

# CHARITY TRUSTEE REPORT

Little Paws  
Ferret  
Rescue



**2022 / 2023**

Prepared by Michelle Brunton

# Trustees' Report

2022 – 2023

Little Paws  
Ferret Rescue  
Charity No:  
1182331

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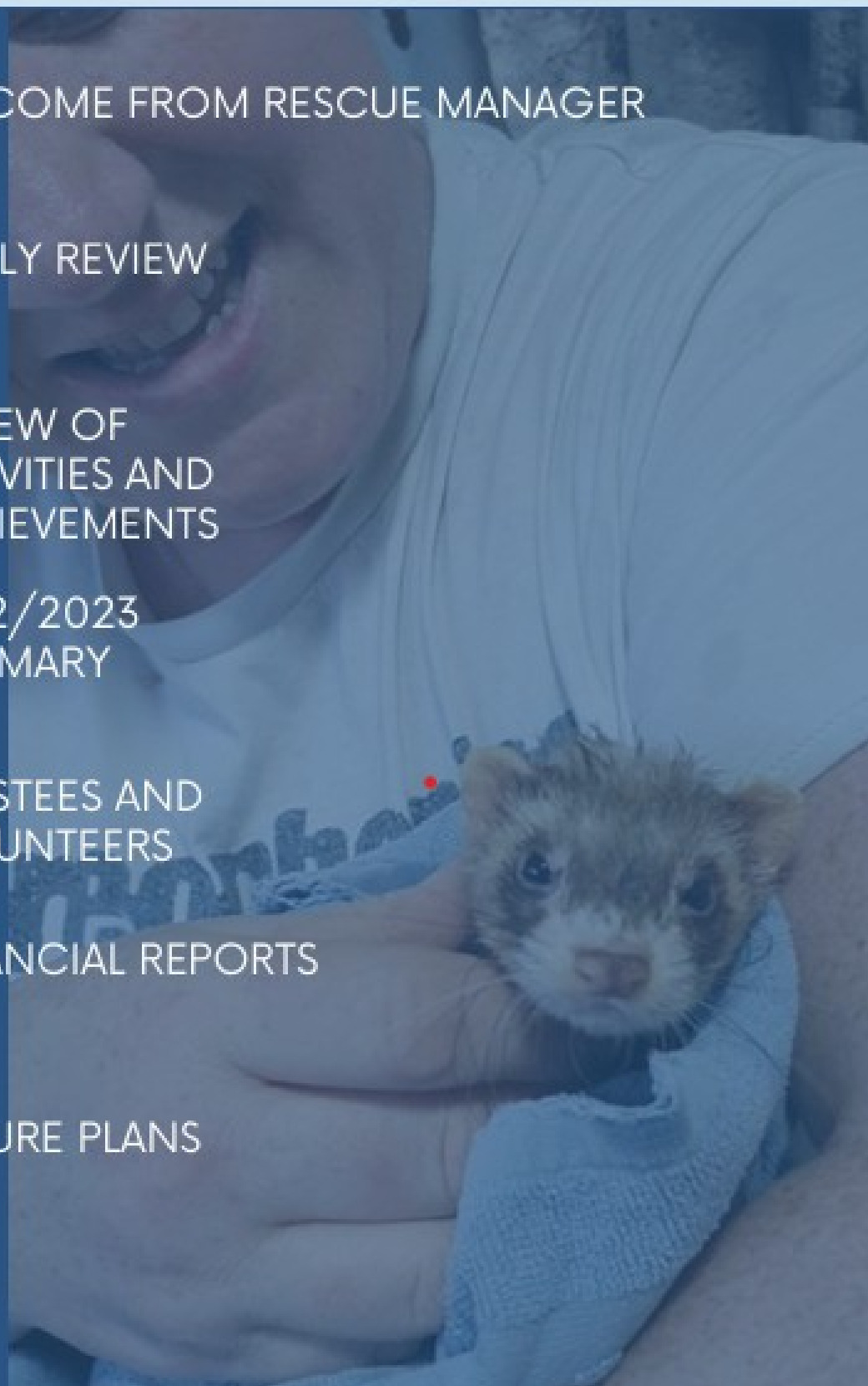
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# WELCOME

Hello and welcome to all of our supporters and followers for Little Paws Ferret Rescue.

This year sees our rescue in its fourth year of trading. We have made it through pandemics and the trustees and volunteers are still committed to the welfare and rescue of ferrets in the North East UK. Following the pandemic there have been record numbers of abandoned pandemic pets and ferrets are being dumped and surrendered at record rates. The cost-of-living crisis has also posed a huge threat to animal welfare with owners struggling with the cost of feeding and vet care.

