

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

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.



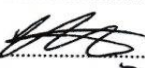
# THE ANIMAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST JANUARY 2022

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

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 £
<b>a) Donations &amp; Legacies</b>				
Gifts & Donations	8,942	-	8,942	7,455
	<b>8,942</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,942</b>	<b>7,455</b>
<b>b) Investment Income</b>				
Bank Interest	2	-	2	-
	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>

#### 4. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
<b>a) Cost of Charitable Activities</b>				
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	-
	<b>7,158</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,158</b>	<b>378</b>
<b>b) Governance Costs</b>				
Independent Examiner's Fee	575	-	575	-
Legal & Professional Fees	543	-	543	-
	<b>1,118</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,118</b>	<b>-</b>

## 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
	<b>8,320</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,320</b>	<b>7,077</b>

#### 7. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 31-Jan-22 £	TOTAL 31-Jan-21 £
Sundry Debtors	-	-	-	-
	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

#### 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	-
	<b>575</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>-</b>

#### 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	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>7,745</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,745</b>	<b>7,077</b>



## **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.