

THE ANIMAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

England & Wales · Charity number 1189603

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2020-05-21

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 18A Lower Road
Chinnor
Oxfordshire
OX39 4DT

Phone 07904399036

Email info@taaproject.org

Website www.taaproject.org

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE:(A) TO PROMOTE HUMANE BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS ANIMALS AND THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY AND SUFFERING AMONG ANIMALS. (B) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN ALL MATTERS RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT, TEACHING, APPLICATION AND PRACTICE OF THE LAW RELATING TO ANIMALS;(C) TO RELIEVE THE SUFFERING AND DISTRESS OF ANIMALS BY PROVIDING ADVICE AND INFORMATION TO ENABLE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SECURE ACCESS TO LEGAL AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OR ADVICE AND REPRESENTATION IN MATTERS THAT INVOLVE ANIMALS

Activities: Undertake legal advocacy to pursue the aim of promoting the humane treatment of animals

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Animals
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Ireland
- Northern Ireland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-01-31	£14,275	£10,752	-	-
2024-01-31	£11,334	£13,278	-	-
2023-01-31	£12,478	£15,574	-	-
2022-01-31	£8,944	£8,276	-	-
2021-01-31	£7,455	£378	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
David Anthony Cooke	Chair	2020-06-11
Michelle Karen Strauss		2020-06-11
Richard Heinrich Pitschmann		2020-06-11

THE ANIMAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1189603

Accounts

TAAAP 
we're not for profit
& neither are they

ANNUAL RETURN: YEAR ENDING 31 JANUARY 2025

THE ANIMAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting the annual report and unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2025. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and 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 FRS 102 (reporting period beginning on or after 1 January 2019).

1. Reference and Administrative details

Charity name:	The Animal Advocacy Project
Charity Registration No:	1189603
Registered office:	18A Lower Road, Chinnor, OX39 4DT
Secretary:	Michelle Strauss
Bankers:	Triodos Bank UK Ltd Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AS

The current Trustees are:

David Cooke *Chair and Treasurer*

Michelle Strauss *Secretary*

Richard Pitschmann

Maya Pardo resigned as a Trustee in February 2025.

2. Overview of The Animal Advocacy Project

TAAP (“the Charity”) was established with the aim of using legal and advocacy experience to improve the lives of animals in the UK and Ireland. The charitable objectives are broadly to:

- Help humans treat animals better; we aim to prevent animal cruelty and stop animal suffering;

- To teach people how the law can help us to change the lives of animals, for the better; and
- To give the public access to our legal expertise and knowledge by disseminating information to enable the public to pursue our objectives of helping animals and preventing suffering.

3. Structure, governance and management information

Governing Document

The Charity is an Incorporated Charitable Organisation, incorporated on 21 May 2020. As at 31 January 2022 there were 4 members (who are also trustees) of the Charity. The Charity is governed by its Constitution dated 31 January 2020.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Trustees, who are also members of the Charity, are elected from a community of people who are interested in animal welfare/ rights matters. Presently the board is small and is generally made up of people known to the founders who have a demonstrated experience in animal welfare/ rights work or have particular skills that would be of use to the Charity. However, the Board is conscious that it needs to create a more diverse Trustee Board. As the Charity is still very young and its reach limited it is hoped that recruitment is an issue that can be addressed as the reputation of the Charity grows and as board members are able to dedicate more resources to this work. The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are elected from amongst the Trustees.

Organisational Structure

During the financial year the Trustee Board met 3 times.

As the Charity is still new and establishing itself most of the work conducted by the Charity is carried out by Trustees and volunteers. There are no employees. At present the Charity is not big enough to enable dedicated committees to be established to deal with discrete issues – however it is envisioned that as the Charity grows this structure will be adopted.

4. Objectives and activities

The object of the Charity is to advance animal welfare. The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties. The following sections describe the activities of the Charity that have been carried out for the public benefit in the last year.

One of the concerns of the Charity is to address institutional failings and systemic problems that allow animal welfare issues to persist, despite there already existing legislation to prevent such issues. To this extent the Charity has focussed on work that will introduce broad changes with a view to helping the greatest number of animals possible - that said the charity is reviewing this utilitarian approach as a basis on which to assess impact.

Just Transition

We undertook a substantial piece of work on the concept of a “just transition” within the food system, exploring pathways for moving away from intensive animal agriculture. This work examined how such a transition can be managed fairly and sustainably, supporting farmers, workers, communities, and consumers while reducing reliance on practices that cause significant harm to animals and the environment.

This area of focus is particularly important because transforming the food system is essential for improving animal welfare, reducing greenhouse-gas emissions, enhancing public health, and creating more resilient and equitable rural economies. A just transition ensures that these benefits are achieved in a way that brings people along, rather than leaving them behind.

Conferences and Events

Throughout the year, we participated in a range of conferences, workshops, and sector events focused on animal welfare, environmental policy, and food-system change. These gatherings provided valuable opportunities to share our work, engage with leading researchers and advocates, and stay informed about emerging trends in the field.

Attending these events also helped strengthen our partnerships, identify areas for future collaboration, and ensure that our strategic direction remains aligned with the latest evidence and best practice. This ongoing engagement with the wider community is an important part of how we maximise our impact and maintain a well-informed approach to advancing non-human interests.

Greyhound Racing

We continued our efforts to raise awareness of the welfare issues and broader impacts associated with greyhound racing. Our work during the year focused on highlighting the industry’s ongoing challenges—including injury rates, inadequate post-racing care, and concerns around transparency and enforcement.

Raising awareness in this area remains important because informed public understanding is a critical precursor to meaningful reform. By ensuring that policymakers, stakeholders, and the wider community are aware of the welfare implications of greyhound racing, we contribute to building the momentum needed for stronger protections and, ultimately, a transition towards more humane alternatives.

Transparency – Freedom of Information

The Charity is concerned to ensure that legislation is being enforced and accordingly have made numerous FOI requests. The purpose of these are to understand the degree to which authorities are discharging their duties and the adequacy of their performance. There has been resistance to the release of information in respect of some industries and consequently it has been necessary to appeal decisions.

5. Achievements and performance

Over the past year, we have observed a significant increase in the number of organisations engaging with animal-related issues, particularly in relation to planning law. This is a welcome development. Many of these organisations are larger and better resourced, which reduces the need for us to continue leading this work. We are proud to have played a central role in advancing this area, but we now see an opportunity to refocus our efforts.

Accordingly, we are taking time to reorient the organisation and assess where our expertise can most effectively support the interests of non-human animals. As part of this process, we have temporarily paused donations and will resume this activity once we have determined the most impactful direction and structure for this next phase.

6. Financial review

Financial position

Incoming resources in the year were £14,282.50

Of this none was related to project restricted activities.

There was a surplus of £6,236.68/

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

None.