We continued to provide the excellent care that the rescue has prided itself on for the last four years. Our volunteers have worked tirelessly to provide care and enrichment for each and every ferrets that has entered the rescue and we continue to provide medical interventions such as neutering, vaccinations, microchipping, etc... for the hundreds of ferrets we see every year. This year we were successful in securing funding for some improvements and renovations to the rescue to increase our capacity as a rescue.

Our volunteer programme has gained a new volunteer coordinator this year and we have increased our trustee numbers. We welcome Jade Gardiner, Howell Davies and Vicki Hall to the rescue management team. We would also like to say a big thank you to our outgoing Trustees, Tracey Mowatt and Rachel Thompson who have been a great asset to our organisation and will be a huge miss.

We thank you all for your support and love throughout.

Michelle Brunton  
Rescue Manager



# Yearly Review

## GRANTS RECEIVED

This year we were lucky to have applied and been accepted for a number of grants to assist in running the charity and developing the rescue facilities. The following grants were received:

### Pets At Home Foundation Grant

This grant fund is provided by the Pets at Home Foundation which is a registered Charity linked to Pets at Home. They believe that every pet deserves a loving forever home and over the years they have worked alongside rescue and rehoming organisations across the country who strive to help pets in need find their forever loving homes. We received £10,270 towards vets bills, feed and housing costs, equipment and building work to open up our indoor space to be used for a critical care area.

The rescue received a grant from Animal Friends Insurance of £2500 to help with rescue running costs.

We received £3000 from the Jean Salisbury Foundation to help with animal care and vets bills.

## ACTIVITY THIS YEAR

During 2022/23 we held a number of events to benefit local ferret owners and members of the public. Two ferret shows were held in December and March which attracted a lot of attendees and visitors. Fun was had by all and there were some beautiful ferrets that all deserved to win a rosette. The rescue would like to thank the judges, stewards and volunteers that work so hard to make these events a success. We appointed Trustee, Lisa Thompson-Gillett as shop manager to organise merchandice and donated goods for sale on stalls to raise funds. We also set up a crafting group of fantastic volunteers that create harnesses, hammocks, toys and other goods for sale. It is hoped that this will provide further volunteering opportunities for people that enjoy crafting.

The rescue organised our annual camoing trip at Alnwick Rugby Club where we had a fun ferret show and ferret related activities.

The volunteers attended a number of diffent shows and events to raise funds, These include Wolsingham Show, Westmorland Show and Flatts Lane Summer fayre.



# 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 June 2022 to May 2023 Little Paws Ferret Rescue took in 390 ferrets.

Around 43% of ferrets entering rescue were surrendered by their owners who could no longer care for their pets. The remaining 57% were found as strays.

We rehomed 165 ferrets during 2022/2023 which is slightly better than the previous year but still less than pre covid figures.

The rescue has 26 permanent residents. This includes our PR team who are trained and experienced in meeting the public and also ferrets that are too old or sick to find a new home.

## Volunteer Development

The number of volunteers increased again this year. We were successful in retaining the existing volunteers and managed to increase the team by 31 volunteers bringing the total number of volunteers to 85. All volunteers have now completed training in understanding ferrets as a species and safe handling of ferrets.

Volunteers engaged in many activities from attending walks, PR events, crafting, show stewarding and judging, selling donated goods, transporting animals and many were involved in fostering ferrets.

# 2022/2023 Summary



The rescue indoor area was extended by taking out an internal wall, installation of a supporting joist, new custom hutches with plastic wasable surfaces for a criticle care area. We also started work on a new enruichment enclosure to allow the ferrets to have exercise and play which will benefit their welfare immensely and provide entertainment for those that get to watch their antics first hand.

We had an unusual resident in the rescue this year. Clover the weasel came to us as the finder did not knowe what to do with him. He was cold and weak and needed help so rescue manager stepped in to be his mama. He was hand reared on kitten milk until he was able to eat meat and then weaned. Clover was very fast and as he got older he liked to nip all the volunteers except his mam.

Weasels the UK's smallest carniverous mamal. They are not pets as theyare wild animals and need lots of space to run, stimulation and freedom. Clover was transferred to a wildlife centre in Yorkshire for soft release back to the wild.



# Rescue Stories



Lexi and Bowser came into rescue within a day of each other and both were severely neglected and in a terrible state.

Lexi came in first after we collected her as a stray in South Shields. She had an injury to her head and was extremely emaciated. She lost all of the skin on top of her head and had her skull exposed.

Bowser had been abandoned in a cage in the garden of a house after the residents were evicted. He spent at least a week with no food or water. Bowser was weak, dehydrated and emaciated.

Both are now fully recovered and thriving and will remain with rescue manager Michelle long term.

