ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH

England & Wales · Charity number 203608

Details

Other names	ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS GUILDFORD AND DISTRICT BRANCH, ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS SURREY GUILDFORD AND DISTRICT BRANCH, RSPCA - GUILDFORD AND DISTRICT, RSPCA - GUILDFORD AND DISTRICT BRANCH, RSPCA GUILDFORD AND DISTRICT BRANCH, RSPCA Guildford and Epsom Branch
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1962-03-01
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Montys Purr Chambers Road Ash Vale Aldershot Hampshire GU12 5ER
Phone	07906924002
Email	info@rspcaguildfordepsom.org.uk
Website	www.rspca.org.uk/local/guildford-and-epsom-branch

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE BRANCH ARE TO PROMOTE THE WORK AND OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY [ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (219099)], WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE AREA OF THE BRANCH, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICIES OF THE SOCIETY.

Activities: Animal welfare.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Other Finance, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Animals
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** GUILDFORD AND DISTRICT.
- Surrey

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£69,274	£100,851	-	-
2023-12-31	£142,002	£98,462	-	-
2022-12-31	£60,787	£71,407	-	-
2021-12-31	£64,666	£84,514	-	-
2020-12-31	£64,323	£86,320	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
LUCINDA RUTH POLLARD	Chair	2018-06-07
ANN WINTER		2012-10-14
Abbi Moore		2015-06-29
Dr Alessandra Cappai		2024-01-29
KATRINA TULLY		2012-10-14
Rebecca Verne		2023-08-22
SARAH JANE WHITE		
STEVEN HOOKE		2014-04-21

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ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANC

England & Wales - Charity number 203608

Accounts

RSPCA
GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Barely more than a kitten, beautiful stray Nutmeg was brought to our attention by a kind finder concerned about her limp, soreness on her right back leg, and a peculiar sitting posture. We funded x-rays to rule out any fractures requiring treatment, and thankfully, none were found. We think she most likely sustained tendon damage to her tail and back end, possibly from being trapped and struggling to free herself.

We were delighted when she found a loving new home in 2024.

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Some of the animals we rescued in 2024

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5. Achievements and performance

6. Financial review

7. Plans for the future

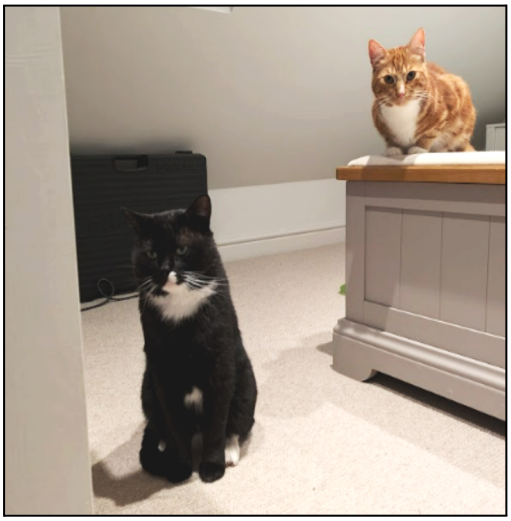
Some of the animals we rehomed in 2024

Financial statements

Inspectorate report

Some of the animals we helped in 2024

SUCCESSES IN THE YEAR - some of the animals we rescued in 2024



Seb the tuxedo cat (on the left)

was reported to us as a stray who was getting injured from fighting with the resident cats. We think he was just desperate to come inside as he immediately settled into his foster home and was very easy to pick up and fuss over. Here he is in his adopted home with his new ginger pal.

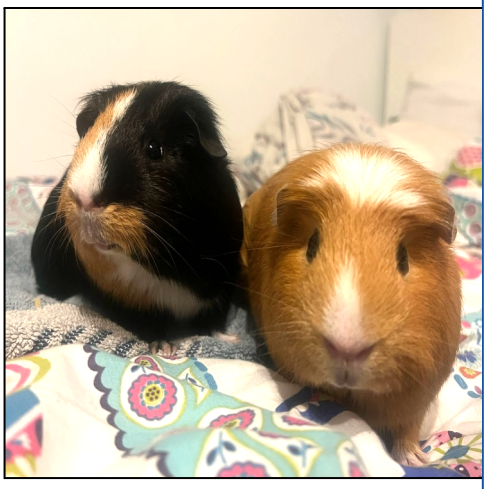
In 2024, we expanded our foster network to include a new dedicated carer for guinea pigs. Almost immediately we were able to place three guinea pigs with fosterer Isobel.

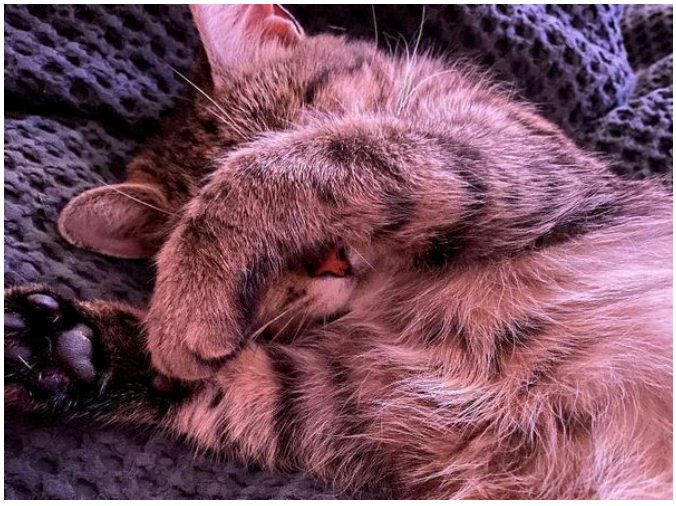


Michael and Fredo *are best friends…* 👉🏽

but…

👈🏽 **Sonny** *is not so keen on the other two!*





Lavender was found as a stray in the Spectrum car park in Guildford and had a significant five-inch wound on her side. After a thorough vet check, it was a relief to discover the wound was old and healing well. However, the vet noted some sensitivity in her tail, which we monitored closely while she was neutered and in foster care. Thankfully, no further issues with her tail developed.

INTRODUCTION

The RSPCA is the world's oldest and largest animal welfare charity, with much of its direct animal welfare work being carried out through its branches.

We are the RSPCA Guildford and Epsom Branch; a self-funding branch of the RSPCA. We raise money locally to fund our animal welfare work to prevent cruelty, promote kindness and rescue, rehabilitate and rehome animals in need in our branch area. All of our work, including managing the Branch, is carried out by volunteers. We rehabilitate and rehome animals in our care (the majority of which are cats and rabbits) through fosterers and private boarding establishments.

In 2024, we financially assisted 350 welfare (veterinary) treatments for pets. We also contributed towards 292 neuters and 146 microchips. In addition to this, we paid for any necessary treatments for the 44 animals we took into branch care, and paid for specialist veterinary aid for 92 rescued wild animals.

Animal welfare needs and therefore our branch's activities can vary significantly from year to year, influenced by factors such as availability of vet resources, economic trends, and community initiatives. We saw fewer animals requiring our support for welfare assistance cases in 2024 but we increased our contributions to preventative measures, with more neutering and microchipping procedures funded. Our direct intake of animals requiring branch care was considerably reduced, but the number of wild animals needing specialist veterinary help nearly quadrupled.

OUR VISION

We support the vision of the national Society which is to live in a world where all animals are respected and treated with kindness and compassion. We believe that:

- all animals deserve a good life
- animals' lives are important in themselves
- animals have emotions, feelings and needs
- animals enrich and improve our lives
- all of us can and should help to make animals' lives better

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

COMPLAINTS AND ADVICE

Anyone suspecting cruelty or mistreatment to animals should report the incident to the RSPCA by contacting the Cruelty Line via www.rspca.org.uk/reportcruelty or telephoning 0300 1234 999. For wildlife, calls should be made to 0300 123 8967 instead.

All calls are dealt with in the strictest confidence.

BRANCH CONTACT DETAILS

Telephone: 07906 924002
Email: info@rspcaguildfordepsom.org.uk

However, if your enquiry is related to volunteering, please contact:

volunteer@rspcaguildfordepsom.org.uk

If you are looking to adopt from us, please contact:

rehoming@rspcaguildfordepsom.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/rspcaguildfordepsom
Website: www.rspcaguildfordepsom.org.uk

LOCAL ANIMAL CENTRE

RSPCA Millbrook Animal Centre
Guildford Road
Chobham, Surrey
GU24 8EH
Tel: 0300 123 0740
Email: millbrook@rspca.org.uk

Animal viewings and introductions by appointment only.

CHIEF INSPECTOR

The Chief Inspector
RSPCA Millbrook Animal Centre
Guildford Road, Chobham, Surrey
GU24 8EH

BRANCH PARTNERSHIP MANAGER

Email: supportercare@rspca.org.uk

POSTCODES COVERED BY THE BRANCH

GU1 1, GU1 2, GU1 3, GU1 4, GU2 4, GU2 5, GU2 6, GU2 7, GU2 8, GU2 9, GU3 1, GU4 7, GU4 8, GU5 0, GU5 9, GU6 7, GU6 8, GU7 1, GU7 2, GU7 3, GU8 4, GU8 5

KT4 9, KT9 1, KT9 2, KT9 9, KT17 1, KT17 2, KT17 3, KT17 4, KT17 6, KT17 9, KT18 5, KT18 6, KT18 7, KT19 0, KT19 7, KT19 8, KT19 9, KT20 5, KT20 6, KT20 7, KT20 9, KT21 1, KT21 2, KT22 0, KT22 2, KT22 7, KT22 8, KT22 9, KT23 3, KT23 4, KT24 5, KT24 6, KT24 7

SM7 1, SM7 2, SM7 3

TRUSTEES' REPORT

1. Reference and administration details	
Charity Name	The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Guildford and Epsom Branch
Other names charity is known by	RSPCA Guildford and Epsom Branch
Registered charity number	203608
Charity's principal addresses	The Branch does not have an address for members of the public to visit but can be contacted via email or telephone.
Charity's principal bankers	Lloyds Bank plc
Independent examiner	Jim Halliday FCA – Chartered Accountant

Names of the trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
Alessandra Cappai		Appointed 29 January 2024
Steven Hooke	Hon. Treasurer	
Abbi Moore*		
Cat Pilbeam		Resigned 8 June 2024
Lucy Pollard	Hon. Chair	
Katrina Tully	Hon. Secretary	
Rebecca Verne	Membership Secretary	
Sarah White		
Ann Winter		

*Abbi is employed by the RSPCA national Society. We obtained its approval before co-opting her as a trustee, as required by branch rule 7.4.

Other support provided by

Trasna Palmer	President
Victoria Robson	Branch Partnership Manager (until 31 January 2025)

2. Introduction by the Chair

2024 was yet another busy and demanding year for the Branch, but we are delighted to report that we have been able to take 44 animals into our care and find loving new homes for the majority of them in our local area. Our commitment to preventative care continued through subsidised cat neutering, rabbit neutering subsidies for vaccinated rabbits, and case-by-case dog neutering contributions. In total, we facilitated the neutering of 292 pets, a crucial step in reducing hormone-related diseases and unwanted litters.

Strong partnerships are key to our work. We've established a system for collecting and distributing pet food to local food banks, helping owners facing financial hardship keep their beloved animals. We have supported the newly established Joanna Wildlife Hospital in our branch area with donated food and equipment that we otherwise would be unable to use. Additionally, we ensure our dedicated Inspectorate team has the resources they need, including flea and worm treatments and essential kit, to carry out their invaluable work in preventing suffering and rescuing animals. We are very grateful to RSPCA Millbrook Animal Centre and RSPCA Woking and District Branch for their assistance and continued support.

Further details about all of these activities and their positive impact on animal welfare can be found in section 5 of this Trustees' Report.

In the first quarter of 2025, as part of a national Society programme to modernise the governance of its branches, we created a new legal entity known as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This contemporary charity structure (used by 75% of new charities) allows the organisation to enter into contracts directly, limiting personal liability for trustees. We believe this will help us attract and retain trustees. The transition will occur over the coming months, but our supporters and volunteers are unlikely to notice any changes in our day-to-day operations.

On behalf of the committee I'd like to say a huge thank you to Cat Pilbeam, who stepped down from the committee after more than 10 years. Cat's dedication and amazing insights into cat behaviour have made a real difference for local animal welfare, and she deserves to be very proud of all she's accomplished. The good news is, Cat isn't going anywhere – she'll still be helping us with events, fostering, and all things cat-related!. I'd also like to thank Chief Inspector Rob Jackson for his invaluable hard work and partnership with the Branch. We are truly sorry to see him move on to a new position at the RSPCA, but he goes with our sincere best wishes for success in his new role.



All of the work the Branch does, including the governance and running of the charity, is performed by volunteers. The more people we can inspire to get involved, the more impact we can have for animals, now and for many years to come. The ripple effect of your generosity extends far beyond the immediate care of individual animals. Each act of kindness, whether the donation of time or a financial gift, is a testament to the power of collective action. When we unite in our compassion, we create a world where every creature is treated with the respect and kindness they deserve. It is because of you that this vision gets closer to reality every day. Thank you.

