

Charity registration number 1160348

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	J Young D Nixon A Armstrong D Martin D Cox	(Appointed 18 August 2021)
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Charity number	1160348
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Auditor	Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited 3rd Floor 5 Temple Square Temple Street Liverpool Merseyside L2 5RH
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Bankers	Lloyds Bank plc 88-94 Church Street Liverpool Merseyside L1 3HD
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	The Royal Bank of Scotland plc 15 Foregate Street Chester CH1 1HD
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	Barclays Bank plc 5 - 6 Bangor Street Caernarfon Gwynedd Nth Wales LL55 1AE
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Solicitors	Weightmans LLP 100 Old Hall Street Liverpool Merseyside L3 9QJ
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FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

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FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

Our Mission

To provide the best emergency care for animals in peril; while inspiring and supporting people to protect animals and the natural environment.

Our Vision

A world where all people protect animals and value nature.

Our Primary Aims

- To protect animals who have been abused, abandoned and neglected, through the rescue, rehabilitation, rehoming or release of domesticated, farmed and wild animals.
- To build upon the forty years of public trust and support gained as a result of delivering a service which is ethically led.
- To put the needs of the animals at the heart of everything we do and provide excellent care.
- To effect lasting positive change for more animals.

Our Aims in Practice

- To rescue and rehome, or release, to a consistently high standard from both our shelters.
- To effect lasting change through impactful community engagement and education initiatives.
- To promote the benefits of neutering and deliver a first-rate Community Neutering Service across the Northwest and North Wales.
- To foster a culture that gives equal consideration for the well-being of all species of animals.
- To deliver and promote a holistic approach to animal welfare that acknowledges human impact.
- To ensure the health, well-being, support and development of our staff and volunteers.
- To support responsible pet owners to keep or protect their friend in times of crisis.
- To demonstrate our relevance, impact, value, and resilience to our stakeholders.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Services and activities

Responsive Services

- Domesticated animals: rescue, accommodation, medical care, rehoming from the rescue and rehoming from home. These services primarily support cats, dogs, horses, rabbits and a variety of small animals.
- Wild animals: rescue, provision of accommodation, medical care, trap, neuter and release.

These services primarily support hedgehogs and wild birds.

- Farmed animals: rescue, provision of accommodation, medical care, and rehoming from the rescue.

These services primarily support pigs, sheep, ducks, geese, hens and cockerels.

We have a registered veterinary practice for rescue animals, delivering our expert medical care is our on-site vet, fully equipped veterinary facility, vet nurses, and supportive community veterinary partners.

Proactive Services

- Advice and signposting for individuals struggling to keep their pet, and for people in pre and post adoption phases.
- Community Outreach Neutering Programme, targeting the over-population of feral/ street cats and supporting households on low income with cats across Merseyside
- Bunny bonding service to ensure the well-being of isolated pet rabbits.
- Community Outreach Education in schools, colleges and with community groups.
- Awareness-raising campaigns in support of animal welfare, adopter responsibilities, and wildlife conservation issues.

Ethos

Freshfields Animal Rescue was founded in 1979, upon the simple premise that all life matters. That foundation has only grown stronger as the scope of our work has expanded. Today, more than 40 years on, equal consideration for every species of animal remains at the forefront of our work. It is for this reason that we operate a meat free food policy on our premises.

Our ethos is to ensure the well-being of any animal that needs us for as long as it needs us. We will aid any animal regardless of additional time and resources needed to achieve this. We go the extra mile to deliver our ethical promise to our stakeholders.

Freshfields has a holistic and pragmatic approach to the many issues facing domestic and wild animals. We recognise that the fate of animals is inextricably linked to the impact of human attitudes and actions. We live by our core principles to inform, support and initiate changes in peoples' actions, leading to a better future for us all.

At Freshfields we live what we do, striving for a future where welfare, respect, responsibility and empathy become not only our vision but also a reality.

Public benefit

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

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

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

THE NEED FOR OUR WORK

Supporting Animals in Crisis

The issue of overpopulation of domestic animals and under-population of wildlife in the UK, and worldwide, is a serious, silent and hidden crisis. Freshfields Animal Rescue plays a vital role in tackling these issues in Northwest England and Wales.

The bigger picture can be conveyed through statistical data. This conveys a clear and urgent need for responsive and proactive work to deal with today's problems and effect lasting positive change.

Domesticated animals

Pets play a significant part in so many of our lives. There are 51 million pets in the UK, with 49% of people owning a pet. 90% of owners say their pet makes them feel happy, and 88% feel they improve their quality of life.

Behind these figures lies a story of adversity:

2.7 million cats and dogs are abandoned every year in the UK.

48% of people are still getting their dogs from a private seller or breeder, with only 22% from rescues.

Large scale breeding and transportation of puppies is a significant challenge.

Animals that we domesticate suffer due to people misunderstanding the broader issues and level of commitment required, seeking fashionable pets, not training them, or providing the necessary care. This results in the following:

Rescue centres nationally have 45% of kennel spaces taken by bull breed dogs.

The RSPCA alone felt it necessary to euthanise 29% of their animals.

98% of vets have been asked to euthanise an unwanted healthy pet because they haven't been socialised.

This year, as for the past 40 years, we are determined to save the lives of abused, abandoned and unwanted animals today and continue to work to prevent the problems at their root causes.

Wildlife

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

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

The latest State of Britain's Hedgehogs report from the British Hedgehog Preservation Society in partnership with People's Trust for Endangered Species speaks of an urban population that is stable and may be showing signs of recovery. Any recovery, it must be remembered, will begin from a very low baseline, this makes Freshfields role even more relevant in this vital work.

Freshfields Animal Rescue is on the front line of the battle to protect wildlife in the Northwest. Our Wildlife Unit undertakes vital conservation work to save the environment. Our Hedgehog overwintering programme and wild bird rehabilitation and release programme provides vital intervention to save every precious hedgehog and wild bird that is brought to our door. We inform and inspire the public to take practical steps to help wildlife survive and thrive in both urban and rural settings.

We see an increase in demand for this work year on year. We are committed to working with the community to address this urgent and present need.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Supporting people in crisis

We were once again delighted to provide support to the local community whenever possible. This support came in many forms, including sign posting, advice and practical help with food and equipment.

Our partnership with Care for The Paw continued in the shape of our *We See You Project*. This year we increased our donation by 50% providing 150 care packages for the homeless of Merseyside and their dogs. Our determined volunteers collected, stored, and packed a selection of wet and dry dog food, treats and toys. All-important human treats were added, and we turned to schools and children's groups in our local community to provide handmade Christmas cards, each with a special message, for the recipient of each bag. This gesture touched the hearts of the people receiving the cards and provided opportunity to spread awareness of the heart-wrenching reality of homelessness in Britain. A very generous donation from Morecrofts Solicitors allowed us to buy 150 pairs of good quality warm gloves, hats, and socks for each human recipient of our bags. This collaboration is something we are proud of, and we hope to develop our *We See You* project in the coming years.



We also supported The Florence Institute and the Anglican Cathedral food bank programme. Their work in our local community is vital and we are proud to support them by passing on animal foods which we ourselves cannot use. We hope to continue and develop this work in 2022.

Crisis isn't something that anyone can plan for, and it is fact that people who have pets in our local area may find themselves in situations they never imagined and desperately in need of our help. Our kennels, cattery and small animal teams all operate waiting lists. These allow staff to record details, prioritising those animals for whom they cannot provide immediate interventions. Advice and practical help are always available, emergencies are dealt with and help from our network of other reputable rescues regularly secured.

Having braced ourselves for the eventual fallout of the pandemic and the phenomenal numbers of dogs purchased during furlough, 2021 finally began to see an explosion in the numbers of dogs needing help with a total of 251 added to our waiting list.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

There were many reasons which caused people to want to surrender their dogs and contact Freshfields for help. These involved social, economic, health and personal reasons. See below:

Personal Circumstance	
New baby	5.1%
Cannot cope/no time	10.7%
Work hours/commitments	2.7%
Owner died	6.3%
Owner ill/disabled	11.1%
Dog aggression/bitten	19.1%
Not getting on with other dog	7.1%
Owner went to prison	0.4%
Relationship split	3.2%
Not allowed pets in accommodation/homeless	11.5%
Allergies	0.8%
Separation anxiety/behavioural issues	11.5%
Can no longer afford to keep	2%
Other – emigrating/moved to care home/army	8%

It also became very clear that dogs below two years of age, therefore obtained during the pandemic, made up the bulk of those placed on our waiting list. Pedigrees and pedigree crosses also made up more of our waiting list this year than ever before, outnumbering Staffordshire Bull terriers/crosses and other bull breed/crosses for the first time ever. This is sadly a reflection of the huge numbers of specifically bred dogs that were purchased during the pandemic. Millions of dogs were sold, and millions of pounds profit was made.

In this year we were able to take off 235 dogs from this list for the following reasons –

Rehomed by owner, with Freshfields advice	49
Gone to another rescue via owner, with Freshfields advice	33
Placed in another rescue via Freshfields	47
Admitted to Freshfields	39
Rehomed via Freshfields website	4
Owners keeping, with our support and advice	35
Put to sleep by owners	6
Other reason	22

ANIMAL WELFARE ACHIEVEMENTS

Introduction

We operate two rescue sites, one in Liverpool, Merseyside the other in Caernarfon, North Wales.

We are unique in the service we provide across the North West and North Wales with respect to the diversity of animals that we rescue, rehabilitate, rehome or release. Our rescue services can be broadly categorised into three key areas:

- Domesticated animals
- Farmed animals
- Wildlife

We have an established track record as a rescue that provides a vital last chance for animals that other rescue centres have rejected for commercial reasons, age, behavioural issues, and other challenges. As a result, the public has come

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

to rely on Freshfields as a valuable local resource to bring animals in desperate need and be confident that they will be treated with compassion and care.

The following table combines the Liverpool Centre and the Wales Centre figures and summarises those animals assisted in 2021.

Animals Assisted at Freshfields - Outcomes 2021

Animals	Admitted	Rehomed	Released into wild	Neutered/ the chipped site	Neutered in community	Put to sleep	Died	Currently in our care (9 th March 2022)
Cats and kittens	356	314	-	272	-	12	6	74
Feral cats	7	-	7	-	7	0	0	0
Dogs	64	62	-	33	-	1	1	29
Rabbits	38	20	-	38	-	0	3	20
Small animals	25	23	-	14	-	2	0	10
Horses	7	5	-	4	-	4	0	19
Hedgehogs	451	-	241	-	-	18	211	74
Wild birds	398	-	165	-	-	59	147	60
Farm	11	21	-	-	-	12	2	26
Other	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Total	1361	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Notes to the Animal Figures:

Dogs – the number of dogs we were able to help was again unfortunately affected by Covid restrictions and the delayed finish of our kennel refurbishment was also affected by Covid, lack of materials and an increase in costs. Recruiting new staff and their training also had an effect.

