

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

**RABBIT WELFARE FUND  
TRUSTEES' REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
CONTENTS**

---

	<b>Page(s)</b>
Charity Information	1
Trustees' Annual Report	2 - 5
Independent Examiners' Report	6
Statement Of Financial Activities	7
Summary Income And Expenditure Account	8
Balance Sheet	9
Notes To The Financial Statements	10 - 16
 The following pages do not form part of the statutory accounts:	
Detailed Statement Of Financial Activities	17 - 18

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

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**

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

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

	Notes		2023 £	2022 £
<b>Current assets</b>				
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>	
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(2,925)	(3,749)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>86,298</u>	<u>143,963</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>86,298</u>	<u>143,963</u>
<b>Net assets excluding pension asset or liability</b>			<u>86,298</u>	<u>143,963</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>86,298</u>	<u>143,963</u>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>				
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Restricted income funds	16	34,494	43,809	
			<u>34,494</u>	<u>43,809</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General funds	16	31,304	79,654	
Designated funds	16	20,500	20,500	
			<u>51,804</u>	<u>100,154</u>
<b>Total funds</b>			<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**

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

**14 Debtors**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
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**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
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 £
<b>Restricted Income Funds:</b>					
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
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
<b>General Funds:</b>	79,654	88,350	(128,138)	(8,562)	31,304
<b>Designated Funds:</b>					
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
<b>Total Funds</b>	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 £
<b>Restricted Income Funds:</b>					
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
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
<b>General Funds:</b>	91,003	91,522	(81,871)	(21,000)	79,654
<b>Designated Funds:</b>					
Vet Specialist Adviser Fund	8,000	-	(8,500)	8,500	8,000
Total	8,000	-	(8,500)	21,000	20,500
<b>Total Funds</b>	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**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023 £</b>
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**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2022 £</b>
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 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and legacies						
Donations	35,111	-	<b>35,111</b>	31,549	-	<b>31,549</b>
Fundraising	14,684	-	<b>14,684</b>	24,050	-	<b>24,050</b>
Sponsor A Rescue	-	2,095	<b>2,095</b>	-	1,922	<b>1,922</b>
Gift Aid	1,424	-	<b>1,424</b>	1,632	-	<b>1,632</b>
	<u>51,219</u>	<u>2,095</u>	<u><b>53,314</b></u>	<u>57,231</u>	<u>1,922</u>	<u><b>59,153</b></u>
Charitable activities						
A Hutch Is Not Enough	29	-	<b>29</b>	35	-	<b>35</b>
Educational leaflet sales	15,491	-	<b>15,491</b>	9,475	-	<b>9,475</b>
Welfare Day Income	(2,000)	-	<b>(2,000)</b>	4,000	-	<b>4,000</b>
Advertising Income	2,650	-	<b>2,650</b>	-	-	<b>-</b>
	<u>16,170</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>16,170</b></u>	<u>13,510</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>13,510</b></u>
Investments						
Bank interest	190	-	<b>190</b>	10	-	<b>10</b>
	<u>190</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>190</b></u>	<u>10</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>10</b></u>
Other						
RWF management fee income	20,771	-	<b>20,771</b>	20,771	-	<b>20,771</b>
