



# **Little Paws Ferret Rescue**

You can't buy love, but you can rescue it!

**Trustees Annual  
Report**

2020 - 2021

Little Paws  
Ferret Rescue

# Trustees' Report

2020 – 2021

Little Paws  
Ferret Rescue  
Charity No:  
1182331

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# WELCOME

Our second year as a Charity in 2020 was such a challenging year. Working through a pandemic meant that we had to work around lockdowns and restrictions, vets were extremely stretched, volunteers were unable to help with care of the ferrets in rescue and travelling for rescues was difficult. However our team rose to the challenge in spectacular style and we fought through.

2020 saw 189 ferrets through the doors. 130 of those were surrendered ferrets. Many of this years surrenders were kits and a large number of those were suffering with Swimmers Disease. Heartbreakingly we were required to euthanise many kits that were just too ill to survive their condition.

Despite the terrible burdens and the extreme challenges we have faced this year, we have developed many processes and procedures to help us to operate effectively. The support that we have received from ferret owners and the public has been extraordinary and many supporters have become volunteers and lifelong friends of the rescue.

We thank you all for your support and love throughout.

Michelle Brunton  
Rescue Manager





# Our Covid-19 Journey

## A YEAR OF COVID

In March 2020 the world stopped! Covid 19 swept the country and Boris put us all in to lockdown. It seemed that the streets were apocalyptic and the nation was terrified. Amidst all of this the NHS Heros, Care workers and emergency services continued to do their best to help and so did we.

There were many wonderful sights from the doorstep celebrations to heroic efforts but the pandemic brought with it some very unexpected events too. Pet ownership increased as people craved for company and distraction from the events outside of their doors. The price of animals shot to record levels and animal theft increased exponentially. However in the ferret world we faced crisis of huge magnitude. Many ferret owners had time on their hands, hunting was not possible so there was a lack of free food for the ferrets, vets were struggling to cope and prices increased for jill jab. Many owners decided to breed.

As breeding increased and free whole prey was scarce, many people decided to feed cheap dog food and cat food. This led to many animals becoming nutritionally deficient. Kits became sick and animals started to be dumped in vast numbers as there were more ferrets than there was interest in buying kits.

The rescue became full to bursting point by the start of 2021 and has remained this way since.

Despite the stress and anxiety of the Covid-19 Pandemic we are still here and determined to continue to rescue ferrets. We will continue to build and grow and we will survive!

## IMPACT

As a result of Covid we have not been able to undertake our fundraising activities. We were not allowed in store with our Pets at Home partner store Byker and they were left to fundraise alone in store. They did a fantastic job and managed to raise £500 over the Santa Paws event with a further £2000 donated for Valentines Day 2021.

We were unable to operate any ferret shows or events which are essential to the rescue funds.

Vet costs increased due to the amount of ferrets requiring xrays and treatment for Swimmers Disease.

The number of volunteers fostering ferrets increased as we struggled to find space for the many ferrets coming through the doors.

Adoptions ceased throughout the lockdowns meaning less adoption income for the charity and less space for new ferrets coming in. This also meant that ferrets spent more time in rescue.

On a positive note we have had an extraordinary amount of support and we continue to be amazed by the kindness and strength of our rescue family.



# OUR AIMS & ACHIEVEMENTS THIS YEAR

## Charity Aims

We aim to rescue abandoned, lost and unwanted ferrets in the North East UK. We will rehabilitate and care for these ferrets until they are able to be rehomed. The rescue will carry out activities to find new homes for the ferrets in rescue and provide backup support for the lifetime of the ferret.

Little Paws Ferret Rescue is run by volunteers. We rely on the support of our members, volunteers and generosity of members of the public. We also have benefitted greatly from a grant provided by the Pets at Home Foundation to help with neutering and feeding bills.

Every pound that is donated or raised through fundraising, goes straight to helping animals in need.

We are passionate about providing advice and information to the public about caring for ferrets and the importance of neutering. We will continue to provide educational opportunities to broaden the knowledge of ferrets as a species and the benefits of owning ferrets.

## Ferrets In and Out

During the financial year March 2020 to March 2021 Little Paws Ferret Rescue took in 189 ferrets.

