

Our impact during the year



Trustees Annual Report & Accounts

April 2023 - March 2024

Registered Charity No. 1174331

A close-up photograph of a woman with long brown hair, wearing a white shirt and blue overalls, hugging a large, shaggy, light-brown dog. The woman has her eyes closed and a gentle smile, and the dog is looking towards the camera.

**“We are helping animals and
people, when they are at
their lowest point”**

Volunteer Animal Foster Carer



“I wouldn’t have left
if it wasn’t for Refuge4Pets”

Victim-survivor

Contents

	Page
Refuge4Pets objectives & activities	4-5
Introduction from our chair	6
Message from our CEO.	7
Meet the team & trustees.	8-9
Our volunteer animal foster carers	10
Our supporters	11
Timeline of the year	12-13
Our impact in numbers	14-15
What people say about us	16-17
Our colleagues	18
Training professionals	19
Case studies	20-21
Main priorities 2024/25	22
Our values	23
Financial accounts 2023/24	24-38

Please note: We take the confidentiality of our victim-survivors (people and animals) very seriously. All the images of people and animals you see in this document (and in all our print, digital and social marketing materials) are from stock image libraries. We will never publish images of our service users or animals in our care.



**“Refuge4Pets helped keep
my family together”**

Victim-survivor

Refuge4Pets objectives & activities

Our vision

We are working to achieve freedom from domestic abuse for people and animals.

Our mission

We offer victim-survivors of domestic abuse a specialist animal fostering service to remove a significant barrier which prevents many victim-survivors from leaving. We empower victim-survivors to access the vital safety and support they need before being reunited with their much-loved animals.

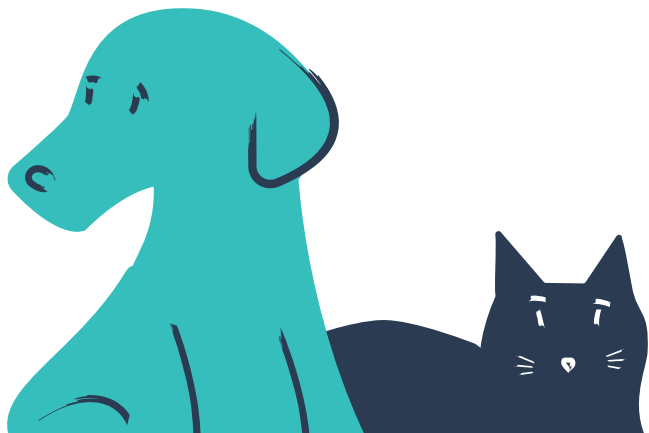
We believe that animals are an important part of victim-survivors’ coping strategies and that the reciprocal bond between victim-survivors and animals aids recovery from trauma.

We contribute to research, policy development and education around the link between domestic abuse and animal abuse to increase the safety and wellbeing of all victim-survivors, both people and animals.

Achievements & performance

Throughout this report you will read about our key achievements and performance during the 2023/24 financial year, as well as our priorities for 2024/25.

Refuge4Pets was founded in August 2017. We are a registered charity in England and Wales and our Registered Charity Number is 1174331.



Introduction from our Chair

As a founder trustee I am incredibly proud of the high-quality service we deliver to keep victim-survivors and their pets free from abuse. As a trustee who has managed domestic abuse services I know the real need for our service.

Before Refuge4Pets started, my staff regularly struggled to keep victim-survivors safe because they would not leave an abusive situation without their pets. The emotional bond was too high and the trauma just too much to face. My staff were left feeling distressed and anxious because they had no practical solution to offer victim-survivors in this situation. These real-life experiences coupled with the research available motivated us to develop a service that could change this situation.

Reading this annual report, I am impressed by the amount and breadth of the service we deliver. The numbers speak for themselves but even more so, I am moved by the experiences shared by victim-survivors and by volunteers. It is a service which is changing lives on so many levels and, on some occasions, it is saving lives.

Of course, at the heart of our service is the amazing network of passionate and committed volunteers. It is heartwarming to see the great comfort they experience from the support that they give. Opening their homes and their hearts.

In conclusion, I want to say a huge **THANK YOU** to all trustees, to our inspirational CEO Mary, to our brilliant staff team, to our volunteers and to all our supporters.

Finally, a few words from Margaret Mead (cultural anthropologist) who I feel captures the essence of our charity:

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Keep Being the Change ❤️

Best Wishes
Dina



Dina Holder
Refuge4Pets Chair of the Board of Trustees

Dina spearheaded The Women Centre Cornwall’s work on inclusion, diversity and equality through leading the development of their Community Engagement projects. Dina supports women with learning disabilities and/or neurodivergence to become Peer Educators for their DIVAS project. Dina is a qualified social worker and prior to joining the Women’s Centre, worked in the probation and youth offending teams, as well as developing and establishing a number of services in Cornwall that provide vital support to survivors of domestic abuse. Dina is a committed animal keeper and Refuge4Pets brings together two areas of her life that she is passionate about – tackling domestic and sexual abuse and promoting animal welfare.

Message from our CEO

When I started the charity in 2017 with our founding trustees, I don’t think any of us were fully prepared for the journey that lay ahead. It just goes to show what commitment, determination, resilience and a huge amount of support from all of you can do.