Lucy Pollard, Chair

3. Structure, governance and management	
How the charity is constituted	We are a separately registered charity, constituted as an unincorporated association, working within the Rules, Policies and Guidelines of the national RSPCA. Our governing document is the RSPCA Society's Branch Rules. The charity operates as an autonomous branch, responsible for our own fundraising and for managing local animal welfare work.
Trustee selection methods	The committee consists of a maximum of 17 individuals, being: (1) at least 5 and not more than 14 elected committee members, all of whom must be eligible branch members, elected at the AGM and (2) up to 3 co-opted committee members, who may also be branch members.
How trustees are recruited and appointed	Elected from branch members at every AGM to carry on the Branch work for the forthcoming year. Potential trustees are recruited via various methods including volunteer agencies, RSPCA websites and Head Office enquiries, advertising and appeals to members. Potential new trustees are vetted in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines and sign the recommended declarations upon appointment.
Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	All trustees are briefed on their responsibilities prior to their acceptance of the role. New trustees receive appropriate training in RSPCA and Branch Policies and Procedures, in line with Information Commissioner's Office and Charity Commission guidance. They also receive support from other trustees, guidance from Head Office and Branch Partnership Managers and handover from retiring officers if applicable.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Some services such as those of the Inspectorate are carried out by the national Society whereas others are carried out by a network of branches which are independently registered charities operating in defined local areas. Our branch is the Guildford and Epsom branch, which is a member of the South East Regional Board area. All the work of the Branch is carried out by volunteers, so we have no paid staff. Decisions are made by the trustees at committee meetings, usually held every 4 to 6 weeks. The Branch works with Head Office staff, the Inspectorate, RSPCA Millbrook Animal Centre and other branches and animal centres in its day-to-day work.
Trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them	The main risks facing the Branch are: **People.** We continue to have difficulties in finding volunteers willing to act as trustees and carry out welfare and fundraising work. We use volunteer recruitment bureaux and other methods as described above to publicise our requirements. **Financial.** Income generation is vital for us to continue our work. Despite pressing need, we must evaluate what we can afford to fund. Insufficient income levels mean that we will have to reduce or cease welfare activity to remain a viable branch. New demands and requests for funding are a key

	discussion item at every committee meeting. Spending is controlled through delegated limits and required approvals. Levels of pet ownership grew during the pandemic, and whilst owning a pet is a great boost to both mental and physical health it also comes with a substantial financial responsibility, which places additional pressure on charities when owners are unable to meet the costs of pet ownership. The vets we work with continue to struggle with significant shortages in staff, set against a huge demand for their services. Many practices are not accepting new clients or giving appointments to people who have previously got into payment difficulties. This impacts our ability to access veterinary treatments and negotiate on price, and it may mean that non-urgent procedures such as neuters are delayed. This has led to more unwanted litters and conditions that require emergency treatment such as tumours that are hormone-related. **Public opinion.** The RSPCA is a well-known and respected "brand", and we must ensure that we do not tarnish it. Mitigating activities include screening/induction of volunteers, together with appropriate training. For trustees there is ongoing learning and instruction (specifically on their responsibilities as branch officials), and potential conflicts of interest are discussed at every meeting. **Health and Safety.** We have a duty to take reasonable care of our volunteers' health and safety and that of others who may be affected by our actions. Safeguarding matters are reviewed at every meeting. All volunteers are covered by the RSPCA's liability and personal accident insurance and are provided with appropriate information on our health and safety policies and guidelines. The committee has identified and evaluated risks affecting the Branch and has set in place policies and procedures based on guidelines issued by RSPCA Head Office and the Charity Commission to mitigate the risks where possible. The operation and relevance of these policies and procedures is reviewed regularly. The Branch complies with the Branch Rules as issued by the national Society and has a number of related financial transactions with this organisation. Abbi Moore is also a paid employee of the RSPCA (national Society).

4. Objectives and activities

Summary of the objectives of the charity set out in its governing document	To promote the work and objectives of the national Society; Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (registered charity number 219099), with particular reference to the area of the Branch, in accordance with the policies of the society. The objectives of the Branch remain unchanged from previous years.
Charity's aim	The RSPCA as a charity will, by all lawful means, prevent cruelty, promote kindness to and alleviate suffering of all animals.
Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects	The Branch promotes animal welfare in the local area primarily through veterinary assistance, neutering and rehoming. • We offer discretionary support to people in need to help pay veterinary bills. • We respond to enquiries from the public about animals and offer free animal care advice by phone, social media, via leaflets and at our events, which promotes responsible pet ownership. • Where funds permit, the Branch takes in abandoned animals, including pets whose owners suffer ill health or financial difficulties, or pass away. We also support the national RSPCA by caring for animals taken in by the Inspectorate if there is no space at the national animal centres. • We support the Inspectorate as a priority. • We undertake educational presentations and workshops with local groups and schools. More detail on our activities can be found in section 5 of this report.

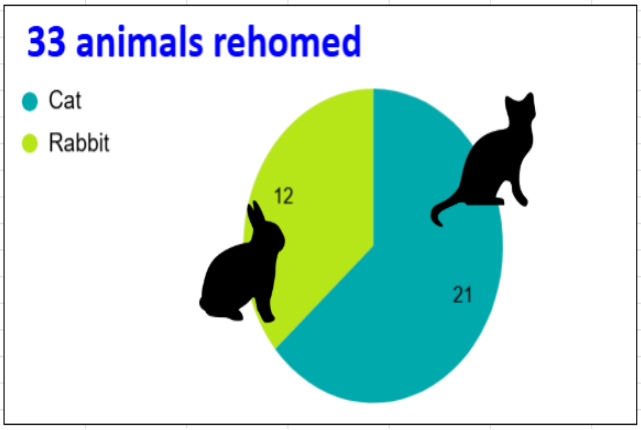
5. Achievements and performance

A. Animal welfare

Rehoming, adoption support and fostering

We rehome animals to people who can meet the needs of a companion animal in an appropriate environment.

Most rehoming in the local area is done by Millbrook Animal Centre, which is the nearest RSPCA animal centre to the Branch. The Branch also has space in foster homes and private boarding establishments for cats and rabbits who have been found abandoned or stray or have been taken in via the RSPCA Inspectorate when there is no room for them in an animal centre. They are cared for and rehabilitated, while we search for loving new homes. There are few dogs mentioned in our reports because stray dogs are the responsibility of the local council, and we do not have the facilities or expertise to take dogs into our direct care so we use other RSPCA branches and animal centres or other rescue organisations wherever possible. Animals in our care receive veterinary treatment, vaccinations, neutering and microchipping. Flea and other parasite treatments are kept up to date. This helps to control the incidence and spread of disease and suffering.



In 2024 the Branch **rehomed 33 animals** that came into our care (compared with 45 in the previous year). In addition to this, we took on responsibility for a number of other animals before finding them places in RSPCA animal centres. We advertise animals for rehoming on our branch website and Facebook page, as well as the national Society's main website, allowing us to reach a larger audience of prospective adopters. Unfortunately, more and more often all our facilities are full, yet it is very important that we can take in animals in need and give them a chance of a loving home.

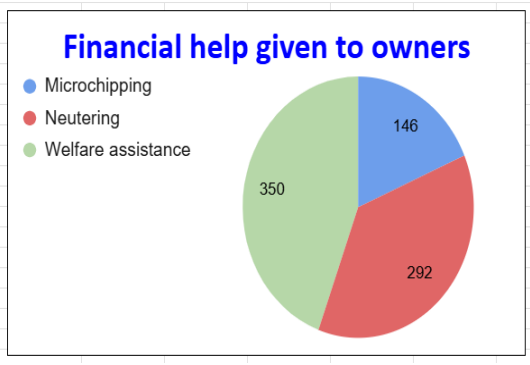
Our animals can be loud, quiet, big, small, or three-legged: they all come with a personality and a past that's unique to them and it's our mission to find the perfect adopter to match them with. We support rehoming activity by recruiting and providing volunteers who undertake home suitability assessments as part of adoption support. Their role is to understand each animal's need (for space, stimulation, safety etc.) and ensure that what potential adopters can provide matches these needs. They then follow up with the adopter later to ensure that the adoption has been a success. In 2024 we **carried out 41 adoption visits** (compared with 44 the year before).

We have cat fosterers who give the special care and attention that is often much easier to provide in a foster home than in a cattery. If we have spaces in this preferred home environment, we can socialise and nurture cats meaning that they are more quickly restored to good health and are able to be rehomed earlier.

Our outdoor rabbit fosterers have provided a great resource for the Branch, the Inspectorate, and the wider RSPCA needs, by taking in rabbits. Our indoor rabbit fosterers obviously have more limited capacity but provide an essential environment to those rabbits that cannot be housed outdoors - especially in the colder months. All of our fosterers have been invaluable in their work to rehabilitate rabbits in their care and progress them to rehoming with wonderful new forever homes.

We are always keen to speak to potential fosterers, including kitten fosterers, who will have support from our co-ordinator. This enables us to take more animals into branch care and reduces the costs of boarding overall.

Welfare assistance



We provide support to people in need to help pay their vet bills. The service is offered in certain circumstances to assist with difficulties experienced by pet owners faced with veterinary costs which they will struggle to meet. This helps to promote responsible pet ownership, prevent suffering, and reduce the number of unwanted cats, dogs and rabbits.

In 2024 we **gave financial help for 350 animal welfare treatments** (compared with 384 in 2023 and 268 in 2022).

We also helped to get **292 animals neutered** (compared to 279 in 2023). 211 of these were cats, where we offered subsidised neutering to owners under our World Spay Day initiative.

44 animals came into our care during 2024 and we paid for all their necessary checks and treatments. Our thanks go to the local veterinary community for their help and support throughout the year.

We also **paid for the care of 92 wild animals** at Wildlife Aid in Leatherhead, typically hedgehogs, foxes and pigeons (25 animals in the previous year). These cases originated in our branch area and were taken to this specialist centre by the Inspectorate.

Supporting the Inspectorate

The Branch continued to support the Inspectorate in their vital and sometimes distressing work. We do this through fostering or boarding and paying for veterinary treatment for animals signed over to the RSPCA. We also provide welfare assistance for veterinary treatment and neutering where the Inspectors find owners in need. We paid for flea and worm treatment supplies to be held in their vans (helping owners improve care and keep their pets). The Inspectorate report is in a later section of the Annual Report.

Other welfare activities

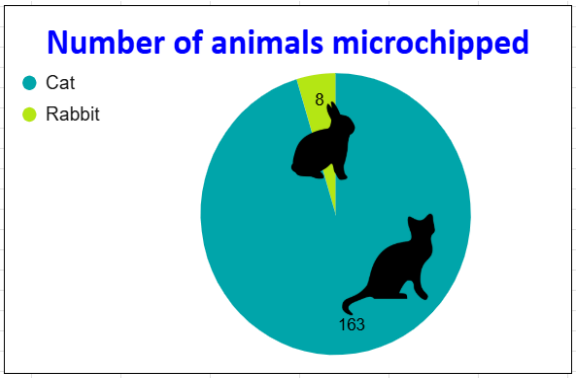
We take in, free of charge, lost animals and take steps to reunite them with owners. This work benefits our local community (including local authorities) by preventing animals from straying and posing a risk to themselves and to people through road accidents. We respond to enquiries from the public about animals in the Branch area. The public benefits by knowing that we can and will intervene to assist animals in need.

We advertised a number of lost and found pets through the year but microchipping is our best resource to help return missing animals to their relieved and delighted owners. Microchipped pets, where contact details are kept up to date, are easily reunited with their families, avoiding heartache for the owners and costs for the RSPCA. Unfortunately, the care of unidentifiable, stray animals adds significantly to our work.

For many years it has been the law that you must have your dog microchipped and your details kept up to date. We welcome the new legal requirement (in force from June 2024) for cat owners to microchip their cats before 20 weeks old and to ensure their contact details are kept up to date in a pet microchipping database. This new law means that more lost cats can be easily identified

and reunited with their owners, rather than being handed to rehoming charities like ourselves that are struggling with overflowing waiting lists.

We believe all cats, dogs and rabbits should be chipped to ensure that a pet can be reunited with their owner, and to aid this we will pay for chipping where required. We **microchipped 171 animals** in 2024: 25 that were Branch animals and 146 pets.



B. Education

Education events

Our education events look at the work of the RSPCA, the welfare needs of animals and the action young people can take to help them; at home, at school and in the local community. They are tailored to the audience following consultation with their teachers/youth leaders.

This year, our activities included school talks in Cranleigh and Burpham, a Rainbows talk, and a return visit to Cranleigh C of E school for a stall at one of their fundraising events.

We want everyone to understand that – whatever their age or circumstances – they have the power to change animal welfare for the better. By understanding the causes of neglect or cruelty, we can prevent them from happening in the first place. We are looking at new ways to engage with schools to secure more invitations in future.