Around 70% of ferrets entering rescue during the pandemic were surrendered by their owners (an increase of 30% on last year) the remaining 30% were found as strays. The number of strays was less than the previous year as owners were at home more to care for them.

We rehomed 167 ferrets during 2020/2021 which is an amazing number considering the pandemic restrictions.

## Volunteer Development

The rescue have had a very successful year for volunteer recruitment. With the endless hours of free time created by the Covid pandemic and many people isolated and bored, many were looking for something to help them pass the time.

We welcomed them with open arms and the Manager, Michelle, developed training courses to help equip the volunteers with a good knowledge base. The rescue used Pets at Home VIP vouchers to secure hutches for volunteers to increase fostering and a new volunteer application form has been developed to gather and record volunteer details.

# 2020/2021 Summary

Despite the pandemic we were able to organise and attend a fantastic camping trip that happened to fall between lockdowns. This was a blessed relief and respite from the woes of the pandemic and was enjoyed by all.

The rescue website has seen a lot of development over the year and many features have been added to make it more appealing for visitors.

The rescue facilities have also undergone many changes with a new building being completed just weeks before the first lockdown. This houses up to 25 ferrets and provides a safe play space where ferrets can free run and get extra stimulation.



# TRUSTEES AND VOLUNTEERS

NAME	APPOINTED ON	ROLE
Michelle Brunton	24th May 2018	Chair
Rachel Thomas	24th May 2018	Trustee
Emma Moan	24th May 2018	Trustee
Tracey Mowatt	27th November 2018	Trustee
Lisa Thompson-Gillett	29th February 2020	Trustee
Reuben Gillett	29th February 2020	Trustee



# FINANCIAL REVIEW

## Reserves Policy

The trustees' policy is to retain 3 months' worth of normal running costs in order to meet commitments and to cover any unexpected expenditure.

## Financial Review

Income for the period amount to £27,610 with expenditure of £19,741.

Profitability - Gross profits £10636 (38.5%) and net profits are £7869 (28.5%).

Assets - The charity does not hold any fixed assets. Current assets include a balance in the bank of £7654, Paypal Balance (including the main Paypal and Paypal Giving accounts) £2641 and a petty cash balance of £3807.

Liabilities - Trade debtors of £30 and Trade Creditors £1133.

## Future Developments

The Trustees will continue to develop their calendar of events and will look at ways to create income from these events such as stall ideas, photo competitions, seasonal stalls, etc... They will develop more branded goods and merchandise in the future and look to supply goods such as food, oil, harnesses, bedding etc...

We will continue to develop our partnership with Pets at Home Byker as this is a good way to reach our target audience and receive donations and grants from the store.

## Trustee Statement

The Trustees consider the Charity to be a going concern and it is assumed that the Charity will continue for the foreseeable future.

# 31%

Grants and Vouchers

## Sales Breakdown

# 28%

Donations and GiftAid

Sales for the financial year 1st March 2020 to 31st March 2021 reached £27610.

31% of all sales income was received from grants and vouchers supplied by Support Adoption for Pets program run by Pets at Home. We applied for grants to help with neutering and vet fees, feed bills and replacing the roof on our outdoor ferret enclosure. The scheme also provided a grant of £2000 for valentines Day.

# 22%

Rehoming Fees

28% of the Charity income came from donations and Giftaid. This is made up of: £2630 direct donations, donation buckets and cash donations; £4067 from Facebook donate; £407 Paypal Giving and £79 from Easy Fundraising.

# 12%

Sale of Merchandise and Donated Goods

22% of the overall income for the charity came from rehoming fees. Fees are charged at £45 for a single ferret or £40 per ferret if adopting multiple at the same time. The total income from rehoming was £5931.

# 7%

Shows, Events and Stalls  
(including in store events)

Show takings, stalls and events raised £2019, 7% of the overall income for the Charity. This included in store Pets at Home events and microchipping.

We raised £3371 from the sale of merchandise, including food, ferret oil, harnesses, hammocks, donated equipment, Christmas cards, hoodies, etc...

