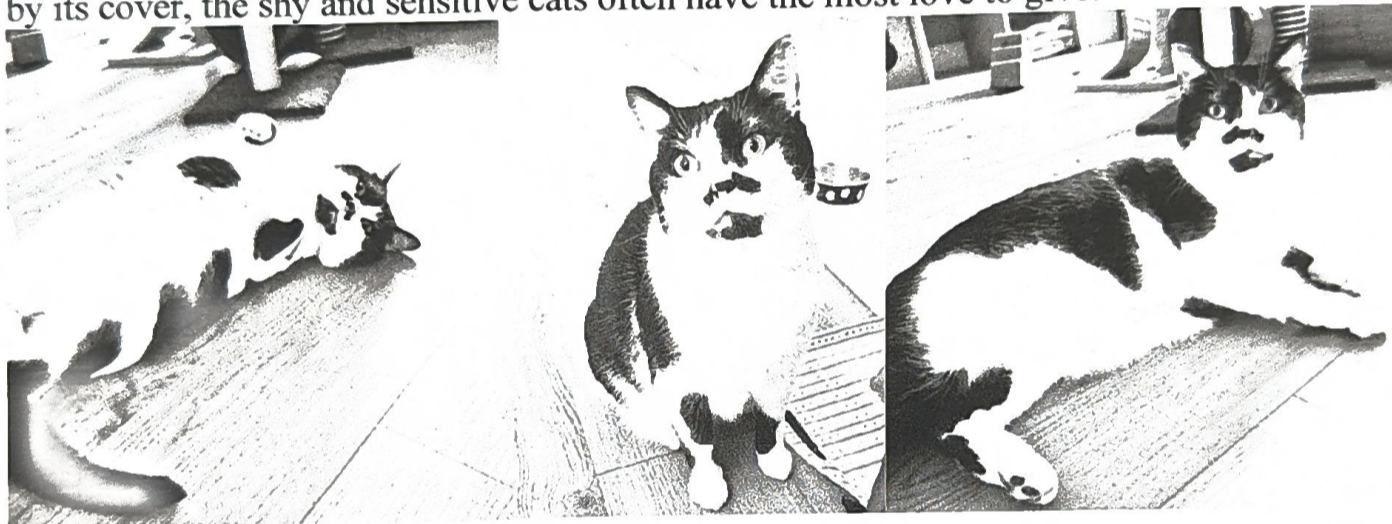
### Taz: (Dog)

Taz came to us at 5 weeks old on 2nd March 2024. His breeder was planning to euthanise him as he was vomiting and initial vet tests had not found a diagnosis. Taz came to us in a very poorly state with intractable vomiting but he responded well to puppy gastrointestinal food and medication. Taz was a very highly strung puppy but settled very well with the other pup and dogs who live on site. After some time, we transitioned him over onto normal puppy food and we noticed a return of his symptoms and also observed "head bobbing". This was when our vets suspected a liver shunt and so Taz had a specialist blood test which was highly suggestive of a liver shunt. He was referred to a specialist at the University of Liverpool and had imaging investigations. Sadly, an inoperable shunt was diagnosed and Taz was found to have over 80% of his liver missing. The specialist was very guarded about his prognosis. After learning lots about managing this condition with a special diet and medication, Taz's health is stable and he is living a happy life currently at HQ and shares a special bond with Steph.



### Skimble: (Cat)

Skimble has had a difficult start to his little life. He was found by a member of the public on a local train in his cat carrier (with no blanket), alone and frightened. He then was taken off the train and left on the busy station platform, afraid at the comings and goings, the busy sounds of the railway. Upon arrival at Rescue Me, we found him to be (understandably) traumatised and shut down because of his experiences, and very mistrusting of any human contact. After all, he had received very little love and care so far! He wouldn't think twice about lashing out when things got too much for him, or giving our staff a growl or a hiss as a warning for them to stay back. He very rarely came out of his igloo bed, his 'safe space'. However, with the care and patience of Louise, one of our dedicated staff members, Skimble slowly began to feel comfortable just being in the presence of a human without anything bad happening to him. This led to him being hand fed tasty snacks and slowly spending more time out of his igloo than in it, eventually showing signs of wanting to be stroked and become a lap cat! At this stage, it was time for Skimble to make the transition into one of our experienced foster homes, where he could carry on growing in confidence and building up trust with a wider variety of people. Since then, he has flourished! Skimble loves meal times and will tell his foster carers if the service is late! He has shown himself to be a playful, talkative and loving cat, who loves to sit on the sofa and play with his favourite toys. It just shows that you should never judge a book by its cover, the shy and sensitive cats often have the most love to give.



### **Board of Trustees:**

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

*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

7th April 2025

## 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 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024.

### 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 Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and I am bound by their code of ethics.

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.