We also engage children in educational activities at our fundraising events; for example we take a "spin the wheel" game for an animal welfare quiz.

RSPCA Head Office have online educational facilities which we have promoted on our social media sites. Our welfare line operated throughout the year and provided advice to the general public to help with pets, wildlife, and farm animals.

Social media

Our social media content can be found at www.facebook.com/rspcaguildfordepsom and www.rspcaguildfordepsom.org.uk. You can see more about the Branch trustees and our work, find out about our welfare services, and learn about forthcoming campaigns and events. You can also obtain useful help and advice and contact us via these links.

Other educational activities

We continued to heavily publicise and support World Spay Day and Early Neutering Awareness by running a social media campaign to offer low-cost cat neutering and free microchipping for both male and female cats in the Branch area.

We remain committed to supporting Rabbit Awareness Week (RAW) promotions. We continued our previous initiative focussed on getting rabbits vaccinated against the deadly RHD2 disease. The virus causes internal bleeding and is highly contagious. There is no specific treatment, which makes vaccination essential. Alongside the education campaign we offered subsidised vaccines in the Branch area.

C. Fundraising

Fundraising events and activities

Our fundraising efforts this year included 14 events (compared with 13 in 2023) and the sale of E-cards.

Beyond our branch events, we're incredibly grateful to volunteer Lorna and our President, Trasna. Their individual fundraising efforts brought in an impressive £859 combined. Lorna channels her creativity into knitting and selling delightful, vibrant catnip mice. Trasna dedicates her time to making and selling dog beds, as well as selling donated goods at car boot sales, fetes, and online via Facebook. Throughout the year, both Lorna and Trasna generously use their talents to raise vital funds for our cause and, in doing so, help spread awareness of our work within their communities. As in previous years, several members of the committee sold second-hand items and home grown plants through social media or at vintage fairs/car boot/table top sales to bring in extra funds.

Event type	**2024**	2023
Town centre collections	**£695**	£312
Store collections	**£414**	£373
Fetes and local fairs	**£659**	£1,058
Car boot sales	**£229**	£143
Educational	**NIL**	£75
E-cards and online events	**£317**	£425

The money raised by these activities is disclosed in the accounts against the following categories: “Branch Fundraising Events” and “Other Donations”. However, “Other Donations” also includes monies raised through fundraising platforms such as Easyfundraising and Paypal, ticket sales through the Guildford Community Lottery and donations made via our website.

Collection boxes

We would like to have more boxes out in the local area and continue to look for people to manage these boxes; recruits do not need to be branch members although we would encourage them to join our membership. In particular, we would like to increase the number of collection boxes in Epsom and its surrounding areas. We welcome suggestions for new locations and for people to manage collection boxes in the Branch area.

D. Public benefit

Our objectives and activities are outlined in section 4 of this report. Performance against those objectives is detailed above. Our current short-term and long-term aims can be found in section 7 of this report.

The trustees have reviewed the outcomes and achievements of our objectives and activities for the year to ensure they remain focussed on our charitable aims and continue to deliver benefits to the public. We have complied with the duty under the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

6. Financial review

Overview

Total expenditure in 2024 increased by £2,389 to £100,851 compared to £98,462 in 2023. The Branch continues to experience inflationary pressures, particularly on veterinary treatments which account for most of our cost base.

The percentage of total expenditure spent in the Branch area on animal welfare has reduced from 95% in 2023 to 92% in 2024, due to slightly higher levels of donations outside of the Branch area in the current year.

Income fell from £142,002 in 2023 to £69,274 in 2024, a decrease of £72,728. The decrease is mainly due to legacy income being zero in 2024 compared to £69,796 in 2023. The share of donations raised by the RSPCA HQ door-to-door fundraising campaign, which amounted to £43,632 in 2024 makes up 63% of the income in the current year (2023: £46,188 and 33%). The Branch also received lower contributions from the South East Regional Board (SERB), following a SERB policy change to target contributions at those branches in most need. Investment income increased by £1,396 compared to the prior year, due to higher average investment balances and the benefit of higher interest rates.

Overall, there was a net deficit for the year of £31,577 compared to a surplus of £43,540 in 2023. The Branch continues to hold significant reserves but aims to reduce these in line with the policy below.

The full accounts are provided later within the Annual Report.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Reserves are those funds which are freely available for general purposes and have not been designated for specific projects or activities.

The reserves policy of the Branch is to hold general reserves to a level that, should all income cease, there would be sufficient funds in hand to run the Branch for approximately 24 months. Based on this measure the Branch currently has excess reserves. The Trustees aim to reduce reserves over time by targeting increased levels of annual expenditure on activities or donations that further the animal welfare aims of the Branch.

The Branch invests surplus funds in capital-safe bank and deposit-based savings accounts where the deposits are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).

7. Plans for the future

Aims and objectives for the future	Our overriding aim is to continue to provide and promote animal welfare for the local area by providing financial assistance for those on low incomes, continuing with our fostering and rehoming work to ensure a healthy and happy lifestyle for adopted animals, and to support the national Society. In January 2021 the committee agreed our short and medium-term priorities and we aligned our goals with the RSPCA strategy. Our main area of focus is to increase animal welfare across the Region by continuing and extending collaboration with other branches and organisations, and supporting more people with animals in need. This is dependent upon and supported by 4 additional pillars: ● People ● Revenue Generation ● Strong Governance ● Public Engagement The Plan is reviewed regularly and adapted to reflect changing circumstances and priorities.
Activities planned to achieve the objectives	
1. People	● Expand and effectively manage, utilise, and retain our volunteer network and membership ● Define clear roles and responsibility for trustee and volunteer roles with a focus on succession planning
2.Revenue Generation	● Set up a fundraising working group to provide a dedicated focus on revenue generation ideas ● Develop a fundraising plan (including an emphasis on digital) to rely less on door-to-door income ● Empower and engage members and volunteers to spread our messages and support fundraising efforts ● Diversify income generation by exploring and evaluating alternative revenue streams
3. Strong Governance	● Continue our robust approach to managing and refreshing policies, procedures and processes ● Foster stronger connectivity, sharing and leverage of best practices across the Branch Network
4. Public Engagement	● Build and enhance positive relationships with the public and our communities, including amplifying national RSPCA advocacy areas ● Build our existing and/or adopt new digital channels to communicate branch activities and successes ● Analyse ‘Audience Profile’ for each message/campaign/activity to ensure we are targeting the right demographic

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees



Lucy Pollard

Hon. Chair

DATE: 27 May 2025

SUCCESSES IN THE YEAR - some of the animals we rehomed in 2024

The RSPCA is facing a significant increase in the volume of animals needing help which has resulted in the national Society operating well above their capacity to care for the animals brought in by the Inspectorate. In these situations, private boarding facilities may be used until a space becomes available within the RSPCA network of branches and animal centres



Rosie the Rabbit was taken in by us from a multi-animal household where rabbit numbers had spiralled out of control as they had not been neutered (unfortunately, a common situation).

She was easily and happily bonded with Finn, another rabbit in our care, and they were then advertised for rehoming as a pair. Tragically, Finn developed health complications and died, so Rosie was left sad and lonely. She was then bonded again with Womble, but after a few weeks, Womble became aggressive, and we had to separate them.

Bonded pairs of rabbits can sometimes fall out, and once that has happened, it can be difficult to keep them together.

Rosie was then advertised as a single rabbit, and fortunately, an adopter came along quickly who was looking for a female to bond with their male rabbit.

This bond has been very successful, and the two are enjoying a happy life together.

Look at them now... 😃





👈 *This is* **Pickle** *(now Barney) in his 'found' picture*

A true ginger tom, Pickle was a wanderer. Unneutered and with no microchip, unfortunately, he relied on his cuteness to lure a kind woman in the neighbourhood to offer him food.

However, the finder's own cat was unimpressed by Pickle's charms, and she eventually had to cease her support. It was at this point that Pickle was reported as a stray, leading to our involvement. We advertised on lost and found pet websites and our own local social media posts. We also asked the finder to enquire locally and put up notices/posters. As no one came forward to claim Pickle, we commenced the non-urgent vet treatment to prepare him for rehoming. He was tested for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) and Feline Leukaemia Virus (FeLV)[1]. As an unneutered male cat, Pickle was deemed to be at

[1] *FIV is a virus in cats that is similar to the human virus, HIV or Human Immunodeficiency Virus. However, FIV does not infect humans, and HIV does not infect cats. FeLV is a more serious virus that causes a fatal disease in cats by affecting the immune system and can cause vulnerability to other infections, anaemia or tumours. Cats can be vaccinated against it (annually), but there is no cure once infected.*

high risk of contagion[2]. Fortunately, his tests were negative, so after vaccination, neutering and microchipping, the rehoming process started.

Ginger cats are very popular with adopters and Pickle was soon snapped up. He is now called Barney and is very content in his forever home.

Look at **Barney** *here, happy in his new home* 👉🏽





Ivy & Dora appeared in our 2023 annual report. It can take a long time to find new homes for rabbits and sometimes this is made even longer by their circumstances. After Ivy arrived and was taken to the vet to be spayed, we discovered she was pregnant. This was because the owner who gave her up had kept her with her brother rabbit who had been wrongly sexed as a female. This is a fairly common mistake – sometimes even vets get it wrong! This is why we recommend early neutering to prevent unwanted litters.

So, we had to wait for Ivy to give birth (which is called kindling in rabbits) and then for her babies to be at least 8-9 weeks old before she could be rehomed.

Sadly Ivy lost all except one of her kits, who we called Dora. She was another female so we did not have to worry about separating the two of them for fear of Ivy getting pregnant again – a male rabbit can often be capable of impregnating a female from 2-3 months old. Ivy and Dora became a very close pair of rabbits, which is not always the case with two female rabbits. So, we decided to rehome them together. This meant we had to wait another four months until Dora was ready to be neutered, which we recommend not just to prevent pregnancy but also to lower the risk of suffering from womb infections and uterine cancer.

By the time the pair were ready to be rehomed, Ivy had been in our foster care for eight months. It was then another 10 months before we actually found the perfect forever home for the pair.

The sometimes lengthy duration of an animal's stay in our care means we are hugely dependent on our wonderful and patient foster carers.

The pair (now called **Mippin & Skadi***)*
happily settled in their new home… ❤️



[2] *As a stray, Pickle was likely to have been in a fight with another cat or cats, which is the most common cause of infection.*

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF RSPCA GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH

I report on the accounts of the Charity (Registered Charity number 203608) for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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 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.

JIM HALLIDAY, FCA
Chartered Accountant
74 Holly Hill, Southampton, SO16 7EY
27th May 2025

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RSPCA GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	NOTE	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Collecting Boxes		194	344
Branch Fundraising Events		2,314	2,386
Branch Adoption Fees		3,701	3,435
Donations via HQ Door to Door Fundraising		43,632	46,188
Contributions From Regional Board		2,062	4,061
Other Donations		5,164	4,948
Legacies		-	69,796
Membership Subscriptions		328	361
Investment Income	3	11,879	10,483
		69,274	142,002
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Charitable Activities			
Veterinary Treatment on Branch Voucher Scheme		40,348	40,524
Neutering on Branch Voucher Scheme		29,577	21,460
Veterinary Treatment and Neutering of Unowned Animals		12,283	18,429
Boarding and Food		3,674	6,642
Wildlife		4,975	5,350
Donations		3,357	211
Branch Contribution to RSPCA Headquarters and Region		3,308	3,308
Other Charitable Expenses		1,689	647
		99,211	96,751
Cost of Generating Funds	4	130	91
Governance Costs and Depreciation			
AGM/Annual Reports		294	259
Administrative Expenses		397	755
Depreciation		-	60
Insurance		819	726
		1,510	1,800
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		100,851	98,462
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR		(31,577)	43,540
TOTAL FUNDS Balance Brought Forward		310,314	266,774
TOTAL FUNDS Balance Carried Forward		278,737	310,314

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RSPCA GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH

BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	NOTE	2024	2023
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	6	-	-
Investment Bank Accounts		-	135,000
		-	135,000
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	7,802	10,217
Investment Bank Accounts		272,500	170,001
Cash at bank - Current Account		7,332	5,682
		287,634	185,900
CREDITORS (falling due within 1 year)			
Creditors		(8,897)	(10,586)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		278,737	175,314
NET ASSETS		278,737	310,314
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		278,737	310,314

Approved by the Trustees on 27th May 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Hon. Chairman



Hon. Treasurer

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RSPCA GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A General

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting by Charities.

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis.

B Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations are recognised when the Charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Legacies are recognised on the earlier of either (a) the date that probate is granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Charity that a distribution will be made, or (b) when a distribution is received from the estate. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition has not been met, then the legacy is disclosed in the notes to the accounts. Legacies received via the Branch legacy scheme are grossed up for the administration charges deducted, with the associated charges shown as expenditure in the year the legacy is credited.

Investment income is recognised on an accruals basis.

C Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

D Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided on equipment at a rate of 25% per annum to write off the assets over an estimated useful life of 4 years.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RSPCA GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

D Tangible fixed assets (continued)

The Trustees have a policy that only items over £500 are capitalised and depreciated. Lower value items are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

E Investment bank accounts

The Branch invests surplus funds in investment bank accounts including instant access accounts, notice accounts and fixed rate bonds. Where the maturity date of the investment bank account is greater than one year from the balance sheet date, these investments are included within fixed asset investments. Where the maturity date is less than one year from the balance sheet date, the investments are included within current assets.

F Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds represent those unrestricted funds which have been ring-fenced by the trustees for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes, within the objectives of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

2. STATEMENT OF BRANCH COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Charity law requires the branch committee, as trustees, to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year, and the financial position at the end of the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable Accounting Policies and apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2024	2023
Interest on Investment Bank Accounts:	£	£
Fixed assets	-	3,972
Current assets	11,879	6,511
	11,879	10,483

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RSPCA GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

4. COST OF GENERATING FUNDS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Pitch fees and licences	130	91

5. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' EXPENSES AND REMUNERATION

No committee member received any remuneration, and the Branch has no paid staff. Five committee members were reimbursed a total of £2,465.57 for costs incurred.

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

EQUIPMENT	2024	2023
	£	£
COST		
At 1 January	469	469
At 31 December	469	469
DEPRECIATION		
At 1 January	469	409
Charge for year	-	60
At 31 December	469	469
NET BOOK VALUE		
At 31 December	-	-

7. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	6,956	6,654
Other debtors	846	3,563
	7,802	10,217

8. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

The Branch received £190,000 from an interim distribution of a legacy on 24 February 2025, which will be accounted for as incoming resources in 2025.

RSPCA Surrey Inspectorate Team - Annual Report 2024

Surrey team news

The Surrey team was delighted to welcome back Inspector Nat Kitchin in March of this year after her maternity leave following the birth of baby Sofia in January 2023. Nat certainly 'hit the ground running' on her return, for which we're all very thankful.

We have continued to increase the number of Animal Rescue Volunteers (ARVs) in the team - up to 18 at one point. I would like to thank Inspector Sandy Barlow (ARV Group Coordinator) for her great efforts in terms of engagement with, and support of, our ARVs. That has included organising social events and quiz nights, which have been very well received.

The work that ARVs can take on is increasing all the time, and several of our volunteers have recently been trained to deal with foxes, birds of prey and some wading birds. They have also joined our officers to assist with incidents involving multi-animal collections and transfers. Some of our ARVs have helped with moving animals for postmortem to the Royal Vet College which, although not a pleasant job, is really helpful in keeping my officers on the road. All of this ARV work frees up my Inspectorate officers to focus on their core role of knocking on doors and dealing with complaints of neglect and cruelty. So on behalf of the team, I would like to thank all of our ARVs for the hard work they have put in in 2024.

Case & significant complaint work in 2024

Surrey Inspectors submitted 24 case files to our Prosecution team in 2024 for their consideration. That is a considerable increase from the previous year when 13 files were submitted, and a part of that is because of the assistance my officers have provided with case work in neighbouring groups. Of those 24 case files, 10 resulted in court proceedings, and a further 10 resulted in a Caution being issued.

Here is a selection of just some of those cases which were concluded this year:



March finally saw the conclusion of a case that originally started in 2021 for Inspector Jo Bowling. The case involved 2 Shar Pei dogs in the Epsom area which were confirmed to be in a suffering condition. One of the dogs had a broken leg which had not been treated, causing him to walk on his elbow for 2 years. Sadly, both dogs had to be put to sleep. The female owner pleaded guilty and received a fine of £180, costs of £200 and a 10 year disqualification from keeping all animals. The male owner also pleaded guilty and was issued with a 12 week custodial sentence (suspended for 18 months), 300 hours unpaid work, an 18 month supervision order, £700 costs and the same 10 year disqualification from keeping all animals.



Inspector Liz Wheeler secured an adult written Caution against a man from Godstone after she was called to his three ponies in Redhill. All three were found to be in a suffering state due to him failing to provide adequate nutrition and regular worming. The owner signed them over where they went to one of our partner agencies, World Horse Welfare, for continued care.

Inspector Sandy Barlow secured an adult written Caution against a lady in Esher after being called in by World Horse Welfare over concerns of a heavily pregnant, emaciated mare. The vet supported suffering and the horse was seized. The mare (and subsequent foal) were signed over and are slowly recovering from their ordeal. The photos here show the 'before' and after' images of the horse in question - a dramatic transformation indeed.





In October 2024, Inspector Leanna Hone investigated an individual in the Guildford area who had sold a young bulldog-type dog which had an untreated shoulder fracture for several weeks. The new owner immediately took the dog to a vet, who certified that the dog would have been suffering as a result of this untreated injury. Following the conclusion of the investigation, the original owner agreed to accept a Caution. The dog stayed with the person who had bought him off the original owner and, happily, he has made excellent progress.



In May, Inspector Lauren Evans secured a Caution for the owner of a Staffordshire Bull Terrier-type dog which was found to be underweight and with open pressure sores on her legs. The owner signed the dog over to the RSPCA during her interview, but sadly she had to be euthanased due to advanced kidney failure.

In August, Inspector Nat Kitchin secured a Caution in respect of the owner of a cat which had died in the owner's care. The owner took the body of the cat to a Blue Cross vet in London, where the vets discovered that the cat was emaciated and had a heavy flea burden. The owner accepted a Caution for allowing her cat to be in this condition and causing unnecessary suffering.

As always I would like to thank my officers for their dedication in resolving these types of incidents. They can be distressing and difficult to deal with, and only a professional and resolute approach can resolve the issues in the best possible way.

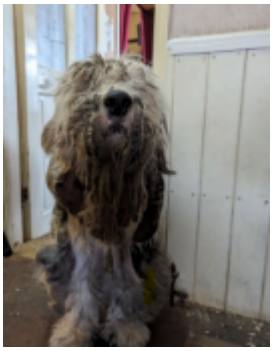
Not all serious investigations turn into prosecution cases. For various reasons, there are some that we are unable to pursue further and some where we work with the owners to improve the situation. Here are some examples:

Inspector Liz Wheeler, Animal Rescue Officers (AROs) Chloe Wilson and Sam Matthews helped to secure a brighter future for three dogs living in a stable in Dorking. The dogs appeared never to be let out and inside the stable there were very poor hygiene standards. Happily, after working



hard with the owner, all three dogs were eventually signed over and put up for rehoming.

Sadly we are all used to jobs involving animals that have been abandoned when the owners move. Cookie, an elderly tortoiseshell female cat, was one such animal. She was left behind when the owners moved out and ARO Ben Fitzcosta and Inspector Jo Bowling had her removed by the police as her needs clearly were not being met under the Animal Welfare Act. Cookie was taken to a private boarding establishment but, frustratingly, her owner was never tracked down. However, Cookie has since found a new home.



ARO Chloe Wilson was called to a 5yr old sheepdog called Barney when his elderly owner was taken into hospital. Barney was completely matted and had never left the house. A relative of the owner signed him over and he was taken to Millbrook for a much-needed trim (his clipped fur weighed over 5kg!) He was soon rehomed to an owner more able to look after him appropriately.



Some incidents are particularly distressing and stay with us. One example was when Inspector Nat Kitchin had a late night call about a tiny puppy found at the side of a road in Sunbury. Later named Puzzle, Nat rushed him to a local vets where he was found to have a cleft palate as well as a wound to his head and nose. It was suspected that Puzzle had been dumped out of a car, probably due to his health issues. He was kept overnight to warm up and get some vital nutrition. Initially he did really well, taking on puppy milk but sadly, as is often the grim reality of hand rearing an animal so young, he passed away a few days later. Frustratingly, despite an extensive press appeal, we were never able to track down who had so callously dumped him.



Collections & Rescues in 2024

Surrey officers have continued to deal with all manner of animal rescues. Here are some of the more unusual or complex ones:



ARO Louis Horton organized a great multi-agency rescue between ourselves and Folly Wildlife in rescuing this deer caught between metal railings and a brick wall. The deer had to be sedated in order to free it and, after it was finally freed, it spent the evening recuperating at the wildlife charity to ensure there were no after effects. Happily the deer made a full recovery and was successfully released. A great example of partnership working.

After 16 years of service, Inspector Leanna Hone finally got to tick off “aerial platform” on her RSPCA bingo card, reaching dizzying heights to rescue a cat stuck on a hot roof in Guildford! The cat had become stranded up there for over 24 hours and after negotiating cables and chimneys, Guildford Fire and Rescue managed to get Leanna into a position to catch it! Unharmed, it was returned to his grateful owner. Another great example of partnership working.



Inspector Lauren Evans was called to Ashford for this poor fox cub who had managed to get his nose stuck in some sort of trap. We were unsure if it was a mole trap or a rodent trap but the device had latched on, forcing the cubs jaws shut. Lauren rushed it to Wildlife Aid in Leatherhead but sadly it had been on for such a long time and had caused some extensive injuries so the decision was made to euthanize the cub. It was not clear where this trap had originated from.

ARO’s Louis Horton and Chloe Wilson were called to a cob pony in Dorking that had managed to get caught up in some barbed wire fencing and was unable to walk. Luckily, the pony was very compliant and waited patiently for Chloe and Louis to cut the wire out. Having only been caught in his feathers and tail there were no injuries. The owner was given advice about the dangers of loose fencing, a common issue we deal with.



One definite highlight of our year was the video of a supposedly injured fox stealing ARO Ben Fitzcosta’s phone! You can see the footage at https://www.youtube.com/shorts/ALdBECbQr7Y

Thank Yous

As always, I would like to thank all of our external partner organisations who have continued to assist us in working for animals. This includes local Police, Fire and Rescue, vets, local authorities and other animal charities / wildlife rescues. It is amazing and encouraging that so many different agencies work together for the same cause.

I would also like to express my particular gratitude, on behalf of the whole Surrey team, to all of our local Branches for their help and support during 2024. As always, it really is a team effort and I am delighted that we have continued to work closely with all of them throughout the year. Whether it be assisting with veterinary invoices, funding wildlife treatment, arranging boarding or taking on and rehoming animals, we could not have done all of the things we have done this year to alleviate animal suffering and improve welfare without the assistance of all of the Branches we work alongside.

Finally, this will be my last Surrey Annual Report as I am shortly taking up a new role within the RSPCA. So I would like to thank all of the Surrey team for their support and hard work over the five years since I became Chief Inspector - I wish you all the best under your new Chief Inspector and I am sure that the Surrey team will continue to go from strength to strength in the years ahead.

Thank you to all,

Rob Jackson

Chief Inspector, Surrey

SUCCESSES IN THE YEAR – some of the animals we helped in 2024

Next in our featured animals are *The Stoke Park 5'*

Five young, defenceless cats were callously dumped in Stoke Park in September 2024. Abandoned in the early morning cold with just a box of food, the busy and dog-frequented park would have been a frightening experience for them.





Thanks to the swift action of some incredible locals who began catching the abandoned cats and alerted us, we were able to intervene. They had already secured three, and their photos of the group allowed us to set a trap for the remaining two. We initially believed they were the mother and a very young kitten.

In a display of determined effort, local hero Alex spent a considerable time kitted out in sturdy work gear crawling through brambles until he successfully located the terrified little one.

We are pretty sure they were one family group, as they "stuck together" and have very similar black, white and grey markings. Four of them were estimated to be about 11 months old. The fifth (who we called 'Spotty') was much smaller and estimated to be 3 months old.

At first the whole group was fostered together by one of our volunteers. All were health checked, given flea and worm treatments, then vaccinated, neutered, and microchipped. This, together with their food and litter, cost the Branch £1,400. This is a large expense, and yet these were straightforward to treat, with no complicated issues or dental work required. Donations are therefore vital to our rescue efforts, and we also depend greatly on the goodwill of certain veterinary practices in keeping our expenses as low as possible.

Noodle 👉

is that rare breed: a lap cat!



Here are some close-ups of **'The Stoke Park 5'**



👈 **Noodle** ♂ &

Bella ♀ 👉





Doodle ♂ and … **Missy Moo** ♀ were very much a pair so they have been rehomed together by adopter Ben (who fostered them before falling for their charms)

👇 They are now called **Dexter** & **Roxy**



and finally... **Spotty**

👉

(male♂, the youngest one, about 3 months old)



Unsurprisingly, young and gorgeous Spotty was the first to find a forever home! But we're thrilled to report that all five cats were adopted and settled into new lives just a few weeks after we took them in.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANC

England & Wales - Charity number 203608

Accounts

RSPCA GUILDFORD and EPSOM BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT 2023

RSPCA Guildford and Epsom Branch
Registered Charity No. 203608



This tortoise came into our care when she was found in the road at a very busy junction in Guildford. She was adopted by Donna who named her Myrtle.

SUCCESSES IN THE YEAR - recruiting new fosterers



This is gorgeous Zephyr, who came into us when his owner was too ill to take care of him. He was fortunate to be fostered by Jack, before being adopted in October.

