

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL
REPORT & FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**

6th April 2023 - 5th April 2024



SAFE

Saving Abandoned Fly-Grazing Equines

www.safe-horses.org.uk

Registered charity no 1172769



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CHARITY INFORMATION

TRUSTEES: Alison Stratford - Chair
Rebecca Speed
Tracey Stone
Kirsty Mackie

BANKERS: National Westminster
5 High Street
Bracknell RG12 1DH

ACCOUNTANTS: Boyett Mayes Ltd.
The Stables
Moneys Farm
Bottle Lane
Mattingley
Hampshire RG27 8LJ

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1172769

SAFE POSTAL ADDRESS: PO Box 4330
Crowthorne
Berkshire
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Registered charity no 1172769

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 5TH APRIL 2024

The trustees submit their annual report and the financial statements for the year ending 5th April 2024.

The History of SAFE:

Founded by Alison Stratford in 2014, SAFE (Saving Abandoned Fly-Grazing Equines) emerged in response to the rescue of 26 abandoned and neglected horses from a field in Binfield, Berkshire. Tragically, some horses were beyond any possibility of recovery and had to be euthanized on the spot. However, the remaining horses were nursed back to health and found new homes. Since its inception, SAFE has continued its mission of aiding abandoned and fly-grazed horses, establishing itself as a well-known and respected small charity.

Objectives & Activities:

SAFE primarily exists to support and offer guidance to landowners, to legally rescue, rehabilitate and rehome abandoned, neglected fly-grazed horses and ponies. SAFE also conducts rescue of horses under the Animal Welfare Act, involving the Police.

Our mission and the fundamental objective of our Charity is the 3 R's > "Rescue, Rehabilitate and Rehome". This applies to every abandoned horse and pony that we rescue, as well as to support other organisations who cannot help. SAFE offers a lifetime security to every equine in its care, this makes certain they will never experience neglect again.

As a charity we also offer support in the below areas:

- Work with the Police, RSPCA, local authorities, equine bailiffs, and members of the public to rescue abandoned, neglected, and abused horses.
- Advance the education of members of the public, in the proper care and treatment of their equines and support them with this care.
- Help to fight the ever-increasing rise in cruelty to animals and continue to work with other similar minded organisations, to ensure any neglected equines receive the care and medical treatment they sadly so often need.
- Advise and communicate steering groups and political panels to improve the laws around horse welfare.
- Remain a leading and recognised local charity, which provides all rescued horses a secure and bright future.

Structure, Management, and Governance Arrangements:

Saving Abandoned Fly-Grazing Equines is a charity formed in April 2017 (started as a rescue in 2014), is a CIO and is governed by Trustees. The Charity registration number, names of trustees and other information are detailed on page 2 of this report.

All Trustees remain in office for a defined term until they resign, retire, or are removed. They can be replaced during a general meeting. The individuals responsible for the day-to-day running of the charity are Alison Stratford and Kirsty Mackie.

As a charity, we ensure that we work collaboratively with other equine and animal welfare organisations, local authorities, Police, veterinarians and rescues, all working towards the same objectives, with a focus on animal welfare.

The Trustees feel that, as always, the main risk to the charity is funding. The economic instability of the country has a knock-on effect where all charities are in competition for donations and grants. We are reliant on our supporters and realise that charitable donations could be the first thing to cut back on, when having to

budget.

Achievements and Performance

As a small charity, we have worked to ensure we are establishing a professional yet discreet relationship with landowners, such as local authorities and development companies as well as many private landowners. Most are unaware of their rights to detain horses that have been either dumped or illegally fly-grazed on their land. Most often these horses are in poor health and end up in our care. We have established good working relationships with the Police and are contacted by them asking for our opinion on the welfare of a horse and asked to help and support with specific and often serious neglect cases, as well as loose horses on the highways.

The Trustees are content and confident in knowing that SAFE's objectives to "rescue, rehabilitate and rehome" are being sufficiently met despite the challenges we are faced with; we remain focused and driven to achieve this objective.

