

RABBIT WELFARE FUND

England & Wales · Charity number 1167093

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2016-05-16

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 61 Bridge Street
Kington
HR5 3DJ

Phone 01823602727

Email info@rabbitwelfare.co.uk

Website www.rabbitwelfare.co.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE CARE AND OWNERSHIP OF DOMESTIC RABBITS KEPT AS PETS IN BRITAIN AND TO FURTHER ADVANCE THE KNOWLEDGE OF RABBIT MEDICINE AMONGST THE UK VETERINARY PROFESSION TO CONDUCT OR PROMOTE THE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH AND PUBLISH THE USEFUL RESULTS OF SUCH RESEARCH INTO SPECIFIC HEALTH PROJECTS IN ORDER TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF COMMON HEALTH PROBLEMS IN DOMESTIC RABBITS

Activities: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE CARE AND OWNERSHIP OF DOMESTIC RABBITS KEPT AS PETS. ALSO TO FURTHER ADVANCE THE KNOWLEDGE OF RABBIT MEDICINE AMONGST THE UK VETERINARY PROFESSION.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training, Animals
- **Who:** Children/young People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£105,074	£143,348	-	-
2024-03-31	£171,273	£93,046	-	-
2023-03-31	£90,445	£148,110	-	-
2022-03-31	£93,444	£96,050	-	-
2021-03-31	£107,040	£62,884	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ALAN WILSON		2019-03-22
Emma Boyd		2019-03-22
RACHEL JANE Scrafton		2019-03-22
ROSLYN LAMB		2019-03-22

Linked charities

- RABBIT WELFARE FUND (1167093-1)

RABBIT WELFARE FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1167093

Accounts

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
CHARITY INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Charity No. 1167093

Registered Office

61 Bridge Street
Kington
HR5 3DJ

Trustees

Rachel Walters
Emma Boyd
Roslyn Lamb
Alan Wilson

Accountants

Noakes Accounting Limited
66 South Street
Taunton
TA1 3AF

Independent Examiners

Albert Goodman LLP
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
TA1 2PX

RABBIT WELFARE FUND TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Introduction

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared 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) (effective 1 January 2019), as detailed in the accounting policies.

Administration

Rabbit Welfare Fund Registered Charity No. 1167093

Trustees

The following Trustees served during the year:

Rachel Walters
Emma Boyd
Roslyn Lamb
Alan Wilson

Registered Office

61 Bridge Street
Kington
HR5 3DJ

Accountants

Noakes Accounting Limited
66 South Street
Taunton
TA1 3AF

Independent Examiners

Albert Goodman LLP
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
TA1 2PX

Specialist Vet Adviser

Dr Richard Saunders

Structure, governance and management

Rabbit Welfare Fund (the "Charity") was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 16 May 2016, charity number 1167093.

All of the trustees currently in place are the first charity trustees, and hence have been in place since the Charity was registered. As stated in the governing document, these trustees will remain in place until they resign or are removed. Any additional trustees, of which there are currently none, shall have terms of three years.

The trustees are responsible for proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Rabbit Welfare Fund was formed when the sister membership organisation Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund, a limited by guarantee company (Company No. 10044925), was receiving donations to put towards improving rabbit welfare. The two organisations still share common goals and Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund ("RWAF") still raise donations on behalf of Rabbit Welfare Fund.

RABBIT WELFARE FUND TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Aims and objectives

These remain unchanged as:

TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE CARE AND OWNERSHIP OF DOMESTIC RABBITS KEPT AS PETS IN BRITAIN AND TO FURTHER ADVANCE THE KNOWLEDGE OF RABBIT MEDICINE AMONGST THE UK VETERINARY PROFESSION.

TO CONDUCT OR PROMOTE THE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH AND PUBLISH THE USEFUL RESULTS OF SUCH RESEARCH INTO SPECIFIC HEALTH PROJECTS IN ORDER TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF COMMON HEALTH PROBLEMS IN DOMESTIC RABBITS.

Achievements and performance for the year April 2024 to March 2025

As a small organisation, we must focus our limited resources where they can have the greatest impact. Our efforts in education, campaigning, and lobbying are designed to support the vital and often difficult work carried out by rehoming organisations across the country.

Key Facts About Rabbit Welfare

Many of you will be familiar with the following facts, but they bear repeating:

- An estimated 1.5 million rabbits are now kept as pets in the UK — a significant increase from 1 million last year. Many new owners lack experience and understanding of the species' needs.
- When cared for properly, rabbits can live **10–12 years**, making them a long-term commitment.
- Rabbits are frequently misunderstood and are often kept alone, in inadequate housing, with poor diets and insufficient veterinary care.
- **Most commercially available rabbit housing is unsuitable.**
- **Incorrect care advice** is commonly given to owners.
- There is no legislation requiring accurate sexing of rabbits at the point of sale. This, combined with the rise in inexperienced ownership, has led to a surge in accidental litters.
- Female rabbits can become pregnant immediately after giving birth — a fact unknown to around one-third of rabbit owners.
- The COVID-19 lockdowns triggered a boom in unregulated breeding and sales.
- Online sales have increased dramatically, with little to no welfare guidance provided to buyers.
- Outside of Scotland, rabbit breeders are not licensed or inspected.
- These factors, compounded by the cost-of-living crisis, have led to a **rescue and abandonment crisis**. Pre-COVID, approximately 67,000 rabbits entered rescue annually; this figure is now estimated to be closer to **100,000**.
- Rescues report a sharp rise in rabbits being abandoned or dumped — many are overwhelmed and unable to cope.
- Rabbits are also rehomed informally online, further contributing to the abandonment crisis, which is now considered the worst in over 25 years.
- Rabbits are not only kept in homes and gardens but are also found in **farm parks, petting zoos, and agricultural shows**, where welfare standards are often inadequate, causing suffering and setting poor examples for the public.

The Rescue Crisis

Currently, **anyone can legally breed and sell rabbits**, regardless of experience or knowledge. This has led to widespread irresponsible breeding, mis-sexing, and the sale of rabbits without proper checks or care information. The result is a growing number of accidental litters, abandoned animals, and overwhelmed rescue centres.

We believe that **legislative change** is urgently needed to improve welfare standards and reduce abandonment rates. Our campaign to close this loophole gained significant traction in 2025.

Our **Easter broadcast campaign** highlighted the lack of licensing requirements for breeders. We collaborated with adoption centres across the UK to share local stories with local media outlets, resulting in widespread coverage. The campaign achieved **39 million views across all media platforms**, including national radio and a prime-time television appearance — our most successful media campaign to date.

Education and Support

Educating and supporting rabbit owners is central to improving welfare. Our website receives approximately **40,000 unique visitors per month**, and we work diligently to ensure the information is accurate, accessible, and comprehensive.

Our **free helpline** is available to all — from rabbit owners to concerned neighbours. We received around **2,000 calls a year**.

RABBIT WELFARE FUND TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Empowering the Public to Take Action

To support concerned individuals, we have added **complaint templates** to our website. These resources are designed to help animal lovers raise formal concerns about welfare standards at farm parks, petting zoos, mobile zoos, and pet shops. By making the legislation accessible and actionable, we aim to empower the public to advocate for better treatment of animals in these settings.

Demanding Legislative Change

In response to the **Post-Implementation Review of the Licensing of Activities Involving Animals (LAIA)** legislation, we produced a comprehensive review and submitted three key recommendations aimed at significantly improving rabbit welfare in England:

1. **Amend the LAIA Regulations** to make rabbit breeding a licensable activity, and require that all animals sold are correctly sexed.
2. **Provide additional resources to Local Authorities (LAs)** to enable more effective enforcement of the LAIA Regulations.
3. **Elevate the Good Practice Code for the Welfare of Rabbits** to a statutory Code of Practice.

Our recommendations were shared with relevant Members of Parliament, Government Ministers, and bodies including Defra, and we have campaigned vigorously to ensure these proposals are considered in any future legislative updates. We also attended the **Companion Animal Sector Council (CASC) Forum** in March, where we engaged directly with key stakeholders to advocate for these changes. Our efforts will continue.

To support this campaign, we created a **template letter** and encouraged our supporters to write to their MPs. We are grateful to all who took action, your voices are vital.

In addition, we met with **DAERA** in Northern Ireland to discuss the many welfare challenges facing rabbits and to encourage their inclusion in the next iteration of the **Animal Welfare Pathway**.

RVHD2: Another Year, Another Strain

In 2025, we responded to the emergence of a new strain of **Rabbit Viral Haemorrhagic Disease 2 (RVHD2-HV)**. Our work focused on combating misinformation and educating both veterinary professionals and rabbit owners about the need for an updated vaccine alongside the existing one.

This required extensive research, and we issued regular evidence-based updates to both groups. We were pleased to receive the support of the **British Veterinary Zoological Society (BZVS)**, who co-signed a joint statement endorsing our findings and recommendations.

Supporting Public Complaints

Local Authorities are responsible for enforcing legislation that protects rabbit welfare. However, enforcement is inconsistent and often inadequate due to limited resources and varying priorities. In 2024, we submitted a **Freedom of Information request** to every LA in the UK. The responses revealed that only **six licensed rabbit breeders** exist nationwide — a clear indication that the **'business test'** within current legislation is not being applied, and that breeders are operating without welfare checks.

To empower the public, we have developed a range of **complaint templates and supporting materials**, now available on our website. These resources enable individuals to report welfare concerns effectively, referencing the relevant legislation. Notably, the first use of our template resulted in the **cessation of small animal sales at a local auction**.

Sponsor a Rescue

For over a decade, we have supported the invaluable work of rabbit rescues across the UK. To date, we have raised **over £60,000**, which has been distributed to support their efforts.

Financial review

The Rabbit Welfare Fund is relatively small charity and the majority of the income funds our campaigning and educational work.

Income had decreased significantly from £171,273 to £105,074 during this period, due to fewer large legacies having been received compared with the previous year. Overheads have increased, leaving a net deficit of £38,274, compared with last year's surplus of £78,227. We continue to monitor our overheads and reserves to ensure that we are able to meet our obligations.

We are not large enough to have investments, other than money in our deposit bank account, so we do not have an investment policy or risk assessment in place for this. As at 31 March 2025 our funds at the bank were slightly greater than the £85,000 covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme in full.

The risks that could affect the charity are, like all charities a drop in donations. With the current economic uncertainty, we have to bear this in mind. We have considered the risk this may cause us and have come to the conclusion that the risk is minimal because the majority of the donations we receive are small. We do not take financial risk.

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

We generate a significant amount of donations from members of RWAf and any orders processed via our website shop.rabbitwelfare.co.uk.

We have a reserves policy in place, whereby we maintain 3 months of general unrestricted funds in our deposit account. This is to cover unforeseen drops in income. As at year end 31 March 2025 there was £83,442 of general unrestricted funds, which is in excess of that required by the policy.

Plans for future periods

Our focus going forward will be educating the public on the proper care needs of rabbits. A key part of this is addressing how rabbits are presented in public spaces, such as farm parks. We will be reaching out to farm parks and asking them to:

1. Stop using rabbits in 'pat-a-pet' sessions.
2. Improve housing standards and provide accurate educational information so visitors learn best practices for rabbit care.

In addition, we plan to bring back our annual conference and launch a dedicated educational day for professionals who work with rabbits.

Approval

This report was approved by the board of Trustees on 17 January 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Rachel Walters
Trustee

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Independent examiners report to the Trustees of Rabbit Welfare Fund

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for Rabbit Welfare Fund ("the charity") for the year ended 31 March 2025, set out on pages 7 - 16.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not comply with these records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair view" which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Michelle Ferris BSc (Hons) FCA DChA
Albert Goodman LLP
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
TA1 2PX

28 January 2026

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

		Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	54,900	1,810	56,710	131,569	2,056	133,625
Charitable activities	4	20,221	-	20,221	11,884	-	11,884
Investments	5	1,503	-	1,503	591	-	591
Other	6	26,640	-	26,640	25,173	-	25,173
Total		103,264	1,810	105,074	169,217	2,056	171,273
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	7	6,729	1,768	8,497	266	1,169	1,435
Charitable activities	8	31,307	-	31,307	18,023	-	18,023
Other	9	99,715	3,829	103,544	72,803	785	73,588
Total		137,751	5,597	143,348	91,092	1,954	93,046
Net income/(expenditure)		(34,487)	(3,787)	(38,274)	78,125	102	78,227
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(34,487)	(3,787)	(38,274)	78,125	102	78,227
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		129,929	34,596	164,525	51,804	34,494	86,298
Total funds carried forward	16	95,442	30,809	126,251	129,929	34,596	164,525

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 16 to the financial statements.

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	2025 £	2024 £
Income	103,571	170,682
Interest and investment income	1,503	591
Gross income for the year	<u>105,074</u>	<u>171,273</u>
Total expenditure for the year	(143,348)	(93,046)
Net (deficit)/surplus before tax for the year	<u>(38,274)</u>	<u>78,227</u>
Net (deficit)/surplus for the year	<u>(38,274)</u>	<u>78,227</u>

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

			2025 £	2024 £
Current assets				
Stocks	13	2,000	10,000	
Debtors	14	30,768	112,040	
Cash at bank and in hand		96,858	46,940	
		129,626	168,980	
Liabilities				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(3,375)	(4,455)	
Net current assets			126,251	164,525
Total assets less current liabilities			126,251	164,525
Net assets excluding pension asset or liability			126,251	164,525
Net assets			126,251	164,525
The funds of the charity				
Restricted funds				
Restricted income funds	16	30,809	34,596	
			30,809	34,596
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	16	83,442	121,929	
Designated funds	16	12,000	8,000	
		95,442	129,929	
Total funds			126,251	164,525

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 17 January 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Rachel Walters
Trustee

RABBIT WELFARE FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Accounting basis

The financial statements have been prepared 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) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Change in basis of accounting or to previous periods

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and method of accounting) since last year and no changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted general funds	These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.
Unrestricted designated funds	These are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.
Restricted income funds	These are available for use subject to restrictions imposed by the donor or through terms of an appeal.

Income

Recognition of income	Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to, and virtually certain to receive, the income and the amount of the income can be measured with sufficient reliability.
Income with related expenditure	Where income has related expenditure the income and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.
Donations and legacies	Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in the SoFA when receivable and only when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the income.
Tax reclaims on donations and gifts	Income from tax reclaims is included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift/donation to which it relates.
Donated services and facilities	These are only included in income (with an equivalent amount in expenditure) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable, and material.
Volunteer help	The value of any volunteer help is not included within the accounts.
Investment income	This is included within the accounts when receivable.
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	This includes any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value.
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	This includes any gain or loss of the sale of investments.

Expenditure

Recognition of expenditure	Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis. Expenditure includes any VAT that cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.
Expenditure on raising funds	These comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income, fundraising trading costs and investment management costs.
Expenditure on charitable activities	These comprise the costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services in the furtherance of its objects, including the making of grants and governance costs.
Grants payable	All grant expenditure is accounted for on an accrual paid basis plus an accrual for grants that have been approved by the trustees at the end of the year but not yet paid.

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Governance costs These include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity, including any audit/independent examination fees, costs linked to the strategic management of the charity, together with a share of other administration costs.

Other expenditure These are support costs not allocated to a particular activity.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

Taxation

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

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprised cash at bank and on hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the Statement of Financial Position, bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings or current liabilities. In the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the charity's cash management.

Trade and other creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has as present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial assets, including trade and other receivables, cash and bank balances and investments in commercial paper, are initially recognised at transaction price. Such assets are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables, bank loans, loans from group companies and preference shares that are classified as debt, are initially recognised at transaction price. Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

2 Charity information

Rabbit Welfare Fund is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales. The registered office address is 61 Bridge Street, Kington, HR5 3DJ.

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations	37,135	-	37,135	113,234	-	113,234
Fundraising	16,027	-	16,027	17,291	-	17,291
Sponsor A Rescue	-	1,810	1,810	-	2,056	2,056
Gift Aid	1,738	-	1,738	1,044	-	1,044
	<u>54,900</u>	<u>1,810</u>	<u>56,710</u>	<u>131,569</u>	<u>2,056</u>	<u>133,625</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Charitable activities income	20,221	-	20,221	11,884	-	11,884
	<u>20,221</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,221</u>	<u>11,884</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,884</u>

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Bank interest	1,503	-	1,503	591	-	591
	<u>1,503</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,503</u>	<u>591</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>591</u>

6 Other income

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
RWAF management fee income	26,640	-	26,640	25,173	-	25,173
	<u>26,640</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,640</u>	<u>25,173</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,173</u>

7 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Fundraising	6,729	-	6,729	266	-	266
Sponsor A Rescue	-	1,768	1,768	-	1,169	1,169
	<u>6,729</u>	<u>1,768</u>	<u>8,497</u>	<u>266</u>	<u>1,169</u>	<u>1,435</u>

8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Charitable activities expenditure	31,307	-	31,307	18,023	-	18,023
	<u>31,307</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,307</u>	<u>18,023</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,023</u>

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Benevolent Fund Veterinary Payments	-	372	372	-	-	-
Other Expenditure - RWF Rescue Rabbits	-	3,457	3,457	1,801	785	2,586
Management and volunteer costs	70,434	-	70,434	50,900	-	50,900
Premises costs	2,955	-	2,955	2,991	-	2,991
General administrative costs	7,148	-	7,148	5,251	-	5,251
Interest payable and similar costs	25	-	25	11	-	11
Legal and professional costs	19,153	-	19,153	11,849	-	11,849
	<u>99,715</u>	<u>3,829</u>	<u>103,544</u>	<u>72,803</u>	<u>785</u>	<u>73,588</u>

Included within 'Legal and professional costs' is an expense for independent examination fees of £1,670 (2024: £1,160).

10 Staff numbers

The average number of employees during the year was as follows: 3 (2024: 3).

11 Staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2024: None).

Rachel Walters (trustee) received payment for management services supplied to the charity during the year totalling £40,794, including benefits (2024: £40,353). Rachel was reimbursed travel, veterinary, and training expenses during the year totalling £2,024 (2024: £609). The total amount owing to Rachel Walters at 31 March 2025 was £Nil (2024: £292).

Roslyn Lamb (trustee) received payment for administrative services supplied to the charity during the year totalling £6,246, including benefits (2024: £6,543). Roslyn was reimbursed travel and training expenses during the year totalling £232 (2024: £Nil). The total amount owing to Roslyn Lamb at 31 March 2025 was £Nil (2024: £312).

Emma Boyd (trustee) was reimbursed travel expenses during the year totalling £346 (2024: £Nil). The total amount owing to Emma Boyd at 31 March 2025 was £Nil (2024: £Nil).

Alan Wilson (trustee) was reimbursed travel expenses during the year totalling £238 (2024: £Nil). The total amount owing to Alan Wilson at 31 March 2025 was £Nil (2024: £Nil).

All of the trustees received their remuneration through the payroll of the charity with effect from 1 January 2021, with Rachel Walters previously receiving her remuneration as self-employed income. All of the payments made were permitted by the charity's governing document.

12 Related party transactions

All of the four trustees of the charity also serve as the directors of Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund ("RWAF"), a company limited by guarantee, and have control over this entity.