Cats – the numbers of cats helped through the Liverpool centre was unfortunately reduced because of Covid, changes to staff members, their training and storm damage. We were unable to restart our Outreach neutering programme which also meant a reduction in neuters, admittances, and rehoming.

The number of dogs admitted includes 4 dogs who were rehomed via our Website Waiting List programme. As Covid restrictions continued to be in place and affect our work, we were again unable to operate this scheme in the usual way. We also found that more of the 'lockdown' dogs placed on our waiting list had mild to severe behavioural issues, meaning they were unsuitable to rehome through this process. This 'Home to Home' service is one of our most successful community intervention schemes. It prevents the need for admittance to the centre for a dog who is waiting to be rehomed.

This has the following benefits:

- Reducing the stress and anxiety in an already difficult situation for the dog and owner.
- Freeing up space for emergency admissions for dogs who have been abandoned or are in the most desperate immediate need.
- Maintaining continuity for the dog, with a support package of advice and pre and post adoption support from the rescue centre.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

In Wales, our ability to rescue and rehome dogs is hampered by a lack of facilities and staff. This work is as important to us as it is to our supporters and remains a priority issue to address in the future.

Animals Assisted in the Community - our Community Presence

The impact of the pandemic has meant flexibility is vital in meeting local challenges in more resourceful ways. Freshfields has always been more than a site-based rescue centre, and the number of requests for advice and support is a testament to the ever-increasing need for our services and the close working relationships we have formed with local people.

The public relies on Freshfields as a valuable resource for advice and support. Our staff spend a significant amount of time giving telephone help and face to face advice to the public on many animal-welfare related issues.

Some interventions address critical or urgent situations, which may result in an emergency admission to the rescue centre or signposting to the appropriate services. In addition, we continue to work closely with other rescue centres, locally, regionally, and nationally, to facilitate the animal's progress to a safe place.

Some interventions address longer-term behavioural issues and provide people with a comprehensive set of tools and techniques to establish and maintain a safe home for the animal.

Reports from the animal units – Liverpool

Albeit slowly, the kennels 'Change Plan' was progressed throughout the year. Many changes were made to streamline efficiency, to move animals more speedily through our systems and to improve the overall outlook for the dogs in our care.

Kennels Response Work

Organisation and efficiency remain key to the smooth running of our kennels. Our stance on dogs remains the same as ever; prioritising UK dogs in need from our local area, we never shy away from those that are an unpopular breed or in need of behavioural support or intervention. This leads to rewarding but often challenging and time-consuming work which, coupled with having only 26 dogs spaces available at the rescue, leads to dog admittance/rehoming figures that are lower than some other rescues.

Supporting the physical and mental wellbeing of each dog is a fundamental need to our being able to successfully rehabilitate and rehome them. Our staff go above and beyond to provide everything they can to support the physical and emotional wellbeing of each dog. This includes enrichment days where dogs are treated to slow-feeders, food game activities. These are so helpful as life in kennels can be stressful as well as boring, and frustration can result in negative behaviour which in turn reduces rehoming opportunities. Staff also look to enrich the areas the dogs exercise by introducing new surfaces, like sand, Astroturf, and safe plants. We are often put out and we are always astounded and forever grateful for the care and compassion our supporters show us and our dogs. Toys, turf, tuna, and even huge shrubs have all been sent to our lucky dogs.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Picture below: Enrichment programme for dogs.



Kennel staff recognise that for those dogs who stay with us for longer than normal, a connection with the outside world is vital. Funding was secured so dogs could be taken to secure local dog exercise fields. As well as allowing dogs the freedom to roam and relax in areas other than at the rescue, time is spent getting used to cars and travelling. These trips allow our staff to bond with our dogs which develops positive relationships crucial to behavioural work and training – all part of the journey to finding a new home. As part of a new programme, staff are 'buddied up' with specific dogs. This means they can carry out tailor made behavioural plans, ensure the needs of their 'buddies' are met, and the right homes can be found. Previously staff had found that some of the detail that was needed was being lost because all staff were trying to do all the work with all the dogs.

Picture below: Buddied dogs enjoying quality time with staff.



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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Staff are always ready and willing to step up and handle the challenge of emergency cases as they happen. Calls concerning dogs about to be put to sleep (or worse), abandoned on the street, or left alone in properties are more common than may be thought. One such case was Maisy and Lady's. Left alone in a house after the death of their owner, they were desperately underweight, infested with fleas and had open sores. Within an hour of being contacted staff had arranged transport and were able to bring these poor girls into their care. Displaying surprising resilience, these black lurchers soon blossomed, finding new homes once they were fully healthy.

Two of our kennel blocks were damaged in the storms of 2021. Roofs were ripped off and staff had to comfort understandably frightened dogs as well as make emergency arrangements for short term housing. Fortunately, we were able to replace the roofing sheets within a week and give the dogs secure, dry kennels again.

Kennels Proactive Work

Having committed to the rescue of some of the more challenging dogs from our area, we are aware that we must work on how to best serve their needs whilst also striving for that end goal – rehoming. To ensure the most efficient use of staff time, several new systems, including those relating to information recording and addressing behavioural needs have been put in place.

Staff have taken part in one-on-one training sessions with our long-term behaviourist outside of usual work hours as well as onsite. These sessions deal with both general behavioural lessons and tailor-made plans for specific dogs. Allocating dogs to staff as part of a buddying scheme has ensured continuity, with each staff member dealing with all aspects of their allocated dogs care and rehabilitation, from day of arrival to adoption. Record keeping, application forms and foster enquiry forms have been reviewed and updated, and now individual boards outside each kennel are used to record important information daily. Visits to other rescues have also taken place, which have proved invaluable as we are firm believers in always being ready to learn something new.

We have managed to increase foster homes after a social media campaign. Foster homes are so important, both for the dogs themselves and because they free up space at the rescue. They are however notoriously difficult to find – and keep. Fosterers are often just that because they have no other animals. This means that often they find it too difficult to part with their foster animal. Luckily some of our new staff can provide short breaks away from the kennel environment for some dogs. This is an excellent way of finding out more about the dogs and helps when speaking to potential adopters.

Limited spaces on site are taken up by dogs in need of expert care and rehabilitation. Working to provide direct interventions for dogs while they remain on our waiting list is vital and specific time is set aside for this. Over the past two years, a network of more than 80 reliable contacts has been built – all of these from other rescues who maintain the same standards as us. Staff take the time to gain as much information about the dog, and meet or get pictures, before reaching out to secure the alternative rescue space. Often, we arrange transport to collect and 'deliver' dogs, sometimes enlisting the help of our valued volunteers. This work ensures many dogs we are not able to bring into the rescue are safe.

In 2021 598 medical treatments were given, 11 dogs were fostered, and we received 468 community aid requests.

Winston goes home

Finally, on June 27th, long-term resident Winston trotted out of Freshfields for the very last time and went off to his very own forever home. As you can imagine, emotions at the rescue ran high with joy for our four-legged friend.

Winston first arrived with us in 2014. Emotionally damaged by the trauma of losing his owner to a prison sentence, Winston, who was left behind, became protective of his home and owner's partner, reacting aggressively towards any visiting strangers and other animals. This was a real crisis, with his owners telling us that veterinary euthanasia was the only option. Freshfields was his lifeline.

It took staff several weeks to gain Winston's trust, visiting him in his home and desperately wanting him to accept them before his final transfer into our care at the Liverpool centre. After an initial settling in period, Winston bonded with all the kennel staff plus two trusted volunteers. The signs were hopeful that we would rehabilitate and re-home him.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Winston, however, had plans of his own. He told us in no uncertain terms that he didn't want to entertain anyone else and from that point on all attempts to expand his circle of friends were unsuccessful. It soon became clear that Winston would accept nobody new into his life. This disappointing turn of events meant that re-homing Winston would not be possible, so he became a permanent resident. The next thing to do was set out to ensure Winston continued to have the best life possible.

He had his own rota, with staff (past and present) and volunteers going above and beyond to make sure Winston had everything he needed. His own room was kitted out with a dinosaur theme – rug, curtains, lamp, and wall art. He loves the large sofas and radio playing in the background. He won the heart of his dog walker Gill, and it seemed that the feeling was mutual. Gill was a loving mum to Hooch, an earlier Freshfields rescue, so unable to offer Winston a home. Instead, she commits to regular visits and trips out in the car, to sit and grab a coffee with him and take him to her large, secluded garden. Inevitably over the years Winston's circle of friends became smaller and ensuring he had enough carers each day became more and more of a challenge. In time sadly, Hooch passed away. A heartbroken Gill knew then she was Winston's final chance of a forever home. She began to take Winston home to familiarise himself with his new environment and gradually everything fell into place. Winston's Freshfields friends continued to visit him in his home; it was a joy to see he had finally made it!

We never give up on those animals who have only ever known chaos and fear in their lives! We see beyond the challenges to the beautiful, unique personalities within. Extreme trauma, neglect and cruelty can affect an animal's ability to trust. Every animal is worth saving, and Winston, no less so. We are so grateful to all the people who cared for Winston over the years, and to all of our supporters who continue to make it possible for us to continue with this important work.



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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Beautiful Bulldog Biffy

Rescue work is an inevitable extreme of highs and lows, and it takes a special type of resilience to remain in the industry. Biffy's story illustrates this well, he touched the hearts of so many people leaving a permanent mark.

Biffy came into our lives in March, a big lovable bulldog cross boxer, who could no longer be cared for by his owners. Instantly we adored him and were filled with concern when we discovered numerous growths in and around his mouth. To our horror we then found a large hole inside his mouth. Full of worry, we immediately got Biffy to our vet. We had no idea how long he had been suffering like this, or how much pain he was in. We felt so grateful we were able to care for him now.

Biffy's growths were cancerous tumours, worse still – they were advancing rapidly. We were heart broken. We would never let him suffer, so while he was happy, waggy, and still had his zest for life we were determined to spoil him rotten.

A small miracle took place.... Our new Deputy Operations manager, who was just days into the job, offered Biffy a wonderful foster home for his remaining days. We were over the moon, and so was Biffy! Between us we set out Biffy's bucket list and asked our incredible supporters to help make it all possible.

As usual, they didn't let us or Biffy down and he was treated to all sorts of joyous moments over the following 3 weeks.

When the time came to say goodbye, Biffy was surrounded by those who loved him as he drifted peacefully off to sleep. We'd only known Biffy for three short weeks. Not nearly long enough, but it was three weeks packed with the best that any doggy dreams could imagine. For us, we were honoured and privileged to be part of his life and be able to give him everything he deserved.

Once again, we were overwhelmed by the outpouring of love we received from our supporters. Without this we just couldn't do what we do. A special thank you goes to Georgia and Jack who opened their hearts and home to Biffy and filled his last weeks with so much love.

