FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

England & Wales · Charity number 1160348

Details

Other names	FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE CENTRE
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Company number	CE002953
Registered	2015-02-05
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Freshfields Animal Rescue East Lodge Farm East Lane Liverpool L29 3EA
Phone	01519311604
Email	admin@freshfields.org.uk
Website	www.freshfields.org.uk

Activities

Objects: FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC, 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 AND TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN MATTERS PERTAINING TO ANIMAL WELFARE IN GENERAL AND THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY AND SUFFERING AMONG ANIMALS.

Activities: Freshfields Animal Rescue is a community focussed non-profit making charitable organisation caring for abandoned, abused and unwanted domestic and small farm animals along with sick and injured wildlife.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Animals, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Gwynedd
- Liverpool City
- Sefton

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£1,147,874	£1,523,489	£1,321,210	38
2023-12-31	£1,249,726	£1,411,208	£1,696,825	49
2022-12-31	£1,579,920	£1,386,959	£1,858,307	50
2021-12-31	£1,427,421	£1,277,081	£1,665,346	47
2020-12-31	£1,556,880	£1,266,030	£1,515,006	51

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Pamela Jane Young	Chair	2015-02-01
Annette Armstrong		2017-03-07
Colette Margaret Coghill		2025-05-27
David Alan Cox		2021-08-18
William Donald Shaw		2025-09-02

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FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

England & Wales - Charity number 1160348

Accounts

Charity registration number 1160348 (England and Wales)

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	J Young A Armstrong D Martin D Cox C Pope	 (Appointed 6 February 2024)
Charity number (England and Wales)	1160348	
Auditor	Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited Suites C,D,E, & F 14th Floor The Plaza 100 Old Hall Street Liverpool L3 9QJ	
Bankers	Lloyds Bank plc 88-94 Church Street Liverpool Merseyside L1 3HD The Royal Bank of Scotland plc 15 Foregate Street Chester CH1 1HD Barclays Bank plc 5 - 6 Bangor Street Caernarfon Gwynedd Nth Wales LL55 1AE	
Solicitors	Weightmans LLP 100 Old Hall Street Liverpool Merseyside L3 9QJ	

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

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FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

FOREWORD FROM OUR CHAIR, JANE YOUNG, AND DIRECTOR, EMMA JENSEN

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Welcome to the 2024 Annual Report and Accounts for Freshfields Animal Rescue.

This report is for you. As we reflect on 2024, we do so with immense gratitude for the unwavering dedication and commitment of our supporters and our incredible team. The following pages demonstrate what we do, why we are needed more than ever, and how we plan to face the future, determined to make the world a better place for suffering, forgotten and abused animals. We will report the hard work, happy endings and the many achievements we have made together for vulnerable animals in 2024. None of this work could have happened without compassionate people coming together to deliver an excellent service for animals who have nowhere else to turn. We are immensely grateful for everyone who has been part of our mission this year. We've saved lives and given hope and a new future to a great many people and pets.

We do this because we passionately believe that every animal matters.

The world is an unsafe place for too many animals. The problems animals face are growing larger and more complex every day. More animals than ever are affected by the consequences of urbanisation and human habitation. More animals are at the mercy of over-breeding, poor environmental and food production practices, and cultural assumptions that place the lives of animals in a category marked 'disposable'.

Our front-line services are needed more than ever.

We have had much to celebrate amidst these difficult times, thanks to the continuing support of our loyal supporters and those funders who believe in us and our mission and help us to achieve it.

We were proud to launch our new Liverpool Cattery Unit in March of this year, marking a significant development in our mission to care for vulnerable animals.

We were delighted to secure funding from Pets Foundation and the Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust to develop the most innovative and life-changing project in our history. The Petmobile Project will begin to deliver services in Autumn 2025. This fully-equipped mobile unit will go into the heart of our local communities, engaging pet owners who may not be proactive in seeking help from local services. We look forward to reporting on the project's impact in next year's Annual Report.

We employed our first 'Rescue Representative' in Wales, raising awareness of our work across the country and making sure that our supporters have the best experience possible when they connect with the rescue centre.

We have made major improvements to our facilities and put significant resources and time into the development and training of our staff.

We worked hard to maximise every precious resource to help more animals, do more with less, and achieve better outcomes. We brought together the staff, volunteers and an incredibly wide range of community individuals and business supporters to step up to the unprecedented level of need for our services.

We increased our reach and supporter base, and developed more business and community partnerships, with many local businesses giving their time to volunteer and become part of our team on the ground.

Today, we look forward to the future with a sense of purpose and hope. As we celebrate this year's successes, we're also preparing for the road ahead. In 2025, we will continue to push for lasting vital change whilst keeping the individual lives we strive to protect at the heart of our mission. Together, we are building a world where all animals can live free from suffering.

That starts with a belief that each and every one of us can change the world, even if it is just for one animal at a time. Each person's positive actions and choices today will help to progress the substantial human behaviour change needed to reduce the large-scale animal suffering we see now.

FOREWORD FROM OUR CHAIR, JANE YOUNG, AND DIRECTOR, EMMA JENSEN (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

To be a supporter of Freshfields Animal Rescue is to sound a rallying cry. We are an active voice for those who have none, and you are a part of that groundswell of support. We have witnessed the remarkable strength of a collective will, and the impact that can have on the lives of animals every day, here at Freshfields.

We stand with you in your determination to demand changes to systems of exploitation and cruelty. We stand with you in channelling our energies into eradicating the root causes of animal suffering. We know that it is sometimes hard to hear about the ways in which animals are in pain and desperate need around the world. But we also know this: we always believe that we can win the hardest, most intractable battles. And with you by our side, we always will.

Thank you for transforming the lives of animals every day.

.....
Jane Young
Chair

Emma Jensen
Director

Date: .....

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "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) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

Freshfields Animal Rescue was founded in 1979, upon the simple premise that all life matters. That foundation has only grown stronger as the scope of our work has expanded. Today, over 46 years on, equal consideration for every species of animal remains at the forefront of our work along with our promise to never put a healthy animal down and prevent suffering of any kind.

We recognise that the fate of animals is inextricably linked to the impact of human attitudes and actions. We are driven in our commitment to inform, support and initiate changes in peoples' actions, leading to a better future for us all.

Our Charitable Purpose

For the benefit of the public, to relieve the suffering of animals in need of care and attention and, in particular, to provide and maintain rescue homes, and other facilities for the reception, care and treatment of such animals; and to educate the public in matters pertaining to animal welfare in general and the prevention of cruelty and suffering among animals.

Our Mission

To make a great quality of life possible for all vulnerable animals.

Our Vision

A world where all people protect animals and value nature.

Public benefit

The trustees are satisfied that all of the activities undertaken by the charity in pursuance of its objects are for the benefit of the public.

The trustees have had due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Our People

Freshfields Animal Rescue is made up of a wonderful, diverse, and incredibly wide variety of people from all walks of life, ages, backgrounds and experiences. We are all united by an unwavering intention to stop the suffering of vulnerable animals. We welcome everybody who can help us achieve this. We always say that the team on the ground is just one part of our community: The rescue team includes our community supporters, whose broad contribution we value greatly and recognise are equally a part of the team as our staff and volunteers.

Our Staff

Working across 2 rescue centres and 5 charity shops we have the equivalent of 29 full time staff. The decades of experience and the depth of expertise shared by the staff are essential in ensuring that we consistently maintain high standards of care, and that we are accountable to our funders, our supporters and donors, and that we put the welfare of the animals first at all times.

Our Volunteers

164 Volunteers bring life, energy and passion to our charity. They enrich our organisation and make it possible to release staff to attend to work which requires specialist knowledge and expertise. We are incredibly fortunate to have such kind and dedicated volunteers fulfilling a myriad of vital roles, some of whom have dedicated over 20 years to the rescue. We are grateful and humbled by their generosity and compassion. They truly are our real-life heroes and animal advocates.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Our Values

We value life – we will never put a healthy animal down* or pass animals to rescues who may.

*unless an animal presents an insurmountable safety risk to people.

We value all life – equal assistance for every species of animal remains at the forefront of our work. We don't believe we are more worthy or more valuable than other species.

We value nature – we respect the natural world and are passionate advocates for improving our stewardship of the nature that sustains us all, and not abuse our advantages within that system.

We value excellent care – when we take responsibility for a life, we commit to doing it well.

We value compassion – We are motivated by empathy for animals who are suffering, and for people who need our help and support without judgement.

We value integrity – We deeply value and respect our supporters. We demonstrate our appreciation for the trust each supporter places in us by delivering on their expectations to help as many animals as we can, to do it well, with best use of every pound we are gifted for this work.

We value partnerships – We know we achieve lasting change by working better together.

We value responsibility – we believe every person can and should do something to make a positive difference, redress imbalances, and recognise the impacts we have on the lives of animals and wildlife

We value positivity – Every tough job can be maintained when you have the support of positive can-do people, who know they make a difference and encourage others to take decisive action.

Our Beneficiaries

Our primary beneficiaries are animals:

a) **Rescue, rehabilitate and rehome companion and farm animals** such as dogs, cats, horses, rabbits, birds, ferrets, sheep, pigs, ducks, chickens, and more.
b) **Rescue, rehabilitate and re-release struggling local wildlife** that most commonly includes hedgehogs and around 25 species of wild birds.

Our secondary beneficiaries are people:

a) **Adopters** – receive physical and mental health benefits from somebody to love, improved physical and emotional well-being, and opportunities to connect with others. In some cases, a reason to live.
b) **Surrenderers** – people struggling financially, physically or mentally; needing the reassurance that their pet will survive when faced with no option but to give them up.
c) **Volunteers** – 164 volunteers this year have in various roles: accessed scarce work experience, made progress towards veterinary and animal welfare qualifications, improved their mental and physical health; gained a sense of belonging and purpose, enjoyed developing new skills, connections and work-experience.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Some Stand-Out Statistics from 2024

51% of UK adults own a pet and 9% of UK adults say they have cancelled their pet insurance due to the cost of living	We provided 4636 medical treatments and 241 companion animals were neutered and microchipped.		83% of animal charities in the UK reported an increase in costs beyond their capacity in 2024
We had 1538 requests for assistance at reception, an increase of 471 on last year.		Our successful rehoming rate for equines was 130%, our best outcome since the Covid pandemic	We cared for 1128 animals across both centres, giving new hope and new lives to those who had nowhere else to turn
Just 17% of dog owners get their pets from rescue centres whilst 58% go to breeders or private sellers	Over 80% of the public now support routine neutering of companion animals		We have rescued, rehabilitated and released 21 different types of wild bird
PICTURE OF RABBIT FAMILY	We provided 2218 owners with advice and personal support in the community.	99% of vets have been asked to euthanise a healthy animal.	82% of rabbit owners said that pet companionship improves their mental wellbeing
41 Foster Families opened their hearts and homes to provide vital support, helping vulnerable animals to recover in a safe and nurturing environment	We secured forever loving homes for 413 pets		Hedgehog numbers have decreased by up to 75% in rural areas since 2000

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Our Five-Year Strategy – Overview and Progress

We are 3 years into our Five-year strategy for 2022-2027. In the first 2 years we have concentrated on building resilience for the future by improving our core functions to ensure we succeed in our mission. To robustly respond to ever-growing need, we must, as care providers, deliver our services to an excellent standard, for 365 days a year.

We have implemented our strategic aims in 2024 by focusing on helping as many animals as possible and doing it very well. The next three years will see us expanding our preventative work and developing mature and meaningful partnerships, to help more animals and to do it better than ever.

Our Five-Year Strategy connects 5 elements for long-lasting change:

Succeed – animals and nature are depending on us. We take that responsibility very seriously, and we must be successful for them. We recognise the importance of strong leadership, accountability, adaptability, staff expertise, and of making the very best use of every precious resource.

Respond – be able to meet the needs of as many vulnerable animals as possible. We aim to increase our ability to rescue and respond to the urgent needs of 70% more animals in the next five years.

Prevent - animal suffering and the human actions that often cause it, by committing 25% of our resources to rescue and preventative work.

Excel – carry out every task and deliver every aspect of our work to a very high standard. We do this by investing in our teams and facilities and always challenging ourselves to be improve our practice and our abilities to achieve more for the animals.

Connect – join with others to do more, change more, learn more and share more. We are ever mindful that we are but one cog in a massive community effort.

We measure progress towards our Strategic aims using the following methods:

- Annual Action Plans with timed aims and objectives.
- Annual figures collating demand for our services, community support, intake, medical treatments, preventative interventions, rehoming and release.
- Monitoring requests for support by type and location to identify gaps in provision and rise to the challenge of meeting them.
- Expenditure monitoring and control by department and year.
- External quality standard inspections by the Association of Dogs and Cats Homes and National Equine Welfare Council.
- Output and outcome reports to Funding organisations and the Fundraising Regulator.
- Case studies.
- Staff feedback and development records.
- Supporter surveys and feedback.

Delivering and Progressing our Priority Aims in 2024

Strategically, we are halfway through our 5-year plan and on track to achieve our desired outcomes by 2027.

STRATEGIC AIM - SUCCEED

We have continued to work with aligned focus and direction across the charity, ensuring that our foundations are as strong as possible, so that we may withstand the future challenges that we know we will need to address in the future. With clear focus and a solid, financially responsible operational management structure, we strive to ensure that our rescue team are happy, well trained and supported. We have carried out a staff restructuring to remove a layer of management, to make best use of valuable resources, improve communication and tap into existing staff expertise and passion.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

We made 3 important appointments to help us build our supporter base in Wales and our volunteer capacity in all areas. We were delighted to welcome our part time Rescue Representative in Wales (July), our part time Volunteer Coordinator (Nov) and our new Trustee, Chrissy Pope, in June. They have brought a wealth of positive contributions to our work, and their skills and experience will benefit the animals enormously.

We have worked hard to ensure we can evidence our value and our impact in helping more animals better than ever, whilst consistently providing excellent care.

Financial Sustainability

Our overall income this year is £1,123, 371, which is slightly down on our income for 2023, but within a standard income range for us.

Our expenditure increased to £1,497,131, which continues a concerning trend of rising costs in every aspect of our work.

Income in 2024 has thankfully been quite consistent with that of previous years. We note, of course, the figure of 40% of our income which is reliant on gifts in wills, for which we are truly grateful. This figure is broadly in line with other rescue centres in the UK. We are in no doubt that it is these that keep the rescue going. We continue to work hard to diversify our income streams, to mitigate the risk of one income stream reducing, and to ensure that we have a strong and resilient financial foundation.

The biggest risk for us right now comes from the continuing rising costs from increases in the National Minimum Wage employer contributions. We wholeheartedly support this for our deserving and hard-working staff, who sacrifice their personal gain, and needs, to their commitment to preventing animal suffering. We also recognise that this does place extra pressure to increase our income.

We are seeing continued increases in the costs of utilities, food and veterinary medicines. We are carrying out most Liverpool veterinary procedures in house; however, costs of supplies and vet-advised foods coming from Europe combine to increase this area of expense by 40%. We expect this to continue next year, and we continue to experience difficulties with supply shortages.

We will continue to closely monitor the effects of growing costs and the cost-of-living crisis which is impacting every organisation and business across the UK.

We are committed to making the most of every penny, in the way that our supporters would expect.

Reserves policy: To ensure we are sustainable and responsible; we endeavour to maintain a reserve of around £600,000 which would ensure the running of the charity for 6 months. Currently unrestricted reserves amount to £488,478 of which £56,400 is reflected in tangible fixed assets. We are currently below our target reserve due to increasing cost pressures.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Income Sources

Gifts in Wills continue to be our most vital source of funds, covering a significant 33% of our annual costs. This year legacies were £294,350.

We are grateful beyond words to the wonderful and compassionate supporters below, who have enabled us to develop facilities fit for the future that help us help more animals better. We are ever mindful of our responsibility to make our legators and their families proud. Our deepest gratitude goes to:

Marie Elizabeth Tonge
Raymond Pedder
Pamela Heathcote
Terence Prescott

Pamela Heathcote
Geoffrey Thomas Rice
Florence Mary Griffiths
Dorothy Anita Eden

Vivien Evelyn Scutt

Cecilia Pritchard
Stan Smith
Rhona Mary Meadley
Crawford legacy

Patricia Streadbury
Mavis Linforth Estate
Glenys Hughes
Monica Mary Laker
Enid Dorothy Ellershaw
Vera Hughes

Claudette Ann Storer
George Spence

Anne ElizabethLevesley

Income from general donations has seen a reduction of over 10%, demonstrating the challenges faced by charities and business across the UK as a whole. The current economic crisis is having a disproportionate impact on our local communities.

Our charity shops continue to go from strength to strength, raising vital funds for the animals, and showing an increased income of £20,000 this year, with income of £421,708. We are always grateful for the consistently hard work of the shop managers, and their committed, loyal and passionate team of volunteers who selflessly arrive every day with a determination to get every penny possible to transform the lives of the animals. We take additional pride in this fundraising approach as it is environmentally great practice to recycle and repurpose goods, and it is of enormous value to people who are struggling with the cost of living.

Trust Funding: We have achieved £53,000 in grants from trusts, foundations and funders as we demonstrate what we can achieve with their support and their belief in our ability to make a lasting impact on the lives of vulnerable animals.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

We are especially thankful to those organisations who have the insight and understanding that our work supports actions which address the injustices and suffering of animals, largely because of human actions, when 99% of other funding organisations still choose people as their sole beneficiaries. This needs to change; until then we are grateful for every organisation and individual who steps up to help.

Pets Foundation

As the year came to an end, we got the news that Freshfields Animal Rescue would be one of the beneficiaries of the Pets Foundation's 'Prevent' Awards, with funding across the next 3 years to support our 'Petmobile' Project. This exciting initiative will see us taking a mobile unit into the heart of some of the most disadvantaged communities across Merseyside, offering practical help and advice to help people to keep their pets in their homes.

Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust

We were delighted to receive £20,000 from the Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust, providing funds to purchase are equip the van for the Petmobile project, which will be launched in Summer 2025.

We would like to thank the Rose Animal Welfare Trust for their kind donation of £10,000 for medical care costs, helping us to ensure that the animals get the care they need.

Geoffrey and Pauline Martin Trust awarded £10,00 for veterinary care for the cats at our Liverpool Centre.

The Betty Phillips Charitable Trust awarded £5,000 for vet fees for the dogs at Freshfields.

The Animal Defence Trust awarded £2,000 for the fencing for the Dog Enrichment Field.

Our friends at Animal Friends Insurance gave £1600 for the provision of mud mats for our Wales centre, to provide a level ground and avoid injury and pain for the horses and ponies.

We are deeply grateful to the following Trusts and Foundations for their support with veterinary costs and general purposes:

ANIMAL FRIENDS INSURANCE

BAKER FAMILY TRUST

BARRY GREEN MEMORIAL FUND

GALLIMORE TRUST

GROUNDWORK TRUST

LEE BAKIRGIAN FAMILY TRUST

MARCHIG TRUST

MAYOR OF SEFTON CHARITY FUND

N M SMITH CHARITABLE SETTLEMENT

SYLVANUS CHARITABLE TRUST

WILLIAM DEAN COUNTRYSIDE TRUST

CASTANEA TRUST

PHILLIPS CHARITABLE TRUST

ROSE ANIMAL WELFARE TRUST

ALICE NOAKES MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

ROBERT AND EVELYN MAUD HALL TRUST

BETTY PHILLIPS CHARITABLE TRUST

H&H COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP TRUST

BARRATT FOUNDATION TRUST

Community Appeals

Our most dedicated supporters once again kick started our You Are the Answer End of Year Appeal, with their pledges providing the platform for the public appeal throughout December.

Our End of Year Appeal in 2024 raised a wonderful of £57,091! Our endless gratitude goes to everyone who gave money to rescue animals in these challenging personal times. We were very pleased to welcome some of our most committed supporters for a visit and a tour of the rescue centre in the Summer, showing them the incredible impact they have on the lives of rescued animals every day, and introducing them to some of the animals whose lives they have changed.



STRATEGIC AIM - RESPOND

We never lose sight of why we do this work. Everything we do is in pursuit of our goal to meet the needs of as many animals as possible.

In 2024, we were able to provide direct care via admittance into our rescues for a total of 1,293 animals.

Cattery Liverpool and Cattery Wales – we are beyond delighted at the unsurpassed success of both Catteries this year, who have rehomed more cats and kittens this year than in past 10 years or more. Importantly, we have done all of this and achieved every care quality standard, improving the accommodation standards to bring them into line with the excellent quality of care delivered by our wonderful staff and volunteers.

Our investment in the cattery staff, veterinary team, the facilities and the review of our daily operations have combined with the absolute drive and dedication beyond expectations of the cattery staff and volunteers.

Thanks to the continuum of care now provided at the centre, from intake to isolation to post-surgery and general accommodation, we can report that we rescued and rehomed 443 cats in 2024. Every one of these cats had their lives transformed, thanks to you.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024



Liverpool Cattery

DAVES' STORY

This is the story of a very special boy called Dave.

Dave had been living on an industrial park alongside a feral colony, and being fed by the workers of a local haulage company in Knowsley.

The kind people who looked out for Dave realised his health was starting to deteriorate and took the decision to bring him into Freshfields. We're very glad they did. When he came to us, Dave was thin and in poor condition. He looked like a very old cat, but in fact our vet assessed him at around only 8 years old. He was filthy, no white fur, just dirty grey from years of roughing it. We had a lot to do to turn Dave's fortunes around.

Fortunately for him, his life changed for the better from the minute he was carried through our front door.

We started from scratch, giving Dave a full health assessment and ensuring he had our core medical treatments of vaccinations, neutering, medication, flea treatment and worming. Our vets discovered that Dave's teeth needed a lot of attention. He was also hyperthyroid, FIV positive, and appeared to be profoundly deaf. We devised a Care and Treatment Plan and got to work.

Because of the continuum of care provided by our new Cattery Unit, Dave could progress smoothly through the different stages of care he needed throughout his rehabilitation and recovery. From his temporary stay in the isolation unit, to ensure he was protected from infection, through to his surgery and post-operative care in a calm, quiet environment, Dave was soon well enough to move to one of the pens in the main accommodation block. He began to put on weight, his fur started to shine, and he was clearly feeling much better about life. We loved his personality and were determined to find him a forever home, where he could leave the worries of his street life behind.



We hoped that Dave would not be overlooked because of his medical issues, and thanks to a wonderful local family, Dave is now in a home full of love and comfort. He enjoys supervising catering arrangements in the kitchen, watching cooking shows on TV, then having a well-earned rest in his favourite bed.

The staff at the haulage company who cared for Dave for so long have stayed in touch and have become part of the wider Freshfields family.

It took a big team of people to transform Dave's life, and we can't thank you all enough for helping us to help Dave.

The Kennels

2024 saw Freshfields Kennels Unit undertake the most ambitious training and development programme we have ever delivered, with a significantly expanded emphasis on behavioural support. We believe this is now an essential requirement in rescue, as an ever increasing number of dogs require basic socialisation or behavioural support to enable them to overcome the barriers preventing them from the chance of a home. We temporarily closed to new admittances to focus on enabling our staff team to fully participate in bespoke training sessions which addressed every area of the dogs' wellbeing, from admittance, rehabilitation, physical and emotional health behavioural support to rehoming. We have examined and reviewed every aspect of our daily functions, to ensure we meet all care and facility best practice standards set by the Association of Dogs and Cats Homes (ADCH).

This project was given a real boost when we appointed a fantastic new Kennels Manager in January 2024, bringing over 20 years' experience. Together with a team of established and fresh talent, this has since resulted in many of our longest-term dogs, who have been at the rescue for 5 or more years, being gently supported into new homes. This is proving to be time and investment well spent and we look forward to reporting even more positive outcomes in 2025. We are thankful for the guidance and professional input of our friends and colleagues in the animal welfare field in making this possible. We are very excited about this team and what we know they will achieve next.

BELLE'S STORY

One of the first dogs to benefit from the new approach was Belle. This lovely 10-year-old Bulldog Cross saw many of her kennel-mates go on to find happy homes before her. To our dismay and disappointment, she was always overlooked for adoption, possibly because of her age. Belle was very fearful when she first arrived and needed a gradual gentle introduction to people to help her to overcome her anxiety. When confident, Belle was a gentle and spirited character, who loved cuddles and days out on the beach with her human friends.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

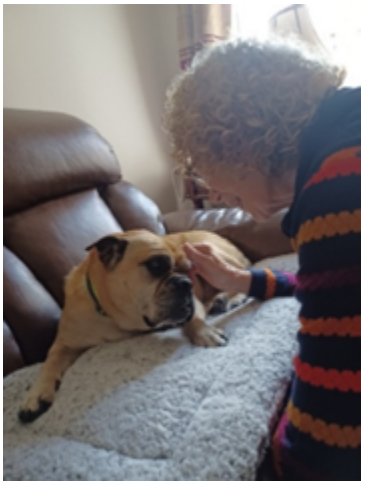
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

We worked on building Belle's confidence around visiting potential adopters, who often hope for signs of affection from their new family member, to help Belle to secure the home we knew she deserved and could truly flourish in.



We launched a fresh appeal in Autumn 2024, highlighting Belle's fantastic personality and the joy she could bring to whoever was fortunate enough to be her new guardian, resulting in Belle having the best Christmas present she could ever have.

Monica and Carmel fell in love with Belle at first sight, and they worked with staff and volunteers on a graduated introduction, spending time at the rescue centre taking Belle on walks. Our staff gave them ongoing support, structured advice and guidance during the 'getting to know you' process and steps to continue at home, which the family followed when they took Belle off to her new life as part of a real family.



Carmel said 'Belle waits at the front door for a walk every morning, loves sunning herself in the back garden and likes to chat over the fence with Henry, the dog next door.

She's only been part of our family for a few days, but she's made a massive impact. She has 2 walks a day, enjoys sitting in the conservatory and barking at the pigeons, and settled straight away with Monica on the sofa on her first night. We were nearly in tears that evening.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

We didn't know how much we needed Belle until she came into our lives'.

Belle in her favourite sunny spot in the garden.





Small Animals Unit

In another very busy year for our Small Animals Unit, we were very glad to be able to have rebuilt and improved the largest section of the unit for better use of space, improved ventilation and light. This took nine months, and we had to accept that the numbers of animals we could help would reduce during this time but would have substantial long-term benefits for small animals in the future, so it was well worth the temporary disruption.



TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Wildlife Unit

Hedgehogs – the First 48 hours

We transformed our working practices on admissions of hedgehogs in 2024, with the specific aim of increasing the save rate of our hedgehogs.

We have done this by focusing on the crucial First 48 Hours in our care.

The results have been remarkable.

We identified that we were losing hogs disproportionately in the first 48 hours. We had already been collecting data in terms of hogs admitted and corresponding survival rates. We sharpened our focus and analysis and knew that we could improve our outcomes in this area.

In 2023, we were taking samples of faeces from the hogs when they first came into the rescue centre and testing them for parasites.

In 2024, as well as taking faecal samples and testing for parasites, we decided, in consultation with our vet, to adjust the hogs antibiotics, steroids and parasite treatment protocols.

In January 24, we began to add in antibiotics and steroids at this early stage. We wanted to see the impact across a full year, and how this affected the health and survival and release figures.

In 2023 we had 301 hogs admitted and 153 died, with 36 PTS.

Only 65 were released and we had 80 over-wintering.

The ratio of deaths/admittances was 153 out of 301.

In 2024, with the extra medication and intensive treatment plan:

We admitted 299 and lost 115.

The ration of deaths/admittances was 115 out of 299, an improvement of 38 saved hogs.

How We Did This

We add in 1 week’s worth of antibiotics on top of a worming medication, and add in 3 days of steroids following the antibiotics, to address the live and dead parasites which are in the process of leaving the hog’s system.

We X-rayed more hogs following the initial treatment programme to assess and monitor the outcomes, particularly the hogs who had an overburden of parasites in their system.

Increasing numbers of hogs are presenting with tumours, a by-product of an over-abundance of parasites. The parasites affect the lungs, liver and heart, with tumours presenting all over the body. Early intervention has meant that we were able to save more hogs by taking X-rays earlier in their Care Plan.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024



We want to do even more in 2025.

By bringing forward the active medication plan and carefully monitoring the weight, health and wellbeing of the hogs, we can save more lives in our bid to tackle the ongoing threats to wildlife in the UK. Our aim is to have an increase release rates by 20% instead.

Our education package will be going out to the public, to enlist their help and ask them to know when a hog needs help and get them in as soon as possible. We have regularly seen hogs brought in by well-meaning people who have kept them warm for a few days, before bringing them in, and it is then too late.

We will aim to achieve even better results in 2025 as we have secured the funds for 3 Brinsea TLC-40 Eco Series II Digitally controlled incubators. This will provide extra support for the care needs of young, sick, injured or weak animals, and has all the features we need for this programme.



We completely refitted the existing Hedgehog Hospital, and secured funding for sturdy, robust metal shelving and a new roof, to further improve the standard of the accommodation for this most endangered species.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

We have been able to restart our much-valued Bunny Bonding service. Rabbits are very social creatures, and far too often they are bought from a pet store or a breeder as a single pet. We never rehome rabbits on their own, and we invite people with one rabbit to come into the centre, and let us help them find a mate for their bunny. Our staff have cameras in the pens, and monitor the rabbits' activities, looking for signs of bonding including grooming and snuggling together.

This fantastic programme brings the benefits of improving the quality of life for 2 rabbits and rehoming a rescue rabbit to a responsible rabbit owner. We saw 20 rabbits like Duke (pictured below, and with his bun friend Dolly) find love and companionship in this way.



The staggering rise in pet relinquishments is keenly felt in our Small Animals Unit. Requests to take in unwanted small animals continue to outstrip our capacity to take them in, and we do our utmost to help them, sometimes co-ordinating with other rescue centres to help to find them a rescue space.

We continue to be frustrated by the buying habits of the public and lack of knowledge of an animal's needs where small animals are concerned and reiterate the 'Adopt Don't Shop' message. Until we can effect significant change in the public's habits, we need to double the size of the current unit to address this issue. We have upgraded the quality of the current facilities to provide the best possible environment for the rabbits, domestic birds, ferrets, Guinea pigs, hamsters and terrapins we care for each year.



Max and Milo, (above), are 2 bonded guinea pigs who found their forever home together after being rescued with 7 other guinea pigs from one household.



We are also moving the Hedgehog Hospital to a better facility, which is soundproofed and better adapted for nocturnal animals, reducing noise and stress, thus aiding speedier recovery. Plans for this are in progress and we look forward to telling you more about them next year.

Farm

After their successful move to the lovely surroundings of our Wales Centre last year, the Farm Crew had even more good news. Every farm animal who was previously at the Liverpool Centre has now gone off to pastures new in a wonderful loving home!

Following a successful home check the former Farm Family went off together to their new home. They are all treated like royalty, which is just what they deserve.



TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Jurgen in his new orchard

In May, one of our supporters came to look at adopting Skye, one of the pigs who had been with us for many years in her Liverpool home.

We couldn't believe it when she offered a home not just to Skye, but to Jurgen too!

Jurgen couldn't be happier as he loves to roam and have adventures, and he's now got acres of space in which he can cause mayhem, which he says he was born to do. We were delighted to hear from his new guardians that he settled in immediately in his new home.

They tell us that he loves his new 'hut' (it's more of a chalet, really) and enjoys rolling in every one of the designated muddy areas on the front field.



Our Christmas card from the inseparable Larry, Ned and Jacob, who went happily to their new home this year (above).

STRATEGIC AIM - PREVENT

Our strategic aim to increase our preventative work has begun in earnest. We are seeking to develop an innovative new project in the form of a 'Petmobile', which will see us tackling the root problems of pet abandonment and homelessness, and going out into our local communities to help keep more people with their beloved pets. We have submitted our proposals for a 3 year pilot scheme to the Pets Foundation, and the decision is pending.

We have already secured an award of £20,000 from the Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust to purchase a high-top van, which will be converted and fully-equipped. This project will see us connecting with a wide range of community partners, linking together support services for people as well as pets to help achieve mutual wellbeing and stability.

We expect to develop the scheme next year with a view to launching it in Autumn 2025. We are so excited about the potential we now have to help so many more animals by preventing their need for rescue spaces in every creative and practical way possible.

This is an important step for us as a charity. We strongly believe that the animal rescue sector as a whole will need to adjust their approach with a shift to prevention if we are ever to be able to manage the crippling and ever expending pet welfare crisis.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

STRATEGIC AIM – EXCEL

We have made some substantial improvements over the past few years, and this year has been no exception in our determined efforts to help more animals and do it better than ever. We are proud of these achievements and the people who make them possible.

The Veterinary Team – our very own Supervets!

What would we do without Catriona, Sarah and Jude? The animals benefit enormously from their expert care and compassion, and we are constantly amazed at the number of miracles they perform every day. With 2 days per week of veterinary surgeon time, and 3 days per week of vet nurse time, we have been able to increase the number of veterinary treatments, consultations, surgery and routine vaccinations we perform onsite. This reduces stress for the animals, transport cost and time for the staff, and recovery time post treatment and surgery.



Our Veterinary Care Programme:

Preventative Veterinary Care:

All animals admitted to Freshfields Animal Rescue are examined by a vet and vaccinated with core vaccines. Dogs and cats are treated against parasites and cats receive a 2-week course of probiotic treatment when first admitted, which has reduced outbreaks of gastric and respiratory disease. This minimizes the need for other medication, including antibiotic treatment, by 80% in those crucial first weeks.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Neuters:

At Freshfields Animal Rescue we are passionate about neutering. Neutering where safe and practical is the hallmark of responsible pet ownership. It's the one thing that responsible pet owners can do to dramatically reduce the overpopulation of stray and unwanted animals. It brings health benefits to ensure that much loved pets remain healthy. Irresponsible breeding inevitably increases the overall number of companion animals within the UK, and puts huge pressure on rescue centres like Freshfields as we are asked to take in rising numbers of unwanted pets every year.

Dental Treatment:

Dental treatments are the most common procedures carried out on site apart from neuters. Owners often underestimate the importance of oral health, so these costs have been listed separately. The prices have been calculated based on the average anaesthetic time depending on species, drugs (anaesthetic drugs, pain relief and antibiotic treatment) and consumables (drapes, gloves, suture material, blade, kit wrap etc.).

Surgical and Diagnostic Procedures:

A diverse group of procedures which includes all procedures that cannot be carried out during a physical examination and require the animal to be sedated or undergo general anaesthesia. These include X-rays, biopsies, ear cleaning, tumour removals, catheterization and eye surgery. The calculation includes total time (vet and vet nurse), drugs and consumables.



Catriona and Jude, neutering and spaying 21 cats across 2 days last Summer.

The vet team have a spirit of can-do and co-operation, which embodies everything we strive for at Freshfields Animal Rescue. Excellent medical care is at the heart of everything we do. Our vet team take great care to ensure that the animal is in the best possible health when they are fortunate enough to be adopted. This greatly improves the chances of a successful rehoming process and minimum need for follow-up appointments. We cannot thank our vet team enough for giving our rescued animals their very best chance to live a life free from pain, fear and illness.

Jude and Billy.



Catriona listening to Hazel’s heart.



TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

New Cattery Accommodation

Our new Cattery accommodation has helped us go from strength to strength. We have met all of the relevant ADCH standards and have improved our service delivery to exemplify very best practice. Our rescued cats have improved isolation facilities to prevent the sharing of any sickness on arrival and for the duration of their stay, having choices to climb or to hide, to socialise or to have quiet time. The facilities give our staff improved barrier nursing, facilities for families of cats, individually controlled heating and ventilation that can be adjusted to the needs of individual cats. The pens enable stress free viewing and meeting space for cats and new families, faster veterinary treatment, comfortable conditions for volunteer helpers and cat socialisers and of course a team who go over and above, hand-rearing newborn kittens for weeks in their own homes. A fantastic example of what can be achieved with the combined efforts of Freshfields loving care, aspiration and determination, with the support of ACDH and the Pets Foundation.

National Equine Welfare Council (NEWC) membership achieved

After months of preparation, and thanks to the incredible talent, skill and dedication of the equine team, we were delighted to be welcomed as full members of the National Equine Welfare Council (NEWC).

In November 2024, we had a site visit to our North Wales rescue centre from the National Equine Welfare Council with regards to our application to join their organisation. They carried out a full inspection of our facilities, our operational policies and procedures and our care standards. We were over the moon to learn that we had been accepted for full membership in December 2024. It is testament to the hard work, care, commitment and dedication shown by our staff for the horses in our care. We passed the inspection without any recommendations for improvement. The NEWC wrote on their own social media platforms:

“We are delighted to welcome **Freshfields Animal Rescue** as a new member of NEWC 🎉

- With over 45 years of experience in equine rescue, rehabilitation, and rehoming, Freshfields is committed to delivering exceptional care at their 19-acre sanctuary in North Wales. Joining NEWC reinforces their dedication to equine welfare and provides opportunities to collaborate, share expertise, and address key welfare challenges across the UK”.

We currently have 60 horses and ponies out ‘on loan’ which allows us to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome other equines in need. We have a waiting list for horse owners who do not want their horses to go anywhere else but Freshfields. We offer full follow-up support, which gives loaners the peace of mind that should they no longer be able to continue to care for their charges, Freshfields would always welcome them home.

The Equine team have gained a much-deserved reputation for excellence in the local and horse communities. Here is a great example of why that is.

CYMRO’S STORY

Cymro was admitted with terrible sores on his muzzle. We were shocked to see his wounds. He had very painful sores on his lips and mouth, and we were not surprised to hear that he hadn't been eating.

After many vet visits and blood tests, we were relieved to hear that there was nothing sinister going on. The damage was most likely caused by the sun and toxic burns from plants, such as St. John’s Wort, buckwheat, perennial ryegrass and whiteheads. However, poor Cymro had obviously been suffering for some time. With love and care from our amazing equine staff, we were able to make a difference and quickly improve his condition.

Cymro on his first day at Freshfields



As with all animals, we take precautions to keep our horses and ponies safe in sunny weather. We use both sunblock and UV horse masks, to help keep our lighter coloured horses and ponies safe from the effects of the sun.

Cymro was closely monitored by our equine staff, and we had to limit his time outdoors in the first few weeks to allow his wounds to heal.

Cymro recovering after 4 weeks (below).



Horses with little or no pigmentation, such as greys, palominos, duns, or cremellos, are more prone to sunburn. Any areas with white hair or pink skin will be sensitive to sunlight. White face markings and legs can also be affected. Sunburn can be painful, and it damages the skin which may lead to secondary infections spread by flies or insects.

Typically, areas where there is no hair, like the muzzle and eyelids, are affected. Grey horses, those with a lot of chrome, or pintos with large sections of white coat, can also be more prone to photosensitization.

Some plants that cause primary photosensitivity are also known to induce liver damage, something that we suspected was affecting Cymro.

After medication and Vitamin B12 injections his blood test showed his liver function close to normal. He started to blossom and began to enjoy the company of human and equine friends.



Cymro is a happy, confident boy who is well integrated into his herd. We're delighted to see that he has a blossoming 'bromance' with his friend Sage, and they will play together for hours in the fields. It's heartwarming to see them both together, without a care in the world. YOU have made that possible.

Going the extra mile for our ponies

In the beautiful countryside of our North Wales rescue centre, we are close to nature, and often at the mercy of the elements. Things can get a little muddy, and the surfaces can become uneven and gritty. Some of our horses and ponies have laminitis, and we needed to help them when they struggled to walk.

We were very grateful to our friends at Animal Friends Insurance for their kind donation of mud mats. Harvey's hooves are no longer very sore, and his life has been made much more comfortable and his health and wellbeing greatly improved.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Catrin from Animal Friends dropped in to help us put the mats down, and meet some of the ponies whose lives would be improved by the mud mats.





TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Harvey was also measured up for his very own special horse-shoes, to help him with the pain in his hooves. He was happy to model them for us, and we agreed that he looks fantastic. Harvey now has a new lease of life, and it's wonderful to see him enjoying life in the fields with his friends.





TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

STRATEGIC AIM – CONNECT

Welcome to Ben, our new Freshfields Rescue Representative

Ben Leggat joined Freshfields Animal Rescue in August 2024, but his connection to the charity goes back much further. Ben has long been a familiar face at fundraising events, where he regularly volunteered his time to support our work. When a role became available, he saw a brilliant opportunity to turn his passion into a profession.

As Rescue Representative, Ben leads communications for the Wales Centre, helping Freshfields become more visible and proactive across North Wales and within the local community. He plays a key role at fundraising events, where his enthusiasm and networking skills help introduce Freshfields to new audiences and attract vital support.



Fluent in Welsh, Ben is committed to making sure our Welsh-speaking supporters can engage with our materials in their chosen language, ensuring that our message reaches everyone in a way that feels inclusive and respectful.

Ben brings a wealth of experience to the role, having worked as a Manager in the charity retail sector and in the sports media industry. A passionate football fan, he has served as Commercial Manager and Media Officer for several Welsh football clubs and holds multiple coaching qualifications within the sport. His broad skill set, community focus, and deep commitment to animal welfare make him a great addition to the Freshfields team.

We look to collaborate with positive and trusted people and organisations whenever we can. The scale of the challenges facing animals can only be surmounted with the help and support of a broad community, from many different walks of life, brought together by a desire and determination to make the world a better place for rescued animals.

Welcome Rosa, our new Volunteer Co-ordinator

Rosa came to Freshfields in November, and her role covers both rescues in Merseyside and North Wales, all the fabulous Charity shops and everything in between. Rosa's job is to recruit and retain volunteers, and ensure that our 164 fantastic volunteers have the very best experience possible, in whatever role they are involved in.

Rosa was soon making connections at the Volunteer Centre, Sefton Community and Volunteer Network, local groups and schools and colleges, as well as promoting our Volunteer Programme on local media. Rosa has previously worked as a 1:1 Special Educational Needs Teaching Assistant in a Reception class, and at Ronald McDonald House Charities next to Alder Hey hospital, looking after the families of the children in Alder Hey.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024



Connecting with local people

Volunteers - We are blessed to have the vital support of 164 volunteers who make it possible for us to take on the essential daily work in our Welsh rescue, Liverpool rescue, five charity shops and communities. They are some of our most powerful advocates for the animals.

We couldn't be more grateful for our volunteers. We know full well that we could not run our rescues without their love and generosity. We have newbies joining our long-established volunteers, helping on Reception, as Community ambassadors, cat care and kennels support.

Our volunteers help us in such a wide range of roles, from student placements, veterinary placements, animal care and fostering to fundraising, maintenance and community reps and of course board members.

We owe our gratitude and respect to every volunteer, whether they have been with us for 25 years or just a day or two. We can't do it without you.

BREDA – 25 years of being a star!

We want to say an enormous THANK YOU to one of our special volunteers, Breda, as we celebrate everything she has done for Freshfields Animal Rescue during the past 25 years.

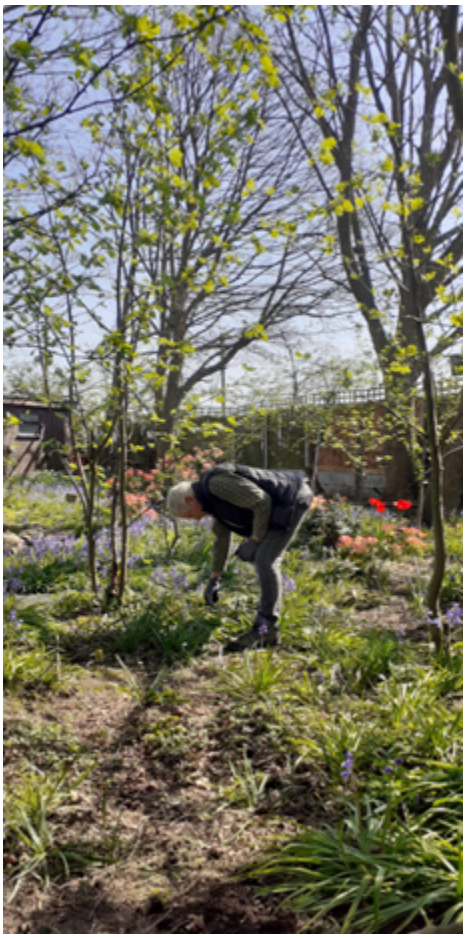
Breda, you've been at the heart of Freshfields since the beginning. We see how much you do, in every single part of the rescue, from the minute we get to the front door. Your presence is everywhere, and your green fingers are legendary! You make the place look so loved and cared for with your bright, beautiful plants and flowers.

We see how much you love all the animals and birds, and especially the tender, loving care you give to the wildlife garden. Your calm and sensitive presence, with even our most troubled and frightened dogs, has helped hundreds of them to heal and grow. The many cats you've taken into your home, and fostered until the time is right, have gone on to happy homes and new lives, because of your gentleness, patience and generosity.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

We know that you've stayed with us through thick and thin, through many changes and through the hardest of times. You've sought no reward other than to be with the animals you love, and to give them the safety and security they need.



We've heard about your skill and sensitivity with dogs like Jackson, (pictured) who so desperately needs the special bond that you have built with him. You've won the trust of so many of the dogs you have walked, helping them to play and enjoy life again.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024



We have you to thank for creating the Wildlife Garden, which you have tended single-handedly tended for many years. From topping up the bird-feeding stations to providing a safe haven for local wildlife, your attention to their needs is truly touching. The garden is also a place of tranquillity for us humans. Somewhere to retreat to, reflect and gather our thoughts.