During the year the charity became due the following donations and other monies from RWAF:

	2025 £	2024 £
Collected by RWAF from individual donors	21,497	22,245
Direct donation from RWAF	3,532	5,925
Debtor monies owed to the charity, received into RWAF bank account	5,900	-
	<u>30,929</u>	<u>28,170</u>

None of the donations would be considered outside the normal course of business. There were no restricted donations from RWAF itself, or any other related party. During the year the charity received £23,503 (2024: £19,531) from RWAF in respect of amounts owing to it as above.

During the year RWAF became due the following amounts from the charity of which £1,193 (2024: £Nil) had been reimbursed:

	2025 £	2024 £
Advertising expenses	-	3,001
Vets fees, food and other rabbit welfare provisions	2,413	1,758
Share of rent of 'lock-up' premises	2,331	2,331
Salaries paid from RWAF in error	-	1,280
RWAF income received into charity bank account	50	24
	<u>4,794</u>	<u>8,394</u>

The total amount owed to the charity by RWAF at 31 March 2025 was £27,328 (2024: £23,503).

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

13 Stocks

	2025	2024
	£	£
Finished Goods (RWF Leaflets)	2,000	10,000
	<u>2,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>

14 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	400	-
Accrued income and prepayments	3,040	88,537
Other debtors	27,328	23,503
	<u>30,768</u>	<u>112,040</u>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals	3,375	3,125
Other taxes and social security	-	726
Other creditors	-	604
	<u>3,375</u>	<u>4,455</u>

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

16 Movement in funds

16.1 Current year

	At 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
Restricted Income Funds:					
Sponsor A Rescue Fund	2,836	1,810	(1,768)	-	2,878
Benevolent Fund	31,760	-	(3,829)	-	27,931
Total	34,596	1,810	(5,597)	-	30,809
Unrestricted Funds					
General Funds:	121,929	103,264	(126,330)	(15,421)	83,442
Designated Funds:					
Vet Specialist Adviser Fund	8,000	-	(11,421)	15,421	12,000
Total	8,000	-	(11,421)	15,421	12,000
Total Funds	164,525	105,074	(143,348)	-	126,251

16.2 Prior year

	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
Restricted Income Funds:					
Sponsor A Rescue Fund	1,949	2,056	(1,169)	-	2,836
Benevolent Fund	32,545	-	(785)	-	31,760
Total	34,494	2,056	(1,954)	-	34,596
Unrestricted Funds					
General Funds:	31,304	169,217	(82,468)	3,876	121,929
Designated Funds:					
Vet Specialist Adviser Fund	8,000	-	(8,624)	8,624	8,000
Premises Fund	12,500	-	-	(12,500)	-
Total	20,500	-	(8,624)	(3,876)	8,000
Total Funds	86,298	171,273	(93,046)	-	164,525

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Purposes and restrictions in relation to the funds:

Revaluation reserves Represent the amount by which investments exceed their historical cost.

Restricted funds:

Sponsor A Rescue Fund Represents sponsorship donations which are split and used to support a number of rescue shelters.

Benevolent Fund Represents grants received to enable the medical care of rescued rabbits. The source of these funds during the 2024-25 accounting year has been the Ellis Power legacy.

Designated funds:

Vet Specialist Adviser Fund Represents funds set aside for the provision of specialist advice required by the charity in furtherance of its core aims and objectives.

Premises Fund Represents funds set aside for unexpected premises and relocation costs.

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

17.1 Current year

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	66,049	30,809	96,858
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	29,393	-	29,393
Total	<u>95,442</u>	<u>30,809</u>	<u>126,251</u>

17.2 Prior year

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	12,344	34,596	46,940
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	117,585	-	117,585
Total	<u>129,929</u>	<u>34,596</u>	<u>164,525</u>

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

This page does not form part of the statutory accounts

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies						
Donations	37,135	-	37,135	113,234	-	113,234
Fundraising	16,027	-	16,027	17,291	-	17,291
Sponsor A Rescue	-	1,810	1,810	-	2,056	2,056
Gift Aid	1,738	-	1,738	1,044	-	1,044
	<u>54,900</u>	<u>1,810</u>	<u>56,710</u>	<u>131,569</u>	<u>2,056</u>	<u>133,625</u>
Charitable activities						
Charitable activities income	20,221	-	20,221	11,884	-	11,884
	<u>20,221</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,221</u>	<u>11,884</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,884</u>
Investments						
Bank interest	1,503	-	1,503	591	-	591
	<u>1,503</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,503</u>	<u>591</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>591</u>
Other						
RWAf management fee income	26,640	-	26,640	25,173	-	25,173
	<u>26,640</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,640</u>	<u>25,173</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,173</u>
Total Income and endowments	<u>103,264</u>	<u>1,810</u>	<u>105,074</u>	<u>169,217</u>	<u>2,056</u>	<u>171,273</u>
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds						
Fundraising	6,729	-	6,729	266	-	266
Sponsor A Rescue	-	1,768	1,768	-	1,169	1,169
	<u>6,729</u>	<u>1,768</u>	<u>8,497</u>	<u>266</u>	<u>1,169</u>	<u>1,435</u>
Charitable activities						
Charitable activities expenditure	31,307	-	31,307	18,023	-	18,023
	<u>31,307</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,307</u>	<u>18,023</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,023</u>
Other						
Benevolent Fund Veterinary Payments	-	372	372	-	-	-
Other Expenditure - RWF Rescue Rabbits	-	3,457	3,457	1,801	785	2,586
	<u>-</u>	<u>3,829</u>	<u>3,829</u>	<u>1,801</u>	<u>785</u>	<u>2,586</u>
Management and volunteer costs						
Wages & salaries	66,260	-	66,260	50,539	-	50,539
Employers' NI	1,442	-	1,442	-	-	-
Pensions	502	-	502	34	-	34
Training	226	-	226	119	-	119
Travel & subsistence	2,004	-	2,004	208	-	208
	<u>70,434</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>70,434</u>	<u>50,900</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,900</u>
Premises costs						
Rent	2,331	-	2,331	2,331	-	2,331
Use of home	624	-	624	624	-	624
Cleaning	-	-	-	36	-	36
	<u>2,955</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,955</u>	<u>2,991</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,991</u>

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

This page does not form part of the statutory accounts

General administrative costs						
Software costs	5,383	-	5,383	4,899	-	4,899
Insurance	479	-	479	88	-	88
Printing, postage & stationery	70	-	70	204	-	204
Telephone & internet	216	-	216	-	-	-
Subscriptions	939	-	939	-	-	-
Bank charges	61	-	61	60	-	60
	<u>7,148</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,148</u>	<u>5,251</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,251</u>
Interest payable and similar costs						
Other loan interest	25	-	25	11	-	11
	<u>25</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11</u>
Legal and professional costs						
Accountancy fees	1,980	-	1,980	1,980	-	1,980
Independent Examination fees	1,670	-	1,670	1,160	-	1,160
Solicitors fees	11,421	-	11,421	8,624	-	8,624
Other legal & professional fees	4,082	-	4,082	85	-	85
	<u>19,153</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,153</u>	<u>11,849</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,849</u>
Total expenditure	<u>137,751</u>	<u>5,597</u>	<u>143,348</u>	<u>91,092</u>	<u>1,954</u>	<u>93,046</u>
Net income/(expenditure)	<u>(34,487)</u>	<u>(3,787)</u>	<u>(38,274)</u>	<u>78,125</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>78,227</u>
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	<u>(34,487)</u>	<u>(3,787)</u>	<u>(38,274)</u>	<u>78,125</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>78,227</u>

RABBIT WELFARE FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1167093

Accounts

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
CHARITY INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Charity No. 1167093

Registered Office

61 Bridge Street
Kington
HR5 3DJ

Trustees

Rachel Walters
Emma Boyd
Roslyn Lamb
Alan Wilson

Accountants

Noakes Accounting Limited
66 South Street
Taunton
TA1 3AF

Independent Examiners

Albert Goodman LLP
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
TA1 2PX

RABBIT WELFARE FUND TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Introduction

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared 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) (effective 1 January 2019), as detailed in the accounting policies.

Administration

Rabbit Welfare Fund Registered Charity No. 1167093

Trustees

The following Trustees served during the year:

Rachel Walters
Emma Boyd
Roslyn Lamb
Alan Wilson

Registered Office

61 Bridge Street
Kington
HR5 3DJ

Accountants

Noakes Accounting Limited
66 South Street
Taunton
TA1 3AF

Independent Examiners

Albert Goodman LLP
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
TA1 2PX

H&S Adviser

Mark Dron

Specialist Vet Adviser

Dr Richard Saunders

Structure, governance and management

Rabbit Welfare Fund (the "Charity") was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 16 May 2016, charity number 1167093.

All of the trustees currently in place are the first charity trustees, and hence have been in place since the Charity was registered. As stated in the governing document, these trustees will remain in place until they resign or are removed. Any additional trustees, of which there are currently none, shall have terms of three years.

The trustees are responsible for proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Rabbit Welfare Fund was formed when the sister membership organisation Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund, a limited by guarantee company (Company No. 10044925), was receiving donations to put towards improving rabbit welfare. The two organisations still share common goals and Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund ("RWAF") still raise donations on behalf of Rabbit Welfare Fund.

RABBIT WELFARE FUND TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Aims and objectives

These remain unchanged as:

TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE CARE AND OWNERSHIP OF DOMESTIC RABBITS KEPT AS PETS IN BRITAIN AND TO FURTHER ADVANCE THE KNOWLEDGE OF RABBIT MEDICINE AMONGST THE UK VETERINARY PROFESSION.

TO CONDUCT OR PROMOTE THE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH AND PUBLISH THE USEFUL RESULTS OF SUCH RESEARCH INTO SPECIFIC HEALTH PROJECTS IN ORDER TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF COMMON HEALTH PROBLEMS IN DOMESTIC RABBITS.

We have a brilliant and constantly updated website to offer the most contemporary and best practice advice to rabbit owners, as well as the messages that we put out on social media and in the press.

We continue to run a telephone helpline 5 days a week, in which we provide advice to rabbit owners, and give similar advice via our e-mail service.

A huge amount of our resource is dedicated to the rabbit friendly vet list, which offers rabbit friendly vets the chance to be found and matched up with rabbit owners in their area.

Achievements and performance for the year April 2023 to March 2024

The Rabbit Welfare Fund has been instrumental in changing perceptions about rabbits as pets.

Our work has helped more people understand that rabbits have complicated needs. They aren't cheap, easy children's pets that can be locked in a small hutch at the bottom of the garden. There's still a long way to go, so we'll keep making our voice heard to help domestic rabbits live the fulfilling lives they deserve. Our campaigns are long term, because we are pushing for behaviour change from rabbit owners, and improvements in legislation, and this can take time.

Welfare Officer

Through the work of our Animal Welfare Officer, we are aiming to tackle the huge problem of unlicensed breeders advertising on classified online adverts. These breeders are not subject to any regulations, legislation, or welfare checks, and they provide no care advice to their customers. They are also very unlikely to provide proper welfare for the rabbits while they are in their care. Our Welfare Officer used the data provided by Hindsight, and looks for patterns that identify larger scale unlicensed breeders. He then investigates the situation using online resources, surveillance, and often paying a visit in person. If he can produce enough evidence, he will report the breeder to the relevant local authority.

Sadly, because of a combination of a lack of legislation, lack of resources or simple apathy on the part of the local authorities, often little or no action will be taken on the cases we raise. However, the investigations will often highlight wider legal issues. A key example is tax-evasion. These breeders are making a large undeclared income, and we are finding that the HMRC is becoming increasingly interested. Our aim is to make it as hard as possible for these breeders to do business, using whatever tools that the law allows.

Our Welfare Officer, Mark., has been in place for over six years and has raised thousands of cases. However, because of both a lack of action from Local Authorities, and a lack of funding within the Rabbit Welfare Fund, we unfortunately suspended this role in October 2023.

2023 Round Up

There are many reasons rabbits are amongst the most neglected of pets and so much work to do to improve their welfare. As we say goodbye to 2023 and welcome 2024, we thought it would be helpful to share with you what we think are the main problems and how we're trying to help.

We are a very small organisation, and to make the best use of our limited resources, we need to focus on areas where we can make a real change. Our work in education, campaigning and lobbying supports the amazing and difficult work done by rescue shelters.

- An estimated 1.5 million rabbits are kept as pets in the UK, a jump from 1 million since last year. Many new owners have no experience with the needs of the species. Rabbits are commonly misunderstood and thought of as cheap and easy children's pets.
- If looked after correctly, pet rabbits should live between 10-12 years. They are a big commitment!
- Rabbits are hugely misunderstood, and a huge proportion are kept alone, with inadequate housing, a poor diet, and a lack of vet care.
- Most housing sold for rabbits is unsuitable.
- Incorrect care advice is frequently given to owners.
- There is no legislation to protect against rabbits being mis-sexed at sale. This, along with the huge increase in new rabbit owners, has resulted in a massive increase in accidental litters.
- Female rabbits can become pregnant immediately after giving birth. Around 1 in 3 rabbit owners were not aware of this.
- Lockdown resulted in a surge of unregulated rabbit breeding and sales.
- There has been a boom in internet sales. These are mostly unregulated, and little or no welfare advice is given to buyers.

RABBIT WELFARE FUND TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

- With the exception of Scotland, there is a lack of licensing for breeders in the UK.
- Much of the above, combined with the cost-of-living crisis, means that there is an abandonment crisis going on right now. Before Covid, at least 67,000 rabbits a year ended up in rescue. This is now thought to be nearly 100,000. Rescues are reporting a huge increase in rabbits being dumped on their doorsteps. Many simply cannot cope.
- Rabbits are also rehomed online, increasing the overall number of abandonments, which is thought to be the worst in over 25 years.
- As well as being kept in people's homes and gardens. Rabbits can be found at places such as farm parks, petting zoos and agricultural shows. Welfare standards are often inadequate in these locations, which means the animals suffer and also sets a bad example to the visiting public.

Rescue crisis

We launched an urgent appeal for people to support our breeding amnesty and sign our petition to demand government action to make rabbit breeders require the same licensing as dog breeders.

Anyone is legally allowed to breed and sell rabbits. This results in uneducated and inexperienced rabbit owners having multiple litters which they can't look after and are too many to sell to responsible pet owners.

Rabbit breeders are not inspected or required to meet any minimum standards. Babies are mis-sexed and sold with no proper checks or care information. Unsuspecting owners are faced with accidental litters, which results in rabbits being dumped in the wild for a gruesome death and rescue centres being overrun.

We believe that a change in legislation would mean an immediate improvement in the welfare of rabbits being sold and a subsequent drop in the number of rabbits being abandoned or dumped.

Our breeding amnesty campaign calls for:

- An immediate pause in the breeding of rabbits.
- Retailers to stop selling rabbits.
- Classified sites to stop allowing adverts for baby rabbits.
- Members of the public to support rescue and "adopt don't shop".

We had a great deal of support for the amnesty. The RSPCA, Blue Cross, Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare, Wood Green Pets Charity and Burgess Pet Care were all behind it. It was also supported by Gumtree and Preloved who both suspended adverts for new baby rabbits over the Easter 23 period. This was a great start to the campaign and something we will build on for 2024.

Educating and supporting rabbit owners is key to improving welfare

Our website is a fantastic resource for both existing and potential rabbit owners. We get around 40,000 unique visitors every month and work hard to make sure that the information is up to date, accessible and covers all of the essentials.

Our free helpline is open to everyone, from rabbit owners, to concerned neighbours alike. In 2023 the helpline received around 2,000 phone calls.

Every 12-18 months we print 50,000 of our comprehensive rabbit care booklet: On the Hop. These are sent to vet practices and rescues, given out at shows and events, and sold on our website. On the Hop is also available as a free download on our website.

The 'Good Practice Codes for the Welfare of Pet Rabbits in England' was launched in 2021 and revised and relaunched in 2023. We were instrumental in this and have sent a link to as many businesses and local authorities as possible. We are also pushing Defra to adopt the Codes.

YouTube is hugely popular, but we know that it is full of inaccurate information. We have spent time identifying many of the most popular rabbit-related channels and have been leaving comments and links to steer people towards the right information on our website.

Farm parks, petting zoos and animal encounters

In our experience, the majority of these places do not care for their rabbits properly, and often allow handling sessions for children which is extremely stressful for the rabbits. We have written to every farm park, petting zoo and animal encounter in England to share the updated 'Codes' and try and make changes.

We have had some great feedback from this, with some asking for more information, asking us to give lectures, and send On the Hop booklets for visitors.

We'll continue to work at this.

Agricultural shows and rabbit shows

It's no secret that we have concerns over traditional rabbit shows, and we know that huge agricultural shows which have hundreds of thousands of visitors maximise the cruelty involved and send all the wrong messages to the public. This year three of the largest shows in England broke with tradition and did not include a typical rabbit show. Instead, we were invited to attend two of the shows and educated the visitors. The feedback from this was fantastic and almost everyone was fully supportive of this progress.

RABBIT WELFARE FUND TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Attending these shows costs us a great deal and it's hard work, but it's well worth it to showcase rabbits in accommodation that suits their needs and to promote rescue. Our huge thanks to Burgess for supporting this with a Runaround warren system and Acorn and Angel rescues.

We are keeping the pressure on Defra and the shows themselves to mandate that the Animal Welfare Act is applied to them. We hope that more shows take note in 2024.

TV and Media

For the first time ever we used a PR company to promote our campaigns and as a result we had a really busy year which included an appearance on national breakfast TV, Closer magazine, radio interviews, and 90 online pieces. It came at a cost but the coverage figures were huge – an estimated 6.8 million views! This was great for spreading our messages and getting support for the breeding amnesty and petition. We'd love to keep the momentum going on this, but sadly we don't have the funds to continue at the moment.

We also responded to some really terrible examples of rabbit welfare on TV, such as the shows 'Sort Your Life Out' and 'Afraid of the Dark'. We challenged the TV Production companies to do better. This is still very much a work in progress.

Unlicensed breeders

For the last seven years we have had the benefit of the brilliance of Mark, our Welfare Officer, who investigated and reported unlicensed breeders.

Unfortunately, despite providing local authorities with a comprehensive dossier of evidence each time, we can probably count on one hand the number of breeders that have been investigated and licensed as a result. This is usually because the local authority doesn't think that the breeder falls into this category due to not meeting a 'business test', even though we can prove categorically that they do. This is another example of the system not working and why we want all breeders and sellers to be licensed.

You can read more about this on our petition.

Not all vets are rabbit savvy

Because of their complex care needs, rabbits are classed as exotic pets, which is a surprise to many owners. Whilst in training, vets spend a worryingly little amount of time learning about rabbits. This does vary between vet schools, but to become rabbit savvy means the vet has to go out of their way to do more training and continual professional development (CPD) on rabbits.

We have a rabbit-friendly vet list on our website, and a big part of our resources are dedicated to keeping the list online and up to date.

In 2023, we ran CPD courses free of charge and hosted three webinars on The Webinar Vet. This was at a cost to us of around £9,000, but we had almost 3000 views in over 65 countries! This will make a difference in many practices and improve the outcomes for many pet rabbits.

We also help vets by guiding them in best practices and writing clinical policies. The website has a section dedicated to vets and vet nurses with useful resources available.

