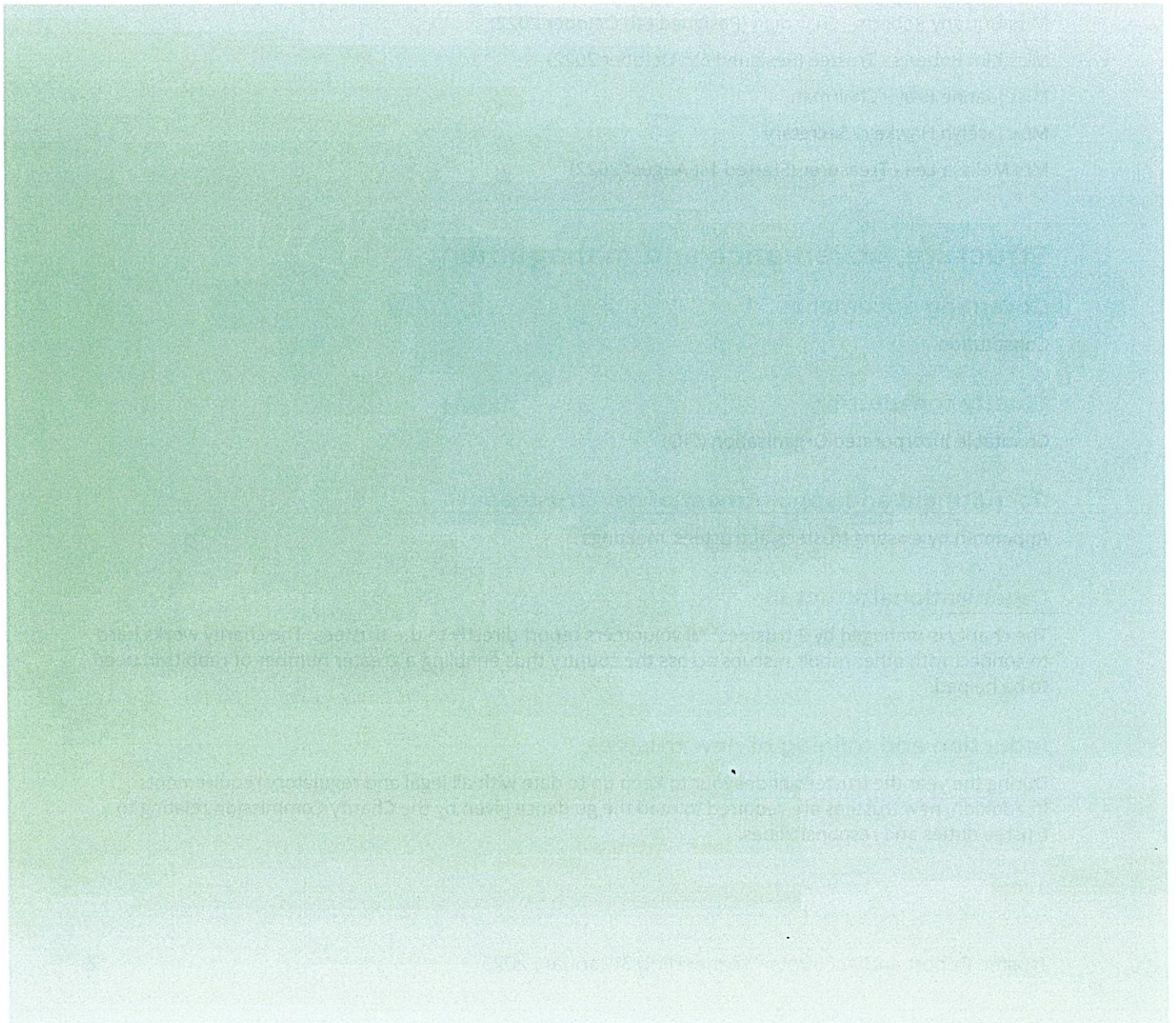




# Report of the Trustees

For the period ending 31 January 2023



The trustees present their report along with financial statements of the charity for the period ending 31 January 2023.

The charity has been running since January 2020 and was registered as a CIO in October 2021.

## Reference and administration details

### Registered charity number

1196322 (England and Wales)

### Registered address

35 Tarragon Place, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 8TP

### Board of trustees

Miss Brittany Roberts - Chairman (Resigned 6th October 2022)

Miss Kim Roberts - Trustee (Resigned 6th October 2022)

Miss Joanne Bray - Chairman

Miss Jacelyn Hawkey - Secretary

Mrs Melissa Lee - Treasurer (Started 1st August 2022)

## Structure, governance and management

### Governing document

Constitution

### Charity constitution

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

### Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Appointed by existing trustees at trustees' meetings

### Organisational structure

The charity is managed by 3 trustees. All volunteers report directly to the trustees. The charity works hard to connect with other rabbit rescues across the country thus enabling a greater number of rabbits in need to be helped.