You're here in sunshine and in rain, and you've never let the animals down.

Everyone needs a Breda in their lives. We're so glad that you're in ours.

THANK YOU so much for your incredible years of dedication and devotion to the animals. Thank you, Breda, for making the world a better place for everyone at Freshfields.

Community Partners – We are delighted to be working alongside Riverside Housing, Plus Dane Housing and Onward to connect with local communities with our preventative outreach work. We will bring together our networks in animal welfare and health and social care for people to support stable environments for pets and their people.

Rescue partners – We have supportive relationships with many local vets and rescues as well as rescues across the UK through our Association for Dogs and Cats Homes networks. We work alongside the RSPCA on trap, neuter and release work in north Wales, receive invaluable support from Cats Protection in form of neuter vouchers, and engage in community support projects to provide pet food to food banks and smaller rescues, and provide care packages to homeless pet owners alongside the 'Care for the Paw' veterinary team.

We would again like to thank Bill Esterson MP for his recognition of the value of animal rescue charities like Freshfields and his appreciation of our valuable contribution in our communities.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Connecting with local businesses

Pets at Home Store Partnerships – our partnerships with Penny Lane Liverpool and Bangor in Wales provides us with opportunities to connect with people to encourage adoptions, support and increase awareness of animal welfare issues.



The store staff do an incredible job of raising funds for our animals throughout the year and providing free pet food. We were happy to attend the Christmas Fair at the Bangor store, giving local children the opportunity to get to know us and learn about how we care for ponies like Harvey and Celyn.

We look forward to continuing our partnership, raising awareness of our work in the local community, and raising funds for the animals whose lives we save every year.

Smedley Hydro Charity of the Year 2023-24

We were delighted to be chosen by the Passport, Citizenship and Civil Registration Department at Smedley Hydro in Southport as one of their Charities of the Year for 2024. They held a staff Wellbeing Day, raffle and events to raise money for the animals and spread the word.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Dunelm Delivering Joy at Christmas!

Thank you all the staff and customers at Dunelm Sefton for your Delivering Joy to Rescue Animals at Christmas Campaign! The gifts arrived in plenty of time for the animals to open on Christmas Day. You certainly delivered joy and happiness, and we are delighted to hear that we have again been chosen as a Christmas Charity for 2025.



Southport Pleasureland

Thank You to Norman Wallis and his wonderful staff for choosing an animal rescue charity as their community partner for the summer of 2024. Visitors donated food, toys and treats, as well as 50p from every family ticket to Adventure Coast.



TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Corporate Volunteer Days

We would like to thank the volunteer groups that help keep our site from falling apart. Our animals have no respect for the fixtures and fittings! It's a big help to have these extra pairs of hands to do the painting, decorating, fence-building, lawn-mowing and many other tasks too numerous to mention. Big thanks to the teams from Suez Recycling UK, Cargill plc, EMCOR and the Passport and Citizenship Office.

We have an incredible rescue community – including YOU!

We are constantly encouraged and humbled by the thousands of truly wonderful people who connect with us every year to prevent suffering of animals in their area.

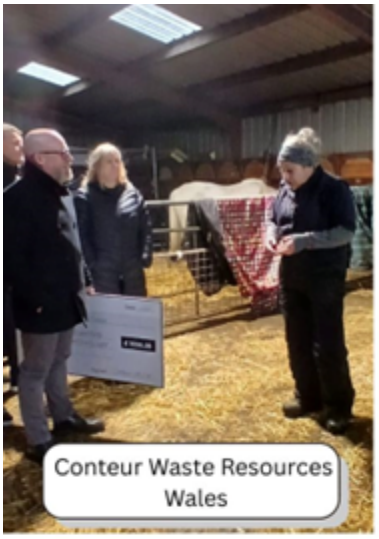
We value our supporters immensely and literally cannot thank them enough. We are trying our best to communicate regularly with our supporters and show them the lives they have transformed. We will continue to improve how we connect and express our impact and gratitude.

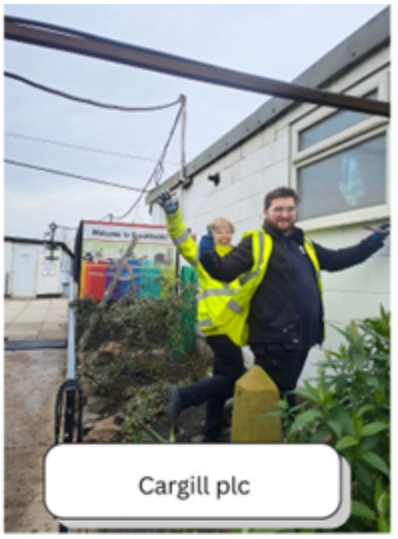
Here are just a few:

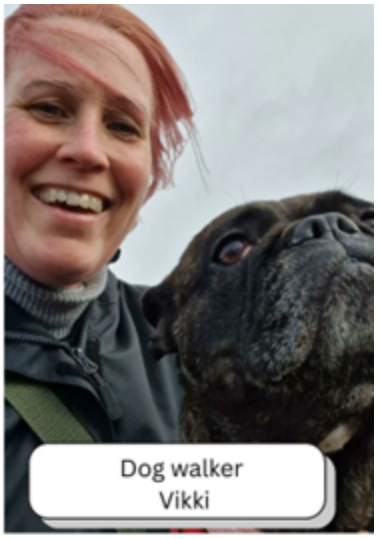
FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

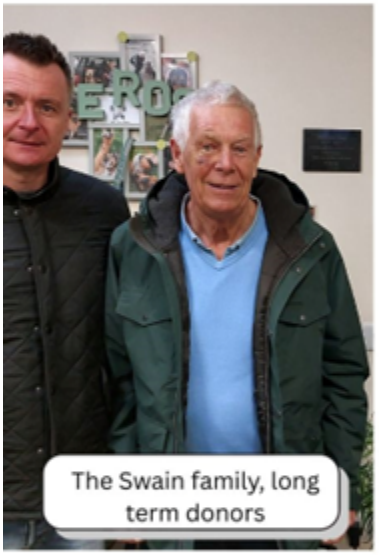
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

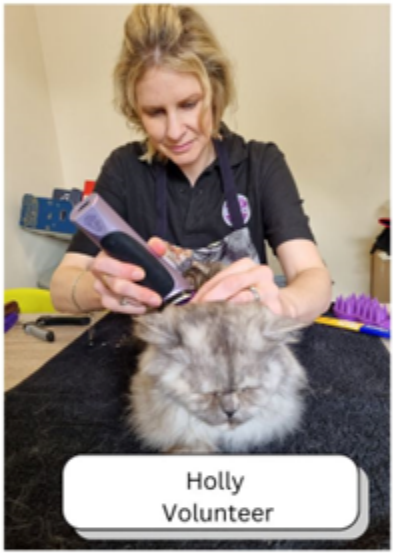
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024


Conteur Waste Resources Wales

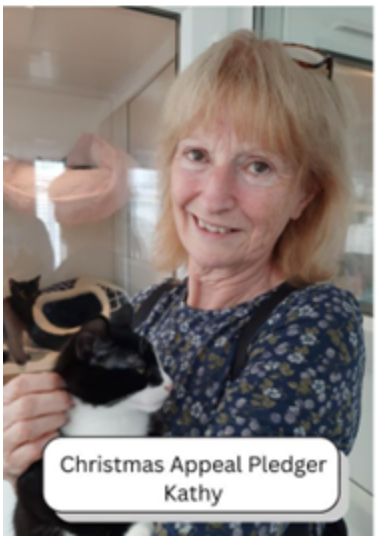

Cargill plc


Dog walker Vikki

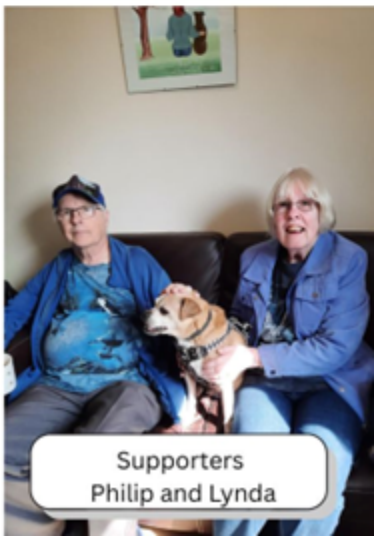

The Swain family, long term donors


Holly Volunteer




Christmas Appeal Pledger Kathy


volunteers Sandra and Sue


Supporters Philip and Lynda

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

LOOKING FORWARDS TO 2025 AND BEYOND

It is a pleasure each year to reflect on our achievements when producing our annual report. Despite the relentless challenges, we are unrelenting and achieving a lot of positive change each year. We are on track with our strategic plan and timescale. We have a solid team that we are immensely proud of. We will continue to protect our achievements in terms in rescue impact and care quality, and will soon be reporting on some innovative and bold preventative work.

You make it all possible. Every year we are blown away by your continued support and faith in us that we will do you proud. Thank you.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation number 1160348, registered using the Foundation model that were adopted on 28 January 2015.

Trustees

With key responsibility for governing and directing the work of the organisation, the contribution of our Trustees has never been more important. Our Volunteer Trustees ensure we deliver on our charitable purposes, comply with our ethics, and meet our legal obligations. They do so with vision, drive and a sense of duty. Combining knowledge of rescue management, finance, IT, legal and social work with a passion for the protection of wildlife, farmed and companion animals, the Board provides oversight along with practical and moral support to the delivery teams.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

J Young	
D Nixon	(Resigned 5 September 2024)
A Armstrong	
D Martin	
D Cox	
C Pope	(Appointed 6 February 2024)

Recruitment and appointment of the Management Committee

The Trustees appoint members of the Executive and Management Teams as and when appropriate. We aim for a balance of skills, experience and knowledge in our Board of Trustees, combined with a passion to make the world a better place for vulnerable animals. We were delighted to welcome Chrissy Pope, who brings with her 20 years' experience as a senior manager in the NHS, a wealth of HR, Operational Management and Change Management experience, and a passion for animal welfare. Each Trustee receives a full induction into the history, values and mission of Freshfields Animal Rescue, and every individual contributes their skills to benefit the management and development of our work.

Recruitment of new Trustees

Trustees are appointed through a structured recruitment process, involving a formal application and a democratic Trustee voting process to ensure that new Trustees add value and expertise to the organisation. Trustees are appointed by agreement with the existing Trustees. There are no paid employees on the Board.

We would like to thank all our Trustees for their commitment to protecting and upholding the ethics and principles of Freshfields Animal Rescue, for their care in safeguarding the assets and resources of the organisation, and for their contribution of skills and knowledge for the benefit of the animals.

Related parties

There are no related parties.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements 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 of the charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. 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.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

.....
J Young
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Dated: .....

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Freshfields Animal Rescue (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including 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 charity's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, 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 Charities Act 2011.

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 charity'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 other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees 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 charity’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 cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance;
- the charity's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- the results of our enquiries of management and members of the Board of Trustees of their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
- identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:

(i) The presentation of the charity's Statement of Financial Activities, (ii) revenue recognition, and (iii) the overstatement of salary and other costs. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Charities Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice - 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued by the joint SORP making body.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included Animal Welfare and Data Protection Regulations.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified the presentation of the charity's Statement of Financial Activities, revenue recognition and overstatement of wages and other costs as the key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud. The key audit matters section of our report explains the matters in more detail and also describes the specific procedures we performed in response to those key audit matters.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and members of the Board of Trustees concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant authorities where matters identified were significant;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council’s website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Other matters

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements 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)" (as amended) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with current Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees 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 charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited .....

Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Suites C,D,E, & F
14th Floor The Plaza
100 Old Hall Street
Liverpool
L3 9QJ

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	**3**	626,433	24,503	650,936	701,990	89,784	791,774
Charitable activities	**4**	49,507	-	49,507	36,709	-	36,709
Other trading activities	**5**	437,269	-	437,269	411,262	-	411,262
Other income	**6**	10,162	-	10,162	9,981	-	9,981
Total income		1,123,371	24,503	1,147,874	1,159,942	89,784	1,249,726
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	**7**	264,348	395	264,743	215,622	-	215,622
Charitable activities	**8**	1,230,424	25,963	1,256,387	1,164,540	30,371	1,194,911
Other expenditure		2,359	-	2,359	675	-	675
Total expenditure		1,497,131	26,358	1,523,489	1,380,837	30,371	1,411,208
Net expenditure and movement in funds		(373,760)	(1,855)	(375,615)	(220,895)	59,413	(161,482)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 January 2024		1,447,114	249,711	1,696,825	1,668,009	190,298	1,858,307
Fund balances at 31 December 2024		1,073,354	247,856	1,321,210	1,447,114	249,711	1,696,825

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**14**		667,738		713,348
Current assets					
Stocks	**15**	11,285		14,099	
Debtors	**16**	215,924		485,189	
Cash at bank and in hand		488,147		540,920	
		715,356		1,040,208	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**17**	(61,884)		(56,731)	
Net current assets			653,472		983,477
Total assets less current liabilities			1,321,210		1,696,825
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	**19**		247,856		249,711
Unrestricted funds	**20**		1,073,354		1,447,114
			1,321,210		1,696,825

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on .....

.....
J Young
Chair of the Board of Trustees

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash absorbed by operations	**26**		(37,072)		(186,164)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(18,101)		(197,270)	
Proceeds from disposal of tangible fixed assets		2,400		3,700	
Net cash used in investing activities			(15,701)		(193,570)
Net cash generated from financing activities			-		-
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents			(52,773)		(379,734)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			540,920		920,654
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			488,147		540,920

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Freshfields Animal Rescue is a charitable incorporated organisation, registered in the United Kingdom. The address of the principal office is East Lodge Farm, East Lane, Ince Blundell, Liverpool, L29 3EA. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are described in the Trustees' Report on pages 1 and 2.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 “The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland” (“FRS 102”) and the Charities SORP "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)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

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

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Donated facilities and donated professional services are recognised in income at their fair value when their economic benefit is probable, it can be measured reliably and the charity has control over the item. Fair value is determined on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity. For example, the amount the charity would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Report.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of generating funds includes expenditure on fund raising activities and head office overheads.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes costs associated with the operation and management of residential accommodation and welfare support services.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

Support costs are those that assist the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at headquarters. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a pro-rata basis consistent with the use of the resources.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 9.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended. Individual assets are capitalised on the balance sheet where their cost exceeds £500.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold property	4% per annum
Improvements to property	4% per annum
Plant and machinery	25% on reducing balance basis
Fixtures and fittings	5% / 25% on reducing balance basis
Motor vehicles	25% on reducing balance basis

Freehold land is not depreciated.

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 the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity 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 (if any).

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks 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.

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at 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.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through income and expenditure, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting date. Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected.

If an asset is impaired, the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been, had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the charity transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.13 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.14 Operating lease agreements

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged as an expense on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

1.15 Irrecoverable VAT

All resources expended are classified under activity headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category or resources expended for which it is incurred.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated 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 where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and gifts	302,713	-	302,713	356,888	20,250	377,138
Legacies	294,350	-	294,350	323,942	-	323,942
Grants	29,370	24,503	53,873	21,160	69,534	90,694
	626,433	24,503	650,936	701,990	89,784	791,774

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Charitable activities		
Adoptions	49,507	36,709

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Fundraising events	15,561	10,034
Shop income	421,708	401,228
Other trading activities	437,269	411,262

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Commission	10,162	9,981

7 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Fundraising and publicity						
Purchases	5,534	-	5,534	3,113	-	3,113
Rent and rates	45,531	-	45,531	44,805	-	44,805
Light and heat	11,506	-	11,506	9,800	-	9,800
Advertising	-	395	395	-	-	-
Other fundraising costs	24,903	-	24,903	13,673	-	13,673
Staff costs	40,666	-	40,666	29,564	-	29,564
Depreciation and impairment	260	-	260	243	-	243
	128,400	395	128,795	101,198	-	101,198
Trading costs						
Staff costs	135,948	-	135,948	114,424	-	114,424
Total costs	264,348	395	264,743	215,622	-	215,622

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Charitable activities 2024	Charitable activities 2023
	£	£
Direct costs		
Staff costs	838,236	745,753
Depreciation and impairment	58,692	54,732
Centre - restricted	1,708	7,749
Travel expenses	739	1,876
Grant spend	-	1,076
Vet fees	70,459	82,681
Animal food and care	38,245	29,887
Small equipment	2,129	4,142
Rates and water	1,780	1,154
Light and heat	48,599	56,482
Repairs and maintenance	19,762	25,596
Sundry expenses	1,699	4,962
Veterinary consumables	50,474	48,350
Hygiene and waste	29,240	22,921
Motor expenses	1,810	6,084
	1,163,572	1,093,445
Share of support and governance costs (see note 9)		
Support	80,452	92,616
Governance	12,363	8,850
	1,256,387	1,194,911
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	1,230,424	1,164,540
Restricted funds	25,963	30,371
	1,256,387	1,194,911

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

9 Support costs allocated to activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Insurance	27,387	26,013
Telephone	7,837	6,911
Postage and stationery	12,669	16,065
Bank charges	10,959	14,546
Computer expenses and consumables	5,849	5,325
Staff training	2,569	1,490
Legal and professional fees	13,182	22,266
Governance costs	12,363	8,850
	92,815	101,466
Analysed between:		
Charitable activities	92,815	101,466

10 Net movement in funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements	9,500	8,850
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	58,952	54,975
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	2,359	675

11 Trustees

The total remuneration paid to a trustee was £nil (2023 £nil). In addition pension contributions amounting to £nil (2023 £nil) were paid in respect of one trustee. Full details are provided in note 23.

There were no trustees' expenses reimbursed during the year ended 31 December 2024, nor for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel is £153,335 (2023 £163,652). The trustees consider the key management personnel to be; the Director, the Operations Manager (Wales, 2023 also includes Liverpool), Finance Manager, Fundraising Manager, and the Area Shops Managers (Liverpool and Wales).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Management and administration	6	8
Fundraisers	10	7
Animal workers	22	34
Total	38	49

Employment costs	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	947,348	823,767
Social security costs	50,662	49,442
Other pension costs	16,840	16,532
	1,014,850	889,741

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Aggregate compensation	167,835	179,146

13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from income tax on its charitable activities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property	Improvements to property	Plant and machinery	Fixtures and fittings	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost						
At 1 January 2024	170,968	840,615	159,057	2,004	64,683	1,237,327
Additions	-	2,605	13,896	-	1,600	18,101
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(6,735)	(6,735)
At 31 December 2024	170,968	843,220	172,953	2,004	59,548	1,248,693
Depreciation and impairment						
At 1 January 2024	65,405	305,786	124,989	1,159	26,640	523,979
Depreciation charged in the year	6,839	33,700	9,812	211	8,390	58,952
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	-	-	-	(1,976)	(1,976)
At 31 December 2024	72,244	339,486	134,801	1,370	33,054	580,955
Carrying amount						
At 31 December 2024	98,724	503,734	38,152	634	26,494	667,738
At 31 December 2023	105,563	534,829	34,068	845	38,043	713,348

15 Stocks

	2024	2023
	£	£
Animal feed, consumables and veterinary supplies	11,285	14,099

16 Debtors

	2024	2023
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Other debtors	10,722	12,447
Prepayments and accrued income	205,202	472,742
	215,924	485,189

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	16,396	12,039
Trade creditors	11,457	19,261
Other creditors	8,079	2,706
Accruals and deferred income	25,952	22,725
	61,884	56,731

18 Retirement benefit schemes

	2024	2023
Defined contribution schemes	£	£
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	16,840	16,532

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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

19 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£
	-	-	-	-
Dog Sensory Garden	22,197	-	(8,138)	14,059
New ambulance appeal	3,297	-	(1,099)	2,198
On-site vet room	8,150	-	(2,377)	5,773
Wales Centre improvements	30,896	-	(1,545)	29,351
The Pet Plan Charitable Trust	1,895	-	(632)	1,263
The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust	22,901	20,000	(2,485)	40,416
Doreen Greenlees Trust	4,400	-	(200)	4,200
Hill Dickinson	11,078	-	(503)	10,575
Animal Friends	-	2,128	(1,660)	468
Co-Operative Community Fund	66	-	(22)	44
Pets at Home	47,750	-	(1,990)	45,760
Support Adoption for Pets	75,102	-	(3,414)	71,688
Animal Defence Trust	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
Battersea	20,000	-	-	20,000
''Will Week'	44	-	(2)	42
Other	1,935	375	(291)	2,019
	249,711	24,503	(26,358)	247,856

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

19 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Previous year:	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£
Dog Sensory Garden	30,335	-	(8,138)	22,197
New ambulance appeal	4,396	-	(1,099)	3,297
On-site vet room	10,527	-	(2,377)	8,150
Wales Centre improvements	32,441	-	(1,545)	30,896
Frances Hayhurst	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
The Pet Plan Charitable Trust	2,527	-	(632)	1,895
The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust	14,386	11,000	(2,485)	22,901
Doreen Greenlees Trust	4,600	-	(200)	4,400
Hill Dickinson	11,581	-	(503)	11,078
Co-Operative Community Fund	88	-	(22)	66
Pets at Home	-	49,740	(1,990)	47,750
Support Adoption for Pets	78,516	-	(3,414)	75,102
Pet Plan	-	3,000	(3,000)	-
Animal Defence Trust	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
Battersea	-	20,000	-	20,000
''Will Week'	46	-	(2)	44
Other	855	2,044	(964)	1,935
	190,298	89,784	(30,371)	249,711

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

19 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Dog Sensory Garden donation

One of the charity's long term supporters and volunteers donated the proceeds of a personal investment to be used to landscape and provide agility equipment on the dog exercise field. A variety of textures (astroturf, rubber, grass, sand and stone) were included in the landscaping to provide a sensory experience for the dogs in the charities care.

New ambulance appeal

Donations were received to contribute to the purchase of a new Freshfields ambulance to replace the existing one.

On-site vet room

Funds were donated from Pet Plan and Caf Bank, and a general appeal for the construction of a vet room at the centre.

Wales Centre improvements

The Billy Meade Trust donated £50,000 for improvements of the Wales Centre. This included improvements to the cattery and electric repairs.

Pet Plan Charitable Trust

We were awarded £7,497 from Pet Plan Charitable Trust towards the cost of a new Animal Ambulance, replacing a vehicle which was unfit for purpose and enabling the safe and secure transport of animals.

Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust

The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust made an award for a new X-Ray machine for the Vet Room, enabling our vet to carry out routine X-rays on site and therefore reduce costs; further sums of £6,208 and £11,000 were provided for the construction of a new cattery unit, including cattery maternity pens.

Co-operative Community Fund

We were awarded funds to deliver much needed refurbishment and repairs to the structure of one of the Kennel blocks. The side walls had been damaged by leaks as the covering materials were no longer fit for purpose. These funds will ensure a safe, dry and comfortable environment for the dogs in the main areas in which they meet, greet and socialise.

Doreen Greenlees

The Doreen Greenless Charitable Trust donated £5,000 towards the cost of the Welcome Area in the development of the Animal Adoption Hub. This is to provide a warm, welcoming and well-equipped space for visitors and people who want to adopt an animal.

Hill Dickinson

Hill Dickinson solicitors contributed £12,587 towards the construction of the Animal Adoption Hub.

Support Adoption for Pets

This animal welfare charity donated £85,344 towards the construction of the Animal Adoption Hub.

'Will Week'

A donation of £50 was made towards the construction of the Animal Adoption Hub.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

19 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Frances Hayhurst

A grant of £2,000 was received for the provision of preventative medication for dogs and the payment of other veterinary fees.

Pets at Home

The Pets Foundation provided a grant of £49,740 towards the upgrading of the cattery unit at the Liverpool premises.

Pet Plan

A grant of £3,000 was received towards the cost of dog neutering and other veterinary fees.

Animal Defence Trust

A grant of £2,000 was received for animal welfare expenditure.

Battersea

A Paul O'Grady legacy donation of £20,000 was received for the upgrading of the vet room at the Liverpool premises.

Other

The other restricted funds comprise £855 received from the Co-Op Community Trust for the refurbishment of kennel blocks; a donation of £250 from The Gallimore Trust for dog neutering and other veterinary fees; a grant of £500 received from The William Dean Trust for veterinary bills for wildlife; and a miscellaneous grant of £1,294 received from the Henby Charity Trust.

20 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£
General funds	1,447,114	1,123,371	(1,497,131)	1,073,354

Previous year:	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£
General funds	1,668,009	1,159,942	(1,380,837)	1,447,114

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024
	£	£	£
At 31 December 2024:			
Tangible assets	460,434	207,304	667,738
Current assets/(liabilities)	612,920	40,552	653,472
	1,073,354	247,856	1,321,210

	Unrestricted funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Total 2023
	£	£	£
At 31 December 2023:			
Tangible assets	485,178	228,170	713,348
Current assets/(liabilities)	961,936	21,541	983,477
	1,447,114	249,711	1,696,825

22 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Within one year	41,867	44,459
Between two and five years	-	22,000
	41,867	66,459

23 Capital commitments

As at 31 December 2024 the entity had no capital commitments, being contracted for but not provided in the financial statements.

24 Related party transactions

In the opinion of the trustees there is no ultimate controlling party.

During the year the charity paid trustees insurance amounting to £762 (2023: £896).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

25 APB ethical standard

In common with many other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to prepare and submit returns to the tax authorities, assist with the preparation of the financial statements and to provide tax advice.

26 Cash absorbed by operations

	2024	2023
	£	£
Deficit for the year	(375,615)	(161,482)
Adjustments for:		
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	2,359	675
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	58,952	54,975
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	2,814	(2,173)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	269,265	(39,967)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	5,153	(38,192)
Cash absorbed by operations	(37,072)	(186,164)

27 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no material debt during the year.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

England & Wales - Charity number 1160348

Accounts

Charity registration number 1160348

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	J Young D Nixon A Armstrong D Martin D Cox
Charity number	1160348
Auditor	Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited 5 Temple Square Temple Street Liverpool L2 5RH
Bankers	Lloyds Bank plc 88-94 Church Street Liverpool Merseyside L1 3HD The Royal Bank of Scotland plc 15 Foregate Street Chester CH1 1HD Barclays Bank plc 5 - 6 Bangor Street Caernarfon Gwynedd Nth Wales LL55 1AE
Solicitors	Weightmans LLP 100 Old Hall Street Liverpool Merseyside L3 9QJ

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

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FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

CHAIRMAN AND DIRECTOR STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Welcome to the 2023 Annual Report and Accounts for Freshfields Animal Rescue.

This report is for you. The following pages demonstrate what we do, why we are needed more than ever, and how we plan to face the future, determined to make the world a better place for suffering, forgotten and abused animals. We will report the hard work, happy endings and the many achievements we have made together for vulnerable animals in 2023. None of this work could have happened without compassionate people coming together to deliver an excellent service for animals who have nowhere else to turn. We are immensely grateful for everyone who has been part of our mission this year. We've saved lives and given hope and a new future to many people and pets.

And yet….

The world of animal rescue is under intense pressure. The world continues to fail the animals we care for, whether they are popular companion animals, farmed animals, or wild animals. Over-breeding is out of control; poor environmental and food production practices remain prevalent, and defenceless animals are victims of social norms and cultural assumptions that enable people to consider animals lives as disposable and of less value than our own.

The latter part of the year was an extremely concerning time for anyone working in animal welfare. Our staff and volunteers gave everything they had to manage the impact of the XL Bully Type Ban and deal with the hundreds of requests for help from worried, responsible owners. We deal every day with the nightmare of 'back-yard' breeding and irresponsible pet ownership. We would very much appreciate government support with legislation, and solid investment to implement it, with income from the £8 billion pet industry.

The health and welfare of animals is the concern of all of us, and we consider that government has an important role to play in bringing about lasting improvement in their lives. We hope to see both the will and the resources to tackle pet breeding and buying and ensure that it is taken seriously.

Amidst these difficult times, we have had much to celebrate this year.

Our Wales Rescue centre marked its 21st Birthday with an Open Day, bringing together many of the people who have transformed thousands of lives there since the Wales Centre was established in 2002.

We took a brave decision to relocate the Farm animals to the larger Wales centre, where they have more space to roam and lush fields to enjoy, and where they are thriving and finding new homes.

We have made major investments in our facilities, put significant resources and time into the development and training of our staff, and received 2 Special Recognition funding awards.

We worked hard to maximise every precious resource to help more animals, do more with less, and achieve better outcomes. We brought together the staff, volunteers and an incredibly wide range of community individuals and business supporters to step up to the unprecedented level of need for our services.

We increased our reach on all our social media platforms, grew our supporter base, and developed more business and community partnerships, with many local businesses giving their time to volunteer and become part of our team on the ground.

Today, we look forward to the future with a clear-eyed sense of purpose. We think big. We have hope. We strive to meet seemingly overwhelming obstacles and intractable challenges. They may seem enormous, but we know we have you at our side.

We are determined to stand up for the animals, demand changes to systems that exploit animals, and channel our energies into eradicating the root causes of animal cruelty. We know that it is sometimes hard to hear about the ways in which animals suffer around the world. But we also know this: with our passion for protecting animals, our growing strength in numbers, and our questioning of harmful customs, we can win the hardest battles, one step at a time, together.

.....	.....
Jane Young	Emma Jensen
Chair	**Director**

Date: 2 October 2024

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "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) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

Freshfields Animal Rescue was founded in 1979, upon the simple premise that all life matters. That foundation has only grown stronger as the scope of our work has expanded. Today, more than 45 years on, equal consideration for every species of animal remains at the forefront of our work along with our promise to never put a healthy animal down and prevent suffering of any kind.

We recognise that the fate of animals is inextricably linked to the impact of human attitudes and actions. We are driven in our commitment to inform, support and initiate changes in peoples' actions, leading to a better future for us all.

Our Charitable Purpose

For the benefit of the public, to relieve the suffering of animals in need of care and attention and, in particular, to provide and maintain rescue homes, and other facilities for the reception, care and treatment of such animals; and to educate the public in matters pertaining to animal welfare in general and the prevention of cruelty and suffering among animals.

Our Mission

To make a great quality of life possible for all vulnerable animals.

Our Vision

A world where all people protect animals and value nature.

Public benefit

The trustees are satisfied that all of the activities undertaken by the charity in pursuance of its objects are for the benefit of the public.

The trustees have had due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Our People

Freshfields Animal Rescue is made up of a wonderful, diverse, and incredibly wide variety of people from all walks of life, ages, backgrounds and experiences. We are all united by an unwavering intention to stop the suffering of vulnerable animals. We welcome everybody who can help us achieve this. We always say that the team on the ground is just one part of our community: The rescue team includes our community supporters, whose broad contribution we value greatly and recognise are equally a part of the team as our staff and volunteers.

Our Staff

Working across 2 rescue centres and 5 charity shops we have 49 members of staff: 21 Full time and 28 part time. The decades of experience and the depth of expertise shared by the staff are essential in ensuring that we consistently maintain high standards of care, and that we are accountable to our funders, our supporters and donors, and that we put the welfare of the animals first at all times.

Our Volunteers

131 Volunteers bring life, energy and passion to our charity. They enrich our organisation and make it possible to release staff to attend to work which requires specialist knowledge and expertise. We are incredibly fortunate to have such kind and dedicated volunteers fulfilling a myriad of vital roles, some of whom have dedicated over 20 years to the rescue. We are grateful and humbled by their generosity and compassion. They truly are our real-life heroes and animal advocates.

Our Values

We value life – we will never put a healthy animal down or pass animals to rescues who may.

We value all life – equal assistance for every species of animal remains at the forefront of our work. We don't believe we are more worthy or more valuable than other species.

We value nature – we respect the natural world and are passionate advocates for improving our stewardship of the nature that sustains us all, and not abuse our advantages within that system.

We value excellent care – when we take responsibility for a life, we commit to doing it well.

We value compassion – We are motivated by empathy for animals who are suffering, and for people who need our help and support without judgement.

We value integrity – We deeply value and respect our supporters. We demonstrate our appreciation for the trust each supporter places in us by delivering on their expectations to help as many animals as we can, to do it well, with best use of every pound we are gifted for this work.

We value partnerships – We know we achieve lasting change by working better together.

We value responsibility – we believe every person can and should do something to make a positive difference, redress imbalances, and recognise the impacts we have on the lives of animals and wildlife

We value positivity – Every tough job can be maintained when you have the support of positive can-do people, who know they make a difference and encourage others to take decisive action.

Our Beneficiaries

Our primary beneficiaries are animals:

a. **Rescue, rehabilitate and rehome companion and farm animals** such as dogs, cats, horses, rabbits, birds, ferrets, terrapins, sheep, pigs, ducks, chickens, and more.

    a. **Rescue, rehabilitate and re-release struggling local wildlife** that most commonly includes hedgehogs and around 25 species of wild birds.

Our secondary beneficiaries are people:

a. **Adopters** – receive physical and mental health benefits from somebody to love, improved physical and emotional well-being, and opportunities to connect with others. In some cases, a reason to live.

b. **Surrenderers** – people struggling financially, physically or mentally; needing the reassurance that their pet will survive when faced with no option but to give them up.

c. **Volunteers** –131 volunteers this year have in various roles: accessed scarce work experience, made progress towards veterinary and animal welfare qualifications, improved their mental and physical health; gained a sense of belonging and purpose, enjoyed developing new skills, connections and work-experience

d. **Adults and Young people** - benefiting from their input and contribution to the conservation of local wildlife, they tell us that they have gained confidence and self-esteem through working with Freshfields. They recognise that they can make a difference, by taking simple actions to support nature's balance, with guidance from our Wildlife Team and learning points from the Wildlife Education sessions.

Some Stand-Out Statistics from 2023

50% of UK adults own a pet and 56% of UK adults say they are not able to meet the costs of unexpected vet bills	We provided 3456 medical treatments and 451 companion animals were neutered and microchipped.		97% of grant funders excluded animal rescue providers from applying for support
	We had 1067 emergency admittances into our rescue centres.	Hedgehogs have declined by between 30% – 75% across different areas of the countryside since 2000.	930 adults and young people accessed our community talks and educational resources.
Just 7 companion animals were put to sleep this year due to unresolvable health issues.	Of the 218 countries assessed for 'biodiversity intactness', the UK is ranked 189.		We have rescued, rehabilitated and released 25 different types of wild bird.
	We provided 2218 owners with advice and personal support in the community.	99% of vets have been asked to euthanise a healthy animal.	We secured 222 foster care placements for rescued animals.
39% of UK horse owners say the cost of living has had a medium or high impact on their ability to keep their horse	We secured safe, loving forever homes for 416 pets		Canine fertility clinics have increased from just 37 in 2020, to over 300 in 2023.

Our Five-Year Strategy – Overview and Progress

We are two years into our Five-year strategy for 2022-2027. The first two years have been concentrated on building resilience for the future by improving our core functions to ensure we succeed in our mission. To robustly respond to ever-growing need, we must, as care providers, deliver our services well, 365 days a year.

We have implemented our strategic aims in 2023 by focusing on helping as many animals as possible and doing it very well. The next three years will see us expanding our preventative work and developing mature and meaningful partnerships, to help more animals and to do it better than ever.

Our Five-Year Strategy connects 5 elements for long-lasting change:

Succeed – animals and nature are depending on us. We take that responsibility very seriously, and we must be successful in making a positive difference for them. We recognise the importance of strong leadership, accountability, adaptability, staff expertise, and of making the very best use of every precious resource.

Respond – be able to meet the needs of as many vulnerable animals as possible. We aim to increase our ability to rescue and respond to the urgent needs of 70% more animals in the next five years.

Prevent - animal suffering and the human actions that often cause it, by committing 25% of our resources to rescue and preventative work

Excel – carry out every task and deliver every aspect of our work to a very high standard. We do this by investing in our teams and facilities and always challenging ourselves to be improve our practice and our abilities to achieve more for the animals

Connect – join with others to do more, change more, learn more and share more. We are ever mindful that we are but one cog in a massive community effort.

We measure progress towards our Strategic aims using the following methods:

- Annual Action Plans with timed aims and objectives
- Annual figures collating demand for our services, community support, intake, medical treatments, preventative interventions, rehoming and release.
- Interpreting this data to identify gaps in provision and rise to the challenge of meeting them
- Expenditure monitoring and control by department and year.
- External quality standard inspections by the Association of Dogs and Cats Homes
- Output and outcome reports to Funding organisations and the Fundraising Regulator.
- Case studies
- Staff feedback and development records
- Supporter surveys and feedback

Delivering and Progressing our Priority Aims in 2023

STRATEGIC AIM - SUCCEED

We have coordinated whole-rescue Action Plans prepared for full implementation for next year. Our excellent managers and Unit Heads have robust, relevant and clear plans which will ensure effective communications and reporting across all sites and teams, enabling us to make and monitor progress as one rescue.

We have made some exciting investments in the staff teams at each of the rescues. We now have two exceptional vets and vet nurse who are providing incredible care. Our staff have welcomed opportunities to learn more about veterinary care, clinical diagnosis and medical conditions. We employed a Trustee with substantial rescue management experience as Operations Manager for the Liverpool rescue, who is also providing behavioural work training to the kennels team. We recruited an experienced Head of Farm to boost the potential of that section and had our Cattery Head attend an intensive training programme at Battersea Cats and Dogs Home. The cascading of this knowledge has informed the training and development of the cattery staff in preparation for the opening of our new Cattery facility.

We have improved our management accounting system set up to provide insightful financial management information for each individual unit from the end of the year. This will inform our ability to make sound financial and budget decisions and identify priorities for improvement and cost/benefit to animals, making maximum use of the funds we receive.

Financial

Our overall income this year is £1,249,726 which is within our expected annual income range. By comparison, 2022 was exceptionally and unusually successful with a total income of £1,579,920.

Our expenditure increased by £24k to £1,411,208 which continues a growing trend of rising costs in every aspect of our work.

Income

Gifts in Wills continue to be our most vital source of funds, covering a significant 30% of our annual costs. This year legacies were much lower than average at £323,942. We were able to bridge that gap to cover our daily care needs with the additional legacy income from 2022, and also use those gifts to cover funding gaps for vital investments in our Cattery and Wildlife facilities.

We are grateful beyond words to the wonderful and compassionate supporters below, who have enabled us to develop facilities fit for the future that help us help more animals better. We are ever mindful of our responsibility to make our legators and their families proud. Our deepest appreciation and gratitude goes to:

Mary Elizabeth Mackert
Evelyn Budd
Patricia Heath
Margaret Helen Nolan
Gordon Merritt
George Edward Spence
Jean Ann Squire
Heulwen Riley
Paul Anthony Leckie
Ruth Stott
Betty Lomas
Joyce Barratt
Marguerite Kent
Susan Elizabeth Cuthell
Margaret Mary Parr
Edwin Paul Rogers
Alexander Joseph Williams
Gwendoline Ware
Ivy Olive Carr

Income from fundraising events was reduced by £20,000 this year as we chose to direct limited capacity into areas that achieve more funds with less resource input, and develop more sustainable fundraising methods. We do recognise the importance of connecting with our supporters through face to face events, and very much look forward to being able to increase the open days and community events in the near future.

Income from general donations resulting from demonstrating our impact and engaging with valued supporters has seen an increase by £50,000 this year, which is a significant gain from a £60,000 reduction last year. In the context of the cost-of-living crisis, and its disproportionate impact on many of our local communities, this indicates that we are taking the right approach.

Our charity shops continue to go from strength to strength, thanks to the consistently hard work of the shop managers, and their committed, loyal and passionate team of volunteers who arrive every day with a determination to get every penny possible to transform the lives of the animals. The shops are a hub and focus of communication in the local communities they serve, with many customers returning year after year and becoming part of the Freshfields wider community. The shops ensure that we increase our reach to represent the plight of vulnerable animals in the North West and Wales. We take additional pride in this approach as it is environmentally sound to recycle and repurpose goods, and it is of enormous value to people who are struggling with the cost of living.

Community Fundraising and Partnerships

Our most dedicated supporters once again kick started our Hope for the Hopeless End of Year Appeal, making it our most successful appeal to date, in a crucial year when gifts in will donations were low. Our endless gratitude goes to them and everyone who gave money to rescue animals in these challenging personal times.

In August 2023 Morecrofts Solicitors LLP celebrated 2 years of support raising £10,800 for Freshfields with a visit to the rescue centre. Between us, we have been able to support people in crisis, and the knock-on effect to their pets. What a fantastic local business and great bunch.

Thank you to every single one of our community rescue team, taking personal action to raise lifesaving funds. These include the Lady Captain of Deanwood Golf Club, Vicki Handley, with her Charity Putting Challenge and sponsored events raising £3,360, and the continued annual support from Fitsteppers Charity Danceathon event raising £850.

We would again like to thank Bill Esterson MP for his recognition of the value of animal rescue charities like Freshfields and his appreciation of our valuable contribution in our communities.

Trust Funding: We have achieved £50,000 in grants from trusts, foundations and funders as we demonstrate what we can achieve with their support. We are especially thankful to these organisations who have the insight and understanding that our work supports actions which address the injustices and suffering of animals, largely as a result of human actions, when 99% of other funding organisations still choose people as their sole beneficiaries. This needs to change, until then we are grateful for every organisation and individual who steps up to help.

Paul O'Grady Fund.

We were deeply honoured to learn that Paul's family and representatives chose Freshfields as one of 5 community rescue centres to each receive £20,000 from Paul's legacy fundraiser via Battersea Cats and Dogs Home. We are planning to create a much-needed bespoke vet consult space besides our on-site surgery in Liverpool. We want to say a big Thank You to Paul and his family for entrusting this special purpose to us. We will ensure that Paul's legacy lives on, in the excellent medical treatments and loving care that will be provided in this new space.



Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust

We were delighted to receive £11,000 from the Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust, as part of their 40th Anniversary Awards Programme. The Trust gave discretionary awards to 10 charities that they have supported regularly over the past 40 years, and we want to say a big Thank You for this special seal of approval. The funds were used to develop our ability to rehome more cats more quickly, in our new, fully equipped Cattery facility.

Our Director Emma Jensen said:

'The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust have been a staunch supporter of the animals at Freshfields for over 12 years. You have had the vision to identify the core issues, backed up with the practical support to help us be there for animals in desperate need. You have saved the lives and transformed the future for hundreds of abandoned, abused and neglected animals, who are alive and thriving, thanks to the Trust'.

We would like to thank the Rose Animal Welfare Trust for their kind donation of £5000 for medical care costs, helping us to ensure that the animals get the care they need.

The Animal Defence Trust awarded £1500 to help us to upgrade our Hedgehog Hospital, providing a warm, safe, secure space in which our sick and injured hogs can recover and gain the weight they need to survive another hard winter.



The Hemby Trust awarded £1000 towards the upgraded bird enclosures. After the temporary drop due to the pandemic and to the outbreak of Avian Flu last year, the numbers of birds needing our care rose again in 2023. The new caging units provide safe, clean accommodation facilities for our birds, whilst we monitor their health and carry out their rehabilitation plans.

The Tesco Community Grants Programme supported us with £1,500 for dog enrichment items, such as puzzles, games, toys, Licki Mats and calming toys. It is vital that dogs who are anxious or have been ill-treated are gently encouraged to play and enjoy games and interactions with humans, and these enrichment toys and treats allow our rescue dogs the simple pleasures they so deserve.

We are deeply grateful to the following Trusts and Foundations for their support with veterinary costs and general purposes:

Pet Plan Charitable Trust
Alice Noakes Memorial Fund
Blakemore Foundation
Doreen Greenlees Discretionary Will Trust
Mrs D M France-Hayhurst Charitable Trust
Mayor of Sefton Charity Fund
Sylvanus Charitable Trust
Walker 597 Animal Trust

Castanea Trust
Lockett Trust
The Charity of Stella Symons
Anthony and Deirdre Montagu Trust
Baker Family Charitable Trust
Robert and Evelyn Maud Hall Trust
William Dean Countryside Trust

Financial Sustainability

Expenditure this year was £1,411,208 compared to £1,386,959 the previous year. We are still subject to the impact of the following factors:

National Minimum Wage increase. We wholeheartedly support this for our deserving and hard-working staff, who sacrifice their personal gain, and needs, to their commitment to preventing animal suffering. We also recognise that this does place extra pressure to increase our income.

Brexit impact on vet medicine increases which are chiefly sourced from Europe. We continue to experience difficulties with supply shortages and cost increases. Wholesale vet-advised foods coming from Europe combine to increase this area of expense here by 40%. As veterinary care costs are our most substantial expense after staff, this presents a significant additional pressure.

The continued increase in utility costs We are pleased to report that despite cost increases in multiple areas, we are achieving 70p in every pound going directly to the care of the animals. This compares favourably with 69p last year, 65p the year before and a historical average of 68p, after all fundraising and management costs have been covered. Our direct care and support cost ratio is on par with other charities who take a responsible view to ensuring we can protect, sustain and grow what we have achieved to date.

We are committed to making the most of every penny, in the way that our supporters would expect.