Lack of enforcement

Local authorities are supposed to enforce the legislation that exists to protect rabbits. We report many cases a year where, for example, a farm park has poor welfare. Sadly, the results are usually disappointing. Local authorities have limited resources, and priorities mean they do not enforce the legislation. Different authorities can also have very different approaches, which we think should be standardised.

In 2024, we aim to produce a pack for anyone who works with rabbits so they can see which legislation applies to them. This will provide clarity and should help with enforcement.

Brachycephalic (flat faced) breeds

This is a huge area of concern because Brachy rabbits suffer many health problems. We are working with other organisations to try and make a change here, but it is a long, hard process. Internally, we have stopped using any images of Brachy breeds on our website, magazine and marketing because we need to stop normalising these breeds and the health problems they suffer from.

Sponsor a Rescue

For well over a decade now we have been supporting the brilliant work of rescues and fundraising for them. To date we have raised over £40,000 which has been shared out to rescues.

Retailers

As well as encouraging retailers to sign up to the breeding amnesty, we have contacted several on line retailers with a review of the products they sell, highlighting our concerns and encouraging them to review what they offer for sale. We will keep the pressure up in 2024.

Financial review

The Rabbit Welfare Fund is relatively small charity and the majority of the income funds our campaigning and educational work.

RABBIT WELFARE FUND TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Income had increased from £90,445 to £171,273 during this period, largely because of a sizeable legacy that is due to us. Overheads have decreased, leaving a net surplus of £78,227, compared with last year's deficit of £57,665. We continue to monitor our overheads and reserves to ensure that we are able to meet our obligations.

During this year we made the Welfare Officer and the Vet List Manager roles redundant as we did not feel as if we had the necessary funds to continue with those roles.

We are not large enough to have investments, other than money in our deposit bank account, so we do not have an investment policy or risk assessment in place for this. However as at 31 March 2024 our funds at the bank were less than £85,000 so they would be covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme in full.

The risks that could affect the charity are, like all charities a drop in donations. With the current economic uncertainty, we have to bear this in mind. We have considered the risk this may cause us and have come to the conclusion that the risk is minimal because the majority of the donations we receive are small. We do not take financial risk.

Donations and legacies account for the majority of the income. In this year we are aware that we are expecting a sizeable donation from a legacy left to us by a member and we are very grateful to Julie Boscher for thinking of us and supporting our work to improve the lives of all companion rabbits.

We generate a significant amount of donations from members of RWAF and any orders processed via our website shop.rabbitwelfare.co.uk.

We have a reserves policy in place, whereby we maintain 3 months of general unrestricted funds in our deposit account. This is to cover unforeseen drops in income. As at year end 31 March 2024 there was £121,929 of general unrestricted funds, which is in excess of that required by the policy.

Plans for future periods

Rabbit Strategy and actions

The rabbit welfare strategy is due to be launched soon. There are ten areas of action in this document with the Codes of Practice being one of them. That leaves nine areas of action, so we will aim to identify a lead organisation for each area of action and progressing each one.

Improving welfare standards in public facing areas and events

Farm parks, rabbit shows, petting zoos, and similar places usually have low welfare, and do not meet the welfare needs of the rabbits there. They also give the public the totally wrong impression of how to care for rabbits and this is an area we will continue to educate the public about, and challenge the businesses themselves on.

Legislation

We will keep pushing for a change to the legislation so that rabbit breeders need to be licenced in England. We also want to produce a pack so that all local authorities, farm parks and any other businesses that keep rabbits know which legislation applies to them and we will seek to have this legislation and the animal welfare act enforced by local authorities.

Approval

This report was approved by the board of Trustees on 21 November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Rachel Walters
Trustee

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Independent examiners report to the Trustees of Rabbit Welfare Fund

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for Rabbit Welfare Fund ("the charity") for the year ended 31 March 2024, set out on pages 8 - 17.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not comply with these records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair view" which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Michelle Ferris BSc (Hons) FCA DChA
Albert Goodman LLP
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
TA1 2PX

02 December 2024

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

		Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Notes							
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	131,569	2,056	133,625	51,219	2,095	53,314
Charitable activities	4	11,884	-	11,884	16,170	-	16,170
Investments	5	591	-	591	190	-	190
Other	6	25,173	-	25,173	20,771	-	20,771
Total		169,217	2,056	171,273	88,350	2,095	90,445
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	7	266	1,169	1,435	636	1,234	1,870
Charitable activities	8	18,023	-	18,023	49,939	8,475	58,414
Other	9	72,803	785	73,588	86,125	1,701	87,826
Total		91,092	1,954	93,046	136,700	11,410	148,110
Net income/(expenditure)		78,125	102	78,227	(48,350)	(9,315)	(57,665)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		78,125	102	78,227	(48,350)	(9,315)	(57,665)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		51,804	34,494	86,298	100,154	43,809	143,963
Total funds carried forward	16	129,929	34,596	164,525	51,804	34,494	86,298

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 16 to the financial statements.

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	2024 £	2023 £
Income	170,682	90,255
Interest and investment income	591	190
Gross income for the year	<u>171,273</u>	<u>90,445</u>
Total expenditure for the year	(93,046)	(148,110)
Net surplus/(deficit) before tax for the year	<u>78,227</u>	<u>(57,665)</u>
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	<u>78,227</u>	<u>(57,665)</u>

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Current assets			
Stocks	13	10,000	10,000
Debtors	14	112,040	43,172
Cash at bank and in hand		46,940	36,051
		<u>168,980</u>	<u>89,223</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(4,455)	(2,925)
Net current assets		<u>164,525</u>	<u>86,298</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>164,525</u>	<u>86,298</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset or liability		<u>164,525</u>	<u>86,298</u>
Net assets		<u>164,525</u>	<u>86,298</u>
The funds of the charity			
Restricted funds			
Restricted income funds	16	34,596	34,494
		<u>34,596</u>	<u>34,494</u>
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	16	121,929	31,304
Designated funds	16	8,000	20,500
		<u>129,929</u>	<u>51,804</u>
Total funds		<u>164,525</u>	<u>86,298</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 21 November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Rachel Walters
Trustee

RABBIT WELFARE FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

Accounting basis

The financial statements have been prepared 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) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Change in basis of accounting or to previous periods

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and method of accounting) since last year and no changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted general funds	These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.
Unrestricted designated funds	These are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.
Restricted income funds	These are available for use subject to restrictions imposed by the donor or through terms of an appeal.

Income

Recognition of income	Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to, and virtually certain to receive, the income and the amount of the income can be measured with sufficient reliability.
Income with related expenditure	Where income has related expenditure the income and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.
Donations and legacies	Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in the SoFA when receivable and only when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the income.
Tax reclaims on donations and gifts	Income from tax reclaims is included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift/donation to which it relates.
Donated services and facilities	These are only included in income (with an equivalent amount in expenditure) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable, and material.
Volunteer help	The value of any volunteer help is not included within the accounts.
Investment income	This is included within the accounts when receivable.
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	This includes any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value.
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	This includes any gain or loss of the sale of investments.

Expenditure

Recognition of expenditure	Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis. Expenditure includes any VAT that cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.
Expenditure on raising funds	These comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income, fundraising trading costs and investment management costs.
Expenditure on charitable activities	These comprise the costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services in the furtherance of its objects, including the making of grants and governance costs.
Grants payable	All grant expenditure is accounted for on an accrual paid basis plus an accrual for grants that have been approved by the trustees at the end of the year but not yet paid.
Governance costs	These include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

statutory requirements of the charity, including any audit/independent examination fees, costs linked to the strategic management of the charity, together with a share of other administration costs.

Other expenditure

These are support costs not allocated to a particular activity.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

Taxation

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

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprised cash at bank and on hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the Statement of Financial Position, bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings or current liabilities. In the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the charity's cash management.

Trade and other creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has as present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial assets, including trade and other receivables, cash and bank balances and investments in commercial paper, are initially recognised at transaction price. Such assets are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables, bank loans, loans from group companies and preference shares that are classified as debt, are initially recognised at transaction price. Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

2 Charity information

Rabbit Welfare Fund is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales. The registered office address is 61 Bridge Street, Kington, HR5 3DJ.

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations	113,234	-	113,234	35,111	-	35,111
Fundraising	17,291	-	17,291	14,684	-	14,684
Sponsor A Rescue	-	2,056	2,056	-	2,095	2,095
Gift Aid	1,044	-	1,044	1,424	-	1,424
	<u>131,569</u>	<u>2,056</u>	<u>133,625</u>	<u>51,219</u>	<u>2,095</u>	<u>53,314</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Charitable activities income	11,884	-	11,884	16,170	-	16,170
	<u>11,884</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,884</u>	<u>16,170</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,170</u>

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Bank interest	591	-	591	190	-	190
	<u>591</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>591</u>	<u>190</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>190</u>

6 Other income

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
RWAF management fee income	25,173	-	25,173	20,771	-	20,771
	<u>25,173</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,173</u>	<u>20,771</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,771</u>

7 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Fundraising	266	-	266	636	-	636
Sponsor A Rescue	-	1,169	1,169	-	1,234	1,234
	<u>266</u>	<u>1,169</u>	<u>1,435</u>	<u>636</u>	<u>1,234</u>	<u>1,870</u>

8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Charitable activities expenditure	18,023	-	18,023	49,939	8,475	58,414
	<u>18,023</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,023</u>	<u>49,939</u>	<u>8,475</u>	<u>58,414</u>

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Benevolent Fund Veterinary Payments	-	-	-	-	1,029	1,029
Other Expenditure - RWF Rescue Rabbits	1,801	785	2,586	1,254	672	1,926
Management and volunteer costs	50,900	-	50,900	53,805	-	53,805
Premises costs	2,991	-	2,991	2,955	-	2,955
General administrative costs	5,251	-	5,251	8,371	-	8,371
Interest payable and similar costs	11	-	11	1	-	1
Legal and professional costs	11,849	-	11,849	19,739	-	19,739
	<u>72,803</u>	<u>785</u>	<u>73,588</u>	<u>86,125</u>	<u>1,701</u>	<u>87,826</u>

Included within 'Legal and professional costs' is an expense for independent examination fees of £1,160 (2023: £784).

10 Staff numbers

The average number of employees during the year was as follows: 3 (2023: 3).

11 Staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2023: None).

Rachel Walters (trustee) received payment for management services supplied to the charity during the year totalling £40,353, including benefits (2023: £38,631). Rachel was reimbursed travel expenses during the year totalling £609 (2023: £498). The total amount owing to Rachel Walters at 31 March 2024 was £292 (2023: £Nil).

Roslyn Lamb (trustee) received payment for administrative services supplied to the charity during the year totalling £6,543, including benefits (2023: £6,136). The total amount owing to Roslyn Lamb at 31 March 2024 was £312 (2023: £Nil).

Emma Boyd (trustee) was reimbursed travel expenses during the year totalling £Nil (2023: £216). The total amount owing to Emma Boyd at 31 March 2024 was £Nil (2023: £Nil).

Alan Wilson (trustee) was reimbursed travel expenses during the year totalling £Nil (2023: £102). The total amount owing to Alan Wilson at 31 March 2024 was £Nil (2023: £Nil).

All of the trustees received their remuneration through the payroll of the charity with effect from 1 January 2021, with Rachel Walters previously receiving her remuneration as self-employed income. All of the payments made were permitted by the charity's governing document.

12 Related party transactions

All of the four trustees of the charity also serve as the directors of Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund ("RWAFF"), a company limited by guarantee, and have control over this entity.

The charity and RWAFF share a 'lock-up' premises. During the year the charity paid £2,331 (2023: £2,331) in contributions towards rental costs to RWAFF.

During the year RWAFF incurred the following expenses on behalf of the charity which have been or are due to be reimbursed:

	2024 £	2023 £
Advertising expenses	3,001	-
Vets fees, food and other rabbit welfare provisions	1,758	968
	<u>4,759</u>	<u>968</u>

During the year the charity received donations from individual donors, collected by RWAFF on its behalf. None of these donations would be considered outside the normal course of business. There were no restricted donations from RWAFF itself, or any other related party.

The total amount owed to the charity by RWAFF at 31 March 2024 was £23,503 (2023: £23,258).

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

13 Stocks

	2024	2023
	£	£
Finished Goods (RWF Leaflets)	10,000	10,000
	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>

14 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accrued income and prepayments	88,537	19,914
Other debtors	23,503	23,258
	<u>112,040</u>	<u>43,172</u>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals	3,125	2,925
Other taxes and social security	726	-
Other creditors	604	-
	<u>4,455</u>	<u>2,925</u>

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

16 Movement in funds

16.1 Current year

	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
<i>Restricted Income Funds:</i>					
Sponsor A Rescue Fund	1,949	2,056	(1,169)	-	2,836
Benevolent Fund	32,545	-	(785)	-	31,760
Total	34,494	2,056	(1,954)	-	34,596
<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>					
<i>General Funds:</i>	31,304	169,217	(82,468)	3,876	121,929
<i>Designated Funds:</i>					
Vet Specialist Adviser Fund	8,000	-	(8,624)	8,624	8,000
Premises Fund	12,500	-	-	(12,500)	-
Total	20,500	-	(8,624)	(3,876)	8,000
Total Funds	86,298	171,273	(93,046)	-	164,525

16.2 Prior year

	At 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
<i>Restricted Income Funds:</i>					
Sponsor A Rescue Fund	1,088	2,095	(1,234)	-	1,949
Benevolent Fund	42,721	-	(10,176)	-	32,545
Total	43,809	2,095	(11,410)	-	34,494
<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>					
<i>General Funds:</i>	79,654	88,350	(128,138)	(8,562)	31,304
<i>Designated Funds:</i>					
Vet Specialist Adviser Fund	8,000	-	(8,562)	8,562	8,000
Premises Fund	12,500	-	-	-	12,500
Total	20,500	-	(8,562)	8,562	20,500
Total Funds	143,963	90,445	(148,110)	-	86,298

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Purposes and restrictions in relation to the funds:

Revaluation reserves Represent the amount by which investments exceed their historical cost.

Restricted funds:

Sponsor A Rescue Fund Represents sponsorship donations which are split and used to support a number of rescue shelters.

Benevolent Fund Represents grants received to enable the medical care of rescued rabbits. The source of these funds during the 2022-23 accounting year has been the Ellis Power legacy.

Capone Fund Represents specific donations to fund our animal welfare officer.

Designated funds:

Vet Specialist Adviser Fund Represents funds set aside for the provision of specialist advice required by the charity in furtherance of its core aims and objectives.

Premises Fund Represents funds set aside for unexpected premises and relocation costs.

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

17.1 Current year

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	12,344	34,596	46,940
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	117,585	-	117,585
Total	<u>129,929</u>	<u>34,596</u>	<u>164,525</u>

17.2 Prior year

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,557	34,494	36,051
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	50,247	-	50,247
Total	<u>51,804</u>	<u>34,494</u>	<u>86,298</u>

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

This page does not form part of the statutory accounts

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies						
Donations	113,234	-	113,234	35,111	-	35,111
Fundraising	17,291	-	17,291	14,684	-	14,684
Sponsor A Rescue	-	2,056	2,056	-	2,095	2,095
Gift Aid	1,044	-	1,044	1,424	-	1,424
	<u>131,569</u>	<u>2,056</u>	<u>133,625</u>	<u>51,219</u>	<u>2,095</u>	<u>53,314</u>
Charitable activities						
Charitable activities income	11,884	-	11,884	16,170	-	16,170
	<u>11,884</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,884</u>	<u>16,170</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,170</u>
Investments						
Bank interest	591	-	591	190	-	190
	<u>591</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>591</u>	<u>190</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>190</u>
Other						
RWF management fee income	25,173	-	25,173	20,771	-	20,771
	<u>25,173</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,173</u>	<u>20,771</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,771</u>
Total Income and endowments	<u>169,217</u>	<u>2,056</u>	<u>171,273</u>	<u>88,350</u>	<u>2,095</u>	<u>90,445</u>
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds						
Fundraising	266	-	266	636	-	636
Sponsor A Rescue	-	1,169	1,169	-	1,234	1,234
	<u>266</u>	<u>1,169</u>	<u>1,435</u>	<u>636</u>	<u>1,234</u>	<u>1,870</u>
Charitable activities						
Charitable activities expenditure	18,023	-	18,023	49,939	8,475	58,414
	<u>18,023</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,023</u>	<u>49,939</u>	<u>8,475</u>	<u>58,414</u>
Other						
Benevolent Fund Veterinary Payments	-	-	-	-	1,029	1,029
Other Expenditure - RWF Rescue Rabbits	1,801	785	2,586	1,254	672	1,926
	<u>1,801</u>	<u>785</u>	<u>2,586</u>	<u>1,254</u>	<u>1,701</u>	<u>2,955</u>
Management and volunteer costs						
Wages & salaries	50,539	-	50,539	50,952	-	50,952
Pensions	34	-	34	32	-	32
Training	119	-	119	1,450	-	1,450
Travel & subsistence	208	-	208	1,283	-	1,283
Staff entertainment	-	-	-	47	-	47
Relocation expenses	-	-	-	41	-	41
	<u>50,900</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,900</u>	<u>53,805</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>53,805</u>
Premises costs						
Rent	2,331	-	2,331	2,331	-	2,331
Use of home	624	-	624	624	-	624
Cleaning	36	-	36	-	-	-
	<u>2,991</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,991</u>	<u>2,955</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,955</u>

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

This page does not form part of the statutory accounts

General administrative costs						
Software costs	4,899	-	4,899	8,077	-	8,077
Insurance	88	-	88	-	-	-
Printing, postage & stationery	204	-	204	132	-	132
Telephone & internet	-	-	-	100	-	100
Bank charges	60	-	60	62	-	62
	<u>5,251</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,251</u>	<u>8,371</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,371</u>
Interest payable and similar costs						
Other loan interest	11	-	11	1	-	1
	<u>11</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
Legal and professional costs						
Accountancy fees	1,980	-	1,980	1,395	-	1,395
Independent Examination fees	1,160	-	1,160	784	-	784
Solicitors fees	8,624	-	8,624	8,562	-	8,562
Other legal & professional fees	85	-	85	8,398	-	8,398
Consultancy fees	-	-	-	600	-	600
	<u>11,849</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,849</u>	<u>19,739</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,739</u>
Total expenditure	<u>91,092</u>	<u>1,954</u>	<u>93,046</u>	<u>136,700</u>	<u>11,410</u>	<u>148,110</u>
Net income/(expenditure)	78,125	102	78,227	(48,350)	(9,315)	(57,665)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	<u>78,125</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>78,227</u>	<u>(48,350)</u>	<u>(9,315)</u>	<u>(57,665)</u>

RABBIT WELFARE FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1167093

Accounts

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
CHARITY INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Charity No. 1167093

Registered Office

61 Bridge Street
Kington
HR5 3DJ

Trustees

Rachel Walters
Emma Boyd
Roslyn Lamb
Alan Wilson

Accountants

Noakes Accounting Limited
66 South Street
Taunton
TA1 3AF

Independent Examiners

Albert Goodman LLP
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
TA1 2PX

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Introduction

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared 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) (effective 1 January 2019), as detailed in the accounting policies.