Reserves

The Trustees elected to hold £500 as reserve for the administrative costs of running the website and email addresses.

Risk Management

At present the monthly outgoings of the Charity are limited and in the event of a cash flow problem it would be relatively simple to reduce expenses immediately without a major impact on the functioning of the organisation. The Trustees are however conscious that as the Charity grows a more rigorous process will need to be implemented. The greatest risk the Charity previously faced was an adverse costs award – given that the decision has been made to halt litigation in the immediate term this risk has been mitigated.

7. Thanks

The Trustees wish to thank all those people who have supported the Charity throughout the year. The Trustees are particularly grateful to those who have donated to the Charity as it has enabled us to extend the reach of the organisation and undertake legal work. We could not have achieved what we have without them.

We would also like to thank the volunteers who have assisted us with research, legal work and the drafting of articles. Their generosity with their time and skills, as well as their professionalism, is appreciated and their work very gratefully received.

Approved by the Trustees by agreement on 30 November 2025 and signed on their behalf.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a long horizontal line that ends in a small downward-pointing hook.

Michelle Strauss

Secretary

The Animal Advocacy Project

30 November 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2024/25 £	TOTAL 2023/24 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds					
Donations & Legacies	3a	14,252	0	14,252	6,061
Contributions & Grants	3b	0	0	0	5,250
Investment Income	3c	30	0	23	23
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		14,281.50	0	14,282	11,334
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of Generating Funds					
Cost of Charitable Activities	4a	10,752	0	10,752	13,061
Governance Costs	4b	0	0	0	217
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		10,752	0	10,752	13,278
NET INCOMING/ (OUTGOING) RESOURCES		3,530	0	3,530	-1,944
Total Funds Brought Forward		2,705	0	2,705	4,649
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		6,235	0	6,234.68	2,705

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2024/25 £	TOTAL 2023/24 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	1	0	0	0	0
Current Assets					
Debtors & Prepayments	7	0	0	0	0
Cash at Bank and in Hand	6	6,235	0	6,235	2,705
Total Current Assets		6,235	0	6,235	2,705
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	0	0	0	0
NET CURRENT ASSETS		6,235	0	6,235	2,705
TOTAL ASSETS less current liabilities		6,235	0	6,235	2,705
Creditors: Long Term Liabilities	9	0	0	0	0
NET ASSETS		6,235	0	6,235	2,705
Funds of the Charity					
General Funds		6,235	0	6,235	2,705
Restricted Funds	5	0	0	0	0
Total Funds		6,235	0	6,235	2,705

The Trustees are satisfied that the Charity is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit/ independent examination as the charity income for the financial year was below £25,000.



David Cooke

Trustee/ Treasurer

20 November 2025

THE ANIMAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1189603

Accounts

TAAAP  **we're not for profit**
& neither are they

ANNUAL RETURN: YEAR ENDING 31 JANUARY 2024

THE ANIMAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

Report of the Trustees

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The current Trustees are:

David Cooke *Chair and Treasurer*

Michelle Strauss *Secretary*

Richard Pitschmann

2. Overview of The Animal Advocacy Project

TAAP ("the Charity") was established with the aim of using legal and advocacy experience to improve the lives of animals in the UK and Ireland. The charitable objectives are broadly to:

- Help humans treat animals better; we aim to prevent animal cruelty and stop animal suffering;
- To teach people how the law can help us to change the lives of animals, for the better; and

- To give the public access to our legal expertise and knowledge by disseminating information to enable the public to pursue our objectives of helping animals and preventing suffering.

3. Structure, governance and management information

Governing Document

The Charity is an Incorporated Charitable Organisation, incorporated on 21 May 2020. As at 31 January 2024 there were 4 members (who are also trustees) of the Charity. The Charity is governed by its Constitution dated 31 January 2020.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Trustees, who are also members of the Charity, are elected from a community of people who are interested in animal welfare/ rights matters. Presently the board is small and is generally made up of people known to the founders who have a demonstrated experience in animal welfare/ rights work, or have particular skills that would be of use to the Charity. The Board has advertised that it is actively seeking trustees. The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are elected from amongst the Trustees.

We were delighted to welcome Maya Pardo as a trustee in early 2024.

Organisational Structure

During the financial year the Trustee Board met 3 times.

As the Charity is still new and establishing itself most of the work conducted by the Charity is carried out by Trustees and volunteers. There are no employees. At present the Charity is not big enough to enable dedicated committees to be established to deal with discrete issues – however it is envisioned that as the Charity grows this structure will be adopted.

4. Objectives and activities

The object of the Charity is to advance animal welfare. The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties. The following sections describe the activities of the Charity that have been carried out for the public benefit in the last year.

One of the concerns of the Charity is to address institutional failings and systemic problems that allow animal welfare issues to persist, despite there existing legislation to prevent such issues. To this extent the Charity has focussed on work that will introduce broad changes with a view to helping the greatest number of animals possible- that said the charity is reviewing this utilitarian approach as a basis on which to assess impact.

Education

TAAP was fortunate to be awarded a grant from Sustain in March 2023 to prepare a guide for local authorities to use when considering planning applications for intensive animal agriculture facilities. The document that was produced is a user friendly and comprehensive outline of the environmental and animal welfare impacts of intensive agriculture and the legislation and case law relating to it. As the document was prepared for Sustain it was handed over to them in November 2023 together with a media strategy. TAAP has however made use of the content for social media and blog posts.

The Charity is concerned to ensure that the public are kept informed of our activities and that they have access to information we produce or obtain. During the financial year we regularly contribute to pages on our website and publish information through social media.

Awareness

The England and Wales team assisted the team in Ireland with the preparation and compilation of a survey addressing the emotional cost of animal rescue of those working in the sector. We received a 171 responses in total which was an excellent return rate. Through this we were able to prepare a report that highlighted the difficulties of government policy and a lack of funding for those involved in the rescue sector in Ireland. It is proposed that in time the same survey model will be trialled in the UK. We have also recently been highlighting mental health courses offered by specialist providers for volunteer workers in the UK.

Planning objections

TAAP have objected to two planning applications for intensive animal agricultural facilities. One application is ongoing and relates to a “mega farm” in Norfolk. TAAP was approached by a group of local residents and in addition to making our own detailed objection, we put the group in contact with a number of organisations who might be able to assist them. This application is still being considered but we are proud to have gathered a number of experts together to lodge concerns and to draw attention to the significant impact of this facility.

Planning applications have been objected to primarily on the basis of animal welfare. Our position is that upholding animal welfare extends to considerations relating to climate change and environmental impacts given these issues have been shown to have negative impacts on habitats and animal populations.

We are conscious that animal welfare arguments are often raised when objecting to agricultural facilities, but sometimes these objections are not linked to relevant planning considerations. We are hoping to reframe these concerns within planning law in order to make animal welfare a material consideration when considering planning applications for agricultural facilities.