Animal fostering is an important role. It helps play a vital part in the rehabilitation of animals and helps improve their chance of finding a new home.

Some animals that we take in have either suffered or are not used to the care and affection that they deserve, and others do not cope well in an animal centre environment. This is where we need fosterers to provide them with a real home, even if it is only on a temporary basis. Living with a foster family provides them with one-to-one care, allowing them to build up their confidence and get used to a normal lifestyle.

We were delighted to recruit several new rabbit fosterers in the year. Indoor rabbit fosterer Charlotte took her first bun for us early in the year. Debbie, who used to run her own rabbit rescue, and Humeera offered us some of their fabulous outdoor space and have been using that to help bond rabbits ready for adoption. We also welcomed Jason, Jack, Alex, Alison and Jolene to our cat fostering team. This additional, really valuable resource, helped us rehome 10 more cats compared with the previous year.



Pretty Jenny, who was Humeera's first foster for us. She was adopted just a few months later.

You can read more about the animals we helped in section 5 of the Trustees' Report.

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INTRODUCTION

The RSPCA is the world's oldest and largest animal welfare charity, with much of its direct animal welfare work being carried out through its branches.

We are the RSPCA Guildford and Epsom Branch; a self-funding branch of the RSPCA. We raise money locally to fund our animal welfare work to prevent cruelty, promote kindness and rescue, rehabilitate and rehome animals in need in our branch area. All of our work, including managing the branch, is carried out by volunteers. We rehabilitate and rehome animals in our care (the majority of which are cats and rabbits) through fosterers and private boarding establishments. In 2023 we financially assisted 384 companion animals with welfare treatment. This included a horse, tortoises and mice. We also contributed towards 279 neuters and the microchipping of 114 pets. In addition to this we paid for any necessary treatments for the 78 animals we took into branch care and paid for specialist veterinary aid for 25 rescued wild animals.

OUR VISION

We support the vision of the national Society which is to live in a world where all animals are respected and treated with kindness and compassion. We believe that:

- all animals deserve a good life
- animals' lives are important in themselves
- animals have emotions, feelings and needs
- animals enrich and improve our lives
- all of us can and should help to make animals' lives better

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

COMPLAINTS AND ADVICE

Anyone suspecting cruelty or mistreatment to animals should report the incident to the RSPCA by contacting the Cruelty Line via www.rspca.org.uk/reportcruelty or telephoning 0300 1234 999. All calls are dealt with in the strictest confidence.

BRANCH CONTACT DETAILS

Telephone 07906 924002
Email info@rspcaguildfordepsom.org.uk

However, if your enquiry is related to volunteering please contact:

volunteer@rspcaguildfordepsom.org.uk

If you are looking to adopt from us please contact:

rehoming@rspcaguildfordepsom.org.uk

Facebook www.facebook.com/rspcaguildfordepsom
Website www.rspcaguildfordepsom.org.uk

LOCAL ANIMAL CENTRE
RSPCA Millbrook Animal Centre
Guildford Road
Chobham, Surrey
GU24 8EH
Tel: 0300 123 0740
Email millbrook@rspca.org.uk

Animal viewings and introductions by appointment only.

CHIEF INSPECTOR
Chief Inspector Rob Jackson
RSPCA Millbrook Animal Centre
Guildford Road, Chobham, Surrey
GU24 8EH

BRANCH PARTNERSHIP MANAGER
Victoria Robson
Email supportercare@rspca.org.uk

POSTCODES COVERED BY THE BRANCH

GU1 1, GU1 2, GU1 3, GU1 4, GU2 4, GU2 5, GU2 6, GU2 7, GU2 8, GU2 9, GU3 1, GU4 7, GU4 8, GU5 0, GU5 9, GU6 7, GU6 8, GU7 1, GU7 2, GU7 3, GU8 4, GU8 5

KT4 9, KT9 1, KT9 2, KT9 9, KT17 1, KT17 2, KT17 3, KT17 4, KT17 6, KT17 9, KT18 5, KT18 6, KT18 7, KT19 0, KT19 7, KT19 8, KT19 9, KT20 5, KT20 6, KT20 7, KT20 9, KT21 1, KT21 2, KT22 0, KT22 2, KT22 7, KT22 8, KT22 9, KT23 3, KT23 4, KT24 5, KT24 6, KT24 7

SM7 1, SM7 2, SM7 3

TRUSTEES' REPORT

1. Reference and administration details

Charity Name	The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Guildford and Epsom Branch
Other names charity is known by	RSPCA Guildford and Epsom Branch
Registered charity number	203608
Charity's principal addresses	The Branch does not have an address for members of the public to visit but can be contacted via email or telephone.
Charity's principal bankers	Lloyds Bank plc
Independent examiner	Jim Halliday FCA – Chartered Accountant

Names of the trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
Alessandra Cappai		Appointed 29 January 2024
Steven Hooke	Hon. Treasurer	
Abbi Moore*		
Cat Pilbeam		
Lucy Pollard	Hon. Chair	
Katrina Tully	Hon. Secretary	
Rebecca Verne		Appointed 22 August 2023
Sarah White		
Ann Winter		

*Abbi is employed by the RSPCA national Society. We obtained its approval before co-opting her as a trustee, as required by branch rule 7.4.

Other support provided by

Judith Crowhurst	Membership Secretary
Trasna Palmer	President
Victoria Robson	Branch Partnership Manager

2. Introduction by the Chair

Welcome to our review of 2023. As the Chair of RSPCA Guildford and Epsom branch, I take immense pride in being part of an organisation that has made significant contributions to improve the lives of local animals. Throughout the past year, the trustee team and our fantastic volunteers have delivered some great results for animal welfare, which are detailed in section 5 of this Trustee Report. Our commitment to animal well-being remains unwavering, and we continue to work toward our vision: "to live in a world where all animals are respected and treated with kindness and compassion".

All of the work the branch does, including the governance and running of the charity, is performed by volunteers. The scope and scale of our activities is therefore driven by the skills and availability of volunteer resources, so we were delighted to recruit two new trustees in the year. Becky brings a wealth of practical animal welfare experience as she works at a fellow animal charity, and Alex is a skilled cat and kitten carer, with a passion for social media engagement. As detailed on the inside front cover we also had great success in recruiting new rabbit and cat fosterers; all of whom have already played an important part in transforming animals' lives from stray or unwanted to loved and adopted.

The number of events we were able to organise in 2023 was back to pre-pandemic levels. It was great to be out meeting the local community at 13 events including an educational talk. In addition, we volunteered at a local foodbank and continued to support The Hive foodbank in Guildford by supplying pet food to them to distribute.

At the time of writing, the national RSPCA is celebrating its 200th anniversary (our branch is only slightly younger at 147 years old). We have launched a new brand and a new purpose, but this isn't about a new logo, it's all about raising the profile of animal welfare and helping everyone understand that we can *all* play a part in improving animals' lives. The new brand will help us reach more people, people who may not have considered us, or their role in animal welfare, before. We hope that this leads to more engagement between the local community and the branch, whether that be new volunteers, new adopters or new supporters. In addition, we hope through education and advocacy that we will prevent suffering and reduce unplanned litters and unwanted animals. We want to build a movement for animals and the more people we can inspire to get involved, the more impact we can have for animals, now and for many years to come.



Thank you for your support, which enables us to create a more positive future for animals. Whether through one-off gifts, regular donations, or gifts in wills, your contributions make a real difference. Or if you gave us your precious time, thank you for making a measurable impact on our public-facing and animal rehoming work. Together, we can continue to champion animal welfare and ensure a brighter tomorrow for our furry and feathered friends.

Lucy Pollard, Chair

3. Structure, governance, and management	
How the charity is constituted	We are a separately registered charity, constituted as an unincorporated association, working within the Rules, Policies and Guidelines of the national RSPCA. Our governing document is the RSPCA Society's Branch Rules. The charity operates as an autonomous branch, responsible for our own fundraising and for managing local animal welfare work.
Trustee selection methods	The committee consists of a maximum of 17 individuals, being: (1) at least 5 and not more than 14 elected committee members, all of whom must be eligible branch members, elected at the AGM and (2) up to 3 co-opted committee members, who may also be branch members.
How trustees are recruited and appointed	Elected from branch members at every AGM to carry on the Branch work for the forthcoming year. Potential trustees are recruited via various methods including volunteer agencies, RSPCA websites and Head Office enquiries, advertising and appeals to members. Potential new trustees are vetted in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines and sign the recommended declarations upon appointment.
Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	All trustees are briefed on their responsibilities prior to their acceptance of the role. New trustees receive appropriate training in RSPCA and Branch Policies and Procedures, in line with Information Commissioner's Office and Charity Commission guidance. They also receive support from other trustees, guidance from Head Office and Branch Partnership Managers and handover from retiring officers if applicable.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Some services such as those of the inspectorate are carried out by the national Society whereas others are carried out by a network of branches which are independently registered charities operating in defined local areas. Our branch is the Guildford and Epsom branch, which is a member of the South East Regional Board area. All the work of the Branch is carried out by volunteers, so we have no paid staff. Decisions are made by the trustees at committee meetings, usually held every 4 to 6 weeks. The Branch works with Head Office staff, the Inspectorate, RSPCA Millbrook Animal Centre and other branches and animal centres in its day-to-day work.
Trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them	The main risks facing the Branch are: **People**. We continue to have difficulties in finding volunteers willing to act as trustees and carry out welfare and fundraising work. We use volunteer recruitment bureaux and other methods as described above to publicise our requirements. **Financial**. Income generation is vital for us to continue our work. Despite pressing need, we must evaluate what we can afford to fund. Insufficient income levels mean that we will have to reduce or cease welfare activity to remain a viable branch. New demands and requests for funding are a key discussion item at every committee meeting. Spending is controlled through delegated limits and required approvals.

	Levels of pet ownership grew during the pandemic, and whilst owning a pet is a great boost to both mental and physical health it also comes with a substantial financial responsibility, which places additional pressure on charities when owners are unable to meet the costs of pet ownership. The vets we work with continue to struggle with significant shortages in staff, set against a huge demand for appointments. This impacts our ability to negotiate on price and may mean that non urgent procedures such as neuters are delayed. This has led to more unwanted litters and conditions that require emergency treatment such as tumours that are hormone related. **Public opinion**. The RSPCA is a well-known and respected "brand", and we must ensure that we do not tarnish it. Mitigating activities include screening/induction of volunteers, together with appropriate training. For trustees there is ongoing learning and instruction (specifically on their responsibilities as branch officials), and potential conflicts of interest are discussed at every meeting. **Health and Safety.** We have a duty to take reasonable care of our volunteers' health and safety and that of others who may be affected by our actions. Safeguarding matters are reviewed at every meeting. All volunteers are covered by the RSPCA's liability and personal accident insurance and are provided with appropriate information on our health and safety policies and guidelines. The committee has identified and evaluated risks affecting the Branch and has set in place policies and procedures based on guidelines issued by RSPCA Head Office and the Charity Commission to mitigate the risks where possible. The operation and relevance of these policies and procedures is reviewed regularly. The Branch complies with the Branch Rules as issued by the national Society and has a number of related financial transactions with this organisation. Abbi Moore is also a paid employee of the RSPCA (national Society).

SUCCESSES IN THE YEAR - some of the animals we helped in 2023



Kiri came into our care when her elderly owner became unable to cope with her liveliness. She was a typical young cat - fun and playful and a delight to spend time with. After just one day in foster care she was making friends, coming for fusses and eating well.

This chatty girl had been brought up as an indoor cat, so although we rehomed her to an outdoor home, it had to be with an adopter who could accept that she will need a litter tray for the rest of her life. She also needed to be the sole resident puss, as she may be little but she can be fierce with other cats!

4. Objectives and activities

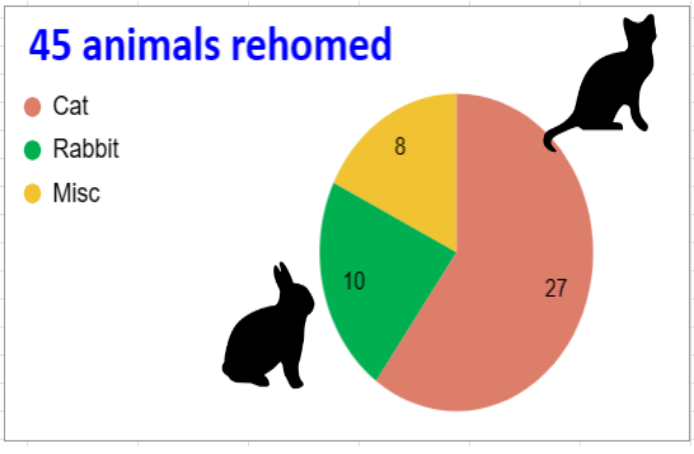
Summary of the objectives of the charity set out in its governing document	To promote the work and objectives of the national Society; Royal Society for The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (registered charity number 219099), with particular reference to the area of the Branch, in accordance with the policies of the society. The objectives of the Branch remain unchanged from previous years.
Charity's aim	The RSPCA as a charity will, by all lawful means, prevent cruelty, promote kindness to and alleviate suffering of all animals.
Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects	The Branch promotes animal welfare in the local area primarily through veterinary assistance, neutering and rehoming. • We offer discretionary support to people in need to help pay veterinary bills. • We respond to enquiries from the public about animals and offer free animal care advice by phone, social media, via leaflets and at our events, which promotes responsible pet ownership. • Where funds permit, the Branch takes in abandoned animals, including pets whose owners suffer ill health or financial difficulties, or pass away. We also support the national RSPCA by caring for animals taken in by the Inspectorate if there is no space at the national animal centres. • We support the Inspectorate as a priority. • We undertake educational presentations and workshops with local groups and schools. More detail on our activities can be found in section 5 below.