Administration

Rabbit Welfare Fund Registered Charity No. 1167093

Trustees

The following Trustees served during the year:

Rachel Walters
Emma Boyd
Roslyn Lamb
Alan Wilson

Registered Office

61 Bridge Street
Kington
HR5 3DJ

Accountants

Noakes Accounting Limited
66 South Street
Taunton
TA1 3AF

Independent Examiners

Albert Goodman LLP
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
TA1 2PX

H&S Adviser

Mark Dron

Specialist Vet Adviser

Dr Richard Saunders

Structure, governance and management

Rabbit Welfare Fund (the "Charity") was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 16 May 2016, charity number 1167093.

All of the trustees currently in place are the first charity trustees, and hence have been in place since the Charity was registered. As stated in the governing document, these trustees will remain in place until they resign or are removed. Any additional trustees, of which there are currently none, shall have terms of three years.

The trustees are responsible for proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Rabbit Welfare Fund was formed when the sister membership organisation Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund, a limited by guarantee company (Company No. 10044925), was receiving donations to put towards improving rabbit welfare. The two organisations still share common goals and Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund ("RWAF") still raise donations on behalf of Rabbit Welfare Fund.

RABBIT WELFARE FUND TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Aims and objectives

These remain unchanged as:

TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE CARE AND OWNERSHIP OF DOMESTIC RABBITS KEPT AS PETS IN BRITAIN AND TO FURTHER ADVANCE THE KNOWLEDGE OF RABBIT MEDICINE AMONGST THE UK VETERINARY PROFESSION.

TO CONDUCT OR PROMOTE THE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH AND PUBLISH THE USEFUL RESULTS OF SUCH RESEARCH INTO SPECIFIC HEALTH PROJECTS IN ORDER TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF COMMON HEALTH PROBLEMS IN DOMESTIC RABBITS.

We have a brilliant and constantly updated website to offer the most contemporary and best practice advice to rabbit owners, as well as the messages that we put out on social media and in the press.

We have held online Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for Vets and Vet Nurses throughout this year and disseminated new information regarding vaccines and other developments via our website and to our vet mailing list via e-mail. We continue to run a telephone helpline 5 days a week, in which we provide advice to rabbit owners, and give similar advice via our e-mail service.

Achievements and performance for the year April 2022 to March 2023

The Rabbit Welfare Fund has been instrumental in changing perceptions about rabbits as pets. Our work has helped more people understand that rabbits have complicated needs. They aren't cheap, easy children's pets that can be locked in a small hutch at the bottom of the garden. There's still a long way to go, so we'll keep making our voice heard to help domestic rabbits live the fulfilling lives they deserve. Our campaigns are long term, because we are pushing for behaviour change from rabbit owners, and improvements in legislation, and this can take time.

Good practice codes for the welfare of pet rabbits

These codes were initially launched in June 2021 so were due for review in 2023. Work started on this early 2023 with the aim to have them reviewed and relaunched before the end of 2023 and we are on track for that.

PR activity

For the first time ever we engaged a professional PR company to undertake our campaign work, starting September 2022, for a 12 month period. This was a huge commitment in terms of time and funds, but we did see a lot of results in terms of media coverage and welfare messages being shared. We have really hit the headlines with our latest campaign. We have been on ITV prime time news, on the radio, in print and on social media. We have had 59 separate pieces of coverage so far, which gives us a potential audience of 1.7 billion people, and 3.4 million estimated views. Such big numbers!

This is the most coverage we have ever had, and we will keep pushing this story out to keep raising awareness and pushing people to improve. As part of this PR activity we undertook:

- Challenging the media

It seemed as if the media had it on for rabbits early 2023. Mainly 'Sort your life out' which generated 1500 complaints to the BBC. We were very much in the news with our own thoughts about hopefully our messages of proper care and welfare managed to educate a lot of people.

- Breeder licencing & rabbit sales amnesty

The UK is experiencing the worst rabbit rescue crisis ever. Rescue centres are struggling to cope with the amount of rabbits currently being abandoned, mistreated or surrendered. As the nation's leading rabbit welfare charity, we launched an urgent appeal for people to support our breeding amnesty and sign our urgent petition to demand government action for a change in legislation to ensure rabbit breeders require the same licensing as dog breeders to raise standards of welfare for rabbits.

Currently, unlike other animals, there is no legislation in Licensing of Activities Involving Animals (England) Regulations 2018 (the "2018 Regulations") in England. Anyone is legally allowed to start breeding and then sell the offspring – which results in uneducated and inexperienced rabbit owners having multiple litters, that they can't look after or sell-on to responsible pet owners.

The lack of legislation is resulting in rabbit breeders having no licence, inspection, or standards, and a result of this is that babies are being mis-sexed and sold with no proper checks or care information. Unsuspecting owners are being faced with accidental litters, which can result in rabbits being dumped and our rescue centres becoming over-run.

Legally, pet shops must be licensed, this ensures that duties of care are met. Unfortunately, a licence is not needed if a person is breeding and selling rabbits online. This has become a boom area and is causing huge problems. The Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund welfare team is witnessing an unprecedented rise in abandoned and mistreated rabbits, with an alarming increase in the number of rabbits for sale online. It was obvious to us that not only did rabbit sales need to stop, but that there needs to be controls over how rabbits are bred and sold online.

RABBIT WELFARE FUND TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

With a change in legislation, The Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund believes there would be an immediate improvement in the welfare of rabbits being sold, and therefore a drop in the number of rabbits being abandoned or dumped.

Because rescue centres across the UK are struggling to cope with the level of abandoned rabbits, in November, the Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund launched its Breeding Amnesty campaign calling for:

- An immediate pause in the breeding of rabbits
- Retailers to stop selling rabbits
- Classified sites to stop allowing adverts for baby rabbits
- Members of the public to support rescue and 'adopt don't shop'

Our petition to update the legislation was launched in February 2023 and very quickly reached 10,000 signatures. We are well on track to hit the required 100,000 signatures. Similarly, the rabbit sales amnesty was supported by many other welfare organisations and some classified websites suspended the sales of baby rabbits over Easter 2023 as a result.

Welfare Officer

Through the work of our Animal Welfare Officer, we are aiming to tackle the huge problem of unlicensed breeders advertising on classified online adverts. These breeders are not subject to any regulations, legislation, or welfare checks, and they provide no care advice to their customers. They are also very unlikely to provide proper welfare for the rabbits while they are in their care. Our Welfare Officer trawls the classified adverts and looks for patterns that identify larger scale unlicensed breeders. He then investigates the situation using online resources, surveillance, and often paying a visit in person. If he can produce enough evidence, he will report the breeder to the relevant local authority.

Sadly, because of a combination of a lack of legislation, lack of resources or simple apathy on the part of the local authorities, often little or no action will be taken on the cases we raise. However, the investigations will often highlight wider legal issues. A key example is tax-evasion. These breeders are making a large undeclared income, and we are finding that the HMRC is becoming increasingly interested. Our aim is to make it as hard as possible for these breeders to do business, using whatever tools that the law allows.

Cases raised:

In the first six months of the year, the Animal Welfare project has raised 265 cases, a massive 77% increase over the same period last year.

Referrals made:

So far this year, we have produced intelligence sufficient to refer 44 cases to the following agencies:

- LACS (League Against Cruel Sports) Wildlife Crime Reporting
- HMRC
- Local Authority Trading Standards & Environmental Health
- Local Authority Licensing
- Crimestoppers
- MHRA (Medications & Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency) and VMD (Veterinary Medicines Directorate)
- Home Office Police Teams
- British Transport Police
- CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species)

Projects commenced:

In May, we started a project aimed at identifying traders and trading platforms in Scotland; this is to assist the SPCA Investigation Unit to understand the scope of the problem in Scotland. At the time of writing, we're looking to launch a similar project in Wales.

An ongoing CITES referral side-project, where we've found suspected trade in endangered species or products of endangered species when monitoring a site for rabbit breeding, has resulted in referral and enforcement action both in the UK and overseas.

Surveillance operations:

As we've emerged from lockdowns and Covid-19 controls, physical monitoring has increased, with 37 observation exercises carried out since March 2022. 15 visits to licensed sites have been made, adding to the overall tally.

Growing problem:

Monitoring of three trading platforms shows that the large increase in online breeding which we identified during lockdown has not slowed down by any means. In the first six months of 2022, out of 94 traders sampled across three trading platforms, 43 were found to have been trading before lockdown, 36 to have been trading since lockdown, and 15 since January this year. Higher proportions of new traders were found in Scotland and Wales, but this could be because we have had projects on the go that targeted these areas.

Prolific and priority traders:

One of our most prolific targets appears to have shifted away from trading platforms, after concerted monitoring and reporting, and has set up their own web page and Facebook presence for the purposes of trading. This is being monitored and a referral file to their local authority and HMRC is pending.

RABBIT WELFARE FUND TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

A number of multi-species traders have been identified this year, including breeders of rabbits and birds, rabbits and dogs, rabbits and cats, rabbits and other small mammals, and combinations of all of the above. These are priority targets, since their diversification makes it far more difficult to claim they are hobbyists, and the money they can make from puppy breeding alone can catapult them onto the radar of HMRC's evasion teams.

Other offences:

As noted earlier, investigation into rabbit breeding can often lead to other offences being identified. This year alone, our enquiries have resulted in intelligence referrals for illicit tobacco sales, drug trafficking and county lines drug running, CITES endangered species trading, product counterfeiting, as well as vehicle theft and burglary offences. We have also acquired intelligence relating to illegal hunting, including hare coursing, that has been passed to the relevant authorities.

Financial review

The Rabbit Welfare Fund is relatively small charity and the majority of the income funds our campaigning and educational work.

Income had decreased slightly from £93,444 to £90,445 during this period. However overheads had increased significantly, leaving a net deficit of £57,665, compared with last year's deficit of £2,606. We continue to monitor our overheads and reserves to ensure that we are able to meet our obligations.

We are not large enough to have investments, other than money in our deposit bank account, so we do not have an investment policy or risk assessment in place for this. However as at 31 March 2023 our funds at the bank were less than £85,000 so they would be covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme in full.

The risks that could affect the charity are, like all charities a drop in donations. With the current economic uncertainty, we have to bear this in mind. We have considered the risk this may cause us and have come to the conclusion that the risk is minimal because the majority of the donations we receive are small. We do not take financial risk.

Donations and legacies account for the majority of the income. We generate a significant amount donations from members of RWAFF and any orders processed via our website shop.rabbitwelfare.co.uk.

We have more recently started to receive legacy payments too. This is because our charity is now 20 years old and becoming more well known, and we expect that this will continue.

We have a reserves policy in place, whereby we maintain 3 months of general unrestricted funds in our deposit account. This is to cover unforeseen drops in income. As at year end 31 March 2023 there was £31,304 of general unrestricted funds, which is in excess of that required by the policy.

Plans for future periods

Good practice codes for the welfare of pet rabbits

Once these Codes have been reviewed and relaunched we will lobby for them to be made statutory, like the dog and cat codes are. We will do this by contacting interested MP's and the relevant Minister, as well as Defra. There are already statutory codes for rabbits in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, so we won't accept anything less from the English Government.

Rabbit Strategy and actions

Once the codes have been launched, we will push ahead with the rabbit strategy, and launch this. There are ten areas of action in this, and the codes are one of them. That leaves nine areas of action, so we will aim to identify a lead organisation for each area of action and progressing each one.

More CPD

We will continue to provide CPD in some format to vets and owners.

Improving welfare standards in public facing areas and event

Farm parks, rabbit shows, petting zoos, and similar places usually have low welfare, and do not meet the welfare needs of the rabbits there. They also give the public the totally wrong impression.

Approval

This report was approved by the board of Trustees on 23 January 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Rachel Walters
Trustee

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Independent examiners report to the Trustees of Rabbit Welfare Fund

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for Rabbit Welfare Fund ("the charity") for the year ended 31 March 2023, set out on pages 7 - 16.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not comply with these records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair view" which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Michelle Ferris BSc (Hons) FCA DChA
Albert Goodman LLP
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
TA1 2PX

29 January 2024

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Notes							
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	51,219	2,095	53,314	57,231	1,922	59,153
Charitable activities	4	16,170	-	16,170	13,510	-	13,510
Investments	5	190	-	190	10	-	10
Other	6	20,771	-	20,771	20,771	-	20,771
Total		88,350	2,095	90,445	91,522	1,922	93,444
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	7	636	1,234	1,870	966	1,831	2,797
Charitable activities	8	49,939	8,475	58,414	20,785	-	20,785
Other	9	86,125	1,701	87,826	68,620	3,848	72,468
Total		136,700	11,410	148,110	90,371	5,679	96,050
Net income/(expenditure)		(48,350)	(9,315)	(57,665)	1,151	(3,757)	(2,606)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(48,350)	(9,315)	(57,665)	1,151	(3,757)	(2,606)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		100,154	43,809	143,963	99,003	47,566	146,569
Total funds carried forward	16	51,804	34,494	86,298	100,154	43,809	143,963

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 16 to the financial statements.

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	2023 £	2022 £
Income	90,255	93,434
Interest and investment income	190	10
Gross income for the year	<u>90,445</u>	<u>93,444</u>
Total expenditure for the year	(148,110)	(96,050)
Net deficit before tax for the year	<u>(57,665)</u>	<u>(2,606)</u>
Net deficit for the year	<u>(57,665)</u>	<u>(2,606)</u>

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	Notes		2023 £	2022 £
Current assets				
Stocks	13	10,000	-	
Debtors	14	43,172	38,506	
Cash at bank and in hand		36,051	109,206	
		<u>89,223</u>	<u>147,712</u>	
Liabilities				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(2,925)	(3,749)	
Net current assets			<u>86,298</u>	<u>143,963</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>86,298</u>	<u>143,963</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset or liability			<u>86,298</u>	<u>143,963</u>
Net assets			<u>86,298</u>	<u>143,963</u>
The funds of the charity				
Restricted funds				
Restricted income funds	16	34,494	43,809	
			<u>34,494</u>	<u>43,809</u>
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	16	31,304	79,654	
Designated funds	16	20,500	20,500	
			<u>51,804</u>	<u>100,154</u>
Total funds			<u>86,298</u>	<u>143,963</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 23 January 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Rachel Walters
Trustee

RABBIT WELFARE FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

Accounting basis

The financial statements have been prepared 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) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Change in basis of accounting or to previous periods

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and method of accounting) since last year and no changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted general funds	These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.
Unrestricted designated funds	These are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.
Restricted income funds	These are available for use subject to restrictions imposed by the donor or through terms of an appeal.

Income

Recognition of income	Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to, and virtually certain to receive, the income and the amount of the income can be measured with sufficient reliability.
Income with related expenditure	Where income has related expenditure the income and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.
Donations and legacies	Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in the SoFA when receivable and only when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the income.
Tax reclaims on donations and gifts	Income from tax reclaims is included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift/donation to which it relates.
Donated services and facilities	These are only included in income (with an equivalent amount in expenditure) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable, and material.
Volunteer help	The value of any volunteer help is not included within the accounts.
Investment income	This is included within the accounts when receivable.
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	This includes any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value.
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	This includes any gain or loss of the sale of investments.

Expenditure

Recognition of expenditure	Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis. Expenditure includes any VAT that cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.
Expenditure on raising funds	These comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income, fundraising trading costs and investment management costs.
Expenditure on charitable activities	These comprise the costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services in the furtherance of its objects, including the making of grants and governance costs.
Grants payable	All grant expenditure is accounted for on an accrual paid basis plus an accrual for grants that have been approved by the trustees at the end of the year but not yet paid.
Governance costs	These include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

statutory requirements of the charity, including any audit/independent examination fees, costs linked to the strategic management of the charity, together with a share of other administration costs.

Other expenditure

These are support costs not allocated to a particular activity.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

Taxation

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

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprised cash at bank and on hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the Statement of Financial Position, bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings or current liabilities. In the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the charity's cash management.

Trade and other creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has as present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial assets, including trade and other receivables, cash and bank balances and investments in commercial paper, are initially recognised at transaction price. Such assets are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables, bank loans, loans from group companies and preference shares that are classified as debt, are initially recognised at transaction price. Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

2 Charity information

Rabbit Welfare Fund is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales. The registered office address is 61 Bridge Street, Kington, HR5 3DJ.

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Donations	35,111	-	35,111	31,549	-	31,549
Fundraising	14,684	-	14,684	24,050	-	24,050
Sponsor A Rescue	-	2,095	2,095	-	1,922	1,922
Gift Aid	1,424	-	1,424	1,632	-	1,632
	<u>51,219</u>	<u>2,095</u>	<u>53,314</u>	<u>57,231</u>	<u>1,922</u>	<u>59,153</u>

As at the year end the charity had been notified of material legacies which have not been included in the Statement of Financial Activities due to the conditions for recognition not being met. This consists of one legacy totalling approximately £80,000 (2022: none).

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
A Hutch Is Not Enough	29	-	29	35	-	35
Educational leaflet sales	15,491	-	15,491	9,475	-	9,475
Welfare Day Income	(2,000)	-	(2,000)	4,000	-	4,000
Advertising Income	2,650	-	2,650	-	-	-
	<u>16,170</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,170</u>	<u>13,510</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,510</u>

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Bank interest	190	-	190	10	-	10
	<u>190</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>190</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10</u>

6 Other income

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
RWAF management fee income	20,771	-	20,771	20,771	-	20,771
	<u>20,771</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,771</u>	<u>20,771</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,771</u>

7 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Fundraising	636	-	636	216	-	216
Sponsor A Rescue	-	1,234	1,234	-	1,831	1,831
Welfare Day Costs	-	-	-	750	-	750
	<u>636</u>	<u>1,234</u>	<u>1,870</u>	<u>966</u>	<u>1,831</u>	<u>2,797</u>

8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
A Hutch Is Not Enough	30	-	30	-	-	-
Educational leaflet expenditure	9,545	-	9,545	2,145	-	2,145
Advertising	16,328	8,475	24,803	8,737	-	8,737
Capone Fund	8,543	-	8,543	8,083	-	8,083
Educational Vet Webinar Sessions	15,493	-	15,493	-	-	-
Other Campaign Costs	-	-	-	1,820	-	1,820
	<u>49,939</u>	<u>8,475</u>	<u>58,414</u>	<u>20,785</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,785</u>

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

9 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Benevolent Fund Veterinary Payments	-	1,029	1,029	-	-	-
Other Expenditure - RWF Rescue Rabbits	1,254	672	1,926	-	3,848	3,848
Charitable Donations	-	-	-	2,923	-	2,923
Management and volunteer costs	53,805	-	53,805	46,982	-	46,982
Premises costs	2,955	-	2,955	4,496	-	4,496
General administrative costs	8,371	-	8,371	670	-	670
Interest payable and similar costs	1	-	1	13	-	13
Legal and professional costs	19,739	-	19,739	13,536	-	13,536
	86,125	1,701	87,826	68,620	3,848	72,468

Included within 'Legal and professional costs' is an expense for independent examination fees of £784 (2022: £790).

10 Staff numbers

The average number of employees during the year was as follows: 3 (2022: 3).

11 Staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2022: None).

Rachel Walters (trustee) received payment for management services supplied to the charity during the year totalling £38,631, including benefits (2022: £35,375). Rachel was reimbursed travel expenses during the year totalling £498 (2022: £300). The total amount owing to Rachel Walters at 31 March 2023 was £Nil (2022: £312).