### Induction and training of new trustees

During the year the trustees endeavour to keep up to date with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, new trustees are required to read the guidance given by the Charity Commission relating to trustee duties and responsibilities.



## Objectives and activities

### Objectives and aims

The purpose of our charity is to relieve the suffering of animals in need of care and attention, in particular rabbits, and to provide and maintain rescue homes or other facilities for the reception, care and treatment of such animals, medical treatment, including vaccinations and neutering where appropriate and to educate the public in matters pertaining to animal welfare in general and the prevention of cruelty and suffering among animals.

### Our activities

We support our community by taking in, free of charge, mistreated or abandoned animals, including pets whose owners suffer ill health or financial difficulties or pass away.

Animals in our care receive veterinary treatment, are vaccinated and neutered as part of our on-going programme and are then assessed for rehoming. This work helps to control the spread of disease and population growth.

We offer free animal care advice and education by giving appropriate information to adopters and responding to enquiries from the public. The public benefits through the promotion of responsible pet ownership.

We provide volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work, including trusteeship, fostering, rescue volunteers and fundraising. This benefits local people and companies by providing the possibility of doing work which is compassionate and rewarding.

### Public benefit

The direct benefits that flow from our objects, are to support our community by taking in, free of charge, mistreated or abandoned animals, including pets whose owners suffer ill health or financial difficulties or pass away. To promote humane behaviour towards animals by offering free animal care, and to provide advice and education by giving appropriate information to adopters and responding to general enquiries. Also providing volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work, benefiting the local community and companies by completing work which is compassionate and rewarding.

These benefits are evidenced through the increasing numbers of animals that need rescuing and the number of people who are using our service.

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

## Review of year – achievements and performance

Since setting up as a registered charity, the time at The Littlest Lives Rescue has certainly been an eventful one, but we have managed to achieve so much. Despite the pandemic and the upset it caused, we have continued to work and take in cases as needed. Our regular supporters have remained faithful to us and we have managed to keep our donation income steady.

This year has seen a move to new premises. When taking on the challenge of the rescue, we underestimated the demand for our service and even though there are other organisations in the area, we are the only one which focuses on rabbits, rather than all small animals. Our Chair Person Brittany Roberts also resigned from the charity in October 2022, meaning we were forced to move to a new location. Therefore after a search to find somewhere more local to the remaining trustees, we found a new site which was larger and more accessible.

We have seen a huge increase in rabbits that needed rehoming but because we only have a limited number of spaces, our veterinary costs compared to the previous year have remained the same.

Day to day costs for the main rescue centre and our group of permanent residents remain minimal because of the hard work from our exceptional team of volunteers, who help at the rescue on a daily basis and from all the food and supplies that are donated from our dedicated supporters.

### Financial review

Since becoming a registered charity the net funds raised from the general public to fund the rescue came to £45,503. This is a 35% increase for a year on year comparison. The majority of the funds have come in via donations, adoption fees, fundraising and we have received new income for the first time by way of grants. The cash held at the end of the year is £9,959 which is similar to the previous year.

This year some monies were restricted to particular activities. We raised £2,230 through a Just Giving Campaign, with the funds being used for the new rescue centre setup. We also secured £7,167 in grants which was to be used towards veterinary expenses for 6 months.

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 January 2023.

### Charitable activities

As mentioned above we have seen a massive increase in surrenders this year and this is due to many factors. We are still reeling from rabbits bought as impulse purchases during the pandemic but now the cost of living crisis is affecting many people from job insecurity to having to move home. We have struggled to meet the demand, as we have lost foster families from people going back to work and now from the cost of living. Our surrender list is disappointingly larger than ever. Despite this we have been able help 136 rabbits to find new homes since becoming a registered charity.

Our permanent residents have remained steady in number and currently stands at 14. Three have moved into permanent foster as they each have ongoing health issues.

All our rabbits are neutered and vaccinated and receive any necessary required vet treatment. We continue to have a good relationship with Emerson's Green Veterinary Practice, Highcroft Veterinary Hospital, Vets4pets in Kingswood, and Vets4pets in Weston-Super-Mare. We do not discriminate against the rabbits we help based on their breed, age or medical condition. If for any reason a rabbit cannot be rehomed, we will look after them at the rescue centre or in permanent foster. We have no plans to join any new rabbits into our group of permanent residents at The Littlest Lives Rescue. They are all elderly and caring for such a large group has its own challenges. No adoptable rabbit is ever unnecessarily euthanised due to space or time constraint.