The last 12 months have presented many challenges for us, most markedly continuing to meet demand for the service. Domestic abuse presents the highest overall risk to communities across Devon and Cornwall due to the scale of the problem and the devastating impact it has on lives, including the tragic loss of lives through homicide and domestic abuse related suicide. Family pets are often victims of domestic abuse too. Perpetrators/people that harm will exploit the bond that victim-survivors have with animals to coerce, control and entrap them in the abusive relationship. Animals experience physical, sexual and emotional abuse, are neglected, denied veterinary treatment and murdered. Animals are a big barrier for families trying to escape domestic abuse, which is where we come in. At least 66% of victim-survivors will not leave if they can’t take their animals with them (Wakeham, 2021).

There are animals in just over half (51%) of all households in the UK (PDSA, 2024). It is estimated that there are 10.6 million dogs and 10.8 million cats in UK homes as well as many other species of animal. As a service, we provide temporary care to all animals. While it is mostly dogs and cats, we have also seen exotics, ducks, rabbits, rats, hamsters and even horses come into foster care.

Looking ahead, we have some exciting plans which include opening our own Refuge4Pets Sanctuary. This is now a key priority for us so that we can respond to the increase in emergency, same day referrals, as well as providing rehabilitation to the many animals we see who are deeply traumatised by their experience of domestic abuse.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our trustees, staff team and volunteers for their commitment to enabling freedom from domestic abuse for people and animals. I am immensely proud to be part of such a wonderful team.

Best Wishes
Mary



Dr Mary Wakeham BA (Hons), MA, MRes, PhD
Refuge4Pets Founder and Chief Executive Officer

Mary has over 15 years experience working in the domestic abuse sector, including founding Refuge4Pets in 2017, driven by her passion to enable freedom from domestic abuse for all victim-survivors, both people and animals. She is also an academic researcher with her specialism being the dynamics and implications of animal abuse in the context of domestic abuse. In 2021 Mary completed her PhD in the Centre for Gender and Violence Research at the University of Bristol. It was titled *Animal Abuse as a Strategy of Coercive Control* and was the first in-depth study to explore this issue in the UK.

References

Wakeham (2021) Animal Abuse as a Strategy of Coercive Control. Available at: <https://research-information.bris.ac.uk/en/studentTheses/animal-abuse-as-a-strategy-of-coercive-control> (Accessed on: 15 August 2024).
PDSA (2024) PDSA Animal Wellbeing (PAW) Report. Available at: https://www.pdsa.org.uk/media/14944/pdsa_paw-report-2024.pdf (Accessed: 14 August 2024).

Meet the team

Alongside our CEO, Mary Wakeham, we also have our wonderful staff team: Anne-Marie, Kelly, Rhiannon, Tami, Terri and Vicki. They may be a small team but together they achieve a great deal. The team has considerable expertise in the areas of domestic abuse, animal care and welfare, safeguarding, communications, marketing and fundraising.



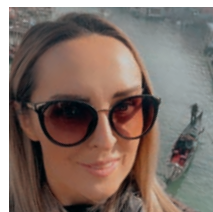
Our board of trustees

Alongside our Chair, Dina Holder, we have six further trustees. Each trustee gives up their time throughout the year to oversee the governance of the charity, provide support and guidance to the CEO and ensure Refuge4Pets is focused on achieving our objectives.



Caroline Harding
Trustee (Secretary)

Caroline comes from a business and marketing background and for the last 17 years has run a branding and graphic design agency with her husband. Back in 2019, she was looking for a new challenge outside of work that was related to helping animals and people and saw an article about Refuge4Pets in Cornwall Life magazine. She approached us to become a fundraising volunteer and has been helping at our events ever since, even completing a 15,000ft skydive in 2022 to raise money for the charity! Joining as a trustee in January 2024, Caroline brings her business skills to our board meetings and continues to help at our events.

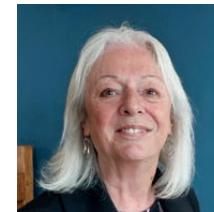


Helen Hoskin
Trustee (Treasurer)

Helen works as the Finance Manager at the Devon and Plymouth Chamber of Commerce. Prior to this she worked at Citizens Advice Cornwall where she was part of their senior management team. Helen is experienced at managing budgets in excess of £1 million and multiple complex funding streams. She is a qualified accounting technician and has worked in finance for over 20 years. Helen joined Refuge4Pets as a trustee in late 2022 having been drawn to the charity due to its values and ethos, and with a desire to contribute to the work we do.

“Please keep doing what you do - you are amazing”

Colleague in Domestic Abuse Professional Services



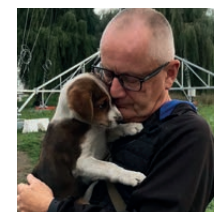
Lesley Leahy
Trustee

Lesley spent her career in Housing, working as Area Housing Manager for the London Borough of Ealing, Housing Services Manager at Herefordshire and as a housing consultant. Lesley is well versed in working in fast paced organisations working with people at crisis point. She is experienced in business planning and management, governance, strategic planning and public relations. Now happily retired Lesley has volunteered for Refuge4Pets since 2019, fostering dogs, fundraising, working as a peer mentor and she joined the trustee team in 2022.