Reserves policy: To ensure we are sustainable and responsible; we endeavour to maintain a reserve of around £600,000 which would ensure the running of the charity for 6 months. Currently unrestricted reserves amount to £1,447,114 of which £713,348 is reflected in tangible fixed assets. This has taken us within our reserve target to £733,766 due to strategic investments.

STRATEGIC AIM - RESPOND

We never lose sight of why we do this work. Everything we do is in pursuit of our goal to meet the needs of as many animals as possible.

In 2023, we were able to provide direct care via admittance into our rescues for a total of 1067 animals. We recognised that animal intake to our site would reduce for a year whilst we made important improvements to make us future-fit in our Wildlife, Small Animals and Cattery Units.

Farm animals lived their lives free from fear at Freshfields, as they have done since our beginnings. They remained with us for the first part of the year as we halted further intake in preparation for their move to the green pastures at our Wales centre over the summer. We retained some chickens in Liverpool and welcomed our much-loved and legendary sheep, pigs and ducks into the welcoming arms and expert care of the Welsh team. This went incredibly smoothly and successfully, much to our relief and with enormous thanks for the persistence and dedication of all involved in the move,

Wildlife and Small Animals Unit– We are delighted to have rebuilt and improved the largest section of the unit for better use of space, improved ventilation and light. This took nine months and we had to accept that the numbers of animals we could help would reduce during this time but would have substantial long-term benefits for small animals and wildlife in the future.

Avian flu meant we were unable to take water birds for a large part of the year. Despite these challenges, the commitment of the staff and volunteers saw them overcome any obstacles that were put in front of them. They admitted over 500 wild and small animals this year.

The staggering rise in pet relinquishments is keenly felt in our Small Animals Unit. Requests to take in unwanted small animals continues to outstrip our capacity to take them in, and we do our utmost to help them, sometimes co-ordinating with other rescue centres to help to find them a rescue space.

Until we can effect significant change in the public's habits, we need to double the size of the current unit to address this issue. We have upgraded the quality of the current facilities to provide the best possible environment for the rabbits, domestic birds, ferrets, Guinea pigs, hamsters and terrapins we care for each year.

The Liverpool Cattery had a substantial rebuild and development, to the absolute delight of the Cattery team and everyone at the rescue. We were unable to admit during and prior to the work but still managed to keep rescuing the most urgent cases with the other blocks and the help of our fantastic foster carers. We look forward to reporting our bounce back next year.

MARCUS'S STORY

Marcus came in to Freshfields at 2 months old. His mum was a feral/farm cat that a kind lady had been feeding.





We noticed that Marcus had a severe injury to the inside of his front right leg. He was taken to the vets that day and the wound was debrided, cleaned and dressed, with Marcus under anaesthetic.

For the next 4 weeks we took him to the vets twice a week, for wound cleaning and dressing changes and to enable the vet to monitor Marcus's progress. After 4 weeks the vet was very pleased with his condition; he was discharged as the wound had completely healed and Marcus's health was even better than the vet had hoped for.

The cost of all this treatment came in at just under £1000.

Marcus made a full recovery, and after neutering and vaccinations, he has now found a wonderful loving home!

His new family tell us that he has become a playful, loving family pet, with a great personality and very affectionate nature. They tell us that he has brought much joy into their lives.

From frightened and alone to a beloved and cherished pet – it's amazing how, working together, we can transform the lives of abandoned, abused and neglected animals and give them a future full of love.

The Wales Cattery is well established and benefiting from a continuum of care for cats and kittens at all stages of their lives, from 1-day old newborns to 20 year old beloved semi-feral cats. Our maternity unit and incubator for vulnerable kittens helped save the lives of 2 one-day old kittens. They were brought in by a supporter who found them on waste ground in Anglesey.



Our friend had observed a heavily pregnant cat and been keeping an eye on her, and the next day she found the new-borns with no mum in sight. She brought them to us immediately. It was touch and go but they made it!

At the other end of the age spectrum is Dorothy. She was very nervous around people for a long time. She came in with her 5 kittens and had been living in the fields nearby. When Covid hit, and the rescue centre was closed to visitors, Dorothy decided that humans weren't so bad after all. She began to come into the office and rub around the staff's legs, and eventually began enjoying gentle pets, then a full-on fuss! We just couldn't believe the difference after all that time!



Today, Dorothy is very much Top Cat, and spends time happily interacting with the staff. We see her with her good friend Mari, enjoying exploring in the fields and basking in the sun.

The strong leadership, commitment and dedication embedded in our team has seen them consistently flourish with effective rehoming and excellent care. The team are supporting the Trap Neuter Release work of the local RSPCA branch, and making an important contribution by sourcing homes for semi-feral cats.

The Kennels team have been sorely tested this year. We faced the impact of the XL Bully type Ban and its impact on the rescue and the community. We diverted efforts and launched a major campaign to secure responsible forever homes for the potential XL bully 'type' dogs in our care, and followed up with specialist behavioural support to ensure their success. We are much relieved to be sent photos of them, having adventures on paddleboards and snuggled up with their new dog friends safe and sound.



We acted as a vital point of advice and guidance to desperate owners requiring help with the exemption process and its terms. We had an increase in calls for XL rescue that we couldn't help with and which was crushing for us all. We are seeing more dogs present with behavioural issues, and we have enlisted additional support for them with a Certified Clinic Animal Behaviourist which has been positive. Throughout, we have pushed on to keep rehoming and fulfilling our promise to change lives for the better for as many dogs as we possibly could.

And the usual emergencies continued..

PUMPKIN'S STORY

Pumpkin arrived with us in 25th March 2023. He was abandoned in a pumpkin patch near to the Liverpool rescue centre. He was terrified and in very poor condition.



Pumpkin was taken into the rescue and warmed up, as he was shaking with cold and fear. Poor Pumpkin was in a really bad state. He was underweight, covered in scabs, and very nervous. He needed urgent medical treatment for his skin, and special vitamin supplements to help him to regain weight. Pumpkin was fortunate to spend the next 3 months recovering in a foster home, with James, our receptionist, with whom he created a really close bond. In this time Pumpkin started to really find his feet and personality.

With lots of love and gentle encouragement, Pumpkin gradually became less nervous around people, and began to slowly trust humans again. He was gently introduced to other people and animals, which set him up very well for his forever home. We are delighted to report that Pumpkin has now been adopted by his new family, Dany and Tom, and he has a big brother, Bruce, to show him the ropes and to share adventures with. He apparently loves going on the train and enjoys all the love and security of a forever loving home, after that frightening start.



Equine team have gained much better public awareness year on year since they adapted their promotion methods during Covid. A welcome impact! The boost in horses rehomed has been fantastic, and it's great to see the team's expertise recognised in the local and horse communities.

AXEL'S STORY

We never give up hope for finding a loving home for EVERY ONE of our animals, and that included Axel, a cheeky chap who was one of the first ponies to be rescued by our Wales centre. Found injured on Dartmoor, Axel was in poor health, but once safe and cared for at Freshfields, his personality began to shine through. Axel had been waiting over 10 years for his special someone to come along. It needed to be someone who could cope with Axel's hobbies, which include planning to get into mischief, getting into mischief, and enjoying being mischievous.



We were overjoyed for Axel when 2023 proved to be his year, and he trotted off to his forever home with Jenny, his new companion. It was an emotional day when we waved him goodbye, and we hear he is living his life to the full in his new home.



STRATEGIC AIM - EXCEL

We continually evaluate our services to determine how we can help more animals and do it better. Some of our most significant standard improvements this year are:

New Cattery Accommodation - we are delighted to have addressed the gap in the 95% compliance from our Association of Dogs and Cats Homes Inspection last year… with the new Cattery facility! The entire intake and rehoming system runs more effectively due to operational review, staff training, equipment and materials for better infection control, faster treatment and vaccination times, better barriers, ventilation, heating, exercise space, choice and opportunity to express natural behaviours. The separate isolation and quarantine facility complements the main Unit and ensures that cats are cared for in the appropriate setting at every stage of their recovery and rehabilitation.



The Pets at Home Foundation got the project off the ground with a generous award of £ 49,740, which was then matched by our incredible supporters Gift in Wills which made the project possible.

Our Unit Head has benefitted hugely from training at Battersea Dogs and Cats Home Academy, and has shared the knowledge she has gained to upskill the rest of the team. The staff are clearly re-energised, working in an environment that finally matches the high level of care and compassion they deliver, and the result is more cats and kittens helped better than ever.



The whole rescue community coming together to help rescue more animals better! Fantastic.

Poppy, our very first guest in the new Cattery

Progress towards our National Equine Welfare Council (NEWC) membership – our equine team have been making the required adjustments and improvements to their operational policies and procedures in order to further our application of the NEWC. This is a nationally recognised and respected member body, which unifies the sector on quality standards around equine welfare. Membership of the NEWC will assure any horse owners of our excellent standards and enable us to share knowledge with others, build mutually beneficial partnerships and access new funding streams. We expect to achieve membership by next year and will join the 80 existing members in sharing our passion for the welfare of horses and ponies.

Farm Animals Move to Wales a Great Success – we have improved the health and wellbeing of the sheep, and particularly the pigs, with the decision to relocate them from our 3-acre Liverpool rescue to our 19 acre Welsh rescue. The luscious grazing land, the wide-open spaces for exercise and exploring, and the clean air of the beautiful Welsh countryside have given our beloved farm animals a new lease of life. They have all adapted exceptionally well, especially Jacob, our partially blind sheep who is supported by his mates Ned and Larry. They continue to be superstars, just a little slimmer and fitter.



Increased Veterinary treatments, consultations and surgery – we have been able to provide more consultations, surgery and routine vaccinations each week, with 2 part time vets and one part time vet nurse. The Unit Heads greatly appreciate the shared expertise of the team, the new opportunities to learn and the reduced requirements to transport animals to external vets, with all the costs and extra stress to the animals that this entails. We look forward to reporting on these improved outcomes for animal health in our next report.

Connecting Our Community



21 years ago, a community of animal advocates in North Wales was galvanized into action through the founding of the Welsh Rescue Centre. Since that day, there have been some incredible achievements and victories for the animals', thanks to the staff and volunteers, the supporters, funders and local communities that we are proud to serve.

We celebrated the sheer grit and determination, come rain or shine, and the compassion of the rescue team in North Wales community. We want to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who stands up for the animals with courage and dedication. We want to say THANK YOU to everyone who has adopted, volunteered, donated and advocated on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of animals that have passed through our doors and had their lives transformed.

Looking back through our archives has been a revelation. In the past 21 years, we've achieved the following outcomes:

Animals We Have Helped	19,792
Medical and Veterinary Treatments	28,833
Microchips	7,158
Foster placements	2,428



The team even found some time to arrange a Community Open day to connect with our community rescue people and show them just how much of a difference they have made. We had the most joyous day, catching up with former residents and friends old and new. The wonderful people who gathered to share their stories about Freshfields, their passion for animals, and who took a tour and had fun at the Dog Show and stalls – we are always thankful that you are standing by our side. We are forever grateful to the wider rescue team, the community. Together we have much to be proud of, as many happy animals across the UK are safe and well right now.



We have an incredible rescue community – including YOU!

We are constantly encouraged and humbled by the thousands of truly wonderful people who connect with us every year to prevent suffering of animals in their area. Here are just a few:



Fitsteppers Danceathon



Morecrofts Solicitors – Charity Partnership



Steve and Jan -light show



Formby Squirrels chosen charity



Vera – long term supporter



Tile World new cattery donation



Sharyn – ambassador volunteer



Deanwood Golf Club – Charity of the Year



Pete & Laura adopters & donors



Margaret long term kennels vol



Philip & Lynda match funders



Pets at Home Chosen Charity event

LOOKING FORWARDS TO 2024 AND BEYOND

We continue to improve our Supporter Communication Systems so that we are better able to connect with the people who make this work possible and demonstrate our shared impact and value. This is fundamental to our aims to better connect and develop lasting relationships that will better serve the animals needs and recognise good people making a positive difference. We are making positive progress with this each year and will place more emphasis on it in the latter part of the 5 Year Plan.

Working Partnerships – We look to collaborate whenever we can see that we can achieve more together. As well as working with other rescues with whom we have long established relationship, our partnerships this year have included the RSPCA, Cats Protection, Morecrofts Solicitors LLP and Pets at Home.

Connecting with Volunteers - We are blessed to have the vital support of 131 volunteers who make it possible for us to take on the essential daily work in the rescues, shops and communities. They are some of our most powerful advocates for the animals.

Our volunteers help us in such a wide range of roles, from student placements, veterinary care, office work, maintenance, dog walking, cat companion, wildlife release, shop assisting, fostering, home checking, community ambassadors, educational talks, fundraising, IT support, media production, and of course board members.

We would greatly benefit from the support of a central Volunteer Coordinator, to recruit and support volunteers and to make sure that they are gaining the best experience we can give to them. We hope to progress this project next year.

We owe our gratitude and respect to every volunteer, whether they have been with us for 25 years or just a day or two. *We can't do it without you.*

Structure, governance and management

The charity is constituted under a trust deed dated 16 January 2016 and is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation number 1160348.

Trustees

With key responsibility for governing and directing the work of the organisation, the contribution of our Trustees has never been more important. Our 6 Volunteer Trustees ensure we deliver on our charitable purposes, comply with our ethics, and meet our legal obligations. They do so with vision, drive and a sense of duty. Combining knowledge of rescue management, behavioural training, veterinary services, finance, IT, legal and social work with a passion for the protection of wildlife, farmed and companion animals, the Board provides and oversight along with practical and moral support to the delivery teams.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

J Young
D Nixon
A Armstrong
D Martin
D Cox
M Kermode (Resigned 31 July 2023)

Recruitment and appointment of the Management Committee

The Trustees appoint members of the Executive and Management Teams as and when appropriate. Emma Jensen has been confirmed in the post of Director after an initial secondment last year. This year M Kermode stepped down from the Board to join as Operations Manager of the Liverpool rescue, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience gained from multiple UK rescues and veterinary practices. We look forward to benefitting from her contribution to the management and development of our work.

Recruitment of new Trustees

Trustees are appointed through a structured recruitment process, involving a formal application and a democratic Trustee voting process to ensure that new Trustees add value and expertise to the organisation. Trustees are appointed by agreement with the existing Trustees. There are no paid employees on the Board.

We would like to thank all our Trustees for their commitment to protecting and upholding the ethics and principles of Freshfields Animal Rescue, for their care in safeguarding the assets and resources of the organisation, and for their contribution of skills and knowledge for the benefit of the animals.

Related parties

There are no related parties.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements 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 of the charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. 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.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

J Young
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Dated: 2 October 2024

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Freshfields Animal Rescue (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including 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 charity's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, 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 Charities Act 2011.

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 charity'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 other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees 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 charity'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 cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance;
- the charity's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- the results of our enquiries of management and members of the Board of Trustees of their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
- identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:

(i) The presentation of the charity's Statement of Financial Activities, (ii) revenue recognition, and (iii) the overstatement of salary and other costs. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Charities Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice - 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued by the joint SORP making body.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included Animal Welfare and Data Protection Regulations.

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified the presentation of the charity's Statement of Financial Activities, revenue recognition and overstatement of wages and other costs as the key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud. The key audit matters section of our report explains the matters in more detail and also describes the specific procedures we performed in response to those key audit matters.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and members of the Board of Trustees concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant authorities where matters identified were significant;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council’s website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Other matters

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements 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)" (as amended) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with current Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees 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 charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited.

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited 29 October 2024

Accountants
Statutory Auditor

5 Temple Square
Temple Street
Liverpool
L2 5RH

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	**3**	701,990	89,784	791,774	1,123,805	13,708	1,137,513
Charitable activities	**4**	36,709	-	36,709	41,727	-	41,727
Other trading activities	**5**	411,262	-	411,262	388,612	-	388,612
Other income	**6**	9,981	-	9,981	12,068	-	12,068
Total income		1,159,942	89,784	1,249,726	1,566,212	13,708	1,579,920
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	**7**	215,622	-	215,622	206,733	-	206,733
Charitable activities	**8**	1,164,540	30,371	1,194,911	1,147,591	29,086	1,176,677
Other		675	-	675	3,549	-	3,549
Total expenditure		1,380,837	30,371	1,411,208	1,357,873	29,086	1,386,959
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds		(220,895)	59,413	(161,482)	208,339	(15,378)	192,961
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		1,668,009	190,298	1,858,307	1,459,670	205,676	1,665,346
Fund balances at 31 December 2023		1,447,114	249,711	1,696,825	1,668,009	190,298	1,858,307

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

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**14**		713,348		575,430
Current assets					
Stocks	**15**	14,099		11,926	
Debtors	**16**	485,190		445,222	
Cash at bank and in hand		540,920		920,654	
		1,040,209		1,377,802	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**17**	(56,732)		(94,925)	
Net current assets			983,477		1,282,877
Total assets less current liabilities			1,696,825		1,858,307
Income funds					
Restricted funds	**19**		249,711		190,298
Unrestricted funds			1,447,114		1,668,009
			1,696,825		1,858,307

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 2 October 2024

J Young
Trustee

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash absorbed by operations	**25**		(186,164)		(66,267)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(197,270)		(71,186)	
Proceeds from disposal of tangible fixed assets		3,700		-	
Net cash used in investing activities			(193,570)		(71,186)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents			(379,734)		(137,453)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			920,654		1,058,107
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			540,920		920,654

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Freshfields Animal Rescue is a charitable incorporated organisation, registered in the United Kingdom. The address of the principal office is East Lodge Farm, East Lane, Ince Blundell, Liverpool, L29 3EA. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are described in the Trustees' Report on pages 1 and 2.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 “The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland” (“FRS 102”) and the Charities SORP "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)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

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 financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Donated facilities and donated professional services are recognised in income at their fair value when their economic benefit is probable, it can be measured reliably and the charity has control over the item. Fair value is determined on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity. For example, the amount the charity would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Report.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of generating funds includes expenditure on fund raising activities and head office overheads.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes costs associated with the operation and management of residential accommodation and welfare support services.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

Support costs are those that assist the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at headquarters. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a pro-rata basis consistent with the use of the resources.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 9.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended. Individual assets are capitalised on the balance sheet where their cost exceeds £500.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold property	4% per annum
Improvements to property	4% per annum
Plant and machinery	25% on reducing balance basis
Fixtures and fittings	5% / 25% on reducing balance basis
Motor vehicles	25% on reducing balance basis

Freehold land is not depreciated.

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 the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity 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 (if any).

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks 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.

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at 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.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 ‘Basic Financial Instruments’ and Section 12 ‘Other Financial Instruments Issues’ of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through income and expenditure, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting date. Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected.

If an asset is impaired, the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been, had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the charity transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.13 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.14 Operating lease agreements

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged as an expense on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

1.15 Irrecoverable VAT

All resources expended are classified under activity headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category or resources expended for which it is incurred.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated 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 where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	356,888	20,250	377,138	334,228	-	334,228
Legacies receivable	323,942	-	323,942	760,819	-	760,819
Grants receivable	21,160	69,534	90,694	28,758	13,708	42,466
	701,990	89,784	791,774	1,123,805	13,708	1,137,513

4 Charitable activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Adoptions	36,709	41,727

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Fundraising events	10,034	30,076
Shop income	401,228	358,536
Other trading activities	411,262	388,612

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Other income	-	1,700
Commission	9,981	10,368
	9,981	12,068

7 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023	**2022**
	£	**£**
Fundraising and publicity		
Purchases	3,113	8,062
Rent and rates	44,805	45,493
Light and heat	9,800	7,882
Other fundraising costs	13,673	6,196
Staff costs	29,564	42,870
Depreciation and impairment	243	324
Fundraising and publicity	101,198	110,827
Trading costs		
Staff costs	114,424	95,906
	215,622	206,733

8 Charitable activities

	Charitable Expenditure 2023 £	Charitable Expenditure 2022 £
Staff costs	745,753	769,117
Depreciation and impairment	54,732	52,020
Centre - restricted	7,749	7,558
Travel expenses	1,876	191
Grant spend	1,076	18,466
Vet fees	82,681	69,989
Animal food and care	29,887	36,065
Small equipment	4,142	5,730
Rates and water	1,154	48
Light and heat	56,482	44,860
Repairs and maintenance	25,596	16,244
Sundry expenses	4,962	4,507
Veterinary consumables	48,350	34,697
Hygiene and waste	22,921	22,016
Motor expenses	6,084	6,696
	1,093,445	1,088,204
Share of support costs (see note 9)	92,616	80,223
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	8,850	8,250
	1,194,911	1,176,677
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	1,164,540	1,147,591
Restricted funds	30,371	29,086
	1,194,911	1,176,677

9 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2023	Support costs	Governance costs	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance	26,013	-	26,013	16,646	-	16,646
Telephone	6,911	-	6,911	7,151	-	7,151
Postage and stationery	16,065	-	16,065	13,420	-	13,420
Bank charges	14,546	-	14,546	12,871	-	12,871
Computer expenses and consumables	5,325	-	5,325	4,654	-	4,654
Staff training	1,490	-	1,490	3,473	-	3,473
Legal and professional fees	22,266	-	22,266	22,008	-	22,008
Audit fees	-	8,850	8,850	-	8,250	8,250
	92,616	8,850	101,466	80,223	8,250	88,473
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	92,616	8,850	101,466	80,223	8,250	88,473

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £8,850 (2022- £8,250) for audit fees. Legal and professional fees include costs of £666 for accountancy support (2022 - £1,715).

10 Net movement in funds

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting)		
Fees payable to the company's auditor for the audit of the company's financial statements	8,850	8,250
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	54,975	52,345
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	675	3,549

11 Trustees

The total remuneration paid to a trustee was £nil (2022 £43,369). In addition pension contributions amounting to £nil (2022 £229) were paid in respect of one trustee. Full details are provided in note 23.

There were no trustees' expenses reimbursed during the year ended 31 December 2023, nor for the year ended 31 December 2022.

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel is £163,652 (2022 £215,046). The trustees consider the key management personnel to be; the Director, Operations Managers (Liverpool and Wales), Finance Manager, Fundraising Manager, and the Area Shops Managers (Liverpool and Wales).

12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Management and administration	8	9
Fundraisers	7	10
Animal workers	34	31
Total	49	50

Employment costs	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	823,767	841,022
Social security costs	49,442	52,827
Other pension costs	16,532	14,044
	889,741	907,893

Termination payments totalling £nil (2022 £13,500) were paid to one employee during the year.

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from income tax on its charitable activities.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property	Improvements to property	Plant and machinery	Fixtures and fittings	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost						
At 1 January 2023	170,968	674,802	163,929	2,004	50,159	1,061,862
Additions	-	165,813	4,278	-	27,179	197,270
Disposals	-	-	(9,150)	-	(12,655)	(21,805)
At 31 December 2023	170,968	840,615	159,057	2,004	64,683	1,237,327
Depreciation and impairment						
At 1 January 2023	62,326	274,766	119,598	877	28,867	486,434
Depreciation charged in the year	3,079	31,020	10,940	282	9,654	54,975
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	-	(5,549)	-	(11,881)	(17,430)
At 31 December 2023	65,405	305,786	124,989	1,159	26,640	523,979
Carrying amount						
At 31 December 2023	105,563	534,829	34,068	845	38,043	713,348
At 31 December 2022	108,642	400,036	44,333	1,127	21,292	575,430

15 Stocks

	2023	2022
	£	£
Animal feed, consumables and veterinary supplies	14,099	11,926

16 Debtors

	2023	2022
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Other debtors	12,447	6,182
Prepayments and accrued income	472,743	439,040
	485,190	445,222

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	12,039	13,022
Trade creditors	19,261	33,801
Other creditors	2,706	987
Accruals and deferred income	22,726	47,115
	56,732	94,925

18 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

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 charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £16,532 (2022 - £14,044).

19 Restricted funds

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

		Movement in funds			Movement in funds		
	Balance at 1 January 2022	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 1 January 2023	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Dog Sensory Garden	38,473	-	(8,138)	30,335	-	(8,138)	22,197
New ambulance appeal	5,861	-	(1,465)	4,396	-	(1,099)	3,297
On-site vet room	12,904	-	(2,377)	10,527	-	(2,377)	8,150
Wales Centre improvements	33,986	-	(1,545)	32,441	-	(1,545)	30,896
Frances Hayhurst	-	-	-	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
The Pet Plan Charitable Trust	3,370	-	(843)	2,527	-	(632)	1,895
The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust	10,904	6,208	(2,726)	14,386	11,000	(2,485)	22,901
Doreen Greenlees Trust	4,800	-	(200)	4,600	-	(200)	4,400
Hill Dickinson	12,084	-	(503)	11,581	-	(503)	11,078
Co-Operative Community Fund	118	-	(30)	88	-	(22)	66
Pets at Home	-	-	-	-	49,740	(1,990)	47,750
Support Adoption for Pets	81,930	-	(3,414)	78,516	-	(3,414)	75,102
Pet Plan	-	-	-	-	3,000	(3,000)	-
Animal Defence Trust	-	-	-	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
Battersea	-	-	-	-	20,000	-	20,000
William Dean Trust	-	500	(500)	-	-	-	-
''Will Week'	48	-	(2)	46	-	(2)	44
Other	1,198	7,000	(7,343)	855	2,044	(964)	1,935
	205,676	13,708	(29,086)	190,298	89,784	(30,371)	249,711

19 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Dog Sensory Garden donation

One of the charity's long term supporters and volunteers donated the proceeds of a personal investment to be used to landscape and provide agility equipment on the dog exercise field. A variety of textures (astroturf, rubber, grass, sand and stone) were included in the landscaping to provide a sensory experience for the dogs in the charities care.

New ambulance appeal

Donations were received to contribute to the purchase of a new Freshfields ambulance to replace the existing one.

On-site vet room

Funds were donated from Pet Plan and Caf Bank, and a general appeal for the construction of a vet room at the centre.

Wales Centre improvements

The Billy Meade Trust donated £50,000 for improvements of the Wales Centre. This included improvements to the cattery and electric repairs.

Pet Plan Charitable Trust

We were awarded £7,497 from Pet Plan Charitable Trust towards the cost of a new Animal Ambulance, replacing a vehicle which was unfit for purpose and enabling the safe and secure transport of animals.

Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust

The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust made an award for a new X-Ray machine for the Vet Room, enabling our vet to carry out routine X-rays on site and therefore reduce costs; further sums of £6,208 and £11,000 were provided for the construction of a new cattery unit, including cattery maternity pens.

Co-operative Community Fund

We were awarded funds to deliver much needed refurbishment and repairs to the structure of one of the Kennel blocks. The side walls had been damaged by leaks as the covering materials were no longer fit for purpose. These funds will ensure a safe, dry and comfortable environment for the dogs in the main areas in which they meet, greet and socialise.

Doreen Greenlees

The Doreen Greenless Charitable Trust donated £5,000 towards the cost of the Welcome Area in the development of the Animal Adoption Hub. This is to provide a warm, welcoming and well-equipped space for visitors and people who want to adopt an animal.

Hill Dickinson

Hill Dickinson solicitors contributed £12,587 towards the construction of the Animal Adoption Hub.

Support Adoption for Pets

This animal welfare charity donated £85,344 towards the construction of the Animal Adoption Hub.

'Will Week'

A donation of £50 was made towards the construction of the Animal Adoption Hub.

19 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Frances Hayhurst

A grant of £2,000 was received for the provision of preventative medication for dogs and the payment of other veterinary fees.

Pets at Home

The Pets Foundation provided a grant of £49,740 towards the upgrading of the cattery unit at the Liverpool premises.

Pet Plan

A grant of £3,000 was received towards the cost of dog neutering and other veterinary fees.

Animal Defence Trust

A grant of £2,000 was received for animal welfare expenditure.

Battersea

A Paul O'Grady legacy donation of £20,000 was received for the upgrading of the vet room at the Liverpool premises.

Other

The other restricted funds comprise £855 received from the Co-Op Community Trust for the refurbishment of kennel blocks; a donation of £250 from The Gallimore Trust for dog neutering and other veterinary fees; a grant of £500 received from The William Dean Trust for veterinary bills for wildlife; and a miscellaneous grant of £1,294 received from the Henby Charity Trust.

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 December 2023 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	485,178	228,170	713,348	391,340	184,090	575,430
Current assets/(liabilities)	962,184	21,293	983,477	1,276,669	6,208	1,282,877
	1,447,362	249,463	1,696,825	1,668,009	190,298	1,858,307

21 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Within one year	44,459	35,887
Between two and five years	22,000	34,500
	66,459	70,387

22 Capital commitments

As at 31 December 2023 the entity had no capital commitments, being contracted for but not provided in the financial statements.

23 Related party transactions

In the opinion of the trustees there is no ultimate controlling party.

During the year the charity paid trustees insurance amounting to £896 (2022: £896).

24 APB ethical standard

In common with many other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to prepare and submit returns to the tax authorities, assist with the preparation of the financial statements and to provide tax advice.

25 Cash generated from operations	2023	2022
	£	£
(Deficit)/surpus for the year	(161,482)	192,961
Adjustments for:		
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	675	3,549
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	54,975	52,344
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	(2,170)	4,958
(Increase) in debtors	(39,969)	(326,565)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(38,193)	6,486
Cash absorbed by operations	(186,164)	(66,267)

26 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no debt during the year.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

England & Wales - Charity number 1160348

Accounts

Charity registration number 1160348

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	J Young	
	D Nixon	
	A Armstrong	
	D Martin	
	D Cox	
	M Kermode	(Appointed 15 August 2022)
Charity number	1160348	
Auditor	Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited 3rd Floor 5 Temple Square Temple Street Liverpool Merseyside L2 5RH	
Bankers	Lloyds Bank plc 88-94 Church Street Liverpool Merseyside L1 3HD	
	The Royal Bank of Scotland plc 15 Foregate Street Chester CH1 1HD	
	Barclays Bank plc 5 - 6 Bangor Street Caernarfon Gwynedd Nth Wales LL55 1AE	
Solicitors	Weightmans LLP 100 Old Hall Street Liverpool Merseyside L3 9QJ	

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

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FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "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) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

Freshfields Animal Rescue was founded in 1979, upon the simple premise that all life matters. That foundation has only grown stronger as the scope of our work has expanded. Today, more than 40 years on, equal consideration for every species of animal remains at the forefront of our work along with our promise to never put a healthy animal down and prevent suffering of any kind.

We recognise that the fate of animals is inextricably linked to the impact of human attitudes and actions. We are driven in our commitment to inform, support and initiate changes in peoples' actions, leading to a better future for us all.

Our Values

Integrity We protect the best interests of the animals first. We will never put a healthy animal down or pass animals to rescues who may not meet our high standards of protection and welfare.

Excellence *This is a job that affects lives and therefore an excellence job is essential. We are committed to providing excellent care standards for animals, plus staff and volunteers, as well as making the best use of every resource available.*

Endurance We are resolute in our pursuit of better protection and respect for animals. We have passionately conquered over 40 years of challenges with the trust and support of our community supporters.

Every life has value We believe that different animals have equal value, and we are committed to the prevention of suffering of them all. We endeavour to achieve this in the community, in the rescues and beyond.

Compassion We believe in compassion for all animals, and people, who are vulnerable or struggling.

Shared responsibility *With so many animals impacted by the circumstances and actions of people, we believe the solutions are in our collective hands. We bring people together to raise awareness and encourage positive action, in whatever form possible, for the betterment of all.*

Positivity Where there is a will there is a way. We support each other to find solutions. We are committed to inspiring positive action in our colleagues, supporters and our community, and showing the difference that makes to inspire others to join us.

Our Mission

To make a great quality of life possible for all vulnerable animals.

Our Vision

A world where all people protect animals and value nature.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Our Broad Strategic Aims to 2027

Each year to 2027, we will be working to progress the aims below. This process begins with leadership, then on emergency response work and operational development, then moves to preventative programmes and collaborations. All elements underpinned by excellence and sustainability, so we can continue to help more animals better.

Succeed – animals and nature are depending on us. These are very serious matters, and we must be successful in making a positive difference. We recognise the importance of strong leadership, and of making the very best use of every precious resource.

Respond – be able to meet the needs of as many vulnerable animals as possible. We aim to increase our ability to rescue and respond to the urgent needs of 70% more animals in the next five years.

Prevent - animal suffering and the human actions that often cause it by committing 25% of our resources to rescue and community preventative work

Excel – do every aspect of our work to a very high standard by investing on our teams, facilities and always looking at how we can help more animals better.

Connect – join with others to do more, change more, learn more and share more. We are ever mindful that we are but one cog in a massive community effort.

The Need for our Work 2022

'The population of dogs kept as pets in the United Kingdom (UK) was estimated at 13 million in 2020/21, which constitutes a marked increase from a decade earlier in 2010/11, when the dog population in the UK was around 7.6 million'.

Pet ownership levels peaked to an unprecedented high of 62 percent in 2021/22, likely as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and increased time spent at home - statista.com 2023 A total of 3.2 million households in the UK have acquired a pet since the start of the pandemic, according to the Pet Food Manufacturers' Association. Young people are the main drivers of this trend, with more than half of new owners aged 16 to 34, the PFMA says. Covid disrupted drug trafficking which resulted in a turn to domestic dog breeders selling to younger adults. This trend has not subsided and continues to be an additional nightmare for every rescue. We urge everyone to simply stop buying pets. *There is a rescue animal to suit everybody.*

At Freshfields, rescue requests for dogs in 2022 was up 116 % on the 2021. With 649 calls, compared to 301 the year before. This is true for cats at 80% increase, with small animals hardest hit at 157% increase. The reason for horse relinquishment has notably been due to unaffordability. *No rescue in the UK is coping with demand. There are not enough vets to cope with demand.* Social and Policy change is essential at this point.

Farmed animals come to us in some bizarre circumstances – pigs abandoned in streets, sheep in parks, battery hens saved from a bonfire when they are of no further use or injured lambs that would not be otherwise be treated and saved. These animals need us too and we won't let them suffer.

Our wildlife unit is stretched to its current limit. "'Between 1970 and 2013, 56% of UK species declined. Of the nearly 8,000 species assessed using modern criteria, 15% are threatened with extinction. This suggests that we are among the most nature-depleted countries in the world. Of the 218 countries assessed for 'biodiversity intactness', the UK is ranked 189, - a consequence of centuries of industrialisation, urbanisation and overexploitation of our natural resources.' - State of Nature Report, 2016.

Again, we see this in action at the rescue. The demand for wildlife emergency rescue has doubled in recent years. With climate change evidently upon us and affecting the delicate balance of nature, we need to be ready to meet that very serious challenge.

At Freshfields we are not complacent about this issue, and work hard to protect and repopulate struggling local wildlife and unite with all of those who care enough to take some action and be part of making a difference.

We are committed to working with the community to undertake vital conservation work and education to address this urgent and present need.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The Need to Adapt

We have successfully navigated a number of external challenges this year. Internally, there has been a lot of important change and development at both Liverpool and Caernarfon Rescues. Change is always a challenge and can be worrying for long term staff and volunteers if everyone is not involved and invested every step of the way. Caernarfon had navigated those risks most successfully and is flourishing from the operational, management and facility improvements.

Changes to senior management and some staff in Liverpool has taken its toll on our ability to progress the Strategic Plan to the original timescale, as we have adapted to new postholders and skill sets. We are pleased to report that the Liverpool centre is now seeing much increased cooperation, energy and vision coming through in all unit teams. This will serve us well in meeting the increased need for emergency rescue and preventative programmes in the future, to help more animals better.

Externally, the need for our work explained earlier has never been greater, and resources so scarce. We will keep aware of the bigger picture to maximise opportunities to better respond to increasing need.

Our beneficiaries

Our primary beneficiaries are animals:

a. Rescue, rehabilitate and rehome domesticated animals and farm animals such as dogs, cats, horses, rabbits, birds, ferrets, terrapins, sheep, pigs, ducks, chickens, and more.

b. Rescue, rehabilitate and re-release struggling local wildlife that most commonly includes hedgehogs and around 25 species of wild birds.

Our secondary beneficiaries are people:

a. Adopters – receive physical and mental health benefits from somebody to love, increased exercise and opportunities to connect with others. In some cases a reason to live.

b. Surrenderers – people struggling financially, physically or mentally needing the reassurance that their pet will survive when faced with no option but to give them up.

c. Volunteers – 138 volunteers this year have in various roles: accessed scarce work experience towards veterinary and animal welfare qualifications, improve their mental and physical health and gain a sense of belonging and purpose, gain new skills and contacts and work references.

d. Adults and Young people–benefiting from the conservation of local wildlife and support of nature's balance from the rescue team and the awareness and direct actions of the wildlife education sessions.

Services and activities

Our work broadly falls into emergency response and prevention categories.

Our priority is always to rehome or re-release animals. This can prove difficult with some animals for health, behavioural or other reasons, resulting in longer stays than we all would wish for. There is therefore a subsequent sanctuary element to our response work which we seek to keep to a minimum by sourcing dedicated sanctuary spaces, and will be growing our behavioural support work. It is also necessary to expand our animal housing facilities in all areas to facilitate more homes and re-releases.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Proactive Services

We have continued to maintain most of our preventative interventions this year whilst planning for response work developments.

In-rescue neutering – We take direct preventative action at our rescues to limit further contributing to the pet population crisis by neutering hundreds of animals each year through our on site vet or external practices. This is vital preventative action.

In- rescue microchipping – We ensure all pets going into homes have new or updated microchips to ensure that lost pets can be swiftly reunited. We also raise awareness of the importance of this to comply with the law and to prove ownership when trying to retrieve a pet from a warden or rescue.

Community neutering – We facilitate the neutering of hundreds of cats in the community every year, across Merseyside and Wales. We achieve this in partnership with Cats Protection by distributing the free neutering vouchers that they provide, to low income families and multi-cat households that would otherwise struggle to take this essential action.

Keeping animals in their homes – We provide practical support for individuals with new pets or who are struggling to keep their pet in the home, through community centres and food banks. We provide free food, behavioural advice and 121 support in the home, and connecting to other sources of help through our contacts.

Vet Assistance – We provide ongoing assistance with veterinary or medicine costs through our on site veterinary practice for new adopters who have limited financial resources to manage ongoing medical conditions that would prevent an animal securing a home, and are otherwise able to provide a wonderful life for the animal.

Community Outreach Neutering Programme –on hold – this intensive and innovative solution to the neutering of feral and community cats has been one of Freshfields most important community schemes – with over £300,000 invested to date since 2017, averaging 1000 cats neutered a year. Freshfields teamed up with Cats Protection to be the first scheme of its kind in the area and encouraged many further schemes from others since. It has been on hold this year due to our highly skilled trapper relocating, and much less availability to additional vet time to neuter ferals, because they are inundated with additional lockdown pets, as well as a need to upgrade some of our in-rescue facilities. We very much intend to resume this service in the near future.

Bunny bonding - This preventative work benefits community rabbits and rescue rabbits. Provide what is in effect a rabbit dating service until a happy match is evidenced. This prevents the loneliness and depression experienced by single home rabbits who are naturally group animals. Rabbits are the pets known as 'the silent sufferers' because their full needs are rarely met. This is an important intervention to provide a practical solution and inform owners to their rabbits needs.

Community Outreach and Education – We continue to maintain those important relationships with the communities we belong to, to promote understanding of the causes and encourage more responsible decisions. This year we have done this through:

Community Wildlife Talks -We have maintained the online wildlife talks to schools and community groups started during lockdown. They are surprisingly popular and effective in encouraging further action to support bugs and plant for nature and know what to do when a bird or hedgehog is found.

School education packs – the farm unit has been focused on their outreach work this year, concentrating on engaging schools via the local education authority, on the problems arising from Chick Hatching in schools. An educational pack was produced and distributed in the Sefton and Liverpool areas to provide easy, practical and ethical alternatives to meet the same curriculum outcomes.

Animal welfare awareness – we use our voice on social media to remind our supporters of welfare issues that we can take action on to prevent cruelty, support animal welfare or the natural environment on matters such as 'adopt don't shop' as community breeding reaches an all time high, to providing facts about horse injuries and deaths at the Grand National, for people to make informed decisions about, and the benefits to animals', and the environment, of introducing plant based diet days.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

'We See You' Project – this project supports homeless pet owners with practical and treat gift boxes for the homeless person and their pet, along with access to Free veterinary care for their animal. This partnership between Freshfields Rescue and Care for the Paw is in its third year and engages further support from wonderful volunteers, local businesses, school and community groups in Sefton and Liverpool to make it all happen.

Provision Donations to all Volunteer Rescue Organisations

Our longstanding support for Doris Banham continues. We provide dog food at time of surplus to tis worthy cause, who work across the UK to take dogs from the pound, place them in boarding kennels and rehome them from there. 100% volunteer scheme rehoming thousands of dogs a year that we are happy to be able to provide practical help to.

Emergency Response Rescue

This year we were able to provide emergency admittance into our rescues for a total of 1019 animals, covering each of the category types below. It has been a bumper year for abandonments sadly. Which although not surprising, is nevertheless deeply dismaying.

For **domesticated animals** we provide rescue from harm or potential harm, accommodation, medical care, rehoming from the rescue and rehoming from home, and interim foster homes when possible.

This work mostly aids cats, dogs, horses, rabbits, ferrets, birds and a variety of other small animals.

For **Wild animals** we provide rescue from harm or potential harm, provision of accommodation, medical care, trap, neuter and release.

This work mostly aids hedgehogs and wild birds.

For **farmed animals**: we provide rescue from harm or potential harm, provision of accommodation, medical care, and rehoming from the rescue.

This work mostly aids pigs, sheep, ducks, geese, hens and cockerels.

Veterinary Services

Freshfields Liverpool is a registered practice for animals that come under our care. We have our own fully equipped veterinary facility to undertake surgeries on site. We achieve this through the expertise of our passionate veterinary consultant who attends the Liverpool rescue for three days a week. – but inevitably does much more than that! Which we are very grateful for. This facility helps us reduce the stress on the animal, reduce costs to the rescue in vet, increase staff time and safety. Our named vet is further supported by external veterinary practices for emergency and out of hours care. Well established working relationships with local vets in Wales support the animals at that centre.

Emergency Response for Dogs

We have seen a sharp increase in demand for rescue this year, and for more dogs with behavioural or social issues than ever. Separation anxiety is high, as dogs have not gotten used to their working from home owners coming in and out of the house. This makes these dogs harder to rehome and we are faced with a no win situation as we have to turn away dogs that we have no space for. We have seen an increase in French bulldogs and the start of a wave of XL Bullies which will present a more extreme rehoming challenge than standard bull breeds are posing across the county. This is sadly a reflection of the huge numbers of specifically bred dogs that were bred during, and since, the pandemic. Millions of dogs were sold, and millions of pounds profit was made.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

We were delighted to have passed all standards for kennels during our Association for Dogs and Cats Homes (ADCH) inspection this summer. That is great, but we want to exceed those standards if we are to be able to help more dogs better. We made the decision to close the kennels to new admittances between October and December to review operational processes, train staff, and get a Certified Clinical Animal Behaviourist's advice and guidance. We want to help the dogs who have been here longest broaden their options in rescue for their chances for a new home rather than get stuck in rescue; this lets us help more of the dogs we have no space for. The time out we have taken to do this has reduced our impact in kennels in the short term, but is essential for long term improvements in care quality and vital effectiveness. We are aiming for a maximum 25% long term dogs needing extra support – in principle. We'll see how we do. There are now far fewer opportunities to place dogs in other rescues as every rescue across the UK is unable to cope with the sheer scale of the problem. We recognise this is a battle we'll sadly not win anytime soon, so we must do the very best we can for as many dogs as possible until people's decisions, and government policy changes.

There were many reasons which caused people to want to surrender their dogs and contact Freshfields for help. The top five of these are behavioural and affordability related: Dog aggression/bitten; separation anxiety; loss of home; and can't cope or have the time.

We always seek to help animals beyond our rescue centres. We have noticed a sharp reduction of options for rescues to help us with spaces, and vice versa. We have put our resources into helping owners keep their dogs and not surrender them, by providing food, cheap medicines, and behavioural support. This is the ideal outcome in many instances, and especially so at this difficult time.

Mimi chucked over the fence



This is Mimi.

She had literally been thrown away, over the fence and left. Our camera shows her standing at the gate giving a little wag of her tail as they drove away. She was lucky there were no other animals loose there. Terrified and alone, Mimi was in very poor physical and emotional health.

She was given much gentle encouragement, then five star pamper treatment, and improved by the day. After a time with a foster family she was found a loving home with people who would keep her safe from here.



Mimi going home

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The long wait



In April a staff member on their way home saw two dogs a tied up to a bush, up the road from the rescue. Looking frightened and bewildered, they were just beginning a very long wait to see their owner ever again. When they were tentatively approached they *thankfully* responded in a friendly and excited manner.

They were taken back to Freshfields where our vet gave them an initial assessment. They were an un-neutered male and female. The female shows signs of having had litters previously. Signs indicated they had been used to breed. This is so common we can barely bear the frustration of it.

We settled them in and made sure that they were warm, fed, safe and loved. Whilst we undertook some further tests and assessments on both dogs.

The female dog, Lily (tan), found a home almost immediately, but Rubble (grey) had to wait it out nervously for his miracle to happen. We were concerned about him being left behind and becoming harder to rehome. Eventually Jackie came along "We saw Rubble on the website and fell in love with him straight away. We wanted a dog who would enjoy coming on holiday with us to Scotland, and who we could take on adventures and walks.