Taking in a palliative care dog is a huge commitment and despite the heartbreak that faced them Georgia and Jack put on a brave face and did everything they could to keep Biffy comfortable and happy. For that we remain truly grateful.



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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Cattery Response work

Meep - Surviving against the odds because of our incredible Freshfields community.

In early September, a tiny, underweight little scrap of fur and bones was brought to the Liverpool cattery. She weighed 124g: the same as a small apple and had been found alone, abandoned in a yard. She went straight into a miniature incubator donated by our great supporter Kath, and into the foster care of an experienced and dedicated staff member.

None of us thought she would survive.

When not sleeping the kitten made loud 'meeps' for attention, and so Meep she named herself! So desperate was she for the formula milk in her special feeding bottle that she kicked and clawed at it, swaddled gently in a little donated pink blanket so she could concentrate on suckling.

One eye was infected and closed so she went to the vets for antibiotics. Gifts from supporters paid for her treatment, liters of formula and later vaccinations.

This tiny kitten had a huge personality, helping her fight to survive. Over the weeks Meep gained weight fast, she responded to sights and sounds, began to play, purr, groom and dream. She received dozens of anonymous donations: the scales for her daily weigh-in, the fluffy blankets and the special toys were all gifts, as were her tiny carrier with the miniature hot-water bottle and the little pink crate which became her bedroom when she was at Freshfields, protected by a cot bumper so she didn't get stuck in the gaps!

Kath helped again by giving Meep tins of specialist weaning mousse, and quickly Meep progressed to eating Smilla and Lily's Kitchen kitten food. It was a proud moment when she used a litter tray all by herself for the first time, filled with BioKatlet litter that was soft for her tiny paws. Of course, all these were donations from lovely people who had no idea that they were helping such a special kitten!

Hands-on help is also vital for kittens, and Meep had many visitors and cuddlers to help her on her way. Another staff member became doting Deputy Foster Mum to cover a week's holiday. Volunteer Lucy sat on a blanket on the cattery floor and played and cuddled, helping Meep develop her essential hunting and pouncing skills. As she grew, even the fosterers' cats joined in. Silden, Copper, Kitty Little and Paddy sniffed, washed, growled, chased, played, and taught naughty, madcap Meep vital lessons on how to be a cat.

For 10 weeks the Freshfields community of kind people rallied round and helped this tiny, poorly kitten grow. By mid-November, when she was adopted, she was a stunning little cat, with a long, happy, and healthy life to look forward too. Huge thanks to everyone who helped Meep on her journey, and who help us in so many ways to carry on our work. A special thanks goes to her fosterer who worked tirelessly throughout.



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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

'Flea cat' house

In August our cattery team became involved in one of the worst situations encountered in all our years of rescue and rehoming. A side of our work that many do not see, but which is often a reality for our incredible staff and volunteers. It is a look at the huge challenges that are being faced by so many people in these very difficult times, and how sadly any situation can deteriorate without appropriate care and intervention.

It began late one Friday night, when 2 cats, one male, one female, were brought to our door. We were told the owner had moved out and left their cats behind, and there may be more cats still in the house. Both cats were covered in fleas and flea eggs. Our vet tested the male cat's blood and found barely any red blood cells left. His blood was basically red coloured water. We used instant acting flea treatment to give him a chance to make some new red blood cells. Unfortunately, the little female died that night and the male followed on the Sunday morning. A few days later the same person returned with 2 kittens, but sadly they too died.

We knew then that we were in the middle of a very difficult situation, which was only going to get worse as it unfolded. We reached out to the RSPCA to ask for their assistance, as we knew there would at least be a mother cat and possibly more adults and kittens at the same property. At the same time, luckily, a relation of the owner contacted us. We learnt that there were probably at least 8 more cats, all in need of urgent veterinary attention. We rushed to get the permission we needed to go and get the other cats. Judging by those already seen, we knew that every minute would count in trying to save them. At the end of that day, and after an already long shift, cattery staff got everything together and set out to go to the house. Experienced and practical people both, nothing could quite prepare them for what they found. Faeces were everywhere and the living room floor was a moving black sea of fleas. These cats had to be helped as soon as possible.

The whole flat was scoured to make sure they didn't leave any behind. This meant getting on to hands and knees amongst the poo and fleas to be able to check every place possible. After about 90 minutes they had captured 12 cats and sadly found one dead adult and one dead kitten. Both staff were covered in flea bites.

Back at Freshfields one of our admissions rooms was swiftly reconfigured and set up to house the cats. Work immediately began, weighing, taking details, and settling the cats in. Flea treatments were given, soft, clean bedding and good quality food and water provided.

Safe at last and receiving the care and attention they needed, this was just the beginning of their journey. They needed extensive veterinary help and were traumatised emotionally by all they had been through. On that first night staff were still at the emergency vets at 11.30pm. Despite all efforts one cat had to be put to sleep immediately, and another the next day. For these two, it was sadly too late.

Over the following days, we pieced together the information we had. We worked out that there were at least 17 adult cats in the flat as well as 3 kittens. Only 10 adults survived. We had saved at least half of them.

We have since found out that the original owner is getting the help she needs from social services and health professionals. Hopefully she will get the care that will enable her to recover and get her life back on track.

Our 'flea house cats are doing really well. Many needed extensive dental work and lots of time to regain their health and confidence. Most are already happily rehomed; we hope the remaining Zeta, Leo and Nicole don't have to wait much longer!

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Pictures: Catching cats (left), after few weeks of excellent care (right)



Farm Response Work

A sad time on the farm. We have had to say a heart-breaking goodbye this year to our beloved Sassy and Eldon.

Sassy was a loving and friendly pig who came to us nearly four years ago. She made a big impression on everyone that she met – with her cheeky behaviour and big personality. In the last year, Sassy began suffering with arthritis – she was on regular medication which allowed her to continue exploring and enjoying her life on the farm. Sadly, Sassy's condition deteriorated, and she began to struggle getting up. After many discussions and consultations with vets, the tough decision was made that Sassy no longer had a good quality of life. This is always a horrible decision to make, but we could not let Sassy continue her life in so much pain. On her last morning, she was surrounded by all of those who cared and loved her.

Picture below: Sassy enjoying wallowing in mud.



FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Everyone knew Eldon, the sheep, as he was our longest resident being with us for over ten years. Eldon was originally admitted here after having been abandoned in one of the Liverpool parks. He was nervous and stressed to the point that it was virtually impossible to touch him. It took a good number of years for Eldon to feel safe and secure around people.

Eldon and best friend Jacob were inseparable and spent their years looking after all the sheep that were admitted here. Eldon was an old boy who had been struggling with arthritis – he had been on pain medication that was helping initially, however, staff noticed that his condition was deteriorating. We tried our hardest to find a medication that would ease Eldon's pain, but sadly nothing was reducing his discomfort. Eldon showed us that it was his time to say goodbye to us one morning, when he was struggling to stand up. This was an incredibly upsetting decision to make, but we knew that saying goodbye was the kindest thing to do. His last few hours were spent with Jacob and his favourite people by his side – giving him lots of cuddles to make sure he knew how loved he was.

Picture below: Eldon (Left), Jacob (Right).



The farm will always feel empty without Eldon and Sassy here. We try to take comfort knowing that they are no longer in pain.

Helping more animals!

Our farm unit is at full capacity with pigs, but we had to make space for an emergency arrival in 2021. Staff received a worrying call about two piglets that had been abandoned on the road. The team managed to catch both piglets and brought them back to the rescue. Sadly, one of the piglets – who staff named Toffee, was in a horrendous condition. He was struggling to walk and was emaciated – maggots infested his body so badly, that they had eaten his eyes and were in his gums. The heart-breaking decision was made to have Toffee put to sleep, as he was unable to eat or drink. This was the kindest thing to do so that Toffee was no longer suffering.

His brother, Oswald, is still with us at the rescue and has become a firm favourite with many staff members. Oswald lives with his piglet friend, Otis, both are always up to mischief and firmly believe they are the cutest animals at Freshfields. After everything Oswald has gone through, he has grown into a confident pig who now loves getting lots of tickles from his favourite people.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Pictures: Oswald (Left), Otis (Right)



In 2021, we had two lambs join us here. Ralph was rescued from a park, where he was found with a group of young people. He had been taken away from his mother at a crucial age of two weeks old – but luckily after lots of hand feeding, he became a big strong lamb. Within a couple of months of Ralph's arrival, he was joined by an unexpected arrival – Sherbet the lamb. Sherbet was born onsite after his mum and aunty were admitted to us to find a new home, staff suspected Rosie may have been pregnant on arrival, but could not be sure. On June 25th, the staff came into the Unit to an amazing sight after Rosie had given birth to Sherbet in the night without any assistance. Ralph and Sherbet became the best of friends and were huge characters on the farm.

Picture below: Ralph & Sherbet



Rosie, Mimi, Ralph and Sherbet the sheep had a great year. After coming to Freshfields they were all lucky enough to find the perfect home together. They now live in fields that spread over 30 acres – enjoying lots of grass but, of course, still loving human attention. Staff were able to see the four sheep settling in and they all immediately looked at home. Regular updates are received about the four, who have recently welcomed another rescued sheep to their home – where they are all the best of friends.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Wildlife and Small Animal Response Work

The wildlife and small animal unit prove continually to be an extremely valuable part of the rescue, with the number of admittances increasing each year. The team cares for various animals, including rabbits, guinea pigs, ferrets, domestic birds, wild birds, exotic species, and hedgehogs. Demand is rising every year for the Unit, and in 2021 we admitted 451 hedgehogs and 398 wild birds. 241 hedgehogs and 165 birds were released back into the wild.

Wildlife

Our staff work tirelessly to ensure that they help as many animals as possible, not only by providing a high quality of care but also by advising and educating the public. The team holds a passion for providing these animals with the highest chance of survival. Unfortunately, some injuries are too severe, and while the team do everything they can, it is not always possible to save every animal that comes through our doors.

2021 saw the wildlife team admit over 450 hedgehogs. One female stood out from the rest when she arrived onsite. This poor female was suffering with Balloon Syndrome. The exact cause is unknown, but it is thought to be the outcome of a trauma induced bacterial infection. Staff immediately started removing the built-up air with a syringe. Only a couple of days later, this remarkable female gave birth, staff could not believe that her baby survived the trauma. After two months of monitoring this resilient mum and baby were released back out into the wild.

Pictured below: Balloon Hog (left), Mum and Baby (right)



2021 saw the beginnings of the development of our wildlife educational leaflets. This was in response to the constant calls we receive from the public requesting support and advice regarding baby birds, fledglings, or injured adult birds. There are plans for a full range of educational leaflets to be developed in the coming months.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Pictures below: Wild Bird leaflet (left), Some of our baby rescues this year, birds, and hedgehogs.