Within the timeline of this report, we can confirm the below statistics in terms of equine logistics for SAFE. This summarises the number of horses in/out of our care and any unfortunate losses:

SAFE Equine Annual Tracker	Total Number
Horses Rescued	17
Horses sent to Professional Rehabilitation	4
Horses Fostered	11
Horses Rehomed	27
Horses Returned	3
Horses PTS* due to irrecoverable illness	3
Total number of horses in SAFE's care in that period	51

*Put To Sleep

Once rescued and placed in our care, all horses are rehabilitated and rehomed, unless they have mental, physical, or age-related conditions, which would make them unsuitable for rehoming. In this instance they stay with the charity for the remainder of their days in our static herd, receiving the care and love that every animal should. Horses that are rescued and have gone through the quarantine period and are fit enough to turn out, join this peaceful herd to decompress until they are ready for rehoming. We are firmly committed to ensuring that every equine has the best life we can give them, making certain that all their needs are met.

We would once again like to highlight that the majority of the horses we rescue are often very unwell and have either a deep mistrust of people or have not been handled by people at all, as a result, the road to rehabilitation is often a long one. It is our duty to ensure these horses are not rehomed until they are comfortable with human contact, healthy, castrated and well handled. They usually require microchips and passports and have at least the start of their vaccination course, before they are rehomed.

Involved in the care of our animals, we have a mix of trustees, volunteers, vets, dentists, farriers, nutritionists, and holistic care practitioners all working together to focus on the welfare and well-being of the animals. SAFE has become well known and we are frequently approached by members of the public and local authorities with concerns for horse's welfare, from all over the country. If we cannot physically help due to location, we always offer advice and follow up. We continually increase our followers and supporters on Facebook and when a potential welfare risk is spotted, we are often the first to be contacted.

Due to our collaboration with several other animal and equine specific rescues locally and nationally, it allows us to support rescues which involve abandoned/neglected cases when we are at capacity and allows us to rescue and move them to appropriate organisations, if they have space.

Review of Objectives:

>Advance the education of members of the public in the proper care and treatment of their equines and support them with this care.

The Trustees feel that this objective continues to be met as we continue to liaise with some horse owners, educating them in the need for parasite control, regular farrier visits and we support when on occasion these owners voluntarily surrender horses that they cannot manage to look after before they are beyond help.

>Help to fight the ever-increasing rise in cruelty to animals and continue to work with other similar minded organisations to ensure any neglected equines receive the care and medical treatment they sadly so often need.

The Trustees believe this objective is met adequately as we are regularly alerted by members of the public where issues concerning identified horses at risk are highlighted, so that we or the closest rescue is able to intervene and resolve any issue if possible. This objective is being met by SAFE on a daily basis as we constantly work to help animals in distress and work with other organisations when necessary.

>Advise and communicate steering groups and political panels to improve the laws around horse welfare.

SAFE actively collaborates with local MPs, Councillors, and Police to address local incidents and protect individual horses at risk. Recognizing the need for stronger laws and their enforcement, we continuously explore new strategies and methods to drive permanent change and hold relevant authorities accountable for enforcement.

>Work with the Police, National Equine Charities, local authorities, equine bailiffs, and members of the public to rescue abandoned, neglected, and abused horses.

As outlined above, SAFE consistently meets its objective by tirelessly aiding animals in distress and collaborating with other organizations whenever necessary. Our commitment to this cause ensures that we are always working towards better outcomes for at-risk horses.

>Remain a leading and recognised local charity, which provides all rescued horses a secure and bright future.

Without a doubt, we continue to excel in our mission. As mentioned earlier, we are almost always the first charity the public contacts when they have concerns about a horse's condition and welfare. SAFE understands the unique needs of each horse in our care to ensure full rehabilitation and never turns its back on any case. Even if we are unable to take a horse into our own care, we collaborate with our network of rescues to provide assistance. SAFE is dedicated to giving every horse a bright future in a loving forever home.

Website

Our website has remained static for some time, and we recognize the need for an upgrade to enhance its functionality. Although this has been on our agenda for a while, more pressing priorities have taken precedence, and we do not have the relevant resource or funds. Despite being functional, the website upgrade remains on our "To Do" list. We are hopeful that one day we will have the necessary resources to improve it and make it work more effectively for us.

The Rescues

We continue to be inundated by concerned members of the public asking for our help and have done our very best to help in all situations. Sadly, cruelty and neglect remain high, with many colts (young males) being taken from their mothers far too young and abandoned in fields or on the side of roads to fend for themselves. Thankfully we are often able to respond quickly, thanks to the diligence of members of the public, regarding SAFE as a charity who will get involved.