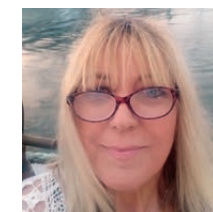
Laura Smit-Chesterfield
Trustee

Laura worked as an Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate in Cornwall and was the founding team leader of the one stop shop for anyone experiencing domestic abuse. After the arrival of her second child, Laura decided to go on to explore other passions. She now spends her days surrounded by animals and plants at the Lost Gardens of Heligan where she has worked as the Executive Director and Head of Garden Experience, and is now the Managing Director. Laura's love of animals and dedication to providing support to victim-survivors of domestic abuse is what inspires her to work as part of the Board of Trustees at Refuge4Pets.



Mark Randell
Trustee

Mark is a retired senior detective who now trains police officers, prosecutors and politicians globally on the importance of taking animal welfare seriously within relationships and communities. His policing background focused on understanding criminal and abuser motivation within serious crime and terrorism, then working collaboratively to protect communities. His passion has always been animals, and he uses his international policing skills to persuade others why keeping pets safe keeps people safer too.



Kerry Whincup
Trustee

Kerry brings her extensive experience of domestic abuse to the role of trustee. Kerry currently works for Cornwall Council as their Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Coordinator and is the current Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Chair for Cornwall. MARAC brings professionals together to focus on safeguarding victim-survivors. Kerry believes being a Refuge4Pets trustee combines her two passions: domestic abuse and the welfare of animals. She is enjoying being able to give something back as well as learn new skills.

Our volunteer animal foster carers

We have 145 volunteer animal foster carers across Devon and Cornwall. We could not provide our service without this remarkable team of volunteers who open their homes (and their hearts) to the animals that come into our care. Thank you all for everything you do.

“We are helping animals and people, when they are at their lowest point”

Volunteer Animal Foster Carer

Our supporters

During our 2023/24 financial year, in addition to donations from hundreds of individuals, we were also supported with grants and donations from various organisations. Thank you to everyone who made a donation, and to the following organisations...

Animal Friends

Betty Phillips Charitable Trust

Chelsea and Mr French Animal Welfare Fund

Chrissie's Sunshine Appeal

David Gibbons Family Trust

Devon County Council

Jean Sainsburys Animal Welfare Trust

Livewell Foundation

Micheal and Shirley Hunt Charitable Trust

National Lottery

Norman Family Trust

Oak Foundation

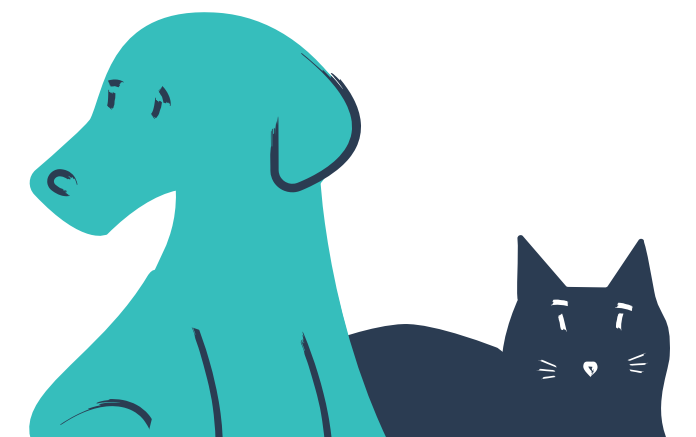
Pets Foundation

Richer Sounds

Royal Mail 300 Club

South West Water

The Ripple Effect



Timeline of the year

April 2023
New team structure went live with the introduction of new roles to help us meet increasing demand for the service.

May 2023
In addition to attending Cornwall Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC's) we started attending Rural South Devon, Plymouth and Torbay MARACs to promote building animals into the safety plans for families impacted by domestic abuse.

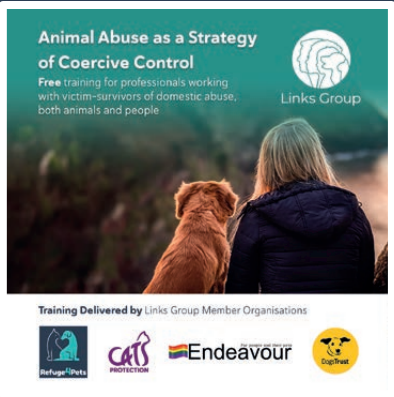
June 2023
Rhi joined the team as a full-time project worker following the successful funding for this role from Pets Foundation



October 2023
We completed a full review of our operational policies and procedures with support from external experts.

November 2023
We started attending North Devon Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference.

December 2023
Our Christmas donations appeal 'Extra Bowl at Christmas' was a huge success thanks to our supporters.



August 2023
We refreshed our monthly FREE training webinar content, 'Animal Abuse as a Strategy of Coercive Control: Safeguarding People and Animals' and co-delivered the first revised session with our Links Group colleagues.

July 2023
We spoke at The Link II Conference in Lisbon to raise awareness about Animal Abuse as a Strategy of Coercive Control on a global platform.

September 2023
Our work with Safelives started. We are working together to amend all MARAC administration templates and guidance to include animals as well as developing training for MARAC partners.

