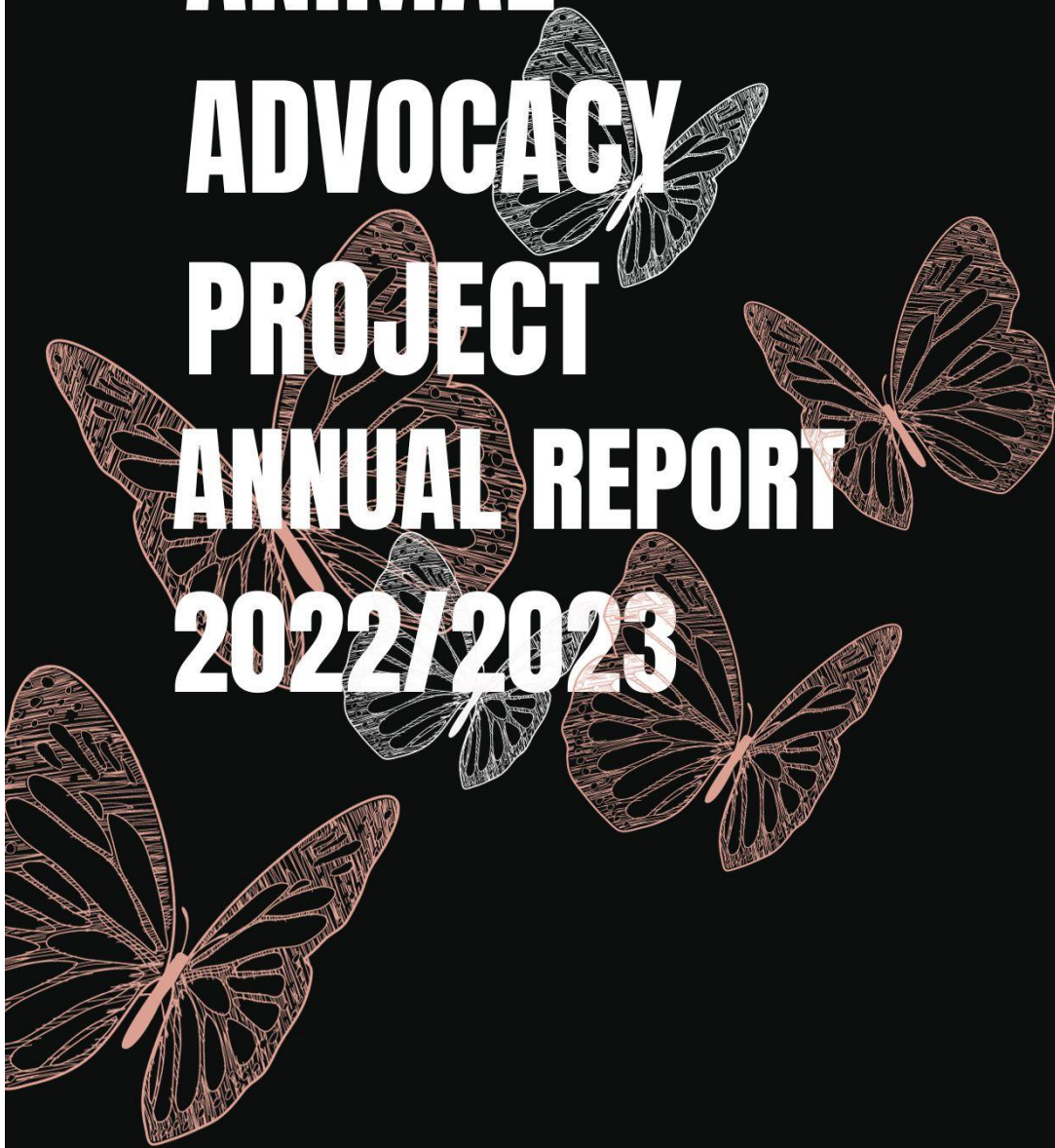


**THE
ANIMAL
ADVOCACY
PROJECT
ANNUAL REPORT
2022/2023**





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 2023. 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: Randi Milgram (April 2022).

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 2023 there were 3 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. 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		4,649	-	4,649	8,320
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	-	-	-	575
NET CURRENT ASSETS		4,646	-	4,646	7,745
TOTAL ASSETS less current liabilities		4,649	-	4,649	7,745
Creditors: Long Term Liabilities	9	-	-	-	-
NET ASSETS		4,649	-	4,649	7,745
Funds of the Charity					
General Funds		4,649	-	4,649	7,745
Restricted Funds	5	-	-	-	-
Total Funds		4,649	-	4,649	7,745

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