*I Wright*

*22nd May 2025*

Ian Wright, F.C.A  
Community Accountant  
Sefton Council for Voluntary Service  
3rd Floor, Suite 3b  
Burlington House  
Crosby Road North  
Waterloo  
Liverpool  
L22 0LG

## 07Receipts and Payments Accounts

Charity Name            Rescue Me Animal Sanctuary  
Charity Number        1157210  
For the period from   01/08/2023    to 31/07/2024

Section A	Receipts and Payments			Total Funds	Last Year
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment		
A1 Receipts	Funds £	Funds £	Funds £	£	£
Donations	72043			72043	66534
Care of Angel					125
Care of Daisy & Petal					230
Hospice Set Up					250
Care of Clyde		20		20	
Care of Parvo Pups		145		145	
Care of Dizzy & Holly		30		30	
Care of Grace		110		110	
Care of Ernie		80		80	
Care of Bambi		50		50	
Adoption Fees	53520			53520	62240
Fundraising	45666			45666	44234
Gift Aid	2924			2924	2617
Contribution to Vet					
Costs, Neuter, Chip	18716			18716	12893
Contribution to Bills	800			800	800
RSPCA Grant					5000
Big Help Group	1000			1000	
Bank Interest Received	3136			3136	832
VAT Reclaimed	27977			27977	20542
Council Tax Refunded					14539
	-----	-----		-----	-----
Sub Total	225782	435		226217	230836
A2 Asset and					
Investment Sales					
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Receipts	225782	435		226217	230836
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
A3 Payments					
Care of Angel					125
Care of Daisy & Petal					230
Hospice Set Up					250
Care of Clyde		20		20	
Care of Parvo Pups		145		145	
Care of Dizzy & Holly		30		30	
Care of Grace		110		110	
Care of Ernie		80		80	
Care of Bambi		50		50	

Vets, Medicines, Food Microchips, Kennels & Animal Transport	81861		81861	77377
Payroll Costs	50939		50939	48228
Fundraising Expenses	3527		3527	4048
Heat and Light	4745		4745	8882
Council Tax & Water	1130		1130	9338
Insurance	1990		1990	
Postage and Stationery	617		617	106
Telephone, Internet	522		522	798
Legal, Professional, Architect, Planning	10444		10444	6086
Repairs and Skips	2526		2526	1427
Loan Repayment	600		600	650
Staff Travel	44		44	138
Bank Charges and Currency Conversion	194		194	202
Sundry	364		364	443
Refurbishment of Premises:	256666		256666	53995
To Be Recovered From Bank	2124		2124	587

**A4 Asset and Investment  
Purchases**

Total Payments	418293	435	418728	212910
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**Net of Receipts/  
Payments**

(192511) 17926

**A5 Transfers Between Funds**

Nil Nil

**A6 Cash Funds Last Year End**

276717 258791

**Cash Funds This Year End**

84206 276717

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

<b>B1 Cash Funds</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Endowment Funds £</b>
	Cash Held in Petty Cash	18		
	Paypal	2847		
	Bank Current Account	12033		
	Bank Deposit Account	69308		
		-----	-----	-----
	Total Cash Funds Agreed with Receipts and Payments Accounts	84206	-----	-----

## B2 Other Monetary Assets

HMRC Gift Aid	3951
HMRC VAT Reclaimed	34636
To be Refunded by Barclays Bank	2123
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	40710

## B3 Investment Assets

### B4 Assets Retained for the Charity's Own Use

Bells Farm Property	410000
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B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund	Due £
Loan Repayable to Stephanie Taylor		Restricted	64340
Vets, Medicines, Food			
Microchips, Kennels		Unrestricted	4765
EDF Energy		Unrestricted	375
Fundraising Expenses		Unrestricted	100
Phone and Internet		Unrestricted	6
Grosvenor VAT Consultants		Unrestricted	5155
Repairs and Skips		Unrestricted	29
Self Employed Manager to 31/07/21		Unrestricted	20833
Self Employed Manager to 31/07/22		Unrestricted	25000
Self Employed Manager to 31/07/23		Unrestricted	25000
Self Employed Manager to 31/07/24		Unrestricted	<u>25000</u>
			170603

Signed on Behalf of all Trustees:

Signature		Name		Date of Approval
		S Taylor		07/04/2025

Signature		Name		Date of Approval
		H Prescott		07/04/2025

## Notes to the Accounts

1 Rescue Me Animal Sanctuary purchased premises, Bells Farm, in Melling during year ended 31<sup>st</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 at length. The priority was 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. Necessary planning applications have been made and planning permission obtained. Sefton Council and planning regulations have meant that for some building works we were required to replace like for like such as having a slate roof.

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 was carried out in her accommodation; volunteers used facilities such as kitchen and bathroom. Meetings have been held in the accommodation. Contractors also used 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 £64340 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. The Trustees also acknowledge that Stephanie Taylor has not drawn any of her Self-Employed Manager's Remuneration, and has agreed not to do so until the charity is in a position to pay this. It is noted that on 01/03/2025 the following amounts were held in the charity's bank accounts: £18,118 in the current account and £150,000 in the deposit account, being a total of £168,118.

4 After discussion by Trustees excluding Stephanie Taylor, and having taken appropriate legal advice, a General Meeting of the Trustees took place on 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

5 The Trustees wish to show the costs of employing a qualified Veterinary Nurse in the expenses for 'Vets, Medicines, Food, Microchips, Kennels and Animal Transport', rather than in payroll costs.

6 The Trustees wish to continue to use Sefton CVS for Independent Examination of the accounts and the specialist services of Grosvenor VAT Consultants and Knight Goodhead, Chartered Accountants in order to reclaim VAT.

7 During this year, numerous fraudulent transactions have been made through the bank account, the amount outstanding is £2123.54 for this financial year. It is noted that we are now dealing with a named person at Barclays Bank, and have been reassured that these amounts will be refunded. This has taken up a great deal of time, as numerous letters have been written and numerous telephone calls have been made.