January 2024
We started attending Exeter and Mid and East Devon MARACs. Caroline Harding joined the team as a Trustee.

February 2024
This month we reached a record number of animals in our care at one time. During February we had a total of 67 animals in our care (30 dogs, 34 cats, 2 snakes, 1 rabbit), which is the most we've ever had at one time, since the charity began in 2017.

March 2024
Another record - we reunited a record number of 13 animals with their families during this month. The team worked tirelessly to ensure this happened. Seeing families reunited with their beloved animals is incredible and it's why we do what we do.



Our impact in numbers

People and animals
we helped in 2023/2024

Families directly
supported



Animals
fostered



Professionals
trained



Families indirectly
supported



Animals
reunited



Please note: Direct support is where families accessed our fostering service and indirect support is where we have provided information about animal fostering services in other areas of the UK or advice.

People and animals
we've helped to date

Families indirectly
supported



Animals
reunited



Animals
fostered



Families directly
supported



Professionals
trained



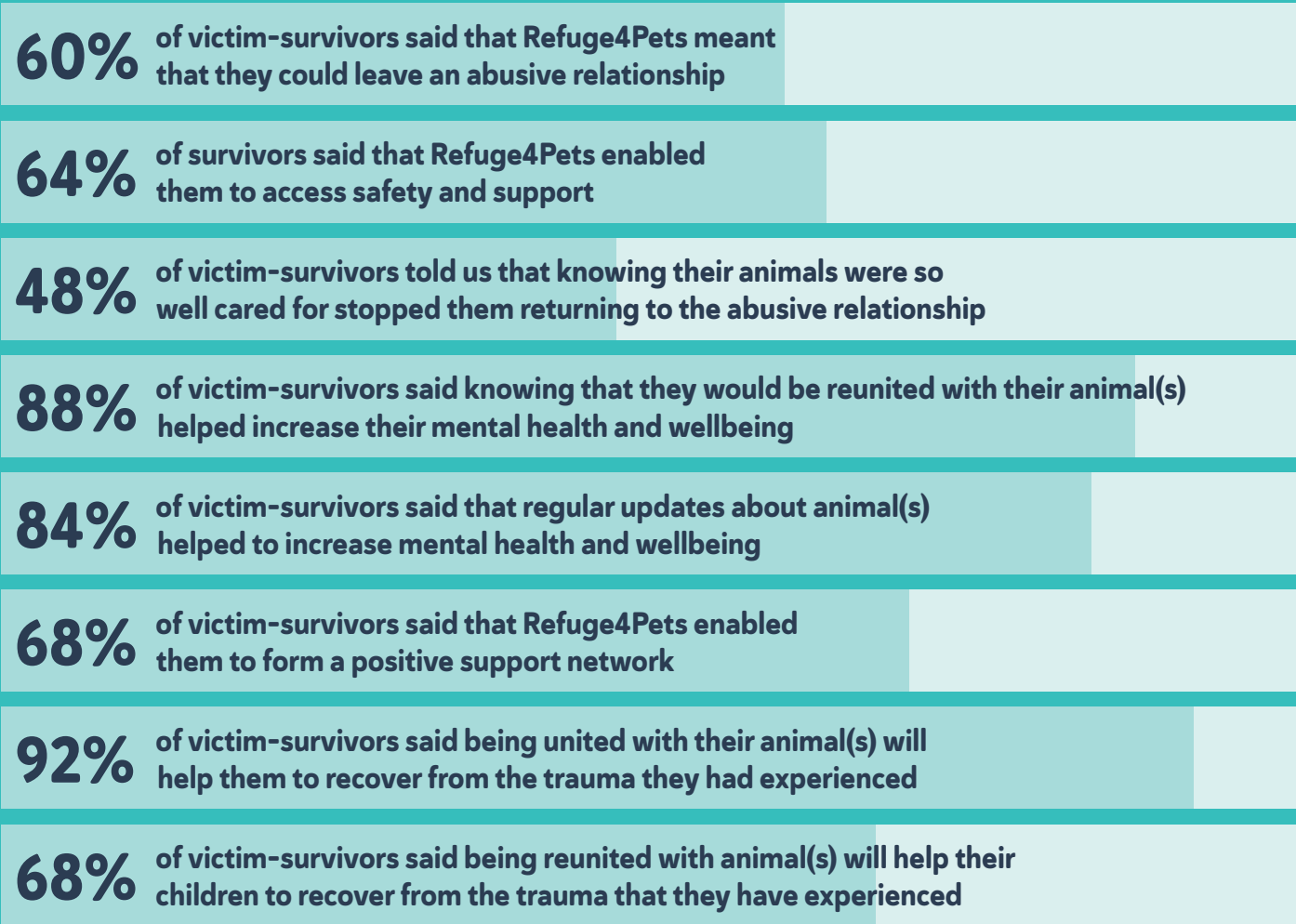
What people say about us

Our service users (victim-survivors)

100%
of service users
rated our service
as excellent

“Refuge4Pets supported us to move away from domestic abuse and gave us the reassurance that our pets would be well cared for until we could have them back.”

“I would have been lost without the support from Refuge4Pets. Knowing the foster family was taking such good care of our cats put my mind at rest and allowed me to find a good home for us all.”