Rubble was so affectionate and loving and trusting, considering what he has been through. We took him home to 'foster' him and, of course, that didn't work out - for the very best reason – we adopted him instead". Rubble and Lily are now living their new lives– from being tied to a tree to romping happily through the countryside with his new family, their wait is over. They even got to meet each other again on the beach. We couldn't be happier for them.



Our concern is this is the start of a new wave of abandoned bullies and it will be very difficult if they do not have the temperament of these two. We rarely have no spaces in our Kennels and have a very full Waiting List. We realise that many people are struggling in this very harsh economic climate. We are keen to work with and support owners to help keep their pet in the home wherever possible.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Emergency Response for Cats

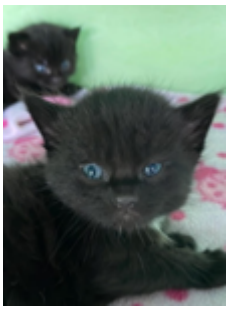
In Liverpool -The Association for Dogs and Cats Homes (ADCH) bi-annual inspection took place in July and we are glad to report we got an excellent 95% compliance rating. The inspector highlighted the need for us to make adjustments to our outdoor cattery in Liverpool which we knew was needed. Thanks to the nudge we are planning a full facility and operational review for the Liverpool cattery next year and aim proudly show it off on our next inspection.

The Liverpool Cattery team have had to navigate a lot of change this year, and uncertainty about their direction due to not having a Cattery Head in place. They are working with the Operations Manager and vet whilst we make that appointment. We trialled a new group intake approach for six months this year but found it to not provide the faster throughput we had anticipated. It was nevertheless an important learning opportunity and has helped inform the improved process we are adopting for the new facilities. We saw a marked increase in kitten sat the Liverpool rescue this year so it is timey that our facilities can better accommodate more of them in the future. We applaud the commitment and resilience of the fantastic staff team this year and look forward to fabulous improvements to come.

In Caernarfon–After years with tired cattery housing we took three months out to create a modern fit for purpose set up. The staff and volunteers are feeling immensely proud and are reporting significant efficiencies and effectiveness with the new facilities.

We must thank the Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust for their continued precious support. Thank you so much! The animals are benefitting enormously from the £6,208 received to create the maternity pens. We then added some additional investment in training for the staff who feel much valued. The Welsh cattery is on flying form, delivering top quality care and finding suitable homes quickly. We know they will go from strength to strength from here.

Cammie -pregnant and wandering in Wales.



Cammie was admitted as a stray, we had no history with her, but she was extremely stressed on admittance and was lashing out at the cattery staff. We suspected she was pregnant so planned to find a foster home for her, somewhere safe that she could have her kittens. The very next day, Cammie had given birth to four tiny black kittens, unfortunately two of her kittens passed away almost immediately. Concerned for Cammie and the surviving kittens, we moved them to our new maternity unit rather than foster care, so our experienced staff could monitor the kittens, and get them medical help immediately.



The unit is situated away from the hustle and bustle of the main cattery, and despite its name, it is a quiet, safe space for **any** cats that we believe will benefit from being in a quieter area; pregnant cats, new families, newborn or high dependent kittens, to cats who need cage rest or extremely shy cats who want time to settle before beginning their bravery training.



Being in this environment, Cammie immediately relaxed, no longer hissing or lashing out, she was left to nurse her two kittens in peace and quiet, with the cattery staff keeping a close eye on the health of her little ones. With no other cats at the unit, and no visitors allowed, Cammie obviously felt safe.

Within a week the difference in Cammie was amazing, she would proudly show off her 'babies' to staff and would paddle her paws contently while feeding them. We are happy to say that both kittens not only survived but grew to be extremely chunky, happy, healthy, sociable kittens, two little girls, named Camille and Camala. They remained at the centre until adoption, it was great being able to adapt to Cammie's needs and give that better chance for kitten Camille and Camala's survival.

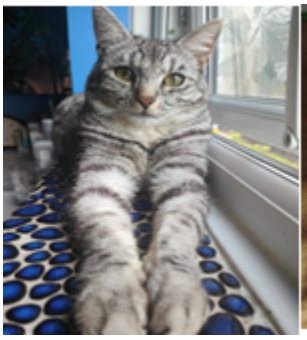
Saving Sabaiba



Yet another abandonment of an incredibly vulnerable soul; A tiny kitten just two weeks old was found wandering on side the road in Liverpool. She was at awful risk of being ran over by a car on the spot, or of dehydration and starvation without a mum to feed her. When passer-by spotted her they were understandably horrified, and thankfully didn't waste a moment in scooping her up and bringing her to the rescue. That was a very important person indeed that we are always glad to be able to assist.

The poor little thing was in a sorry condition on admission. The vet thought that the kitten was going to lose an eye from severe infection. It was mission on to save 'Sabaiba' – meaning youthfulness. She was hand reared for a few weeks by one of cattery staff who took the foster mum role, while the vet treated her pain and discomfort. She was of course provided with copious amounts of love to make up for being so undervalued during her start in life.

Little by little she grew stronger and bigger. She was very soon adopted and has gone on to thrive in her forever home where at one year old she is waited on hand and foot like any self-respecting cat would demand and achieve! She has her community rescuer to thank for that great team effort.



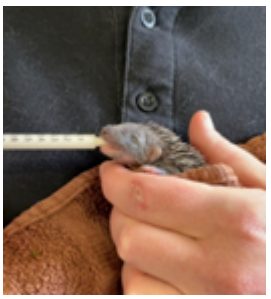

Emergency Response for Wild Animals

The priority action identified in the Strategic Plan for 2022 was to start upgrading the wildlife and small animal facilities whose roof was past its best. With wildlife and small animals number doubled in recent years, the work has been a long time due. The challenge was to better utilise and upgrade the space that the unit currently has in the first instance. The Deputy Operations Manager and unit staff didn't waste a moment in reviewing best practice standards and implementing this into the new plan. We were then able to commence the rebuilding and reconfiguring of our small animal block in November, which will enable the full separation of small animals from wildlife, with the aim to be ready to help more animals better during the spring 2023 explosion in demand.

Wildlife rooms that struggled with increasingly extreme summer temperatures, we've rapidly installed air conditioning, and the unit team now have better IT equipment and connection to assist them in rehoming and re-releasing. Already the animals and staff feel better, and there is more to come, funds willing. Thank you so much to the Hemby Trust for granting us £500 for the provision of additional hedgehog accommodation and recognising the absolutely vital work of this unit and the significant impact they continue to make in local wildlife conservation.

The number of wild birds we have been able to admit this year has been extremely limited due to DEFRA Control measures of Avian Influenza. We believe national rescues are reviewing their whole operations and indoor facility provision as its not expected to go away anytime soon. This is something we too need to consider for times of indoor restrictions and to ensure quarantine for new birds is stringent. We also had a period of frustration over the winter when we had to halt admissions of hedgehogs due to a highly contagious virus.

Keeping the live in little Clive



On the 29th May, our wildlife unit admitted a tiny hedgehog who was estimated to be only a couple of days old. He had been found in the middle of a garden, and it is thought that he had been disturbed by the house owners' chickens or dog.

Due to his size and age, he needed to be hand reared – this is something the staff are very experienced in. This little one was given the name Clive, and he was taken home every night by one of the wildlife units team. Staff were waking up every couple of hours to feed Clive, and then coming into work as normal after sleepless night. All the hard work and long nights over the following three months were worth it though, as Clive was successfully released back into the wild on the 21st of August.

It's tough times for hedgehogs out there. Every hog matters. We wish him safe, successful and well.



Cosy Clive

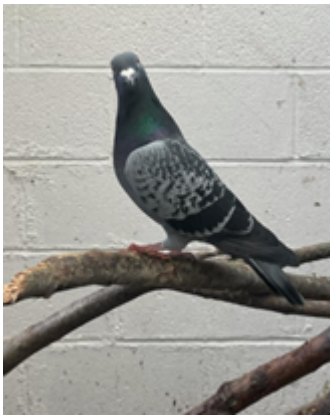


Jar lid for a bowl will do nicely, thank you

Wild Pigeon Physio

Early in 2022, a feral pigeon was admitted to our wildlife unit and on first examination it was seen to have a weak wing. The team booked in an x-ray with our onsite vet, but nothing obvious could be found. They decided to put the pigeon into one of the aviaries to monitor how it would get on, however, it was clear that the pigeon was struggling to fly.

Staff immediately brought the pigeon out of the aviary, and it was placed into a small cage to rest. The staff gave physio to the pigeon twice daily, with the hope that this would help strengthen the wing.



The pigeon seemed to be getting stronger by the day, and once placed in an aviary again he was able to start practicing his flying and was released towards the end of 2022. It's cases like this that make us incredibly proud of the pure dedication and skill of our staff team, and our non-discriminatory approach to preventing the suffering of all animals. He got the same care as the popular and at risk birds we have saved this year. *Our pigeon pal doesn't know he's pigeon and that humans don't think he is worthy of care*, but he definitely approves of our care policy…from wherever he is now.

Emergency Response work for Small Animals

Calls to rehome small animals this year increased by a huge 157%, sadly demonstrating the least public commitment to rabbits (known as the silent sufferer), guinea pigs, birds, pet rats, hamsters and ferrets when times get tough. Not all small animals come from domestic settings, some are rescued from breeders who don't just breed them for sale as pets or hunters, but also for meat and fur.

We are discussing opportunities for specialist sanctuary for our 14 rather large terrapins. We have identified an option that could provide an exceptional quality of life compared to what we are able to facilitate. Some of them have been with us for over twenty years thanks to the teenage mutant ninja turtle craze, and deserve better respect from us humans. What were mini cute terrapins in pet shops are now large non- native species that damage the UKs natural balance if released so need specialist sanctuaries to spend their 40 year lifespan in. We hope to get a result next spring. We seek to keep these matters on the agenda and encourage greater responsibility and social pressure to change.

Daphne and her five kits– Meat and fur farm rescue

Daphne and her five babies were rescued from the T&S Rabbits in Rutland, a business that bred rabbits for meat, after welfare concern campaigns resulted in its closure in August. They were very fortunate to survive. Once she came into our care, she settled immediately and seemed happy to be getting all the love and attention that she deserved. Staff, however, noticed a lump on the side of her face and a vet visit was booked immediately.



The vet found that one of Daphne's teeth was protruding through her cheek and was infected. Daphne' was operated on and the tooth was removed – unfortunately, complications during surgery meant that her wound was kept open. This meant that staff here had to clean this large wound several times a day, keeping a very close eye on it.

Daphne has spent her recovery with our staff members, staying at Freshfields during the day and then going home with one of the team at night. Staff gave round the clock care to Daphne, and of course she was extremely pampered while in their homes.

Daphne has had many vet visits and lots of medication over the last few months, so has been here a while now, but she now seems to be on the mend. She'll be well cared for from here.

Amelia – a ferret friend



Amelia came into our care in 2021, when she was approximately one year's old. She soon became a firm favourite, always eager to come out of her pen to play and brought much joy to visitors to the rescue. She was full of energy and loved nothing more than running around and ripping up newspaper.

In early 2022, staff noticed Amelia had started coughing and she was quickly seen by our vet. It was found that Amelia had tumours and sadly, we knew that this could not be cured. Amelia was still very bright in herself, therefore, we decided to let her stay here with us, until she showed us that it was her time to go.

Amelia spent her last couple of months being extremely spoiled, spending time living with our Operations Manager and also one of the wildlife team members. She absolutely loved getting the run of the house, especially around the Christmas period as it meant she could climb in the Christmas tree!

Sadly, we had to say a heart-breaking goodbye to Amelia at the end of the year, but we take comfort in knowing that Amelia lived the life of luxury for her last months with us, getting lots of love.

Emergency Response for Farm Animals

The farm continued to provide excellent care for as long as needed for the abandoned, injured or unwanted pigs and sheep from the Liverpool site. We continue to pursue suitable safe homes for the longer term residents which becomes more challenging as they present more health issues with age. We'll never give up on them. They are the best loved farm animals in the country without doubt.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Sheep Rehoming Success

Emily and Eliza came to us on the 13th April, as their own could no longer provide them with the care that they needed. This was a sad goodbye, as the girls had been in the same home all of their lives, being hand reared by their owner.



Emily, Nelly and Eliza – new place, new pals



Nelly freshly sheared and looking perplexed!

Once Emily and Eliza were admitted, they made their presence known being such confident girls. They loved food, even just the sound of a bucket rattling made them come running towards you. After three months of being with us, we were able to rehome Emily and Eliza, to a lady who has rehomed sheep from Freshfields in the past. When dropping the girls off, we were reunited with Nelly, an ex-Freshfields resident (sheep), even stopping by to shear her, as the owners had been struggling to find someone to help.

Staying in touch and offering help to adopters is crucial, and the relationships built when we rehome the farm animals are really special. We were especially excited by the news that the girl's new owner's sister, was actually neighbours with their original owner meaning they are able to keep in touch.

A happy ending for all involved, including the next two sheep we were then able to admit, the inquisitive Ned and Larry – who were admitted within a week of Emily and Eliza being rehomed.

The continued threat posed by avian influenza continues to impact the farm birds, who have been required by DEFRA to be kept indoors. This has limited the amount of chickens, ducks and geese we can admit and been very frustrating to be hampered in the amount of farm birds we can offer emergency housing to. During housing restrictions and when the risk is high, we have had to shut our doors to all bird admittances to protect the birds that we have onsite. It is not an issue that is going to go away anytime soon.

We have been able to invest in a new large aviary this year to house the chickens and ducks in during Avian Influenza outbreaks. This has been an essential facility. It has made a huge difference to the animals and has allowed for a large space to house birds safely. We anticipate a need to expand our aviaries in the future. We now need to look at further risk-based measures that we can put in place, to allow for us to safely continue helping as many birds as possible. With the aim to have in place a suitable isolation unit, that can house all new bird admittances – reducing the risk of transmission across the site. Additional PPE, awareness and constant evaluation of DEFRA guidelines are also needed.

The farm team have been able to still address the urgent issues of an abundance of unwanted cockerels, who are particularly difficult to rehome, and would otherwise face an early end to their life. We worked to save as many cockerels in need of rehoming as possible, through coordination and cooperation with other rescues to organise transport and source homes across the country.

Mission Alistair

In August this year, we were contacted about Alistair the cockerel. Sadly, Alistair was upsetting the neighbours and the owner was facing the difficult decision of having to have him put to sleep as she could not find anywhere for him to live.

We immediately worked to get as much information about Alistair and spent hours at home putting out appeals, contacting individuals in the rescue/sanctuary industry. Within 24 hours, our hard work had paid off as Alistair found a home – it was a 3-hour drive but with the help of the owner we were able to organise transport and now Alistair is safe and happy.



Alistair's new home & new life

Every individual animal's life matters, and we always do our absolute best to help, even when we cannot admit an animal into the rescue. Alistair is just one of many cockerels we have assisted in keeping safe.

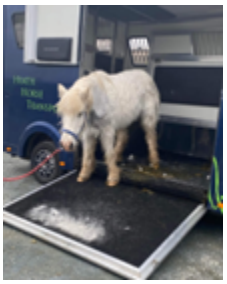
Emergency Response for Horses

The stables got an upgrade to the ground work and lighting this year which is a fantastic improvement that improves horse and staff safety and provides the facilities fit for our poor abandoned horses and hardworking staff. It's put a real spring in everyone step. We must thank Sharon Ward for her immense effort to muster free and cheap material and labour to help our budget allocation stretch to get a great result that will serve us well for many years.

Horse admittance and rehoming remained steady in 2022, however a worrying trend that we encountered was that the condition of the equines admitted was poor. This could be contributed to the cost of living crisis as costs of horse feed, hay, straw, farrier, dentist and veterinary costs soared. Statistics from the RSPCA's Animal Kindness Index 2022, a UK- wide survey, showed the cost of living crisis is potentially "one of the biggest threats to the welfare of animals across the country" – www.horseandhound.co.uk

Concerns are that horse owners are struggling financially, and the welfare of their equines are being compromised due to not being able to afford the expensive but routine care that horses and ponies need. Many horses were admitted without having seen a dentist or a farrier for years, some were in obvious need of medical assistance upon admittance, and other health issues manifested after tests and medical investigations. The worry is that owners are ashamed to ask for help or advice with regards to their care and will surrender their horse rather than ask for assistance. We are expecting demand for space to increase, and potentially loaned horses and ponies needing to be returned to us, due to costs, many of which will be elderly, so are potential space blockers as they will be unlikely to be loaned again.

Jake's life is on the up



Jake was admitted due to a relationship breakdown, his owner said she was devastated to have to make the call to ask for help, as the property where Jake resided was being sold as a result of the relationship ending. On the initial application, we were told by his owner that Jake was 19 years old, had previously been ridden but hadn't for a while so would need going back to basics with regards to riding again, with no health issues, we envisaged Jake finding a home without any problems, as we had a 'waiting list' of people wanting horses that could be ridden. Jake's owner transported Jake to the rescue centre, and when the horsebox door opened, we were surprised to see him in extremely poor condition, he was extremely underweight and had a coat that resembled a rug and his hooves were overgrown. It turned out that Jake was actually 27 years old and was nothing like the horse that was described to us prior to admittance in April (above)



Jake saw the dentist and farrier and needed quite a bit of work done, he also saw the vet asap, who ordered a cushings test, as his long coat was a symptom of the disease – he tested positive and is now on tablets to control the disease for the rest of his life, something which has hindered him finding a new home.

Jake in June 2022, a testament to his equine carers who have worked to improve his condition (above)



Jake having his teeth rasped by our dentist Robin Hardy.

The difference in Jake now is not only noticeable physically, but emotionally. Jake is a much happier horse, he trusts the equine staff with his life, and will fall asleep with his head on their lap, he seems almost grateful to us being there for him. We continue to look for a home for Jake, but the reality is that he will most probably remain at the rescue for the rest of his life, as people do not want to adopt animals with health issues. But he is happy here and loved by all the staff.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Structure, governance and management

The charity is constituted under a trust deed dated 16 January 2016 and is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation number 1160348.

Trustees

Our Trustees continue to use the skills and knowledge gained in their professional backgrounds and may years involvement with the rescue to ensure we deliver on our charitable purposes, comply with our ethics, and meet our legal obligations; and do so with vision, drive and to high standards. Twinning knowledge from rescue management, behavioural training, veterinary services, finance, IT, legal and social work with impressive passion for the protection of wildlife, farmed and companion animals. The board provide many hours of practical help, useful advice and moral support to the staff teams.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

H Stanbury	(Resigned 4 July 2022)
J Young	
D Nixon	
A Armstrong	
D Martin	
D Cox	
V Wikeley	(Deceased 6 January 2022)
M Kermode	(Appointed 15 August 2022)

We would like to make special acknowledgement of the many years contribution to the rescue of thousands of animals of the Director Helen Stanbury who has worked to help animals here since 2008, and as a volunteer before then. Helen's longstanding commitment and compassion for all animals, and personal resilience to see through the tough times is admirable. We thank her for everything she has achieved over the years and wish her well in her future endeavours, and hope they are a just a little more relaxing!

Trustees are appointed by agreement with the existing trustees. There are now no paid employees on the Board.

Recruitment and appointment of the Management Committee

The trustees appoint members of the Executive and Management Teams as and when appropriate. The Board appointed the Relationships Manager, Emma Jensen, in the role of Director for an interim period of six months to ascertain whether either party would wish to arrange to make a permanent appointment.

Recruitment of new trustees

Trustees are appointed through a structured recruitment process, involving a formal application and a democratic Trustee voting process to ensure that new Trustees add value and expertise to the organisation.

This year we welcomed Mel to the Board who was attracted by our commitment to our non-destruct policy. Mel brings a wealth of knowledge and experience gained from running national and local rescues across the UK, managing veterinary practices and very helpful behavioural qualifications and background too. We've very much appreciated her input this year.

We would like to thank all our Trustees for their commitment protecting and upholding Freshfields ethics, and for their moral and practical support this year.

Staff and volunteers

The Board and the Director would like to thank our 50 essential, experienced staff and over 129 dedicated volunteers for their commitment to protecting, rehoming, and conserving animals across the Northwest and Wales.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

This year has been a period of improvement for the Welsh rescue who are feeling thoroughly energised by their improved cattery and equine facilities and are fine tuning for maximum enrichment for animals during their stay.

This year has been a period of change for the Liverpool rescue which can be unsettling for staff. We are grateful to the staff and volunteers who have shown admirable resilience and commitment, whilst we adapted to a new people and worked to review operational processes and standards. The Liverpool staff are looking forward to implementing the improved facilities and standards over the next 12 months, and seeing the real gains at Liverpool currently felt by the Welsh team.

Freshfields Staff		Freshfields Volunteer Rescuers	
Liverpool base	28	Liverpool base	73
Caernarfon base	15	Caernarfon base	15
Charity shops Wales	3	Charity shops Wales	27
Charity shop Merseyside	3	Charity shop Merseyside	6
Board & Advisers	1	Board & Advisers	8
	50		129

The Charity shop managers are running happy and production charity shop ships, bringing together a broad range of benefits to people in the successful pursuit of benefitting vulnerable animals.

Volunteers

Our Volunteers are at the heart of everything we do and make a massive contribution to the life-changing work of the rescue centres and beyond. We are incredibly fortunate to have such kind and dedicated volunteers who have joined the rescue effort for over 20 years for nothing but the satisfaction of making a difference. We cannot express our gratitude to every rescue helper, whether 20 years or 20 minutes. We couldn't continue without you.

Through our volunteer programme, we provide a suitable opportunity for as diverse a range of people through the unifying subject of animals.

Roles include: Dog walking, cat companion, wildlife release, shop helper, goods collectors, home checker, fosterer, vet nurse assistant, wildlife carer, farm carer, administration, behavioural support, horse welfare checker, planning advisor, gardening, maintenance, tin collector, receptionist, educational talks, fundraising, behaviourist support, IT support, media production, and animal ambassador.

Our volunteers say they: Improve their well-being, mental or physical health; Benefit from social connection and support; Gain valuable skills that helped them get work; have had rewarding new experiences; gained a sense of achievement and value; made friends and kept, or got, connected; improved in confidence, and made a positive difference.

We have noticed a slow return of older volunteers post covid, but not yet back to where we were. Older active volunteers have so many skills and much determination to get things done we hope to attract more retired people. There is increased reliance on this group as working age people who are unemployed or have health challenges are required to spend more time job searching. We would benefit from a dedicated volunteer coordinator to match people with opportunities for the benefit of all.

Elaine's Rescue Remedy



Elaine has been volunteering for Freshfields for 23 years! Her journey with us began when "The new millennium has just begun. I lived alone and my full time job involved a lot of travelling which prevented me from having a dog. One of my new years resolutions was o go to Freshfields Animal Rescue and ask if I could do some dog walking for them". We gratefully said 'YES'! Soon Elaine was walking dogs in the beautiful country lanes around the rescue centre. Elaine reckons that she has walked over 100 different dogs during the past 23 years, and we've worked out that she's walked to the moon and back (maybe!).



Elaine says: 'I've worn out hundreds of pairs of shoes and walked in the freezing cold, wind, rain, thunderstorms, snow and sunshine, and I couldn't be happier to have done it to help the dogs! I've adopted dogs from Freshfields too; first of all, I took Christie home, and, unexpectedly, Molly too – I came in for Christie and fell in love with Molly. Then we gave a home to Tilly and Rani, and Rani is still with us, and enjoying his life to the full. I've done so much more than dog walking - I've taken them for hydrotherapy, I've been a Trustee for 4 years, reception work, fostering, and giving talks. My event and dog show hosting skills developed into media appearances, representing Freshfields and the vital work we do with dogs who really need our help – when Debs rings me to ask me to do interviews on the radio or local TV I've enjoyed doing it – I once was driven to the BBC in Media City at 6am to do an interview on Breakfast TV with Dan Walker. I've done hundreds of home checks and training sessions for new volunteers. I've driven animals to new homes and I'm passionate about promoting Bull Breed Awareness.

Dog walking for Freshfields means so much to me. I come in at least 5 days a week. It's an important part of my life, and an escape from everyday life and its concerns – when you have a happy dog on a lead, your troubles just disappear. It's very rewarding when you see a sad dog end up in a loving home, and you know that you've been part of the journey. I love giving the dogs a chance to go on an adventure and explore the outside world and have a good sniff. When I take Rani out he stands and has a sniff for about 5 minutes – I always say 'it's your walk love; stand and sniff if you like!' J I really enjoyed judging the Dog Shows and hope we can have one again soon.

Volunteering for Freshfields has given me a sense of purpose. Freshfields has been there for me as well, over the years. I sponsor Eros, and I know that when I'm walking him and others I'm giving them compassion, love, companionship, friendship and FUN! I understand their quirks and they have got to know me very well over the years. Animals enrich our lives in so many ways. I would very much recommend volunteering for Freshfields Animal Rescue. You will make a difference to many lives – including your own!

Financial Sustainability

After an annual reduction in income of around £200,000 for the past two years we are relieved to report an uplift this year to move towards previous levels of support. We are not there yet, and the improvement is negated by substantially increased running costs and demand for emergency rescue. It is however positive, and we hope we can catch up fully and consistently.

This year our incredible supporters donated £1,579,920, an increase on £1,427,421 the year previous. We are pleased to report we are achieving 69p in every pound going in direct care of the animals compared to 65p last year, after all fundraising and all management costs have been covered. This is in line with our 68p average over each year but we have done well to achieve this given the cost increases we are all experiencing.

We are committed to making the most of every penny, in the way that our supporters would expect. Our direct care and support cost ratio is on parr with other charities who take a responsible view to ensuring we can sustain and protect what we have achieved to date. We have a view to long term sustainability and the development needed to meet the rapidly growing animal rescue demand crisis across the UK.

The cost increases we anticipate will continue are the Russia and Brexit related. Vet medicines are chiefly sourced from Europe which has seen supply shortages and cost increases. Wholesale vet advised foods come from Europe and are 35/ 50% more expensive. As animals live longer these foods are needed more. We benefitted from around £13,000 of government subsidies towards energy bills. This scheme is set to end next year which is an area of risk we need to manage.

Cost increases in staffing, external vet fees and maintenance equipment seen this year are short term solutions to immediate capacity, service and equipment needs that look set to revert to 2021 levels next year. We increased restricted fund expenditure in 2021 to complete some much needed facility and access improvements.

As usual Gifts in Wills continue to provide the best and most vital support for animals, and people, in crisis. We remain dependent upon this most precious source of funding to keep our doors open and activities functioning. This year, these gifts equalled 48% of our income, up 7% on last year. We are looking to invest this in substantial facility expansion and upgrades next year. We are delighted to be able to use gifts in wills in this way and will do those amazing donors proud by helping more animals better with their help.

We aim to inspire more gifts in wills in the future by showing the range, quality and impact of what we've achieved so far and ensure the recognition of those who made it possible. However, our continued reliance on unpredictable legacies leaves us at constant risk. Our stability can turn within any given year. We are keen to bridge that gap and have plans to progress this.

Regular giving through direct debit, animal sponsorship and playing the Freshfields Lottery provide the rescue with 6% of an incredibly valuable source of core funding that requires less time and resource to achieving as other fundraising activities. We had hoped to focus on growing this area this year but life had other plans for us! It is a focus for future growth that we have maintained reasonable stability on.

The cost of living crisis has impacted on *one-off donations despite our working hard to consistently show our impact and value to our valued supporters*. We had around £60,000 less this year which twinned with higher costs is very significant blow to cover running costs. We have been fortunate in our legacy income this year but can't assume the same next year.

We've not had the capacity to run our own sponsored fundraising challenges this year but have been blessed by established and new community fundraisers helping us this way. Sidney Road lights and local business, holding stalls, individuals skydiving, dancethons, dog walk, filling collection tins. Our community rescue team are doing us proud and we are incredibly thankful.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Our Triple Threat Winter Appeal saw our community supporters step up like never before to our plea for support to deal with costs being up, demand for rescue being up and donation being down. Everyone raised a bumper £53,779 to simply help us keep going in scary times. Individuals gave what they could and raised £17,750, which was then match funded by a group of long term supporters and by funds raised by our charity Partner Morecrofts Solicitors. We literally are unable to thank everyone enough.

Our charity partnership with Morecrofts Solicitors LLP is working well, and we make a great team in addressing moments of crisis for people, Morecrofts, and the subsequent impacts on animals, Freshfields. What a fantastic staff team they have. They have initiated staff fundraisers and had the animals benefitting from the Merseyside in Business Awards night fundraiser. It's an excellent partnership that is very much helping more animals better through funds and increased awareness.

In kind support

*Donations in kind continue to be absolutely essential to our ability to make rescue, rehoming and re-release possibl*e. This year, there are 138 Volunteers who we simply cannot thank enough in roles from retail to fostering, advisors to educators. We would like to express our thanks and immense gratitude to each and every one.

They represent the best of humanity as active guardians of animals that need us in the North West and Wales.

Grants and Trusts

Given that animals most commonly feature on the exclusion list of 99% of charity funders, we are very grateful for the grant and trust funding that we do receive. This equalled 3% of income at £42,446 which is more than most years. This is mainly due to remaining payments due for the new Adoption Hub Build grants. The total awards over this and last year were: Support Adoption for Pets – now Pets at Home Foundation(PAHF) £85,344 with £12,587 from Dickinson Parker Hill Solicitors. After covid delays we completed and launched this wonderful resource event in April and were then able to use the Hub to continue the behavioural training programme for kennels staff that Battersea Cats and Dogs Home Foundation granted us £13,000 for. Kennel Club got on board to provide us with £1000 for dog enrichment equipment. We must recognise the generous free services and guidance provided by Future3 Architecture and DBCDS Limited.



This hub provides quality facilities to undertake adoption meetings and calm behavioural support work with the dogs out of kennels or public spaces. It now provides privacy to distressed owners surrendering a beloved pet, space to train staff and meet people and an accessible pleasant space to welcome prospective adopters and supporters. An immense thank you to all involved.

We are grateful to each of the smaller life saving Trusts and foundations listed in section 19 whose collective support makes a significant difference. We appreciate their insight and willingness to provide support for the continual costs of vet fees and are very grateful indeed to the Rose Animal Welfare Trust for donating two times towards this – providing £10,000 worth of incredible support this year. Each funder supporting the animals this year have made it possible for us to prevent both physical and mental suffering in hundreds of animals this year and take pre-emptive action to prevent future problems for them and others. Fantastic.

We were relived to be able to extend our hedgehog accommodation this year, to help meet surging demand, thanks to the Hemby Trust whose grant we acquired in 2021.

Horses are our mostly costly animal to care for. The Hobson Charity stepped in this year to help with a fantastic £3000 towards the equine medicine bill. Thank you on behalf of every horse you helped.

Each year we downgrade expectations for grant income due to its rarity and pressures on the investments and sources that funders rely on. We continue to be frustrated by the majority of funders putting the work of animal rescues on the exclusion list, and are working extra hard to demonstrate that our work benefits people as well as animals We are exceptionally grateful to the funders listed who see past the initial animal rescue headline and see broader community benefits too. **We want to thank them for their trust and confidence in us and their support for our work in 2022.**

Charity Shops

Wow – the Charity Shop teams in Southport, Porthmadog, Llanidloes, Caernarfon, and Barmouth have excelled themselves this year. With an overall increase in income of 26%. Fantastic timing. We are especially grateful to those 33 volunteers who get up and come to the shops to sell unwanted goods to help the animals and ask nothing n retune but a little appreciation. We certainly appreciate you. The staff are reminded of your efforts and how it is their duty to use very penny well. With little support for animals elsewhere, this pro-active fundraising is a blessing. It supports our passion for environmental responsibility too by saving items for landfill and additional resources being used to make new goods.

The shops have also played an especially important role in supporting the communities they are in at this time. They are providing affordable clothing and household goods to people in financial difficulty. This a large percentage of the community. They also serve as a community hub for passing residents and for the volunteers who support the animals through them.

We remain committed to maintaining a presence on the high street, our shops are essential to us, and their role extends far beyond that of income generation. They are a gateway to our work, and for Freshfields to have a truly transformational impact on the lives of the animals we serve, we must view every interaction with the public as a chance to communicate our message. # NoAnimalLeftBehind.

We would like to welcome George to the team who runs the Porthmadog shop, and doing a great job.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Risk management

Risk management, Healthy and Safety, Fire Safety, and Operational Communication & Practices have been reviewed throughout the year, with changes made as necessary. GDPR training for all staff has been completed or renewed to ensure that all records are consistently processed, stored and secured.

Related parties

There are no related parties.

Financial review

The charity has been supported greatly by generous gifts and legacies, for which the trustees are most grateful.

Reserves policy

The pressure on us to take in injured or unwanted animals continues to be so great that we can always use every penny we have. To ensure we are sustainable and responsible, we endeavour to maintain a reserve of around £600,000 which would ensure the running of the charity for 6 months. Currently unrestricted reserves amount to £1,668,009 of which £391,340 is reflected in tangible fixed assets. This leaves £1,276,669 for operational costs currently.

Special acknowledgements

We would again like to thank Bill Esterson MP for his recognition of the value of animal rescue charities like Freshfields and his appreciation of our valuable contribution in our communities.

We are grateful beyond words, to the beautiful people listed below who so generously bequeathed gifts to us in their wills and continued to save lives after they have gone. Please make the effort to read each of their names. *It is our mission to ensure those legacies endure.*

Allan Langhorn
Anita Cranswick
B Monks
Barbara Charles
Barbara Dodd
Brian Hodges
Catherine Black
Charles Fred Berryman
David James Benson
Florence Ethel Johnson
George Edward Spencer
Irene Kay
Jean Bennett
Joyce Mulliner
Kenneth Robert Bonthorne
Louis Mary Rose
Mark Thomas Quinlan
Mary Janet Jackson
Mary Teresa Heath
Mrs M E Mackert
Mrs P Anderson
Pamela Cecilia Walten
Patricia Diana Alicia Spreadbury
Paul Leckie
Raymond Pedder
Robert Allan Lomas
Thomas Quinlan

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

We must express our sincere gratitude to every individual, group, funder, and company who have stepped up to help address the damage that humans are causing committing to direct action to make an immediate and lasting difference through Freshfields Animal Rescue. We are truly grateful for the strength, and practical and moral support you continue to provide.

We look forward to showing you the vital difference you have achieved in 2023.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements 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 of the charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. 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.

Public benefit

The trustees are satisfied that all of the activities undertaken by the charity in pursuance of its objects are for the benefit of the public.

The trustees have had due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

J Young
Trustee
Dated: 3 August 2023

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Freshfields Animal Rescue (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including 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 charity's affairs as at 31 December 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, 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 Charities Act 2011.

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 charity'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 other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees 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 charity'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 cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance;
- the charity's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- the results of our enquiries of management and members of the Board of Trustees of their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
- identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:

(i) The presentation of the charity's Statement of Financial Activities, (ii) the charity's accounting policy for revenue recognition, and (iii) the overstatement of salary and other costs. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Charities Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice - 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued by the joint SORP making body .

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included Animal Welfare and Data Protection Regulations.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified the presentation of the charity's Statement of Financial Activities, revenue recognition and overstatement of wages and other costs as the key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud. The key audit matters section of our report explains the matters in more detail and also describes the specific procedures we performed in response to those key audit matters.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and members of the Board of Trustees concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant authorities where matters identified were significant;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council’s website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Other matters

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements 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)" (as amended) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with current Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees 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 charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited .....

Accountants
Statutory Auditor

3rd Floor
5 Temple Square
Temple Street
Liverpool
Merseyside
L2 5RH

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	**3**	1,123,805	13,708	1,137,513	1,033,953	19,750	1,053,703
Charitable activities	**4**	41,727	-	41,727	45,133	-	45,133
Other trading activities	**5**	388,612	-	388,612	308,777	-	308,777
Other income	**6**	12,068	-	12,068	19,808	-	19,808
Total income		1,566,212	13,708	1,579,920	1,407,671	19,750	1,427,421
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	**7**	206,733	-	206,733	212,653	-	212,653
Charitable activities	**8**	1,147,591	29,086	1,176,677	1,002,430	52,711	1,055,141
Other		3,549	-	3,549	9,287	-	9,287
Total expenditure		1,357,873	29,086	1,386,959	1,224,370	52,711	1,277,081
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		208,339	(15,378)	192,961	183,301	(32,961)	150,340
Fund balances at 1 January 2022		1,459,670	205,676	1,665,346	1,276,370	238,636	1,515,006
Fund balances at 31 December 2022		1,668,009	190,298	1,858,307	1,459,671	205,675	1,665,346

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**14**		575,430		560,138
Current assets					
Stocks	**15**	11,926		16,884	
Debtors	**16**	445,222		118,656	
Cash at bank and in hand		920,654		1,058,107	
		1,377,802		1,193,647	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**17**	(94,925)		(88,439)	
Net current assets			1,282,877		1,105,208
Total assets less current liabilities			1,858,307		1,665,346
Income funds					
Restricted funds	**19**		190,298		205,675
Unrestricted funds			1,668,009		1,459,671
			1,858,307		1,665,346

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on .....

.....
J Young
Trustee

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	**25**		(66,267)		697,405
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(71,186)		(113,187)	
Proceeds from disposal of tangible fixed assets		-		849	
Net cash used in investing activities			(71,186)		(112,338)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			(137,453)		585,067
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			1,058,107		473,040
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			920,654		1,058,107

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Freshfields Animal Rescue is a charitable incorporated organisation, registered in the United Kingdom. The address of the principal office is East Lodge Farm, East Lane, Ince Blundell, Liverpool, L29 3EA. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are described in the Trustees' Report on pages 1 and 2.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 “The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland” (“FRS 102”) and the Charities SORP "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)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

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 financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Donated facilities and donated professional services are recognised in income at their fair value when their economic benefit is probable, it can be measured reliably and the charity has control over the item. Fair value is determined on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity. For example, the amount the charity would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Report.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of generating funds includes expenditure on fund raising activities and head office overheads.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes costs associated with the operation and management of residential accommodation and welfare support services.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

Support costs are those that assist the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at headquarters. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a pro-rata basis consistent with the use of the resources.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 9.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended. Individual assets are capitalised on the balance sheet where their cost exceeds £500.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold property	Nil
Improvements to property	4% per annum
Plant and machinery	25% on reducing balance basis
Fixtures and fittings	5% / 25% on reducing balance basis
Motor vehicles	25% on reducing balance basis

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 the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity 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 (if any).

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured 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.

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at 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.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 ‘Basic Financial Instruments’ and Section 12 ‘Other Financial Instruments Issues’ of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through income and expenditure, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting date. Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected.

If an asset is impaired, the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been, had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the charity transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.13 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.14 Operating lease agreements

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged as an expense on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

1.15 Irrecoverable VAT

All resources expended are classified under activity headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category or resources expended for which it is incurred.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated 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 where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	**Restricted funds**	**Total**	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022	**2022**	**2022**	2021	2021	2021
	£	**£**	**£**	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	334,228	-	334,228	393,454	5,000	398,454
Legacies receivable	760,819	-	760,819	585,067	-	585,067
Grants receivable	28,758	13,708	42,466	55,432	14,750	70,182
	1,123,805	13,708	1,137,513	1,033,953	19,750	1,053,703

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

4 Charitable activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Adoptions	41,727	45,133

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
Fundraising events	30,076	23,094
Shop income	358,536	285,683
Other trading activities	388,612	308,777

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
Other income	1,700	10,311
Commission	10,368	9,497
	12,068	19,808

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

7 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
Fundraising and publicity		
Purchases	8,062	8,637
Rent and rates	45,493	44,660
Light and heat	7,882	7,302
Other fundraising costs	6,196	11,233
Staff costs	42,870	53,281
Depreciation and impairment	324	386
Fundraising and publicity	110,827	125,499
Trading costs		
Staff costs	95,906	87,154
	206,733	212,653

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

8 Charitable activities

	Charitable Expenditure 2022	Charitable Expenditure 2021
	£	£
Staff costs	769,117	689,542
Depreciation and impairment	52,020	48,389
Centre - restricted	7,558	29,820
Travel expenses	191	735
Grant spend	18,466	5,355
Vet fees	69,989	44,468
Animal food and care	36,065	27,257
Small equipment	5,730	3,559
Rates and water	48	140
Light and heat	44,860	31,481
Repairs and maintenance	16,244	9,097
Sundry expenses	4,507	4,382
Veterinary consumables	34,697	32,977
Hygiene and waste	22,016	22,443
Motor expenses	6,696	7,090
	1,088,204	956,735
Share of support costs (see note 9)	80,223	90,706
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	8,250	7,700
	1,176,677	1,055,141
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	1,147,591	1,002,430
Restricted funds	29,086	52,711
	1,176,677	1,055,141

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

9 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2022	Support costs	Governance costs	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance	16,646	-	16,646	25,766	-	25,766
Telephone	7,151	-	7,151	10,383	-	10,383
Postage and stationery	13,420	-	13,420	13,712	-	13,712
Bank charges	12,871	-	12,871	10,762	-	10,762
Computer expenses and consumables	4,654	-	4,654	6,353	-	6,353
Staff training	3,473	-	3,473	1,996	-	1,996
Legal and professional fees	22,008	-	22,008	21,734	-	21,734
Audit fees	-	8,250	8,250	-	7,700	7,700
	80,223	8,250	88,473	90,706	7,700	98,406
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	80,223	8,250	88,473	90,706	7,700	98,406

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £7,700 (2021- £7,100) for audit fees. Legal and professional fees include costs of £1,715 for accountancy support (2021 - £1,260).

10 Net movement in funds

	2022	2021
	£	£
Net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting)		
Fees payable to the company's auditor for the audit of the company's financial statements	8,250	7,700
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	52,345	48,775
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	3,549	9,287

11 Trustees

The total remuneration paid to a trustee was £43,369 (2021 £32,600). In addition pension contributions amounting to £229 (2021 £795) were paid in respect of one trustee. Full details are provided in note 23.

There were no trustees' expenses reimbursed during the year ended 31 December 2022, nor for the year ended 31 December 2021.

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel is £215,046 (2021 £188,296). The trustees consider the key management personnel to be; the Director, Operations Managers (Liverpool and Wales), Finance Manager, Fundraising Manager, and the Area Shops Managers (Liverpool and Wales).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Management and administration	9	8
Fundraisers	10	4
Animal workers	31	35
Total	50	47

Employment costs	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	841,022	770,252
Social security costs	52,827	47,155
Other pension costs	14,044	12,570
	907,893	829,977

Redundancy payments totalling £13,500 (2021 £Nil) were paid to one employee during the year.

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from income tax on its charitable activities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property	Improvements to property	Plant and machinery	Fixtures and fittings	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost						
At 1 January 2022	170,968	641,971	147,182	2,004	33,659	995,784
Additions	-	32,831	20,355	-	18,000	71,186
Disposals	-	-	(3,607)	-	(1,500)	(5,107)
At 31 December 2022	170,968	674,802	163,930	2,004	50,159	1,061,863
Depreciation and impairment						
At 1 January 2022	59,247	247,774	105,729	501	22,395	435,646
Depreciation charged in the year	3,079	26,992	14,770	376	7,128	52,345
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	-	(902)	-	(656)	(1,558)
At 31 December 2022	62,326	274,766	119,597	877	28,867	486,433
Carrying amount						
At 31 December 2022	108,642	400,036	44,333	1,127	21,292	575,430
At 31 December 2021	111,721	394,197	41,453	1,503	11,264	560,138

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

15 Stocks

	2022	2021
	£	£
Animal feed, consumables and veterinary supplies	11,926	16,884

16 Debtors

	2022	2021
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Other debtors	6,181	4,605
Prepayments and accrued income	439,041	114,051
	445,222	118,656

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	13,022	23,282
Trade creditors	33,801	23,209
Other creditors	987	1,430
Accruals and deferred income	47,115	40,518
	94,925	88,439

18 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

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 charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £14,044 (2021 - £12,570).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

19 Restricted funds

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

		Movement in funds			Movement in funds		
	Balance at 1 January 2021	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 1 January 2022	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Dog Sensory Garden donation	46,611	-	(8,138)	38,473	-	(8,138)	30,335
New ambulance appeal	7,815	-	(1,954)	5,861	-	(1,465)	4,396
On-site vet room	15,281	-	(2,377)	12,904	-	(2,377)	10,527
Wales Centre improvements	35,531	-	(1,545)	33,986	-	(1,545)	32,441
The Pet Plan Charitable Trust	4,493	-	(1,123)	3,370	-	(843)	2,527
The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust	14,538	-	(3,635)	10,904	-	(2,726)	8,178
Doreen Greenlees Trust	5,000	-	(200)	4,800	-	(200)	4,600
Hill Dickinson	12,587	-	(503)	12,084	-	(503)	11,581
Co-Operative Community Fund	5,512	-	(4,254)	118	-	(30)	88
Support Adoption for Pets	85,344	-	(3,414)	81,930	-	(3,414)	78,516
Battersea Dogs' Home	3,199	3,250	(6,449)	-	-	-	-
Barry Green Memorial Fund	2,675	-	(2,675)	-	-	-	-
Gallimore Trust	-	500	(500)	-	-	-	-
William Dean Trust	-	500	(500)	-	500	(500)	-
''Will Week'	50	-	(2)	48	-	(2)	46
Jean Sainsbury	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	6,208	-	6,208
Other	-	10,500	(10,442)	1,198	7,000	(7,343)	855
	238,636	19,750	(52,711)	205,676	13,708	(29,086)	190,298

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

19 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Dog Sensory Garden donation

One of the charities long term supporters and volunteers donated the proceeds of a personal investment to be used to landscape and provide agility equipment on the dog exercise field. A variety of textures (astroturf, rubber, grass, sand and stone) were included in the landscaping to provide a sensory experience for the dogs in the charities care.