Small Animals

The team works with various species of small animals, providing specific care and attention to meet their varying needs. Our experienced staff created individual Care Plans to ensure that all small animals are microchipped, neutered and groomed (if needed) before finding them a new home. Bonding is an important part of the work to provide companionship for admitted individuals. Bonding can be a lengthy process, but staff persist with their efforts to rehome pairs or groups of small animals successfully.

Sometimes small animals are abandoned on the lane by the rescue. It can be challenging for staff to catch the individuals, but they work together to capture these abandoned animals, ensuring they are safe, warm, and secure.

Orla

Orla arrived with us early in the year and staff were shocked to see that she was missing most of her ears – our vet suspected that this may be due to fighting with another rabbit. She was very timid on arrival and would spend her days hiding in her box or freezing in a corner anytime staff went near her. Staff worked to build Orla's trust but felt that she needed a patient home to help build her confidence. After many months, Orla's urgent appeal worked, and she found the perfect home where a year later she is now enjoying lots of strokes from her new family. We hear that she loves following them around the house and even leaps in the air to greet them.



FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Ted

Ted was abandoned in the summer outside of the rescue centre. Fortunately, a passing cyclist was able to catch him. Staff noticed that, once admitted, Ted was spending most of his time stressed and pacing around his pen – leading them to think this behaviour may have been why Ted was abandoned. The team quickly booked him in to be neutered, confident that this would help calm him down. Only a couple of weeks later Ted was a completely different rabbit. He began to love human affection and always enjoyed lots of tickles. It was no surprise that when Ted's story was told there was a lot of interest in rehoming him. Ted met his new girlfriend Dot through our rabbit bonding service and was rehomed with her at the end of the year. Pictures below: Ted (left), Ted & Dot (right)



Abandoned

We can never predict in any given year just how many small animals will be abandoned outside the rescue centre, what species they might be, or what health conditions they might suffer from. It is with a sad certainty we predict there will most definitely be more abandoned animals in our future, and this inspires us to work harder to promote the message that all animals are of equal value, and worthy of happy and comfortable lives.

Picture below: Some of the small animals abandoned in 2021



FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Enrichment

We do what we can to ensure our small animals have the best possible, happy, and enriched lives whilst with us. Enrichment features highly in our general messaging to potential adopters too and is just as important for small animals as it is for cats and dogs. We are incredibly grateful for our Amazon Wishlist and the many gifts purchased for us by our wonderful and generous supporters. These gifts make such a positive difference to our small animals' lives.

Picture below: Small Animal Enrichment



Reports from the Animal Units - WALES

2021 began with the Wales centre continuing to follow Government COVID guidelines. The centre remained closed to the public and operating on an appointment-only basis. This allowed us to manage the number of people on site at any time. Home checks were carried out remotely, and adoptions and admittances took place outdoors wherever possible. Social distancing was maintained, and appropriate PPE worn by all staff. A minimal number of staff remained furloughed, and no volunteers were permitted as we worked to maintain a safe working environment.

In January 2021 we wrote to all our Horse Loaners to make them aware of the imminent change of law with regards to microchipping their equines. New legislation meant that all horses, ponies, donkeys, and mules in Great Britain needed to be microchipped, and failure to comply with the new law would be an offence and could result in a fine. With the Wales deadline being 12 February 2021, all our loaned horses, ponies, and donkeys, as well as those residing at the centre, were required to be microchipped and registered with the Central Equine Database. This is a huge advance for the UK's horses, ponies, and donkeys. The new Central Equine Database will allow local authorities and police to track down the owners of horses who are dumped, make sure they are held to account and the animals are given the care they deserve. It will also mean lost or stolen horses will be reunited with their owners more easily and will significantly improve the UK's ability to trace and manage outbreaks of disease.

On 31st March the First Minister of Wales, Mark Drakeford, announced that restrictions would be eased to move Wales into alert level 3 subject to public health conditions. Children and students returned to face-to-face education, all non-essential retail were able to reopen, and travel was allowed out of Wales into the rest of the UK, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and the Republic of Ireland. Outdoor attractions and outdoor hospitality including cafes, pubs and restaurants also reopened. Although restrictions eased, we continued to observe social distancing; our staff and visitors to the centre still wore PPE, but the end of restrictions meant that the public could now come and view our animals, which saw an increase in adult cat adoptions.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

August Bank Holiday weekend saw Freshfields Wales being invited to participate in Dinas Dinlle Caravan Park's annual fun day. The manager Mike had adopted Buzz the kitten from the centre the year before and was happy to support Freshfields by donating half the proceeds of the Funday to help our animals, with the other half being donated to a local children's hospice. Brian, Tottie and Cassie the Shetlands were the stars of the day, with lots of people interested in our equine rehoming and the wider work of Freshfields Animal Rescue. We had a merchandise stall at the event, and we were also asked to judge the fun Dog Show that they had organised. An auction was held in the evening to try and raise even more money for the charities, and we were delighted to receive a cheque from Dinas Dinlle Caravan Park for £1,552.

Picture below: Presenting the cheque.



In December we had the track to our centre completely resurfaced. Rather than patching up the road, we decided the time had come to invest in contacting a specialist company, who were experienced in resurfacing tracks and could guarantee that their work would last for years to come. Work began at the beginning of December and took 3 days to complete. We now have a smooth surface, with cambers added to help with drainage to cope with the large amount of rain we encounter. The work is guaranteed for 5 years. Our horses are certainly feeling the benefit of not having to avoid all the potholes, as well as visitors to the centre not having to worry about damaging their cars.



FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Pictures below: The newly laid track up to the rescue centre.



Abby

23 March our beloved resident mare Abby passed away, at the age of 32. A few years before, Abby was nursed back to health by our amazing equine staff after being severely neglected. She had a terrible start in life, but Abby's spirit could never be broken. She was the matriarch of all the other equines and was big in personality, as well as size. Abby's age had caught up with her, and unfortunately, she went down with colic. After calling the vet out four times during the day, the heart-breaking decision was made to end her suffering. Abby will always be a special part of the Freshfields family; it is still odd without her at the centre.

Pictures below: Abby neglected (left), Abby healthy and whole (right)



Phoebe

After waiting patiently since before Christmas 2020, due to being unable to rehome across the Wales/England border, Phoebe our Section A pony finally left the centre for her new home at the beginning of April, where she left to be a companion to the lovely Romeo. Her new Mum Libby was very patient while we waited for restrictions to ease. Phoebe had been a resident at the centre for nearly 10 years, so it was great to see her leaving to live the life she deserved. We receive regular updates from her new mum; Phoebe and Romeo have really hit it off, and she follows him everywhere he goes.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021



Dave

Dave the Shetland pony stallion was admitted at the end of September 2021, when the lady who had been caring for him bought a new horse and was worried about how the two would get on. She explained that Dave had been dumped at her property years before, and she had let him stay, feeding him scraps of food from the kitchen. Dave was entire, neither passported nor microchipped (which is now against the law), and had never seen a dentist or farrier. As he wasn't gelded, he was very headstrong and had been used to doing his own thing.

Within a few days of arrival with us Dave was castrated, microchipped and passported, and our equine staff then began working with him. Dave quickly developed a bond with Vanessa. He followed her constantly and would nuzzle into her, wanting cuddles.



The farrier was quite surprised that Dave's feet did not need too much work, but when our dentist visited, he was immediately concerned about the state of Dave's teeth. Robin our dentist said he wondered how Dave had managed to eat as he had an infection in his mouth and several rotten teeth, which needed removing. Unfortunately, Dave had to be referred to the Equine Dental Hospital in Mold. He was put on antibiotics to treat the infection while waiting for his appointment.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Dave was spotted on one of our Facebook posts by a lady who was interested in offering him a home, so he was reserved within a couple of weeks of being at the centre. Unfortunately, Andy the dentist discovered that Dave would need another 3 teeth removing, and he was booked in for an appointment in February 2022, which gave him a few weeks for his mouth to recover from the root extraction. In the meantime, at the centre, Dave was introduced to some children who had brought some donations, and it was found that he got rather stressed around them. Children were a part of the home that we had lined up for Dave, so unfortunately as we could not guarantee Dave's temperament around them, we had to remove the reserve. The 3 teeth that needed removing were relatively easy extractions; however, there were complications with the original extraction requiring further investigation. The day after Dave's February dental appointment, we received an email from the assisting vet nurse; she had absolutely fallen in love with him and wondered if we would consider homing him with her. She had been looking for a companion for her ex-racehorse for a while and thought Dave would be the perfect fit. Dave's sweet personality had really shone through while he was at the Dental hospital, and she could not help but think he was the pony for her.

The home check was carried out, a 6-acre property with plenty going on for our nosy Dave to be kept occupied. Working at the Equine Hospital, Dave's prospective new mum was very experienced with equines, understood the issues regarding his teeth, and was happy to offer him a home.

It was a bittersweet moment for the horse staff at the centre, as Dave had made a big impression on all of them, especially Vanessa. Small in stature but with a huge personality! Dave left for his new home and is settling in well with his new family. It is quite unusual for a pony to have not just one, but two offers of a home without even being advertised on our website. Dave just had something about him that was very special! Dave was only at the centre for 20 weeks before finding a home; that is a new record for any equine here at the centre.



Cattery Response Work

Alfie

In March, we put out yet another plea for our Alfie cat, who had been searching for his forever home for over 2 years. All the staff submitted photos and videos that they had taken of Alfie over the couple of years, and we made a video montage from them, appealing for a home on our Facebook page.

This time we were successful, and a lovely couple came forward, who seemed just perfect for Alfie. They lived in a very rural area, with no immediate neighbours, and had no other pets. Alfie was a very special cat who would constantly make the staff at the centre laugh with his antics; he would come and go as he pleased, and would chase anything that moved, including horses.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

We arranged for the couple to come to the centre to meet Alfie (socially distanced of course), and they really hit it off. The home check was carried out, and Alfie finally left the centre at the beginning of April. We never give up hope with any of our animals; we are always determined to find that perfect home. In Alfie's case, it took a little longer than usual, but the perfect home WAS found. In an update from his new owners a few months later, Alfie was ruling the roost at his new home, and was enjoying wandering around his new domain.

Pictures below: Alfie posing for the newspaper (left), Alfie and family on rehoming day (right)



Big Boy

On the evening of March, the 1st, a staff member discovered a cat who had been left in his carrier at the bottom of our track at the rescue centre. Alongside his carrier was a heart wrenching note explaining why his owner had felt they had no other option than to leave him there for us to discover.