“I will be forever grateful because my cat is everything to me and the kids. We have lost so much of what we knew, so to have him kept safe while we start to rebuild our lives has been a blessing.”



Our volunteers (animal foster carers)

97%
of volunteers
rated the service
as excellent

“I am not in a position to have my own dog, fostering brings me so much joy and just being able to get out and walk a dog each day has also helped me to make friends.”

“It’s hard to say goodbye to any pet you have fostered, but it is wonderful knowing they are going back to their family who are now safe and happy.”



“It’s the best thing I’m doing right now. It gives me purpose. I feel like I am doing something tangible for another human.”



Our colleagues (domestic abuse-related professional services)

100%
of our colleagues
rated our service
as excellent

We work closely with our colleagues in domestic abuse-related professional services including Devon & Cornwall Police, local authority services and charities. We are proud of the work we have done to raise awareness of the link between animal abuse and domestic abuse and the support we offer our colleagues when helping people and animals to escape domestic abuse.

Through our anonymous feedback survey, we found that 100% of our colleagues rated our service as excellent.

Here is a small selection of the comments we received from our colleagues as part of this survey...

“It enables women to find a way. To know that their pet is safe gives them the green light to leave an abusive relationship knowing they will be reunited with them when they have secured safe accommodation. This brings hope, confidence and relief to the victim-survivors we work with. You help to give them back the life they deserve.”

“I have had numerous victims who have used this service, some on a temporary basis and some longer term. The team are always available on the phone. They are always helpful and happy to offer advice, even out of hours.”

“It gives people the chance to restart their lives. Accessing safe accommodation is often the scariest and most unnerving thing that people have had to experience and survive, knowing that their pet is safe and happy is vital in being able to support people.”

“You have helped so many of our women to take that final step and leave an abusive relationship. As you know, pets are the sticking point for many of them and they stay and endure further abuse as they cannot bear to be parted from their pet. Housing is a terrible worry and barrier for them as temporary housing will not accept their pets. You have enabled several of our women and animals to escape from these situations and to find peace and safety. One dog had to have several operations when he arrived with you in a state that still haunts me. He is now safe and extremely well and happy. That simply would not have happened without the support of Refuge4Pets. Thank you. The women we have been able to support, with your help, have gone on to college, work and even into new, healthy relationships.”

“It means that people can be assured that they have a kind, therapeutic organisation to support their pet, the staff are knowledgeable and super quick-acting, which helps stabilise risk more thoroughly and quickly.”



Training professionals

During 2023/24 we provided training sessions to 3273 people. The training and resources we provide are based on our domestic abuse practice and academic research expertise. We offer training to a wide range of professionals. These service providers are in touch with victim-survivors of domestic abuse and our new and innovative training is vital to help them understand the link between the abuse of people and animals. Much of the training we provide is cofacilitated with our Links Group Partners.

“Your education sessions are amazing, covering areas that people don’t even think about. Knowing that people can leave an abusive relationship if they have a safe place for their pet to go makes a huge difference, leaving a pet behind puts it at so much risk as it’s another way to manipulate and control them. Thank you for everything you do.”

Training Session Attendee

Case studies

The names of our service users and the animals we fostered for them have been changed, but their stories are true.

Diane and Angel

Diane had been hospitalised for nearly three months due to the injuries she sustained, following a violent attack by her partner. While in hospital Diane disclosed the extent of abuse that she had experienced over decades. We were able to bring Angel into our care so that Diane could escape to refuge safely following her discharge from hospital.

When we first met Angel she was in very poor condition. She was extremely underweight and had broken teeth and ear/eye infections due to neglect by the perpetrator. We took her straight to the vet and she received the treatment she needed. Angel is doing well in foster care and is now in much better health.

We provide Diane with regular updates, pictures and videos of Angel which she finds really comforting. We look forward to reuniting Angel with Diane when she is in permanent, safe accommodation.

Vicki and Frank

Vicki loves her dog Frank and would not leave without him. When the Police called out of hours following an incident, we knew this was our opportunity to help get them both to safety.

Prior to Vicki and Frank escaping, professionals had visited the property and observed how nervous Frank had been. Since coming into foster care Frank has come out of his shell. He has formed a close bond with his carer and has even started to play!

We keep Vicki updated regularly, which provides her with great reassurance.

Shelly and Tilly

Shelly, her two children and dog (Tilly) had experienced extensive abuse. The perpetrator is a prolific domestic abuse offender. He threatened Shelly at knife point in front of the children and there have been numerous physical attacks and threats made to her. The children were so scared that they told their social worker to call the Police as he is a 'bad man and is going to kill Mummy'.

We were able to work quickly alongside the Police and domestic abuse team to get Tilly into foster care so that the family could escape to safety.

Shelly had told Police that the perpetrator also abused Tilly, and she gave a statement about this abuse. After six months in foster care, we had the pleasure of reuniting Tilly with her family to carry on their lives together in safety.

Simon and Cally

Simon's friend contacted initially to find out more about our service. Simon had been violently attacked by a family member and needed to get to a place of safety. He has a dog called Cally who means the absolute world to him. We were pleased when Simon called us directly and, after taking all the information about Cally, we found a wonderful foster home for her, and Simon went to a refuge.