We have 3 dedicated trustees on the team, who also manage the rescue on a daily basis. We are continuing to work hard to keep the running of all the areas of the rescue efficient and safe.

Again, this year our team of volunteers have excelled themselves and more than ever we are indebted to everyone, for their on-going commitment, continued hard work and support they give to The Littlest Lives Rescue. Everyone involved is key to the existence and growth of The Littlest Lives Rescue and we could not have achieved the things we have so far without their help.

### Activities for generating funds

Local events have been resurrected this year and have been very successful for raising money, gaining new supporters and raising awareness. We have lost all our boarding income because any spaces we have available have been given over to rescues.

As per the previous year we have still been concentrating on online events, such as raffles, auctions and a photo competition, all of which have remained popular with our followers.

We now provide a bonding service and have spent time training a handful of volunteers to help. This allows us to rehome the rabbits in our care much quicker, as we aren't reliant on external sources which are few and far between.

We have focused some of our efforts on corporate relationships and grants, which we will pursue further in 2023.

We also have a small amount of merchandise for sale and create a calendar each year which boosts our income around Christmas. Next year we are hoping to build on our merchandise offering in order to help generate more funds for the rescue.

We still utilise the Just Giving platform for any extra funds that are required for unexpected veterinary bills.

### Plans for future periods

After discussion our plans for future periods include concentrating on different revenue schemes, grant funding and connectivity with our donors. Some thoughts are to:

- Set up email marketing to keep in touch with donors/supporters
- Create a new monthly fundraising scheme, which will provide continuous funding for our permanent residents. This would include a sponsorship pack with a leaflet of who the permanent residents are, what their money will be used for, a thank you card/letter and promotional items (car sticker)
- Increase donors from the corporate sector. The majority of our fundraising at present is from individuals.
- Concentrate on applying for grant funding, so we can keep the rescue running.

### Reserves policy

The charity aims to retain reserves to cover at least one month's running for the rescue centre, as donations are heavily relied upon in order to fund the ongoing expenditure. As it stands at the year end, free reserves of £9,959 were held, which is 3x the monthly expenditure. This is in excess of the reserve policy minimum.

Currently there are insufficient reserves with the Charity to be able to sustain a further 12 months of activity without reliance on further donations.

### Investment policy and objectives

The Charity does not hold long term investments as its purpose is to use the annual donations and income received for the ongoing charitable activities.

### Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Signature:



Full name: Joanne Bray

Position: Chairman

Date: 02-10-2023

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
The Littlest Lives Rescue**

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Littlest Lives Rescue**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Littlest Lives Rescue (the Trust) for the period ended 31 January 2023.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Matthew Dobbins FCA

Dunkley's  
Woodlands Grange  
Woodlands Lane  
Bradley Stoke  
Bristol  
BS32 4JY

Date: 02/10/2023

## Charitable Accounts

For period ending 31 January 2023

### Section A - Receipts & Payments

A1 RECEIPTS			
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
Donations	15,638	2,230	17,868
Adoption Fees	10,235		10,235
Fundraising Initiatives	6,058		6,058
Sales	2,817		2,817
Bonding and boarding	1,358		1,358
Grants		7,167	7,167
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>36,106</b>	<b>9,397</b>	<b>45,503</b>
A3 PAYMENTS			
Veterinary Costs	20,699	4,667	25,336
Rescue Set up Costs	957	4,730	5,687
Cost of Sales	2,165		2,165
Office Costs	1,936		1,936
Leases	1,406		1,406
Food and Animal Supplies	1,550		1,550
Professional Fees	1,005		1,005
Plant Maintenance	674		674
Insurance	617		617
Motor Expenses	542		542
Direct Costs	672		672
Payment Fees	213		213
Entertainment	42		42
Subscriptions	40		40
<b>SUBTOTAL A3 PAYMENTS</b>	<b>32,488</b>	<b>9,397</b>	<b>41,884</b>
A4 ASSET AND INVESTMENT PURCHASES			
Aviary & Shed	4,029		4,029
<b>SUBTOTAL A4 PAYMENTS</b>	<b>4,029</b>		<b>4,029</b>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>			<b>45,914</b>
<b>NET INCREASE FOR YEAR</b>	<b>411</b>		<b>411</b>



## Section B - Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
Cash held in bank	9,959		9,959
<b>Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			<b>Current Value</b>
Plant & Machinery			3,561
Computers			555

### Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the accounts. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Signature: 

Full name: Joanne Bray

Position: Chairman

Date: 02-10-2023