Although we do not in any way condone abandoning any animal at the centre, we do understand that there were extreme circumstances which lead to the cat being abandoned. In the note it mentioned he had an ear infection, so he saw our vet the very next day. He has a burst polyp, was immediately put on antibiotics and ear gel was prescribed to soothe the soreness. It was obvious he was a very spoilt cat; weighing in at a whopping 9.33kg! Staff encouraged him to play and to run around the cattery. He also enjoyed stretching his legs in the outside part of his pen. Big Boy's (as we named him) exercise regime worked, and within a month, he weighed 8.68kg. He would sit as good as gold on the scales for the cattery staff for his weekly weigh-in.



FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

On the 15th March, Big Boy saw our vet again; he had completed his course of antibiotics, but his ear hadn't improved. Further tests revealed that Big Boy would need an operation to remove the ear lining and polyp, as the antibiotics had not worked. Big Boy had his operation on the 1st of April to totally remove his ear canal. The operation was a success, Big Boy's head was bandaged and as he needed peace to recuperate, he went into foster care.



His bandages were removed a week later, but he continued antibiotics to make sure all infection had cleared. The search for his new home began, and, as his story had been featured on our social media, along with regular updates, we had quite a few offers. Big Boy left for his new home in June 2021. We receive regular updates from his new mum and are glad to hear that he is extremely happy in his new home.

Andre

In June, we received a call from our vets, to say that a cat had been brought into their practice following an RTA. He was injured but his prognosis was fair. The local RSPCA branch had offered to pay for his treatment, but were unable to take the cat in. The male cat had a broken jaw and was blind. The vet did not know if the blindness was a result of the accident, or if it had happened prior to that.

We agreed to take in the cat and arranged to have him collected 24 hours after his operation to re-set his broken jaw. The cat, who we named Andre, was on cage rest, so was put into the isolation crate near the office, where we could keep a close eye on him post-op. After the initial grogginess wore off, it was obvious that Andre was a little wary of humans but was not showing any signs of aggression. Both eyes were blown so we were unsure if he could see, and he could only drink liquidised cat food through the wires of his jaw.

After a week or so, Andre began to try and move about a little, and we noticed that his hind leg was giving way underneath him. He returned to our vets, where they confirmed that nothing was broken, but suspected muscle damage because of being hit by the car. The vet gave us some simple physio exercises that we could do with Andre's leg to help him recover. By the end of June his mobility had greatly improved, and he had regained sight in one eye. He remained blind in the other eye.

Andre took everything in his stride; medication, daily physio sessions on his leg, trips back and forth to the vets, and he blossomed into the most trusting, loveable cat who really enjoyed his cuddles with everyone. The wires on his jaw were loosened every 2 weeks so he was able to eat very mashed food; they were then fully removed at the end of

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

July, when he was also given the all clear from the vets for rehoming. We did a special feature all about Andre on our social media and asked anyone interested to contact us. A lovely lady who was very experienced in looking after cats with disabilities got in touch, and after all the checks were completed, Andre left the centre in August. We were grateful for the opportunity to be able to give Andre a chance of a home.



Cattery Preventative Work

Working with the RSPCA concerning Andre's treatment led to further collaboration to trap some feral cats from a colony at the Pwllheli Marina, which both organisations had been dealing with over the past few years. Mainly we had been taking in and rehoming the kittens from the colony. The previous season had seen a few of the kittens pass away due to various health issues, so we approached the RSPCA to see if they would be willing to help us trap, neuter and release the adult cats of the colony, which would ensure less kittens were being born.

The Area Co-ordinator for the West Gwynedd branch of the RSPCA was happy to help and offered to supply neutering vouchers for any adults caught. Seven adult cats were captured, neutered, and released back to the colony over the next few months. Two female pregnant cats gave birth at the centre, with our old temporary kitten room used as a maternity suite for the feral mums. Their kittens found homes once old enough, and the mums were rehomed as barn cats once neutered. We hope to continue working alongside organisations such as the RSPCA; working together to help the animals benefits us all.

Unexpected Other

What do you do when you find an otter in your dog's bed at midnight?? Call someone from Freshfields of course!! On the 6th April, a young otter had found its way inside a property close to the Wales Centre; the owner could not believe what she was seeing!! She called staff member Vanessa, who lived nearby. Vanessa raced over to the property just after midnight, to remove the otter from the house. Vanessa brought the otter to the centre and as you can see, he seemed quite happy splashing around in his water, but he did appear to be very wobbly. We contacted the RSPCA for advice, and he was collected later that morning, and taken to their specialist unit in Nantwich, where they will

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

hopefully be able to rehabilitate him back into the wild. Otters are a protected species in the UK and Europe, and it is very unusual for an otter to enter a premises. There is never a typical day in a rescue centre, but this was certainly a first for Freshfields Wales.

Picture below: Visiting otter



FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Structure, governance and management

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

Trustees

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

H Stanbury	(Resigned 4 July 2022)
J Young	
D Nixon	
A Armstrong	
D Martin	
V Wikeley	(Deceased 6 January 2022)
D Cox	(Appointed 18 August 2021)

Trustees are appointed by agreement with the existing trustees.

Recruitment and appointment of the Management Committee

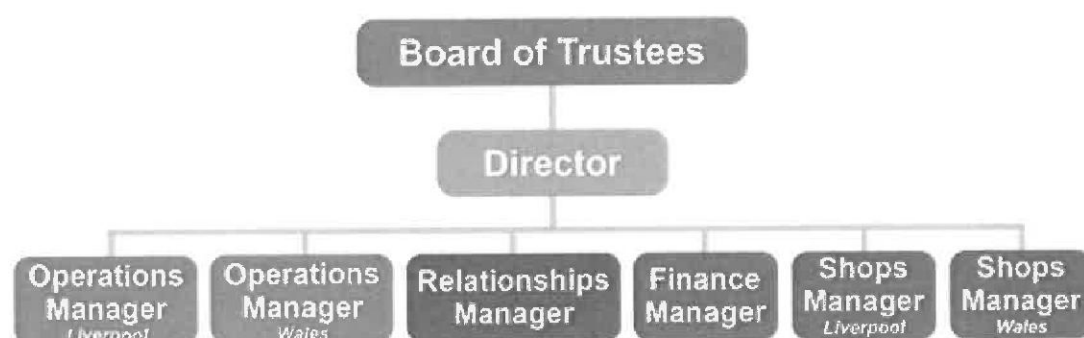
The trustees appoint members of the Executive and Management Teams as and when appropriate.

Recruitment of new trustees

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

We would like to thank our Trustees for their commitment to upholding Freshfields ethics and for their active, practical and invaluable support to the team on the ground.

Board and Senior Management Structure



Staff and volunteers

The Board and the Director would like to thank our 47 staff and over 200 volunteers for their commitment to protecting, rehoming, and conserving animals across the North West and Wales.

We recognise the challenges that COVID-19 has presented throughout 2021 and applaud their resilience.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Planning for our future

Despite the continuing effects of COVID Freshfields was able to move forward with positivity. We regularly assessed and revised our COVID-19 strategy as the pandemic progressed, taking into consideration all government guidance to ensure we did the right thing by public, employees, and animals alike. Our shelters continued to operate as crisis response only, and non-animal caring staff to work from home as much as was practical.

The first quarter of the year saw heads down working diligently on the grass roots of our 5-year strategic plan. Staff at every level were involved, with a SWOT analysis carried out across all aspects of the charity and Competitor Comparisons documented to provide context and a more accurate picture of where the charity currently sat.

These unabridged documents, detailing wants, and needs were presented to the Trustee Board who used them to prioritise high level strategic goals. Five overarching goals were identified, and a plan created that outlined them.



OUR STRATEGIC GOALS				
GOAL: SUCCEED Be strong and able	GOAL: RESPOND Meet the need	GOAL: PREVENT Address the Causes	GOAL: EXCEL: Be the best	GOAL: CONNECT: Join Forces
STRATEGIES:	STRATEGIES:	STRATEGIES:	STRATEGIES:	STRATEGIES:
Strong leadership Collaborate as a team Insight Financial resilience Resource efficient Adaptable	Rescue and Rehome Community rescue and rehome Medical care Behavioural help Pair bonding Support people Inspire Action	Neuter and microchip Direct Community Action Raise awareness Provide support Campaign	Values Driven Expertise Quality Impact Value Innovation	Work with others Present all areas of work Powerful case for support Listen Be accessible Build networks Keep learning

An away day explained findings in full to the management team; how we had arrived at our Board-approved plan and the necessary steps to take it forward, such as engaging with staff on the ground, inspiring buy-in and an understanding of whole-team aims. A series of outdoor meetings, under gazebos beneath the incredibly hot July sun, were to follow. Every member of the team was engaged with, given an opportunity to ask questions, point out concerns and to make suggestions.

Next was the creation of a What Good Looks Like document for Freshfields. This document set the standards that we would strive for across every area of Freshfields operations and was followed by 2022 Action Plan preparation for each area within the charity. These were the Director approved incremental SMART goals and objectives that we would work to during year one of our strategic plan.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

An urgent need to improve conditions and increase space for our work with wildlife had been identified. This led to the potential purchase of land in nearby Long Lane. The land identified was half of a fisheries, with ample water for ducks and other waterfowl, surrounded by trees and vegetation. The land would provide exactly the right environment for recovering wildlife, with the bonus of being located only a stone's throw from the main Liverpool site. Investigations and funding implications were explored in full, but sadly, due to the economic climate, Brexit and COVID considerations, we were unable to progress the purchase.

As always, our strategies looked beyond the charity's needs to consider the individuals who support us, their thoughts, concerns and worries at this time, their expectations of Freshfields, how we continue to fulfil these, and what we give back in the way of support to them.

New appointments

2021 saw some changes in staffing at the Liverpool centre. Freshfields staff are dedicated with a commitment to animal welfare that remains with them throughout their lives. Inevitably circumstances force change and for various reasons, including health and new challenges, the following people moved away from Freshfields during this year - Jayne Stanton, Ryan Alexander, Joe Spears, Alan Barnard, Phil Clark. We wish them well for the future, thank them for their hard work at the rescue and their resolve to always do the best they could for the animals.

In Wales, we said farewell to Porthmadog shop manager Patricia Sharpe, who had worked for us for over 15 years. On Christmas Eve we bade farewell to our Office Administrator Penny Grisedale, who retired after working at Freshfields Wales for over a decade. Confident she would return as a volunteer, we wished Penny well as she looked forward to spending more time pursuing her hobbies of art and photography.

Along with change comes the opportunity to regroup and look forward. Recruiting staff is always a challenge because it is vital that we find the right people to support and reflect our core values. We were excited to welcome Keeley Riley and Jazmin Batley to our Liverpool cattery team, Holly Parkin and Rachel Salt to our Liverpool kennels team and Helen Mason as manager of our Porthmadog shop. It is a pleasure to have them on board and we already know that their enthusiasm and positivity will have a huge impact.