Cally stayed in foster care for six months with the same family and their own dog. Pictures and updates were really important to Simon during the fostering process as a reminder that the day would come when they were back together. When that day came it was so wonderful to see Cally clap eyes on her Dad with her endless wiggles of joy.



“Refuge4Pets got me through some very traumatic months. Regular contact by phone and photos of my dog were the only joy I had in my life.”

Victim-survivor

Main priorities 2024/25

As we move into the next financial year, our main priorities and expected outcomes for 2024/25 are:

Priority 1

Increasing the safety and wellbeing of people and animals

Outcome:

We are reaching victim-survivors of domestic abuse across Devon and Cornwall who need our support.

Priority 2

Influencing change

Outcome:

More people and animals are safeguarded because of our contribution to research, education, policy and practice change in relation to the link between domestic abuse and animal abuse.

Priority 3

Increasing community involvement

Outcome:

Greater community ownership and awareness about the link between domestic abuse and animal abuse to build a bystander community.

Priority 4

Long term impact for sustained change

Outcome:

We are developing and delivering innovative solutions that enhance our reach and impact in terms of maximising the safety of victim-survivors of domestic abuse, both people and animals.

Our values

Refuge4Pets determination in achieving our main priorities are derived from our five core values:

Empathy

We understand what people and animals have been through and work in an empathetic and non-judgemental way.

Equity

We believe that everyone is equal and has the right to live free of violence and abuse.

Empowerment

We empower victim-survivors to regain control of their lives.

Effectiveness

We work efficiently and effectively to achieve our vision.

Integrity

We are honest and have strong moral principles.



Refuge4Pets Trustees Annual Report



Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name	Refuge4Pets
Charity Registration Number	1174331
Company Registration Number	CE010822
Registered office	PO Box 160 Liskeard Cornwall PL14 9DR

Directors and Trustees

The Directors of the charitable company are its Trustees for the purposes of charity law. The following Directors and Trustees served during the year and up to the date of signing this report.

	Caroline Harding (Appointed 25th January 2024) Dina Holder (Chair) Helen Hoskin Lesley Leahy Mark Randell (Appointed 2nd August 2024) Laura Smit-Chesterfield Kerry Whincup (Appointed 9th May 2024)
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Key Management Personnel	Mary Wakeham (CEO)
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Bankers	Lloyds Bank The Parade Liskeard Cornwall PL14 6AW
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Independent Examiner	Debbie Risborough (FCCA) Cornwall Community Accountancy Service The Elms 61 Green Lane Redruth TR15 1LS
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Financial review

Incoming resources for the period are £291,405 (2023: £323,428) and resources expended are £273,918 (2023: £256,885) leaving an overall surplus for the year of £17,487 (2023: £66,543). Total unrestricted funds carried forward at the end of the year are £75,440 (2023: £82,245) with £15,174 (2023: £18,041) of this in designated funds. In addition, there remains £110,125 of restricted funds carried forward (2023: £85,833).

Reserves policy

Refuge4Pets’ reserves policy is to maintain its level of unrestricted funds and maintain funds at a position where the minimum level of free reserves that Refuge4Pets will hold in unrestricted funds, excluding fixed assets, will cover three months of core running costs plus any potential liabilities in the event of Refuge4Pets having to cease its activities. Our aspiration is to increase our level of free reserves held in unrestricted funds from three months to six months of core running costs and any liabilities.

Structure, governance & management

The charity was registered with the Charity’s Commission on 22nd August 2017 as a CIO. The charity is governed by its governing document dated 15th August 2017.

Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that 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 Companies Act 2006 and the applicable Statement of Recommended Practice. 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.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime as set out in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Approved by the Board on 19th September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Dina +l Holder

Dina Holder
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Recruitment & induction of trustees

Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the current trustees consider the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of Refuge4Pets. Induction includes familiarisation of all trustees with our objectives, policies and procedures, operating methods and financial reporting.

Risk management

The trustees regularly review the risks to the charity from both external factors and its operations. The trustees consider that they have taken appropriate steps to reduce such risks.

Good practice is to keep a risk register that identifies all risks and steps to reduce risks which the charity has in place.

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 27 to 38.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act") and the Charities Act 2011 (“the 2011 Act”). The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and section 144(2) of the 2011 Act and that an independent examination is needed.

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

My 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 you as 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 connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met;
- 2) or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


.....
Debbie Risborough, Chartered Certified Accountant
Cornwall Community Accountancy Service
The Elms, 61 Green Lane,
Redruth, Cornwall TR15 1LS

19/9/24
.....
Date:

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 March 2024

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds	Prior year funds
		2024	2024	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	4	47,495	-	47,495	73,342
Charitable activities	5	42,665	201,245	243,910	250,086
Total		90,160	201,245	291,405	323,428
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	96,965	176,953	273,918	256,885
Total		96,965	176,953	273,918	256,885
Net income/(expenditure)		(6,805)	24,292	17,487	66,543
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)		(6,805)	24,292	17,487	66,543
Other gains and losses:					
Net movement in funds		(6,805)	24,292	17,487	66,543
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		82,245	85,833	168,078	101,535
Total funds carried forward		75,440	110,125	185,565	168,078