5. Achievements And Performance

A. Animal Welfare

Rehoming, adoption support and fostering

One of the main roles of the RSPCA is rehoming animals to people who can meet the needs of a companion animal in an appropriate environment.



Most rehoming in the local area is done by Millbrook Animal Centre, which is the nearest RSPCA animal centre to the Branch. The Branch also has space in foster homes and private boarding establishments for cats and rabbits who have been found abandoned or stray or have been taken in via the RSPCA Inspectorate when there is no room for them in an animal centre. They are cared for and rehabilitated, while we search for loving new homes. There are few dogs mentioned in our reports because stray dogs are the responsibility of the local council, and we do not have the facilities or

expertise to take dogs into our direct care so we use other RSPCA branches and animal centres or other rescue organisations wherever possible. Animals in our care receive veterinary treatment, vaccinations, neutering and microchipping. Flea and other parasite treatments are kept up to date. This helps to control the incidence and spread of disease and suffering.

In 2023 the Branch **rehomed 45 animals** that came into our care. In addition to this, we took on responsibility for a number of other animals before finding them places in RSPCA animal centres. We advertise animals for rehoming on our branch website and Facebook page, as well as the national Society's main website, allowing us to reach a larger audience of prospective adopters. Unfortunately, more and more often all our facilities are full, yet it is very important that we can take in animals in need and give them a chance of a loving home.

Our animals can be loud, quiet, big, small, or three-legged - they all come with a personality and a past that's unique to them and it's our mission to find the perfect adopter to match them with. We support rehoming activity by recruiting and providing volunteers who undertake home suitability assessments as part of adoption support. Their role is to understand each animal's need (for space, stimulation, safety etc.) and ensure that what potential adopters can provide matches these needs. They then follow up with the adopter later to ensure that the adoption has been a success.

In 2023 we **carried out 44 adoption visits** (compared with 43 in 2022 and 22 in 2021).

We have cat fosterers who give the special care and attention that is often much easier to provide in a foster home than in a cattery. If we have spaces in this preferred home environment, we can socialise and nurture cats meaning that they are more quickly restored to good health and are able to be rehomed earlier.

Our outdoor rabbit fosterers have provided a great resource for the branch, the Inspectorate, and the wider RSPCA needs, by taking in rabbits to full capacity. Our indoor rabbit fosterers obviously have more limited capacity but provide an essential environment to those rabbits that cannot be housed outdoors - especially in the colder months. All of our fosterers have been invaluable in their work to rehabilitate rabbits in their care and progress them to rehoming with wonderful new forever homes.

We are always looking to recruit more potential fosterers, including kitten fosterers, who will have support from our co-ordinator. This enables us to take more animals into branch care and reduces the costs of boarding overall.

Welfare assistance

We provide support to people in need to help pay their vet bills. The service is offered in certain circumstances to assist with difficulties experienced by pet owners faced with veterinary costs which they will struggle to meet. This helps to promote responsible pet ownership, prevent suffering, and reduce the numbers of unwanted cats, dogs, and rabbits.

In 2023 we **gave financial help for 384 animal welfare treatments** (compared with 268 in 2022).

We also helped with the **neutering of 279 animals** (compared to 192 in 2022 and 147 in the prior year). 235 of these were cats, where we offered subsidised neutering to owners under our World Spay Day initiative.

We had **78 animals in our care** during 2023 and we paid for all their necessary treatments. Our thanks go to the veterinary community for their help and support throughout the year.



We also **paid for the care of 25 wild animals** at Wildlife Aid in Leatherhead, including hedgehogs, foxes, pigeons, and an owl (92 animals in the previous year). These cases originated in our branch area and were taken to this specialist centre by the Inspectorate.

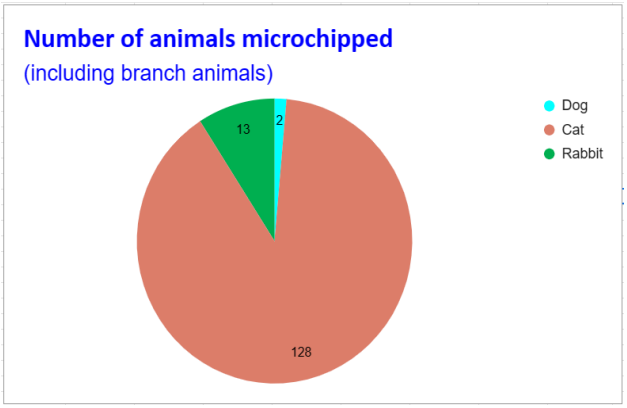
Supporting the Inspectorate

The Branch continued to support the Inspectorate in their vital and sometimes distressing work. We do this through fostering or boarding and paying for veterinary treatment for animals signed over to the RSPCA. We also provide welfare assistance for veterinary treatment and neutering where the Inspectors find owners in need. We paid for flea and worm treatment supplies to be held in their vans (helping owners improve care and keep their pets). The Inspectorate report is in a later section of the Annual Report.

Other welfare activities

We take in, free of charge, lost animals and take steps to reunite them with owners. This work benefits our local community (including local authorities) by preventing animals from straying and posing a risk to themselves and to people through road accidents. We respond to enquiries from the public about animals in the Branch area. The public benefits by knowing that we can and will intervene to assist animals in need.

We advertised a number of lost and found pets through the year but microchipping is our best resource to help return missing animals to their relieved and delighted owners. Microchipped pets where contact details are kept up to date are easily reunited with their families, avoiding heartache for the owners and costs for the RSPCA. Unfortunately, the care of unidentifiable, stray animals adds significantly to our work.



For many years it has been the law that you must have your dog microchipped and your details kept up to date. We welcome the new legal requirement (in force from June 2024) for cat owners to microchip their cats before 20 weeks old and to ensure their contact details are kept up to date in a pet microchipping database. This new law means that more lost cats can be easily identified and reunited with their owners, rather than being handed to rehoming charities like ourselves that are struggling with overflowing waiting lists.

We believe all cats, dogs and rabbits should be chipped to ensure that a pet can be reunited with their owner, and to aid this we will pay for chipping where required. We **microchipped 143 animals** in 2023 (compared to 105 animals in 2022 and 82 in 2021). This was made up of 29 branch animals and 114 pets.

B. Education

Education events

Our education events look at the work of the RSPCA, the welfare needs of animals and the action young people can take to help them; at home, at school and in the local community. They are tailored to the audience following consultation with their teachers/youth leaders. Although we did not secure any school talks in 2023, we have already delivered three in 2024 and hope to have another in the diary.

In November 2023 we were delighted to be invited to speak to the members of a local Rotary Club, who treated us to dinner beforehand.

We want everyone to understand that – whatever their age or circumstances – they have the power to change animal welfare for the better. By understanding the causes of neglect or cruelty, we can prevent them from happening in the first place. We are looking at new ways to engage with schools to secure more invitations in future.

We also engage children in educational activities at our fundraising events; for example we take a "spin the wheel" game for an animal welfare quiz.

RSPCA Head Office have online educational facilities which we have promoted on our social media sites. Our welfare line operated throughout the year and provided advice to the general public to help with pets, wildlife, and farm animals.

Social media

Our social media content can be found at www.facebook.com/rspcaguildfordepsom and www.rspcaguildfordepsom.org.uk. You can see more about the Branch trustees and our work, find out about our welfare services, and learn about forthcoming campaigns and events. You can also obtain useful help and advice and contact us via these links.

Other educational activities

We continued to heavily publicise and support World Spay Day and Early Neutering Awareness by running a social media campaign to offer low-cost cat neutering and free microchipping for both male and female cats in the Branch area.

We continue to support Rabbit Awareness Week (RAW) promotions. In 2023 we carried on the previous initiative focussed on getting rabbits vaccinated against the deadly RHD2 disease. The virus causes internal bleeding and is highly contagious. There is no specific treatment, which makes vaccination essential. Alongside the education campaign we offered subsidised vaccines in the branch area.

C. Fundraising

Fundraising events and activities

Our events were partially impacted by Covid and its aftermath in 2022, but 2023 saw us return to our traditional fundraising activities and we **attended 13 events**. As at the time of writing we have a full calendar of events planned for 2024, and are looking forward to chatting to the public about our work, and the animals we have available for rehoming.

Event type	**2023**	2022
Town centre collections	**£312**	Nil
Store collections	**£373**	Nil
Fetes and local fairs	**£1,058**	£601
Car boot sales	**£143**	£161
Educational	**£75**	Nil
E-cards and online events	**£425**	£284*

* Included within Other Donations instead of Branch Fundraising Events.

We are incredibly grateful that in addition to the events run by the branch, two individual supporters continued to pursue their own fundraising activities which raised over £1,300; a fantastic achievement

by both Lorna and Trasna. As in the prior year, several members of the committee sold second-hand items and home grown plants through social media or at vintage fairs/car boot/table top sales to bring in extra funds.

The money raised by these activities is disclosed in the accounts against the following categories: "Branch Fundraising Events" and "Other Donations". However, "Other Donations" includes monies raised online as well as at events. Examples of our online receipts are being part of the Guildford Community Lottery and fundraising platforms such as Easyfundraising and Paypal, as well as donations made via our website.

Further details of how we use our income to help local animals can be found in section 5A.

Collection boxes

We would like to have more boxes out in the local area and continue to look for people to manage these boxes; recruits do not need to be branch members although we would encourage them to join our membership. In particular we would like to increase the number of collection boxes in Epsom and the surrounding areas. We would welcome suggestions for new locations and for people to manage collection boxes in the enlarged branch area.

D. Public benefit

Our objectives and activities are outlined in section 4 of this report. Performance against those objectives is detailed above. Our current short term and long-term aims can be found in section 7 of this report.

The trustees have reviewed the outcomes and achievements of our objectives and activities for the year to ensure they remain focussed on our charitable aims and continue to deliver benefits to the public. We have complied with the duty under the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

6. Financial Review

Overview

Overall expenditure in 2023 increased by £27,055 to £98,462 compared to £71,407 in 2022. The increase in expenditure reflects increased animal welfare activities and the impact of inflation on the Branch's costs, especially the increased cost of veterinary treatments.

The percentage of total expenditure spent in the branch area on animal welfare has increased from 88% in 2022 to 95% in 2023. This reflects the lower levels of donations outside of the branch area in the current year.

Income was £142,002 in 2023, an increase of £81,215 compared to the £60,787 in the prior year. The increase is mainly due to a substantial legacy of £64,946 that was received in February 2023. The Branch also received £4,061 in contributions from the South East Regional Board (2022 £nil) towards neutering and emergency boarding costs incurred. Investment income increased by £6,662 compared to the prior year, due to higher average investment balances of the Branch and the significant increase in interest rates during 2023. The share of direct debit donations raised by the RSPCA HQ door to door fundraising campaign, which amounted to £46,188 in 2023 makes up 33% of the income in the current year (2022: £46,436 and 76%).

Overall, there was a net surplus for the year of £43,540 compared to a deficit of £10,620 in 2022. The Branch continues to hold significant reserves but aims to reduce these in line with the policy as described below.

The full accounts are provided later within the Annual Report.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Reserves are those funds which are freely available for general purposes and have not been designated for specific projects or activities.

The reserves policy of the branch is to hold general reserves to a level that, should all income cease, there would be sufficient funds in hand to run the Branch for approximately 24 months. Based on this measure the Branch currently has excess reserves. The Trustees aim to reduce reserves over time by targeting increased levels of annual expenditure on activities or donations that further the animal welfare aims of the Branch.

The Branch invests surplus funds in capital-safe bank and deposit-based savings accounts where the deposits are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).