Aegon, his mum Alicent and his siblings Aegon and Helaena were rescued from awful conditions and were all near to death. They were living in a 2ft glass fish tank with no food or water and one of the kits had already passed away from starvation.

Mum and her babies were rescued along with a very neglected Cane Toad that we have named Jabba.

Aemond had a very infected eye and both boys and their sister were very underweight. After intensive care and good food they all survived and thrived.

All are now fully recovered and thriving in the rescue with lots of love from the volunteers.





# TRUSTEES AND VOLUNTEERS

NAME	APPOINTED ON	ROLE
Michelle Brunton	24th May 2018	Chair
Emma Moan	24th May 2018	Trustee
Lisa Thompson-Gillett	29th February 2020	Trustee
Reuben Gillett	29th February 2020	Trustee
Vicki Hall	15 September 2022	Trustee
Howell Davies	15 September 2022	Trustee
Jade Gardiner	15 September 2022	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 £37,484 with expenditure of £34,891.

Profitability - Gross profits £10,860 (28%) and net profits are £2594 (7%).

Assets - The charity does not hold any fixed assets. Current assets include a balance in the bank of £5927, Paypal Balance (including the main Paypal and Paypal Giving accounts) £361.68 and a petty cash balance of £4060.33.

Liabilities - Trade debtors of £2522.66 and Trade Creditors £4076.07.

## 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.

# 29%

Donations and GiftAid

## Sales Breakdown

# 15%

Rehoming

Sales for the financial year 1st June 2022 to 31st May 2023 reached £37,484.

29% of the Charity income came from donations and Giftaid. This totals £10,842.96 from a mixture of direct donations, donation buckets and cash donations; £2391, Support Adoption for Pets, Facebook donate, Paypal Giving, Giftaid and Easy Fundraising.

# 7%

Sale of Merchandise and  
Donated Goods

15% of the overall income for the charity came from rehoming fees. Fees are charged at £55 for a single ferret or £50 per ferret if adopting multiple at the same time. The total income from rehoming was £5841.

# 4%

Shows, Events and Stalls  
(including in store events)

Show takings, stalls and events raised £1369.71, 4% of the overall income for the Charity.

We raised £2415.78 (6.5%) from the sale of merchandise, including food, ferret oil, harnesses, hammocks, donated equipment, Christmas cards, hoodies, microchipping, etc...

# 45%

Vouchers and Grants

Vouchers and grants raised £16733.10 (45%)

# 76%

Direct Charitable  
Expenses

# £26,625

## Direct Expenses Breakdown

# %1

Bedding, Lino, etc...  
£134

# %2

Volunteer Expenses  
£419

# 29%

Food, Bedding, Blankets,  
Oil, Treats, Meat,  
Suppliments, Special  
Dietary Food  
£7781

# 2%

Merchandise  
£528



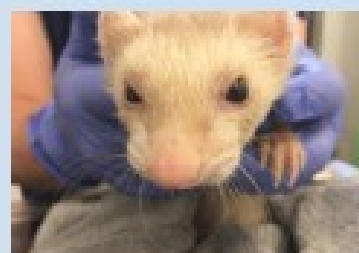
# 30%

Vets Neutering  
£8016



# 35%

Vets General  
Treatment  
£9507



# 1%

Microchips  
£240



# 24%

Overheads

# £8266

Overheads Breakdown

# 58%

£4823

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

# 30%

£2481

General Expenses  
including stationary,  
bank charges and  
postage.

# 10%

£828

Show and Event costs

# 2%

£134

Marketing including  
web costs

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# FUTURE PLANS

## Building Plans

Plans are ongoing to build a play pen in the ferret main rescue site to enrich the lives of the ferrets in care. It will be brick based and have two stories for more play space. The base will be created using funds from Pets at Home Foundation which is already secured.

The rescue will continue to develop the indoor area and will look to extend the rescue to a new site in South Pelaw that belongs to the new trustee Vicki Hall.

## Event Plans

We intend to return to regular ferret shows, fayres and events that we attended pre-covid and we will look to develop those events as an opportunity to raise vital funds and promote ferret ownership.

We will hold our annual camping trip which we hope to develop and grow over the next few years.

We intend to further develop our ferret racing set and practice delivering this as an activity to raise funds and provide entertainment.

Our monthly walks will continue, organised by Trustee, Emma Moan.

We will continue to develop the craft group and further develop the shop to create sustainable income for the rescue.

## Our Plans for 2022/2023

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 and apply for trusts and funds.

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 will develop new relationships with rescues and veterinary surgeries in the North East Uk.

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 hard work and dedication of our volunteering team who have continued to support the development of the rescue.

Our Trustees, both old and new, who have supported the rescue manager and helped to develop the charity.

