

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

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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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.



FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.



FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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)

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.



FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.

Wildlife

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.



FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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 all 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.



FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020



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.



FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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

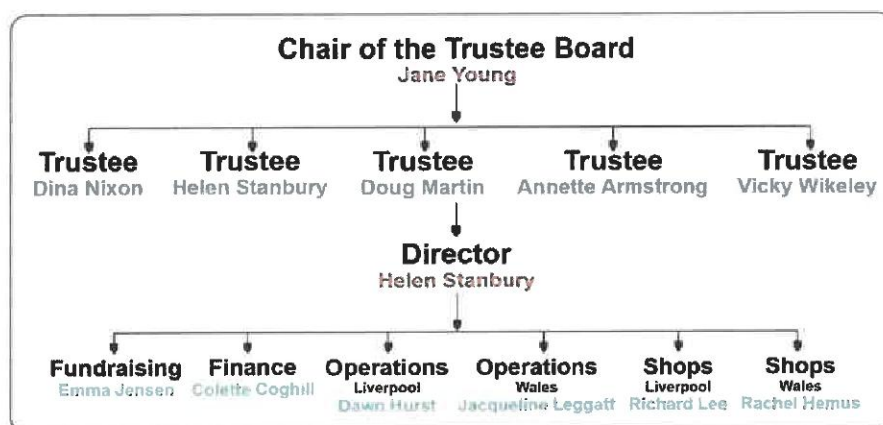
The trustees appoint members of the Executive and Management Teams as and when appropriate.

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

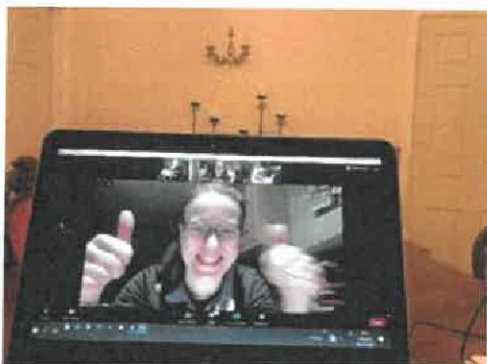
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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."

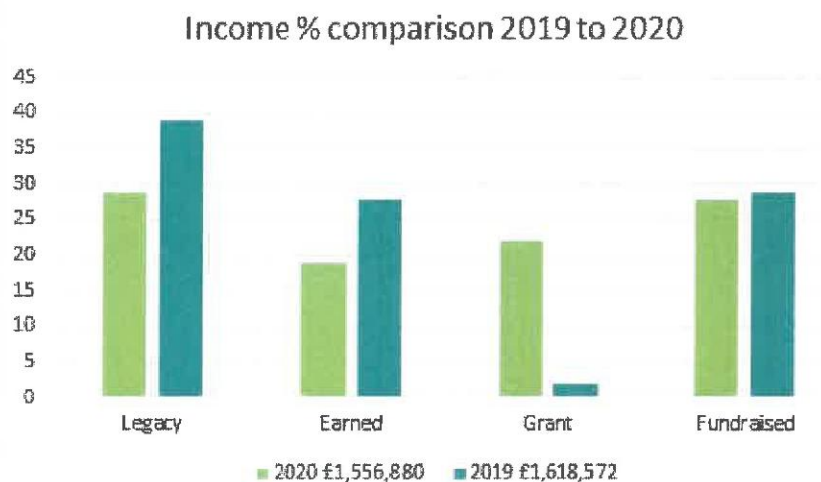
FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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 adaptations 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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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 Turnbull 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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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, Llandilo, 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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

- **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	Y
Wales	£73,296.00	£70,787.49	B

Fig. 1

LIVERPOOL SHOPS

Site/Year	2019	2020	Variance	
Southport (Sh'speare st)	£63,771.64	£69,792.31	Y	9%
Ormskirk	£1,267.00	£6050.86	Y	377%
Southport (Wesley st)	£660.00	Closed		
TOTAL	£65,699.00	£75,843.17	Y	15%

Fig. 2

WALES SHOPS

Site/Year	2019	2020	Variance	
Barmouth	£10,644.00	£2,369.54	B	78%
Caernarfon	£9,486.00	£15,789.42	Y	66%
Llandudno	£12,618.00	£17,388.31	Y	38%
Llandidloes	£10,284.00	£13,472.44	Y	31%
Machynlleth	£4,631.00	Closed		
Porthmadog	£25,631.00	£21,767.78	B	-15%
TOTAL	£73,296.00	£70,787.49	B	-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!