New ambulance appeal

Donations were received to contribute to the purchase of a new Freshfields ambulance to replace the existing one.

On-site vet room

Funds were donated from Pet Plan and Caf Bank, and a general appeal for the construction of a vet room at the centre. This became operational during the year.

Wales Centre improvements

The Billy Meade Trust donated £50,000 in the previous year for improvements of the Wales Centre. This included improvements to the cattery and electric repairs.

Pet Plan Charitable Trust

We were awarded £7,497 from Pet Plan Charitable Trust towards the cost of a new Animal Ambulance, replacing a vehicle which was unfit for purpose and enabling the safe and secure transport of animals.

Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust

The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust made an award for a new X-Ray machine for the Vet Room, enabling our vet to carry out routine X-rays on site and therefore reduce costs.

Co-operative Community Fund

We were awarded funds to deliver much needed refurbishment and repairs to the structure of one of the Kennel blocks. The side walls had been damaged by leaks as the covering materials were no longer fit for purpose. These funds will ensure a safe, dry and comfortable environment for the dogs in the main areas in which they meet, greet and socialise.

Doreen Greenlees

The Doreen Greenless Charitable Trust donated £5,000 towards the cost of the Welcome Area in the development of the Animal Adoption Hub. This is to provide a warm, welcoming and well-equipped space for visitors and people who want to adopt an animal.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

19 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Hill Dickinson

Hill Dickinson solicitors contributed £12,587 towards the construction of the Animal Adoption Hub.

Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust

The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust provided emergency funding of £5,000 for the payment of veterinary fees during the Covid 19 pandemic. An additional sum of £6,208 was received for the construction of cattery maternity pens.

Support Adoption for Pets

This animal welfare charity donated £85,344 towards the construction of the Animal Adoption Hub.

Barry Green Memorial Fund

The Barry Green Memorial Fund contributed £5,000 towards the charity's medication costs.

Gallimore Trust

This charity donated £500 towards the centre's veterinary bills.

William Dean Trust

This charity made contributions totalling £1,000 towards the centre's veterinary bills.

'Will Week'

A donation of £50 was made towards the construction of the Animal Adoption Hub.

Battersea Dogs and Cats Home

This charity donated £13,000 towards the delivery of a behaviourally-enhanced rehoming programme at the Animal Adoption Hub for dogs held for long periods.

Other

The other restricted funds comprise £500 received from The Hemby Trust for the provision of hedgehog accommodation; the following sums contributed towards veterinary fees: £500 received from the William Dean Trust; a contribution of £3,000 towards equine medicines from the Hobson Charity; a miscellaneous contribution of £3,000; and £1,000 received from the Kennel Club for various enrichment items.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	**Restricted funds**	**Total**	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022	**2022**	**2022**	2021	2021	2021
	£	**£**	**£**	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2022 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	391,340	184,090	575,430	355,778	204,360	560,138
Current assets/(liabilities)	1,276,669	6,208	1,282,877	1,103,893	1,315	1,105,208
	1,668,009	190,298	1,858,307	1,459,671	205,675	1,665,346

21 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2022	**2021**
	£	**£**
Within one year	35,887	43,875
Between two and five years	34,500	52,500
	70,387	96,375

22 Capital commitments

As at 31 December 2022 the entity had no capital commitments, being contracted for but not provided in the financial statements.

23 Related party transactions

Helen Stanbury, a trustee of the charity, was also employed as the director of the charity. All interests have been declared to the Charity Commission and conflicts of interest are appropriately managed. During this financial year Helen Stanbury received gross wages of £29,869 (2021: £32,600) for her work in this capacity. The charity also paid employer pension contributions of £229 on behalf of Mrs Stanbury (2021: £795). In addition, in the current year Mrs Stanbury received a redundancy payment of £13,500.

In the opinion of the trustees there is no ultimate controlling party.

During the year the charity paid trustees insurance amounting to £896 (2021: £800).

24 APB ethical standard

In common with many other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to prepare and submit returns to the tax authorities, assist with the preparation of the financial statements and to provide tax advice.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

25	Cash generated from operations	2022	2021
		£	£
	Surplus for the year	192,961	150,340
	Adjustments for:		
	Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	3,549	9,287
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	52,344	48,775
	Movements in working capital:		
	Decrease/(increase) in stocks	4,958	(1,775)
	(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(326,565)	505,209
	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	6,486	(14,431)
	Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	(66,267)	697,405

26 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no debt during the year.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

England & Wales - Charity number 1160348

Accounts

Charity registration number 1160348

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	J Young D Nixon A Armstrong D Martin D Cox (Appointed 18 August 2021)
Charity number	1160348
Auditor	Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited 3rd Floor 5 Temple Square Temple Street Liverpool Merseyside L2 5RH
Bankers	Lloyds Bank plc 88-94 Church Street Liverpool Merseyside L1 3HD The Royal Bank of Scotland plc 15 Foregate Street Chester CH1 1HD Barclays Bank plc 5 - 6 Bangor Street Caernarfon Gwynedd Nth Wales LL55 1AE
Solicitors	Weightmans LLP 100 Old Hall Street Liverpool Merseyside L3 9QJ

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

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FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "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) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

Our Mission

To provide the best emergency care for animals in peril; while inspiring and supporting people to protect animals and the natural environment.

Our Vision

A world where all people protect animals and value nature.

Our Primary Aims

- To protect animals who have been abused, abandoned and neglected, through the rescue, rehabilitation, rehoming or release of domesticated, farmed and wild animals.
- To build upon the forty years of public trust and support gained as a result of delivering a service which is ethically led.
- To put the needs of the animals at the heart of everything we do and provide excellent care.
- To effect lasting positive change for more animals.

Our Aims in Practice

- To rescue and rehome, or release, to a consistently high standard from both our shelters.
- To effect lasting change through impactful community engagement and education initiatives.
- To promote the benefits of neutering and deliver a first-rate Community Neutering Service across the Northwest and North Wales.
- To foster a culture that gives equal consideration for the well-being of all species of animals.
- To deliver and promote a holistic approach to animal welfare that acknowledges human impact.
- To ensure the health, well-being, support and development of our staff and volunteers.
- To support responsible pet owners to keep or protect their friend in times of crisis.
- To demonstrate our relevance, impact, value, and resilience to our stakeholders.

Services and activities

Responsive Services

- Domesticated animals: rescue, accommodation, medical care, rehoming from the rescue and rehoming from home. These services primarily support cats, dogs, horses, rabbits and a variety of small animals.
- Wild animals: rescue, provision of accommodation, medical care, trap, neuter and release.

These services primarily support hedgehogs and wild birds.

- Farmed animals: rescue, provision of accommodation, medical care, and rehoming from the rescue.

These services primarily support pigs, sheep, ducks, geese, hens and cockerels.

We have a registered veterinary practice for rescue animals, delivering our expert medical care is our on-site vet, fully equipped veterinary facility, vet nurses, and supportive community veterinary partners.

Proactive Services

- Advice and signposting for individuals struggling to keep their pet, and for people in pre and post adoption phases.
- Community Outreach Neutering Programme, targeting the over-population of feral/ street cats and supporting households on low income with cats across Merseyside
- Bunny bonding service to ensure the well-being of isolated pet rabbits.
- Community Outreach Education in schools, colleges and with community groups.
- Awareness-raising campaigns in support of animal welfare, adopter responsibilities, and wildlife conservation issues.

Ethos

Freshfields Animal Rescue was founded in 1979, upon the simple premise that all life matters. That foundation has only grown stronger as the scope of our work has expanded. Today, more than 40 years on, equal consideration for every species of animal remains at the forefront of our work. It is for this reason that we operate a meat free food policy on our premises.

Our ethos is to ensure the well-being of any animal that needs us for as long as it needs us. We will aid any animal regardless of additional time and resources needed to achieve this. We go the extra mile to deliver our ethical promise to our stakeholders.

Freshfields has a holistic and pragmatic approach to the many issues facing domestic and wild animals. We recognise that the fate of animals is inextricably linked to the impact of human attitudes and actions. We live by our core principles to inform, support and initiate changes in peoples' actions, leading to a better future for us all.

At Freshfields we live what we do, striving for a future where welfare, respect, responsibility and empathy become not only our vision but also a reality.

Public benefit

The trustees are satisfied that all of the activities undertaken by the charity in pursuance of its objects are for the benefit of the public.

The trustees have had due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

THE NEED FOR OUR WORK

Supporting Animals in Crisis

The issue of overpopulation of domestic animals and under-population of wildlife in the UK, and worldwide, is a serious, silent and hidden crisis. Freshfields Animal Rescue plays a vital role in tackling these issues in Northwest England and Wales.

The bigger picture can be conveyed through statistical data. This conveys a clear and urgent need for responsive and proactive work to deal with today's problems and effect lasting positive change.

Domesticated animals

Pets play a significant part in so many of our lives. There are 51 million pets in the UK, with 49% of people owning a pet. 90% of owners say their pet makes them feel happy, and 88% feel they improve their quality of life.

Behind these figures lies a story of adversity:

2.7 million cats and dogs are abandoned every year in the UK.

48% of people are still getting their dogs from a private seller or breeder, with only 22% from rescues.

Large scale breeding and transportation of puppies is a significant challenge.

Animals that we domesticate suffer due to people misunderstanding the broader issues and level of commitment required, seeking fashionable pets, not training them, or providing the necessary care. This results in the following:

Rescue centres nationally have 45% of kennel spaces taken by bull breed dogs.

The RSPCA alone felt it necessary to euthanise 29% of their animals.

98% of vets have been asked to euthanise an unwanted healthy pet because they haven't been socialised.

This year, as for the past 40 years, we are determined to save the lives of abused, abandoned and unwanted animals today and continue to work to prevent the problems at their root causes.

Wildlife

'Between 1970 and 2013, 56% of UK species declined. Of the nearly 8,000 species assessed using modern criteria, 15% are threatened with extinction. This suggests that we are among the most nature-depleted countries in the world. Of the 218 countries assessed for 'biodiversity intactness', the UK is ranked 189, a consequence of centuries of industrialisation, urbanisation and overexploitation of our natural resources.' - State of Nature Report, 2016.

At Freshfields we are not complacent about this issue, and work hard to protect and repopulate struggling local wildlife and unite with all of those who care enough to take some action and be part of making a difference.

The latest State of Britain's Hedgehogs report from the British Hedgehog Preservation Society in partnership with People's Trust for Endangered Species speaks of an urban population that is stable and may be showing signs of recovery. Any recovery, it must be remembered, will begin from a very low baseline, this makes Freshfields role even more relevant in this vital work.

Freshfields Animal Rescue is on the front line of the battle to protect wildlife in the Northwest. Our Wildlife Unit undertakes vital conservation work to save the environment. Our Hedgehog overwintering programme and wild bird rehabilitation and release programme provides vital intervention to save every precious hedgehog and wild bird that is brought to our door. We inform and inspire the public to take practical steps to help wildlife survive and thrive in both urban and rural settings.

We see an increase in demand for this work year on year. We are committed to working with the community to address this urgent and present need.

Supporting people in crisis

We were once again delighted to provide support to the local community whenever possible. This support came in many forms, including sign posting, advice and practical help with food and equipment.

Our partnership with Care for The Paw continued in the shape of our *We See You Project.* This year we increased our donation by 50% providing 150 care packages for the homeless of Merseyside and their dogs. Our determined volunteers collected, stored, and packed a selection of wet and dry dog food, treats and toys. All-important human treats were added, and we turned to schools and children's groups in our local community to provide handmade Christmas cards, each with a special message, for the recipient of each bag. This gesture touched the hearts of the people receiving the cards and provided opportunity to spread awareness of the heart-wrenching reality of homelessness in Britain. A very generous donation from Morecrofts Solicitors allowed us to buy 150 pairs of good quality warm gloves, hats, and socks for each human recipient of our bags. This collaboration is something we are proud of, and we hope to develop our We See You project in the coming years.



We also supported The Florence Institute and the Anglican Cathedral food bank programme. Their work in our local community is vital and we are proud to support them by passing on animal foods which we ourselves cannot use. We hope to continue and develop this work in 2022.

Crisis isn't something that anyone can plan for, and it is fact that people who have pets in our local area may find themselves in situations they never imagined and desperately in need of our help. Our kennels, cattery and small animal teams all operate waiting lists. These allow staff to record details, prioritising those animals for whom they cannot provide immediate interventions. Advice and practical help are always available, emergencies are dealt with and help from our network of other reputable rescues regularly secured.

Having braced ourselves for the eventual fallout of the pandemic and the phenomenal numbers of dogs purchased during furlough, 2021 finally began to see an explosion in the numbers of dogs needing help with a total of 251 added to our waiting list.

There were many reasons which caused people to want to surrender their dogs and contact Freshfields for help. These involved social, economic, health and personal reasons. See below:

Personal Circumstance	
New baby	5.1%
Cannot cope/no time	10.7%
Work hours/commitments	2.7%
Owner died	6.3%
Owner ill/disabled	11.1%
Dog aggression/bitten	19.1%
Not getting on with other dog	7.1%
Owner went to prison	0.4%
Relationship split	3.2%
Not allowed pets in accommodation/homeless	11.5%
Allergies	0.8%
Separation anxiety/behavioural issues	11.5%
Can no longer afford to keep	2%
Other – emigrating/moved to care home/army	8%

It also became very clear that dogs below two years of age, therefore obtained during the pandemic, made up the bulk of those placed on our waiting list. Pedigrees and pedigree crosses also made up more of our waiting list this year than ever before, outnumbering Staffordshire Bull terriers/crosses and other bull breed/crosses for the first time ever. This is sadly a reflection of the huge numbers of specifically bred dogs that were purchased during the pandemic. Millions of dogs were sold, and millions of pounds profit was made.

In this year we were able to take off 235 dogs from this list for the following reasons –

Rehomed by owner, with Freshfields advice	49
Gone to another rescue via owner, with Freshfields advice	33
Placed in another rescue via Freshfields	47
Admitted to Freshfields	39
Rehomed via Freshfields website	4
Owners keeping, with our support and advice	35
Put to sleep by owners	6
Other reason	22

ANIMAL WELFARE ACHIEVEMENTS

Introduction

We operate two rescue sites, one in Liverpool, Merseyside the other in Caernarfon, North Wales.

We are unique in the service we provide across the North West and North Wales with respect to the diversity of animals that we rescue, rehabilitate, rehome or release. Our rescue services can be broadly categorised into three key areas:

- Domesticated animals
- Farmed animals
- Wildlife

We have an established track record as a rescue that provides a vital last chance for animals that other rescue centres have rejected for commercial reasons, age, behavioural issues, and other challenges. As a result, the public has come

to rely on Freshfields as a valuable local resource to bring animals in desperate need and be confident that they will be treated with compassion and care.

The following table combines the Liverpool Centre and the Wales Centre figures and summarises those animals assisted in 2021.

Animals Assisted at Freshfields - Outcomes 2021

Animals	Admitted	Rehomed	Released into the wild	Neutered/ chipped on site	Neutered in community	Put to sleep	Died	Currently in our care (9th March 2022)
Cats and kittens	356	314	-	272		12	6	74
Feral cats	7	-	7		7	0	0	0
Dogs	64	62	-	33	-	1	1	29
Rabbits	38	20	-	38	-	0	3	20
Small animals	25	23	-	14	-	2	0	10
Horses	7	5	-	4	-	4	0	19
Hedgehogs	451	-	241	-	-	18	211	74
Wild birds	398	-	165	-	-	59	147	60
Farm	11	21	-	-	-	12	2	26
Other	4							11
Total	**1361**							

Notes to the Animal Figures:

Dogs – the number of dogs we were able to help was again unfortunately affected by Covid restrictions and the delayed finish of our kennel refurbishment was also affected by Covid, lack of materials and an increase in costs. Recruiting new staff and their training also had an effect.

Cats – the numbers of cats helped through the Liverpool centre was unfortunately reduced because of Covid, changes to staff members, their training and storm damage. We were unable to restart our Outreach neutering programme which also meant a reduction in neuters, admittances, and rehoming.

The number of dogs admitted includes 4 dogs who were rehomed via our Website Waiting List programme. As Covid restrictions continued to be in place and affect our work, we were again unable to operate this scheme in the usual way. We also found that more and more of the 'lockdown' dogs placed on our waiting list had mild to severe behavioural issues, meaning they were unsuitable to rehome through this process. This 'Home to Home' service is one of our most successful community intervention schemes. It prevents the need for admittance to the centre for a dog who is waiting to be rehomed.

This has the following benefits:

- Reducing the stress and anxiety in an already difficult situation for the dog and owner.
- Freeing up space for emergency admissions for dogs who have been abandoned or are in the most desperate immediate need.
- Maintaining continuity for the dog, with a support package of advice and pre and post adoption support from the rescue centre.

In Wales, our ability to rescue and rehome dogs is hampered by a lack of facilities and staff. This work is as important to us as it is to our supporters and remains a priority issue to address in the future.

Animals Assisted in the Community - our Community Presence

The impact of the pandemic has meant flexibility is vital in meeting local challenges in more resourceful ways. Freshfields has always been more than a site-based rescue centre, and the number of requests for advice and support is a testament to the ever-increasing need for our services and the close working relationships we have formed with local people.

The public relies on Freshfields as a valuable resource for advice and support. Our staff spend a significant amount of time giving telephone help and face to face advice to the public on many animal-welfare related issues.

Some interventions address critical or urgent situations, which may result in an emergency admission to the rescue centre or signposting to the appropriate services. In addition, we continue to work closely with other rescue centres, locally, regionally, and nationally, to facilitate the animal's progress to a safe place.

Some interventions address longer-term behavioural issues and provide people with a comprehensive set of tools and techniques to establish and maintain a safe home for the animal.

Reports from the animal units – Liverpool

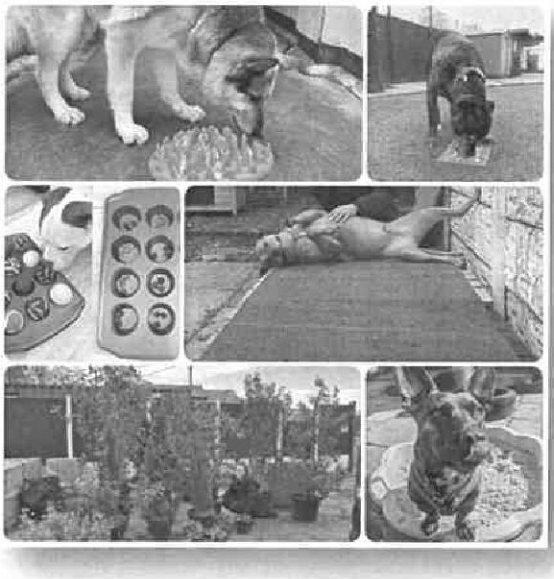
Albeit slowly, the kennels 'Change Plan' was progressed throughout the year. Many changes were made to streamline efficiency, to move animals more speedily through our systems and to improve the overall outlook for the dogs in our care.

Kennels Response Work

Organisation and efficiency remain key to the smooth running of our kennels. Our stance on dogs remains the same as ever; prioritising UK dogs in need from our local area, we never shy away from those that are an unpopular breed or in need of behavioural support or intervention. This leads to rewarding but often challenging and time-consuming work which, coupled with having only 26 dogs spaces available at the rescue, leads to dog admittance/rehoming figures that are lower than some other rescues.

Supporting the physical and mental wellbeing of each dog is a fundamental need to our being able to successfully rehabilitate and rehome them. Our staff go above and beyond to provide everything they can to support the physical and emotional wellbeing of each dog.his includes enrichment days where dogs are treated to slow-feeders, food game activities. These are so helpful as life in kennels can be stressful as well as boring, and frustration can result in negative behaviour which in turn reduces rehoming opportunities. Staff also look to enrich the areas the dogs exercise by introducing new surfaces, like sand, Astroturf, and safe plants. are often put out and we are always astounded and forever grateful for the care and compassion our supporters show us and our dogs. Toys, turf, tuna, and even huge shrubs have all been sent to our lucky dogs.

Picture below: Enrichment programme for dogs.



Kennel staff recognise that for those dogs who stay with us for longer than normal, a connection with the outside world is vital. Funding was secured so dogs could be taken to secure local dog exercise fields. As well as allowing dogs the freedom to roam and relax in areas other than at the rescue, time is spent getting used to cars and travelling. These trips allow our staff to bond with our dogs which develops positive relationships crucial to behavioural work and training – all part of the journey to finding a new home. As part of a new programme, staff are 'buddied up' with specific dogs. This means they can carry out tailor made behavioural plans, ensure the needs of their 'buddies' are met, and the right homes can be found. Previously staff had found that some of the detail that was needed was being lost because all staff were trying to do all the work with all the dogs.

Picture below: Buddied dogs enjoying quality time with staff.



Staff are always ready and willing to step up and handle the challenge of emergency cases as they happen. Calls concerning dogs about to be put to sleep (or worse), abandoned on the street, or left alone in properties are more common than may be thought. One such case was Maisy and Lady's. Left alone in a house after the death of their owner, they were desperately underweight, infested with fleas and had open sores. Within an hour of being contacted staff had arranged transport and were able to bring these poor girls into their care. Displaying surprising resilience, these black lurchers soon blossomed, finding new homes once they were fully healthy.

Two of our kennel blocks were damaged in the storms of 2021. Roofs were ripped off and staff had to comfort understandably frightened dogs as well as make emergency arrangements for short term housing. Fortunately, we were able to replace the roofing sheets within a week and give the dogs secure, dry kennels again.

Kennels Proactive Work

Having committed to the rescue of some of the more challenging dogs from our area, we are aware that we must work on how to best serve their needs whilst also striving for that end goal – rehoming. To ensure the most efficient use of staff time, several new systems, including those relating to information recording and addressing behavioural needs have been put in place.

Staff have taken part in one-on-one training sessions with our long-term behaviourist outside of usual work hours as well as onsite. These sessions deal with both general behavioural lessons and tailor-made plans for specific dogs. Allocating dogs to staff as part of a buddying scheme has ensured continuity, with each staff member dealing with all aspects of their allocated dogs care and rehabilitation, from day of arrival to adoption. Record keeping, application forms and foster enquiry forms have been reviewed and updated, and now individual boards outside each kennel are used to record important information daily. Visits to other rescues have also taken place, which have proved invaluable as we are firm believers in always being ready to learn something new.

We have managed to increase foster homes after a social media campaign. Foster homes are so important, both for the dogs themselves and because they free up space at the rescue. They are however notoriously difficult to find – and keep. Fosterers are often just that because they have no other animals. This means that often they find it too difficult to part with their foster animal. Luckily some of our new staff can provide short breaks away from the kennel environment for some dogs. This is an excellent way of finding out more about the dogs and helps when speaking to potential adopters.

Limited spaces on site are taken up by dogs in need of expert care and rehabilitation. Working to provide direct interventions for dogs while they remain on our waiting list is vital and specific time is set aside for this. Over the past two years, a network of more than 80 reliable contacts has been built – all of these from other rescues who maintain the same standards as us. Staff take the time to gain as much information about the dog, and meet or get pictures, before reaching out to secure the alternative rescue space. Often, we arrange transport to collect and 'deliver' dogs, sometimes enlisting the help of our valued volunteers. This work ensures many dogs we are not able to bring into the rescue are safe.

In 2021 598 medical treatments were given, 11 dogs were fostered, and we received 468 community aid requests.

Winston goes home

Finally, on June 27th, long-term resident Winston trotted out of Freshfields for the very last time and went off to his very own forever home. As you can imagine, emotions at the rescue ran high with joy for our four-legged friend.

Winston first arrived with us in 2014. Emotionally damaged by the trauma of losing his owner to a prison sentence, Winston, who was left behind, became protective of his home and owner's partner, reacting aggressively towards any visiting strangers and other animals. This was a real crisis, with his owners telling us that veterinary euthanasia was the only option. Freshfields was his lifeline.

It took staff several weeks to gain Winston's trust, visiting him in his home and desperately wanting him to accept them before his final transfer into our care at the Liverpool centre. After an initial settling in period, Winston bonded with all the kennel staff plus two trusted volunteers. The signs were hopeful that we would rehabilitate and re-home him.

Winston, however, had plans of his own. He told us in no uncertain terms that he didn't want to entertain anyone else and from that point on all attempts to expand his circle of friends were unsuccessful. It soon became clear that Winston would accept nobody new into his life. This disappointing turn of events meant that re-homing Winston would not be possible, so he became a permanent resident. The next thing to do was set out to ensure Winston continued to have the best life possible.

He had his own rota, with staff (past and present) and volunteers going above and beyond to make sure Winston had everything he needed. His own room was kitted out with a dinosaur theme – rug, curtains, lamp, and wall art. He loves the large sofas and radio playing in the background. He won the heart of his dog walker Gill, and it seemed that the feeling was mutual. Gill was a loving mum to Hooch, an earlier Freshfields rescue, so unable to offer Winston a home. Instead, she commits to regular visits and trips out in the car, to sit and grab a coffee with him and take him to her large, secluded garden. Inevitably over the years Winston's circle of friends became smaller and ensuring he had enough carers each day became more and more of a challenge. In time sadly, Hooch passed away. A heartbroken Gill knew then she was Winston's final chance of a forever home. She began to take Winston home to familiarise himself with his new environment and gradually everything fell into place. Winston's Freshfields friends continued to visit him in his home; it was a joy to see he had finally made it!

We never give up on those animals who have only ever known chaos and fear in their lives! We see beyond the challenges to the beautiful, unique personalities within. Extreme trauma, neglect and cruelty can affect an animal's ability to trust. Every animal is worth saving, and Winston, no less so. We are so grateful to all the people who cared for Winston over the years, and to all of our supporters who continue to make it possible for us to continue with this important work.



Beautiful Bulldog Biffy

Rescue work is an inevitable extreme of highs and lows, and it takes a special type of resilience to remain in the industry. Biffy's story illustrates this well, he touched the hearts of so many people leaving a permanent mark.

Biffy came into our lives in March, a big lovable bulldog cross boxer, who could no longer be cared for by his owners. Instantly we adored him and were filled with concern when we discovered numerous growths in and around his mouth. To our horror we then found a large hole inside his mouth. Full of worry, we immediately got Biffy to our vet. We had no idea how long he had been suffering like this, or how much pain he was in. We felt so grateful we were able to care for him now.

Biffy's growths were cancerous tumours, worse still – they were advancing rapidly. We were heart broken. We would never let him suffer, so while he was happy, waggy, and still had his zest for life we were determined to spoil him rotten.

A small miracle took place.... Our new Deputy Operations manager, who was just days into the job, offered Biffy a wonderful foster home for his remaining days. We were over the moon, and so was Biffy! Between us we set out Biffy's bucket list and asked our incredible supporters to help make it all possible.

As usual, they didn't let us or Biffy down and he was treated to all sorts of joyous moments over the following 3 weeks.

When the time came to say goodbye, Biffy was surrounded by those who loved him as he drifted peacefully off to sleep. We'd only known Biffy for three short weeks. Not nearly long enough, but it was three weeks packed with the best that any doggy dreams could imagine. For us, we were honoured and privileged to be part of his life and be able to give him everything he deserved.

Once again, we were overwhelmed by the outpouring of love we received from our supporters. Without this we just couldn't do what we do. A special thank you goes to Georgia and Jack who opened their hearts and home to Biffy and filled his last weeks with so much love.

Taking in a palliative care dog is a huge commitment and despite the heartbreak that faced them Georgia and Jack put on a brave face and did everything they could to keep Biffy comfortable and happy. For that we remain truly grateful.



Cattery Response work

Meep - Surviving against the odds because of our incredible Freshfields community.

In early September, a tiny, underweight little scrap of fur and bones was brought to the Liverpool cattery. She weighed 124g: the same as a small apple and had been found alone, abandoned in a yard. She went straight into a miniature incubator donated by our great supporter Kath, and into the foster care of an experienced and dedicated staff member.

None of us thought she would survive.

When not sleeping the kitten made loud 'meeps' for attention, and so Meep she named herself! So desperate was she for the formula milk in her special feeding bottle that she kicked and clawed at it, swaddled gently in a little donated pink blanket so she could concentrate on suckling.

One eye was infected and closed so she went to the vets for antibiotics. Gifts from supporters paid for her treatment, liters of formula and later vaccinations.

This tiny kitten had a huge personality, helping her fight to survive. Over the weeks Meep gained weight fast, she responded to sights and sounds, began to play, purr, groom and dream. She received dozens of anonymous donations: the scales for her daily weigh-in, the fluffy blankets and the special toys were all gifts, as were her tiny carrier with the miniature hot-water bottle and the little pink crate which became her bedroom when she was at Freshfields, protected by a cot bumper so she didn't get stuck in the gaps!

Kath helped again by giving Meep tins of specialist weaning mousse, and quickly Meep progressed to eating Smilla and Lily's Kitchen kitten food. It was a proud moment when she used a litter tray all by herself for the first time, filled with BioKatlet litter that was soft for her tiny paws. Of course, all these were donations from lovely people who had no idea that they were helping such a special kitten!

Hands-on help is also vital for kittens, and Meep had many visitors and cuddlers to help her on her way. Another staff member became doting Deputy Foster Mum to cover a week's holiday. Volunteer Lucy sat on a blanket on the cattery floor and played and cuddled, helping Meep develop her essential hunting and pouncing skills. As she grew, even the fosterers' cats joined in. Silden, Copper, Kitty Little and Paddy sniffed, washed, growled, chased, played, and taught naughty, madcap Meep vital lessons on how to be a cat.

For 10 weeks the Freshfields community of kind people rallied round and helped this tiny, poorly kitten grow. By mid-November, when she was adopted, she was a stunning little cat, with a long, happy, and healthy life to look forward too. Huge thanks to everyone who helped Meep on her journey, and who help us in so many ways to carry on our work. A special thanks goes to her fosterer who worked tirelessly throughout.



'Flea cat' house

In August our cattery team became involved in one of the worst situations encountered in all our years of rescue and rehoming. A side of our work that many do not see, but which is often a reality for our incredible staff and volunteers. It is a look at the huge challenges that are being faced by so many people in these very difficult times, and how sadly any situation can deteriorate without appropriate care and intervention.

It began late one Friday night, when 2 cats, one male, one female, were brought to our door. We were told the owner had moved out and left their cats behind, and there may be more cats still in the house. Both cats were covered in fleas and flea eggs. Our vet tested the male cat's blood and found barely any red blood cells left. His blood was basically red coloured water. We used instant acting flea treatment to give him a chance to make some new red blood cells. Unfortunately, the little female died that night and the male followed on the Sunday morning. A few days later the same person returned with 2 kittens, but sadly they too died.

We knew then that we were in the middle of a very difficult situation, which was only going to get worse as it unfolded. We reached out to the RSPCA to ask for their assistance, as we knew there would at least be a mother cat and possibly more adults and kittens at the same property. At the same time, luckily, a relation of the owner contacted us. We learnt that that there were probably at least 8 more cats, all in need of urgent veterinary attention. We rushed to get the permission we needed to go and get the other cats. Judging by those already seen, we knew that every minute would count in trying to save them. At the end of that day, and after an already long shift, cattery staff got everything together and set out to go to the house. Experienced and practical people both, nothing could quite prepare them for what they found. Faeces were everywhere and the living room floor was a moving black sea of fleas. These cats had to be helped as soon as possible.

The whole flat was scoured to make sure they didn't leave any behind. This meant getting on to hands and knees amongst the poo and fleas to be able to check every place possible. After about 90 minutes they had captured 12 cats and sadly found one dead adult and one dead kitten. Both staff were covered in flea bites.
Back at Freshfields one of our admissions rooms was swiftly reconfigured and set up to house the cats. Work immediately began, weighing, taking details, and settling the cats in. Flea treatments were given, soft, clean bedding and good quality food and water provided.

Safe at last and receiving the care and attention they needed, this was just the beginning of their journey. They needed extensive veterinary help and were traumatised emotionally by all they had been through. On that first night staff were still at the emergency vets at 11.30pm. Despite all efforts one cat had to be put to sleep immediately, and another the next day. For these two, it was sadly too late.

Over the following days, we pieced together the information we had. We worked out that there were at least 17 adult cats in the flat as well as 3 kittens. Only 10 adults survived. We had saved at least half of them.

We have since found out that the original owner is getting the help she needs from social services and health professionals. Hopefully she will get the care that will enable her to recover and get her life back on track.

Our 'flea house cats are doing really well. Many needed extensive dental work and lots of time to regain their health and confidence. Most are already happily rehomed; we hope the remaining Zeta, Leo and Nicole don't have to wait much longer!

Pictures: Catching cats (left), after few weeks of excellent care (right)





Farm Response Work

A sad time on the farm. We have had to say a heart-breaking goodbye this year to our beloved Sassy and Eldon.

Sassy was a loving and friendly pig who came to us nearly four years ago. She made a big impression on everyone that she met – with her cheeky behaviour and big personality. In the last year, Sassy began suffering with arthritis – she was on regular medication which allowed her to continue exploring and enjoying her life on the farm. Sadly, Sassy's condition deteriorated, and she began to struggle getting up. After many discussions and consultations with vets, the tough decision was made that Sassy no longer had a good quality of life. This is always a horrible decision to make, but we could not let Sassy continue her life in so much pain. On her last morning, she was surrounded by all of those who cared and loved her.

Picture below: Sassy enjoying wallowing in mud.



Everyone knew Eldon, the sheep, as he was our longest resident being with us for over ten years. Eldon was originally admitted here after having been abandoned in one of the Liverpool parks. He was nervous and stressed to the point that it was virtually impossible to touch him. It took a good number of years for Eldon to feel safe and secure around people.

Eldon and best friend Jacob were inseparable and spent their years looking after all the sheep that were admitted here. Eldon was an old boy who had been struggling with arthritis – he had been on pain medication that was helping initially, however, staff noticed that his condition was deteriorating. We tried our hardest to find a medication that would ease Eldon's pain, but sadly nothing was reducing his discomfort. Eldon showed us that it was his time to say goodbye to us one morning, when he was struggling to stand up. This was an incredibly upsetting decision to make, but we knew that saying goodbye was the kindest thing to do. His last few hours were spent with Jacob and his favourite people by his side – giving him lots of cuddles to make sure he knew how loved he was.

Picture below: Eldon (Left), Jacob (Right).



The farm will always feel empty without Eldon and Sassy here. We try to take comfort knowing that they are no longer in pain.

Helping more animals!

Our farm unit is at full capacity with pigs, but we had to make space for an emergency arrival in 2021. Staff received a worrying call about two piglets that had been abandoned on the road. The team managed to catch both piglets and brought them back to the rescue. Sadly, one of the piglets – who staff named Toffee, was in a horrendous condition. He was struggling to walk and was emaciated – maggots infested his body so badly, that they had eaten his eyes and were in his gums. The heart-breaking decision was made to have Toffee put to sleep, as he was unable to eat or drink. This was the kindest thing to do so that Toffee was no longer suffering.

His brother, Oswald, is still with us at the rescue and has become a firm favourite with many staff members. Oswald lives with his piglet friend, Otis, both are always up to mischief and firmly believe they are the cutest animals at Freshfields. After everything Oswald has gone through, he has grown into a confident pig who now loves getting lots of tickles from his favourite people.

Pictures: Oswald (Left), Otis (Right)



In 2021, we had two lambs join us here. Ralph was rescued from a park, where he was found with a group of young people. He had been taken away from his mother at a crucial age of two weeks old – but luckily after lots of hand feeding, he became a big strong lamb. Within a couple of months of Ralph's arrival, he was joined by an unexpected arrival – Sherbet the lamb. Sherbet was born onsite after his mum and aunty were admitted to us to find a new home, staff suspected Rosie may have been pregnant on arrival, but could not be sure. On June 25th, the staff came into the Unit to an amazing sight after Rosie had given birth to Sherbet in the night without any assistance. Ralph and Sherbet became the best of friends and were huge characters on the farm.

Picture below: Ralph & Sherbert



Rosie, Mimi, Ralph and Sherbet the sheep had a great year. After coming to Freshfields they were all lucky enough to find the perfect home together. They now live in fields that spread over 30 acres – enjoying lots of grass but, of course, still loving human attention. Staff were able to see the four sheep settling in and they all immediately looked at home. Regular updates are received about the four, who have recently welcomed another rescued sheep to their home – where they are all the best of friends.

Wildlife and Small Animal Response Work

The wildlife and small animal unit prove continually to be an extremely valuable part of the rescue, with the number of admittances increasing each year. The team cares for various animals, including rabbits, guinea pigs, ferrets, domestic birds, wild birds, exotic species, and hedgehogs. Demand is rising every year for the Unit, and in 2021 we admitted 451 hedgehogs and 398 wild birds. 241 hedgehogs and 165 birds were released back into the wild.

Wildlife

Our staff work tirelessly to ensure that they help as many animals as possible, not only by providing a high quality of care but also by advising and educating the public. The team holds a passion for providing these animals with the highest chance of survival. Unfortunately, some injuries are too severe, and while the team do everything they can, it is not always possible to save every animal that comes through our doors.

2021 saw the wildlife team admit over 450 hedgehogs. One female stood out from the rest when she arrived onsite. This poor female was suffering with Balloon Syndrome. The exact cause is unknown, but it is thought to be the outcome of a trauma induced bacterial infection. Staff immediately started removing the built-up air with a syringe. Only a couple of days later, this remarkable female gave birth, staff could not believe that her baby survived the trauma. After two months of monitoring this resilient mum and baby were released back out into the wild.

Pictured below: Balloon Hog (left), Mum and Baby (right)





2021 saw the beginnings of the development of our wildlife educational leaflets. This was in response to the constant calls we receive from the public requesting support and advice regarding baby birds, fledglings, or injured adult birds. There are plans for a full range of educational leaflets to be developed in the coming months.

Pictures below: Wild Bird leaflet (left), Some of our baby rescues this year, birds, and hedgehogs.





Small Animals

The team works with various species of small animals, providing specific care and attention to meet their varying needs. Our experienced staff created individual Care Plans to ensure that all small animals are microchipped, neutered and groomed (if needed) before finding them a new home. Bonding is an important part of the work to provide companionship for admitted individuals. Bonding can be a lengthy process, but staff persist with their efforts to rehome pairs or groups of small animals successfully.

Sometimes small animals are abandoned on the lane by the rescue. It can be challenging for staff to catch the individuals, but they work together to capture these abandoned animals, ensuring they are safe, warm, and secure.

Orla

Orla arrived with us early in the year and staff were shocked to see that she was missing most of her ears – our vet suspected that this may be due to fighting with another rabbit. She was very timid on arrival and would spend her days hiding in her box or freezing in a corner anytime staff went near her. Staff worked to build Orla's trust but felt that she needed a patient home to help build her confidence. After many months, Orla's urgent appeal worked, and she found the perfect home where a year later she is now enjoying lots of strokes from her new family. We hear that she loves following them around the house and even leaps in the air to greet them.



Ted

Ted was abandoned in the summer outside of the rescue centre. Fortunately, a passing cyclist was able to catch him. Staff noticed that, once admitted, Ted was spending most of his time stressed and pacing around his pen – leading them to think this behaviour may have been why Ted was abandoned. The team quickly booked him in to be neutered, confident that this would help calm him down. Only a couple of weeks later Ted was a completely different rabbit. He began to love human affection and always enjoyed lots of tickles. It was no surprise that when Ted's story was told there was a lot of interest in rehoming him. Ted met his new girlfriend Dot through our rabbit bonding service and was rehomed with her at the end of the year. Pictures below: Ted (left), Ted & Dot (right)





Abandoned

We can never predict in any given year just how many small animals will be abandoned outside the rescue centre, what species they might be, or what health conditions they might suffer from. It is with a sad certainty we predict there will most definitely be more abandoned animals in our future, and this inspires us to work harder to promote the message that all animals are of equal value, and worthy of happy and comfortable lives.

Picture below: Some of the small animals abandoned in 2021



Enrichment

We do what we can to ensure our small animals have the best possible, happy, and enriched lives whilst with us. Enrichment features highly in our general messaging to potential adopters too and is just as important for small animals as it is for cats and dogs. We are incredibly grateful for our Amazon Wishlist and the many gifts purchased for us by our wonderful and generous supporters. These gifts make such a positive difference to our small animals' lives.

Picture below: Small Animal Enrichment



Reports from the Animal Units - WALES

2021 began with the Wales centre continuing to follow Government COVID guidelines. The centre remained closed to the public and operating on an appointment-only basis. This allowed us to manage the number of people on site at any time. Home checks were carried out remotely, and adoptions and admittances took place outdoors wherever possible. Social distancing was maintained, and appropriate PPE worn by all staff. A minimal number of staff remained furloughed, and no volunteers were permitted as we worked to maintain a safe working environment.

In January 2021 we wrote to all our Horse Loaners to make them aware of the imminent change of law with regards to microchipping their equines. New legislation meant that all horses, ponies, donkeys, and mules in Great Britain needed to be microchipped, and failure to comply with the new law would be an offence and could result in a fine. With the Wales deadline being 12 February 2021, all our loaned horses, ponies, and donkeys, as well as those residing at the centre, were required to be microchipped and registered with the Central Equine Database. This is a huge advance for the UK's horses, ponies, and donkeys. The new Central Equine Database will allow local authorities and police to track down the owners of horses who are dumped, make sure they are held to account and the animals are given the care they deserve. It will also mean lost or stolen horses will be reunited with their owners more easily and will significantly improve the UKs ability to trace and manage outbreaks of disease.

On 31st March the First Minister of Wales, Mark Drakeford, announced that restrictions would be eased to move Wales into alert level 3 subject to public health conditions. Children and students returned to face-to-face education, all non-essential retail were able to reopen, and travel was allowed out of Wales into the rest of the UK, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and the Republic of Ireland. Outdoor attractions and outdoor hospitality including cafes, pubs and restaurants also reopened. Although restrictions eased, we continued to observe social distancing; our staff and visitors to the centre still wore PPE, but the end of restrictions meant that the public could now come and view our animals, which saw an increase in adult cat adoptions.

August Bank Holiday weekend saw Freshfields Wales being invited to participate in Dinas Dinlle Caravan Park's annual fun day. The manager Mike had adopted Buzz the kitten from the centre the year before and was happy to support Freshfields by donating half the proceeds of the Funday to help our animals, with the other half being donated to a local children's hospice. Brian, Tottie and Cassie the Shetlands were the stars of the day, with lots of people interested in our equine rehoming and the wider work of Freshfields Animal Rescue. We had a merchandise stall at the event, and we were also asked to judge the fun Dog Show that they had organised. An auction was held in the evening to try and raise even more money for the charities, and we were delighted to receive a cheque from Dinas Dinlle Caravan Park for £1,552.

Picture below: Presenting the cheque.



In December we had the track to our centre completely resurfaced. Rather than patching up the road, we decided the time had come to invest in contacting a specialist company, who were experienced in resurfacing tracks and could guarantee that their work would last for years to come. Work began at the beginning of December and took 3 days to complete. We now have a smooth surface, with cambers added to help with drainage to cope with the large amount of rain we encounter. The work is guaranteed for 5 years. Our horses are certainly feeling the benefit of not having to avoid all the potholes, as well as visitors to the centre not having to worry about damaging their cars.



Pictures below: The newly laid track up to the rescue centre.



Abby

23 March our beloved resident mare Abby passed away, at the age of 32. A few years before, Abby was nursed back to health by our amazing equine staff after being severely neglected. She had a terrible start in life, but Abby's spirit could never be broken. She was the matriarch of all the other equines and was big in personality, as well as size. Abby's age had caught up with her, and unfortunately, she went down with colic. After calling the vet out four times during the day, the heart-breaking decision was made to end her suffering. Abby will always be a special part of the Freshfields family; it is still odd without her at the centre.

Pictures below: Abby neglected (left), Abby healthy and whole (right)





Phoebe

After waiting patiently since before Christmas 2020, due to being unable to rehome across the Wales/England border, Phoebe our Section A pony finally left the centre for her new home at the beginning of April, where she left to be a companion to the lovely Romeo. Her new Mum Libby was very patient while we waited for restrictions to ease. Phoebe had been a resident at the centre for nearly 10 years, so it was great to see her leaving to live the life she deserved. We receive regular updates from her new mum; Phoebe and Romeo have really hit it off, and she follows him everywhere he goes.



Dave

Dave the Shetland pony stallion was admitted at the end of September 2021, when the lady who had been caring for him bought a new horse and was worried about how the two would get on. She explained that Dave had been dumped at her property years before, and she had let him stay, feeding him scraps of food from the kitchen. Dave was entire, neither passported nor microchipped (which is now against the law),and had never seen a dentist or farrier. As he wasn't gelded, he was very headstrong and had been used to doing his own thing.