# 87%

Direct Charitable  
Expenses

# £17,218

## Direct Expenses Breakdown

# 0.6%

Other Direct Expenses  
£69

# 0.4%

Volunteer Expenses  
£47

# 18%

Food, Bedding, Blankets,  
Oil, Treats, Meat,  
Supplements, Special  
Dietary Food  
£3116

# 7%

Merchandise  
£1158



# 61%

Vets Neutering  
£10505



# 10%

Vets General  
Treatment  
£1738



# 3%

Microchips  
£566



# 13%

Overheads

# £2523

Overheads Breakdown

# 73%

£1843

Repairs and Renewals  
including the new  
building, tools, hutches,  
etc...

# 24%

£601

General Expenses  
including bad debt for  
an unpaid rehome fee,  
domain name renewal  
and postage.

# 2%

£57

Show and Event costs

# 1%

£23

Paypal Fees and  
General Expenses



# FUTURE PLANS

## Covid-19

### Covid 19 Crisis

Like most UK animal charities, we expect to be negatively affected by the covid 19 crisis.

As a charity we are completely reliant on donations from the public and our major concern is that many of our sources of income could potentially dry up overnight – fundraising events, rehoming and our main ferret shows could be postponed or cancelled.

We aim to find creative ways to reach our customer base and provide a social community of ferret lovers who can support each other remotely through the looming crisis.

We will also prepare for the potential fall out caused by the pandemic as we expect there will be many animals surrendered, abandoned and in need of help both during and following the Covid 19 crisis. We aim to support owners in financial difficulties to ensure the welfare of their ferrets.

Despite the difficulties that we may face in the coming months, Little Paws Ferret Rescue will continue its rescue activities to the best of our ability. Where possible we will remain open for rehoming and to support the ferret owners community. We will endeavour to respond to calls for help with stray and abandoned ferrets in the North East UK.

## Our Plans for 2020/2021

The board of trustees will meet to review our strategy, activity and identify the best course of action for the future to ensure that we meet the needs of our stakeholders, animals in our care and our community in a sustainable way.

We aim to develop new fundraising opportunities which conform to current social distancing rules.

We plan to continue our partnership with Pets at Home, Support Adoption For Pets and apply for any grants available to help us continue our work to rescue and rehome ferrets.

We will further our educational library of information through our website and social media platforms to increase awareness of issues such as vaccinating against Canine Distemper, good ferret diets, neutering, etc...

We plan to build our support and volunteer network to allow us to help more ferrets in need.

We will provide a source of information, research and guidance for new ferret owners and we will promote adoption over private buying.

We will continue to rehome the ferrets that come into our care efficiently and ensure a high level of welfare throughout their time with Little Paws Ferret Rescue.

# Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the dedication of our volunteering team who have kept the wheels turning through the Covid-19 pandemic. They have gone above and beyond to save ferrets during a very difficult time.

Our Trustees who have supported the rescue manager and helped to develop the charity.

Our foster carers, who have helped with the endless line of incoming ferret kits. They have been instrumental in rescuing and teaching new kits some manners.

Our volunteers who help to transport ferrets to the vets for vaccinations, who search for hours for the missing frightened and abandoned pets, who share, like and comment on social media posts.

Our partner store, Pets at Home Byker. Part of the Support Adoption For Pets Scheme, who have really helped financially throughout the pandemic. A big thank you to everyone who has supported us through the Pets At Home VIP Scheme. We receive vouchers to spend in store which really helps with costs.

Our Vets and Vet nurses at Premier Vets for their dedication and hard work, especially our vet Kerida Shook who has given so much of her time to the ferrets.

Our donors who contribute regularly every month and for the one off donors, every penny helps us to rescue ferrets.

Our rehomers who give rescued ferrets a second chance at happiness.

Thank you to every supporter, donor and friend that have been a real support to us over the past year.

Without your support and care we would often find it very difficult to continue. Thank you all for helping us to make this year a success.

Thank you all for your continued Support!