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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 Tezlo 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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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).

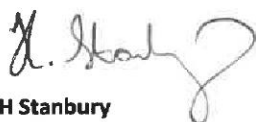
The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

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.

- 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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

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.



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

		Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Total 2019 £
Notes							
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.

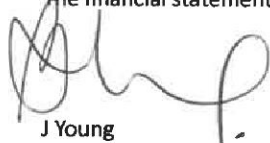
FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 £	£	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	
		<u>1,112,012</u>		<u>776,554</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	<u>(102,870)</u>		<u>(104,807)</u>	
Net current assets			1,009,142		671,747
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>1,515,006</u>		<u>1,224,156</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	19	238,636		147,089	
Unrestricted funds		1,276,370		1,077,067	
		<u>1,515,006</u>		<u>1,224,156</u>	

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			<u>473,040</u>		<u>382,419</u>

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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
	<u>1,091,451</u>	<u>131,631</u>	<u>1,223,082</u>	<u>1,113,753</u>	<u>18,655</u>	<u>1,132,408</u>

4 Charitable activities

	2020 £	2019 £
Adoptions	<u>47,963</u>	<u>57,638</u>

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	<u>268,709</u>	<u>415,950</u>

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2020	2019
	£	£
Other income	7,620	3,600
Commission	9,506	8,976
	<u>17,126</u>	<u>12,576</u>

7 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2020	2019
	£	£
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
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
	<u>146,110</u>	<u>180,842</u>
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
	<u>146,110</u>	<u>180,842</u>
<u>Trading costs</u>		
Staff costs	77,231	92,966
	<u>223,341</u>	<u>273,808</u>

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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
	<u>921,335</u>	<u>1,015,982</u>
Share of support costs (see note 9)	75,065	74,424
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	7,100	7,100
	<u>1,003,500</u>	<u>1,097,506</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	963,416	1,068,287
Restricted funds	40,084	29,219
	<u>1,003,500</u>	<u>1,097,506</u>

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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
	<u>75,065</u>	<u>7,100</u>	<u>82,165</u>	<u>74,424</u>	<u>7,100</u>	<u>81,524</u>
Analysed between Charitable activities	<u>75,065</u>	<u>7,100</u>	<u>82,165</u>	<u>74,424</u>	<u>7,100</u>	<u>81,524</u>

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	<u>39,189</u>	<u>-</u>

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).

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

14	Tangible fixed assets	Freehold/improvements to property	Plant and machinery	Fixtures and fittings	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
	Cost					
	At 1 January 2020	170,968	566,986	13,819	67,842	973,295
	Additions	-	21,030	-	2,551	35,272
	Disposals	-	(35,482)	-	(29,348)	(77,061)
	At 31 December 2020	170,968	552,534	13,819	41,045	931,506
	Depreciation and impairment					
	At 1 January 2020	53,089	201,413	5,697	48,454	420,889
	Depreciation charged in the year	3,079	22,101	406	5,485	42,624
	Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	(1,419)	-	(26,048)	(37,871)
	At 31 December 2020	56,168	222,095	6,103	27,891	425,642
	Carrying amount					
	At 31 December 2020	114,800	330,439	7,716	13,154	505,864
	At 31 December 2019	117,879	365,575	8,122	19,389	552,409

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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).

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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)	-
	<u>157,653</u>	<u>18,655</u>	<u>(29,219)</u>	<u>147,089</u>	<u>131,631</u>	<u>(40,084)</u>	<u>238,636</u>

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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
	<u>1,276,370</u>	<u>238,636</u>	<u>1,515,006</u>	<u>1,077,067</u>	<u>147,089</u>	<u>1,224,156</u>

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
	<u>123,625</u>	<u>93,646</u>

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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.		