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	10		<u>14,567</u>		<u>18,041</u>
			14,567		18,041
Current Assets					
Debtors	11		4,158		19,395
Cash at bank and in hand			<u>170,530</u>		<u>136,384</u>
			174,688		155,779
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	12		<u>(3,690)</u>		<u>(5,742)</u>
Net current assets			<u>170,998</u>		<u>150,037</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			185,565		168,078
Net assets			<u><u>185,565</u></u>		<u><u>168,078</u></u>
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted funds	13		110,125		85,833
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	13		60,266		64,204
Designated funds			<u>15,174</u>		<u>18,041</u>
Total unrestricted funds			<u>75,440</u>		<u>82,245</u>
Total charity funds			<u><u>185,565</u></u>		<u><u>168,078</u></u>

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

For the year ended 31 March 2024 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

Approved by the Board on 19th September 24 and signed on its behalf by:

Dina +1 Holder

Dina Holder
Trustee

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and 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 (FRS102) second edition - October 2019 (effective 1 January 2019);
- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- the Companies Act 2006 and
- the Charities Act 2011.

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

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102

1.2 Change in basis of accounting or to previous accounts

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.

1.3 Fund accounting policy

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are amounts that are allocated for specific purposes by the charity itself.

Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Revaluation funds are unrestricted funds which include a revaluation reserve representing the restatement of investment assets at their market value.

1.4 Income

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS102 SORP or FRS102.

Items of income are recognised and included in the accounts when all of the following criteria are met:

- the charity has entitlement to the funds;
- any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity;
- there is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable; and the amount can be measured reliably.

Notes to the Accounts

Donations and legacies are voluntary income received by way of donations and gifts. It is included within the accounts when receivable and only when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the income.

Tax reclaims on donations and gifts are included in the accounts at the same time as the gift/donation to which it relates

Donated goods and services are only included in income (with an equivalent amount in expenditure) where the benefit to the Charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material.

The value of services provided by volunteers is not included within the accounts.

1.5 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and includes the attributable value added tax which cannot be recovered.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is conveyed to the recipient except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year-end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs are the those costs required to support the charity in carrying out its activities and meeting its objects.

Governance costs include costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Charity, including the preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and other costs linked to the strategic management of the Charity including the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets costing more than £100 are capitalised.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, which is reviewed annually. The rates used are as follows:-

Motor vehicles	- 25% reducing balance
Office equipment	- 25% reducing balance

1.7 Taxation

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

Notes to the Accounts

1.8 Stocks

Stock is included at the lower of cost or net realisable value. Donated items of stock are recognised at fair value which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay for the items on the open market.

1.9 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.

1.10 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.11 Creditors and provisions

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.

1.12 Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the statement of financial activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

1.13 Leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

1.14 Statement of cash flows

The charity is exempt from preparing a statement of cash flows on the grounds that it is a small charity

2 Company Status

The charity is a charitable incorporated organisation and has no share capital.

The charity is incorporated in England.

In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £nil per member of the charity.

The members of the charity are the trustees named on page 24.

Notes to the Accounts

3 Statement of Financial Activities - prior year

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted income funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income				
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	4	62,494	10,848	73,342
Charitable activities	5	14,023	236,063	250,086
Total		76,517	246,911	323,428
Expenditure				
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	6	41,553	215,332	256,885
Total		41,553	215,332	256,885
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)				
		34,964	31,579	66,543
Net income/(expenditure)				
		34,964	31,579	66,543
Other recognised gains/(losses):				
Net movement in funds				
		34,964	31,579	66,543
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward		47,281	54,254	101,535
Total funds carried forward		82,245	85,833	168,078

4 Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds	Prior year funds
			2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Legacies	10,030	-	10,030	-
Appeals and donations	34,826	-	34,826	68,649
Gift Aid	2,599	-	2,599	4,638
Dog Sponsorship	40	-	40	55
	47,495	-	47,495	73,342

Notes to the Accounts

5

Incoming resources from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds	Prior year funds
	£	£	2024 £	2023 £
Grant Income:				
Jean Sainsburys	-	-	-	5,000
Norman Family Trust	-	2,500	2,500	500
Pets At Home Foundation	-	27,901	27,901	22,000
Lottery Awards	-	-	-	9,046
Lush	-	-	-	3,500
National Lottery Community Fund	-	75,176	75,176	106,017
Pet Plan	-	-	-	20,000
Kennel Club	-	25,000	25,000	30,000
The Fore	-	-	-	30,000
Livewell Foundation	-	-	-	10,000
David Gibbons Trust	-	1,200	1,200	-
Devon County Council	-	13,468	13,468	-
Oak foundation	30,000	-	30,000	-
Manola Blahnik	-	36,000	36,000	-
Betty Phillips	-	10,000	10,000	-
Richer Sounds	-	10,000	10,000	-
South West Water	2,000	-	2,000	-
Souter	2,000	-	2,000	-
Primary Purpose Trading:				
Training Income	450	-	450	3,000
Income from Events	1,147	-	1,147	3,624
Online Shop	7,068	-	7,068	7,399
	42,665	201,245	243,910	250,086