Our foster carers, who have supported the rescue to increase capacity to take in the increased demand for space for the endless line of incoming ferrets.

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 grant funders, who have helped financially.

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 Wrights Vets and Sunderland Vets 4 Pets for their dedication and hard work, especially our vet Kerida Shook and vet nurse Tyrina Gibson who have given so much of their 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, 2022 - 31 March, 2023

### Sales

4000 - Sales - Merchandise	1,713.83	
4001 - Sales - Hoodies	170.00	
4002 - Sales - Donated equipment (cages, etc..)	223.29	
4003 - Sales - Microchipping	41.00	
4004 - Sales - Ferret Oil	262.66	
4007 - Sales - Show Takings (class entries, food, etc...)	96.75	
4010 - Income - Rehoming Fees	5,841.00	
4011 - Income - Donations	5,669.68	
4012 - Income - Business Sponsorship Donations	295.00	
4013 - Income - Direct Donations for Treatments	721.00	
4014 - Income - Facebook Donations	3,522.35	
4015 - Income - Paypal Giving Donations	368.98	
4017 - Income - Stalls and Events	1,272.96	
4018 - Income - Pets at Home (Support Adoption For Pets Events)	138.01	
4020 - Income - Easy Fundraising	127.94	
4021 - Charitable Grants	16,733.10	
4023 - Gift Aid	282.25	
4900 - Other income	5.00	
	<b>Total Sales</b>	<b>£37,484.80</b>

### Direct Expenses

5000 - Cost of Sales - Merchandise	527.51
5020 - Cost of Sales - Food, Meat, Shavings	7,780.77
5021 - Cost of Sales - Bedding, Lino, Etc...	133.83



5030 - Cost of Sales - Vet Bills (Spay and Neuter)	8,016.40	
5031 - Cost of Sales - Vets Bills (general treatments)	9,405.17	
5032 - Cost of Sales - Flea, Tick, Worming Treatments	98.70	
5033 - Cost of Sales - Microchipping	240.00	
5035 - Cost of Sales - Volunteer Expenses	418.86	
5060 - Other Direct Expenses	3.50	
	<b>Total Direct Expenses</b>	<b>£26,624.74</b>
	<b>GROSS PROFIT / LOSS</b>	<b>£10,860.06</b>
<b>Overheads</b>		
5080 - Show and Event Direct Expenses	702.32	
5082 - Show and Event Direct Expenses - Rosettes and Trophies	125.65	
7510 - Postage and Carriage	27.49	
7520 - Office Stationery	116.07	
7540 - Website Fees	134.10	
7550 - Computer & Software	300.00	
7630 - Business Insurance	35.00	
7800 - Repairs and Renewals	4,823.24	
7900 - Bank Charges and Interest	35.97	
7901 - Paypal Fees	24.00	
8200 - General Expenses	1,942.35	
	<b>Total Overheads</b>	<b>£8,266.19</b>
	<b>NET PROFIT / LOSS</b>	<b>£2,593.87</b>

# Little Paws Ferret Rescue CIO

## Balance Sheet Report

To: 31 March, 2023

### ASSETS

#### Fixed Assets

Total Fixed Assets	£0.00
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#### Current Assets

1200 - Bank Account	5,926.21
1220 - Petty Cash	4,060.33
1230 - Paypal	208.68
1240 - Paypal Giving	153.00

Total Current Assets	£10,348.22
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TOTAL ASSETS	£10,348.22
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### LIABILITIES

#### Current Liabilities

1100 - Trade Debtors	2,522.66
2100 - Trade Creditors	4,076.07

Total Current Liabilities	£6,598.73
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#### Future Liabilities

Total Future Liabilities	£0.00
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TOTAL LIABILITIES	£6,598.73
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		<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>£3,749.49</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Net Profit / Loss		3,749.49	
<i>Net Profit / Loss (prior year(s))</i>		1,155.62	
<i>Net Profit / Loss (current year)</i>		2,593.87	
		<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>£3,749.49</b>

## **Little Paws Ferret Rescue CIO**

Accounts reviewed by Independent auditor David Beavis on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025

### **Summary of Financial Accounts for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

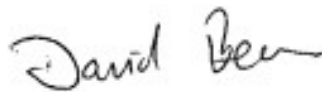
(1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023)

The accounts of Little Paws Ferret Rescue CIO, which are held on Sage software, have been checked and verified. •

The bank balance of £5,926 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 is confirmed as correct.

In my opinion the CIO continues to be a going concern and should continue to trade for the foreseeable future.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me any cause for concern. I believe that the requirement to keep proper accounting records and to prepare proper year end accounts has been fully met.



David Beavis CIA  
Independent Auditor  
12<sup>th</sup> March 2025