One of our trustees, Michelle, delivered a seminar on how to use planning processes to advance animal welfare concerns at an ALAW seminar in October 2023.

Transparency – Freedom of Information

The Charity is concerned to ensure that legislation is being enforced and accordingly have made numerous FOI requests. The purpose of these are to understand the degree to which authorities are discharging their duties and the adequacy of their performance. There has been resistance to the release of information in respect of some industries and consequently it has been necessary to appeal decisions.

5. Achievements and performance

Significant resources were directed to work for which we received the Sustain grant. We are very proud of the document that was produced. It has also proven helpful for those involved in preparing objections – giving them a perspective into matters that planning officials can have regard to when considering applications.

This year was also a moment of consolidation and reflection given that significant time and resources had in the preceding year been directed to the VCI case in Ireland. This case provided a moment to reconsider whether litigation was the most effective intervention we could undertake – and the consensus was that it was not. For this reason the charity has taken a step back to focus on policy interventions and more cost effective ways to address systemic problems. Work is underway in this area.

Fundraising is always an issue and 2023 proved to be a difficult year. We trialled efforts to sell merchandise which unfortunately did not prove to generate the income we had hoped – but we will continue to think of new ideas.

Given the size of TAAP and the limited resources of the charity we are very proud of the impact we have had – particularly in helping to bring awareness to the planning matter in Norfolk.

6. Financial review

Financial position

Incoming resources in the year were £12,470.

Of this £5,250 related to a restricted activity – which was the grant from Sustain to produce the planning information. This was all spent within the financial year.

There was a surplus of £2,705.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

None

Reserves

The Trustees elected to hold £500 as reserve for the administrative costs of running the website and email addresses.

Risk Management

At present the monthly outgoings of the Charity are limited and in the event of a cash flow problem it would be relatively simple to reduce expenses immediately without a major impact on the functioning of the organisation. The Trustees are however conscious that as the Charity grows a more rigorous process will need to be implemented. The greatest risk the Charity previously faced was an adverse costs award – given that the decision has been made to halt litigation in the immediate term this risk has been mitigated.

7. Thanks

The Trustees wish to thank all those people who have supported the Charity throughout the year. The Trustees are particularly grateful to those who have donated to the Charity as it has enabled us to extend the reach of the organisation and undertake legal work. We could not have achieved what we have without them.

We would also like to thank the volunteers who have assisted us with research, legal work and the drafting of articles. Their generosity with their time and skills, as well as their professionalism is appreciated and their work very gratefully received.

Approved by the Trustees by agreement on 27 November 2024 and signed on their behalf.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke ending in a small hook.

Michelle Strauss

Secretary

The Animal Advocacy Project

27 November 2024

Financial Activities

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023/24 £	TOTAL 2022/23 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds					
Donations & Legacies	3a	6,061	0	6,061	12,470
Contributions & Grants	3b	0	5,250	5,250	0
Investment Income	3c	23	0	23	8
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		6,084	5,250	11,334	12,478
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of Generating Funds					
Cost of Charitable Activities	4a	7,811	5,250	13,061	10,407
Governance Costs	4b	217	0	217	5,167
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		8,028	5,250	13,278	15,574
NET INCOMING/ (OUTGOING) RESOURCES		-1,944	0	-1,944	-3,096
Total Funds Brought Forward		4,649	0	4,649	7,745
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		2,705	0	2,705	4,649

Balance Sheet

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023/24 £	TOTAL 2022/23 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	1	0	0	0	0
Current Assets					
Debtors & Prepayments	7	0	0	0	0
Cash at Bank and in Hand	6	2,705	0	2,705	4,649
Total Current Assets		<u>2,705</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,705</u>	<u>4,649</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	0	0	0	0
NET CURRENT ASSETS		2,705	0	2,705	4,646
TOTAL ASSETS less current liabilities		<u>2,705</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,705</u>	<u>4,649</u>
Creditors: Long Term Liabilities	9	0	0	0	0
NET ASSETS		<u>2,705</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,705</u>	<u>4,649</u>
Funds of the Charity					
General Funds		2,705	0	2,705	4,649
Restricted Funds	5	0	0	0	0
Total Funds		<u>2,705</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,705</u>	<u>4,649</u>

The Trustees are satisfied that the Charity is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit/ independent examination as the charity income for the financial year was below £25,000.