**Little Paws Ferret Rescue**  
[www.littlepawsferretrescue.co.uk](http://www.littlepawsferretrescue.co.uk)  
[littlepawsferretrescue@gmail.com](mailto:littlepawsferretrescue@gmail.com)

# Little Paws Ferret Rescue CIO

## Profit and Loss Report

01 April, 2020 - 31 March, 2021

### Sales

4000 - Sales - Merchandise	1,706.55	
4001 - Sales - Hoodies	100.00	
4002 - Sales - Donated equipment (cages, etc...)	850.88	
4003 - Sales - Microchipping	48.50	
4004 - Sales - Ferret Oil	714.00	
4007 - Sales - Show Takings (class entries, food, etc...)	502.46	
4010 - Income - Rehoming Fees	5,931.00	
4011 - Income - Donations	2,240.49	
4013 - Income - Direct Donations for Treatments	380.09	
4014 - Income - Facebook Donations	4,067.00	
4015 - Income - Paypal Giving Donations	406.62	
4017 - Income - Stalls and Events	331.00	
4018 - Income - Pets at Home (Support Adoption For Pets Events)	1,136.75	
4020 - Income - Easy Fundraising	78.72	
4021 - Charitable Grants	8,000.00	
4022 - Vouchers (Grant in Kind)	431.40	
4023 - Gift Aid	654.34	
4920 - Royalties & Commissions Received	20.90	
	<b>Total Sales</b>	<b>£27,609.70</b>

### Direct Expenses

5000 - Cost of Sales - Merchandise	1,157.72
5020 - Cost of Sales - Food, Meat, Shavings	3,115.68
5021 - Cost of Sales - Bedding, Lino, Etc...	18.85

5030 - Cost of Sales - Vet Bills (Spay and Neuter)	10,505.12	
5031 - Cost of Sales - Vets Bills (general treatments)	1,737.98	
5033 - Cost of Sales - Microchipping	566.08	
5035 - Cost of Sales - Volunteer Expenses	47.28	
5060 - Other Direct Expenses	69.00	
	<b>Total Direct Expenses</b>	<b>£17,217.71</b>
	<b>GROSS PROFIT / LOSS</b>	<b>£10,391.99</b>
<b>Overheads</b>		
5080 - Show and Event Direct Expenses	1.29	
5082 - Show and Event Direct Expenses - Rosettes and Trophies	55.29	
7510 - Postage and Carriage	37.91	
7540 - Website Fees	12.46	
7800 - Repairs and Renewals	1,843.26	
7900 - Bank Charges and Interest	1.58	
7901 - Paypal Fees	21.26	
8100 - Bad Debts	45.00	
8200 - General Expenses	505.43	
	<b>Total Overheads</b>	<b>£2,523.47</b>
	<b>NET PROFIT / LOSS</b>	<b>£7,868.52</b>



# Little Paws Ferret Rescue CIO

## Balance Sheet Report

To: 31 March, 2021

### ASSETS

#### Fixed Assets

Total Fixed Assets	£0.00
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#### Current Assets

	7,654.04
1200 - Bank Account	3,807.91
1220 - Petty Cash	2,376.25
1230 - Paypal	265.00
1240 - Paypal Giving	
Total Current Assets	£14,103.20

TOTAL ASSETS	£14,103.20
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### LIABILITIES

#### Current Liabilities

	30.00
1100 - Trade Debtors	1,132.71
2100 - Trade Creditors	
Total Current Liabilities	£1,162.71

#### Future Liabilities

Total Future Liabilities	£0.00
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TOTAL LIABILITIES	£1,162.71
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<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>£12,940.49</b>
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**EQUITY**

Net Profit / Loss

12,940.49

*Net Profit / Loss (prior year(s))*

5,071.97

*Net Profit / Loss (current year)*

7,868.52

<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>£12,940.49</b>
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### Independent Report on the financial records of Little Paws Ferret Rescue CIO

I have reviewed the financial accounts for Little Paws Ferret Rescue CIO for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

I confirm that the attached Financial Statement for 2020/21, which shows a net profit of £7,868, generated from income of £27,610, is a true and fair record of the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

The Balance Sheet position as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, showing total net assets (and equity) of £12,940, is a true representation of the financial position of the CIO at that date.

Based on the information to hand, I confirm that Little Paws Ferret Rescue CIO is a going concern and has sufficient on-going income and funds to meet its current and foreseeable financial commitments.

David Beavis

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'David Beavis'.

Managing Director,  
Northern Pinetree Trust Trading Ltd t/a  
Pinetree Business Centre