Notes to the Accounts

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior year
	2024		2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Direct costs				
Pet food	1,328	1,081	2,409	4,031
Fostering expenses	1,867	922	2,789	2,632
Kennel fees	5,545	4,943	10,488	6,034
Vet fees	(200)	31,483	31,283	32,166
Online shop merchandise	-	-	-	2,063
Events	767	1,309	2,076	545
Volunteer training and DBS	112	18	130	110
	<u>9,419</u>	<u>39,756</u>	<u>49,175</u>	<u>47,581</u>
Support costs				
Wages and salaries	58,491	95,821	154,312	134,585
Staff NIC (Employers)	-	8,445	8,445	5,618
Pensions	1,127	1,979	3,106	2,765
Staff training	2,393	1,741	4,134	2,401
Staff Welfare	-	1,018	1,018	506
Rent and rates	1,512	504	2,016	8,717
Insurance	1,769	1,728	3,497	2,979
IT expenses	2,943	241	3,184	2,865
Telephone and fax	3,135	888	4,023	4,031
Printing, postage and stationery	1,269	174	1,443	2,370
Subscriptions	737	96	833	886
Sundry expenses	1,699	552	2,251	1,343
Motor expenses	144	20,012	20,156	22,206
Advertising & Marketing	1,212	-	1,212	4,826
Legal and professional fees	4,767	1,860	6,627	3,540
Bank charges	299	-	299	205
Depreciation	4,842	-	4,842	5,954
Total Support Costs	<u>86,339</u>	<u>135,059</u>	<u>221,398</u>	<u>205,797</u>
Governance Costs				
Accountancy fees	57	2,138	2,195	2,532
The audit or independent examination of the charity's accounts	1,150	-	1,150	975
Total Governance Costs	<u>1,207</u>	<u>2,138</u>	<u>3,345</u>	<u>3,507</u>
Total Charitable Expenditure	<u>96,965</u>	<u>176,953</u>	<u>273,918</u>	<u>256,885</u>

Notes to the Accounts

7 Net income/ expenditure

This is stated after charging:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Auditors' / Examiners' remuneration	1,150	975
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	4,842	5,954

8 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs of these persons were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	154,312	134,585
Social security	8,445	5,618
Pensions	3,106	2,765
	<u>165,863</u>	<u>142,968</u>

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 in either the current or the prior year.

Total employee benefits received by key management personnel	46,620	35,863
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The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Staff in charitable activities	7	6
Volunteers (nos of people involved excluding Trustees)	<u>145</u>	<u>151</u>

9 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

Trustees received no remuneration, benefits in kind or expenses during the current or prior year.

Notes to the Accounts

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Motor Vehicles	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
As at 1 April 2023	19,833	8,299	28,132
Additions	-	1,368	1,368
As at 31 March 2024	19,833	9,667	29,500
Depreciation			
As at 1 April 2023	(5,888)	(4,203)	(10,091)
Charge for the year	(3,486)	(1,356)	(4,842)
As at 31 March 2024	(9,374)	(5,559)	(14,933)
Net Book Value			
As at 31 March 2024	10,459	4,108	14,567
As at 31 March 2023	13,945	4,096	18,041

11 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Prepayments	4,158	-
Other debtors	-	19,395
	4,158	19,395

12 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	2,540	193
Taxation and social security	-	4,133
Accruals and deferred income	1,150	975
Other creditors	-	441
	3,690	5,742

Notes to the Accounts

13 Movement in funds

	As at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2024 £
Restricted Funds					
National lottery 1st Reaching Communities	23,226	75,176	(68,753)	-	29,649
Pets At Home Foundation	3,877	27,901	(11,437)	-	20,341
Jean Sainsburys	15,595	-	(5,000)	-	10,595
Norman Family Trust	-	2,500	(2,500)	-	-
Kennel Club	5,097	25,000	(30,097)	-	-
Betty Phillips	-	10,000	(1,940)	-	8,060
David Gibbons	-	1,200	(1,200)	-	-
Devon County Council	-	13,468	(8,081)	-	5,387
Monolo Blahnik	-	36,000	(11,349)	-	24,651
Richer Sounds	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Pet Plan 2	20,000	-	(19,566)	-	434
The Fore	8,038	-	(7,030)	-	1,008
Livewell Foundation	10,000	-	(10,000)	-	-
	85,833	201,245	(176,953)	-	110,125
General Funds					
Unrestricted funds	64,204	60,160	(62,730)	(1,368)	60,266
Designated funds					
Capital Expenditure	18,041	-	(4,842)	1,368	14,567
Oak Foundation	-	30,000	(29,393)	-	607
Total Unrestricted funds	82,245	90,160	(96,965)	-	75,440
Total funds	168,078	291,405	(273,918)	-	185,565

Notes to the Accounts

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds	Prior year funds
Tangible assets	14,567	-	14,567	18,041
Current assets	64,563	110,125	174,688	155,779
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(3,690)	-	(3,690)	(5,742)
Net Assets	<u>75,440</u>	<u>110,125</u>	<u>185,565</u>	<u>168,078</u>

15 Related party disclosures

Controlling party

The charity is managed by the trustees; thus no single party controls the company.



Correspondence Address

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Refuge4Pets is a registered charity in England and Wales. Charity No. 1174331