David Cooke

Trustee/ Treasurer

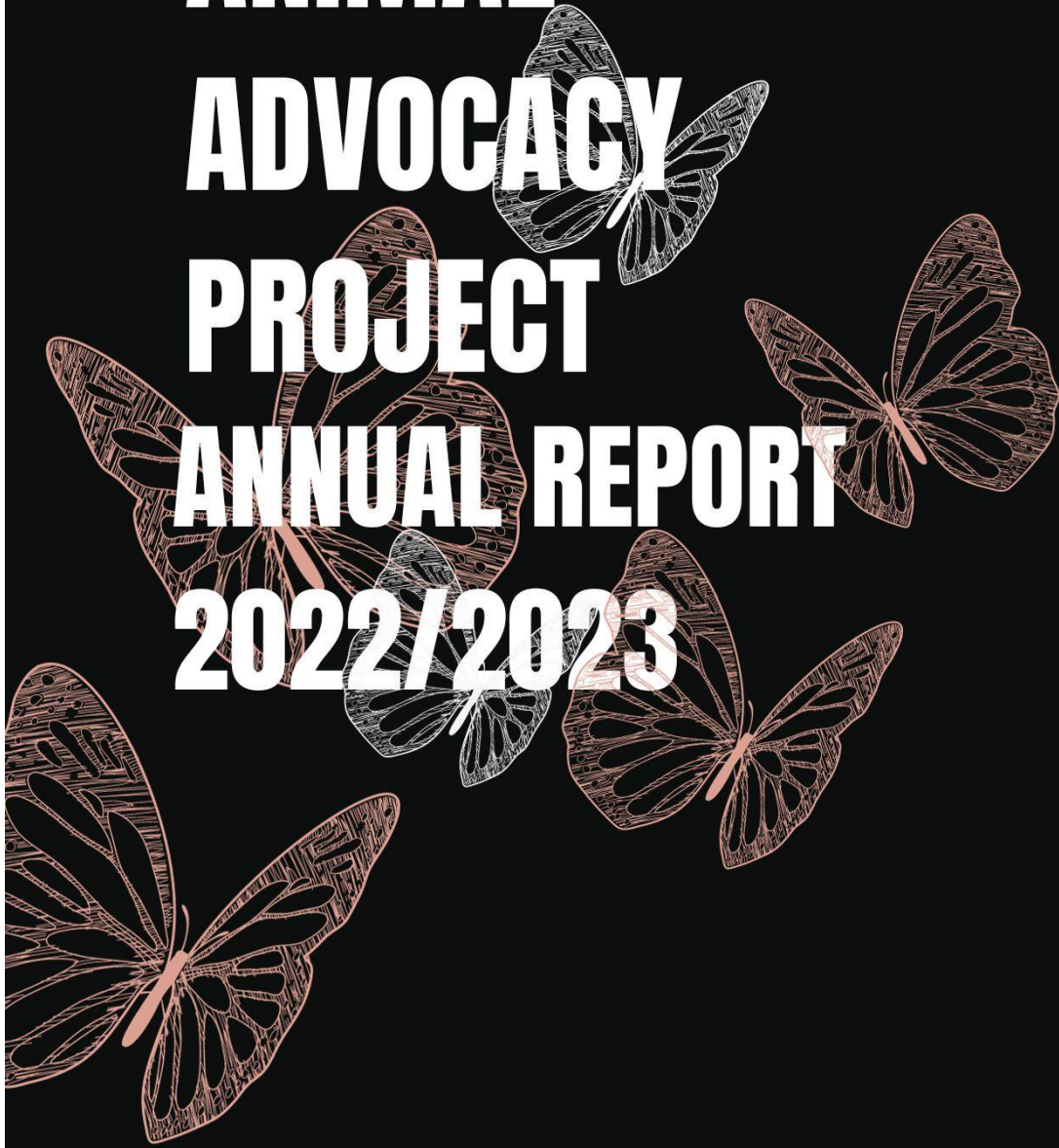
24 November 2024

THE ANIMAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1189603

Accounts

**THE
ANIMAL
ADVOCACY
PROJECT
ANNUAL REPORT
2022/2023**





THE ANIMAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

Report of the Trustees

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Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AS

The current Trustees are:

David Cooke *Chair and Treasurer*

Michelle Strauss *Secretary*

Richard Pitschmann

Those who additionally served during the financial year with their dates of appointment, retirement or resignations were: Randi Milgram (April 2022).

2. Overview of The Animal Advocacy Project

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3. Structure, governance and management information

Governing Document

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Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Trustees, who are also members of the Charity, are elected from a community of people who are interested in animal welfare/ rights matters. Presently the board is small and is generally made up of people known to the founders who have a demonstrated experience in animal welfare/ rights work or have particular skills that would be of use to the Charity. However, the Board is conscious that it needs to create a more diverse Trustee Board. The Charity has started recruitment work for the 2023/2024 year to expand the Board and is in the process of appointing a new trustee. The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are elected from amongst the Trustees.

Organisational Structure

During the financial year the Trustee Board met twice.

As the Charity is still new and establishing itself most of the work conducted by the Charity is carried out by Trustees and volunteers. There are no employees. However, in early 2022 a decision was made to use some of TAAP’s funds to engage contractors for certain work.

At present the Charity is not big enough to enable dedicated committees to be established to deal with discrete issues – however it is envisioned that as the Charity grows this structure will be adopted.

4. Objectives and activities

The object of the Charity is to advance animal welfare. The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties. The following sections describe the activities of the Charity that have been carried out for the public benefit in the last year.

One of the concerns of the Charity is to address institutional failings and systemic problems that allow animal welfare issues to persist, despite there existing legislation to prevent such issues. To this extent the Charity has focussed on work that will introduce broad changes. The Charity is still new, and resources are limited. Consequently, the scope of the activities is limited to an extent by these factors and accordingly the type and volume of work that has been undertaken reflects this:

Planning objections

TAAP have continued work on planning related matters. Planning applications have been objected to primarily on the basis of animal welfare. Our position is that upholding animal welfare extends to considerations relating to environmental concerns given that an unhealthy environment inevitably affects animals.

We are conscious that animal welfare arguments are often raised when objecting to agricultural facilities, but sometimes these objections are not linked to relevant planning considerations. We are hoping to reframe these concerns within planning law in order to make animal welfare a material consideration when considering planning applications for agricultural facilities.

In 2021 we lodged an objection to a large scale pig unit in East Riding. The matter went to a planning committee in January 2022 at which we made a submission. Planning was subsequently approved. We were concerned that due consideration had not been given to material planning considerations and sought an opinion from counsel as to whether there may be grounds for a judicial review in March 2022. On the basis of counsel's advice we decided not to pursue the matter. However, the advice informed our approach to planning matters going forward.

One particularly successful initiative in this area related to the objection to an extension of a large dog breeding facility in Northern Ireland. In addition to TAAP's objection, we also drafted a template objection for public use. This wording formed the basis of over 1000 objections to the Local Planning Authority. Local politicians also used this work for their own objections. The planning application has now been called in as a consequence of this campaign.

Government consultations

TAAP made one submission in respect of a government consultation on the sentencing guidelines for animal welfare offences.

In accordance with our charitable objectives, the responses to the consultation focussed primarily on how sentences should seek to address animal welfare concerns, rather than

simply being a punitive measure. We also feel strongly that broader social justice issues are relevant to sentencing for animal welfare offences and noted this in our submission.

Veterinary Standards

The Charity is conscious of the important role that vets play in upholding animal welfare. Professional regulatory bodies are integral in ensuring that vets maintain these standards. TAAP is concerned to ensure that there is adequate transparency in order for the public to be able to assess whether standards are being upheld and animals are being protected in accordance with the law and vets' ethical obligations. In respect of this issue TAAP made a complaint about a vet to the Veterinary Council of Ireland. The VCI dismissed the complaint and TAAP appealed this decision. A hearing was held in the Dublin Circuit Court in November 2022. Unfortunately our appeal was not successful, but no costs award was made. Whilst we considered that the decision was not in keeping with the case law or the statutory position, we elected not to appeal to the High Court. The reasons for this decision were that the appeal had consumed significant time and resources within TAAP. Further, there was very little support from organisations in Ireland, and consequently we did not feel that we had the capacity to pursue the matter further on our own. There were also costs concerns should we lose the appeal. Whilst the outcome was undoubtedly disappointing, we are proud to have raised issue and pursued a matter on which the VCI has never previously been challenged.

Education and the dissemination of information

The Charity is concerned to ensure that the public are kept informed of our activities and that they have access to information we produce or obtain. During the financial year we have improved the webpage, and we have also appointed a social media consultant who undertakes social media work for us one day per week. This has increased our engagement with the public and has also made more people aware of our work.

5. Achievements and performance

The 2022/2023 financial year was undoubtedly a challenging one for the charity. Significant resources and time were put towards the VCI appeal that was not successful. Nevertheless we are proud to have brought awareness to the issue and to have pursued the first appeal on this point of law. Throughout the year we have engaged increasing numbers of the public in planning processes that relate to animal agriculture and through this have brought awareness of the plight of millions of animals.

6. Financial review

Financial position

Incoming resources in the year were £12,470

Of this none was related to project restricted activities.

