



Report of the Trustees

For the period ending 31 January 2024

The trustees present their report along with financial statements of the charity for the period ending 31 January 2024.

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 Joanne Bray - Chairman

Miss Jacelyn Hawkey - Secretary

Mrs Melissa Lee - Treasurer

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.

Some of our volunteer placements also help our local South Gloucestershire Council 'Preparing for Adulthood Team' and helping young people at Step Together, providing placements for young people and young people who have learning difficulties or are neurodivergent, gain volunteer experience to build their confidence and skill set.

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

We've had an extremely busy year and have managed to achieve so much more since the world has returned to normality.

The move to the new premises has seen lots of building work being carried out and new aviaries being erected to expand the centre. We also have new volunteers in place, to help every day with cleaning, feeding and looking after the welfare of the rabbits in our care. We were hoping to use some of the units for boarding but the demand for our service seems to increase year on year and so the aviaries have all been used to house the permanent residents and rabbits that been surrendered. Our Chairperson Jo has been DBS checked so we are now able to accept Duke of Edinburgh students at the weekend.

Our volunteer team has expanded and we now have a faithful fundraising team who attend many events throughout the year, which has helped boost the fundraising income.

Every year we see a huge increase in rabbits that needed rehoming but because we only have a limited number of spaces, our intake has remained steady. Our veterinary costs have significantly increased compared to the previous year because unfortunately quite a few of the rabbits surrendered have been found to have health issues.

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.

Our regular supporters have remained faithful to us and we have managed to keep our donation income steady.

Financial review

This year the net funds raised from the public to fund the rescue came to £45,678. Most of the funds have come in via donations, adoption fees, fundraising and grants. Adoption fees have dipped this year due to a decrease in rabbits being adopted.

The cash held at the end of the year is £9,901 which is similar to the previous year.

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 January 2024.

Charitable activities

Every year we see an increase in the number of surrenders. This year is no different and is due to many factors, one being the cost-of-living crisis. It has affected many people from job insecurity to having to move home and we have struggled to meet the demand. It has not only affected the number of foster families we need but unfortunately adoption enquiries. Our surrender list is disappointingly larger than ever. Despite this we have been able help 113 rabbits to find new homes in the last financial year.

Our permanent residents have sadly diminished in number over the last year and currently stands at 11. At Christmas all the remaining residents moved into permanent foster care with one of our Trustees, as they are all elderly and 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 Highcroft Veterinary Hospital, Vets4pets in Kingswood, Emersons Green Veterinary Practice 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

This year everything seems to have gone 'back to normal' after a few years of uncertainty. Local events have been very successful for raising money, gaining new supporters and raising awareness.

As in previous years online events, such as raffles, auctions and a photo competition, have been repeated as they have remained popular with our dedicated followers.

We only carry out a small amount of boarding as the space we have available has been given over to the rabbits that need care.

Our bonding service has helped in rehoming the rabbits in our care much quicker than before. Now with 3 fully trained volunteers on the team it has made the adoption process much more streamlined and has increased funds at the same time.

Every Easter one of our volunteers has taken on the mammoth task of baking Easter biscuits to sell. For 2023 1,406 biscuits were baked raising £1,125! We are hoping to do this every Easter and increase sales year on year.

We have focused some of our efforts on corporate relationships and grants, which we will develop further in 2024.

We also have a small amount of merchandise for sale, a yearly tea towel that is created by our followers and a calendar which boosts our income around Christmas.

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 £9,901 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: 28-10-2024

Independent Examiners Report

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

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Littlest Lives Rescue for the year ended 31 January 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the 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 can 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:

- the accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.



Vicky Newham
CPAA
Solutions Accountancy & Bookkeeping Ltd
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Little Brunswick Street
Huddersfield

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28 October 2024

Charitable Accounts

For period ending 31 January 2024

Section A - Receipts & Payments

A1 RECEIPTS				
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Donations	17,437		17,437	17,868
Adoption Fees	6,300		6,300	10,235
Fundraising Initiatives	12,182		12,182	6,058
Sales	1,765		1,765	2,817
Bonding and boarding	3,481		3,481	1,358
Grants	1,644	2,833	4,477	7,167
Lease refunds	36		36	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	42,845	2,833	45,678	45,503
A3 PAYMENTS				
Veterinary Costs	29,815	2,333	32,148	25,335
Rescue Set up Costs	1,162		1,162	5,687
Cost of Sales	1,044		1,044	2,165
Waste Removal	1,258		1,258	-
Marketing & IT	708		708	1,936
Food and Animal Supplies	2,812		2,812	1,550
Professional Fees	900		900	1,005
Plant Maintenance	642		642	674
Insurance	867		867	617
Motor Expenses	4		4	542
Direct Costs	380		380	672
Payment Fees	428		428	213
Professional Partnerships	444		444	-
Subscriptions	95		95	40
Entertainment	-		-	42
Leases	-		-	1,406
SUBTOTAL A3 PAYMENTS	40,559	2,333	42,892	41,884
A4 ASSET AND INVESTMENT PURCHASES				
Aviary, Gazebo, Nebuliser	2,162	500	2,662	4,029
SUBTOTAL A4 PAYMENTS	2,162	500	2,662	4,029
TOTAL PAYMENTS	42,721	2,833	45,554	45,913
NET INCREASE FOR YEAR	124	-	124	410

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

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Cash held in bank	9,901		9,901	9,960
Assets retained for the charity's own use			Current Value	
Plant & Machinery			4,172	
Computers			410	
Marketing Equipment			772	

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: 28-10-2024