Within a few days of arrival with us Dave was castrated, microchipped and passported, and our equine staff then began working with him. Dave quickly developed a bond with Vanessa. He followed her constantly and would nuzzle into her, wanting cuddles.



The farrier was quite surprised that Dave's feet did not need too much work, but when our dentist visited, he was immediately concerned about the state of Dave's teeth. Robin our dentist said he wondered how Dave had managed to eat as he had an infection in his mouth and several rotten teeth, which needed removing. Unfortunately, Dave had to be referred to the Equine Dental Hospital in Mold. He was put on antibiotics to treat the infection while waiting for his appointment.

Dave was spotted on one of our Facebook posts by a lady who was interested in offering him a home, so he was reserved within a couple of weeks of being at the centre. Unfortunately, Andy the dentist discovered that Dave would need another 3 teeth removing, and he was booked in for an appointment in February 2022, which gave him a few weeks for his mouth to recover from the root extraction. In the meantime, at the centre, Dave was introduced to some children who had brought some donations, and it was found that he got rather stressed around them. Children were a part of the home that we had lined up for Dave, so unfortunately as we could not guarantee Dave's temperament around them, we had to remove the reserve. The 3 teeth that needed removing were relatively easy extractions; however, there were complications with the original extraction requiring further investigation. The day after Dave's February dental appointment, we received an email from the assisting vet nurse; she had absolutely fallen in love with him and wondered if we would consider homing him with her. She had been looking for a companion for her ex-racehorse for a while and thought Dave would be the perfect fit. Dave's sweet personality had really shone through while he was at the Dental hospital, and she could not help but think he was the pony for her.

The home check was carried out, a 6-acre property with plenty going on for our nosy Dave to be kept occupied. Working at the Equine Hospital, Dave's prospective new mum was very experienced with equines, understood the issues regarding his teeth, and was happy to offer him a home.

It was a bittersweet moment for the horse staff at the centre, as Dave had made a big impression on all of them, especially Vanessa. Small in stature but with a huge personality! Dave left for his new home and is settling in well with his new family. It is quite unusual for a pony to have not just one, but two offers of a home without even being advertised on our website. Dave just had something about him that was very special! Dave was only at the centre for 20 weeks before finding a home; that is a new record for any equine here at the centre.



Cattery Response Work

Alfie

In March, we put out yet another plea for our Alfie cat, who had been searching for his forever home for over 2 years. All the staff submitted photos and videos that they had taken of Alfie over the couple of years, and we made a video montage from them, appealing for a home on our Facebook page.

This time we were successful, and a lovely couple came forward, who seemed just perfect for Alfie. They lived in a very rural area, with no immediate neighbours, and had no other pets. Alfie was a very special cat who would constantly make the staff at the centre laugh with his antics; he would come and go as he pleased, and would chase anything that moved, including horses.

We arranged for the couple to come to the centre to meet Alfie (socially distanced of course), and they really hit it off. The home check was carried out, and Alfie finally left the centre at the beginning of April. We never give up hope with any of our animals; we are always determined to find that perfect home. In Alfie's case, it took a little longer than usual, but the perfect home WAS found. In an update from his new owners a few months later, Alfie was ruling the roost at his new home, and was enjoying wandering around his new domain.

Pictures below: Alfie posing for the newspaper (left), Alfie and family on rehoming day (right)





Big Boy

On the evening of March, the 1st, a staff member discovered a cat who had been left in his carrier at the bottom of our track at the rescue centre. Alongside his carrier was a heart wrenching note explaining why his owner had felt they had no other option than to leave him there for us to discover.

Although we do not in any way condone abandoning any animal at the centre, we do understand that there were extreme circumstances which lead to the cat being abandoned. In the note it mentioned he had an ear infection, so he saw our vet the very next day. He has a burst polyp, was immediately put on antibiotics and ear gel was prescribed to soothe the soreness. It was obvious he was a very spoilt cat; weighing in at a whopping 9.33kg! Staff encouraged him to play and to run around the cattery. He also enjoyed stretching his legs in the outside part of his pen. Big Boy's (as we named him) exercise regime worked, and within a month, he weighed 8.68kg. He would sit as good as gold on the scales for the cattery staff for his weekly weigh-in.



On the 15th March, Big Boy saw our vet again; he had completed his course of antibiotics, but his ear hadn't improved. Further tests revealed that Big Boy would need an operation to remove the ear lining and polyp, as the antibiotics had not worked. Big Boy had his operation on the 1st of April to totally remove his ear canal. The operation was a success, Big Boy's head was bandaged and as he needed peace to recuperate, he went into foster care.



His bandages were removed a week later, but he continued antibiotics to make sure all infection had cleared. The search for his new home began, and, as his story had been featured on our social media, along with regular updates, we had quite a few offers. Big Boy left for his new home in June 2021. We receive regular updates from his new mum and are glad to hear that he is extremely happy in his new home.

Andre

In June, we received a call from our vets, to say that a cat had been brought into their practice following an RTA. He was injured but his prognosis was fair. The local RSPCA branch had offered to pay for his treatment, but were unable to take the cat in. The male cat had a broken jaw and was blind. The vet did not know if the blindness was a result of the accident, or if it had happened prior to that.

We agreed to take in the cat and arranged to have him collected 24 hours after his operation to re-set his broken jaw. The cat, who we named Andre, was on cage rest, so was put into the isolation crate near the office, where we could keep a close eye on him post-op. After the initial grogginess wore off, it was obvious that Andre was a little wary of humans but was not showing any signs of aggression. Both eyes were blown so we were unsure if he could see, and he could only drink liquidised cat food through the wires of his jaw.

After a week or so, Andre began to try and move about a little, and we noticed that his hind leg was giving way underneath him. He returned to our vets, where they confirmed that nothing was broken, but suspected muscle damage because of being hit by the car. The vet gave us some simple physio exercises that we could do with Andre's leg to help him recover. By the end of June his mobility had greatly improved, and he had regained sight in one eye. He remained blind in the other eye.

Andre took everything in his stride; medication, daily physio sessions on his leg, trips back and forth to the vets, and he blossomed into the most trusting, loveable cat who really enjoyed his cuddles with everyone. The wires on his jaw were loosened every 2 weeks so he was able to eat very mashed food; they were then fully removed at the end of

July, when he was also given the all clear from the vets for rehoming. We did a special feature all about Andre on our social media and asked anyone interested to contact us. A lovely lady who was very experienced in looking after cats with disabilities got in touch, and after all the checks were completed, Andre left the centre in August. We were grateful for the opportunity to be able to give Andre a chance of a home.



Cattery Preventative Work

Working with the RSPCA concerning Andre's treatment led to further collaboration to trap some feral cats from a colony at the Pwllheli Marina, which both organisations had been dealing with over the past few years. Mainly we had been taking in and rehoming the kittens from the colony. The previous season had seen a few of the kittens pass away due to various health issues, so we approached the RSPCA to see if they would be willing to help us trap, neuter and release the adult cats of the colony, which would ensure less kittens were being born.

The Area Co-ordinator for the West Gwynedd branch of the RSPCA was happy to help and offered to supply neutering vouchers for any adults caught. Seven adult cats were captured, neutered, and released back to the colony over the next few months. Two female pregnant cats gave birth at the centre, with our old temporary kitten room used as a maternity suite for the feral mums. Their kittens found homes once old enough, and the mums were rehomed as barn cats once neutered. We hope to continue working alongside organisations such as the RSPCA; working together to help the animals benefits us all.

Unexpected Other

What do you do when you find an otter in your dog's bed at midnight?? Call someone from Freshfields of course!! On the 6th April, a young otter had found its way inside a property close to the Wales Centre; the owner could not believe what she was seeing!! She called staff member Vanessa, who lived nearby. Vanessa raced over to the property just after midnight, to remove the otter from the house. Vanessa brought the otter to the centre and as you can see, he seemed quite happy splashing around in his water, but he did appear to be very wobbly. We contacted the RSPCA for advice, and he was collected later that morning, and taken to their specialist unit in Nantwich, where they will

hopefully be able to rehabilitate him back into the wild. Otters are a protected species in the UK and Europe, and it is very unusual for an otter to enter a premises. There is never a typical day in a rescue centre, but this was certainly a first for Freshfields Wales.

Picture below: Visiting otter





Structure, governance and management

The charity is constituted under a trust deed dated 16 January 2016 and is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation number 1160348.

Trustees

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

H Stanbury	(Resigned 4 July 2022)
J Young	
D Nixon	
A Armstrong	
D Martin	
V Wikeley	(Deceased 6 January 2022)
D Cox	(Appointed 18 August 2021)

Trustees are appointed by agreement with the existing trustees.

Recruitment and appointment of the Management Committee

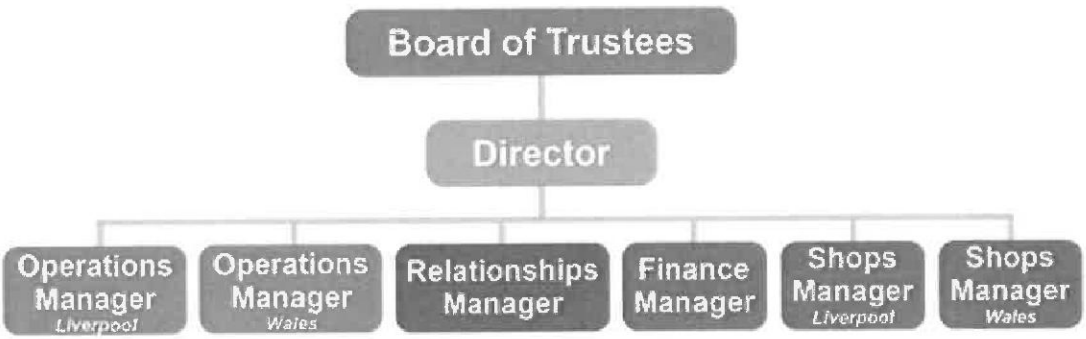
The trustees appoint members of the Executive and Management Teams as and when appropriate.

Recruitment of new trustees

Trustees are appointed through a structured recruitment process, involving a formal application and a democratic Trustee voting process to ensure that new Trustees add value and expertise to the organisation.

We would like to thank our Trustees for their commitment to upholding Freshfields ethics and for their active, practical and invaluable support to the team on the ground.

Board and Senior Management Structure



Staff and volunteers

The Board and the Director would like to thank our 47 staff and over 200 volunteers for their commitment to protecting, rehoming, and conserving animals across the North West and Wales.

We recognise the challenges that COVID-19 has presented throughout 2021 and applaud their resilience.

Planning for our future

Despite the continuing effects of COVID Freshfields was able to move forward with positivity. We regularly assessed and revised our COVID-19 strategy as the pandemic progressed, taking into consideration all government guidance to ensure we did the right thing by public, employees, and animals alike. Our shelters continued to operate as crisis response only, and non-animal caring staff to work from home as much as was practical.

The first quarter of the year saw heads down working diligently on the grass roots of our 5-year strategic plan. Staff at every level were involved, with a SWOT analysis carried out across all aspects of the charity and Competitor Comparisons documented to provide context and a more accurate picture of where the charity currently sat.

These unabridged documents, detailing wants, and needs were presented to the Trustee Board who used them to prioritise high level strategic goals. Five overarching goals were identified, and a plan created that outlined them.



An away day explained findings in full to the management team; how we had arrived at our Board-approved plan and the necessary steps to take it forward, such as engaging with staff on the ground, inspiring buy-in and an understanding of whole-team aims. A series of outdoor meetings, under gazebos beneath the incredibly hot July sun, were to follow. Every member of the team was engaged with, given an opportunity to ask questions, point out concerns and to make suggestions.

Next was the creation of a What Good Looks Like document for Freshfields. This document set the standards that we would strive for across every area of Freshfields operations and was followed by 2022 Action Plan preparation for each area within the charity. These were the Director approved incremental SMART goals and objectives that we would work to during year one of our strategic plan.

An urgent need to improve conditions and increase space for our work with wildlife had been identified. This led to the potential purchase of land in nearby Long Lane. The land identified was half of a fisheries, with ample water for ducks and other waterfowl, surrounded by trees and vegetation. The land would provide exactly the right environment for recovering wildlife, with the bonus of being located only a stone's throw from the main Liverpool site. Investigations and funding implications were explored in full, but sadly, due to the economic climate, Brexit and COVID considerations, we were unable to progress the purchase.

As always, our strategies looked beyond the charity's needs to consider the individuals who support us, their thoughts, concerns and worries at this time, their expectations of Freshfields, how we continue to fulfil these, and what we give back in the way of support to them.

New appointments

2021 saw some changes in staffing at the Liverpool centre. Freshfields staff are dedicated with a commitment to animal welfare that remains with them throughout their lives. Inevitably circumstances force change and for various reasons, including health and new challenges, the following people moved away from Freshfields during this year - Jayne Stanton, Ryan Alexander, Joe Spears, Alan Barnard, Phil Clark. We wish them well for the future, thank them for their hard work at the rescue and their resolve to always do the best they could for the animals.

In Wales, we said farewell to Porthmadog shop manager Patricia Sharpe, who had worked for us for over 15 years . On Christmas Eve we bade farewell to our Office Administrator Penny Grisedale, who retired after working at Freshfields Wales for over a decade. Confident she would return as a volunteer, we wished Penny well as she looked forward to spending more time pursuing her hobbies of art and photography.

Along with change comes the opportunity to regroup and look forward. Recruiting staff is always a challenge because it is vital that we find the right people to support and reflect our core values. We were excited to welcome Keeley Riley and Jazmin Batley to our Liverpool cattery team, Holly Parkin and Rachel Salt to our Liverpool kennels team and Helen Mason as manager of our Porthmadog shop. It is a pleasure to have them on board and we already know that their enthusiasm and positivity will have a huge impact.

Volunteers

Our Volunteers are at the heart of everything we do and make a massive contribution to the life-changing work of the rescue centre and beyond. Our Volunteers Programme, somewhat hampered by COVID-19, offers a broad range of opportunities for particularly disadvantaged groups and undergraduates.

In a typical year, we would be delighted to support our volunteers to:

- Improve their well-being, mental or physical health
- Benefit from social connection and support
- Gain valuable skills and experience for future employment
- Try something new
- Do something valuable and rewarding
- Gain a sense of achievement
- Gain connections with their local community
- Improved their confidence and self-esteem

At the Welsh rescue centre, October saw us open our doors to volunteers once more. We had a backlog of new volunteers who were wanting to help, so it was great to be able to welcome them to the centre. We have a few new regular volunteers who are really enjoying the benefits of working alongside our animals, as well as the benefits to themselves. We also have a new Horse Welfare Check volunteer, who visits our on-loan equines to check that they are being cared for and are in good health. Sonja had retired from the police service the previous year, where she worked with the mounted police division, so is very experienced with equines. Since retiring, she was missing working with horses as she didn't have one of her own and contacted us after reading about the Volunteer Welfare Officer

role on our Freshfields website. Sonja said she enjoys getting out and about with her dog, meeting new people and getting her horse 'fix', while doing something worthwhile for the charity and the community.

In Liverpool many of our regular hands-on volunteers were affected by the Covid restrictions throughout the year. They faced their own challenges, and we know it was tough for them to stay away from the rescue centres. We receive fantastic support from many corporate groups and businesses locally, with groups of volunteers coming to help us in all sorts of crucial yet far from glamourous ways. This year, due to COVID pre-arranged visits were often cancelled, leaving everyone disappointed. We feel sure that as the pandemic abates, we will soon benefit from the energy and enthusiasm of contributing groups once again. Luckily, we were able to continue with a small core group of volunteers. This help is invaluable to us - from dog walkers to painters, to odd job doers, packers, and sorters; they all supported us to continue with our important work.

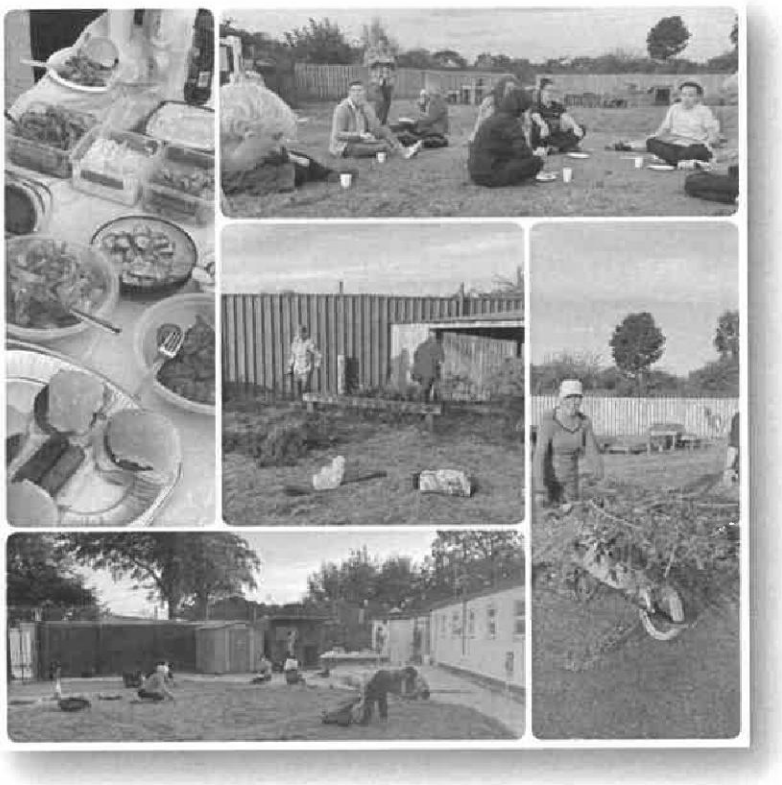
During volunteer week in June, we took the opportunity to celebrate our fantastic Freshfields Volunteers. It was important that we said an extra 'Thank you' to ensure they know how incredibly important they are to us.

We gave a special mention to John, who has been volunteering with us for over 15 wonderful years now! John dedicates his time to regularly walking some of our more challenging dogs, and he also supports us with fundraising and raising Freshfields' profile in the local community. John is well and truly part of the Freshfields family; we admire his commitment and look forward to many more years of friendship.

Picture below: Volunteer - John Eden with Rio



Later on in the year we were happy to invite volunteers onsite to work outdoors on clearing and cleaning up our Dog Exercise area. As well as being a practical event, this also gives us the opportunity to spend quality time with our volunteers, away from the busy day to day routine of the rescue. This is as important to us as it is to them.



We have volunteers who help us care hands-on for all our animals, and most have been committed to us for many years. We also have an incredibly supportive group of volunteers across our charity shops. Hard as it was for them during the extended periods of closure, they didn't turn their backs, and were back ready, willing, and able once we were permitted to open our doors once again.

Our wonderful volunteers are an eclectic mix of vastly experienced, compassionate, and devoted individuals. They sit at the very heart of everything we do.

Sustainability

We have broadly been able to maintain our income levels over this challenging time. Pre pandemic, we had seen increases that have reduced by 1.4% a year over the past 2 years. We are aware that there are further economic difficulties to come, and we will need to work hard to maintain and grow income levels to meet the growing need.

This year our dedicated supporters donated £1,427,421; this is in line with our average support levels over the past seven years of £1,410,600. We are achieving 65p in every pound going to absolute direct care of the animals after every expense for income generation and fundraising, management, support costs and overheads are accounted for. This is in line with our 68p average over each year since 2015.

We are committed to making the most of every penny, in the way that our supporters would expect. Our direct care and support cost ratio is on par with other charities who take a responsible view in ensuring we can sustain and protect what we have achieved to date. We have a view to long term sustainability and the development needed to meet the rapidly growing animal rescue demand crisis across the UK.

Gifts in Wills continue to provide the best and most vital support for animals, and people, in crisis. We remain dependent upon this most precious source of funding. This year, these gifts equalled 41% of our income, up 2% on last year. We aim to inspire more Gifts in Wills in the future by showing the range, quality and impact of our work, but be in a position to use more of them for essential growth as well as the protection of what we have achieved over forty years.

Regular giving through direct debit, animal sponsorship and playing the Freshfields Lottery continues to provide the rescue with 8% of an incredibly valuable source of core funding that requires less time and resources than other fundraising activities. We will be seeking to encourage more support of this type.

We continue to gradually grow general rescue one-off donations by ensuring our impact and value across all units is increasingly visible to our valued supporters, and that every donor of any amount receives a big Thank You, are satisfied with the work we achieve on their behalf and want to keep supporting the rescue effort. We attained 16% of our income this way this year

We have taken time to start improving our fundraising and communication processes this year and have needed to limit community fundraising activities to allow this. We focussed on our Year End appeal, abseil, zip wire and Santa Dash sponsored challenges and supporting fantastic DIY community fundraisers. We recognise that face to face fundraising is an important way to connect with those who support our cause, and plan to build this up again with better results-monitoring to inform our future planning.

We are delighted with the response to *our Last Christmas in Rescue appeal, raising £48,511 which has enabled us to start securing precious homes for animals whose barriers are excessive medical or support costs.* This provides better results for our supporters' money, finds homes for animals who have waited for months or years, and releases the spaces to help hundreds more animals who need the services that we provide.

We are delighted to have won *the support of Morecrofts Solicitors LLP in June and have already achieved more help for long term animals* through an assisted adoption scheme and support for homeless people and their pets. The great team at Morecrofts realise how closely linked the fate of pets are to peoples' personal problems. We will be working with them until April 2023 to make a difference for more animals together.

In-Kind support

Donations in kind continue to be absolutely essential to our ability to make rescue, rehoming and re-release possible. This year, there are 81 Volunteers who we simply cannot thank enough, in roles from retail to fostering. We would like to express our thanks and immense gratitude to the more physically vulnerable volunteers who decided to step back during the pandemic and who are forever part of the Freshfields family.

We are grateful to those volunteers helping specifically the fundraising efforts this year by holding stalls, arranging events, mustering collections and support from businesses, producing artwork and handmade goods to sell, bringing collection tins; arranging raffles, undertaking personal challenges, providing free services for a donation to the animals, giving up birthday gifts to provide gifts of love and safety to the vulnerable needing rescue. They represent the best of humanity as active guardians of animals that need us in the North West and Wales.

Grants and Trusts

We continue to be frustrated by the majority of funders who list the work of animal rescues on the exclusion list, and are working extra hard to demonstrate that our work benefits people as well as animals We are exceptionally grateful to these funders who see past the initial animal rescue headline and to those who recognise our collective responsibility to animals at risk directly at the hands of people and wish to address it.

We didn't match last year's highly exceptional grant funds of £349,427, as this was a result of the governments covid support grants, and a £126,072 capital support boost in support of the essential Adoption Hub. We are mightily relieved that the Hub will enable us to provide every prospective adopter and pet the best possible chance of securing that precious relationship and home.

It enables us to provide a fit for purpose working space that our hardworking staff deserve, and a private space for distressed people surrendering a cherished companion. The Hub is being delivered on budget but subject to a twelve month delay due to pandemic related construction industry challenges. We are on track for full completion by March 2022. We value the expertise and practical, free, generous support provided by Future3 Architecture and DBCDS Limited.

This year we have secured £70,182 in grants which is still unusually successful by animal rescue standards. £55,975 of this was for direct animal care with £16,100 of that specifically towards those vital vet services. The small number of Trusts that will consider helping animals are reporting closures and shrinking assets values, so we are anticipating substantial reduction in grant awards in following years, from a source that is already mostly exclusively available to charities benefitting people only.

The lasting effects of the Coronavirus pandemic continued to have a significant impact on the economic and funding landscape in 2021. Support packages available to other charities almost always exclude animal rescue centres, and we are competing for grants and awards in an ever-more competitive environment.

Some discretionary Trusts and Foundations reframed their objectives and funding criteria to focus on their own local communities or regions, whilst others looked to move towards narrowing the range of the type of work and size of groups they support. Without government contracts, a national presence or the significant reserves of larger charities, we will continue to highlight the urgent need to help us in our life-changing work to protect animals and the environment in the North West, Wales and beyond.

We are extremely grateful to the Trustees of the Charitable Trusts and Foundations who both actively encourage applications for animal welfare, and recognise the wider benefits of our work in the local communities we serve. We want to thank them for their trust and confidence in us and their support for our work in 2021:

The Arnold Clark Community Fund
The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust
Support Adoption for Pets
The Blakemore Foundation
The Animal Defence Trust
Ecclesiastical Insurance Movement for Good
The Gallimore Trust
The Hemby Trust
The John Slater Foundation
The Laspen Trust
Lee Bakirgian Family Trust
The Rose Animal Welfare Trust
The Rotary Club of Formby
The Sylvanus Charitable Trust
The Walker 597 Animal Trust
The Lockett Trust
The Michael and Shirley Hunt Charitable Trust
The Sabina Sutherland Charitable Trust
Wetnose Animal Aid

Restricted Funds
The following grants were awarded for specific purposes:

Support Adoption for Pets (now Pets at Home Foundation)
This animal welfare charity donated £5,000 towards the costs of veterinary treatment for the animals

The William Dean Education and Countryside Trust
We were awarded a grant of £500 towards the cost of our Wildlife Unit's work with hedgehogs and wild birds

The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust
A grant of £5,000 was received to pay for veterinary and medical treatment for the animals

The Hemby Trust
We received a contribution of £500 towards the purchase of new shelving units for the hedgehog accommodation

The Carmela and Ronnie Pignatelli Foundation
We were awarded £2500 towards the costs of medication and veterinary treatment

The Alice Noakes Memorial Charitable Trust
The Trust donated £1500 for medical treatment

The Laspen Trust
We received £500 towards medical costs for our Wales centre

The Gallimore Trust
This charity donated £1100 towards the costs of veterinary treatment for Staffordshire Bull Terriers rescued by Freshfields Animal Rescue

The Animal Defence Trust
We received a donation of £1,000 towards the cost of a new water-bird aviary

The Rose Animal Welfare Trust
We were awarded £10,000 from the Trust to pay for veterinary and medical treatment for the animals

Animal Friends Insurance Trust
We were awarded a contribution of £5,000 for veterinary, medical and dental treatments for the animals and £2500 to build a new shelter for the horses in Wales, following the destruction of the previous shelter in the storms

Thank you all.

CHARITY SHOPS

Currently we have shops in Southport, Porthmadog, Llanidloes, Caernarfon, and Barmouth. Each shop also acts as a link between our services and the public, providing an important stage from which to promote our vital work for animals. COVID restrictions continued to hamper progress during 2021. Enthusiasm, however, was unwilling to take a similar hit.

Barmouth – This shop in its new location on Church Street seems to have found its groove and to have finally settled into life in the Barmouth community. Though tourist reliant, the shop has built a regular and reliable off-season following among locals along with a united volunteer team. Due to COVID restrictions the shop was shut until mid-April; open again now during the busy summer months, it shows results that are testament to the experience, hard work and tenacity of Area Shops Manager Rachel Hemus.

Caernarfon – Also closed until mid-April, the Caernarfon shop has benefitted from the decision to employ a part-time, paid manager. The new structure has brought stability and leadership, and our wonderful volunteers have benefitted from the support this role has afforded them. Whilst COVID continued to make a mockery of our goals for a steady income, the shop shows great promise and will benefit further from an internal refit during 2022.

Porthmadog – Again, closed due to COVID until mid-April the Porthmadog shop has a steady following of local supporters which made the closure even more frustrating for staff, volunteers, and customers alike. In June long serving shop manager Trish retired to be replaced by Helen Mason. This shop has great potential and continues to work toward achieving this as the world slowly explores and begins to bed itself in to a new normal.

Llanidloes – Purely volunteer-run, the Llanidloes shop remained closed until mid-June. This little shop sits in a market town that is the first on the River Severn and famed as a gateway to the Cambrian Mountains of mid Wales. The shop is managed by Betty, a committed volunteer who donates her time and energy year after year to help the animals. We are grateful for Betty's commitment and inspired by her determination to be up and running again as soon as it was safe.

Southport – Open the first week of January, then slammed into lockdown the 2nd week until mid-April 2021, the Shakespeare Street shop continues to do well. We have benefitted from cover across a full seven days which has allowed a more strategic approach to merchandising, expanded our ability to pick up donations and drop off sales, and generally made us more readily available to those customers that need us. We are incredibly grateful to volunteer Ian, who worked so incredibly hard to help us get the shop shipshape and ready for reopening in April.

NET INCOME FROM SHOPS - YEAR ON YEAR COMPARISON

Shop	2020 £	2021 £	Variance
Barmouth	2,369.54	31,357.27	+ 1323%
Caernarfon	15,789.42	11,753.84	-25%
Llanidloes	13,472.44	6,654.91	-51%
Porthmadog	21,767.78	11,475.25	-47%
Southport	69,792.31	55,486.62	-20%
TOTAL	**123,191.49**	**116,727.89**	-5%

Notes to figures above:

The overall picture from those shops that we continued with in 2021 is in total a 5% drop in income. Considering the circumstances this is a surprisingly low decrease mainly due to excellent figures from the Barmouth shop. A truer representation might be to consider the Ormskirk and Llandudno shops which closed in 2020 and in that year gave us a net profit of £6050 and £17,388 respectively. Taking those figures into account shows a net loss against 2020 of 20%.

We remain committed to maintaining a presence on the high street; our shops are essential to us, and their role extends far beyond that of income generation. Just as Freshfields is 'more than a rescue', the shops, in turn, are more than a place to buy and sell goods. They are a gateway to our work, and for Freshfields to have a truly transformational impact on the lives of the animals we serve, we must view every interaction with the public as a chance to communicate our message. We are aware that the activities of the shops fully integrate with the work of the Rescue Centre. But, whatever our role within Freshfields, our purpose is the same: Error in formula ->#NoAnimalLeftBehind<-.

No shop report is complete without a massive shout out to our wonderful volunteers who make such an incredible difference to Freshfields, thanks to the hours they give freely to our shops each year. Unfortunately, for so many of them, isolated at home and unable to carry out their usual volunteering roles, lockdown made this year a significant struggle. We want every one of our volunteers to know that they are a precious gift, making a massive difference to hundreds of animals every year. Throughout lockdown, we have missed them as individuals, colleagues and friends, and we are so very grateful to each and every one of them!

Risk management

Risk management, Healthy and Safety, Fire Safety, and Operational Communication & Practices have been reviewed throughout the year, with changes made as necessary

Related parties
There are no related parties.

Financial review
The charity has been supported greatly by generous gifts and legacies, for which the trustees are most grateful.

Reserves policy
The pressure on us to take in injured or unwanted animals continues to be so great that we work to our financial capacity. Ideally we should keep a reserve of around £650,000 which would ensure the running of the charity for 6 months. Currently unrestricted reserves amount to £1,459,671 of which £355,778 is reflected in tangible fixed assets. This leaves £1,103,893 free at this time.

Special acknowledgements

We would like to make special acknowledgement of the contribution of Trustee Victoria Wikeley. Vicky passed away unexpectedly in January 2022. Throughout her tenure as Trustee she generously shared her experience and her passion for animals to guide the board in the preparation of the strategic plan. Thank you, Vicky.

We would again like to thank Bill Esterson MP for his recognition of the value of animal rescue charities like Freshfields and his appreciation of the unique expertise and skills shown by our staff and volunteers.

We are grateful beyond words, to the amazing people listed below who so generously bequeathed gifts to us in their wills. It is our mission to ensure those legacies endure.

Anthea Royden
Audrey Hislop
Beverley Finn
C E Watts
Donald Ernest Horsey
Doris Coulson
Evelyn Budd
Irene Kay
Irene Lord
Jean Bennett
Kathleen Holland
Kenneth Horrocks
Linda Anne Ramsden
Majorie Alice Williams
Marguerite Kirstine Kernohan
Maureen Horrocks
Pamela Ann Roberts
Patricia Spreadbury
Phyllidia Hinde
RM Thompson
Rosalie Nash
Sarah Anita Gray
Sylvia McLuckie
W M Catt
Wm Stanley

Special acknowledgements

Lastly, we must reiterate our sincere gratitude to every individual, group, funder, and company who have identified the crisis that local animals and people face and have committed to making an immediate and lasting difference through Freshfields Animal Rescue. We appreciate your faith in us and on behalf of us all, we commit to being there to provide the best care and outcomes for animals for as long as they need us.

We look forward to showing you the vital difference you have achieved in 2022.

We want to thank Sefton Council for their positive working relationship with the rescue centre and their advice and guidance in the initial stages of planning for the exciting development of our Adoption Hub.

We are grateful to Bill Esterson MP for his recognition of the value of animal rescue charities like Freshfields and his appreciation of the unique expertise and skills shown by our staff and volunteers.

We would like to thank Oliver Beaumont and his team at Tezlom Southport for choosing Freshfields as their Christmas 'Lend a Hand' Charity and sending their Santas to deliver some very jolly Christmas Hampers for the animals at the Liverpool Rescue Centre.

Lastly, we would like to reiterate our sincere gratitude to every individual, group, funder, and company who have identified the crisis that local animals and people face and have committed to making an immediate and lasting difference through Freshfields Animal Rescue. We appreciate your faith in us and on behalf of us all, we commit to being there to provide the best care and outcomes for animals for as long as they need us.

We look forward to showing you the vital difference you have achieved in 2021.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements 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 of the charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. 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.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

J Young
Trustee
Dated: 27 July 2022

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Freshfields Animal Rescue (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including 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 charity's affairs as at 31 December 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, 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 Charities Act 2011.

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 charity'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 other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees 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 charity'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 cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance;
- the charity's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- the results of our enquiries of management and members of the Board of Trustees of their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
- identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:

(i) The presentation of the charity's Statement of Financial Activities, (ii) the charity's accounting policy for revenue recognition, and (iii) the overstatement of salary and other costs. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Charities Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice - 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued by the joint SORP making body .

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included Animal Welfare and Data Protection Regulations.

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified the presentation of the charity's Statement of Financial Activities, revenue recognition and overstatement of wages and other costs as the key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud. The key audit matters section of our report explains the matters in more detail and also describes the specific procedures we performed in response to those key audit matters.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and members of the Board of Trustees concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant authorities where matters identified were significant;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

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

Other matters

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements 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)" (as amended) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with current Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited

Philip Griffiths (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited

27 July 2022

Accountants
Statutory Auditor

3rd Floor
5 Temple Square
Temple Street
Liverpool
Merseyside
L2 5RH

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	1,033,953	19,750	1,053,703	1,091,451	131,631	1,223,082
Charitable activities	4	45,133	-	45,133	47,963	-	47,963
Other trading activities	5	308,777	-	308,777	268,709	-	268,709
Other income	6	19,808	-	19,808	17,126	-	17,126
Total income		1,407,671	19,750	1,427,421	1,425,249	131,631	1,556,880
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	7	212,653	-	212,653	223,341	-	223,341
Charitable activities	8	1,002,430	52,711	1,055,141	963,416	40,084	1,003,500
Other		9,287	-	9,287	39,189	-	39,189
Total expenditure		1,224,370	52,711	1,277,081	1,225,946	40,084	1,266,030
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		183,301	(32,961)	150,340	199,303	91,547	290,850
Fund balances at 1 January 2021		1,276,370	238,636	1,515,006	1,077,067	147,089	1,224,156
Fund balances at 31 December 2021		1,459,671	205,675	1,665,346	1,276,370	238,636	1,515,006

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		560,138		505,864
Current assets					
Stocks	15	16,884		15,109	
Debtors	16	118,656		623,863	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,058,107		473,040	
		1,193,647		1,112,012	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(88,439)		(102,870)	
Net current assets			1,105,208		1,009,142
Total assets less current liabilities			1,665,346		1,515,006
Income funds					
Restricted funds	19		205,675		238,636
Unrestricted funds			1,459,671		1,276,370
			1,665,346		1,515,006

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 27 July 2022

J Young
Trustee

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	**25**		697,405		125,893
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(113,187)		(35,272)	
Proceeds on disposal of tangible fixed assets		849		-	
Net cash used in investing activities			(112,338)		(35,272)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			585,067		90,621
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			473,040		382,419
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			1,058,107		473,040

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Freshfields Animal Rescue is a charitable incorporated organisation, registered in the United Kingdom. The address of the principal office is East Lodge Farm, East Lane, Ince Blundell, Liverpool, L29 3EA. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are described in the Trustees' Report on pages 3 and 4.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

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 financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Donated facilities and donated professional services are recognised in income at their fair value when their economic benefit is probable, it can be measured reliably and the charity has control over the item. Fair value is determined on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity. For example, the amount the charity would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Report.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of generating funds includes expenditure on fund raising activities and head office overheads.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes costs associated with the operation and management of residential accommodation and welfare support services.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

Support costs are those that assist the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at headquarters. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a pro-rata basis consistent with the use of the resources.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 9.

1 **Accounting policies** **(Continued)**

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended. Individual assets are capitalised on the balance sheet where their cost exceeds £500.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold property	Nil
Improvements to property	4% per annum
Plant and machinery	25% on reducing balance basis
Fixtures and fittings	5% / 25% on reducing balance basis
Motor vehicles	25% on reducing balance basis

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 the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity 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 (if any).

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured 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.

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at 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.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through income and expenditure, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting date. Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected.

If an asset is impaired, the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been, had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the charity transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

1 **Accounting policies** **(Continued)**

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.13 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.14 Operating lease agreements

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged as an expense on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

1.15 Irrecoverable VAT

All resources expended are classified under activity headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category or resources expended for which it is incurred.

2 **Critical accounting estimates and judgements**

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated 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 where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 **Donations and legacies**

	Unrestricted funds	**Restricted funds**	**Total**	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2021	**2021**	**2021**	2020	2020	2020
	£	**£**	**£**	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	393,454	5,000	398,454	402,973	12,587	415,560
Legacies receivable	585,067	-	585,067	458,095	-	458,095
Grants receivable	55,432	14,750	70,182	230,383	119,044	349,427
	1,033,953	19,750	1,053,703	1,091,451	131,631	1,223,082

4 Charitable activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Adoptions	45,133	47,963

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2020
	£	£
Fundraising events	23,094	35,222
Shop income	285,683	233,487
Other trading activities	308,777	268,709

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2020
	£	£
Other income	10,311	7,620
Commission	9,497	9,506
	19,808	17,126

7 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2020
	£	£
Fundraising and publicity		
Purchases	8,637	9,118
Rent and rates	44,660	79,423
Light and heat	7,302	11,072
Advertising	-	150
Other fundraising costs	11,233	7,997
Staff costs	53,281	37,944
Depreciation and impairment	386	406
Fundraising and publicity	125,499	146,110
Trading costs		
Staff costs	87,154	77,231
	212,653	223,341

8 Charitable activities

	Charitable Expenditure 2021 £	Charitable Expenditure 2020 £
Staff costs	689,542	696,911
Depreciation and impairment	48,389	42,218
Centre - restricted	29,819	22,780
Travel expenses	735	758
Grant spend	5,355	6,605
Vet fees	44,468	50,029
Animal food and care	27,257	25,278
Small equipment	3,559	3,237
Rates and water	140	307
Light and heat	31,481	40,097
Repairs and maintenance	9,097	(34,005)
Sundry expenses	4,383	39
Veterinary consumables	32,977	39,092
Hygiene and waste	22,443	18,479
Motor expenses	7,090	9,510
	956,735	921,335
Share of support costs (see note 9)	90,706	75,065
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	7,700	7,100
	1,055,141	1,003,500
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	1,002,430	963,416
Restricted funds	52,711	40,084
	1,055,141	1,003,500

9 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2021	Support costs	Governance costs	2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance	25,766	-	25,766	15,492	-	15,492
Telephone	10,383	-	10,383	7,558	-	7,558
Postage and stationery	13,712	-	13,712	14,560	-	14,560
Bank charges	10,762	-	10,762	9,150	-	9,150
Computer expenses and consumables	6,353	-	6,353	15,123	-	15,123
Staff training	1,996	-	1,996	2,249	-	2,249
Legal and professional fees	21,734	-	21,734	10,933	-	10,933
Audit fees	-	7,700	7,700	-	7,100	7,100
	90,706	7,700	98,406	75,065	7,100	82,165
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	90,706	7,700	98,406	75,065	7,100	82,165

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £7,700 (2020- £7,100) for audit fees. Legal and professional fees include costs of £1,260 for accountancy support (2020 - £2,695).

10 Net movement in funds

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting)		
Fees payable to the company's auditor for the audit of the company's financial statements	7,700	7,100
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	48,775	42,624
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	9,287	39,189

11 Trustees

The total remuneration paid to a trustee was £32,600 (2020 £32,700). In addition pension contributions amounting to £795 (2020 £795) were paid in respect of one trustee. Full details are provided in note 23.

There were no trustees' expenses reimbursed during the year ended 31 December 2021, nor for the year ended 31 December 2020.

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel is £188,296 (2020 £174,248). The trustees consider the key management personnel to be; the Director, Operations Managers (Liverpool and Wales), Finance Manager, Fundraising Manager, and the Area Shops Managers (Liverpool and Wales).

12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Management and administration	8	7
Fundraisers	4	10
Animal workers	35	34
Total	47	51

Employment costs	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	770,252	752,592
Social security costs	47,155	46,946
Other pension costs	12,570	12,548
	829,977	812,086

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from income tax on its charitable activities.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property	Improvements to property	Plant and machinery	Fixtures and fittings	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost						
At 1 January 2021	170,968	552,532	153,140	13,819	41,044	931,503
Additions	-	89,439	16,360	2,004	5,384	113,187
Disposals	-	-	(22,318)	(13,819)	(12,769)	(48,906)
At 31 December 2021	170,968	641,971	147,182	2,004	33,659	995,784
Depreciation and impairment						
At 1 January 2021	56,168	222,095	113,385	6,103	27,890	425,641
Depreciation charged in the year	3,079	25,679	14,242	887	4,888	48,775
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	-	(21,898)	(6,489)	(10,383)	(38,770)
At 31 December 2021	59,247	247,774	105,729	501	22,395	435,646
Carrying amount						
At 31 December 2021	111,721	394,197	41,453	1,503	11,264	560,138
At 31 December 2020	114,800	330,439	39,755	7,716	13,154	505,864

15 Stocks

	2021	2020
	£	£
Animal feed, consumables and veterinary supplies	16,884	15,109

16 Debtors

	2021	2020
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Other debtors	4,604	12,843
Prepayments and accrued income	114,051	611,018
	118,655	623,861

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	23,282	9,683
Trade creditors	23,209	57,487
Other creditors	1,430	1,311
Accruals and deferred income	40,518	34,389
	88,439	102,870

18 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

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 charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £12,570 (2020 - £12,548).

19 Restricted funds

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

		Movement in funds			Movement in funds		
	Balance at 1 January 2020	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 1 January 2021	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 December 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Dog Sensory Garden donation	54,749	-	(8,138)	46,611	-	(8,138)	38,473
New ambulance appeal	8,741	-	(926)	7,815	-	(1,954)	5,861
On-site vet room	17,658	-	(2,377)	15,281	-	(2,377)	12,904
Wales Centre improvements	37,076	-	(1,545)	35,531	-	(1,545)	33,986
The Pet Plan Charitable Trust	5,419	-	(926)	4,493	-	(1,123)	3,370
The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust	15,371	-	(833)	14,538	-	(3,635)	10,903
Doreen Greenlees Trust	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	(200)	4,800
Hill Dickinson	-	12,587	-	12,587	-	(503)	12,084
Animal Friends	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-	-	-
Co-Operative Community Fund	8,075	-	(2,563)	5,512	-	(4,254)	1,258
Pet Plan	-	4,250	(4,250)	-	-	-	-
Support Adoption for Pets	-	85,344	-	85,344	-	(3,414)	81,930
Battersea Dogs' Home	-	9,750	(6,551)	3,199	3,250	(6,449)	-
Barry Green Memorial Fund	-	5,000	(2,325)	2,675	-	(2,675)	-
Gallimore Trust	-	150	(150)	-	500	(500)	-
William Dean Trust	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	500	(500)	-
"Will Week'	-	50	-	50	-	(2)	48
Jean Sainsbury	-	7,500	(7,500)	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
Other	-	-	-	-	10,500	(10,442)	58
	147,089	131,631	(40,084)	238,636	19,750	(52,711)	205,675

19 **Restricted funds** **(Continued)**

Dog Sensory Garden donation

One of the charities long term supporters and volunteers donated the proceeds of a personal investment to be used to landscape and provide agility equipment on the dog exercise field. A variety of textures (astroturf, rubber, grass, sand and stone) were included in the landscaping to provide a sensory experience for the dogs in the charities care.

New ambulance appeal

Donations were received to contribute to the purchase of a new Freshfields ambulance to replace the existing one.

On-site vet room

Funds were donated from Pet Plan and Caf Bank, and a general appeal for the construction of a vet room at the centre. This became operational during the year.

Wales Centre improvements

The Billy Meade Trust donated £50,000 in the previous year for improvements of the Wales Centre. This included improvements to the cattery and electric repairs.

Pet Plan Charitable Trust

We were awarded £7,497 from Pet Plan Charitable Trust towards the cost of a new Animal Ambulance, replacing a vehicle which was unfit for purpose and enabling the safe and secure transport of animals.

Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust

The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust made an award for a new X-Ray machine for the Vet Room, enabling our vet to carry out routine X-rays on site and therefore reduce costs.

Co-operative Community Fund

We were awarded funds to deliver much needed refurbishment and repairs to the structure of one of the Kennel blocks. The side walls had been damaged by leaks as the covering materials were no longer fit for purpose. These funds will ensure a safe, dry and comfortable environment for the dogs in the main areas in which they meet, greet and socialise.

Doreen Greenlees

The Doreen Greenless Charitable Trust donated £5,000 towards the cost of the Welcome Area in the development of the Animal Adoption Hub. This is to provide a warm, welcoming and well-equipped space for visitors and people who want to adopt an animal.

19 **Restricted funds** **(Continued)**

Hill Dickinson

Hill Dickinson solicitors contributed £12,587 towards the construction of the Animal Adoption Hub.

Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust

The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust provided emergency funding of £5,000 for the payment of veterinary fees during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Support Adoption for Pets

This animal welfare charity donated £85,344 towards the construction of the Animal Adoption Hub.

Barry Green Memorial Fund

The Barry Green Memorial Fund contributed £5,000 towards the charity's medication costs.

Gallimore Trust

This charity donated £500 towards the centre's veterinary bills.

William Dean Trust

This charity made a contribution of £500 towards the centre's veterinary bills.

'Will Week'

A donation of £50 was made towards the construction of the Animal Adoption Hub.

Battersea Dogs and Cats Home

This charity donated £13,000 towards the delivery of a behaviourally-enhanced rehoming programme at the Animal Adoption Hub for dogs held for long periods.

Other

The other restricted income comprises £500 received from The Hemby Trust for the provision of hedgehog accommodation, and the following sums contributed towards veterinary fees: Adoption for Pets £5,000; The Carmela £2,500; Alice Noakes £2,500.

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2021	Restricted funds 2021	Total 2021	Unrestricted funds 2020	Restricted funds 2020	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2021 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	355,778	204,360	560,138	381,595	124,269	505,864
Current assets/(liabilities)	1,103,893	1,315	1,105,208	894,775	114,367	1,009,142
	1,459,671	205,675	1,665,346	1,276,370	238,636	1,515,006

21 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Within one year	43,875	51,500
Between two and five years	52,500	72,125
	96,375	123,625

22 Capital commitments

As at 31 December 2021 the entity had no capital commitments, being contracted for but not provided in the financial statements.

23 Related party transactions

Helen Stanbury, a trustee of the charity, is also employed as the director of the charity. All interests have been declared to the Charity Commission and conflicts of interest are appropriately managed. During this financial year Helen Stanbury received gross wages of £32,600 (2020: £32,700) for her work in this capacity. The charity also paid employer pension contributions of £795 on behalf of Mrs Stanbury (2020: £795).

In the opinion of the trustees there is no ultimate controlling party.

During the year the charity paid trustees insurance amounting to £800 (2020: £660).

24 APB ethical standard

In common with many other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to prepare and submit returns to the tax authorities, assist with the preparation of the financial statements and to provide tax advice.

25	Cash generated from operations	2021 £	2020 £
	Surplus for the year	150,340	290,850
	Adjustments for:		
	Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	9,287	39,189
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	48,775	42,624
	Movements in working capital:		
	(Increase) in stocks	(1,775)	(166)
	Decrease/(increase) in debtors	505,209	(244,671)
	(Decrease) in creditors	(14,431)	(1,937)
	Cash generated from operations	697,405	125,889

26 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no debt during the year.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

England & Wales - Charity number 1160348

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1160348

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	H Stanbury J Young D Nixon A Armstrong D Martin V Wikeley
Charity number	1160348
Auditor	Mitchell Charlesworth LLP 3rd Floor 5 Temple Square Temple Street Liverpool Merseyside L2 5RH
Bankers	Lloyds Bank plc 88-94 Church Street Liverpool Merseyside L1 3HD The Royal Bank of Scotland plc 15 Foregate Street Chester CH1 1HD Barclays Bank plc 5 - 6 Bangor Street Caernfon Gwynedd Nth Wales LL55 1AE
Solicitors	Weightmans LLP Weightmans 100 Old Hall Street Liverpool Merseyside L3 9QJ

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

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FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "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) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

Our Mission
To provide the best emergency care for animals in peril; while inspiring and supporting people to protect animals and the natural environment.

Our Vision
A world where all people protect animals and value nature.

Our Primary Aims

- To protect animals who have been abused, abandoned and neglected, through the rescue, rehabilitation, rehoming or release of domesticated, farmed and wild animals.
- To build upon the forty years of public trust and support gained as a result of delivering a service which is ethically led.
- To put the needs of the animal at the heart of everything we do and provide excellent care.
- To effect lasting positive change for more animals.

Our Primary Objectives

1. To rescue and rehome, or release, to a consistently high standard from both our shelters.
2. To effect lasting change through impactful community engagement and education initiatives.
3. To promote the benefits of neutering and deliver a first-rate Community Neutering Service across the North West and North Wales.
4. To foster a culture that gives equal consideration for the well-being of all species of animals.
5. To deliver and promote a holistic approach to animal welfare that acknowledges human impact.
6. To ensure the health, well-being, support and development of our staff and volunteers.
7. To support responsible pet owners to keep or protect their friend in times of crisis.
8. To demonstrate our relevance, impact, value and resilience to our stakeholders.

Services and activities

Responsive Services

- Domesticated animals: rescue, accommodation, medical care, rehoming from the rescue and rehoming from home. These services primarily support cats, dogs, horses, rabbits and a variety of small animals.

- Wild animals: rescue, provision of accommodation, medical care, trap, neuter and release.

These services primarily support hedgehogs and wild birds.

- Farmed animals: rescue, provision of accommodation, medical care, and rehoming from the rescue.

These services primarily support pigs, sheep, ducks, geese, hens and cockerels.

Our expert medical care is provided by an on-site vet, fully equipped veterinary facility, vet nurses, veterinary students on placements from local universities and supportive community veterinary partners.

Proactive Services

- Advice and signposting for individuals struggling to keep their pet, and for people in pre and post adoption phases.
- Community Outreach Neutering Programme, targeting the over-population of feral/ street cats and supporting households on low income with cats across Merseyside
- Bunny bonding service to ensure the well-being of isolated pet rabbits.
- Community Outreach and Education in schools, colleges and with community groups.
- Awareness-raising campaigns in support of animal welfare, adopter responsibilities, and wildlife conservation issues.

Ethos

Freshfields Animal Rescue was founded in 1979, upon the simple premise that all life matters. That foundation has only grown stronger as the scope of our work has expanded. Today, more than 40 years on, equal consideration for every species of animal remains at the forefront of our work. It is for this reason that we operate a vegetarian and vegan only food policy on our premises.

Our ethos is to ensure the well-being of any animal that needs us for as long as it needs us. We will aid any animal regardless of additional time and resources needed to achieve this. We go the extra mile to deliver our ethical promise to our stakeholders.

Freshfields has a holistic and pragmatic approach to the many issues facing domestic and wild animals. We recognise that the fate of animals is inextricably linked to the impact of human attitudes and actions. We live by our core principles to inform, support and initiate changes in peoples' actions, leading to a better future for us all.

At Freshfields we live what we do, striving for a future where welfare, respect, responsibility and empathy become not only our vision but also a reality.

Public benefit

The trustees are satisfied that all of the activities undertaken by the charity in pursuance of its objects are for the benefit of the public.

The trustees have had due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

THE NEED FOR OUR WORK

Supporting Animals in Crisis

The issue of overpopulation of domestic animals and under-population of wildlife in the UK, and worldwide, is a serious, silent and hidden crisis. Freshfields Animal Rescue plays a vital role in tackling these issues in North West England and Wales.

The bigger picture can be conveyed through statistical data. This conveys a clear and urgent need for responsive and proactive work to deal with today's problems and effect lasting positive change.

Domesticated animals

Pets play a significant part in so many of our lives. There are 51 million pets in the UK, with 49% of people owning a pet. 90% of owners say their pet makes them feel happy, and 88% feel they improve their quality of life.

Behind these figures lies a story of adversity:

- 2.7 million cats and dogs are abandoned every year in the UK.
- 48% of people are still getting their dogs from a private seller or breeder, with only 22% from rescues.
- Large scale breeding and transportation of puppies is a significant challenge.

Animals that we domesticate suffer due to people misunderstanding the broader issues and level of commitment required, seeking fashionable pets, not training them or providing the necessary care. This results in the following:

- Rescue centres nationally have 45% of kennel spaces taken by bull breed dogs.
- The RSPCA alone felt it necessary to euthanise 29% of their animals.
- 98% of vets have been asked to euthanise an unwanted healthy pet because they haven't been socialised.

This year, as for the past 40 years, we are determined to save the lives of abused, abandoned and unwanted animals today and continue to work to prevent the problems at their root causes.

Wildlife

'Between 1970 and 2013, 56% of UK species declined. Of the nearly 8,000 species assessed using modern criteria, 15% are threatened with extinction. This suggests that we are among the most nature-depleted countries in the world. Of the 218 countries assessed for 'biodiversity intactness', the UK is ranked 189, a consequence of centuries of industrialisation, urbanisation and overexploitation of our natural resources.' - State of Nature Report, 2016.

At Freshfields we are not complacent about this issue, and work hard to protect and repopulate struggling local wildlife, and unite with all of those who care enough to take some action and be part of making a difference.

The UK hedgehog is critically endangered, with expectations of total destruction by 2025. "We speak of 'a loss of 97% of our Hedgehogs'. Loss, lost... as if this habitat and these species have mysteriously disappeared into the ether, as if they've accidentally vanished. But they haven't – they've been destroyed." Chris Packham, People's Manifesto for Wildlife, 2016.

Freshfields Animal Rescue is on the front line of the battle to protect wildlife in the North West. Our Wildlife Unit undertakes vital conservation work to save the environment. Our Hedgehog overwintering programme and wild bird rehabilitation and release programme provides vital intervention to save every precious hedgehog and wild bird that is brought to our door. We inform and inspire the public to take practical steps to help wildlife survive and thrive in both urban and rural settings.

We see an increase in demand for this work year on year. We are committed to working with the community to address this urgent and present need.

Supporting people in crisis

We were touched by the kindnesses shown to us by our local community and businesses throughout the pandemic. It was clear that people wanted to offer their support however they could and in whatever safe ways we asked. Individuals accepted that, for now, our interactions with them could not be face-to-face, as we would choose. We received large donations of PPE and animal foods, and it was important to us to continue with our work helping others at such a critical time. We increased our support of Liverpool based charity Care For The Paw and organised pet food donations to places such as some of the Liverpool food banks.

Crucial work with our dog waiting list continued despite the pandemic. We feared enormous consequences for many families within our local communities, so we ensured we were available to offer help and support. We couldn't have foreseen how extreme the lockdowns and restrictions would be or how long they would continue, but we found that far fewer dogs needed rescue help than we imagined. We placed a total of 191 dogs on our waiting list. There were many and varied reasons which caused people to want to surrender their dogs in 2020 and therefore to contact Freshfields: These involved social, economic, health, personal and a wide range of other reasons. See table below:

Personal Circumstance	
New baby	2.09%
Cannot cope/no time	10.99%
Work hours/commitments	3.66%
Owner died	5.23%
Owner ill/disabled	14.13%
Dog aggression/bitten	19.89%
Not getting on with other dog	6.08%
Went to Prison	0.52%
Relationship split	2.09%
Not allowed pets in accommodation	10.47%
Homeless	1.04%
Allergies	1.57%
Separation Anxiety/behavioural issues	14.13%
No longer afford to keep dog	0.52%
Other – emigrating/moved to care home/army/other	6.08%

ANIMAL WELFARE ACHIEVEMENTS

Introduction

We operate two rescue sites, one in Liverpool, Merseyside and another in Caernarfon, North Wales.

We are unique in the service we provide across the North West and North Wales with respect to the diversity of animals that we rescue, rehabilitate, rehome or release. Our rescue services can be broadly categorised into three key areas:

- Domesticated animals
- Farmed animals
- Wildlife

We have an established track record as a rescue that provides a vital last chance for animals that other rescue centres have rejected for commercial reasons, age, behavioural issues and other challenges. As a result, the public has come to rely on Freshfields as a valuable local resource to bring animals in desperate need and be confident that they will be treated with compassion and care.

The following table combines the Liverpool Centre and the Wales Centre figures and summarises those animals assisted in 2020.

Animals Assisted at Freshfields - Outcomes 2020

Animals	Admitted	Rehomed	Released into the wild	Neutered /chipped On site	Neutered in the Community	Put to sleep	Died	Currently cared for at rescue
Cats and kittens	342	331	-	237	150	16	6	74
Feral cats	5	5	108	-	144	8	3	-
Dogs	46	42	-	31	-	3	-	25
Rabbits	18	22	-	24	-	1	3	26
Small Animals	17	31	-	8	-	2	2	7
Horses	2	18	-	-	-	2	1	15
Hedgehogs	402	-	193	-	-	14	172	57
Wild birds	520	-	262	-	-	71	172	53
Farm	11	33	-	-	-	30	36	45
Other	3	2	-	-	-	5	25	21

Notes to the Animal Figures:

Dogs – we recognise the number of dogs physically rescued and rehomed is less than in previous years.

Factors influencing this in Liverpool are the pandemic and the extensive refurbishment of one kennel block. This has meant our total kennel capacity reduced from 26 spaces to just 22.

The number of dogs admitted includes three dogs who were rehomed via our Website Waiting List programme. Due to the pandemic, we were unable to operate this in the normal way (travel restrictions, the need to suspend all but emergency visitors to the site etc.), but we did continue to work behind the scenes with dogs requiring this service. This 'Home to Home' service is one of our most successful community intervention schemes, preventing the need for admittance to the centre for a dog who is waiting to be rehomed. This has the following benefits:

- Reducing the stress and anxiety in an already difficult situation for the dog and owner.
- Freeing up space for emergency admissions for dogs who have been abandoned or are in the most desperate immediate need.
- Maintaining continuity for the dog, with a support package of advice and pre and post-adoption support from the rescue centre.

In Wales, our ability to rescue and rehome dogs is hampered by a lack of facilities and staff. This work is as important to us as it is to our supporters and remains a priority to address in the future.

Animals Assisted in the Community - our Community Presence

As the scale of our rescue and rehoming work has increased, so has our capacity to meet local challenges in more resourceful ways. Freshfields has always been more than a site-based rescue centre, and the number of requests for advice and support is a testament to the ever-increasing need for our services and the close working relationships we have formed with local people.

Our outreach-focussed programmes have expanded the scope and impact of our work far beyond the walls of the rescue centres.

The public relies on Freshfields as a valuable resource for advice and support. Our staff spend a significant amount of time giving telephone help and face to face advice to the public on many animal welfare-related issues.

Some interventions address critical or urgent situations, which may result in an emergency admission to the rescue centre or signposting to the appropriate services. In addition, we work closely with other rescue centres, locally, regionally and nationally, to facilitate the animal's progress to a safe place.

Some interventions address longer-term behavioural issues and provide people with a comprehensive set of tools and techniques to establish and maintain a safe home for the animal.

The table below presents examples of our work's broader impact and significant outcomes beyond the traditional core categories of numbers rescued, rehomed and released.

Here are some examples of our Community Impact:

Requests for aid	Calls to reception	Critical interventions resulting in saving life	Neuters carried out as a result of interventions	Direct partnerships with other organisations
3922	632	981	500	49

Notes to the Community Impact Figures:

Aid requests - these include telephone and in-person advice, signposting, practical interventions.

Calls to reception - these are from members of the public needing to rehome their animals. Each one was offered support through advice, signposting, added to the relevant waiting list or directly dealt with by relevant staff.

Interventions resulting in saving life - this includes the animals supported from the Waiting List into new homes, referrals to other rescue centres, cats and kittens rescued from the streets by the Linacre Project and breed specific wildlife contacts.

Neuters carried out as a result of interventions - any rescue we work with has been checked to ensure it applies the same standard of care we do. Neutering any rescue animal will also be a priority to these rescues so we are assured animals will be neutered where applicable.

Partnerships with other rescues - this is the number of other rescues we have worked with over the year to directly help animals in need.

Reports from the animal units – LIVERPOOL

Liverpool shelter staff met the challenge of COVID-19 precisely as expected. True professionals, each one of them acknowledged the challenge, accepted our new requirements and adapted their usual working patterns to continue delivering their best. Initially, we asked volunteers to stay away for their safety, so by putting their heads down and getting on with it, our staff alone ensured their critical work continued. We are incredibly proud of our team for not crumbling. Instead, our staff dug in deep, working longer shifts, postponing annual leave, going above and beyond to ensure all the animals at the rescue continued to receive the love and care they needed while remaining oblivious to the stresses and strains of what was going on around them!

Learning many valuable lessons along the way, we reassessed how we worked to maximise our safety and ensure the rescue continued to run smoothly. For example, we helped emergency cases needing to be admitted, continued with our wildlife admittances and vet care, and rehomed when appropriate. In addition, we first implemented a booking-in system, which enabled us to monitor visitor numbers and record their details for safety reasons. This system allowed our staff to be better organised with their own time and work more efficiently.

We implemented an online Adoption Application form for our kennel unit; this has proven hugely successful and resulted in dogs rehomed much more quickly than usual. We will be looking at implementing these forms for the other Units soon. Rehoming is a significant priority, and staff took a leap of faith to step outside their comfort zones and rehome differently – with tremendous success. Zoom calls, video and photos were all used where appropriate. We carried out virtual home checks using google images/pictures, external and 'view through the window home checks' as appropriate, and intensified our over-the-phone 'interviews'. Staff also 'delivered' animals to their homes, following our strict Covid procedures at all times.

These changes extended to wildlife. For example, staff devised plans to load up batches of hedgehogs, mapping out routes to drop them off with home checked members of the public, who would release them in safe locations after dark. We have found this system much more efficient and beneficial to both the hogs and the staff, so we will continue with it where possible.

The combination of lockdowns, furlough and extremely warm weather resulted in many people exercising outside and in rural areas around the centre. As a result, high numbers of injured wildlife were brought to our door. We devised a system whereby the public remained outside of the rescue and could fill in all relevant details about the animals and themselves. We have found that this is more efficient and impacts less on the staffs working day. Of course, we don't intend always to ask people to wait outside, but this evidences the benefits of a flexible approach.

We set up a COVID compliant covered meeting area outside of any buildings; this enabled important face to face meetings and conversation with visitors to continue. This area has proved invaluable, especially for those units lacking a designated space for public; it has highlighted the need for something similar permanently.

The enforced isolation sparked an awareness of the importance of our supporters knowing about our ongoing work. As a result, we reassessed how we (the Liverpool Shelter) present our work to support the link between us on the ground and the outside world. These changes have given us newfound confidence to think outside the box a little and be more inventive in the ways we can achieve our goals, something we will continue to embrace.

Kennels Response Work

The Kennels team are proud to work with dogs most other rescues would refuse. We strongly believe we should stand by dogs who have been affected by and let down by social circumstance, finding themselves abandoned and in desperate need of our services. We prioritise dogs from our local community rather than importing dogs from abroad as so many rescues do. High numbers of dogs on Merseyside are found as strays and remain unclaimed; therefore, positive intervention is crucial to avoid them being put to sleep.

We strive to work with dogs on a one to one basis, providing all the behavioural help they may need, patiently earning their trust then finding that special home for them. We have built up a dedicated team of dog walkers who work with us in helping these dogs to learn to love life again.

The pandemic impacted our kennel unit immensely in 2020. Staff numbers were very low, and to ensure that the dogs did not have their routines disrupted and that standards of care were maintained, our staff went above and beyond, working extra hours and compressed shifts. For an extended period, almost all of our trusted volunteers could not help us, so staff did everything they could to make sure the dogs still received that extra love and attention. On a more personal level, the team also went through many changes, losing experienced staff moving on to explore personal goals.

In 2020, 738 medical treatments were given to dogs on-site, ranging from eye drops, antibiotics and medicated baths to vaccinations, wormers and other supplementary treatments.

Kennels Proactive Work

This Unit continued to work tirelessly to support dogs placed on our waiting list (those whose details we record and keep until we can help) and other needy cases about which we are contacted. Unfortunately, it was not possible to continue with our system of rehoming while the dog remains in its home due to government restrictions. Still, we continued to match some dogs to other appropriate resources, and our staff work closely with other agencies, often providing practical support in transporting them to the project.

Our waiting list figures reflected the impact of the pandemic, with 106 fewer dogs placed on it than the previous year. We think this could partly be due to the high numbers of people furloughed and therefore at home with their dogs - meaning issues like separation anxiety, no time to exercise etc., did not present themselves. There was also an explosion of people wanting to become dog 'owners'. We think that existing dog owners who may normally have turned to rescues for help have now been able to sell/rehome their dogs themselves to this very available, much larger pool of willing homes.

The lack of people surrendering dogs to rescues has led to lower numbers across the board. Still, the desire by vast numbers of people to become a new dog owner has meant that purchases from breeders, both official and unofficial, have soared. Reports state that between March and September 2020, 2.2 million dogs were bought (source Direct Line). Although the outcome of this decision making is not yet apparent, we think as lockdown restrictions ease and normality returns, there will be large numbers of dogs surrendered. Unfortunately, not all will end up in responsibly run rescue centres.

Of 191 dogs on the Waiting List in 2020:

- 106 dogs were directly rehomed/helped to rehome.
- 30 went to other rescues via their owner with our help.
- 42 dogs were kept by their owners, with the structured guidance and support plans put in place to resolve their difficulties.

Our Community interventions saved lives, prevented homelessness, targeted dogs at risk of losing their homes and resolve challenging situations:

- We secured a safe place for 106 dogs, who we could not admit to the rescue centre but who we were nonetheless able to assist.
- Behavioural advice, support and signposting was given on at least 230 occasions by phone, email and face to face to people with dogs, the majority of which did not come into the rescue.
- 13 dogs were behaviourally assessed safely in their own homes, and follow-up plans devised and delivered with the ongoing support of our staff by phone and in person.

A further 203 dog owners contacted us for advice but chose not to be placed on our waiting list.

We continue to support other rescues where we can supplying dog food, bowls, coats and leads. We have taken food to local food banks and arranged collections for Doris Banham (who work with dogs in pounds). We have supported Care For The Paw for around three years now, this year committing further and launching our We See You campaign. This project involves our supporters in highlighting the problems faced by homeless dog owners and encouraging them to donate to our Christmas collection of essential winter accessories. In 2020 we facilitated the drop off of approximately 120 bags to care for the Paw, each containing an assortment of dog food, treats, coats, leads and collars and socks, scarves, gloves, hats and treats for the dog owners. We plan to build on this initiative and become more involved in helping this worthwhile charity.



The pandemic has greatly hampered plans for renewing our Bull Breed Neutering Campaign and delivering our Change Plan. The Change Plan would support us to help a maximum number of dogs while giving staff the training to equip them better to deal with behaviourally challenged animals, thereby achieving
increasingly positive outcomes in our rehoming figures. As soon as we are able, we will be moving forward in both of these areas.

All dogs are neutered and microchipped unless medically inadvisable.

Investments

The pandemic severely affected extensive refurbishment work required on one of our kennel blocks. Both builders and supplies were either unavailable or very delayed; changes to the way we were working on-site and our reduced levels of staff also affected us. Despite this, we were pleased with the progress we were able to make. The original metal divides between kennel runs have been replaced with rendered block, and floors have been dug up in preparation for new screed to be laid. The end is now in sight, and we are hoping to complete this kennel block soon. This work would not have been possible without funding from the Co-op Community Fund.



Connie's Story: Connie came into our care at just two days old. The product of an accidental litter, when the vet discovered that she was born with a cleft palate, they advised euthanasia. Connie's owner took her home and tried to tube feed her but soon realised if Connie was to have any real chance of survival, she needed specialised help.

Connie was signed over to Freshfields care and moved into foster with one of our most experienced members of staff who had hand-reared puppies successfully for over 15 years.

Keeping Connie alive was nerve-wracking and tedious; she needed regular tube feeding throughout the night, requiring precise administration. We did not know if Connie would survive, and every day was a challenge. As Connie grew, her Cleft Palate became more problematic, and she required multiple specialist surgeries. Connie's foster mum went on to adopt her, and she recently celebrated her 1st Birthday. The survival rate for puppies born with Cleft Palates is low; we are grateful to have played a vital role in ensuring Connie's survival.





Scooby's Story: Scooby was brought to our door one day after his owner had passed away, other local rescue centres had been approached, but they had all turned him away. He was in poor physical condition with fur loss, multiple lumps, scabs, bad skin, and it was later discovered that he also had a testicular tumour. Despite the diagnosis elderly Scooby received the very best veterinary care. We were thrilled when he eventually found a long-term foster home, where we have continued to support his medical care. He is now happy, healthy, and completely adored. Without our intervention, Scooby would have continued to suffer, and we have no doubt that his life span would have been greatly reduced as a result.


Scooby Before


Scooby After

Cattery Proactive Work

Our Community Neutering Programme continued into 2020 until, unfortunately, its suspension in March due to the pandemic. We received a further blow when staff member Darrin, who ran the project, left to move south for personal reasons. Darrin was a much respected and experienced member of staff who is sorely missed; thankfully, he facilitated the neutering of 287 cats in the few months of 2020 that he worked. 138 neuters were feral or street cats, and 140 were cats from low-income households. A total of 141 female cats were neutered. This alone had the potential to prevent the births of 564 unwanted kittens.

Our work with ferals/street cats may include relocation. Relocation happens when the area we trap the ferals is deemed too unsafe to return them to. We were able to safely relocate 40 feral cats in 2020. This involved finding appropriate land, for instance, stables or farms, with owners willing to confine the cats in suitable areas for at least six weeks before releasing them to live happy, free and safe lives.


Picture of Release Site

The timing of Darrin's departure mid-pandemic meant a halt to this project. We are, however, passionate about this work and determined to continue it soon. We work with some of the most economically deprived communities in the country; it's vital we continue to support them.

Vincent's story

Our outreach neutering programme works closely alongside our on-site cattery. Sometimes cats and kittens come into our care who need medical care or are suitable for rehoming; in 2020, we admitted 13 of these cats to the rescue. One such cat was Vincent. He was a long-term stray from the Dingle area of Liverpool. He'd been 'living rough' for at least a few years. He was FIV+ and had problems with ear mites. The mites caused him to scratch his ears frantically, which led to abscesses, as he couldn't fight off infection properly. By the time we admitted him, he had ripped the ear open so often that it had destroyed most of it. Vincent received antibiotics to clear the infection up and then had regular treatment to stop the ear mites from returning. He was then happily rehomed.



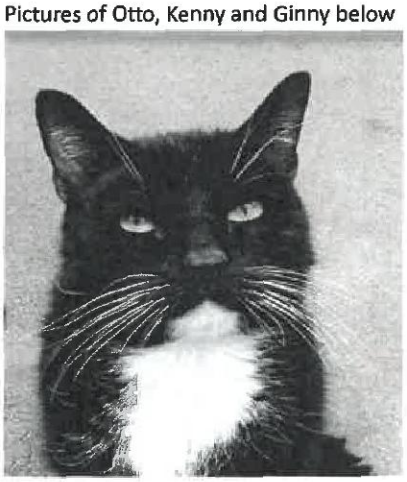


Vincent before (above top) and after (above)

Cattery Response work

The cattery unit was hit hard by the pandemic, and for many months skeleton staff worked long hours, often alone. The absence of volunteers meant that extra work had to be picked up by the dedicated team. The staff ensured cats needs were met, all veterinary care continued, and rehomed when and where possible. The reduction in cat admittances and the suspension of our usual open door (to the public) policy had a surprisingly positive outcome in one way. The cattery staff were able to concentrate on and promote long-term residents who had been overcoming medical or behavioural issues over some time. These cats were often overlooked by the many younger, prettier, healthier cats in our care. Now they had more of our focus, and we were able to find perfect homes for them. Jeffrey, Otto, Kenny, Jasmine, Ginny, and Cracker (all with us for more than a year) were happily rehomed. Many rescues centres may have given up on cats like these.

Pictures of Otto, Kenny and Ginny below





In this year, 540 medical treatments were administered.

Victoria's story

We were horrified when Victoria was brought to us by a caring member of the public, who had found her dumped in a local park. He had discovered her taped into a plastic cat house, inside a black bin bag, dropped over the wall into Victoria Park in Crosby. It was a hot day, and she could easily have suffocated. We cannot imagine why any individual would do this. Victoria was understandably traumatised. At first, she was completely shut down and not able to trust or interact with us. With the expert help of our cattery staff, she slowly came out of her shell and adapted to life in the cattery. She is now full of personality, but everything is very much on her terms! We are still looking for that special home for Victoria.



Victoria's story



Photos - Victoria now & the box she was taped up in

Farm Response Work

The north side of the main rescue centre contains our farm area, which houses pigs, sheep, ducks, geese and chickens, co-existing in either large penned areas or on the open field. It is rare to have many large farm animals rehomed; therefore, the animals we mainly admit and rehome are chickens, ducks and geese. We were, however, successful in finding forever homes for three adult sheep this year.

Our dedicated farm staff provide a high standard of care to all of the animals on the farm. With their varying breeds, sizes, and temperaments, the team keep on top of animal husbandry to ensure that all individual animal needs are met. In addition, farm staff are eagerly working to provide more enrichment for the animals. Enrichment is especially important for our long-term residents in ensuring that they keep physically and mentally active and engaged.

The farm animals are popular with visitors. Some receive regular treats such as fruits, vegetables, and their favourite is receiving gifts from the farm Amazon wish list, which has a mixture of food items, cleaning equipment, and enrichment treats listed on it.

Last year we reported that our chickens had sadly been affected by Avian leukosis. We decided to stop admitting and rehoming chickens to minimise the risk of infection while ensuring that the chickens currently in our care could live out their lives happily on the farm. Unfortunately, due to the nature of the disease, we had a number of chicken deaths from Avian leukosis.

While we cannot cure the chickens currently in our care, we have implemented a plan to ensure that we do not have an influx of disease come to the rescue through rescued birds in the future. While not currently admitting chickens, we now have an admittance procedure in place that details quarantine periods required for birds.

Farm Proactive Work

As in 2019, we received many calls to take in unwanted cockerels – this seems to be increasing each year. We are in the final stages of completing an educational pack that includes details on the impact of chick hatching projects, why rescues highlight this issue, and a variety of alternative projects that will not negatively impact animal welfare.

Roland and Ballerina's story

Roland and Ballerina came to us as lambs. They remained in our care for a few years until they were adopted. Then, unfortunately, they had to be returned to us, and as we always take in our animals, we welcomed them back. A few more years passed, and we resigned ourselves to the possibility that they would remain part of our resident flock for the rest of their lives; however, in May 2020, we got a call from someone looking for companion sheep for their pony.

We instantly thought of Roland and Ballerina and considered the possibility carefully. They were settled in our group and had already been through a failed adoption, but this home offered them more space and the love and attention they deserved. We took them to their new home in June, and their adopter has kept in touch with updates. They settled in incredibly well and are now inseparable from their pony friend.



Daisy's story

Over the last few years, anyone who visited our farm knew about Daisy, our feisty goose who would protect her territory from any intruders. We had inquiries about our geese in the past; Daisy was always passed over as she was a lot to take on. So when we got a call about a gander needing a companion, we explained about Daisy and her quirks expecting a resounding no! Amazingly the response was yes! The adopter, Jo, was happy to take on a goose with a big personality, and we were delighted for Daisy to get the home she deserved finally.



Photo - Daisy (front) and friends

Bernie's story

2020 was a challenging year for many of us, and our farm was no different. We couldn't have volunteers or visitors to see our animals and our staff had to work even harder to make sure that they got all the care and attention they needed. We also had our fair share of losses on the farm, including our beloved Bernie the sheep.

Bernie was rescued with her two lambs around five years ago and looked as elderly back then as she did now. Her lambs were pretty boisterous, and she seemed happy and relieved when they were rehomed. Bernie always liked the quiet life, and she picked the people (and the animals) she liked best on the farm to spend her time with.

Her human friends always made her a new jacket every winter, which she wore very stylishly and appreciated very much as the colder days became more frequent. Unfortunately, old age and poor health finally caught up with Bernie, and she passed away peacefully after a meal of her favourite snacks.

Our farm unit plays its part in caring for many animals that would struggle to find a forever home. We are proud to cater to such a wide variety of species, and our supporters and followers tell us this matters to them too. We will engage on platforms like Facebook to showcase more of our work with farm animals in 2021. Hopefully, this will increase the chances of these animals finding their forever homes.



Wildlife and Small Animal Response Work

The wildlife and small animal unit prove continually to be an extremely valuable part of the rescue, with the number of admittances increasing each year. The team cares for various animals, including rabbits, guinea pigs, ferrets, domestic birds, wild birds, exotic species, and hedgehogs. Demand is rising every year for the Unit, and in 2020 we admitted 402 hedgehogs and 520 wild birds. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, the team could not have any volunteers to help; however, they still managed to release 193 hedgehogs and 262 birds back into the wild.

<u>Wildlife</u>
Staff are highly knowledgeable and have access to various medications and equipment to help them combat illnesses and injuries, with 1,843 small and wild animals receiving medical attention this year. We monitor individual animals daily, and if needed, staff will check on them through the night, e.g. baby birds that need to be hand-reared. We give wild animals the time to recover while in our care until they are strong enough to be released into the wild.

Our staff work tirelessly to ensure that they help as many animals as possible, not only by providing a high quality of care but also by advising and educating the public. The team holds a passion for providing these animals with the highest chance of survival. Unfortunately, some injuries are too severe, and while the team do everything they can, it is not always possible to save every animal that comes through our doors.

In 2020, the number of wildlife deaths and 'put to sleep' increased. Again, though, we believe this to be due to the increased numbers admitted. Animals often require urgent veterinary attention, yet people arrive at our doors without telephoning ahead and bring with them animals that should have gone directly to a veterinary surgery. We plan to create educational leaflets/posters accessible via our website to guide them on when to bring an animal to us or take them directly to a vet.

2020 has been a tough year for the wildlife unit, seeing an increase in admitted wildlife. However, staff have still continuously provided an outstanding level of care to individuals and worked towards conserving wild species in the local area.

Small Animals

The team works with various species of small animals, providing specific care and attention to meet their varying needs. Our experienced staff created individual care plans to ensure that all small animals are microchipped, neutered and groomed (if needed) before finding them a new home. Bonding is a big part of the work to provide companionship for admitted individuals. Bonding can be a lengthy process, but staff persist with their efforts to rehome pairs or groups of small animals successfully.

Sometimes small animals are abandoned on the lane by the rescue. It can be challenging for staff to catch the individuals, but they work together to capture these abandoned animals ensuring they end up safe, warm and secure.

It's non-stop in the wildlife and small animal unit, and it seems like admittances continue to increase each year. Spaces are already filling up, and we hope to increase our capacity to care for these creatures in the future.

Wildlife and Small Animal Proactive Work

Despite busy workloads, the wildlife and small animal unit staff will always take time to speak to members of the public that have phoned up looking for advice. Advice may be about an injured animal, caring for an animal or catching a wild animal. If the team cannot admit an animal, they always make sure to signpost people to one of the reliable contacts they have built up. In 2020, 2,683 aid requests were responded to by staff. Working together with our local communities, we hope to expand our preventative work soon.

Waldo and Bilbo



Waldo and Bilbo were individually admitted as strays in May 2018. Upon arrival, the team noticed a large cyst on Waldo's neck that our vet successfully removed - this procedure required two surgeries due to the size of the cyst. Bilbo, too underwent veterinary treatment for a prolapsed penis. Once the two of them were healed and healthy, the team managed to bond them as a pair successfully. They were then ready to be adopted, sadly without interest in them until June 2020, when they secured their forever home.

Pumpkin and Pickle

Pumpkin and Pickle were returns in 2019. Upon readmittance, a thorough health check found that Pumpkin had a bladder issue, which she was given treatment for immediately. As Pumpkin and Pickle were now elderly rabbits, finding somebody interested in offering them a home was a struggle. We were delighted when in August 2020, a long-term supporter who had previously adopted rabbits from us contacted us to adopt them. They were given a second chance and found their forever home.



The Golden Girls



Sophia, Dorothy, Blanche, and Rose rabbits made up our Golden Girls. This very happy group of four rabbits had no underlying health issues; they were admitted to the rescue in April 2019 and spent nearly a year in our care. Rehoming four rabbits as a group is hugely challenging – many people are looking for a pair of rabbits or one to bond with their current rabbit. It never crossed the minds of staff to split up this group; they had always been together, and to split them did not seem fair. We rehomed our Golden Girls in February 2020 as a group of four! They now have access to a fantastic run and pen, where they can happily relax and play together.

Ducklings

Every year the wildlife team admit a high number of ducklings throughout the spring and summer months. In April 2019, four ducklings arrived, and they were terrified of water. Wildlife staff worked tirelessly to rehabilitate them, but the ducklings developed angel wing as they continued to grow.

Their wings were strapped in the hopes of correcting the condition. Fast forward to the winter of 2019, their wings were still tattered, and they were not waterproof, which meant that they had to be kept inside in a pen to ensure they did not freeze. At times it did not seem the ducks were going to survive. However, at the start of 2020, the ducks became more interested in water, and by the summer, they were finally waterproof. This year the ducks have been spending the summer months practising their flying and swimming. The wildlife team did not give up on these four, and their hard work has paid off, with us looking to find a suitable release site by 2021.



Reports from the animal units - WALES

In Wales, 2020 began with the centre caring for 32 horses and ponies and 23 cats. Then we were hit with COVID-19 and lockdown. The Wales rescue centre closed to the public, and we quickly implemented procedures to keep our staff safe. The team adapted quickly to new ways of working and across different Units, and those on furlough were briefed and ready to step back in if required.

We needed to get the message out that the centre remained operational and we had animals in our care in need of continuing support. As we waited for guidance from DEFRA and the ADCH as to what we could and couldn't do, we were grateful for the implementation of a charity-wide communications plan. This plan allowed us to highlight that even though our rescue centres were closed, we were still here for the animals; we introduced 'Meet the Animals' videos, showcasing residents at the centre and our dedicated staff caring for them. These videos were a great success, with lots of positive feedback from our supporters, who felt that they were getting to know the staff on a much more personal level.

We continued to be there, rescuing cats, kittens and horses, collecting animals who needed our assistance and bringing them to the centre within the strict guidelines of the relevant authorities. Veterinary appointments initially stopped, with only emergency access available. A good relationship with our local vets meant priority access to neutering appointments, then gradually appointments for vaccinations etc., became available. A benefit to the centre being closed is we saw our outdoor cats confidence increase. Cats who would not even come to the staff for food were happily sunbathing in the absence of members of the public and vehicles coming and going. The cats felt more at ease with the slower pace of life. George, our ginger and white outdoor cat, would never choose to be around humans; he would wait until staff had left before he went to his food bowl and would dart off if any human dared look at him. George is now happy to spend time with the staff, and although we are still not able to touch him, he is now confident enough to take treats from the hand and sunbathes on his back when there are staff around. He is so much more relaxed.



Stables Response Work

Meet The Animals videos posted from our Equine Unit resulted in us rehoming 18 equines, the most we have ever rehomed through our loan scheme in the history of the Wales centre. Our Horses and ponies go out on loan, the Loan Scheme, giving the loaner 100% back up from Freshfields; the scheme also provides us with the reassurance that our equines will never be sold and are cared for correctly. In addition, welfare checks are carried out on all of our loaned horses at least once a year.

Zola, Django, Morwenna, William, Zeke, Fudge, Poppy, Ziva, Rio, Gwenno, Brenin, Sadie, Celt, Blodwen, Marigold, Shamrock, Rolo and Ruby all found homes during 2020. Ruby and Gwenno were returned as they didn't bond with the established horse in their new homes, then adopted again. With many equine owners having the opportunity to spend time with their horses and ponies due to the lockdown, they also had the time to work out if adopting a new equine was feasible. As the work/life balance shifted, many people who had always wanted to adopt equines, or had not kept equines for a few years, seriously considered the possibility. We only loan our horses and ponies in pairs or as a companion to an established equine; our experienced equine staff listen to the requirements of the potential loaner, then suggest horses and ponies that are compatible. Home checks were carried out through video calling, making sure we also met their established equines, and, once and other checks were complete, we would deliver the equines to the nearby homes. Horses and ponies reserved from adopters further afield had to wait until restrictions eased.

Before the Meet The Animals videos on Facebook, many of our supporters did not realise that we rescued and rehomed horses and ponies, despite us advertising equines on our website; this includes those supporters living locally. Feedback from those who adopted from us in 2020 was that over half of the new loaners had not
heard of Freshfields Animal Rescue or realised that we rescued and rehomed equines. Instead, they believed that we were a sanctuary for elderly and unwell horses and ponies. Opinions now are changing, and we are having people recommending us to others seeking to adopt.

Sadie and Celt

Sadie and Celt left the centre in August 2020; Celt had been a resident at Freshfields for 12 years; he'd been spotted at just one day old, on a mountainside in North wales, trying to suckle from his mum – who had sadly died giving birth to Celt. Freshfields stepped in, and our team managed to coax this tiny, terrified youngster to a place of safety. He was hand-reared by a dedicated member of the team, and he got stronger every day. We then found him a surrogate mum for a short while until he was old enough to feed on his own. Celt was returned to Freshfields once old enough, where he grew to become a strong and confident pony. He was placed in a herd with other horses and ponies, including Sadie.

When Sue contacted us in July, after months of looking at ponies needing to be rehomed we listened to her requirements and suggested a pair. The relevant checks were completed within a couple of weeks, and Sadie and Celt were settled into their new home. Sue said she felt confident that she could call Freshfields for help and advice should she need to while caring for Celt and Sadie.

Photos of the pair in their new home are below, and also Celt as a young foal.







Ben - Section A Welsh Mountain Pony

We admitted Ben at the end of August 2020. Ben was semi-feral due to mistreatment and neglect by his breeder, who was under RSPCA investigation. The RSPCA had asked the farming community locally to lend a hand by taking on a pony or two. His current carer had contacted us after Ben began being bullied by the other horses on the property; she felt that he would be happier being away from them. He had remained in their care for 12 years, and in that time, he had never seen a vet or farrier. They had simply offered him a field to live in, with some haylage provided.

Understandably, Ben was extremely nervous upon admittance; he was very head shy, did not like being handled and would rear if anyone approached. Therefore, our equine staff had to gain his trust before we could begin to even think about bringing in the dentist or farrier.



It took a month until Ben was ready to be seen; our vet was called to sedate him so his teeth could be looked at in safety. The vet was amazed that Ben had managed to eat due to the poor condition of his teeth. He had a deformity on the top row, with overhanging teeth causing them to rub against his very sore cheeks. His molars were overgrown, which would have meant difficulty grazing. The vet was surprised Ben had a good body score and said he must have learnt to adapt his way of grazing to accommodate his uneven teeth over the years.

Unfortunately, rasping Bens teeth was not an option, as it would have taken a few days to file them down, so a further vet appointment was made.



Ben was sedated a second time a few weeks later, and an electronic grinder used to grind down his overgrown molars; the vet removed his hooks. After this visit, Ben seemed much happier in himself, obviously enjoying the fact that he could now eat anything he wanted.

A month later, Ben was sedated again to finish off rasping the remainder of his teeth. He is now seeing the dentist six-monthly, like all our other equines.

Unfortunately, due to the amount of work carried out, Ben had reverted to being semi-feral, but the equine staff have worked hard to regain his trust. A few months on, Ben is now much more confident; he is happy and has begun to play with another one of our horses, which is lovely to see. His cheeky personality is now starting to show. Ben has now begun to be broken in as most prospective loaners want equines who have some riding experience, or at least to have learnt the basic commands. We have introduced a bit, which he accepted with no issues, and he is beginning to be lunged on the long lead; he is very positive and is a very good 'doer' as in, he wants to learn, which will increase his chances of finding a home.

It is fantastic to see how far he has come from the terrified little pony that arrived at Freshfields. We are hopeful that Ben will find a home.

Dental Dilemma



In September, our Equine dentist of 15 years decided to retire. Andre had shielded for the majority of the year due to Covid-19, and he took the decision not to return to work. Andre knew the personality of every one of our horses and ponies. He would have treats tucked away in his pocket as a reward for them standing to have their teeth checked or rasped. Even the harder to handle equines knew to behave for Andre and waited patiently for their polo mint at the end of their check. With Andre's retirement, we had to find a new dentist to take on all of our equines. With such a diverse mix of breeds and ages, we needed an experienced dentist, so we asked Andre if he could recommend anyone. He put us in contact with Robin, who he had trained himself years before; this allowed us to feel confident that Robin would provide the same high standard of care for our horses and ponies. We will miss Andre sorely, and we thank him for his years of service to Freshfields and to our horses and ponies.

Cattery Response Work

Throughout the pandemic, staff pulled together, working as a tight-knit team to ensure the very best care possible for our animals. As a result, great camaraderie has developed among the group.