Volunteers

Our Volunteers are at the heart of everything we do and make a massive contribution to the life-changing work of the rescue centre and beyond. Our Volunteers Programme, somewhat hampered by COVID-19, offers a broad range of opportunities for particularly disadvantaged groups and undergraduates.

In a typical year, we would be delighted to support our volunteers to:

- Improve their well-being, mental or physical health
- Benefit from social connection and support
- Gain valuable skills and experience for future employment
- Try something new
- Do something valuable and rewarding
- Gain a sense of achievement
- Gain connections with their local community
- Improved their confidence and self-esteem

At the Welsh rescue centre, October saw us open our doors to volunteers once more. We had a backlog of new volunteers who were wanting to help, so it was great to be able to welcome them to the centre. We have a few new regular volunteers who are really enjoying the benefits of working alongside our animals, as well as the benefits to themselves. We also have a new Horse Welfare Check volunteer, who visits our on-loan equines to check that they are being cared for and are in good health. Sonja had retired from the police service the previous year, where she worked with the mounted police division, so is very experienced with equines. Since retiring, she was missing working with horses as she didn't have one of her own and contacted us after reading about the Volunteer Welfare Officer

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

role on our Freshfields website. Sonja said she enjoys getting out and about with her dog, meeting new people and getting her horse 'fix', while doing something worthwhile for the charity and the community.

In Liverpool many of our regular hands-on volunteers were affected by the Covid restrictions throughout the year. They faced their own challenges, and we know it was tough for them to stay away from the rescue centres. We receive fantastic support from many corporate groups and businesses locally, with groups of volunteers coming to help us in all sorts of crucial yet far from glamorous ways. This year, due to COVID pre-arranged visits were often cancelled, leaving everyone disappointed. We feel sure that as the pandemic abates, we will soon benefit from the energy and enthusiasm of contributing groups once again. Luckily, we were able to continue with a small core group of volunteers. This help is invaluable to us - from dog walkers to painters, to odd job doers, packers, and sorters; they all supported us to continue with our important work.

During volunteer week in June, we took the opportunity to celebrate our fantastic Freshfields Volunteers. It was important that we said an extra 'Thank you' to ensure they know how incredibly important they are to us.

We gave a special mention to John, who has been volunteering with us for over 15 wonderful years now! John dedicates his time to regularly walking some of our more challenging dogs, and he also supports us with fundraising and raising Freshfields' profile in the local community. John is well and truly part of the Freshfields family; we admire his commitment and look forward to many more years of friendship.

Picture below: Volunteer - John Eden with Rio

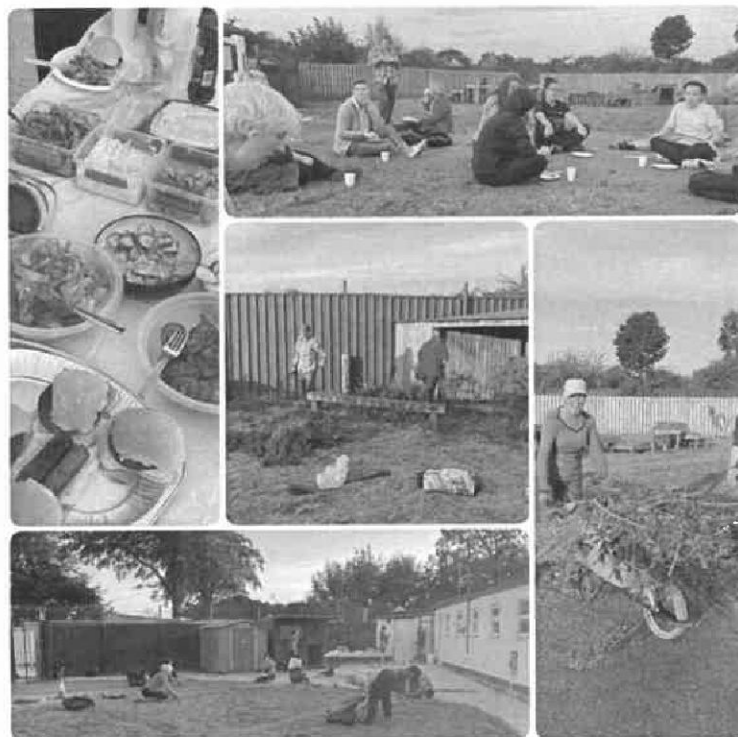


Later on in the year we were happy to invite volunteers onsite to work outdoors on clearing and cleaning up our Dog Exercise area. As well as being a practical event, this also gives us the opportunity to spend quality time with our volunteers, away from the busy day to day routine of the rescue. This is as important to us as it is to them.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021



We have volunteers who help us care hands-on for all our animals, and most have been committed to us for many years. We also have an incredibly supportive group of volunteers across our charity shops. Hard as it was for them during the extended periods of closure, they didn't turn their backs, and were back ready, willing, and able once we were permitted to open our doors once again.

Our wonderful volunteers are an eclectic mix of vastly experienced, compassionate, and devoted individuals. They sit at the very heart of everything we do.

Sustainability

We have broadly been able to maintain our income levels over this challenging time. Pre pandemic, we had seen increases that have reduced by 1.4% a year over the past 2 years. We are aware that there are further economic difficulties to come, and we will need to work hard to maintain and grow income levels to meet the growing need.

This year our dedicated supporters donated £1,427,421; this is in line with our average support levels over the past seven years of £1,410,600. We are achieving 65p in every pound going to absolute direct care of the animals after every expense for income generation and fundraising, management, support costs and overheads are accounted for. This is in line with our 68p average over each year since 2015.

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

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Gifts in Wills continue to provide the best and most vital support for animals, and people, in crisis. We remain dependent upon this most precious source of funding. This year, these gifts equalled 41% of our income, up 2% on last year. We aim to inspire more Gifts in Wills in the future by showing the range, quality and impact of our work, but be in a position to use more of them for essential growth as well as the protection of what we have achieved over forty years.

Regular giving through direct debit, animal sponsorship and playing the Freshfields Lottery continues to provide the rescue with 8% of an incredibly valuable source of core funding that requires less time and resources than other fundraising activities. We will be seeking to encourage more support of this type.

We continue to gradually grow general rescue one-off donations by ensuring our impact and value across all units is increasingly visible to our valued supporters, and that every donor of any amount receives a big Thank You, are satisfied with the work we achieve on their behalf and want to keep supporting the rescue effort. We attained 16% of our income this way this year

We have taken time to start improving our fundraising and communication processes this year and have needed to limit community fundraising activities to allow this. We focussed on our Year End appeal, abseil, zip wire and Santa Dash sponsored challenges and supporting fantastic DIY community fundraisers. We recognise that face to face fundraising is an important way to connect with those who support our cause, and plan to build this up again with better results-monitoring to inform our future planning.

We are delighted with the response to our *Last Christmas in Rescue appeal, raising £48,511 which has enabled us to start securing precious homes for animals whose barriers are excessive medical or support costs.* This provides better results for our supporters' money, finds homes for animals who have waited for months or years, and releases the spaces to help hundreds more animals who need the services that we provide.

We are delighted to have won *the support of Morecrofts Solicitors LLP in June and have already achieved more help for long term animals* through an assisted adoption scheme and support for homeless people and their pets. The great team at Morecrofts realise how closely linked the fate of pets are to peoples' personal problems. We will be working with them until April 2023 to make a difference for more animals together.

In-Kind support

Donations in kind continue to be absolutely essential to our ability to make rescue, rehoming and re-release possible. This year, there are 81 Volunteers who we simply cannot thank enough, in roles from retail to fostering. We would like to express our thanks and immense gratitude to the more physically vulnerable volunteers who decided to step back during the pandemic and who are forever part of the Freshfields family.

We are grateful to those volunteers helping specifically the fundraising efforts this year by holding stalls, arranging events, mustering collections and support from businesses, producing artwork and handmade goods to sell, bringing collection tins; arranging raffles, undertaking personal challenges, providing free services for a donation to the animals, giving up birthday gifts to provide gifts of love and safety to the vulnerable needing rescue. They represent the best of humanity as active guardians of animals that need us in the North West and Wales.

Grants and Trusts

We continue to be frustrated by the majority of funders who list the work of animal rescues on the exclusion list, and are working extra hard to demonstrate that our work benefits people as well as animals. We are exceptionally grateful to these funders who see past the initial animal rescue headline and to those who recognise our collective responsibility to animals at risk directly at the hands of people and wish to address it.

We didn't match last year's highly exceptional grant funds of £349,427, as this was a result of the governments covid support grants, and a £126,072 capital support boost in support of the essential Adoption Hub. We are mightily relieved that the Hub will enable us to provide every prospective adopter and pet the best possible chance of securing that precious relationship and home.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

It enables us to provide a fit for purpose working space that our hardworking staff deserve, and a private space for distressed people surrendering a cherished companion. The Hub is being delivered on budget but subject to a twelve month delay due to pandemic related construction industry challenges. We are on track for full completion by March 2022. We value the expertise and practical, free, generous support provided by Future3 Architecture and DBCDS Limited.

This year we have secured £70,182 in grants which is still unusually successful by animal rescue standards. £55,975 of this was for direct animal care with £16,100 of that specifically towards those vital vet services. The small number of Trusts that will consider helping animals are reporting closures and shrinking assets values, so we are anticipating substantial reduction in grant awards in following years, from a source that is already mostly exclusively available to charities benefitting people only.

The lasting effects of the Coronavirus pandemic continued to have a significant impact on the economic and funding landscape in 2021. Support packages available to other charities almost always exclude animal rescue centres, and we are competing for grants and awards in an ever-more competitive environment.

Some discretionary Trusts and Foundations reframed their objectives and funding criteria to focus on their own local communities or regions, whilst others looked to move towards narrowing the range of the type of work and size of groups they support. Without government contracts, a national presence or the significant reserves of larger charities, we will continue to highlight the urgent need to help us in our life-changing work to protect animals and the environment in the North West, Wales and beyond.

We are extremely grateful to the Trustees of the Charitable Trusts and Foundations who both actively encourage applications for animal welfare, and recognise the wider benefits of our work in the local communities we serve.