Equine Care – Vets, Farrier & Nutritionists, and Holistic Care Practitioners

We have continued with the same vets, Iain McKenzie Equine Practice. Working with us for so long, they have a wealth of knowledge of rescue horses and their support is second to none. Our secondary practice is Donnington Equine Hospital. We rely on them when horses require hospitalisation, and they have specialist in house vets to deal with horses requiring urgent intensive medical care that we cannot support.

Our decision to utilise a professional rehabilitation establishment, has proved to be a good one, as we are not always able to support the special requirements of some of the very poorly horses. This is definitely a step towards improving our care for horses we rescue, and we would like to continue to expand this to ensure that even the poorest horses receive the best care possible, to allow them to survive. We also receive support and guidance from this for horses in our direct care.

We have a close relationship with our farrier and the horses seeing the same farrier each time for their hoof trims means they feel more comfortable and relaxed with the experience and many now no longer have to be sedated for this procedure. SAFE prides itself in working with natural feeds and natural supplements to support the horses in our care. This means we build relationships with companies to ensure we have discounted access.

We are also very lucky to have relationships with many holistic practitioners who volunteer time with our horses, providing physio, natural healing, reiki and thermal/red light therapy. This has been invaluable for our older equines with joint issues.

Volunteer Induction and Training

Every new volunteer undergoes a comprehensive induction before joining a shift at our yards. Health and Safety procedures are thoroughly explained and demonstrated. Each shift is led by an experienced Shift Lead who has undergone extensive training. Acting as shift managers, these Shift Leads coordinate activities and teach necessary skills to both new and existing volunteers. Our Shift Leads are dedicated to ensuring the safety of volunteers and the proper care of our horses.

Any children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and we do not accept children under the age of 4, in line with our insurance.

Throughout most of the year, our volunteer numbers remained stable. However, as winter approached, we experienced a seasonal dip due to a 'fair-weather approach,' where volunteers tend to step away until spring or summer. To address this, we frequently reach out for new volunteers via local Facebook groups, seeking experienced support. This approach has proven successful, and we have onboarded some exceptional volunteers, some of whom have progressed to become Shift Leads.

Feed and Supplements

We remain steadfast when it comes to our approach to feeds and supplements. It is not appropriate to cut costs when it comes to feeding our horses quality hay, feeds, and supplements. We feed a mix of Agrobs and Simple System products. These are tailored to the needs of the horse. Some require extra nutrition due to previous starvation and neglect, and others require quality fibre and low sugar and starch. These two feed manufacturers are second to none for equine natural nutrition.

To address individual issues and support overall health and wellbeing, supplements are incorporated into every horse's feed. For example, milk thistle is used for horses with liver damage. This approach evolves each year as Alison Stratford, SAFE's Founder and Chair Trustee, dedicates significant time to researching and collaborating with natural feed and supplement suppliers to tailor the right approach for each horse. With the support of an equine nutritionist, Alison establishes the appropriate feed and supplements for each horse based on their unique needs and reviews this regularly.

Our supplements suppliers remain EquiNatural and Global Herbs.

Finances

The Trustees are pleased to report an increase in income compared to the previous year, along with a rise in expenditure. The rise in expenditure was expected given the number of horses rescued and our use of a professional rehabilitation facility.

Our dedicated fundraising team, comprising volunteers already committed to horse care, and the generosity of our supporters, have been pivotal. Despite the postponement of our annual Family Fun Day due to severe weather, the event still generated substantial funds, enabling us to rescue numerous horses. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Hilda Florence Holmes Trust Charity for their ongoing financial support, which covers our monthly land rental and feed costs. Their contribution is invaluable.

The Trustees remain vigilant in overseeing, monitoring, and reviewing all efforts to reduce expenditure where possible. We are focused on increasing income through charitable donations, grants, and fundraising events, including tack sales.

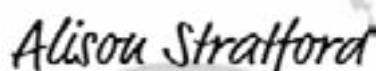
Looking Ahead

All Trustees continue to agree an annual plan of improvements covering all aspects of the charity, from rescue, maintenance and restructure of land management, daily care of horses to fundraising and rehoming horses.