7. Plans for the future

Aims and objectives for the future	Our overriding aim is to continue to provide and promote animal welfare for the local area by providing financial assistance for those on low incomes, continuing with our fostering and rehoming work to ensure a healthy and happy lifestyle for adopted animals, and to support the national Society. In January 2021 the committee agreed our short and medium-term priorities and we aligned our goals with the new RSPCA strategy. Our main area of focus is to increase animal welfare across the Region by continuing and extending collaboration with other branches and organisations and supporting more people with animals in need. This is dependent upon and supported by 4 additional pillars: ● People ● Revenue Generation ● Strong Governance ● Public Engagement The Plan is reviewed regularly and adapted to reflect changing circumstances and priorities.
Activities planned to achieve the objectives 1. People	● Expand and effectively manage, utilise, and retain our volunteer network and membership ● Define clear roles and responsibility for trustee and volunteer roles with a focus on succession planning
2. Revenue Generation	● Set up a fundraising working group to provide a dedicated focus on revenue generation ideas

	● Develop a compelling fundraising plan (including an emphasis on digital) to rely less on door-to-door income ● Empower and engage members and volunteers to spread our messages and support fundraising efforts ● Diversify income generation by exploring and evaluating alternative revenue streams
3. Strong Governance	● Continue our robust approach to managing and refreshing policies, procedures, and processes ● Foster stronger connectivity, sharing, and leverage of best practices across the Branch Network
4. Public Engagement	● Build & enhance positive relationships with the public & our communities, including amplifying national RSPCA advocacy areas ● Build our existing and/or adopt new digital channels to communicate branch activities and successes ● Analyse 'Audience Profile' for each message/campaign/activity to ensure we're targeting the right demographic

Declaration

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



Lucy Pollard

Hon. Chair

28 May 2024

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF RSPCA GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH

I report on the accounts of the Charity (Registered Charity number 203608) for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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 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.

JIM HALLIDAY, FCA
Chartered Accountant
74 Holly Hill, Southampton, SO16 7EY

28 May 2024

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RSPCA GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	NOTE	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Collecting Boxes		344	-
Branch Fundraising Events		2,386	762
Branch Adoption Fees		3,435	3,215
Donations via HQ Door to Door Fundraising		46,188	46,436
Contributions From Regional Board		4,061	-
Other Donations		4,948	3,038
Legacies		69,796	3,137
Membership Subscriptions		361	378
Investment Income	3	10,483	3,821
		142,002	60,787
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Charitable Activities			
Veterinary Treatment on Branch Voucher Scheme		40,524	33,133
Neutering on Branch Voucher Scheme		21,460	9,969
Voucher Scheme and Charitable Expenses		647	260
Veterinary Treatment and Neutering of Unowned Animals		18,429	7,731
Boarding and Food		6,642	4,606
Wildlife		5,350	7,461
Donations		211	3,501
Branch Contribution to RSPCA Headquarters and Region		3,308	3,308
		96,751	69,969
Cost of Generating Funds	4	91	20
Governance Costs and Depreciation			
AGM/Annual Reports		259	214
Administrative Expenses		755	510
Depreciation		60	117
Insurance		726	577
		1,800	1,418
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		98,462	71,407
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR		43,540	(10,620)
TOTAL FUNDS Balance Brought Forward		266,774	277,394
TOTAL FUNDS Balance Carried Forward		310,314	266,774

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RSPCA GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH

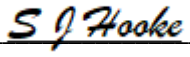
BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	NOTE	2023	2022
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	6	-	60
Investment Bank Accounts		135,000	-
		135,000	60
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	10,217	3,476
Investment Bank Accounts		170,001	255,000
Cash at bank - Current Account		5,682	15,732
		185,900	274,208
CREDITORS (falling due within 1 year)			
Creditors		(10,586)	(7,494)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		175,314	266,714
NET ASSETS		310,314	266,774
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		310,314	266,774

Approved by the Trustees on 28 May 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Hon. Chairman



Hon. Treasurer

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RSPCA GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A General

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting by Charities.

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis.

B Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations are recognised when the Charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Legacies are recognised on the earlier of either (a) the date that probate is granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Charity that a distribution will be made, or (b) when a distribution is received from the estate. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition has not been met, then the legacy is disclosed in the notes to the accounts. Legacies received via the Branch legacy scheme are grossed up for the administration charges deducted, with the associated charges shown as expenditure in the year the legacy is credited.

Investment income is recognised on an accruals basis.

C Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

D Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided on equipment at a rate of 25% per annum to write off the assets over an estimated useful life of 4 years.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RSPCA GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

E Investment bank accounts

The branch invests surplus funds in investment bank accounts including instant access accounts, notice accounts and fixed rate bonds. Where the maturity date of the investment bank account is greater than one year from the balance sheet date, these investments are included within fixed asset investments. Where the maturity date is less than one year from the balance sheet date, the investments are included within current assets.

F Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds represent those unrestricted funds which have been ring-fenced by the trustees for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes, within the objectives of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

2. STATEMENT OF BRANCH COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Charity law requires the branch committee, as trustees, to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year, and the financial position at the end of the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable Accounting Policies and apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2023	2022
Interest on Investment Bank Accounts:-	£	£
Fixed assets	3,972	-
Current assets	6,511	3,821
	10,483	3,821

4. COST OF GENERATING FUNDS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Pitch fees and licences	91	20

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RSPCA GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

5. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' EXPENSES AND REMUNERATION

No committee member received any remuneration, and the branch has no paid staff. Five committee members were reimbursed a total of £2,943.65 for costs incurred.

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

EQUIPMENT	2023	2022
	£	£
COST		
At 1 January	469	469
At 31 December	469	469
DEPRECIATION		
At 1 January	409	292
Charge for year	60	117
At 31 December	469	409
NET BOOK VALUE		
At 31 December	-	60

7. DEBTORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	6,654	2,563
Other debtors	3,563	913
	10,217	3,476

8. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There were no post balance sheet events.

RSPCA Surrey Inspectorate Team - Annual Report 2023

The Surrey team was delighted to welcome Inspector Lauren Evans back from her maternity leave in August. Having spent many, no doubt, exhausting months looking after her new twins (Emilia and Kobe), returning to work was probably something of a rest for Lauren! On a similar note, Inspector Nat Kitchin spent 2023 on maternity leave following the birth of baby Sofia back in January. We all look forward to welcoming Nat back into the team in 2024.

Congratulations to Deputy Chief Inspector Sandy Barlow who successfully completed her Team Leader / Supervisor apprenticeship in 2023 - well done Sandy, there was a great deal of work and effort involved in achieving that qualification.

We have continued to increase the number of Animal Rescue Volunteers in the team and we now have 10 active ARVs. The work that ARVs can take on is increasing all the time. ARVs deal with some of the less 'complex' collections / rescues e.g. collecting injured small wildlife such as birds and hedgehogs, or attending cats stuck up trees with the Fire & Rescue Service. They also assist with the movement of domestic animals (e.g. assisting officers with transporting domestic animals to vets). Some of our ARVs have also helped with essential kit movements (such as. transporting our issued life jackets for annual testing).

A couple of particularly good examples of ARV involvement this year were:

- Several ARVs assisted Inspectorate officers with a large police operation involving the removal of multiple animals from a houseboat in Shepperton (including dogs, cats and birds of prey). The animals were living in squalid conditions and the Police conducted the ongoing investigation.
- A couple of our ARVs also assisted ARO Louis Horton with the collection and removal of multiple fish from a leaking garden pond where the water levels were dropping dangerously low.

All of this work frees up our Inspectorate officers to focus on their core work of knocking on doors and dealing with complaints of neglect and cruelty. On behalf of the team, I would like to thank our ARVs for all of the hard work they have put in in 2023.

On a very sad note, we were all extremely upset to hear the news that former Surrey Chief Inspector Dave Fox had died towards the end of the year. Dave was the Surrey Chief for many years and the news of his death was a great shock to all of us and we continue to extend our sincere condolences to all of Dave's family. Dave was a unique character and personality, and he will be very sadly missed by all of his RSPCA colleagues.

Case & significant complaint work in 2023

Surrey Inspectors submitted 13 case files to our Prosecution team in 2023 for their consideration. Some of those case files were dealt with by way of a Caution, others were heard in the courts. Here is a selection of just some of those files which have been concluded:



In November 2023 Insp Lauren Evans investigated the neglect of an emaciated saluki dog 'Albert' being kept in the Guildford area. A veterinary surgeon confirmed that Albert had not had his needs met in terms of being provided with a suitable diet, and the owner was interviewed. The owner agreed to sign Albert over to the RSPCA and also agreed to accept a Caution. Albert, who was found to also have significant liver issues, was subsequently cared for at RSPCA Millbrook Animal Centre. Happily, he has now fully recovered and is ready to be rehomed once a suitable new owner can be found.

Insp Liz Wheeler investigated the neglect of a Lhasa Apso dog 'Betty' which was found to be underweight and to have skin issues. It was clear that the owner could not look after this little dog, but the owner did not accept this and refused to sign Betty over into our care. Happily the Magistrates agreed that Betty's owner was unable to care for her properly, and Betty was removed from the owner and handed over to the care of the RSPCA. Betty has since been rehomed.



In late 2022, Insp Natalie Kitchin dealt with a case concerning an emaciated dog in Mitcham with an untreated mammary tumour. In March 2023, the owner pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering. The owner was given a community order for a 12 month period, with 100 hours of unpaid work. The owner was also disqualified from owning / keeping all animals for a period of 5 years and instructed to pay costs of £500. Very sadly the dog had to be euthanased.

In February 2023, Insp Sandy Barlow secured a Caution for a couple from Feltham re their four German Shepherd dogs (two adults and two puppies). All four dogs were significantly underweight, and the couple accepted that they had failed to provide a suitable diet and also had failed to protect the dogs from pain, injury and disease. The dogs were signed over and were put up for rehoming.

There are several other ongoing cases which are currently awaiting court hearings and which I therefore cannot detail here currently. I will report further on those in the next Annual Report.

Several of my officers have investigated 'Non-Accidental Injury' cases, i.e. causing deliberate harm and injury to animals. Some of those investigations are also ongoing. Sadly, there has been a significant increase in these types of investigation, which is very concerning. These incidents can be distressing for my officers, and I would like to thank all of them for their professionalism and resilience when dealing with these.

Not all serious investigations turn into prosecution cases. For various reasons, there are some that we are unable to pursue further and some where we work with the owners to improve the situation.



A team effort was needed to secure a brighter future for 14 adult cats and 12 kittens which had all been living in one room in a flat in Epsom. This incident was attended by Inspector Liz Wheeler and ARO Chloe Wilson. Whilst the situation was clearly far from ideal, the owner agreed to sign over all of the cats and, with the help of the Guildford & Epsom branch, the Hants & Surrey Border branch and the Sussex North & Brighton branch all of the cats went on to find new homes. A great example of 'partnership' working.

A 2-year old Cane Corso dog was found dumped in Godalming in a very poor body condition. ARO Chloe Wilson attended and took the dog straight to the vet. The vet gave the poor dog a 'body score' of just 1 out of 9 (meaning emaciated). The dog was microchipped, but unfortunately the chip was still registered to the breeder and not the new owner. All attempts at tracking the owner down proved fruitless and this dog, named Shilou, was subsequently rehomed.



Collections & Rescues in 2023

Surrey officers have continued to deal with all manner of animal rescues. Here are some of the more unusual or complicated ones:



Animal Rescue Officers Chloe Wilson and Sam Matthews went to the aid of this sheep in Brighton which had the misfortune to fall into a hole from which it could not get out. A passing rambler had discovered the stricken ewe. Once successfully removed, Sam and Chloe managed to track down the farmer who came and collected her to take back to the farm for observation. She recovered well and was able to rejoin her flock.



AROs Chloe Horton and Louis Horton rescued a large fallow Buck completely entangled in wire fencing in the Horsham area. Happily the deer was able to be released. Animals tangled in fencing / netting is not unusual, but not all of them are so well and truly stuck as this particular deer found itself.



This poor fox got himself stuck inside a spare wheel in the New Malden area. ARO Sam Matthews was unable to release the fox in situ, and so took both fox and wheel to Wildlife Aid, Leatherhead. The fox was sedated and later released. Another good example of 'partnership' working.



A further example of a wild animal's ability to get themselves trapped. This badger fell down a manhole at a school in the Farnham area and could not get out. ARO Ben Fitzcosta attended and managed to extricate the poor animal. After a quick check-up at another of our partner wildlife centres, HART Wildlife in Alton, Ben was able to release the badger back at the location none the worse for wear.



It's not just our four-footed friends who have the capacity to get themselves into predicaments. This red kite was discovered tangled in football netting in the Wokingham area. Insp Jo Bowling attended and was able to cut the bird free and release it.

A good reminder to ensure all loose netting / fencing is secured to protect our wildlife.



A final example, which also highlights the ingenuity officers sometimes have to display when dealing with incidents. This deer had got himself wedged between a tree and a fence in the Bisley area. Unable to release him by hand, Inspectors Leanna Hone and Jo Bowling employed the use of their vehicle car jack to push the fence slightly outwards and to therefore create enough space for the deer to be freed unharmed.

Thank you's

As always, I would like to thank all of our 'partner' organisations who have continued to assist us in working for animals. This includes local Police, Fire & Rescue, vets, local authorities and other animal charities / wildlife rescues. It is amazing and encouraging that so many different agencies work together for the same cause.

I would also like to express my particular gratitude, on behalf of the whole Surrey team, to all of our local Branches for their help and support during 2023. It really is a team effort and we have continued to work closely with all of them throughout the year. Whether it be assisting with veterinary invoices, funding wildlife treatment, arranging boarding or taking on and rehoming animals, we could not have done all of the things we have done this year to alleviate animal suffering and improve welfare without the assistance of all of the Branches we work alongside.