Our outdoor pens were completed in the main cattery, which gives our cats the option to venture outdoors safely. Each outdoor run is accessible via a cat flap from their pen, and they can sit, snooze or play in their outdoor space. Our cats love being outdoors when the weather is fine. Danny was the first cat to venture out and really made the most of the heatwave encountered during the lockdown. Danny was a very high energy cat and having the option to be outdoors really helped his temperament. The pens now have toys, shelter and cat grass added for enrichment.

Hope, Spirit and Revel's Story

Our first litter of kittens arrived in April; Hope, Spirit and Revel were hand-reared by a lovely lady who had taken in their pregnant mum, who she had decided to keep, having her spayed as soon as possible. However, she wanted to make sure the kittens were homed responsibly, approaching Freshfields for help.

Hope was the first animal at Freshfields rehomed during the pandemic; her adoption followed a virtual home check as we were unable to send out our usual volunteer home checker due to the virus. The home check was easy and efficient, with the potential adopter showing us her home, where Hope would sleep, the access to the outdoors (once she was neutered and old enough to venture out), the outdoor space and the road leading up to the property. After completing our home check questionnaire, the decision was instant, and arrangements were made to deliver Hope to her new home. This was an entirely new way of working, but utilising technology to allow us to carry out a thorough home check and following the strict guidelines for remote rehoming meant that we could finally start to find homes for the animals at the centre once again.





Swt's Story

After three years at the centre, Swt the cat finally found a home. She needed a specific home in a rural location, as Swt had no road sense and with no other pets. As Swt had been at the centre for a few years, she was free to come and go as she pleased and would often greet the staff on their way up the track in the morning; however, she would refuse to move out of the way of the cars and would stand there, meowing for her breakfast.

We had had some interest in Swt previously, but the homes were unsuitable due to the locations and fast flowing roads. We believe that there is a home out there for every animal, and in Swt's case, we had to hold out for that home.

Julian contacted us after viewing Swt on our website. A video home-check was carried out, and the home was exactly what we had wished for; no other pets and just their house in the middle of 20 acres of land. There was no risk of Swt finding herself on a fast-flowing road. Swt was delivered to her new family and soon made herself at home.

It felt very strange at the centre not having Swt around, she was such a character, but we are thrilled that she is very happy and settled in her new home.





Photo of Swt remotely rehomed during the lockdown

Investments in Staff

Despite the Covid19 pandemic, new staff member Sarah Morgan completed her NVQ Level 2 in Animal Care. The NVQ course, supplied by Haddon Training and funded by the Welsh government, gives a comprehensive and complete understanding of animal care, covering the practical, scientific, legal and ethical aspects of caring for our animals. Freshfields believes in investing in our staff; developing and implementing practical staff training can only benefit our animals and ensure the highest standard of care possible. Due to the coronavirus, Sarah had to learn remotely, meeting up with her mentor over Zoom and emailing her work for assessment. We are proud that Sarah has now enrolled on her Level 3 NVQ Animal Management. Sarah joins five other Freshfields staff to have an NVQ in Animal Care.

Moving so many equines in 2020, it became apparent that our donated horsebox was unsuitable for our needs. We remain incredibly grateful for the donation of the horsebox but made the necessary decision to sell it and purchase something smaller; it was huge and perhaps more suited to transporting horses and ponies to shows rather than navigating the narrow lanes of North Wales.

We have used our new, smaller horsebox since July 2020; loading is so much more efficient with the side opening ramp, and with the box itself being narrower and shorter than the previous one, gaining access to the various smallholdings has eased tremendously.

In addition, we introduced 'Horsebox training' with all of our equines looking for homes, where our equine staff practice loading and unloading them. These practice sessions began with the lockdown in March and have proven very successful. Equines who would initially stress and panic at being loaded had staff time spent on them, resulting in those horses and ponies walking calmly into the horsebox when leaving for their new homes. We will continue with this practice as it has immensely benefited horses, ponies and staff alike.







Horsebox training underway

Structure, governance and management

The charity is constituted under a trust deed dated 16 January 2016 and is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation number 1160348.

Trustees

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

H Stanbury
J Young
D Nixon
A Armstrong
D Martin
V Wikeley

Trustees are appointed by agreement with the existing trustees.

Recruitment and appointment of the Management Committee

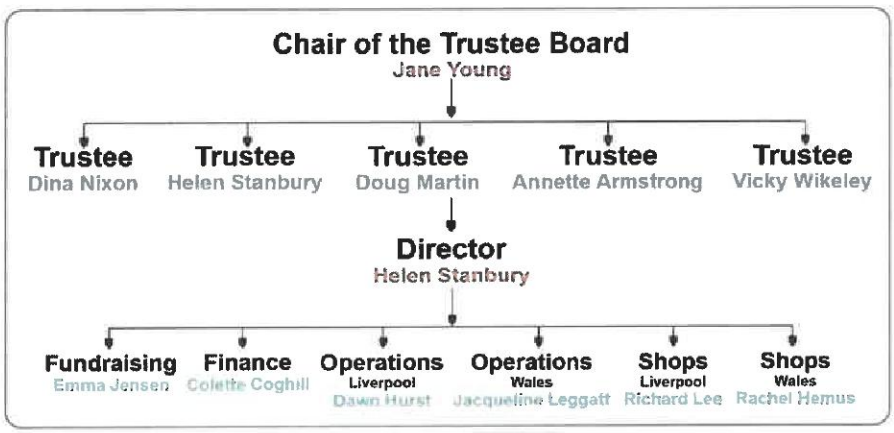
The trustees appoint members of the Executive and Management Teams as and when appropriate.

Recruitment of new trustees

Trustees are appointed through a structured recruitment process, involving a formal application and a democratic Trustee voting process to ensure that new Trustees add value and expertise to the organisation.

We would like to thank our Trustees for their commitment to upholding Freshfields ethics and for their active, practical and invaluable support to the team on the ground.

Board and Senior Management Structure



Staff and volunteers

The Board and the Director would like to thank our 46 staff and over 200 volunteers for their commitment to protecting, rehoming, and conserving animals across the North West and Wales.

We recognise the challenges that COVID-19 has presented throughout 2020 and applaud their resilience.

COVID-19

In February, we implemented our COVID-19 strategy. The senior management team (Operations, fundraising and Shops) were supported in planning and documenting all aspects of potential business interruption due to the pandemic. The possible effects globally for every business, charity or otherwise, meant it was vital we took immediate stock.

While waiting for government instruction, our initial response was business as usual, with sensible safeguards in place. We communicated with staff, listening, empathising and reassuring, taking every concern seriously. Our secondary response was the closing of our charity shops and the closure, to the public, of our two rescue centres. All volunteers were requested to stay at home, and we considered our most at-risk staff carefully. We implemented a recruitment freeze, and we immediately halted all but essential spending. Our animal shelters moved to crisis only response, and administration and fundraising staff worked remotely where possible.

Complacency was not an option; we considered everything including, cash flow, cost-cutting, current obligations, staffing, necessary investment, fundraising. We carried out a full assessment of our activities, what could and could not continue and for how long, likely effects that might lead to longer-term adaptations or permanent change, along with staffing levels involved. Every staff member across the whole charity was involved in the process, with every area of operation, from service delivery to engagement and communications under review. We looked closely at the type of charity we needed to be, our areas of weakness and how we would address these for public benefit while remaining true to our founding ethos.

We identified a need for change and some restructuring among staff. The restructuring would provide a more layered leadership at our Liverpool rescue centre and open up vital communication channels to interact with and report to our supporting public. It would also offer our animal carers the time they needed to ensure the highest welfare standard for every animal in Freshfields care.

The restructure affected several individuals across both centres and all areas of operations. However, we are grateful to each of them for their patience and stoicism throughout the process. In the case of all but one employee, suitable alternative positions were available. One redundancy was necessary.

Additionally, our COVID-19 strategy looked beyond the charity's needs to consider the individuals who support us, their thoughts, concerns and worries at this time, their expectations of Freshfields, how we continue to fulfil these, and what we give back in the way of support to them. The board decided to contact personally as many of our loyal senior supporters as possible, to whom we owed so much gratitude, to offer a friendly ear and signpost to support services if required. It was important in this time of crisis that we gave back to those who had shown loyalty to Freshfields time and time again.

New appointments

To support the staffing structure at our Liverpool rescue and rehoming centre, we created the role of Deputy Operations Manager, with two positions available. We promoted Kennel Manager Amy Hornsby into one of the positions and, in 2021, recruited Georgia Podmore to fill the other. Unfortunately, due to several staff changes in our Liverpool kennels, Amy has not taken up the position yet; we look forward to her proactive, challenge-ready input in the role as soon as she is able.

In our Liverpool kennels in 2020, Emma-Jane Heaps and Vikki Ferguson replaced Collette Piert and Zoe Balshaw, who left to pursue personal challenges. In 2021 Phil Clark, Kirsty Jones and Graham Taylor were replaced by Holly Parkin and Adele Hyland.

Our Outreach Programme said goodbye to Darrin Stiles, who moved south for family reasons, and we lost Sean Reid from our shops.

Helen Hughes and Lauren Tomlinson joined our fundraising team. Helen brings expertise in marketing and communications and will help focus our connections and interactions with external and internal stakeholders alike. Lauren is our Supporter Liaison, enthusiastically lending professionalism, passion, and likeability to this public-facing role.

In Wales, in support of the NHS, Haf Jones left to resume her nursing career. Kevin Burns retired, and Heledd Hamer moved abroad. We welcomed the return of Sarah Morgan, and Lucinda Faulkner came on board to lend a hand when needed.

.....

A few words about the much respected and admired Collette Piert.

Collette's incredible dedication to animal welfare, determination and compassion are astounding. She has a unique inner strength that is rare to see, but it is evident to all who know her.

Her service to Freshfields Animal Rescue began when she was just 17 (1999), still at school but keen to volunteer in her spare time. Every animal's life always counted, and Collette would never give up on any of them. Alongside all of her own cherished rescued pets, she has continually fostered numerous animals in her home. She has hand-reared litters of day-old puppies, kittens, hedgehogs, fox cubs, and even a lamb; she would forego her sleep to feed them two- hourly to give them the best chance of survival. Her success rate is quite phenomenal!

Outside of work, Collette was the driving force behind our yearly Bull Breed Awareness Campaign. She would walk the streets for hours leafleting, organise events, arrange low cost/free bull breed neuters, and do all in her power to correct public misconceptions about this breed.

Collette is a true inspiration, Freshfields have been beyond lucky to have benefitted from her contribution all these years. We wish Collette only the very best for the future.

Volunteers

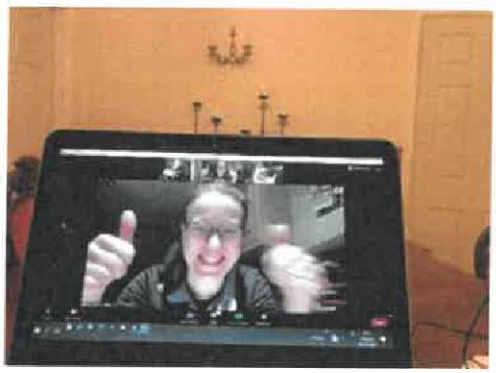
Our Volunteers are at the heart of everything we do and make a massive contribution to the life-changing work of the rescue centre and beyond. Our Volunteers Programme, somewhat hampered by COVID-19, offers a broad range of opportunities for particularly disadvantaged groups and undergraduates.

In a typical year, we would be delighted to support our volunteers to :

- Improve their well-being, mental or physical health
- Benefit from social connection and support
- Gain valuable skills and experience for future employment
- Try something new
- Do something valuable and rewarding
- Gain a sense of achievement
- Gain connections with their local community
- Improved their confidence and self-esteem

Volunteer-led Urban Wildlife talks

The last school visited to deliver an educational talk was on January 22nd 2020. Shortly after this, schools began cancelling Urban Wildlife talks due to concerns over rising Covid numbers.



Several lockdowns, staggered re-openings and sporadic closures due to Covid outbreaks meant Headteachers and their staff spent the year grappling with home education via Zoom and safety issues once children returned. There was no option for on-site talks to resume.

One of the benefits of home education is that children of all ages became comfortable and efficient using Zoom.

Everton in the community contacted Freshfields to do an Urban Wildlife talk for a school in Kirkby with 40 eleven-year-old children. Given this was during a lockdown, acquiring a hedgehog from the rescue was not viable; instead, we emailed videos and photographs to the hosting teacher in advance of the session.

The Zoom session was a great success, and the feedback given was that the children were engaged and found the session informative.

All agreed that using photographs and video during Zoom sessions would be a positive way forward, enabling us to continue Urban Wildlife talks, especially during the pandemic, but also in a Covid free future.

A successful Zoom session with 30 five and six-year-old Rainbows also took place; this again received positive feedback. The Rainbow leader, who is also a teacher, has requested sessions for other Rainbow groups and schools, so there is definite potential to grow the educational arm of our work in this way.

We are incredibly grateful for the volunteer input that carries this work forward.

John Hughes – Charity Today Volunteer of the Year

Covid, meant taking the difficult decision to not allow volunteers on-site, this was to keep them and our staff as safe as possible. We were, however, asked to nominate a volunteer for the Charity Today awards, Charity Today being the primary magazine for UK Charities, and John Hughes immediately came to mind.

John Hughes worked with Freshfields as a Maintenance contractor for 12 years before his retirement in 2018. John was looking forward to retirement with lots of DIY jobs planned to keep him busy. However once those jobs were complete, John felt isolated in his home, just him and his Staffie, Millie, keeping one another company.

John felt if he did not get himself out of the house, he would most definitely slip into depression. So, in 2019 John returned as a volunteer and can usually be found working within our Equine Unit at least three times a week. John sees his volunteering here as beneficial to our animals and staff and himself; the social aspect of getting out and seeing people and the feel-good factor of volunteering for the animals keeps him going.

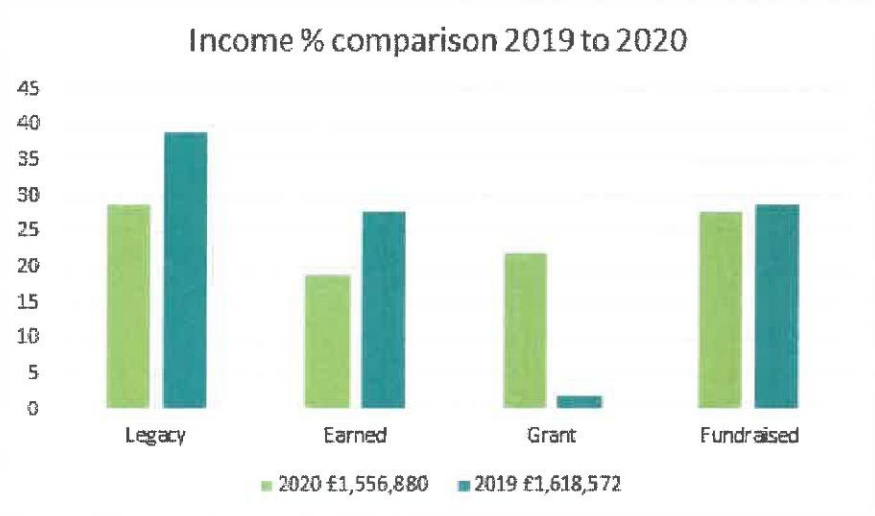


We were so proud when we heard that John was a finalist and had made the final three out of hundreds of nominees. At the end of August, voting began, and John's story so inspired our fantastic supporters that votes for him came pouring in. It was touch and go, but John was victorious; he won the Charity Today Award for Volunteer of The Year.

John said "I am very happy and proud to win the Volunteer of the Year award and would like to thank everyone who voted for me. I feel very honoured to win the award when it is for something that I enjoy doing, in a place that is very dear to me. I remember travelling many miles over the years, collecting animals from far away to bring them into the rescue, and I remember the feeling of joy when seeing that animal find a home. I would also like to thank the staff at Freshfields Wales for the enjoyable years that I worked alongside them and for support in welcoming me back again, after my retirement, as a volunteer. I enjoy working as part of the team there and helping care for the horses and ponies."

Sustainability

Despite a turbulent and uncertain year, we are much relieved to report that we ended the year with just a 4% loss on our income levels of 2019. This could be incorrectly interpreted as COVID having little or no impact on our finances or presenting any additional risk.



In fact, our shops turned over 39% less in 2020 than in 2019, a drop in income equal to £148,000.

The whole team pulled together in a focused effort to engage supporters online with the rescue work of each unit, resulting in an 8% increase in online general donations, which went some way to reducing the impact of the loss of income from the shops, little ability to raise funds through in-community events and reduced adoption fee income. The additional online engagement helped us raise awareness of some areas of our work that some supporters were unaware of and helped with adoptions of horses in particular.

By far the most significant factor in supporting us through the year was the Governments Furlough grant, and we are incredibly grateful for it. This equated to 15% of our annual income, or £230,383. Without this grant and our swift fundraising adaptions to offset other losses, we were facing an overall loss of at least £400,000.

Grant income looks especially buoyant in 2020 due to our confirmation of an additional £108,000 worth of Capital funds awarded for a new Adoption Hub and subsequent Change project. Due to COVID, we are expecting to complete it in 2021. It is worth bearing in mind that capital grants aid improvements but not core costs, which are less exciting but absolutely essential to the survival of 1300 animals depending on us each year.

The Adoption Hub Project, costing £155,102 has been made possible this year thanks to £85,344 from Support Adoption for Pets whose board were incredibly supportive of the project, a Battersea Change Grant of £13,000 to get the project initiated and commission the new CRM, £5000 from the Doreen Greenlees fund to help us provide the best possible welcome to adopters and surrenderers and a further £5,495 from local solicitor friends at Dickinson Parker Hill, adding to the £12,587 they raised for Freshfields in 2019. Together with the Kennels to Couch supporter donations and Freshfields contributions, these funds will achieve better and faster outcomes for the long-term dogs and all of the animals at Freshfields.

We would not have got the project developed to a proposal stage without the invaluable pro bono expertise and hard work of Laura Ladusan, Head of Future3 Architecture, and her dog Pearl, in designing the Adoption Hub and securing the necessary permissions.

In times like these, we are very pleased to push forward with our plans to keep on making quality improvements to the support we can provide to animals, the public, and to our facilities. This positive development has been encouraging at this challenging time.

We continue to be challenged by our position as a medium-sized charity, with neither the economy of scale and sponsor opportunities of nationals nor come within the revenue ceiling criteria cited by funders. As a result, we remain in the unenviable position of working extra hard to meet our annual financial needs through less opportunity than most.

At 29% of our annual income, legacies remain vital in keeping our doors open to make the work possible. It is always sad that we can't thank the donors for their gift of life to animals in person. We acknowledge them here and to their families, and will make every penny of their gift prevent suffering and provide love. We especially acknowledge the loving-kindness of:

Teresa Dowling
Dr Gwenda Evans
Joyce Shirley Davidson
W A Jones
Veronica Wrigley
Olive Evans
Mary Janet Jackson
C Craney
Gillian Dora Prescott
Jean Ann Squire
Kathleen Margaret Cooper
Christopher Rowland Beal
Ann Beetham
Frances Letita Davies
Muriel Sylvia McLuckie
John Turnball Munro
M Blakeley
Doris Coulson
Ian Andrew Dugdale
Mrs Jose Camp
Margaret Agnes Prytherch

Other areas of our fundraising were generally comparable to 2019. We have appreciated the efforts of those who have fundraised through challenges or birthdays, and have made some fantastic new friends in the process. We are grateful for our loyal supporters whose pledges initiated a 75% match during our 'No Animal Left Behind' Christmas appeal.

We believe we have further scope to build upon our current fundraising areas. We will be looking to increase our supporter base, build on our income-generating strengths, be as effective and efficient in our fundraising efforts as possible, with the expectation that this will provide us with a strong foundation for meeting future challenges.

The newly commissioned CRM system will be vital in delivering the rewarding experience our supporters deserve, retain support, build loyalty, help with teamwork, data-led decisions and administrative efficiency. This CRM will be ready for operational use at the beginning of 2021

We look ahead with some trepidation in the light of a forecast economic recession as the world tries to recover the costs of covid. However, we are as positive and determined as ever whilst being aware of external factors that we are likely to face: the potential loss of income from the public that we are almost entirely reliant upon, twinned with a new swathe of unwanted lockdown pets in a year or two.

Our supporters did not let us down during 2020; together, we worked hard to ensure there was No Animal Left Behind at a time when attentions were focused on a very human crisis.

We cannot thank our supporters enough. We never forget that this is a partnership and appreciate the faith placed in us to deliver this vital work. We are as committed as ever to doing a great job on behalf of our supporters and the animals.

Grants and Trusts

The Coronavirus pandemic changed the funding landscape for charities in 2020 in ways that we could not have imagined. Whilst many charities could access emergency government funding, from designated support packages and major emergency fundraising appeals, the plight of animals in rescue centres, unfortunately, fell even further behind. Financing for the vital costs of care for animals was already on the exclusion criteria of most funders. Consequently, we are now bidding for grants and awards in an even more fiercely competitive environment.

Charitable Trusts and Foundations narrowed and redefined their funding criteria to focus on the immediate needs of people in their local communities suffering from the financial and social impact of the pandemic, especially during the first lockdown.

We are especially grateful for the insight and faith put in us by the Trusts and Foundations, who have not excluded animals from their funding criteria. These have demonstrated vision and seen the need for our continued stewardship in responding to and preventing abuse or harm to animals while helping people a great deal too.

We remain continually frustrated by reading animal rescues on 99% of grant funders exclusion lists, leaving us unable to access almost all of the grant funding available to practically all charities helping people.

We are exceptionally grateful to the Trustees of Charitable Trusts and Foundations who appreciate that we have a collective responsibility to protect the animals and environment, and who supported our work in 2020:

Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust
Support Adoption for Pets
Battersea Dogs and Cats Home
Animal Rescue Live Fund
The Doreen Greenlees Charitable Trust
JDM Charitable Trust
Lee and Bakirgian Family Trust
Barry Green Memorial Fund
Mayor of Sefton's Charity Fund
The Rotary Club
Sylvanus Charitable Trust
A F Blakemore Foundation
Animal Friends Insurance
John Slater Foundation
Spear Charitable Trust
William Dean Countryside Trust
Walker 597 Trust
Wetnose Animal Aid
William Haddon Trust
Geoff's Lundford Charitable Trust
Alice Noakes Memorial Charitable Trust
Gaynor Cemlyn-Jones Charitable Trust
Arihant Trust
Rainford Trust

Business Community Support

Our thanks go once again to Michael Prendergast and his team at Dickinson Parker Hill Solicitors for their valuable support during Charity Wills Month 2020.

Thank you all.

Increasing Reach

Our social media followers continue to increase year on year, and we have added 10,517 followers this year, reaching 50,517 Facebook followers. In addition, we are slowly building our Twitter and Instagram presence.

We have established excellent relationships with regional and local media in Merseyside, joining our passion to its power to change lives. The local radio and TV stations are engaged and supportive of local charities. They have helped us to spread the word about how our local community can get involved with our work through volunteering, donating or fundraising for the animals. The media continue to give us their support in highlighting current issues around animal welfare, including more substantial sentences for animal abusers and the need to ensure that animal rescue centres were not left behind during the pandemic.

In the past year, we have had the opportunity to show the impact of our work on BBC North West Tonight, BBC Radio Merseyside, S4C Wales, Mighty FM and Sandgrounder Radio. We have a regular 2-weekly guest slot on Liverpool Live Radio, a new, independent regional radio station broadcasting in the heart of Liverpool. We have had adoption stories, rehoming appeals, and other aspects of our work featured in The Echo, Visiter, and Champion newspapers.

Our goal for next year is to build on the media contacts we have made in North Wales, increasing our presence and informing the public about the vital services we provide to some of the most remote and rural communities in Wales.

CHARITY SHOPS

COVID dealt the retail sector a harsh blow. With the UK in lockdown, non-essential shops in England and Wales closed for extended periods, the effects were far-reaching, impacting staff and volunteers as well as income. Currently, we have shops in Southport, Porthmadog, Llanidloes, Caernarfon, and Barmouth. Each shop also acts as a link between our services and the public, providing an important stage from which to promote our vital work for animals.

Although the pressures on the high street remain extreme, government support in the form of both discretionary grants and furlough has been welcomed. Overall, the picture for 2021 suggests that with hard work and sound strategy, our charity shops income can be rebuilt. As a result, it has been necessary to strategise a post-COVID way forward and make some tough yet necessary decisions to support these. Detail relating to specific shops is available below.

- **Barmouth** – A tourist-reliant location, this shop moved premises for the second time in an 18 month period. The move though bold, was necessary and is already benefitting from the larger sales floor upon which to showcase donated stock, storage space, and improved facilities for staff and volunteers. We are confident this shop will go from strength to strength.
- **Llandudno** – this shop received a discretionary grant of £25k, the largest of those received in Wales. Without this, the shop would have ended 2020 with a loss of more than £9.5k. These premises were near the end of their lease, and we did not renew. COVID sealed our fate in Llandudno, but without human casualty; the part-time shop manager has now moved over to our previously volunteer-led Caernarfon shop.
- **Caernarfon** – despite being closed for an extended period due to COVID and lockdown, this shop saw an uplift in profit for 2020. This was in part thanks to the generosity and support of the landlord, Peter Harrop, who kindly reduced our rent to just £10 a month during the lockdown period. We were also in receipt of a discretionary government grant on these premises. 2021 welcomes the addition of a part-time shop manager in Caernarfon to support a long-established, highly committed volunteer base.

- **Ormskirk** – this shop was also near the end of its lease, and again, we decided not to renew. The viability of this shop has been under debate for several years. With high rents in a declining market town, year on year profitability trends suggested to tie into a lease of any length would be foolish. The manager of our Ormskirk branch moved across to Southport, so jobs were not lost.
- **Southport** – this shop performed well despite COVID . Having moved the manager of the Ormskirk shop across, we now open longer hours and seven days a week. This move is working well, with so far promising post lockdown results.

NET INCOME FROM SHOPS - YEAR ON YEAR COMPARISON

Area/Year	2019	2020	Tendency
Liverpool	£65,699.00	£75,843.17	Ý
Wales	£73,296.00	£70,787.49	ß

Fig. 1

LIVERPOOL SHOPS

Site/Year	2019	2020	Variance	
Southport (Sh'speare st)	£63,771.64	£69,792.31	Ý	9%
Ormskirk	£1,267.00	£6050.86	Ý	377%
Southport (Wesley st)	£660.00	Closed		
TOTAL	£65,699.00	£75,843.17	Ý	15%

Fig. 2

WALES SHOPS

Site/Year	2019	2020	Variance	
Barmouth	£10,644.00	£2,369.54	ß	78%
Caernarfon	£9,486.00	£15,789.42	Ý	66%
Llandudno	£12,618.00	£17,388.31	Ý	38%
Llandidloes	£10,284.00	£13,472.44	Ý	31%
Machynlleth	£4,631.00	Closed		
Porthmadog	£25,631.00	£21,767.78	ß	-15%
TOTAL	£73,296.00	£70,787.49	ß	-3%

Fig. 3

We remain committed to maintaining a presence on the high street, our shops are essential to us, and their role extends far beyond that of income generation. Just as Freshfields is 'more than a rescue', the shops, in turn, are more than a place to buy and sell goods. They are a gateway to our work, and for Freshfields to have a truly transformational impact on the lives of the animals we serve, we must view every interaction with the public as a chance to communicate our message. We are aware that the activities of the shops fully integrate with the work of the Rescue Centre. But, whatever our role within Freshfields, our purpose is the same: # NoAnimalLeftBehind.

No shop report is complete without a massive shout out to our wonderful volunteers who make such an incredible difference to Freshfields due to the hours they give freely to our shops each year. Unfortunately, for so many of them, isolated at home and unable to carry out their usual volunteering roles, lockdown made this year a significant struggle. We want every one of our volunteers to know; they are a precious gift making a massive difference to hundreds of animals every year. Throughout lockdown, we have missed them as individuals, colleagues and friends, and we are so very grateful to each and every one of them!

Risk management

Risk management, Healthy and Safety, Fire Safety, and Operational Communication & Practices have been reviewed throughout the year, with changes made as necessary

Related parties
There are no related parties.

Financial review
The charity has been supported greatly by generous gifts and legacies, for which the trustees are most grateful.

Reserves policy
The pressure on us to take in injured or unwanted animals continues to be so great that we work to our financial capacity. Ideally we should keep a reserve of around £650,000 which would ensure the running of the charity for 6 months. Currently unrestricted reserves amount to £1,276,370 of which £381,595 is reflected in tangible fixed assets. This leaves £894,775 free at this time.

Plans for future periods

As the only animal welfare charity within our catchment area catering to such diverse animals (domestic, wild and farmed), Freshfields Animal Rescue is uniquely placed to address the root causes of animal suffering and effect lasting positive change.

In a constantly shifting landscape, the need for our services remains the only constant. Therefore, our determination to invest in our staff and volunteers and improve our facilities and services to meet the full needs of those animals and people who need us only grows stronger. Tasked with an ever-challenging job, we are 100% committed to excelling in the role.

Despite those roadblocks COVID has placed in our way, the board have reached the final stages in building a strategy that defines our short, medium and long term goals for the next six years. We are grateful to every staff member for their thoughts, ideas, and opinions and excited to be taking this next step of the evolutionary journey with them.

Special acknowledgements
We want to thank Sefton Council for their positive working relationship with the rescue centre and their advice and guidance in the initial stages of planning for the exciting development of our Adoption Hub.

We are grateful to Bill Esterson MP for his recognition of the value of animal rescue charities like Freshfields and his appreciation of the unique expertise and skills shown by our staff and volunteers.

We would like to thank Oliver Beaumont and his team at Tezlom Southport for choosing Freshfields as their Christmas 'Lend a Hand' Charity and sending their Santas to deliver some very jolly Christmas Hampers for the animals at the Liverpool Rescue Centre.

Lastly, we would like to reiterate our sincere gratitude to every individual, group, funder, and company who have identified the crisis that local animals and people face and have committed to making an immediate and lasting difference through Freshfields Animal Rescue. We appreciate your faith in us and on behalf of us all, we commit to being there to provide the best care and outcomes for animals for as long as they need us.

We look forward to showing you the vital difference you have achieved in 2021.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements 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 of the charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. 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.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

H Stanbury
Trustee
Dated: 21 July 2021

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Freshfields Animal Rescue (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 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 charity's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, 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 Charities Act 2011.

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 charity'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 other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees 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 charity'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 cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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.

- We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the accounts from our experience in the sector and knowledge of the charity, as well as through discussions. The most significant of these was deemed to be compliance with laws and regulations that directly affect the accounts including financial reporting legislation and taxation legislation.
- We considered opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation and identified the greatest potential for fraud to be the posting of unusual journals and timing of recognition of income.
- In common with all audits under ISAs (UK) we are required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.
- We established an understanding of the control environment, and the segregation of duties exercised to assist with the design of our audit testing.
- Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the accounts, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

Other matters

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements 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)" (as amended) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with current Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mitchell Charlesworth

Philip Griffiths (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth LLP

26 July 2021

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

3rd Floor
5 Temple Square
Temple Street
Liverpool
Merseyside
L2 5RH

Mitchell Charlesworth LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Total 2019 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	1,091,451	131,631	1,223,082	1,113,753	18,655	1,132,408
Charitable activities	4	47,963	-	47,963	57,638	-	57,638
Other trading activities	5	268,709	-	268,709	415,950	-	415,950
Other income	6	17,126	-	17,126	12,576	-	12,576
Total income		1,425,249	131,631	1,556,880	1,599,917	18,655	1,618,572
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	7	223,341	-	223,341	273,808	-	273,808
Charitable activities	8	963,416	40,084	1,003,500	1,068,287	29,219	1,097,506
Other		39,189	-	39,189	-	-	-
Total resources expended		1,225,946	40,084	1,266,030	1,342,095	29,219	1,371,314
Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds		199,303	91,547	290,850	257,822	(10,564)	247,258
Fund balances at 1 January 2020		1,077,067	147,089	1,224,156	819,245	157,653	976,898
Fund balances at 31 December 2020		1,276,370	238,636	1,515,006	1,077,067	147,089	1,224,156

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2020 £	2019 £	2019 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**14**		505,864		552,409
Current assets					
Stocks	**15**	15,109		14,943	
Debtors	**16**	623,863		379,192	
Cash at bank and in hand		473,040		382,419	
		1,112,012		776,554	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**17**	(102,870)		(104,807)	
Net current assets			1,009,142		671,747
Total assets less current liabilities			1,515,006		1,224,156
Income funds					
Restricted funds	**19**		238,636		147,089
Unrestricted funds			1,276,370		1,077,067
			1,515,006		1,224,156

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 21 July 2021

J Young
Trustee

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	**25**		125,893		240,719
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(35,272)		(77,822)	
Net cash used in investing activities			(35,272)		(77,822)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			90,621		162,897
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			382,419		219,522
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			473,040		382,419

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Freshfields Animal Rescue is a charitable incorporated organisation, registered in the United Kingdom. The address of the principal office is East Lodge Farm, East Lane, Ince Blundell, Liverpool, L29 3EA. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are described in the Trustees' Report on pages 3 and 4.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011 and "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) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

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 financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Donated facilities and donated professional services are recognised in income at their fair value when their economic benefit is probable, it can be measured reliably and the charity has control over the item. Fair value is determined on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity. For example, the amount the charity would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Report.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of generating funds includes expenditure on fund raising activities and head office overheads.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes costs associated with the operation and management of residential accommodation and welfare support services.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

Support costs are those that assist the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at headquarters. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a pro-rata basis consistent with the use of the resources.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 9.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended. Individual assets are capitalised on the balance sheet where their cost exceeds £500.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold property	Nil
Improvements to property	4% per annum
Plant and machinery	25% on reducing balance basis
Fixtures and fittings	5% on reducing balance basis
Motor vehicles	25% on reducing balance basis

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.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity 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 (if any).

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured 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.

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at 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.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.13 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.14 Operating lease agreements

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged as an expense on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

1.15 Irrecoverable VAT

All resources expended are classified under activity headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category or resources expended for which it is incurred.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated 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 where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2020	**2020**	**2020**	2019	2019	2019
	£	**£**	**£**	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	402,973	12,587	415,560	433,776	-	433,776
Legacies receivable	458,095	-	458,095	667,314	-	667,314
Grants receivable	230,383	119,044	349,427	12,663	18,655	31,318
	1,091,451	131,631	1,223,082	1,113,753	18,655	1,132,408

4 Charitable activities

	2020	**2019**
	£	**£**
Adoptions	47,963	57,638

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2020	2019
	£	£
Fundraising events	35,222	26,274
Shop income	233,487	389,676
Other trading activities	268,709	415,950

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2020	2019
	£	£
Other income	7,620	3,600
Commission	9,506	8,976
	17,126	12,576

7 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2020	2019
	£	£
Fundraising and publicity		
Purchases	9,118	2,902
Rent and rates	79,423	97,717
Light and heat	11,072	14,766
Advertising	150	1,785
Other fundraising costs	7,997	13,518
Staff costs	37,944	49,615
Depreciation and impairment	406	539
Fundraising and publicity	146,110	180,842
Trading costs		
Staff costs	77,231	92,966
	223,341	273,808

8 Charitable activities

	Charitable Expenditure 2020 £	Charitable Expenditure 2019 £
Staff costs	696,911	698,039
Depreciation and impairment	42,218	46,869
Centre - restricted	22,780	8,596
Travel expenses	758	1,646
Grant spend	6,605	-
Vet fees	50,029	64,928
Animal food and care	25,278	47,670
Small equipment	3,237	8,409
Rates and water	307	3,029
Light and heat	40,097	34,313
Repairs and maintenance	(34,005)	11,912
Sundry expenses	39	1,545
Veterinary consumables	39,092	56,971
Hygiene and waste	18,479	21,695
Motor expenses	9,510	10,360
	921,335	1,015,982
Share of support costs (see note 9)	75,065	74,424
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	7,100	7,100
	1,003,500	1,097,506
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	963,416	1,068,287
Restricted funds	40,084	29,219
	1,003,500	1,097,506

9 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2020	Support costs	Governance costs	2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance	15,492	-	15,492	23,003	-	23,003
Telephone	7,558	-	7,558	10,245	-	10,245
Postage and stationery	14,560	-	14,560	9,042	-	9,042
Bank charges	9,150	-	9,150	11,098	-	11,098
Computer expenses and consumables	15,123	-	15,123	7,061	-	7,061
Staff training	2,249	-	2,249	1,506	-	1,506
Legal and professional fees	10,933	-	10,933	12,469	-	12,469
Audit fees	-	7,100	7,100	-	7,100	7,100
	75,065	7,100	82,165	74,424	7,100	81,524
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	75,065	7,100	82,165	74,424	7,100	81,524

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £7,100 (2019- £7,100) for audit fees and £2,695 for accountancy support (2019 - £2,400).

10 Net movement in funds

	2020	2019
	£	£
Net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting)		
Fees payable to the company's auditor for the audit of the company's financial statements	7,100	7,100
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	42,624	47,408
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	39,189	-

11 Trustees

The total remuneration paid to a trustee was £32,700 (2019 £33,525). In addition pension contributions amounting to £795 (2019 £743) were paid in respect of one trustee. Full details are provided in note 23.

There were no trustees' expenses reimbursed during the year ended 31 December 2020, nor for the year ended 31 December 2019.

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel is £174,248 (2019 £169,893). The trustees consider the key management personnel to be; the Director, Operations Managers (Liverpool and Wales), Finance Manager, Fundraising Manager, and the Area Shops Managers (Liverpool and Wales).

12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2020 Number	2019 Number
Management and administration	7	7
Fundraisers	10	10
Animal workers	34	39
Total	51	56

Employment costs	2020 £	2019 £
Wages and salaries	752,592	786,208
Social security costs	46,946	43,596
Other pension costs	12,548	10,816
	812,086	840,620

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from income tax on its charitable activities.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property	Improvements to property	Plant and machinery	Fixtures and fittings	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost						
At 1 January 2020	170,968	566,986	153,680	13,819	67,842	973,295
Additions	-	21,030	11,691	-	2,551	35,272
Disposals	-	(35,482)	(12,231)	-	(29,348)	(77,061)
At 31 December 2020	170,968	552,534	153,140	13,819	41,045	931,506
Depreciation and impairment						
At 1 January 2020	53,089	201,413	112,236	5,697	48,454	420,889
Depreciation charged in the year	3,079	22,101	11,553	406	5,485	42,624
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	(1,419)	(10,404)	-	(26,048)	(37,871)
At 31 December 2020	56,168	222,095	113,385	6,103	27,891	425,642
Carrying amount						
At 31 December 2020	114,800	330,439	39,755	7,716	13,154	505,864
At 31 December 2019	117,879	365,575	41,444	8,122	19,389	552,409

15 Stocks

	2020	2019
	£	£
Animal feed, consumables and veterinary supplies	15,109	14,943

16 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2020 £	2019 £
Other debtors	12,843	19,533
Prepayments and accrued income	611,018	359,659
	623,861	379,192

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	9,683	9,993
Trade creditors	57,487	59,556
Other creditors	1,311	13,896
Accruals and deferred income	34,389	21,362
	102,870	104,807

18 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

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 charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £12,548 (2019 - £10,816).

19 Restricted funds

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

		Movement in funds			Movement in funds		
	Balance at 1 January 2019	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 1 January 2020	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 December 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Dog Sensory Garden donation	62,887	-	(8,138)	54,749	-	(8,138)	46,611
New ambulance appeal	9,977	-	(1,236)	8,741	-	(926)	7,815
On-site vet room	20,035	-	(2,377)	17,658	-	(2,377)	15,281
Wales Centre improvements	38,621	-	(1,545)	37,076	-	(1,545)	35,531
Awards for All	1,996	-	(1,996)	-	-	-	-
The Pet Plan Charitable Trust	6,655	-	(1,236)	5,419	-	(926)	4,493
The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust	16,482	-	(1,111)	15,371	-	(833)	14,538
Doreen Greenlees Trust	1,000	-	(1,000)	-	5,000	-	5,000
Hill Dickinson	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	12,587	-	12,587
Animal Friends	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	1,000	(1,000)	-
Co-Operative Community Fund	-	8,075	-	8,075	-	(2,563)	5,512
Pet Plan	-	1,730	(1,730)	-	4,250	(4,250)	-
Support Adoption for Pets	-	500	(500)	-	85,344	-	85,344
Battersea Dogs' Home	-	500	(500)	-	9,750	(6,551)	3,199
Barry Green Memorial Fund	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	5,000	(2,325)	2,675
Gallimore Trust	-	100	(100)	-	150	(150)	-
William Dean Trust	-	750	(750)	-	1,000	(1,000)	-
"Will Week'	-	-	-	-	50	-	50
Jean Sainsbury	-	-	-	-	7,500	(7,500)	-
	157,653	18,655	(29,219)	147,089	131,631	(40,084)	238,636

19 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Dog Sensory Garden donation

One of the charities long term supporters and volunteers donated the proceeds of a personal investment to be used to landscape and provide agility equipment on the dog exercise field. A variety of textures (astroturf, rubber, grass, sand and stone) were included in the landscaping to provide a sensory experience for the dogs in the charities care.

New ambulance appeal

Donations were received to contribute to the purchase of a new Freshfields ambulance to replace the existing one.

On-site vet room

Funds were donated from Pet Plan and Caf Bank, and a general appeal for the construction of a vet room at the centre. This became operational during the year.

Wales Centre improvements

The Billy Meade Trust donated £50,000 in the previous year for improvements of the Wales Centre. This included improvements to the cattery and electric repairs.

Pet Plan Charitable Trust

We were awarded £7,497 from Pet Plan Charitable Trust towards the cost of a new Animal Ambulance, replacing a vehicle which was unfit for purpose and enabling the safe and secure transport of animals.

Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust

The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust made an award for a new X-Ray machine for the Vet Room, enabling our vet to carry out routine X-rays on site and therefore reduce costs.

Co-operative Community Fund

We were awarded funds to deliver much needed refurbishment and repairs to the structure of one of the Kennel blocks. The side walls had been damaged by leaks as the covering materials were no longer fit for purpose. These funds will ensure a safe, dry and comfortable environment for the dogs in the main areas in which they meet, greet and socialise.

Doreen Greenlees

The Doreen Greenless Charitable Trust donated £5,000 towards the cost of the Welcome Area in the development of the Animal Adoption Hub. This is to provide a warm, welcoming and well-equipped space for visitors and people who want to adopt an animal.

19 **Restricted funds** **(Continued)**

Hill Dickinson

Hill Dickinson solicitors contributed £12,587 towards the construction of the Animal Adoption Hub.

Animal Friends

A donation of £1,000 was received from Animal Friends Pet Insurance for the maintenance of a dog exercise yard.

Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust

The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust made a donation of £7,500 towards the 'Kittery Project, the construction of specialist accommodation for cats and kittens.

Pet Plan Charitable Trust

A contribution of £4,250 was made towards the charity's veterinary bills.

Support Adoption for Pets

This animal welfare charity donated £85,344 towards the construction of the Animal Adoption Hub.

Barry Green Memorial Fund

The Barry Green Memorial Fund contributed £5,000 towards the charity's medication costs.

Gallimore Trust

This charity donated £150 towards the veterinary bills of the Staffordshire Bull Terriers housed by Freshfields.

William Dean Trust

This charity made a contribution of £1,000 for hedgehog welfare.

'Will Week'

A donation of £50 was made towards the construction of the Animal Adoption Hub.

Battersea Dogs and Cats Home

This charity donated £9,750 towards the delivery of a behaviourally-enhanced rehoming programme at the Animal Adoption Hub for dogs held for long periods.

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2020	Restricted funds 2020	Total 2020	Unrestricted funds 2019	Restricted funds 2019	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2020 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	381,595	124,269	505,864	413,395	139,014	552,409
Current assets/(liabilities)	894,775	114,367	1,009,142	663,672	8,075	671,747
	1,276,370	238,636	1,515,006	1,077,067	147,089	1,224,156

21 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Within one year	51,500	83,750
Between two and five years	72,125	9,896
	123,625	93,646

22 Capital commitments

As at 31 December 2020 the entity had no capital commitments, being contracted for but not provided in the financial statements.

23 Related party transactions

Helen Stanbury, a trustee of the charity, is also employed as the director of the charity. All interests have been declared to the Charity Commission and conflicts of interest are appropriately managed. During this financial year Helen Stanbury received gross wages of £32,700 (2019: £33,525) for her work in this capacity. The charity also paid employer pension contributions of £795 on behalf of Mrs Stanbury (2019: £743).

In the opinion of the trustees there is no ultimate controlling party.

During the year the charity paid trustees insurance amounting to £660 (2019: £740).

24 APB ethical standard

In common with many other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to prepare and submit returns to the tax authorities, assist with the preparation of the financial statements and to provide tax advice.

25	Cash generated from operations	2020	2019
		£	£
	Surplus for the year	290,850	247,258
	Adjustments for:		
	Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	39,189	-
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	42,626	47,409
	Movements in working capital:		
	(Increase) in stocks	(166)	(1,887)
	(Increase) in debtors	(244,669)	(77,143)
	(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(1,937)	25,082
	Cash generated from operations	125,893	240,719

26 **Analysis of changes in net funds**

The charity had no debt during the year.