There was a surplus of £4,649.00

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

None.

Reserves

The Trustees elected to hold reserves to cover potential liabilities relating to litigation we believed may arise during the course of the year. The board elected to hold £7,500 as a reserve for this work. At the conclusion of the litigation and following the end of the appeal period, the board released these reserves for general use.

Risk Management

In the next financial year, the Trustees will review the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and ensure that adequate systems exist to mitigate those risks. At present the monthly outgoings of the Charity are limited and in the event of a cash flow problem it would be relatively simple to reduce expenses immediately without a major impact on the functioning of the organisation. The Trustees are however conscious that as the Charity grows a more rigorous process will need to be implemented. Presently the greatest risk the Charity faces is an adverse costs award. The risk of this occurring can be mitigated by seeking legal advice and undertaking considered review of the strengths of any potential legal action.

7. Thanks

The Trustees wish to thank all those people who have supported the Charity throughout the year. The Trustees are particularly grateful to those who have donated to the Charity as it has enabled us to extend the reach of the organisation and undertake legal work. We could not have achieved what we have without them.

We would also like to thank the volunteers who have assisted us with research, legal work and the drafting of articles. The volunteers generosity with their time and skills, as well as their professionalism, is appreciated and their work very gratefully received. In particular we wish to thank Johann Strauss for all of his time, support and expertise this year.

Approved by the Trustees by agreement on 24 November 2023 and signed on their behalf.



Michelle Strauss

Secretary

The Animal Advocacy Project

24 November 2023

Statement of financial activities

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds					
Donations & Legacies	3a	12,470	-	12,470	8,942
Investment Income	3b	8	-	8	2
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		12,478	-	12,478	8,944
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of Generating Funds					
Cost of Charitable Activities	4a	10,407	-	10,407	7,158
Governance Costs	4b	5,167	-	5,167	1,118
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		15,574	-	15,574	8,276
NET INCOMING/ (OUTGOING) RESOURCES		-3,096	-	-3,096	668
Total Funds Brought Forward		7,745	-	7,745	
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		4,649	-	4,649	7,745

Balance Sheet

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	1	-	-	-	-
Current Assets					
Debtors & Prepayments	7	-	-	-	-
Cash at Bank and in Hand	6	4,649	-	4,649	8,320
Total Current Assets		<u>4,649</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,649</u>	<u>8,320</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	-	-	-	575
NET CURRENT ASSETS		4,646	-	4,646	7,745
TOTAL ASSETS less current liabilities		<u>4,649</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,649</u>	<u>7,745</u>
Creditors: Long Term Liabilities	9	-	-	-	-
NET ASSETS		<u>4,649</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,649</u>	<u>7,745</u>
Funds of the Charity					
General Funds		4,649	-	4,649	7,745
Restricted Funds	5	-	-	-	-
Total Funds		<u>4,649</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,649</u>	<u>7,745</u>

The Trustees are satisfied that the Charity is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit/independent examination as the charity income for the financial year was below £25,000.



David Cooke

Trustee/ Treasurer

24 November 2023

THE ANIMAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1189603

Accounts

**THE ANIMAL ADVOCACY
PROJECT
ANNUAL REPORT
2021/2022**





THE ANIMAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting the annual report and unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2022. The financial statements were reviewed by an independent examiner for the purposes of a return requested by HMRC. The accounts provided below are taken from that return. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and 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 FRS 102 (reporting period beginning on or after 1 January 2019).

1. Reference and Administrative details

Charity name: The Animal Advocacy Project
Charity Registration No: 1189603
Registered office: 18A Lower Road, Chinnor, OX39 4DT
Secretary: Michelle Strauss
Bankers: Triodos Bank UK Ltd
Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AS

The current Trustees are:

David Cooke *Chair and Treasurer*

Michelle Strauss *Secretary*

Richard Pitschmann

Those who additionally served during the financial year with their dates of appointment, retirement or resignations were: Andrea Driver, resigned 4 September 2021, Caroline Storey, resigned 4 September 2021.

2. Overview of The Animal Advocacy Project

TAAP (“the Charity”) was established with the aim of using legal and advocacy experience to improve the lives of animals in the UK and Ireland. The charitable objectives are broadly to:

- Help humans treat animals better; we aim to prevent animal cruelty and stop animal suffering;
- To teach people how the law can help us to change the lives of animals, for the better; and
- To give the public access to our legal expertise and knowledge by disseminating information to enable the public to pursue our objectives of helping animals and preventing suffering.

3. Structure, governance and management information

Governing Document

The Charity is an Incorporated Charitable Organisation, incorporated on 21 May 2020. As at 31 January 2022 there were 4 members (who are also trustees) of the Charity. The Charity is governed by its Constitution dated 31 January 2020.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Trustees, who are also members of the Charity, are elected from a community of people who are interested in animal welfare/ rights matters. Presently the board is small and is generally made up of people known to the founders who have a demonstrated experience in animal welfare/ rights work or have particular skills that would be of use to the Charity. However, the Board is conscious that it needs to create a more diverse Trustee Board. As the Charity is still very young and its reach limited it is hoped that recruitment is an issue that can be addressed as the reputation of the Charity grows and as board members are able to dedicate more resources to this work. The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are elected from amongst the Trustees.

Organisational Structure

During the financial year the Trustee Board met 3 times.

As the Charity is still new and establishing itself most of the work conducted by the Charity is carried out by Trustees and volunteers. There are no employees. At present the Charity is not big enough to enable dedicated committees to be established to deal with discrete issues – however it is envisioned that as the Charity grows this structure

will be adopted. Presently a full report of the activities of all the Trustees is prepared and circulated to the Board before every meeting.

4. Objectives and activities

The object of the Charity is to advance animal welfare. The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties. The following sections describe the activities of the Charity that have been carried out for the public benefit in the last year.

One of the concerns of the Charity is to address institutional failings and systemic problems that allow animal welfare issues to persist, despite there existing legislation to prevent such issues. To this extent the Charity has focussed on work that will introduce broad changes with a view to helping the greatest number of animals possible. The Charity is still new, and resources are limited. Consequently, the scope of the activities is limited to an extent by these factors and accordingly the type and volume of work that has been undertaken reflects this:

Planning objections

TAAP have objected to four planning applications for intensive animal agricultural facilities. Planning applications have been objected to primarily on the basis of animal welfare. Our position is that upholding animal welfare extends to considerations relating to climate change given that climate change has been shown to have negative impacts on habitats and animal populations.

Some of the concerns that have been raised in the objections relate to a trend towards the “diversification” of traditional farms into intensive facilities; concerns around the failure to have regard to animal welfare matters at the planning stage and the legality of this; considerations around the impact of inadequately designed facilities as a disease risk and as an environmental hazard; and then broad concerns around the impact that animal farming is having on climate change and government objectives to work towards net zero.