Roslyn Lamb (trustee) received payment for administrative services supplied to the charity during the year totalling £6,136, including benefits (2022: £5,837). The total amount owing to Roslyn Lamb at 31 March 2023 was £Nil (2022: £312).

Emma Boyd (trustee) was reimbursed travel expenses during the year totalling £216 (2022: £Nil). The total amount owing to Emma Boyd at 31 March 2023 was £Nil (2022: £Nil).

Alan Wilson (trustee) was reimbursed travel expenses during the year totalling £102 (2022: £Nil). The total amount owing to Alan Wilson at 31 March 2023 was £Nil (2022: £Nil).

All of the trustees received their remuneration through the payroll of the charity with effect from 1 January 2021, with Rachel Walters previously receiving her remuneration as self-employed income. All of the payments made were permitted by the charity's governing document.

12 Related party transactions

All of the four trustees of the charity also serve as the directors of Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund ("RWAFF"), a company limited by guarantee, and have control over this entity.

The charity and RWAFF share a 'lock-up' premises. During the year the charity paid £2,331 (2022: £2,331) in contributions towards rental costs to RWAFF.

During the year RWAFF incurred the following expenses on behalf of the charity which have been or are due to be reimbursed:

	2023 £	2022 £
Vets fees, food and other rabbit welfare provisions	968	553
	968	553

During the year the charity received donations from individual donors, collected by RWAFF on its behalf. None of these donations would be considered outside the normal course of business. There were no restricted donations from RWAFF itself, or any other related party.

The total amount owed to the charity by RWAFF at 31 March 2023 was £23,258 (2022: £19,074).

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

13 Stocks

	2023	2022
	£	£
Finished Goods (RWF Leaflets)	10,000	-
	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>

14 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	2,000
Accrued income and prepayments	19,914	17,430
Other debtors	23,258	19,076
	<u>43,172</u>	<u>38,506</u>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	-	240
Accruals	2,925	2,885
Other creditors	-	624
	<u>2,925</u>	<u>3,749</u>

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

16 Movement in funds

16.1 Current year

	At 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
<i>Restricted Income Funds:</i>					
Sponsor A Rescue Fund	1,088	2,095	(1,234)	-	1,949
Benevolent Fund	42,721	-	(10,176)	-	32,545
Total	43,809	2,095	(11,410)	-	34,494
<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>					
<i>General Funds:</i>	79,654	88,350	(128,138)	(8,562)	31,304
<i>Designated Funds:</i>					
Vet Specialist Adviser Fund	8,000	-	(8,562)	8,562	8,000
Premises Fund	12,500	-	-	-	12,500
Total	20,500	-	(8,562)	8,562	20,500
Total Funds	143,963	90,445	(148,110)	-	86,298

16.2 Prior year

	At 1 April 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2022 £
<i>Restricted Income Funds:</i>					
Sponsor A Rescue Fund	997	1,922	(1,831)	-	1,088
Benevolent Fund	46,569	-	(3,848)	-	42,721
Total	47,566	1,922	(5,679)	-	43,809
<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>					
<i>General Funds:</i>	91,003	91,522	(81,871)	(21,000)	79,654
<i>Designated Funds:</i>					
Vet Specialist Adviser Fund	8,000	-	(8,500)	8,500	8,000
Total	8,000	-	(8,500)	21,000	20,500
Total Funds	146,569	93,444	(96,050)	-	143,963

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Purposes and restrictions in relation to the funds:

Revaluation reserves Represent the amount by which investments exceed their historical cost.

Restricted funds:

Sponsor A Rescue Fund Represents sponsorship donations which are split and used to support a number of rescue shelters.

Benevolent Fund Represents grants received to enable the medical care of rescued rabbits. The source of these funds during the 2022-23 accounting year has been the Ellis Power legacy.

Capone Fund Represents specific donations to fund our animal welfare officer.

Designated funds:

Vet Specialist Adviser Fund Represents funds set aside for the provision of specialist advice required by the charity in furtherance of its core aims and objectives.

Premises Fund Represents funds set aside for unexpected premises and relocation costs.

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

17.1 Current year

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,557	34,494	36,051
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	50,247	-	50,247
Total	<u>51,804</u>	<u>34,494</u>	<u>86,298</u>

17.2 Prior year

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	65,397	43,809	109,206
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	34,757	-	34,757
Total	<u>100,154</u>	<u>43,809</u>	<u>143,963</u>

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

This page does not form part of the statutory accounts

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies						
Donations	35,111	-	35,111	31,549	-	31,549
Fundraising	14,684	-	14,684	24,050	-	24,050
Sponsor A Rescue	-	2,095	2,095	-	1,922	1,922
Gift Aid	1,424	-	1,424	1,632	-	1,632
	<u>51,219</u>	<u>2,095</u>	<u>53,314</u>	<u>57,231</u>	<u>1,922</u>	<u>59,153</u>
Charitable activities						
A Hutch Is Not Enough	29	-	29	35	-	35
Educational leaflet sales	15,491	-	15,491	9,475	-	9,475
Welfare Day Income	(2,000)	-	(2,000)	4,000	-	4,000
Advertising Income	2,650	-	2,650	-	-	-
	<u>16,170</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,170</u>	<u>13,510</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,510</u>
Investments						
Bank interest	190	-	190	10	-	10
	<u>190</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>190</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10</u>
Other						
RWAf management fee income	20,771	-	20,771	20,771	-	20,771
	<u>20,771</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,771</u>	<u>20,771</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,771</u>
Total Income and endowments	<u>88,350</u>	<u>2,095</u>	<u>90,445</u>	<u>91,522</u>	<u>1,922</u>	<u>93,444</u>
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds						
Fundraising	636	-	636	216	-	216
Sponsor A Rescue	-	1,234	1,234	-	1,831	1,831
Welfare Day Costs	-	-	-	750	-	750
	<u>636</u>	<u>1,234</u>	<u>1,870</u>	<u>966</u>	<u>1,831</u>	<u>2,797</u>
Charitable activities						
A Hutch Is Not Enough	30	-	30	-	-	-
Educational leaflet expenditure	9,545	-	9,545	2,145	-	2,145
Advertising	16,328	8,475	24,803	8,737	-	8,737
Capone Fund	8,543	-	8,543	8,083	-	8,083
Educational Vet Webinar Sessions	15,493	-	15,493	-	-	-
Other Campaign Costs	-	-	-	1,820	-	1,820
	<u>49,939</u>	<u>8,475</u>	<u>58,414</u>	<u>20,785</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,785</u>
Other						
Benevolent Fund Veterinary Payments	-	1,029	1,029	-	-	-
Other Expenditure - RWF Rescue Rabbits	1,254	672	1,926	-	3,848	3,848
Charitable Donations	-	-	-	2,923	-	2,923
	<u>1,254</u>	<u>1,701</u>	<u>2,955</u>	<u>2,923</u>	<u>3,848</u>	<u>6,771</u>
Management and volunteer costs						
Wages & salaries	50,952	-	50,952	42,663	-	42,663
Employers' NI	-	-	-	3,619	-	3,619
Pensions	32	-	32	400	-	400
Training	1,450	-	1,450	-	-	-
Travel & subsistence	1,283	-	1,283	300	-	300
Staff entertainment	47	-	47	-	-	-
Relocation expenses	41	-	41	-	-	-
	<u>53,805</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>53,805</u>	<u>46,982</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46,982</u>

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

This page does not form part of the statutory accounts

Premises costs						
Rent	2,331	-	2,331	3,333	-	3,333
Use of home	624	-	624	624	-	624
Light & heat	-	-	-	29	-	29
Cleaning	-	-	-	510	-	510
	<u>2,955</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,955</u>	<u>4,496</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,496</u>
General administrative costs						
Software costs	8,077	-	8,077	469	-	469
Printing, postage & stationery	132	-	132	181	-	181
Telephone & internet	100	-	100	-	-	-
Bank charges	62	-	62	20	-	20
	<u>8,371</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,371</u>	<u>670</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>670</u>
Interest payable and similar costs						
Other loan interest	1	-	1	13	-	13
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13</u>
Legal and professional costs						
Accountancy fees	1,395	-	1,395	1,200	-	1,200
Independent Examination fees	784	-	784	790	-	790
Solicitors fees	8,562	-	8,562	8,500	-	8,500
Other legal & professional fees	8,398	-	8,398	1,826	-	1,826
Consultancy fees	600	-	600	1,220	-	1,220
	<u>19,739</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,739</u>	<u>13,536</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,536</u>
Total expenditure	<u>136,700</u>	<u>11,410</u>	<u>148,110</u>	<u>90,371</u>	<u>5,679</u>	<u>96,050</u>
Net income/(expenditure)	<u>(48,350)</u>	<u>(9,315)</u>	<u>(57,665)</u>	<u>1,151</u>	<u>(3,757)</u>	<u>(2,606)</u>
Transfers between funds	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds	<u><u>(48,350)</u></u>	<u><u>(9,315)</u></u>	<u><u>(57,665)</u></u>	<u><u>1,151</u></u>	<u><u>(3,757)</u></u>	<u><u>(2,606)</u></u>

RABBIT WELFARE FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1167093

Accounts

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
CHARITY INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Charity No. 1167093

Registered Office

61 Bridge Street
Kington
HR5 3DJ

Trustees

Rachel Walters
Emma Boyd
Roslyn Lamb
Alan Wilson

Accountants

Noakes Accounting Limited
66 South Street
Taunton
TA1 3AF

Independent Examiners

Albert Goodman LLP
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
TA1 2PX

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Introduction

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared 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) (effective 1 January 2019), as detailed in the accounting policies.

Administration

Rabbit Welfare Fund Registered Charity No. 1167093

Trustees

The following Trustees served during the year:

Rachel Walters
Emma Boyd
Roslyn Lamb
Alan Wilson

Registered Office

61 Bridge Street
Kington
HR5 3DJ

Accountants

Noakes Accounting Limited
66 South Street
Taunton
TA1 3AF

Independent Examiners

Albert Goodman LLP
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
TA1 2PX

H&S Adviser

Mark Dron

Specialist Vet Adviser

Dr Richard Saunders

Structure, governance and management

Rabbit Welfare Fund (the "Charity") was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 16 May 2016, charity number 1167093.

All of the trustees currently in place are the first charity trustees, and hence have been in place since the Charity was registered. As stated in the governing document, these trustees will remain in place until they resign or are removed. Any additional trustees, of which there are currently none, shall have terms of three years.

The trustees are responsible for proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Rabbit Welfare Fund was formed when the sister membership organisation Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund, a limited by guarantee company (Company No. 10044925), was receiving donations to put towards improving rabbit welfare. The two organisations still share common goals and Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund ("RWAF") still raise donations on behalf of Rabbit Welfare Fund.

RABBIT WELFARE FUND TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 ---

Aims and objectives

These remain unchanged as:

TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE CARE AND OWNERSHIP OF DOMESTIC RABBITS KEPT AS PETS IN BRITAIN AND TO FURTHER ADVANCE THE KNOWLEDGE OF RABBIT MEDICINE AMONGST THE UK VETERINARY PROFESSION.

TO CONDUCT OR PROMOTE THE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH AND PUBLISH THE USEFUL RESULTS OF SUCH RESEARCH INTO SPECIFIC HEALTH PROJECTS IN ORDER TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF COMMON HEALTH PROBLEMS IN DOMESTIC RABBITS.

We have a brilliant and constantly updated website to offer the most contemporary and best practice advice to rabbit owners, as well as the messages that we put out on social media and in the press.

We have held online Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for Vets and Vet Nurses throughout this year and disseminated new information regarding vaccines and other developments via our website and to our vet mailing list via e-mail. We continue to run a telephone helpline 5 days a week, in which we provide advice to rabbit owners, and give similar advice via our e-mail service.

Achievements and performance for the year April 2021 to March 2022

Rabbit Friendly Vet list

We continue to assess and add rabbit friendly vet practices to our website. We now have over 160 vet practices listed on our website, and 14 of them are Gold standard which means they have a Specialist vet there. This is a free service via our website which matches up rabbit owners with their nearest assessed rabbit friendly vet to ensure the best care possible is obtained.

Good practice codes for the website of rabbits

There have been codes of practice for other species, dogs and cats for example, for a number of years but as is often the way, rabbits were left behind. We are therefore delighted to have delivered the Good Practice Code for the Welfare of rabbits. This document contains codes of practices agreed between a number of stakeholders including the RWAF, the RSPCA and AGPAW (the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare). Each of the stakeholders will publish the document on their respective websites, which means the information will be widely available.

We have been working hard on this for a number of years and are very excited that the codes are now agreed and published. We are extremely grateful to AGPAW for giving it the final push. These codes were written by a working group of organisations all with a key stake in rabbit welfare, so it will be extremely influential. The next stage will be to have the codes adopted by DEFRA, so that they become statutory. The Good Practice Code for the Welfare of rabbits is available for download from our website.

Rabbit Welfare and Ethics Day – June 2021

In conjunction with The Webinar Vet, our Welfare and Ethics day took place on the 5th June.

A huge thank you to our wonderful and passionate Patron, Dr Emma Milne, for being a fantastic Chair and speaker. Of course thanks also to everyone that delivered a lecture for us, all of our speakers were truly fabulous and really brought home some of the many problems that companion rabbits face. We do hope that it has provoked some thought and not just triggered people into a defensive response, but will make people wonder what they can do to help improve welfare. We can all do something.

Emma rounds up the day for us, "In the morning, the fabulous Dr Richard Saunders covered the dreadful issue that is brachycephalics, and the profound impact on rabbits. Key messages included: Breed for health not looks – I couldn't agree more, as you know! Then Dr Nadene Stapleton gave a superb and comprehensive talk on diet. Key messages: NEVER feed muesli mixes, NEVER feed human treats, these should be viewed as badly as cigarettes! Then it was me: rabbit showing has clear negative impacts of health and welfare and is unethical.

"Great talks from RSPCA (England & Wales), PDSA and The Rabbit Welfare Association and Fund in our second session. For those of you vets out there who want to make your practices more rabbit friendly, please check out the PDSA PetWise initiative and MOTs. They're absolutely brilliant. "Shockingly we do not have (in England) codes of practice written for rabbits, something that RWAF and many other stakeholders are aiming to rectify.

"Rabbits are our 'forgotten pets', and shockingly only 20% of owners have heard of the 5 Welfare Needs, and more than half of owners don't like one or more of their pet's behaviour, all of which are completely normal for the animal! It seems we have a way to go.

RABBIT WELFARE FUND TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

"In the afternoon session, we heard from Dr Nicola Rooney at University of Bristol, Dan from Vet Compass at The Royal Veterinary College (RVC), Dr Naomi Harvey and me once more. Key messages from these talks and the day in general seem to be the we are still massively failing pet rabbits in lots of ways. Many don't have suitable companions, the right diet or enough room, and when they do have room they don't have anything to do in it.

"We need to think very carefully about whether rabbits are a species that should even be kept as a pet. They are certainly not suitable for children and possibly not even for many adults. Can we EVER give them what they would have in the wild? "They live a long time, have many complex welfare needs and are NOT a cheap, disposable pet.

"Studies show that flystrike, which is a terrible disease and totally preventable, is sadly, the number one cause of rabbit deaths – utterly shocking.

One of the message from our Welfare and Ethics day-(E Milne)

"If you have a sole house rabbit that is very friendly and companionable it may be because it simply doesn't have a choice about who its best friend is. People encouraged to get another rabbit often find that their rabbit deserts them, but is also much happier and displays behaviours that the owner has never seen before because they are finally happy.

"Just having a companion for your rabbit isn't enough. They need to be a compatible pair or they just live in fear and they need SPACE and enrichment in that space.

"They need long fibre, like hay and grass (not clippings) more than any other food.

"People find brachycephalic rabbits cute, so the trend is going the same way as dogs. It is catastrophic for rabbits and their teeth and brings many other issues too. We should not be breeding ANY lop-eared rabbits, and at the moment they account for more than half the rabbits in the UK. Extreme conformation is unacceptable in all species, including rabbits and has to stop. You need to know their needs and think LONG and HARD before getting them. And then probably decide against it. Sorry!

"RWF and I wanted to do the topic proud, let's hope that welfare improves as a result".

We were delighted with the turnout, as there were people attending from across the world.

On Wednesday 19th January 2022, Emma Milne, a Patron and supporter of the RWF delivered a wonderful lecture to a whopping 1900 delegates, helping to spread the ethics and welfare messages of the RWF. Delegates attended from around the world (in 53 countries to be exact!), and if you are yet to watch the webinar, it is available for 6 months, free of charge to both veterinary professionals and members of the public.

Visit www.thewebinarvet.com for more information. A special thank you to Emma from us at the RWF for her help and support and delivering this webinar.

In fact, this is not the first free webinar that we have undertaken with the Webinar Vet. The RWF has paid for other webinars, and offered them free of charge to help educate both the veterinary profession, and also owners, on rabbit health and welfare topics. Our 'Rabbit reproductive disease and how to neuter' was delivered by veterinary surgeon, Sophie Jenkins, and has had an amazing 1330 views to date. There are others planned for future dates, so check out the Webinar Vet details.

Brachycephalic rabbits

We pledged to end the use of brachycephalic rabbit images in our magazine and website, and not to allow adverts which feature them by the end of 2022. This is our published stance on it.

"Although there are a number of things we have, as a species, done to rabbits genetically, I don't think any are as significant to their health and welfare as the development of brachycephalic (short faced), and lop (ears flopping down) breeds. And this isn't just opinion, there is science behind it, although it's also important to remember that rabbits are not small dogs, and their health problems are different from dogs with these features.

"Brachycephaly essentially means that the nose and mouth are less prominent, more flattened, changing the shape to a "cuter" one, but also affecting the anatomy of the head in several ways, none to the benefit of the rabbit. Whilst there is crowding of the back teeth, and a definite but not absolute link with incisor malocclusion (not all brachycephalic rabbits have the congenitally out of alignment incisors seen so dramatically in some cases), the main problem is the way the normal nasolacrimal duct, which carries tears from the eye to the nose, becomes tortuous and convoluted and more easily blocked. However, these rabbits aren't thought to be significantly affected by the respiratory issues seen in dogs. They are already obligate nasal breathers, and so an overlong soft palate doesn't really get in the way. The airway size does not seem decreased in such breeds, their nostrils remain normal, and so the effects are mainly regarding teeth and tear drainage, which can result in infections and blockages of the duct.

RABBIT WELFARE FUND TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

"Lop ears, likewise, cause slightly different issues than in dogs with long drooping ears. In the latter, ear infections, grass seeds and trauma are common. In rabbits, the lop nature of the ear creates a situation akin to taking a cardboard kitchen roll inner and folding it in half. The lumen, the hole down the centre, closes, and the sections of the tube separate. In rabbit ear terms, this narrows the ear canal, reducing air flow into the ear and making it more difficult for anything to drain from the ear. More significantly, the separation of the cartilage hoops that make up the ear allows any build-up of waxy material to push between them under the skin. This isn't an abscess, or at least not initially, until it bursts and releases material into direct contact with the tissues. But the mass may grow and spread round the delicate structures of the head, and become impossible to remove, damaging soft tissue and bone alike, in the process.