We want to thank them for their trust and confidence in us and their support for our work in 2021:

The Arnold Clark Community Fund
The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust
Support Adoption for Pets
The Blakemore Foundation
The Animal Defence Trust
Ecclesiastical Insurance Movement for Good
The Gallimore Trust
The Hemby Trust
The John Slater Foundation
The Laspen Trust
Lee Bakirgian Family Trust
The Rose Animal Welfare Trust
The Rotary Club of Formby
The Sylvanus Charitable Trust
The Walker 597 Animal Trust
The Lockett Trust
The Michael and Shirley Hunt Charitable Trust
The Sabina Sutherland Charitable Trust
Wetnose Animal Aid

Restricted Funds

The following grants were awarded for specific purposes:

Support Adoption for Pets (now Pets at Home Foundation)

This animal welfare charity donated £5,000 towards the costs of veterinary treatment for the animals

The William Dean Education and Countryside Trust

We were awarded a grant of £500 towards the cost of our Wildlife Unit's work with hedgehogs and wild birds

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust

A grant of £5,000 was received to pay for veterinary and medical treatment for the animals

The Hemby Trust

We received a contribution of £500 towards the purchase of new shelving units for the hedgehog accommodation

The Carmela and Ronnie Pignatelli Foundation

We were awarded £2500 towards the costs of medication and veterinary treatment

The Alice Noakes Memorial Charitable Trust

The Trust donated £1500 for medical treatment

The Laspen Trust

We received £500 towards medical costs for our Wales centre

The Gallimore Trust

This charity donated £1100 towards the costs of veterinary treatment for Staffordshire Bull Terriers rescued by Freshfields Animal Rescue

The Animal Defence Trust

We received a donation of £1,000 towards the cost of a new water-bird aviary

The Rose Animal Welfare Trust

We were awarded £10,000 from the Trust to pay for veterinary and medical treatment for the animals

Animal Friends Insurance Trust

We were awarded a contribution of £5,000 for veterinary, medical and dental treatments for the animals and £2500 to build a new shelter for the horses in Wales, following the destruction of the previous shelter in the storms

Thank you all.

CHARITY SHOPS

Currently we have shops in Southport, Porthmadog, Llanidloes, Caernarfon, and Barmouth. Each shop also acts as a link between our services and the public, providing an important stage from which to promote our vital work for animals. COVID restrictions continued to hamper progress during 2021. Enthusiasm, however, was unwilling to take a similar hit.

Barmouth – This shop in its new location on Church Street seems to have found its groove and to have finally settled into life in the Barmouth community. Though tourist reliant, the shop has built a regular and reliable off-season following among locals along with a united volunteer team. Due to COVID restrictions the shop was shut until mid-April; open again now during the busy summer months, it shows results that are testament to the experience, hard work and tenacity of Area Shops Manager Rachel Hemus.

Caernarfon – Also closed until mid-April, the Caernarfon shop has benefitted from the decision to employ a part-time, paid manager. The new structure has brought stability and leadership, and our wonderful volunteers have benefitted from the support this role has afforded them. Whilst COVID continued to make a mockery of our goals for a steady income, the shop shows great promise and will benefit further from an internal refit during 2022.

Porthmadog – Again, closed due to COVID until mid-April the Porthmadog shop has a steady following of local supporters which made the closure even more frustrating for staff, volunteers, and customers alike. In June long serving shop manager Trish retired to be replaced by Helen Mason. This shop has great potential and continues to work toward achieving this as the world slowly explores and begins to bed itself in to a new normal.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Llanidloes – Purely volunteer-run, the Llanidloes shop remained closed until mid-June. This little shop sits in a market town that is the first on the River Severn and famed as a gateway to the Cambrian Mountains of mid Wales. The shop is managed by Betty, a committed volunteer who donates her time and energy year after year to help the animals. We are grateful for Betty's commitment and inspired by her determination to be up and running again as soon as it was safe.

Southport – Open the first week of January, then slammed into lockdown the 2nd week until mid-April 2021, the Shakespeare Street shop continues to do well. We have benefitted from cover across a full seven days which has allowed a more strategic approach to merchandising, expanded our ability to pick up donations and drop off sales, and generally made us more readily available to those customers that need us. We are incredibly grateful to volunteer Ian, who worked so incredibly hard to help us get the shop shipshape and ready for reopening in April.

NET INCOME FROM SHOPS - YEAR ON YEAR COMPARISON

Shop	2020 £	2021 £	Variance
Barmouth	2,369.54	31,357.27	+ 1323%
Caernarfon	15,789.42	11,753.84	-25%
Llanidloes	13,472.44	6,654.91	-51%
Porthmadog	21,767.78	11,475.25	-47%
Southport	69,792.31	55,486.62	-20%
TOTAL	123,191.49	116,727.89	-5%

Notes to figures above:

The overall picture from those shops that we continued with in 2021 is in total a 5% drop in income. Considering the circumstances this is a surprisingly low decrease mainly due to excellent figures from the Barmouth shop. A truer representation might be to consider the Ormskirk and Llandudno shops which closed in 2020 and in that year gave us a net profit of £6050 and £17,388 respectively. Taking those figures into account shows a net loss against 2020 of 20%.

We remain committed to maintaining a presence on the high street; our shops are essential to us, and their role extends far beyond that of income generation. Just as Freshfields is 'more than a rescue', the shops, in turn, are more than a place to buy and sell goods. They are a gateway to our work, and for Freshfields to have a truly transformational impact on the lives of the animals we serve, we must view every interaction with the public as a chance to communicate our message. We are aware that the activities of the shops fully integrate with the work of the Rescue Centre. But, whatever our role within Freshfields, our purpose is the same: **Error in formula ->#NoAnimalLeftBehind<-**.

No shop report is complete without a massive shout out to our wonderful volunteers who make such an incredible difference to Freshfields, thanks to the hours they give freely to our shops each year. Unfortunately, for so many of them, isolated at home and unable to carry out their usual volunteering roles, lockdown made this year a significant struggle. We want every one of our volunteers to know that they are a precious gift, making a massive difference to hundreds of animals every year. Throughout lockdown, we have missed them as individuals, colleagues and friends, and we are so very grateful to each and every one of them!

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Risk management

Risk management, Healthy and Safety, Fire Safety, and Operational Communication & Practices have been reviewed throughout the year, with changes made as necessary

Related parties

There are no related parties.

Financial review

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

Reserves policy

The pressure on us to take in injured or unwanted animals continues to be so great that we work to our financial capacity. Ideally we should keep a reserve of around £650,000 which would ensure the running of the charity for 6 months. Currently unrestricted reserves amount to £1,459,671 of which £355,778 is reflected in tangible fixed assets. This leaves £1,103,893 free at this time.

Special acknowledgements

We would like to make special acknowledgement of the contribution of Trustee Victoria Wikeley. Vicky passed away unexpectedly in January 2022. Throughout her tenure as Trustee she generously shared her experience and her passion for animals to guide the board in the preparation of the strategic plan. Thank you, Vicky.

We would again like to thank Bill Esterson MP for his recognition of the value of animal rescue charities like Freshfields and his appreciation of the unique expertise and skills shown by our staff and volunteers.

We are grateful beyond words, to the amazing people listed below who so generously bequeathed gifts to us in their wills. It is our mission to ensure those legacies endure.

Anthea Royden
Audrey Hislop
Beverley Finn
C E Watts
Donald Ernest Horsey
Doris Coulson
Evelyn Budd
Irene Kay
Irene Lord
Jean Bennett
Kathleen Holland
Kenneth Horrocks
Linda Anne Ramsden
Majorie Alice Williams
Marguerite Kirstine Kernohan
Maureen Horrocks
Pamela Ann Roberts
Patricia Spreadbury
Phyllidia Hinde
RM Thompson
Rosalie Nash
Sarah Anita Gray
Sylvia McLuckie
W M Catt
Wm Stanley

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Special acknowledgements

Lastly, we must reiterate our sincere gratitude to every individual, group, funder, and company who have identified the crisis that local animals and people face and have committed to making an immediate and lasting difference through Freshfields Animal Rescue. We appreciate your faith in us and on behalf of us all, we commit to being there to provide the best care and outcomes for animals for as long as they need us.

We look forward to showing you the vital difference you have achieved in 2022.

We want to thank Sefton Council for their positive working relationship with the rescue centre and their advice and guidance in the initial stages of planning for the exciting development of our Adoption Hub.

We are grateful to Bill Esterson MP for his recognition of the value of animal rescue charities like Freshfields and his appreciation of the unique expertise and skills shown by our staff and volunteers.

We would like to thank Oliver Beaumont and his team at Tezlom Southport for choosing Freshfields as their Christmas 'Lend a Hand' Charity and sending their Santas to deliver some very jolly Christmas Hampers for the animals at the Liverpool Rescue Centre.

Lastly, we would like to reiterate our sincere gratitude to every individual, group, funder, and company who have identified the crisis that local animals and people face and have committed to making an immediate and lasting difference through Freshfields Animal Rescue. We appreciate your faith in us and on behalf of us all, we commit to being there to provide the best care and outcomes for animals for as long as they need us.

We look forward to showing you the vital difference you have achieved in 2021.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

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

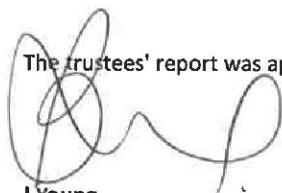
The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

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

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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



J Young

Trustee

Dated: 27 July 2022

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Freshfields Animal Rescue (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

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

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

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

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

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

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

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

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

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

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

Audit response to risks identified

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

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

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

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

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

Other matters

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

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

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited

Philip Griffiths (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited

27 July 2022

Accountants

Statutory Auditor

3rd Floor
5 Temple Square
Temple Street
Liverpool
Merseyside
L2 5RH

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

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

		Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
	Notes						
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	1,033,953	19,750	1,053,703	1,091,451	131,631	1,223,082
Charitable activities	4	45,133	-	45,133	47,963	-	47,963
Other trading activities	5	308,777	-	308,777	268,709	-	268,709
Other income	6	19,808	-	19,808	17,126	-	17,126
Total income		1,407,671	19,750	1,427,421	1,425,249	131,631	1,556,880
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	7	212,653	-	212,653	223,341	-	223,341
Charitable activities	8	1,002,430	52,711	1,055,141	963,416	40,084	1,003,500
Other		9,287	-	9,287	39,189	-	39,189
Total expenditure		1,224,370	52,711	1,277,081	1,225,946	40,084	1,266,030
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/							
Net movement in funds		183,301	(32,961)	150,340	199,303	91,547	290,850
Fund balances at 1 January 2021		1,276,370	238,636	1,515,006	1,077,067	147,089	1,224,156
Fund balances at 31 December 2021		1,459,671	205,675	1,665,346	1,276,370	238,636	1,515,006

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

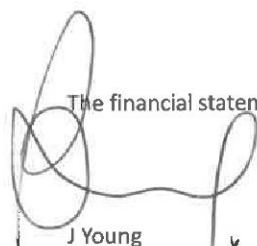
FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		560,138		505,864
Current assets					
Stocks	15	16,884		15,109	
Debtors	16	118,656		623,863	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,058,107		473,040	
		<u>1,193,647</u>		<u>1,112,012</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	<u>(88,439)</u>		<u>(102,870)</u>	
Net current assets			1,105,208		1,009,142
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>1,665,346</u>		<u>1,515,006</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	19	205,675		238,636	
Unrestricted funds		1,459,671		1,276,370	
		<u>1,665,346</u>		<u>1,515,006</u>	