Summary

The Trustees are confident that Saving Abandoned Fly-Grazing Equines (SAFE) continues to uphold and deliver on our mission statement and objectives, as envisioned from the outset. SAFE is unwavering in its efforts to improve the lives of the horses in our care. Nonetheless, we recognize that there is always room for improvement. Therefore, SAFE remains committed to continuous improvement, regularly reviewing and adapting our approaches to enhance our rescue efforts.

This report was approved by the Board on Tuesday 4th March, 2025.



Alison Stratford
Chair of the Trustees & Founder



SAFE
Saving Abandoned Fly-Grazing Equines

SAVING ABANDONED FLY-GRAZING EQUINES

Charity number 1172769

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5TH APRIL 2024

Boyett Mayes Limited
The Stables, Moneys Farm
Bottle Lane
Mattingley
Hampshire
RG27 8LJ

SAVING ABANDONED FLY-GRAZING EQUINES

Charity number 1172769

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5TH APRIL 2024

Boyett Mayes Limited
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**SAVING ABANDONED FLY-GRAZING EQUINES
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5TH APRIL 2024**

	£	2024 £	£	£	2023 £	£
INCOME:						
Donations						
JustGiving Appeals				-		
Donations	45,068			99,554		
Fundraising	44,361			13,256		
		89,429			112,810	
Other:						
Interest Received	-			-		
Other	-			1,972		
		-			1,972	
Fees Received:						
Rehoming fees	6,650			5,172		
Grant Income	42,436			-		
		49,086			5,172	
TOTAL INCOME			138,515			119,954
EXPENDITURE:						
Running costs:						
Feed and Bedding	28,469			27,199		
Fallen Stock Removal	480			276		
Horse Wear and Equipment	3,958			1,086		
Vet, Dentist and Medical Supplies	35,676			37,435		
Farrier	2,000			2,865		
Freelance Groom Fees	-			-		
Transport	2,880			2,138		
Foster fees	-			2,826		
Passports	390			458		
Insurance	6,963			5,528		
Rehabilitation	25,475			-		
		106,291			79,810	
Yard and Land :						
Repair and Maintenance	9,384			7,666		
Electricity	2,104			1,898		
Fencing & Field Care	-			919		
Land and Yard Rental	13,110			20,400		
		24,598			30,883	
Other:						
Sundry						
Postage	432			24		
Telephone and Internet/ Website costs	1,427			0		
Depreciation	654			753		
Accountancy	300			240		
Administration and Informational costs	852			653		
Fundraising costs	5,029			-		
		8,694			1,670	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			139,583			112,364
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR			(1,068)			7,590

**SAVING ABANDONED FLY-GRAZING EQUINES
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5TH APRIL 2024**

	2024			2023		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
ASSETS						
Tangible Fixed Assets	7,917	4,790	3,127	7,149	4,136	3,013
CURRENT ASSETS						
Cash at Bank - Savings	6,752			10,293		
Cash at Bank Current Debtors	2,727			-		
	<u>-</u>			<u>338</u>		
Total Current Assets		9478			10,631	
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Accruals	270			240		
Loan for Vet Fees	<u>4,000</u>			<u>4,000</u>		
NET CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>4,270</u>			<u>4,240</u>	
Net Current Assets			<u>5,208</u>			<u>6,391</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS			<u>8,336</u>			<u>9,404</u>
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS						
Balance B/Fwd			9,404			1,814
Surplus/Deficit in Year			<u>(1,068)</u>			<u>7,590</u>
			<u>8,336</u>			<u>9,404</u>

Approved by:

Alison Stratford

Alison Stratford
Trustee

Dated:
4th March 2025

Independent examiner's report to Saving Abandoned Fly-Grazing Equines "SAFE"

This report on the financial statements of Saving Abandoned Fly-Grazing Equines "SAFE" for the year ended 5th April 2024, which are set out on pages 1 and 2, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the "2011 Act").

Respective responsibilities of the Charity and examiner

As members of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the 2011 Act).

It is our responsibility:

- to examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

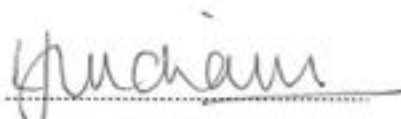
Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met or
- (2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed on behalf of Boyett Mayes Limited



Date 4th March 2025

Name **LISA FINCHAM BA ACMA CTA**
Chartered Accountant