Going forwards, the RWAF will seek to use images of up-eared and longer faced rabbits

"Our survey a few years ago demonstrated that only 27% of such masses were found solely or mainly in "up-eared" rabbits.

"For these and other reasons, I firmly believe we need to breed back to an-up eared and longer faced, more wild type, rabbit.

"To this end, we will move to not using images of such breeds in Rabbiting On and the RWAF website other than to illustrate breed specific health and welfare issues. Although there are several issues in press which are too late to change, this policy will start as soon as possible.

"We may make the occasional, rare exception where an uncommon condition which is of significant concern to the membership can only be illustrated with such a rabbit, and we will still be featuring peoples pictures of such individuals where relevant", Richard Saunders, RWAF Veterinary Adviser.

Animal Welfare Officer Report

We have been very fortunate to be able to keep our Animal Welfare Officer Mark Dron again for the last 12 months. He is primarily investigating unlicensed rabbit sales on line but his work does involve visiting premises and reporting any unlicensed sellers and welfare concerns. The role Mark does for RWAF brings a whole new dimension to our work and we are very grateful for his dedication and determination.

Executive Summary –

2021 has largely continued to be dominated by COVID-19 and the lockdowns and controls that came with it, that have impacted operations in all nations of the UK.

Despite this, intelligence efforts and enquiries have continued either remotely or in person (where legal provisions permitted), and these have paid off in a significant increase in detections and positive case disposals for the year ending December 2021.

Planned project work has started, with expanded monitoring of an array of platforms, and enhanced checks for other nations of the UK aside from ENGLAND.

Complaints to HQ have continued to rise, and while there has been a decrease of queries and complaints about licensing for entertainment, concerns about breeders have continued to come in with disturbing regularity.

Headline figures are – New cases for 2021 – 480 versus 2020 – 355, an increase of 155.

Proactive cases in 2021 – 436 and Reactive Cases(Complaints and enquiries) – 44 versus Proactive cases in 2020 – 327 and reactive (complaint cases) – 27.

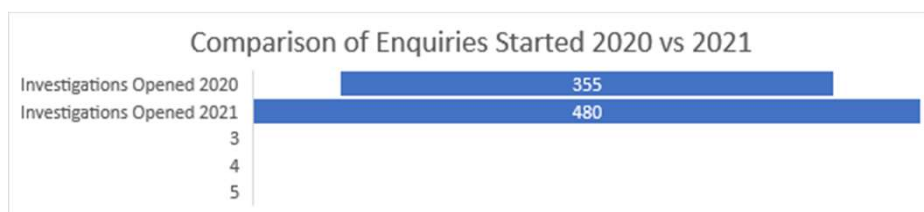
Cases in England 2021 - 284; Cases in Scotland – 8; Cases in Wales – 17; Cases in NI – 12 rest of the world – 6; Unknown - 158

Cases in 2021 concerned Animal Welfare, Animal Health, illegal hunting and poaching, Fraud, Drugs, Theft, Environmental Protection and Counterfeiting offences amongst others.

A disturbing trend has been monitored since the start of the Pandemic and this is a marked increase in "new" breeders advertising since March 2020, these currently account for 91 breeders across the regions of the UK.

Licensed Site checks in 2021 – 34 (This is the first year of active recording and is lower due to the lockdown issues throughout 2021.)

2021 in statistics –



RABBIT WELFARE FUND TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

This represents an increase of 125 cases, and an increase of over a 1/3rd in 12 months.

Geographical Spread –



Nation / Location	Breeder / Trader Figures
England	284
Wales	12
Scotland	8
Northern Ireland	12
Channel Islands	1
Hungary	1
Norway	2
Turkey	2
Unknown	158

New Trader Phenomenon –

As outlined in my executive summary we have identified a disturbing trend of new breeders / traders appearing since the commencement of Lockdown “1” in March 2020, and this has shown no sign of being an isolated issue, with noticeable upticks in breeder appearances throughout the subsequent peaks and troughs of the following COVID peaks and lockdowns, all the way up to the current situation.

New breeder Stats –

All of the UK – 91

These figures comprise –

England – 74

Wales – 9

Scotland – 3

NI – 5

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**



Types of offence identified in 2021 –

Type of Offence	Number of cases
Animal Welfare Offences including Licensing	400
Animal Health including Avian Flu regs	2
Fraud	8
Excise Fraud	15
Channel Islands Animal Welfare Law(s)	1
Drugs	5
Environmental Protection	1
Other licensing	5
Food Safety	1
Hunting Act Offences	27
Theft	10
Pests Act 1954	1
Road Traffic Acts	10
Scrap metal offences	5
Maritime law offences	2
Product Counterfeiting and allied offences	6
Vehicle Theft	1

*Some cases involved more than one type of offence so there are more offences than there are cases raised

RABBIT WELFARE FUND TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022



Case Outcomes in 2021 –

153 cases were closed with No Further Action possible.

39 cases were flagged for intelligence development and monitoring.

62 cases were flagged for carrying over in to 2022 due to the protracted nature of the enquiries involved.



Other case disposals –

The distribution of other case enquiries and referrals looks like this –

Crimestoppers / Police – 31

League Against Cruel Sports Intelligence – 11

Other Enforcement Authorities – 3

HMRC – 39

RSPCA – 16

Local Authorities – 35

Sales Platform Compliance – 7

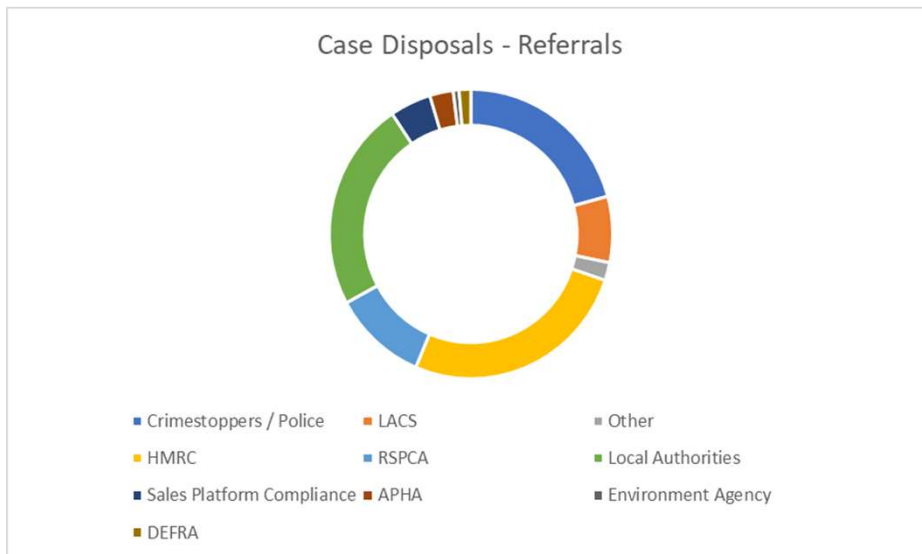
APHA – 4

Environment Agency – 1

DEFRA – 2

Total referrals made – 149

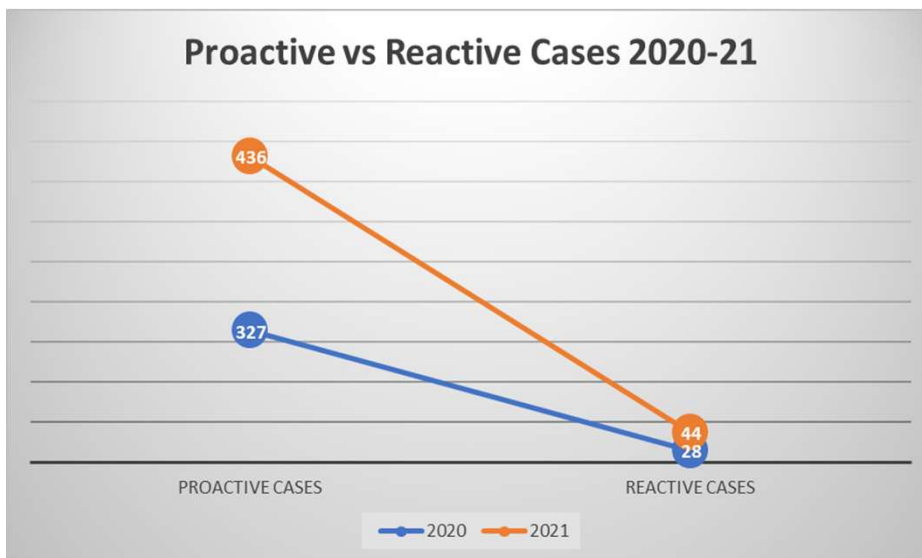
RABBIT WELFARE FUND TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022



Reactive vs Proactive Case Spread –

Of the cases identified and investigated in 2021 436 were proactive and 44 were reactive following up complaints and intelligence passed to RWAF Head Office by members of the public.

This is a significant change to 2020, when 327 cases were proactive and 28 cases were reactive.



Case Study one –

Following on from intelligence received in a complaint to Head Office, about Hare Coursing the RWAF were able to identify a male behind the activity in question; stupidly for him he had left tracks of his activities all over social media, and this included evidence of possession of firearms as well as illegal hunting activities including Hare Coursing.

The individual in question was also involved in unlicensed dog breeding, of various hunting breeds, and had made several offers for illegally obtained animal steroids to assist in his activities.

This information was passed to the relevant authorities for further action, due to the number of possible offences involved several referral agencies were involved.

RABBIT WELFARE FUND TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Case Study Two –

During a routine intelligence sweep of one of our target sales platforms, an individual was identified in LONDON who was actively involved in the breeding of continental giant rabbits; strangely for a breeder this individual had placed his post code in one of his advertisements. By cross-referring the images of the rabbits in the individual's garden against google maps overhead and street views of the postcode area, we were able to tie the address down to one of 3 likely houses. A visit confirmed the location and allowed us to make the necessary referrals to the local authority to have these activities properly assessed and investigated.

Conclusions –

1. This has been the third year in a row where we have seen an exponential increase in case numbers, some of this can be accounted for by more proactive hours devoted to animal welfare enquiries from the AW function of the charity, but similarly it can also be attributed to the phenomenon of steadily increasing breeder numbers, and wider-reach through different sales platforms.
2. New breeders have continued to appear consistently since Lockdown 1 in March 2020, and this phenomenon has not abated in to 2022, with new breeder figures continuing to rise.
3. There is an overlap between offences, with unlicensed breeder addresses often linked to other issues including excise fraud and theft.
4. The figures we have compiled are based on one officer working the equivalent of one day per week, and there are therefore resulting restrictions in how much can be achieved, it is therefore impossible to quantify true breeder numbers across all of the sales platforms available to buyers across the UK.

Mark Dron
Animal Welfare Investigations and Operations
RWAFF
23/01/2022

Financial review

The Rabbit Welfare Fund is relatively small charity and the majority of the income funds our campaigning and educational work.

Income had decreased from £107,040 to £93,444 during this period. However overheads had also decreased, leaving a net deficit of £2,606, compared with last year's surplus of £44,156. All of this deficit was covered from general funds. We continue to monitor our overheads and reserves to ensure that we are able to meet our obligations.

We are not large enough to have investments, other than money in our deposit bank account, so we do not have an investment policy or risk assessment in place for this. However as at 31 March 2022 our funds at the bank exceeded the £85,000 that would be covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme in full. In the year ahead we will need to consider the risk posed by this and how to mitigate it.

The risks that could affect the charity are, like all charities a drop in donations. With the current economic uncertainty, we have to bear this in mind. We have considered the risk this may cause us and have come to the conclusion that the risk is minimal because the majority of the donations we receive are small. We do not take financial risk.

Donations and legacies account for the majority of the income. We generate a significant amount of donations from members of RWAFF and any orders processed via our website shop.rabbitwelfare.co.uk.

We have more recently started to receive legacy payments too. This is because our charity is now 20 years old and becoming more well known, and we expect that this will continue.

We have a reserves policy in place, whereby we maintain 3 months of general unrestricted funds in our deposit account. This is to cover unforeseen drops in income. As at year end 31 March 2022 there was £79,654 of general unrestricted funds, which is far in excess of that required by the policy.

Plans for future periods

There has always been a rabbit welfare problem in the UK, but since Covid this has worsened. More breeders are appearing, and more pressure is being put on rescue centres to cope. Our work over the next 12 months is going to be focussing on raising awareness of this problem, encouraging the public to support rabbit rescue and not buy from breeders, and to continue to educate owners about how to properly care for their rabbits. We are also looking at a 'neutering scheme' where we will fund up to 100 rabbit neuters to help ease the financial burden on rabbit rescues.

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Approval

This report was approved by the board of Trustees on 27 January 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Rachel Walters
Trustee

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Independent examiners report to the Trustees of Rabbit Welfare Fund

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for Rabbit Welfare Fund ("the charity") for the year ended 31 March 2022, set out on pages 13 - 23.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not comply with these records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair view" which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Michelle Ferris BSc (Hons) FCA DChA
Albert Goodman LLP
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
TA1 2PX

27 January 2023

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

		Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	As Restated Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	As Restated Restricted Funds 2021 £	As Restated Total Funds 2021 £
Notes							
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	4	57,231	1,922	59,153	86,007	(1,525)	84,482
Charitable activities	5	13,510	-	13,510	16,366	-	16,366
Investments	6	10	-	10	25	-	25
Other	7	20,771	-	20,771	6,167	-	6,167
Total		91,522	1,922	93,444	108,565	(1,525)	107,040
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	8	966	1,831	2,797	236	1,632	1,868
Charitable activities	9	20,785	-	20,785	24,756	-	24,756
Other	10	68,620	3,848	72,468	36,260	-	36,260
Total		90,371	5,679	96,050	61,252	1,632	62,884
Net income/(expenditure)		1,151	(3,757)	(2,606)	47,313	(3,157)	44,156
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		1,151	(3,757)	(2,606)	47,313	(3,157)	44,156
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		99,003	47,566	146,569	51,690	50,723	102,413
Total funds carried forward	16	100,154	43,809	143,963	99,003	47,566	146,569

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 16 to the financial statements.

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

	2022 £	2021 £
Income	93,434	107,015
Interest and investment income	10	25
Gross income for the year	<u>93,444</u>	<u>107,040</u>
Total expenditure for the year	(96,050)	(62,884)
Net (deficit)/surplus before tax for the year	<u>(2,606)</u>	<u>44,156</u>
Net (deficit)/surplus for the year	<u>(2,606)</u>	<u>44,156</u>

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Current assets			
Debtors	14	38,506	56,491
Cash at bank and in hand		109,206	95,770
		<u>147,712</u>	<u>152,261</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(3,749)	(5,692)
Net current assets		<u>143,963</u>	<u>146,569</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>143,963</u>	<u>146,569</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset or liability		<u>143,963</u>	<u>146,569</u>
Net assets		<u>143,963</u>	<u>146,569</u>
The funds of the charity			
Restricted funds			
Restricted income funds	16	43,809	47,566
		<u>43,809</u>	<u>47,566</u>
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	16	79,654	91,003
Designated funds	16	20,500	8,000
		<u>100,154</u>	<u>99,003</u>
Total funds		<u>143,963</u>	<u>146,569</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 27 January 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Rachel Walters
Trustee

RABBIT WELFARE FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1 Accounting policies

Accounting basis

The financial statements have been prepared 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) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Change in basis of accounting or to previous periods

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and method of accounting) since last year and no changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted general funds	These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.
Unrestricted designated	These are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.
Restricted income funds	These are available for use subject to restrictions imposed by the donor or through terms of an appeal.

Income

Recognition of income	Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to, and virtually certain to receive, the income and the amount of the income can be measured with sufficient reliability.
Income with related expenditure	Where income has related expenditure the income and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.
Donations and legacies	Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in the SoFA when receivable and only when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the income.
Tax reclaims on donations and gifts	Income from tax reclaims is included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift/donation to which it relates.
Donated services and facilities	These are only included in income (with an equivalent amount in expenditure) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable, and material.
Volunteer help	The value of any volunteer help is not included within the accounts.
Investment income	This is included within the accounts when receivable.
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	This includes any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value.
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	This includes any gain or loss of the sale of investments.

Expenditure

Recognition of expenditure	Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis. Expenditure includes any VAT that cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.
Expenditure on raising funds	These comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income, fundraising trading costs and investment management costs.
Expenditure on charitable activities	These comprise the costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services in the furtherance of its objects, including the making of grants and governance costs.
Grants payable	All grant expenditure is accounted for on an accrual paid basis plus an accrual for grants that have been approved by the trustees at the end of the year but not yet paid.

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Governance costs	These include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity, including any audit/independent examination fees, costs linked to the strategic management of the charity, together with a share of other administration costs.
Other expenditure	These are support costs not allocated to a particular activity.

Taxation

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

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprised cash at bank and on hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the Statement of Financial Position, bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings or current liabilities. In the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the charity's cash management.

Trade and other creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial assets, including trade and other receivables, cash and bank balances and investments in commercial paper, are initially recognised at transaction price. Such assets are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables, bank loans, loans from group companies and preference shares that are classified as debt, are initially recognised at transaction price. Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

2 Charity information

Rabbit Welfare Fund is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales. The registered office address is 61 Bridge Street, Kington, HR5 3DJ.

RABBIT WELFARE FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

3 Restatement of comparative figures

3.1 Statement of financial activities

The Statement of Financial Activities in the prior year (2021) financial statements incorrectly categorised several items of expenditure. The following adjustments show how the allocation of costs for 2021 have been restated so that they are comparable with the current year costs.