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 27 July 2022


J Young
Trustee

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	25		697,405		125,893
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(113,187)		(35,272)	
Proceeds on disposal of tangible fixed assets		849		-	
Net cash used in investing activities			(112,338)		(35,272)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			585,067		90,621
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			473,040		382,419
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			<u>1,058,107</u>		<u>473,040</u>

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Freshfields Animal Rescue is a charitable incorporated organisation, registered in the United Kingdom. The address of the principal office is East Lodge Farm, East Lane, Ince Blundell, Liverpool, L29 3EA. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are described in the Trustees' Report on pages 3 and 4.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

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

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

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Charitable funds

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

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

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

1.4 Income

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

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

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

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

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

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

1.5 Expenditure

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

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

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

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

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

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

The analysis of these costs is included in note 9.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

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

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

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

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Financial instruments

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

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

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

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial assets

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

Impairment of financial assets

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

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

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

Derecognition of financial assets

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

Basic financial liabilities

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

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

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

Derecognition of financial liabilities

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

1.11 Taxation

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

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.12 Employee benefits

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

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

1.13 Retirement benefits

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

1.14 Operating lease agreements

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

1.15 Irrecoverable VAT

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

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2021	2021	2021	2020	2020	2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	393,454	5,000	398,454	402,973	12,587	415,560
Legacies receivable	585,067	-	585,067	458,095	-	458,095
Grants receivable	55,432	14,750	70,182	230,383	119,044	349,427
	<u>1,033,953</u>	<u>19,750</u>	<u>1,053,703</u>	<u>1,091,451</u>	<u>131,631</u>	<u>1,223,082</u>

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

4 Charitable activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Adoptions	45,133	47,963

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £
Fundraising events	23,094	35,222
Shop income	285,683	233,487
Other trading activities	308,777	268,709

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £
Other income	10,311	7,620
Commission	9,497	9,506
	19,808	17,126

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

7 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2020
	£	£
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Purchases	8,637	9,118
Rent and rates	44,660	79,423
Light and heat	7,302	11,072
Advertising	-	150
Other fundraising costs	11,233	7,997
Staff costs	53,281	37,944
Depreciation and impairment	386	406
Fundraising and publicity	125,499	146,110
<u>Trading costs</u>		
Staff costs	87,154	77,231
	212,653	223,341

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

8 Charitable activities

	Charitable Expenditure 2021 £	Charitable Expenditure 2020 £
Staff costs	689,542	696,911
Depreciation and impairment	48,389	42,218
Centre - restricted	29,819	22,780
Travel expenses	735	758
Grant spend	5,355	6,605
Vet fees	44,468	50,029
Animal food and care	27,257	25,278
Small equipment	3,559	3,237
Rates and water	140	307
Light and heat	31,481	40,097
Repairs and maintenance	9,097	(34,005)
Sundry expenses	4,383	39
Veterinary consumables	32,977	39,092
Hygiene and waste	22,443	18,479
Motor expenses	7,090	9,510
	<u>956,735</u>	<u>921,335</u>
Share of support costs (see note 9)	90,706	75,065
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	7,700	7,100
	<u>1,055,141</u>	<u>1,003,500</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	1,002,430	963,416
Restricted funds	52,711	40,084
	<u>1,055,141</u>	<u>1,003,500</u>

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

9 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2021	Support costs	Governance costs	2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance	25,766	-	25,766	15,492	-	15,492
Telephone	10,383	-	10,383	7,558	-	7,558
Postage and stationery	13,712	-	13,712	14,560	-	14,560
Bank charges	10,762	-	10,762	9,150	-	9,150
Computer expenses and consumables	6,353	-	6,353	15,123	-	15,123
Staff training	1,996	-	1,996	2,249	-	2,249
Legal and professional fees	21,734	-	21,734	10,933	-	10,933
Audit fees	-	7,700	7,700	-	7,100	7,100
	<u>90,706</u>	<u>7,700</u>	<u>98,406</u>	<u>75,065</u>	<u>7,100</u>	<u>82,165</u>
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	<u>90,706</u>	<u>7,700</u>	<u>98,406</u>	<u>75,065</u>	<u>7,100</u>	<u>82,165</u>

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £7,700 (2020- £7,100) for audit fees. Legal and professional fees include costs of £1,260 for accountancy support (2020 - £2,695).

10 Net movement in funds

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting)		
Fees payable to the company's auditor for the audit of the company's financial statements	7,700	7,100
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	48,775	42,624
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	<u>9,287</u>	<u>39,189</u>

11 Trustees

The total remuneration paid to a trustee was £32,600 (2020 £32,700). In addition pension contributions amounting to £795 (2020 £795) were paid in respect of one trustee. Full details are provided in note 23.

There were no trustees' expenses reimbursed during the year ended 31 December 2021, nor for the year ended 31 December 2020.

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel is £188,296 (2020 £174,248). The trustees consider the key management personnel to be; the Director, Operations Managers (Liverpool and Wales), Finance Manager, Fundraising Manager, and the Area Shops Managers (Liverpool and Wales).

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Management and administration	8	7
Fundraisers	4	10
Animal workers	35	34
Total	47	51

Employment costs

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	770,252	752,592
Social security costs	47,155	46,946
Other pension costs	12,570	12,548
	829,977	812,086

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

13 Taxation

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

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold improvements to property £	Freehold improvements to property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost						
At 1 January 2021	170,968	552,532	153,140	13,819	41,044	931,503
Additions	-	89,439	16,360	2,004	5,384	113,187
Disposals	-	-	(22,318)	(13,819)	(12,769)	(48,906)
At 31 December 2021	170,968	641,971	147,182	2,004	33,659	995,784
Depreciation and impairment						
At 1 January 2021	56,168	222,095	113,385	6,103	27,890	425,641
Depreciation charged in the year	3,079	25,679	14,242	887	4,888	48,775
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	-	(21,898)	(6,489)	(10,383)	(38,770)
At 31 December 2021	59,247	247,774	105,729	501	22,395	435,646
Carrying amount						
At 31 December 2021	111,721	394,197	41,453	1,503	11,264	560,138
At 31 December 2020	114,800	330,439	39,755	7,716	13,154	505,864

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

15 Stocks

	2021 £	2020 £
Animal feed, consumables and veterinary supplies	16,884	15,109

16 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	4,604	12,843
Prepayments and accrued income	114,051	611,018
	118,655	623,861

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Other taxation and social security	23,282	9,683
Trade creditors	23,209	57,487
Other creditors	1,430	1,311
Accruals and deferred income	40,518	34,389
	88,439	102,870

18 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £12,570 (2020 - £12,548).

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

19 Restricted funds

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

	Movement in funds			Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 January 2020	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 1 January 2021	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 December 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Dog Sensory Garden donation	54,749	-	(8,138)	46,611	-	(8,138)	38,473
New ambulance appeal	8,741	-	(926)	7,815	-	(1,954)	5,861
On-site vet room	17,658	-	(2,377)	15,281	-	(2,377)	12,904
Wales Centre improvements	37,076	-	(1,545)	35,531	-	(1,545)	33,986
The Pet Plan Charitable Trust	5,419	-	(926)	4,493	-	(1,123)	3,370
The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust	15,371	-	(833)	14,538	-	(3,635)	10,903
Doreen Greenlees Trust	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	(200)	4,800
Hill Dickinson	-	12,587	-	12,587	-	(503)	12,084
Animal Friends	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-	-	-
Co-Operative Community Fund	8,075	-	(2,563)	5,512	-	(4,254)	1,258
Pet Plan	-	4,250	(4,250)	-	-	-	-
Support Adoption for Pets	-	85,344	-	85,344	-	(3,414)	81,930
Battersea Dogs' Home	-	9,750	(6,551)	3,199	3,250	(6,449)	-
Barry Green Memorial Fund	-	5,000	(2,325)	2,675	-	(2,675)	-
Gallimore Trust	-	150	(150)	-	500	(500)	-
William Dean Trust	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	500	(500)	-
'Will Week'	-	50	-	50	-	(2)	48
Jean Sainsbury	-	7,500	(7,500)	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
Other	-	-	-	-	10,500	(10,442)	58
	<u>147,089</u>	<u>131,631</u>	<u>(40,084)</u>	<u>238,636</u>	<u>19,750</u>	<u>(52,711)</u>	<u>205,675</u>

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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 2021

19 Restricted funds

(Continued)

Hill Dickinson

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

Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust

The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust provided emergency funding of £5,000 for the payment of veterinary fees during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Support Adoption for Pets

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

Barry Green Memorial Fund

The Barry Green Memorial Fund contributed £5,000 towards the charity's medication costs.

Gallimore Trust

This charity donated £500 towards the centre's veterinary bills.

William Dean Trust

This charity made a contribution of £500 towards the centre's veterinary bills.

'Will Week'

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

Battersea Dogs and Cats Home

This charity donated £13,000 towards the delivery of a behaviourally-enhanced rehoming programme at the Animal Adoption Hub for dogs held for long periods.

Other

The other restricted income comprises £500 received from The Hemby Trust for the provision of hedgehog accommodation, and the following sums contributed towards veterinary fees: Adoption for Pets £5,000; The Carmela £2,500; Alice Noakes £2,500.

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2021	2021	2021	2020	2020	2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2021 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	355,778	204,360	560,138	381,595	124,269	505,864
Current assets/(liabilities)	1,103,893	1,315	1,105,208	894,775	114,367	1,009,142
	<u>1,459,671</u>	<u>205,675</u>	<u>1,665,346</u>	<u>1,276,370</u>	<u>238,636</u>	<u>1,515,006</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:

	2021 £	2020 £
Within one year	43,875	51,500
Between two and five years	52,500	72,125
	<u>96,375</u>	<u>123,625</u>

22 Capital commitments

As at 31 December 2021 the entity had no capital commitments, being contracted for but not provided in the financial statements.

23 Related party transactions

Helen Stanbury, a trustee of the charity, is also employed as the director of the charity. All interests have been declared to the Charity Commission and conflicts of interest are appropriately managed. During this financial year Helen Stanbury received gross wages of £32,600 (2020: £32,700) for her work in this capacity. The charity also paid employer pension contributions of £795 on behalf of Mrs Stanbury (2020: £795).

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

During the year the charity paid trustees insurance amounting to £800 (2020: £660).

24 APB ethical standard

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

FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

25	Cash generated from operations	2021 £	2020 £
	Surplus for the year	150,340	290,850
	Adjustments for:		
	Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	9,287	39,189
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	48,775	42,624
	Movements in working capital:		
	(Increase) in stocks	(1,775)	(166)
	Decrease/(increase) in debtors	505,209	(244,671)
	(Decrease) in creditors	(14,431)	(1,937)
	Cash generated from operations	697,405	125,889
26	Analysis of changes in net funds		
	The charity had no debt during the year.		