	<u>20,771</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>20,771</b></u>	<u>20,771</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>20,771</b></u>
<b>Total Income and endowments</b>	<u><b>88,350</b></u>	<u><b>2,095</b></u>	<u><b>90,445</b></u>	<u><b>91,522</b></u>	<u><b>1,922</b></u>	<u><b>93,444</b></u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds						
Fundraising	636	-	<b>636</b>	216	-	<b>216</b>
Sponsor A Rescue	-	1,234	<b>1,234</b>	-	1,831	<b>1,831</b>
Welfare Day Costs	-	-	<b>-</b>	750	-	<b>750</b>
	<u>636</u>	<u>1,234</u>	<u><b>1,870</b></u>	<u>966</u>	<u>1,831</u>	<u><b>2,797</b></u>
Charitable activities						
A Hutch Is Not Enough	30	-	<b>30</b>	-	-	<b>-</b>
Educational leaflet expenditure	9,545	-	<b>9,545</b>	2,145	-	<b>2,145</b>
Advertising	16,328	8,475	<b>24,803</b>	8,737	-	<b>8,737</b>
Capone Fund	8,543	-	<b>8,543</b>	8,083	-	<b>8,083</b>
Educational Vet Webinar Sessions	15,493	-	<b>15,493</b>	-	-	<b>-</b>
Other Campaign Costs	-	-	<b>-</b>	1,820	-	<b>1,820</b>
	<u>49,939</u>	<u>8,475</u>	<u><b>58,414</b></u>	<u>20,785</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>20,785</b></u>
Other						
Benevolent Fund Veterinary Payments	-	1,029	<b>1,029</b>	-	-	<b>-</b>
Other Expenditure - RWF Rescue Rabbits	1,254	672	<b>1,926</b>	-	3,848	<b>3,848</b>
Charitable Donations	-	-	<b>-</b>	2,923	-	<b>2,923</b>
	<u>1,254</u>	<u>1,701</u>	<u><b>2,955</b></u>	<u>2,923</u>	<u>3,848</u>	<u><b>6,771</b></u>
Management and volunteer costs						
Wages & salaries	50,952	-	<b>50,952</b>	42,663	-	<b>42,663</b>
Employers' NI	-	-	<b>-</b>	3,619	-	<b>3,619</b>
Pensions	32	-	<b>32</b>	400	-	<b>400</b>
Training	1,450	-	<b>1,450</b>	-	-	<b>-</b>
Travel & subsistence	1,283	-	<b>1,283</b>	300	-	<b>300</b>
Staff entertainment	47	-	<b>47</b>	-	-	<b>-</b>
Relocation expenses	41	-	<b>41</b>	-	-	<b>-</b>
	<u>53,805</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>53,805</b></u>	<u>46,982</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>46,982</b></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	-	<b>2,331</b>	3,333	-	<b>3,333</b>
Use of home	624	-	<b>624</b>	624	-	<b>624</b>
Light & heat	-	-	-	29	-	<b>29</b>
Cleaning	-	-	-	510	-	<b>510</b>
	<u>2,955</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>2,955</b></u>	<u>4,496</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>4,496</b></u>
General administrative costs						
Software costs	8,077	-	<b>8,077</b>	469	-	<b>469</b>
Printing, postage & stationery	132	-	<b>132</b>	181	-	<b>181</b>
Telephone & internet	100	-	<b>100</b>	-	-	-
Bank charges	62	-	<b>62</b>	20	-	<b>20</b>
	<u>8,371</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>8,371</b></u>	<u>670</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>670</b></u>
Interest payable and similar costs						
Other loan interest	1	-	<b>1</b>	13	-	<b>13</b>
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>1</b></u>	<u>13</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>13</b></u>
Legal and professional costs						
Accountancy fees	1,395	-	<b>1,395</b>	1,200	-	<b>1,200</b>
Independent Examination fees	784	-	<b>784</b>	790	-	<b>790</b>
Solicitors fees	8,562	-	<b>8,562</b>	8,500	-	<b>8,500</b>
Other legal & professional fees	8,398	-	<b>8,398</b>	1,826	-	<b>1,826</b>
Consultancy fees	600	-	<b>600</b>	1,220	-	<b>1,220</b>
	<u>19,739</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>19,739</b></u>	<u>13,536</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>13,536</b></u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<u>136,700</u>	<u>11,410</u>	<u><b>148,110</b></u>	<u>90,371</u>	<u>5,679</u>	<u><b>96,050</b></u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<u>(48,350)</u>	<u>(9,315)</u>	<u><b>(57,665)</b></u>	<u>1,151</u>	<u>(3,757)</u>	<u><b>(2,606)</b></u>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<u><u>(48,350)</u></u>	<u><u>(9,315)</u></u>	<u><u><b>(57,665)</b></u></u>	<u><u>1,151</u></u>	<u><u>(3,757)</u></u>	<u><u><b>(2,606)</b></u></u>