	Unrestricted Funds Per 2021 As Previously Stated	Restricted Funds Per 2021 As Previously Stated	Total Funds Per 2021 As Previously Stated	Unrestricted Funds Prior Year Adjustment	Restricted Funds Prior Year Adjustment	Total Funds Prior Year Adjustment	Unrestricted Funds Comparative As Restated In 2022	Restricted Funds Comparative As Restated In 2022	Total Funds Comparative As Restated In 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising funds:									
Fundraising	236	-	236	-	-	-	236	-	236
Sponsor A Rescue	-	1,632	1,632	-	-	-	-	1,632	1,632
Total	236	1,632	1,868	-	-	-	236	1,632	1,868
Expenditure on charitable activities:									
Educational leaflet sales	7,900	-	7,900	-	-	-	7,900	-	7,900
Advertising	4,390	-	4,390	-	-	-	4,390	-	4,390
Capone Fund	-	-	-	8,668	-	8,668	8,668	-	8,668
Other Campaign Costs	-	-	-	3,798	-	3,798	3,798	-	3,798
Total	12,290	-	12,290	12,466	-	12,466	24,756	-	24,756
Other expenditure:									
Capone Fund	8,668	-	8,668	(8,668)	-	(8,668)	-	-	-
Other Campaign Costs	3,798	-	3,798	(3,798)	-	(3,798)	-	-	-
Other Expenditure - RWF Rescue Rabbits	5,938	-	5,938	-	-	-	5,938	-	5,938
Management and volunteer costs	11,003	-	11,003	-	-	-	11,003	-	11,003
Premises costs	3,062	-	3,062	-	-	-	3,062	-	3,062
General administrative costs	1,610	-	1,610	-	-	-	1,610	-	1,610
Legal and professional costs	14,647	-	14,647	-	-	-	14,647	-	14,647
Total	48,726	-	48,726	(12,466)	-	(12,466)	36,260	-	36,260

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

4 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Donations	31,549	-	31,549	56,643	(3,431)	53,212
Fundraising	24,050	-	24,050	26,649	-	26,649
Sponsor A Rescue	-	1,922	1,922	-	1,906	1,906
Gift Aid	1,632	-	1,632	2,715	-	2,715
	57,231	1,922	59,153	86,007	(1,525)	84,482

5 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £
A Hutch Is Not Enough	35	-	35	51	-	51
Educational leaflet sales	9,475	-	9,475	16,315	-	16,315
Welfare Day Income	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	-
	13,510	-	13,510	16,366	-	16,366

6 Income from investments

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Bank interest	10	-	10	25	-	25
	10	-	10	25	-	25

7 Other income

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £
RWAF management fee income	20,771	-	20,771	5,193	-	5,193
Other revenue	-	-	-	974	-	974
	20,771	-	20,771	6,167	-	6,167

8 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Fundraising	216	-	216	236	-	236
Sponsor A Rescue	-	1,831	1,831	-	1,632	1,632
Welfare Day Costs	750	-	750	-	-	-
	966	1,831	2,797	236	1,632	1,868

9 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	As Restated Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	As Restated Restricted Funds 2021 £	As Restated Total Funds 2021 £
Educational leaflet sales	2,145	-	2,145	7,900	-	7,900
Advertising	8,737	-	8,737	4,390	-	4,390
Capone Fund	8,083	-	8,083	8,668	-	8,668
Other Campaign Costs	1,820	-	1,820	3,798	-	3,798
	20,785	-	20,785	24,756	-	24,756

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

10 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	As Restated Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	As Restated Restricted Funds 2021 £	As Restated Total Funds 2021 £
Other Expenditure - RWF Rescue Rabbits	-	3,848	3,848	5,938	-	5,938
Charitable Donations	2,923	-	2,923	-	-	-
Management and volunteer costs	46,982	-	46,982	11,003	-	11,003
Premises costs	4,496	-	4,496	3,062	-	3,062
General administrative costs	670	-	670	1,610	-	1,610
Interest payable and similar costs	13	-	13	-	-	-
Legal and professional costs	13,536	-	13,536	14,647	-	14,647
	<u>68,620</u>	<u>3,848</u>	<u>72,468</u>	<u>36,260</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,260</u>

Included within 'Legal and professional costs' is an expense for independent examination fees of £790 (2021: £840).

11 Staff numbers

The average number of employees during the year was as follows: 3 (2021: 1).

12 Staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2021: None).

Rachel Walters (trustee) received payment for management services supplied to the charity during the year totalling £35,375, including benefits (2021: £8,328). However £17,072 of this was for management services supplied from the charity to RWAF and reimbursed by RWAF (2021: £4,486). Rachel was reimbursed travel expenses during the year totalling £300 (2021: £Nil). The total amount owing to Rachel Walters at 31 March 2022 was £312 (2021: £132).

Roslyn Lamb (trustee) received payment for administrative services supplied to the charity during the year totalling £5,837, including benefits (2021: £1,378). However £2,690 of this was for administrative services supplied from the charity to RWAF and reimbursed by RWAF (2021: £707). The total amount owing to Roslyn Lamb at 31 March 2022 was £312 (2021: £528).

Both of the trustees received their remuneration through the payroll of the charity with effect from 1 January 2021, with Rachel Walters previously receiving her remuneration as self-employed income. All of the payments made were permitted by the charity's governing document.

13 Related party transactions

All of the four trustees of the charity also serve as the directors of Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund ("RWAF"), a company limited by guarantee, and have control over this entity.

The charity and RWAF share a 'lock-up' premises. During the year the charity received £Nil (2021: £974) in contributions towards rental costs from RWAF and paid £2,331 (2021: £1,166) in contributions towards rental costs to RWAF.

During the year RWAF incurred the following expenses on behalf of the charity which have been or are due to be reimbursed:

	2022 £	2021 £
Vets fees, food and other rabbit welfare provisions	553	288
	<u>553</u>	<u>288</u>

During the year the charity received donations from individual donors, collected by RWAF on its behalf. None of these donations would be considered outside the normal course of business. There were no restricted donations from RWAF itself, or any other related party.

The total amount owed to the charity by RWAF at 31 March 2022 was £19,074 (2021: £7,821).

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

14 Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	2,000	4,000
Accrued income and prepayments	17,430	44,670
Other debtors	19,076	7,821
	<u>38,506</u>	<u>56,491</u>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	240	1,350
Accruals	2,885	2,785
Other taxes and social security	-	896
Other creditors	624	661
	<u>3,749</u>	<u>5,692</u>

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

16 Movement in funds

16.1 Current year

	At 1 April 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2022 £
<i>Restricted Income Funds:</i>					
Sponsor A Rescue Fund	997	1,922	(1,831)	-	1,088
Benevolent Fund	46,569	-	(3,848)	-	42,721
Total	<u>47,566</u>	<u>1,922</u>	<u>(5,679)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,809</u>
<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>					
<i>General Funds:</i>	<u>91,003</u>	<u>91,522</u>	<u>(81,871)</u>	<u>(21,000)</u>	<u>79,654</u>
<i>Designated Funds:</i>					
Vet Specialist Adviser Fund	8,000	-	(8,500)	8,500	8,000
Premises Fund	-	-	-	12,500	12,500
Total	<u>8,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(8,500)</u>	<u>21,000</u>	<u>20,500</u>
Total Funds	<u>146,569</u>	<u>93,444</u>	<u>(96,050)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>143,963</u>

16.2 Prior year

	At 1 April 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2021 £
<i>Restricted Income Funds:</i>					
Sponsor A Rescue Fund	723	1,906	(1,632)	-	997
Benevolent Fund	50,000	(3,431)	-	-	46,569
Total	<u>50,723</u>	<u>(1,525)</u>	<u>(1,632)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,566</u>
<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>					
<i>General Funds:</i>	<u>43,690</u>	<u>108,565</u>	<u>(52,752)</u>	<u>(8,500)</u>	<u>91,003</u>
<i>Designated Funds:</i>					
Vet Specialist Adviser Fund	8,000	-	(8,500)	8,500	8,000
Total	<u>8,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(8,500)</u>	<u>8,500</u>	<u>8,000</u>
Total Funds	<u>102,413</u>	<u>107,040</u>	<u>(62,884)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>146,569</u>

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Purposes and restrictions in relation to the funds:

Revaluation reserves Represent the amount by which investments exceed their historical cost.

Restricted funds:

Sponsor A Rescue Fund Represents sponsorship donations which are split and used to support a number of rescue shelters.

Benevolent Fund Represents grants received to enable the medical care of rescued rabbits. The source of these funds during the 2019-20 and 2020-21 accounting years has been the Eilis Power legacy.

Capone Fund Represents specific donations to fund our animal welfare officer.

Designated funds:

Vet Specialist Adviser Fund Represents funds set aside for the provision of specialist advice required by the charity in furtherance of its core aims and objectives.

Premises Fund Represents funds set aside for unexpected premises and relocation costs.

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

17.1 Current year

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	65,397	43,809	109,206
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	34,757	-	34,757
Total	<u>100,154</u>	<u>43,809</u>	<u>143,963</u>

17.2 Prior year

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	90,015	5,755	95,770
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	8,988	41,811	50,799
Total	<u>99,003</u>	<u>47,566</u>	<u>146,569</u>

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

This page does not form part of the statutory accounts

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	As Restated Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	As Restated Restricted Funds 2021 £	As Restated Total Funds 2021 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies						
Donations	31,549	-	31,549	56,643	(3,431)	53,212
Fundraising	24,050	-	24,050	26,649	-	26,649
Sponsor A Rescue	-	1,922	1,922	-	1,906	1,906
Gift Aid	1,632	-	1,632	2,715	-	2,715
	<u>57,231</u>	<u>1,922</u>	<u>59,153</u>	<u>86,007</u>	<u>(1,525)</u>	<u>84,482</u>
Charitable activities						
A Hutch Is Not Enough	35	-	35	51	-	51
Educational leaflet sales	9,475	-	9,475	16,315	-	16,315
Welfare Day Income	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	-
	<u>13,510</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,510</u>	<u>16,366</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,366</u>
Investments						
Bank interest	10	-	10	25	-	25
	<u>10</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25</u>
Other						
RWAf management fee income	20,771	-	20,771	5,193	-	5,193
Other revenue	-	-	-	974	-	974
	<u>20,771</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,771</u>	<u>6,167</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,167</u>
Total Income and endowments	<u>91,522</u>	<u>1,922</u>	<u>93,444</u>	<u>108,565</u>	<u>(1,525)</u>	<u>107,040</u>
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds						
Fundraising	216	-	216	236	-	236
Sponsor A Rescue	-	1,831	1,831	-	1,632	1,632
Welfare Day Costs	750	-	750	-	-	-
	<u>966</u>	<u>1,831</u>	<u>2,797</u>	<u>236</u>	<u>1,632</u>	<u>1,868</u>
Charitable activities						
Educational leaflet sales	2,145	-	2,145	7,900	-	7,900
Advertising	8,737	-	8,737	4,390	-	4,390
Capone Fund	8,083	-	8,083	8,668	-	8,668
Other Campaign Costs	1,820	-	1,820	3,798	-	3,798
	<u>20,785</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,785</u>	<u>24,756</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,756</u>
Other						
Other Expenditure - RWF Rescue Rabbits	-	3,848	3,848	5,938	-	5,938
Charitable Donations	2,923	-	2,923	-	-	-
	<u>2,923</u>	<u>3,848</u>	<u>6,771</u>	<u>5,938</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,938</u>
Management and volunteer costs						
Wages & salaries	42,663	-	42,663	9,550	-	9,550
Employers' NI	3,619	-	3,619	812	-	812
Pensions	400	-	400	-	-	-
Travel & subsistence	300	-	300	161	-	161
Relocation expenses	-	-	-	480	-	480
	<u>46,982</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46,982</u>	<u>11,003</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,003</u>

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

This page does not form part of the statutory accounts

Premises costs						
Rent	3,333	-	3,333	2,589	-	2,589
Rates	-	-	-	43	-	43
Use of home	624	-	624	156	-	156
Light & heat	29	-	29	274	-	274
Cleaning	510	-	510	-	-	-
	<u>4,496</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,496</u>	<u>3,062</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,062</u>
General administrative costs						
Software costs	469	-	469	1,438	-	1,438
Printing, postage & stationery	181	-	181	128	-	128
Bank charges	20	-	20	44	-	44
	<u>670</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>670</u>	<u>1,610</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,610</u>
Interest payable and similar costs						
Other loan interest	13	-	13	-	-	-
	<u>13</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Legal and professional costs						
Accountancy fees	1,200	-	1,200	1,330	-	1,330
Independent Examination fees	790	-	790	840	-	840
Solicitors fees	8,500	-	8,500	8,500	-	8,500
Other legal & professional fees	1,826	-	1,826	3,977	-	3,977
Consultancy fees	1,220	-	1,220	-	-	-
	<u>13,536</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,536</u>	<u>14,647</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,647</u>
Total expenditure	<u>90,371</u>	<u>5,679</u>	<u>96,050</u>	<u>61,252</u>	<u>1,632</u>	<u>62,884</u>
Net income/(expenditure)	1,151	(3,757)	(2,606)	47,313	(3,157)	44,156
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	<u>1,151</u>	<u>(3,757)</u>	<u>(2,606)</u>	<u>47,313</u>	<u>(3,157)</u>	<u>44,156</u>

RABBIT WELFARE FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1167093

Accounts

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
TRUSTEES' REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
CHARITY INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Charity No. 1167093

Registered Office

Enigma House
Culmhead Business Centre
Taunton
Somerset
TA3 7DY

Trustees

Rachel Walters
Emma Boyd
Roslyn Lamb
Alan Wilson

Accountants

Noakes Accounting Limited
66 South Street
Taunton
TA1 3AF

Independent Examiners

Albert Goodman LLP
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
TA1 2PX

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Introduction

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared 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) (effective 1 January 2019), as detailed in the accounting policies.

Administration

Rabbit Welfare Fund Registered Charity No. 1167093

Trustees

The following Trustees served during the year:

Rachel Walters
Emma Boyd
Roslyn Lamb
Alan Wilson

Registered Office

Enigma House
Culmhead Business Centre
Taunton
Somerset
TA3 7DY

Accountants

Noakes Accounting Limited
66 South Street
Taunton
TA1 3AF

Independent Examiners

Albert Goodman LLP
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
TA1 2PX

H&S Adviser

Mark Dron

Specialist Vet Adviser

Dr Richard Saunders

Structure, governance and management

Rabbit Welfare Fund (the "Charity") was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 16 May 2016, charity number 1167093.

All of the trustees currently in place are the first charity trustees, and hence have been in place since the Charity was registered. As stated in the governing document, these trustees will remain in place until they resign or are removed. Any additional trustees, of which there are currently none, shall have terms of three years.

The trustees are responsible for proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

RABBIT WELFARE FUND TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Rabbit Welfare Fund was formed when the sister membership organisation Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund, a limited by guarantee company (Company No. 10044925), was receiving donations to put towards improving rabbit welfare. The two organisations still share common goals and Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund ("RWAFF") still raise donations on behalf of Rabbit Welfare Fund.

Aims and objectives

These remain unchanged as:

TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE CARE AND OWNERSHIP OF DOMESTIC RABBITS KEPT AS PETS IN BRITAIN AND TO FURTHER ADVANCE THE KNOWLEDGE OF RABBIT MEDICINE AMONGST THE UK VETERINARY PROFESSION.

TO CONDUCT OR PROMOTE THE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH AND PUBLISH THE USEFUL RESULTS OF SUCH RESEARCH INTO SPECIFIC HEALTH PROJECTS IN ORDER TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF COMMON HEALTH PROBLEMS IN DOMESTIC RABBITS.

We have a brilliant and constantly updated website to offer the most contemporary and best practice advice to rabbit owners, as well as the messages that we put out on social media and in the press.

We have held online Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for Vets and Vet Nurses throughout this year and disseminated new information regarding vaccines and other developments via our website and to our vet mailing list via e-mail. We continue to run a telephone helpline 5 days a week, in which we provide advice to rabbit owners, and give similar advice via our e-mail service.

Achievements and performance for the year April 2020 to March 2021

Good Practice Code for the welfare of rabbits

The 5 Welfare Needs stated in the Animal Welfare Act are the accepted framework on which good welfare is delivered. Codes of practice are the agreed guidelines on how pet owners can meet these welfare needs.

There have been codes of practice for other species; dogs and cats for example, for a number of years but as is often the way, rabbits were left behind. We are therefore delighted to have delivered the Good Practice Code for the Welfare of rabbits. This document contains codes of practices agreed between a number of stakeholders including the RWAFF, the RSPCA and AGPAW (the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare). Each of the stakeholders will publish the document on their respective websites, which means the information will be widely available.

We have been working hard on this for a number of years and are very excited that the codes are now agreed and published. These codes were written by a working group of organisations all with a key stake in rabbit welfare, so it will be extremely influential. The next stage will be to have the codes adopted by DEFRA, so that they become statutory. This is the plan for 2022. The Good Practice Code for the Welfare of rabbits is available for download on our website.

Social Media

We are using a PR company to post regular care and welfare advice and to grow our social media audiences so that we can get the messages out to as many people as possible. Please help us by sharing our messages if you can. This is a big investment for us, but we are really pleased with the results and the interactions so far, of course the cute bunny pictures are popular but so are the more hard-hitting graphics that they have produced for us.

Rabbit Friendly Vet list

We continue to assess and add rabbit friendly vet practices to our website. We now have over 160 vet practices listed on our website, and 14 of them are Gold standard which means they have a Specialist vet there. This is a free service via our website which matches up rabbit owners with their nearest assessed rabbit friendly vet to ensure the best care possible is obtained.

Animal Welfare Officer Report

Our Animal Welfare Officer Mark Dron has primarily been investigating unlicensed rabbit sales online, as well as visiting premises and reporting any unlicensed sellers and welfare concerns. An extract from Mark's annual report follows.

Introduction

2020 was a very unusual year for everyone, and the work that I would normally undertake was massively impacted by the three 2020 Lockdowns, and the huge impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on how people lived their lives.

However, far from reducing the workload of the AWO, the fact that many people lived their lives online, and shifted their businesses and shopping habits to online platforms actually saw a noticeable increase in the amount of breeders advertising and selling online, and thus a similarly noticeable increase in casework and referrals made to other agencies.

RABBIT WELFARE FUND TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

2020 Figures

Total cases raised for 2020 – 355

Previous total cases raised 2019 – 107

Increase in cases – 248 (69.9% increase)

As can be seen there was a sizeable increase in cases raised by the AWO in 2020, it is believed that this was largely due to a marked increase in online breeders, but also represents an increase in cases referred to RWAF Head Office by members and the public, relating to animal welfare issues and concerns uncovered during 2020.

Types of cases

Whilst carrying out enquiries for the RWF, there are occasions where other offending is identified by the AWO. Where this happens, details and information are always recorded and passed to the appropriate enforcement agencies. In 2020, the offending profile was as follows:

Animal Welfare Offences including Licensing – 283

Illegal Hunting Offences (Including Hare Coursing) – 21

Fraud Act 2006 – 18

CITES (Endangered Species) Offences – 8

Firearms (These all form part of wider offending usually involving illegal hunting) – 6

Other offences - 21

Summary

As can be seen the largest area of concern in 2020 related to the AWO's primary duties which involve identifying unlicensed Pet Sellers (usually rabbit breeders, but there are other areas of concern that have impacted on the casework), with fraud, illegal hunting, firearms and endangered species issues accounting for 53 case referrals in 2020.

Referrals in 2020

Referrals were made to the following agencies in 2020:

Local Authorities – 80

HMRC & Other Govt Agencies – 75

Police UK and Overseas – 8

Other Agencies – 35

Total Referrals in 2020 – 198

Special projects and notable work

It was noted in July 2020, that a selling platform that had previously been virtually devoid of rabbit sales had suddenly exploded with new breeders, this was Free-ads a platform similar to Ebay and other sites, whereby used items could be offered for sale, amongst the commodities offered were a massive array of animals including rabbits.

I carried out a special project (which is now in its final month of activity) targeting sellers on this platform; the immediate notable and interesting factor identified from this project was the preponderance of new traders identified (by which we mean those who have started breeding in 2020), and this has shown a marked increase in activity.

The project has also provided us with many more in-roads into activity in SCOTLAND and WALES, which will form the basis of a sizeable project in 2021.

Through links in to volunteering with the Angling Trust / EA on Fishery crime, we have also managed to make connections with local Police Forces in the South East, which has enabled us to find contacts in rural crime teams who are happy to receive and deal with intelligence relating to Hare Coursing, which has seen a massive increase in the Winter months of 2020.

I also obtained the Animal Welfare Inspection qualification in 2020, as well as attending a number of other courses which have enabled me to provide a wider base of assistance to the RWAF's Senior Management Team.