We are conscious that animal welfare arguments are often raised when objecting to agricultural facilities, but sometimes these objections are not linked to relevant planning considerations. We are hoping to reframe these concerns within planning law in order to make animal welfare a material consideration when considering planning applications for agricultural facilities.

We have also been working in conjunction with likeminded organisations in order to increase the impact of our work and create a more efficient system of identifying and responding to applications.

Government consultations

TAAP made submissions in respect of three government consultations during the financial year: (1) the Scottish government’s consultation on the Dangerous Dogs Act; (2) the proposal to introduce a ban on the import of dogs under the age of 6 months; and (3) the proposal to ban the sale of fur. Our responses to the consultations will be available on our website and can also be provided to any party who requests them.

In accordance with our charitable objectives, the responses to the consultation focussed primarily on how any proposed law change may improve animal welfare.

Veterinary Standards

The Charity is conscious of the important role that vets play in upholding animal welfare. Professional regulatory bodies are integral in ensuring that vets maintain these standards. TAAP is concerned to ensure that there is adequate transparency in order for the public to be able to assess whether standards are being upheld and animals are being protected in accordance with the law and vets' ethical obligations. In respect of this issue TAAP made a complaint about a vet to the Veterinary Council of Ireland. As a consequence of this complaint concerns have arisen regarding the VCIs approach to complaints and court proceedings have been initiated with a hearing set down for November 2022. Whilst further work relating to Ireland will be undertaken by TAAP (Ireland), the Charity will also concentrate on these same issues in the UK.

Transparency – Freedom of Information

The Charity is concerned to ensure that legislation is being enforced and accordingly have made numerous FOI requests. The purpose of these are to understand the degree to which authorities are discharging their duties and the adequacy of their performance. There has been resistance to the release of information in respect of some industries and consequently it has been necessary to appeal decisions.

Education and the dissemination of information

The Charity is concerned to ensure that the public are kept informed of our activities and that they have access to information we produce or obtain. During the financial year we have improved the webpage, have a blog that is contributed to on a regular basis and publish information through social media. The Charity, as resources allow, continues hone the website and develop a social media and SEO strategy.

5. Achievements and performance

Many of the projects initiated by the Charity during this initial period are still in progress – in particular the litigation regarding the VCI.

Two of the intensive facilities that we lodged planning objections in respect of have not been granted permissions (a rabbit farm and a pig farm). One planning objection was not successful (a pig farm in East Riding). The board sought input from a barrister following the decision to determine whether a judicial review was possible but on the particular facts on this case it was determined it would not be one to pursue. However, helpful guidance was provided to allow the Charity to hone its work in this area.

Projects are underway and collaboration with other organisations have begun/ been planned in order to consolidate resources and increase impact.

The social media reach of the Charity has grown, as have subscribers to the newsletter. The Trustees are pleased that there is increased engagement with the Charity's work and wish to build on this.

6. Financial review

Financial position

Incoming resources in the year were £9,040.83

Of this none was related to project restricted activities.

There was a surplus of £8320.49

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

None.

Reserves

The Trustees elected to hold reserves to cover potential liabilities relating to litigation we believed may arise during the course of the year. At present the board has elected to hold £7,500 as a reserve for this work.

Risk Management

In the next financial year, the Trustees will review the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and ensure that adequate systems exist to mitigate those risks. At present the monthly outgoings of the Charity are limited and in the event of a cash flow problem it would be relatively simple to reduce expenses immediately without a major impact on the functioning of the organisation. The Trustees are however conscious that as the Charity grows a more rigorous process will need to be implemented. Presently the greatest risk the Charity faces is an adverse costs award. The risk of this occurring can be mitigated by seeking legal advice and undertaking considered review of the strengths of any potential legal action.

7. Thanks

The Trustees wish to thank all those people who have supported the Charity throughout the year. The Trustees are particularly grateful to those who have donated to the Charity as it has enabled us to extend the reach of the organisation and undertake legal work. We could not have achieved what we have without them.

We would also like to thank the volunteers who have assisted us with research, legal work and the drafting of articles. Their generosity with their time and skills, as well as their professionalism, is appreciated and their work very gratefully received.

Approved by the Trustees by agreement on 29 November 2022 and signed on their behalf.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MS' with a flourish at the end.

Michelle Strauss

Secretary

The Animal Advocacy Project

29 November 2022

THE ANIMAL ADVOCACY PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds					
Donations & Legacies	3a	8,942	-	8,942	7,455
Investment Income	3b	2	-	2	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		8,944	-	8,944	7,455
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of Generating Funds					
Cost of Charitable Activities	4a	7,158	-	7,158	378
Governance Costs	4b	1,118	-	1,118	-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		8,276	-	8,276	378
NET INCOMING/ (OUTGOING) RESOURCES		668	-	668	7,077
Total Funds Brought Forward		7,077	-	7,077	-
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		7,745	-	7,745	7,077

Movements on all reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above. All of the organisation's operations are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 11 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

THE ANIMAL ADVOCACY PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST JANUARY 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 31-Jan-22 £	TOTAL 31-Jan-21 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	1	-	-	-	-
Current Assets					
Debtors & Prepayments	7	-	-	-	-
Cash at Bank and in Hand	6	8,320	-	8,320	7,077
Total Current Assets		8,320	-	8,320	7,077
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	575	-	575	-
NET CURRENT ASSETS		7,745	-	7,745	7,077
TOTAL ASSETS less current liabilities		7,745	-	7,745	7,077
Creditors: Long Term Liabilities	9	-	-	-	-
NET ASSETS		7,745	-	7,745	7,077
Funds of the Charity					
General Funds		7,745	-	7,745	7,077
Restricted Funds	5	-	-	-	-
Total Funds		7,745	-	7,745	7,077

Approved by the Trustees on the 07 AUGUST 2022

Signed on their behalf by Trustee 

Printed Name: DAVID COOKE

THE ANIMAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation & Assessment of Going Concern

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP - FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Assessment of Going Concern

Preparation of the accounts is on a going concern basis. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Incoming Resources

Recognition of Incoming Resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Incoming Resources with Related Expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resource and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.

Grants and Donations

Grants and Donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Tax Reclaims on Donations and Gifts

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Gifts in Kind

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SOFA as incoming resources when receivable.

Donated Services and Facilities

These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

Volunteer Help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Investment Income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Investment Gains and Losses

This included any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

THE ANIMAL ADVOCACY PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Governance Costs

Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of the trustees meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Grants with Performance Conditions

Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SOFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.

Grants Payable without Performance Conditions

These are only recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to a grant which remain in control of the charity.

Support Costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of the resources, eg allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capital employed, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Fixed Assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,500. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at the value to the charity on receipt.

Investments

Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange are valued at market value at the year end. Other investment assets are included at trustees' best estimate of market value.

2. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

The Charity held no tangible fixed assets or investments during this or the previous financial period.

The annual commitments under non-cancelling operating leases and capital commitments are as follows:

31st January 2022: None

31st January 2021: None

THE ANIMAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2022

3. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
a) Donations & Legacies				
Gifts & Donations	8,942	-	8,942	7,455
	8,942	-	8,942	7,455
b) Investment Income				
Bank Interest	2	-	2	-
	2	-	2	-

4. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
a) Cost of Charitable Activities				
Administrative Expenses	893	-	893	351
Bank Charges	5	-	5	27
Books & Publications	400	-	400	-
Conference Costs	850	-	850	-
Consultancy Costs	4,910	-	4,910	-
Sundry Expenses	100	-	100	-
	7,158	-	7,158	378
b) Governance Costs				
Independent Examiner's Fee	8	575	-	575
Legal & Professional Fees	-	543	-	-
	1,118	-	1,118	-

THE ANIMAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2022

5. RESTRICTED FUNDS

The Charity held no Restricted Funds during this or the previous financial period.

6. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 31-Jan-22 £	TOTAL 31-Jan-21 £
Cash at Bank and in Hand	8,320	-	8,320	7,077
	8,320	-	8,320	7,077

7. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 31-Jan-22 £	TOTAL 31-Jan-21 £
Sundry Debtors	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-

8. CREDITORS ACCRUALS AND DEFERRED INCOME: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 31-Jan-22 £	TOTAL 31-Jan-21 £
Independent Examiner's Fee	575	-	575	-
	575	-	575	-

9. CREDITORS - LONG TERM LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE IN MORE THAN ONE YEAR

The Charity held no long term liabilities during this or the previous financial period.

10. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	TOTAL 31-Jan-22 £	TOTAL 31-Jan-21 £
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-
Net Current Assets	7,745	-	7,745	7,077
Long Term Liabilities	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS	7,745	-	7,745	7,077

THE ANIMAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2022

11. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

The Charity employed no members of staff during this or the previous financial period.

12. TRUSTEES AND OTHER RELATED PARTIES

No payments were made to trustees or any persons connected with them during this financial period. No material transaction took place between the organisation and a trustee or any person connected with them (2021:None).

13. RISK ASSESSMENT

The Trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves stated, combined with the annual review of the controls over key financial systems carried out on an annual basis will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks which they face and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

14. RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees have considered the level of reserves they wish to retain, appropriate to the charity's needs. This is based on the charity's size and the level of financial commitments held. The Trustees aim to ensure the charity will be able to continue to fulfil its charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure. The Trustees will endeavour not to set aside funds unnecessarily.

15. PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Charity acknowledges its requirement to demonstrate clearly that it must have charitable purposes or 'aims' that are for the public benefit. Details of how the charity has achieved this are provided in the Trustees report. The Trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit before deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

THE ANIMAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1189603

Accounts

THE ANIMAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

**ANNUAL REPORT &
FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS**

2020/2021

**we may be small,
but we is mighty
(& stylish)**





THE ANIMAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their first annual report and unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2021. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and 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 FRS 102 (reporting period beginning on or after 1 January 2019)

1. Reference and Administrative details

Charity name: The Animal Advocacy Project
Charity Registration No: 1189603
Registered office: 18A Lower Road, Chinnor, OX39 4DT
Secretary: Michelle Strauss
Bankers: Triodos Bank UK Ltd
Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AS

The current Trustees are:

David Cooke *Chair and Treasurer*

Michelle Strauss *Secretary*

Randi Milgram

Richard Pitschmann

Those who additionally served during the financial year with their dates of appointment, retirement or resignations were: Andrea Driver, resigned 4 September 2021, Caroline Storey, resigned 4 September 2021.

Randi Milgram, appointed 7 August 2020, and Richard Pitschmann, appointed 11 June 2020, have been co-opted as Trustees since the inception of the Charity and will seek election at the Annual General Meeting.

2. Overview of The Animal Advocacy Project

TAAP (“the Charity”) was established with the aim of using legal and advocacy experience to improve the lives of animals in the UK and Ireland. The charitable objectives are broadly to:

- Help humans treat animals better; we aim to prevent animal cruelty and stop animal suffering;
- To teach people how the law can help us to change the lives of animals, for the better; and
- To give the public access to our legal expertise and knowledge by disseminating information to enable the public to pursue our objectives of helping animals and preventing suffering.

3. Structure, governance and management information

Governing Document

The Charity is an Incorporated Charitable Organisation, incorporated on 21 May 2020. As at 31 January 2021 there were 6 members (who are also trustees) of the Charity. The Charity is governed by its Constitution dated 31 January 2020.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Trustees, who are also members of the Charity, are elected from a community of people who are interested in animal welfare/ rights matters. Presently the board is small and is generally made up of people known to the founders who have a demonstrated experience in animal welfare/ rights work or have particular skills that would be of use to the Charity. However, the Board is conscious that it needs to create a more diverse Trustee Board. As the Charity is still very young and its reach limited it is hoped that recruitment is an issue that can be addressed as the reputation of the Charity grows and as board members are able to dedicate more resources to this work. The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are elected from amongst the Trustees.

Organisational Structure

During the financial year the Trustee Board met 4 times.

As the Charity is still new and establishing itself most of the work conducted by the Charity is carried out by Trustees and volunteers. There are no employees. At present the Charity is not big enough to enable dedicated committees to be established to deal with discrete issues – however it is envisioned that as the Charity grows this structure will be adopted. Presently a full report of the activities of all the Trustees is prepared and circulated to the Board before every meeting.

The objectives of the Charity are to advance animal welfare with a focus on animals in Ireland the UK. However, where charitable work in respect of animals in Ireland is being undertaken in the Irish Republic it is necessary to establish a separate presence there to comply with Irish Charity Law. Consequently, in September the Board decided to establish a Company Limited by Guarantee in Ireland called TAAP (Ireland) with a view to potentially registering as a charity. Two of the trustees who are based in Ireland have resigned from the Charity to become directors of TAAP (Ireland) CLG with a further new director recruit based in Dublin. Two of the present trustees of the Charity who are based in the UK will be members of TAAP (Ireland) CLG.

Whilst the two entities will have separate boards and finances will be separated – it is expected that there will be overlap between the work of the two organisations. Obviously, the extent to which the two organisations will collaborate will need to be determined by each board in accordance with the objectives of each organisation.

4. Objectives and activities

The object of the Charity is to advance animal welfare. The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties. The following sections describe the activities of the Charity that have been carried out for the public benefit in the last year.