2021

2021 has started in much the same manner as the majority of 2020, in Lockdown and still plagued by the Covid-19 pandemic; it is however shaping up to be another busy year and the following work is planned:

1. We already have 43 cases open in the book to be researched, an increase of 18 on this time last year.
2. Geographical Intelligence Project looking at Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man.
3. More liaison with Rural Crime Teams as contacts can be made.
4. Resumption of observation and visit programme once Lockdown is eased.
5. Planned increase in referral activity provided the pace of identification of breeders and their locations can be maintained.

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

6. Possibility of closer-working with a new charity that deals primarily with animal cruelty matters (The Animal Protection Service) who have a presence in the South East and elsewhere in the UK, and while they largely deal with Dogs and Puppy Farming, are also looking to diversify across different pet animal species.

Ongoing business as usual

As well as the points noted above, the RWF spent the year doing whatever it could to improve the health and welfare of companion rabbits, which included educating rabbit owners and potential rabbit owners, working with various committees to improve legislation protecting rabbits, and challenging poor information and representation of pet rabbits in the media.

Financial review

The Rabbit Welfare Fund is relatively small charity and the majority of the income funds our campaigning and educational work.

Income had decreased from £109,288 to £107,040 during this period. However overheads had also decreased, leaving a net surplus of £44,156, an increase on last year's surplus of £38,141. Most of this surplus remained within general funds. We continue to monitor our overheads and reserves to ensure that we are able to meet our obligations.

We are not large enough to have investments, other than money in our deposit bank account, so we do not have an investment policy or risk assessment in place for this. However as at 31 March 2021 our funds at the bank exceeded the £85,000 that would be covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme in full. In the year ahead we will need to consider the risk posed by this and how to mitigate it.

The risks that could affect the charity are, like all charities a drop in donations. With the current economic uncertainty surrounding the covid pandemic, we have to bear this in mind. We have considered the risk this may cause us and have come to the conclusion that the risk is minimal because the majority of the donations we receive are small. We do not take financial risk.

Donations and legacies account for the majority of the income. We generate a significant amount of donations from members of RWAF and any orders processed via our website shop.rabbitwelfare.co.uk.

We have more recently started to receive legacy payments too. This is because our charity is now 20 years old and becoming more well known, and we expect that this will continue.

We have a reserves policy in place, whereby we maintain 3 months of general unrestricted funds in our deposit account. This is to cover unforeseen drops in income. As at year end 31 March 2021 there was £91,003 of general unrestricted funds, which is far in excess of that required by the policy.

Plans for future periods

We intend to continue our campaign work, push for the implementation of good practice codes, and overall, to give companion rabbits a more equal status to that of dogs and cats.

Approval

This report was approved by the board of Trustees on 19 January 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Rachel Walters
Trustee

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Independent examiners report to the Trustees of Rabbit Welfare Fund

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for Rabbit Welfare Fund ("the charity") for the year ended 31 March 2021, set out on pages 7 - 17.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not comply with these records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair view" which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Michelle Ferris BSc (Hons) FCA DChA
Albert Goodman LLP
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
TA1 2PX

20 January 2022

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

		Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Notes							
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	86,007	(1,525)	84,482	36,131	52,065	88,196
Charitable activities	4	16,366	-	16,366	18,458	-	18,458
Investments	5	25	-	25	104	-	104
Other	6	6,167	-	6,167	2,530	-	2,530
Total		108,565	(1,525)	107,040	57,223	52,065	109,288
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	7	236	1,632	1,868	251	2,969	3,220
Charitable activities	8	12,290	-	12,290	18,655	-	18,655
Other	9	48,726	-	48,726	49,272	-	49,272
Total		61,252	1,632	62,884	68,178	2,969	71,147
Net income/(expenditure)		47,313	(3,157)	44,156	(10,955)	49,096	38,141
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	(4,562)	4,562	-
Net movement in funds		47,313	(3,157)	44,156	(15,517)	53,658	38,141
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		51,690	50,723	102,413	67,207	(2,935)	64,272
Total funds carried forward	16	99,003	47,566	146,569	51,690	50,723	102,413

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 16 to the financial statements.

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	2021 £	2020 £
Income	107,015	109,184
Interest and investment income	25	104
Gross income for the year	<u>107,040</u>	<u>109,288</u>
Total expenditure for the year	(62,884)	(71,147)
Net surplus before tax for the year	<u>44,156</u>	<u>38,141</u>
Net surplus for the year	<u>44,156</u>	<u>38,141</u>

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Current assets			
Debtors	13	56,491	59,185
Cash at bank and in hand		95,770	48,503
		<u>152,261</u>	<u>107,688</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(5,692)	(5,275)
Net current assets		<u>146,569</u>	<u>102,413</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>146,569</u>	<u>102,413</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset or liability		<u>146,569</u>	<u>102,413</u>
Net assets		<u>146,569</u>	<u>102,413</u>
The funds of the charity			
Restricted funds			
Restricted income funds	16	47,566	50,723
		<u>47,566</u>	<u>50,723</u>
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	16	91,003	43,690
Designated funds	16	8,000	8,000
		<u>99,003</u>	<u>51,690</u>
Total funds		<u>146,569</u>	<u>102,413</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 19 January 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Rachel Walters
Trustee

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	2021	2020
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income as per statement of financial activities	44,156	38,141
Adjustments for:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(25)	(104)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	2,694	(47,846)
Increase in creditors	417	581
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	47,242	(9,228)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	25	104
Net cash provided by investing activities	25	104
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents	47,267	(9,124)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year:		
Cash at bank and in hand	48,503	57,627
	48,503	57,627
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year:	95,770	48,503
Components of cash and cash equivalents		
Cash at bank and in hand	95,770	48,503
	95,770	48,503

RABBIT WELFARE FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

Accounting basis

The financial statements have been prepared 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) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Change in basis of accounting or to previous periods

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and method of accounting) since last year and no changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted general funds	These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.
Unrestricted designated	These are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.
Restricted income funds	These are available for use subject to restrictions imposed by the donor or through terms of an appeal.

Income

Recognition of income	Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to, and virtually certain to receive, the income and the amount of the income can be measured with sufficient reliability.
Income with related expenditure	Where income has related expenditure the income and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.
Donations and legacies	Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in the SoFA when receivable and only when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the income.
Tax reclaims on donations and gifts	Income from tax reclaims is included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift/donation to which it relates.
Donated services and facilities	These are only included in income (with an equivalent amount in expenditure) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable, and material.
Volunteer help	The value of any volunteer help is not included within the accounts.
Investment income	This is included within the accounts when receivable.
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	This includes any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value.
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	This includes any gain or loss of the sale of investments.

Expenditure

Recognition of expenditure	Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis. Expenditure includes any VAT that cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.
Expenditure on raising funds	These comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income, fundraising trading costs and investment management costs.
Expenditure on charitable activities	These comprise the costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services in the furtherance of its objects, including the making of grants and governance costs.
Grants payable	All grant expenditure is accounted for on an accrual paid basis plus an accrual for grants that have been approved by the trustees at the end of the year but not yet paid.

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Governance costs	These include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity, including any audit/independent examination fees, costs linked to the strategic management of the charity, together with a share of other administration costs.
Other expenditure	These are support costs not allocated to a particular activity.

Taxation

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

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprised cash at bank and on hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the Statement of Financial Position, bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings or current liabilities. In the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the charity's cash management.

Trade and other creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial assets, including trade and other receivables, cash and bank balances and investments in commercial paper, are initially recognised at transaction price. Such assets are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables, bank loans, loans from group companies and preference shares that are classified as debt, are initially recognised at transaction price. Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

2 Charity information

Rabbit Welfare Fund is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales. The registered office address is Enigma House, Culmhead Business Centre, Taunton, Somerset, TA3 7DY.

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Donations	56,643	(3,431)	53,212	23,714	50,000	73,714
Fundraising	26,649	-	26,649	10,767	-	10,767
Sponsor A Rescue	-	1,906	1,906	-	2,065	2,065
Gift Aid	2,715	-	2,715	1,650	-	1,650
	86,007	(1,525)	84,482	36,131	52,065	88,196

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £
A Hutch Is Not Enough	51	-	51	367	-	367
Educational leaflet sales	16,315	-	16,315	18,091	-	18,091
	16,366	-	16,366	18,458	-	18,458

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Bank interest	25	-	25	104	-	104
	25	-	25	104	-	104

6 Other income

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £
RWAF management fee income	5,193	-	5,193	-	-	-
Other revenue	974	-	974	2,530	-	2,530
	6,167	-	6,167	2,530	-	2,530

7 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Fundraising	236	-	236	251	-	251
Sponsor A Rescue	-	1,632	1,632	-	2,969	2,969
	236	1,632	1,868	251	2,969	3,220

8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £
A Hutch Is Not Enough	-	-	-	994	-	994
Educational leaflet sales	7,900	-	7,900	9,290	-	9,290
Advertising	4,390	-	4,390	8,371	-	8,371
	12,290	-	12,290	18,655	-	18,655

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

9 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Benevolent Fund Veterinary Payments	-	-	-	2,737	-	2,737
Capone Fund	8,668	-	8,668	8,163	-	8,163
Other Campaign Costs	3,798	-	3,798	5,820	-	5,820
Other Expenditure - RWF Rescue Rabbits	5,938	-	5,938	3,228	-	3,228
Management and volunteer costs	11,003	-	11,003	1,604	-	1,604
Premises costs	3,062	-	3,062	5,797	-	5,797
General administrative costs	1,610	-	1,610	2,347	-	2,347
Legal and professional costs	14,647	-	14,647	19,576	-	19,576
	<u>48,726</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,726</u>	<u>49,272</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>49,272</u>

Included within 'Legal and professional costs' is an expense for independent examination fees of £840 (2020: £480).

10 Staff numbers

The average number of employees during the year was as follows: 1 (2020: Nil).

11 Staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses

No employee received amoluments in excess of £60,000.

Rachel Walters (trustee) received payment for management services supplied to the charity during the year totalling £8,328, including benefits (2020: £7,600). Rachel did not receive reimbursement of any expenses during the year (2020: £525). The total amount owing to Rachel Walters at 31 March 2021 was £132 (2020: £Nil).

Roslyn Lamb (trustee) received payment for administrative services supplied to the charity during the year totalling £1,378, including benefits (2020: £Nil). The total amount owing to Roslyn Lamb at 31 March 2021 was £528 (2020: £Nil).

Both of the trustees received their remuneration through the payroll of the charity with effect from 1 January 2021, having previously received the remuneration as self-employed income. All of the payments made were permitted by the charity's governing document.

12 Related party transactions

All of the four trustees of the charity also serve as the directors of Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund ("RWAF"), a company limited by guarantee, and have control over this entity.

The charity and RWAF share premises located at Culmhead Business Centre, Taunton. During the year the charity received £974 (2020: £2,530) in contributions towards rental costs from RWAF and paid £1,166 (2020: £583) in contributions towards rental costs to RWAF.

During the year RWAF incurred the following expenses on behalf of the charity which have been or are due to be reimbursed:

	2021 £	2020 £
Accountancy fees	-	330
Premises waste disposal	-	393
Telephone & internet	-	1,143
Vets fees, food and other rabbit welfare provisions	288	1,983
	<u>288</u>	<u>3,849</u>

On 1 January 2021, payroll liabilities of £504 were transferred from RWAF to the charity following the closure of RWAF's payroll scheme, for which RWAF is due to reimburse the charity.

During the year the charity received donations from individual donors, collected by RWAF on its behalf. None of these donations would be considered outside the normal course of business. There were no restricted donations from RWAF itself, or any other related party.

The total amount owed to the charity by RWAF at 31 March 2021 was £7,821 (2020: £13,004).

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

13 Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	4,000	-
Accrued income and prepayments	44,670	46,181
Other debtors	7,821	13,004
	<u>56,491</u>	<u>59,185</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,350	2,670
Accruals	2,785	2,605
Other taxes and social security	896	-
Other creditors	661	-
	<u>5,692</u>	<u>5,275</u>

15 Financial instruments

The charity has financial assets and financial liabilities in the following categories:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Financial assets		
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost:		
Cash at bank	95,770	48,503
Trade debtors	4,000	-
Other debtors	7,821	13,004
Total	<u>107,591</u>	<u>61,507</u>
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost:		
Trade creditors	1,350	2,670
Accruals	2,785	2,605
Other creditors	661	-
Total	<u>4,796</u>	<u>5,275</u>

There are no items of income, expense, gains or losses to report (2020: none).

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

16 Movement in funds

16.1 Current year

	At 1 April 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2021 £
<i>Restricted Income Funds:</i>					
Sponsor A Rescue Fund	723	1,906	(1,632)	-	997
Benevolent Fund	50,000	(3,431)	-	-	46,569
Total	<u>50,723</u>	<u>(1,525)</u>	<u>(1,632)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,566</u>
<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>					
<i>General Funds:</i>	<u>43,690</u>	<u>108,565</u>	<u>(52,752)</u>	<u>(8,500)</u>	<u>91,003</u>
<i>Designated Funds:</i>					
Vet Specialist Adviser Fund	8,000	-	(8,500)	8,500	8,000
Total	<u>8,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(8,500)</u>	<u>8,500</u>	<u>8,000</u>
Total Funds	<u>102,413</u>	<u>107,040</u>	<u>(62,884)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>146,569</u>

16.2 Prior year

	At 1 April 2019 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2020 £
<i>Restricted Income Funds:</i>					
Sponsor A Rescue Fund	1,627	2,065	(2,969)	-	723
Benevolent Fund	(3,610)	50,000	-	3,610	50,000
Capone Fund	(952)	-	-	952	-
Total	<u>(2,935)</u>	<u>52,065</u>	<u>(2,969)</u>	<u>4,562</u>	<u>50,723</u>
<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>					
<i>General Funds:</i>	<u>53,886</u>	<u>57,223</u>	<u>(59,801)</u>	<u>(7,618)</u>	<u>43,690</u>
<i>Designated Funds:</i>					
Vet Specialist Adviser Fund	1,178	-	(8,377)	15,199	8,000
Donations and Leaflets Fund	12,143	-	-	(12,143)	-
Total	<u>13,321</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(8,377)</u>	<u>3,056</u>	<u>8,000</u>
Total Funds	<u>64,272</u>	<u>109,288</u>	<u>(71,147)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>102,413</u>

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Purposes and restrictions in relation to the funds:

Revaluation reserves Represent the amount by which investments exceed their historical cost.

Restricted funds:

Sponsor A Rescue Fund Represents sponsorship donations which are split and used to support a number of rescue shelters.

Benevolent Fund Represents grants received to enable the medical care of rescued rabbits. The source of these funds during the 2019-20 and 2020-21 accounting years has been the Eilis Power legacy.

Capone Fund Represents specific donations to fund our animal welfare officer.

Designated funds:

Vet Specialist Adviser Fund Represents funds sets aside for the provision of specialist advice required by the charity in furtherance of its core aims and objectives.

Donations and Leaflets Fund Represents funds set aside for the distribution of educational leaflets.

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

17.1 Current year

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	90,015	5,755	95,770
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	8,988	41,811	50,799
Total	<u>99,003</u>	<u>47,566</u>	<u>146,569</u>

17.2 Prior year

	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Cash at bank and in hand	43,022	5,481	48,503
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	8,668	45,242	53,910
Total	<u>51,690</u>	<u>50,723</u>	<u>102,413</u>

RABBIT WELFARE FUND
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

This page does not form part of the statutory accounts

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies						
Donations	56,643	(3,431)	53,212	23,714	50,000	73,714
Fundraising	26,649	-	26,649	10,767	-	10,767
Sponsor A Rescue	-	1,906	1,906	-	2,065	2,065
Gift Aid	2,715	-	2,715	1,650	-	1,650
	<u>86,007</u>	<u>(1,525)</u>	<u>84,482</u>	<u>36,131</u>	<u>52,065</u>	<u>88,196</u>
Charitable activities						
A Hutch Is Not Enough	51	-	51	367	-	367
Educational leaflet sales	16,315	-	16,315	18,091	-	18,091
	<u>16,366</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,366</u>	<u>18,458</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,458</u>
Investments						
Bank interest	25	-	25	104	-	104
	<u>25</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>104</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>104</u>
Other						
RWAf management fee income	5,193	-	5,193	-	-	-
Other revenue	974	-	974	2,530	-	2,530
	<u>6,167</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,167</u>	<u>2,530</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,530</u>
Total Income and endowments	<u>108,565</u>	<u>(1,525)</u>	<u>107,040</u>	<u>57,223</u>	<u>52,065</u>	<u>109,288</u>
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds						
Fundraising	236	-	236	251	-	251
Sponsor A Rescue	-	1,632	1,632	-	2,969	2,969
	<u>236</u>	<u>1,632</u>	<u>1,868</u>	<u>251</u>	<u>2,969</u>	<u>3,220</u>
Charitable activities						
A Hutch Is Not Enough	-	-	-	994	-	994
Educational leaflet sales	7,900	-	7,900	9,290	-	9,290
Advertising	4,390	-	4,390	8,371	-	8,371
	<u>12,290</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,290</u>	<u>18,655</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,655</u>
Other						
Benevolent Fund Veterinary Payments	-	-	-	2,737	-	2,737
Capone Fund	8,668	-	8,668	8,163	-	8,163
Other Campaign Costs	3,798	-	3,798	5,820	-	5,820
Other Expenditure - RWF Rescue Rabbits	5,938	-	5,938	3,228	-	3,228
	<u>18,404</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,404</u>	<u>19,948</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,948</u>
Management and volunteer costs						
Wages & salaries	9,550	-	9,550	-	-	-
Employers' NI	812	-	812	-	-	-
Training	-	-	-	300	-	300
Travel & subsistence	161	-	161	1,304	-	1,304
Relocation expenses	480	-	480	-	-	-
	<u>11,003</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,003</u>	<u>1,604</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,604</u>
Premises costs						
Rent	2,589	-	2,589	4,811	-	4,811

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

This page does not form part of the statutory accounts

Rates	43	-	43	353	-	353
Use of home	156	-	156	-	-	-
Light & heat	274	-	274	240	-	240
Cleaning	-	-	-	393	-	393
	<u>3,062</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,062</u>	<u>5,797</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,797</u>
General administrative costs						
Software costs	1,438	-	1,438	1,010	-	1,010
Printing, postage & stationery	128	-	128	155	-	155
Telephone & internet	-	-	-	1,143	-	1,143
Bank charges	44	-	44	39	-	39
	<u>1,610</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,610</u>	<u>2,347</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,347</u>
Legal and professional costs						
Accountancy fees	1,330	-	1,330	1,696	-	1,696
Independent Examination fees	840	-	840	480	-	480
Solicitors fees	8,500	-	8,500	8,377	-	8,377
Other legal & professional fees	3,977	-	3,977	1,423	-	1,423
Management fees	-	-	-	7,600	-	7,600
	<u>14,647</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,647</u>	<u>19,576</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,576</u>
Total expenditure	<u>61,252</u>	<u>1,632</u>	<u>62,884</u>	<u>68,178</u>	<u>2,969</u>	<u>71,147</u>
Net income/(expenditure)	47,313	(3,157)	44,156	(10,955)	49,096	38,141
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	(4,562)	4,562	-
Net movement in funds	<u>47,313</u>	<u>(3,157)</u>	<u>44,156</u>	<u>(15,517)</u>	<u>53,658</u>	<u>38,141</u>