One of the concerns of the Charity is to address institutional failings and systemic problems that allow animal welfare issues to persist, despite there existing legislation to prevent such issues. To this extent the Charity has focussed on work that will introduce broad changes with a view to helping the greatest number of animals possible. The Charity is still new, and resources are limited. Consequently, the scope of the activities is limited to an extent by these factors and accordingly the type and volume of work that has been undertaken reflects this:

Planning objections

TAAP have objected to two planning applications for intensive animal agricultural facilities and are presently involved in preparing for two further objections. Planning applications have been objected to primarily on the basis of animal welfare. Our position is that upholding animal welfare extends to considerations relating to climate change given that climate change has been shown to have negative impacts on habitats and animal populations.

Some of the concerns that have been raised in the objections relate to a trend towards the “diversification” of traditional farms into intensive facilities; concerns around the failure to have regard to animal welfare matters at the planning stage and the legality of this; considerations around the impact of inadequately designed facilities as a disease risk and as an environmental hazard; and then broad concerns around the impact that “meat farming” is having on climate change and government objectives to work towards net zero.

We are conscious that animal welfare arguments are often raised when objecting to agricultural facilities, but sometimes these objections are not linked to relevant planning considerations. We are hoping to reframe these concerns within planning law in order to make animal welfare a material consideration when considering planning applications for agricultural facilities.

We have also been working in conjunction with likeminded organisations in order to increase the impact of our work and create a more efficient system of identifying and responding to applications.

Government consultations

TAAP made submissions in respect of three government consultations during the financial year: (1) the Scottish government's consultation on the Dangerous Dogs Act; (2) the proposal to introduce a ban on the import of dogs under the age of 6 months; and (3) the proposal to ban the sale of fur. Our responses to the consultations will be available on our website and can also be provided to any party who requests them.

In accordance with our charitable objectives, the responses to the consultation focussed primarily on how any proposed law change may improve animal welfare.

Veterinary Standards

The Charity is conscious of the important role that vets play in upholding animal welfare. Professional regulatory bodies are integral in ensuring that vets maintain these standards. TAAP is concerned to ensure that there is adequate transparency in order for the public to be able to assess whether standards are being upheld and animals are being protected in accordance with the law and vets' ethical obligations. In respect of this issue TAAP made a complaint about a vet to the Veterinary Council of Ireland. As a consequence of this complaint concerns have arisen regarding the VCIs approach to complaints and court proceedings have been initiated. Whilst further work relating to Ireland will be undertaken by TAAP (Ireland), the Charity will also concentrate on these same issues in the UK.

Transparency – Freedom of Information

The Charity is concerned to ensure that legislation is being enforced and accordingly have made numerous FOI requests. The purpose of these are to understand the degree to which authorities are discharging their duties and the adequacy of their performance. There has been resistance to the release of information in respect of some industries and consequently it has been necessary to appeal decisions.

Education and the dissemination of information

The Charity is concerned to ensure that the public are kept informed of our activities and that they have access to information we produce or obtain. During the financial year we have established a webpage, have a blog that is contributed to on a regular basis and publish information through social media. The Charity has worked together with a copywriter to hone the website and develop a social media and SEO strategy.

5. Achievements and performance

Many of the projects initiated by the Charity during the first year are still in progress so we are not in a position to report on whether or not the work has been successful or achieved the change being sought.

However, there is one project where we are pleased to report that our input has potentially yielded action being taken to improve conditions for dogs used in breeding in the UK. TAAP was made aware of loopholes relating to Lucy's Law that enabled breeders to breed dogs at premises outside of England and then import them into the country for sale. TAAP was aware of two English facilities licensed to breed dogs at a

facility in Northern Ireland. Our research revealed that the Northern Irish facility had licensing permission (including the English breeders) to breed 800 dogs, but did not have planning permission to keep this many dogs on site. We were concerned that this meant that the facilities would not be able safely and hygienically accommodate this many dogs. We alerted authorities in Northern Ireland to the issue and have been advised that planning enforcement is presently being undertaken.

6. Financial review

Financial position

Incoming resources in the year were £7,455.13.

Of this none was related to project restricted activities.

There was a surplus of £7,078.11

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

None.

Reserves

The Trustees elected to hold reserves to cover potential liabilities relating to litigation we believed may arise during the course of the year. At present the board has elected to hold the surplus as a reserve for this purpose.

Risk Management

In the next financial year, the Trustees will review the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and ensure that adequate systems exist to mitigate those risks. At present the monthly outgoings of the Charity are limited and in the event of a cash flow problem it would be relatively simple to reduce expenses immediately without a major impact on the functioning of the organisation. The Trustees are however conscious that as the Charity grows a more rigorous process will need to be implemented. Presently the greatest risk the Charity faces is an adverse costs award. The risk of this occurring can be mitigated by seeking legal advice and undertaking considered review of the strengths of any potential legal action.

7. Thanks

The Trustees wish to thank all those people who have supported the Charity throughout the year. The Trustees are particularly grateful to those who have donated to the Charity as it has enabled us to extend the reach of the organisation and undertake legal work. We could not have achieved what we have without them.

We would also like to thank the volunteers who have assisted us with research, legal work and the drafting of articles. Their generosity with their time and skills, as well as their professionalism, is appreciated and their work very gratefully received.

Approved by the Trustees by agreement on 17 November 2021 and signed on their behalf.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MS', is positioned above the typed name.

Michelle Strauss

Secretary

The Animal Advocacy Project

17 November 2021

Statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Further details
	£	£	£	£	
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	7,455.13	-	-	7,455.13	Donations through the website or directly from donor (there is only one donor making direct donations)
Charitable activities	-	-	-	-	Volunteer time is not included as an income
Other trading activities	-	-	-	-	
Investments	-	-	-	-	
Other	0.17	-	-	0.17	Interest
Total	7,455.30			7,455.30	
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	-	-	-	-	
Charitable activities	(350.62)	-	-	(350.62)	Company search costs, hosting for website, domain and email
Other	(27.20)	-	-	(27.20)	Bank charges and transaction fees
Total	(337.82)			(377.82)	
Net gains losses on investments	-	-	-	-	
Net income/ expenditure	7,077.48	-	-	7,077.48	
Transfers between funds	n/a	-	-	n/a	
Other recognised gains/ losses	n/a	-		n/a	
Gains/losses on fixed assets	n/a	-	-	n/a	
Net movement in funds	n/a	-	-	n/a	
Reconciliation of funds	7,077.48	-	-	7,077.48	
Total funds brought forward	n/a	-	-	-	
Total funds carried forward	7,077.48	-	-	7077.48	

Balance Sheet

	Total funds (£)	Further details
Fixed Assets	Nil	
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	£7,077.48	
Liabilities	Nil	
Total net assets	7,077.48	
Total Unrestricted funds	7,077.48	
Total Charity funds	7,077.48	

The Trustees are satisfied that the Charity is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit/ independent examination as the charity income for the financial year was below £25,000.



David Cooke

Trustee/ Treasurer

17 November 2021