Thank you to all,

Rob Jackson

Chief Inspector, Surrey

SUCCESSES IN THE YEAR - some of the animals we helped in 2023



Ivy (the grey and white rabbit in the picture to the left) came to us from an overcrowding situation. She was originally with another rabbit who was thought to be a girl but turned out to be a boy! She was only discovered to be pregnant during her spay. In a special moment for experienced volunteer Jackie, Ivy gave birth whilst she was in her foster care. She had two babies; Dora (the white rabbit in the picture) being one and another who sadly had a leg abnormality whereby the vet recommended euthanasia.



It is not so common to have a bond of 2 female rabbits, but this mother and daughter pair are very happy together. Bonding rabbits can be a risky business and it is best to wait until after the hormonal changes of a neuter have had time to settle. However December 2023 saw a Christmas Rabbit Romance at fosterer Humeera's when her two separate foster buns got together by accident and decided they wanted to stay together! The happy couple, Smudge and Winnie (pictured right), are now looking for their forever home.



We took in 5 mice from a nationwide appeal to help with hundreds of mice signed over to RSPCA officers from Wales. We named the pretty females Freya, Anna, Astrid, Frida and Agnatha. They were very shy, timid and not well handled to begin with, but in fosterer Alison's caring hands, they were soon won over and became quite tame and happy to be picked up.

All of them were successfully adopted.

SUCCESSES IN THE YEAR - some of the animals we helped in 2023

Mini Rex rabbit Hazel came to us from a neglected and overpopulated home. She was very timid and scared at first, probably because she had not been regularly handled and socialised. We are delighted that since then she has been successfully adopted.





Freya came into RSPCA care after being found as a stray in a garden; skinny, scared and flea ridden. She was taken to a local vet where they treated her flea and worm burden and advised she'd possibly had kittens recently so checked her for mastitis. Alex and Tim took her into foster care in September and provided the perfect space for her to gain her confidence. She was adopted in November, renamed “Willow” and after a lot of love, care and patience, has emerged from her shyness to meet Rambo, the adopters large black and white cat. They are now playing together, chasing one another around her new home, loving chin scratches and eating treats galore!



Pumpkin (hiding). This handsome lad was an injured stray who was understandably nervous, and with terrible toileting habits to begin with, but soon settled down with experienced fosterer Lisa. He has since found his forever home.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANC

England & Wales - Charity number 203608

Accounts

RSPCA GUILDFORD and EPSOM BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT 2022

There is one crucial thing we rely on - the dedication of our volunteers. Here are just a few of the ways our amazing volunteers made a difference

Half marathon runs



Plant sales



Huge thanks go to Trasna and Lorna who have brought in around £1,000 this year from making and selling catnip mice and dog beds, plus sales of donated items through local neighbourhood selling pages.



It's a labour of love, with each mouse taking about an hour to create, and Lorna has made well over a thousand since she started.



Right: Trasna with her dogs and dog bed



To the left we see mice expert Dave quality assurance checking the mice for us!

On the right are Betty's knitted blankets and cushions for our stray cats, so they had something that smelled familiar to them, to take to their adopters home.



The RSPCA is the world's oldest and largest animal welfare charity, with much of its direct animal welfare work being carried out through its branches.

The Epsom and Guildford Branch was formed in 2019 after the Guildford and District Branch merged with the Surrey Epsom and District branch. Both branches were in existence for many years before that. Like all RSPCA branches, we work closely with the national Society to deliver its animal welfare aims and strategy, and we operate at a local level offering advice, microchipping, and help towards neutering and veterinary treatments, as well as rehabilitating and rehoming animals in our care through fosterers and private boarding establishments.

OUR VISION

We support the vision of the national Society which is to live in a world where all animals are respected and treated with kindness and compassion. We believe that

- all animals deserve a good life
- animals' lives are important in themselves
- animals have emotions, feelings and needs
- animals enrich and improve our lives
- all of us can and should help to make animals' lives better

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

COMPLAINTS AND ADVICE

Anyone suspecting cruelty or mistreatment to animals should report the incident to the RSPCA by contacting the Cruelty Line via www.rspca.org.uk/reportcruelty or telephoning 0300 1234 999. All calls are dealt with in the strictest confidence.

BRANCH CONTACT DETAILS

Telephone 07906 924002
Email info@rspcaguildfordepsom.org.uk

However, if your enquiry is related to volunteering please contact:

volunteer@rspcaguildfordepsom.org.uk

If you are looking to adopt from us please contact:

rehoming@rspcaguildfordepsom.org.uk

Facebook www.facebook.com/rspcaguildfordepsom
Website www.rspcaguildfordepsom.org.uk

LOCAL ANIMAL CENTRE
RSPCA Millbrook Animal Centre
Guildford Road
Chobham, Surrey
GU24 8EH
Tel: 0300 123 0740
Email millbrook@rspca.org.uk

Animal viewings and introductions by appointment only.

CHIEF INSPECTOR
Chief Inspector Rob Jackson
RSPCA Millbrook Animal Centre
Guildford Road, Chobham, Surrey
GU24 8EH

SENIOR BRANCH PARTNERSHIP MANAGER
Sarah Piggott
Email supportercare@rspca.org.uk

POSTCODES COVERED BY THE BRANCH

GU1 1, GU1 2, GU1 3, GU1 4, GU2 4, GU2 5, GU2 6, GU2 7, GU2 8, GU2 9, GU3 1, GU4 7, GU4 8, GU5 0, GU5 9, GU6 7, GU6 8, GU7 1, GU7 2, GU7 3, GU8 4, GU8

KT4 9, KT9 1, KT9 2, KT9 9, KT17 1, KT17 2, KT17 3, KT17 4, KT17 6, KT17 9, KT18 5, KT18 6, KT18 7, KT19 0, KT19 7, KT19 8, KT19 9, KT20 5, KT20 6, KT20 7, KT20 9, KT21 1, KT21 2, KT22 0, KT22 2, KT22 7, KT22 8, KT22 9, KT23 3, KT23 4, KT24 5, KT24 6, KT24 7

SM7 1, SM7 2, SM7 3

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Trustees' report

1 Reference and administration details

2 Introduction by the Chair

3 Structure, governance and management

4 Objectives and activities

5 Achievements and performance

6 Financial review

7 Plans for the future

Financial statements

Inspectorate report

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR WORK - here we showcase **our work with abandoned animals**

Bea is a large white albino female rabbit, originally purchased from Pets at Home. She was with the Branch for over a year due to her significant dental issues.

When she first arrived she had a large abscess on the side of her mouth, which we treated with surgery and antibiotics. Her incisors were fine but her molars, at the bottom on one side and at the top on the other side grew spurs which cut into her mouth and tongue leading to the potential for abscesses. To prevent this happening she needed to have her teeth burred down every 10 to 12 weeks necessitating a general anaesthetic and a day's stay at the vet. There is obviously a significant cost with this. Bea herself became very used to this process and remarkably calm about it. The vet advised that her dental condition is likely to be lifelong.

Apart from the dental issues Bea was very healthy and really enjoys her food. She is a really lovely, friendly girl who loves a head rub and lots of attention, so we wanted to do our best for her and find the right forever home. And we did! She now lives happily with her partner bun Norman!



We had a lovely note from Bea's adopter: *"Just a little update on Bea - she's doing fantastically well, and is inseparable from Norman. Norman has lost a bit of weight, since she likes running a lot and he doesn't want to miss out on anything!*

What's even better is that he has taught Bea to like hay! He spends hours munching hay, and in the beginning she just joined him for the company, but now she's happily munching on hay as well. This means that we haven't needed to take her to the vet for her molars yet. She's such a friendly and funny rabbit."

Hearing happy endings like that really helps motivate all the volunteers involved.

1. Reference and administration details

Charity Name	The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Guildford and Epsom Branch
Other names charity is known by	RSPCA Guildford and Epsom Branch
Registered charity number	203608
Charity's principal addresses	The Branch does not have an address for members of the public to visit but can be contacted via email or telephone.
Charity's principal bankers	Lloyds Bank plc
Independent examiner	Jim Halliday FCA – Chartered Accountant

Names of the trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
Judith Crowhurst*		Retired 28 February 2022
Rebecca Greaves		Resigned 2 March 2022
Steven Hooke	Hon. Treasurer	
Abbi Moore*		
Cat Pilbeam		
Lucy Pollard	Hon. Chair	
Katrina Tully	Hon. Secretary	
Sarah White		
Ann Winter		

*Judith and Abbi are employed by the RSPCA national Society. We obtained its approval before co-opting them as trustees, as required by branch rule 7.4.

Other support provided by

Sarah Piggott	Senior Branch Partnership Manager	
Trasna Palmer	President	

2. Introduction by the Chair

2022 was one of the busiest years I can remember in my 20 odd years as a trustee. The number of welfare assistance calls and the complexity of juggling need against limited boarding and veterinary resources gave rise to an increased demand on the committee's time, and our finances.

Sadly we had both a Trustee resignation and a retirement early in the year, so the level of committee resource was reduced as we have not yet managed to recruit any new volunteer trustees. But Judith well deserves to reduce her responsibilities - she has been a dedicated part of the committee, serving in several roles over the last 25 years. She should look back on all that she achieved for local animal welfare with pride, and on behalf of all the committee I'd like to express our thanks for her thoroughness, diligence and constructive challenge. I'm delighted to say that she continues to support us with membership administration and some of our data governance in a non trustee capacity.

The level of welfare assistance we gave continued the upward trend we have seen in the last five years. As I wrote in the 2021 report, we are seeing the fall out of a huge rise in pet ownership during the recent pandemic, coupled with a loss of vet staff. This puts an enormous strain on both the cost of, and the availability of treatment. It can take many weeks to get an animal coming into our care neutered and vaccinated, which limits the places that can take it into their facilities.

We are seeing an increasing number of requests for assistance towards very costly veterinary treatments, where the owner simply cannot afford the bill. In many instances the owners could have made better provision towards this when they took the decision to own an animal. For example, ensuring they had some money aside to cover potential additional costs or taking out insurance. We will continue to educate owners about actions they can take to prevent tragic and avoidable illnesses. Where we can, we are trying to support owners with vet costs so that they can keep their animal through temporary financial difficulties, rather than give them up.

Some owners are struggling to afford food for their beloved pets. Inspired by the vital support provided by food banks, we have been working with the Hive in Guildford to provide them with pet food donated by kind-hearted members of the public, and our colleagues in the RSPCA Wimbledon Branch are kindly passing on any surplus dog food donations to the Ewell food bank. We would love to get local supermarkets to include pet food donation points in-store to increase the number of pets that can be helped in this way. At the same time, we are signposting people in crisis to get the support they need.

All of these activities need volunteers and donors to undertake them or to raise the funds for them. We have been working with the national Society on a number of different projects and initiatives to make sure the branch network is sustainable for the future, with modernised governance and better technology and tools. Our hope is that these changes will enable us to grow our supporter and volunteer base, and in doing so deliver even more animal welfare in the local area.

I hope the volunteer stories you see in this year's annual report inspire and cheer you - they truly have made a huge difference to animals in need. I would like to express my thanks to them for their support and generosity, in whatever form they helped us care.



Lucy Pollard, Chair

3. Structure, governance, and management

How the charity is constituted	We are a separately registered charity, constituted as an unincorporated association, working within the Rules, Policies and Guidelines of the national RSPCA. Our governing document is the RSPCA Society's Branch Rules. The charity operates as an autonomous branch, responsible for our own fundraising and for managing local animal welfare work.
Trustee selection methods	The committee consists of a maximum of 17 individuals, being: (1) at least 5 and not more than 14 elected committee members, all of whom must be eligible branch members, elected at the AGM and (2) up to 3 co-opted committee members, who may also be branch members.
How trustees are recruited and appointed	Elected from branch members at every AGM to carry on the Branch work for the forthcoming year. Potential trustees are recruited via various methods including volunteer agencies, RSPCA websites and Head Office enquiries, advertising and appeals to members. Potential new trustees are vetted in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines and sign the recommended declarations upon appointment.
Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	All trustees are briefed on their responsibilities prior to their acceptance of the role. New trustees receive appropriate training in RSPCA and Branch Policies and Procedures, in line with Information Commissioner's Office and Charity Commission guidance. They also receive support from other trustees, guidance from Head Office and Branch Partnership Managers and handover from retiring officers if applicable.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Some services such as those of the inspectorate are carried out by the national Society whereas others are carried out by a network of branches which are independently registered charities operating in defined local areas. Our branch is the Guildford and Epsom branch, which is a member of the South East Regional Board area. All the work of the Branch is carried out by volunteers, so we have no paid staff. Decisions are made by the trustees at committee meetings, usually held every 4 to 6 weeks. The Branch works with Head Office staff, the Inspectorate, Millbrook and other branches and animal centres in its day-to-day work.
Trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them	The main risks facing the Branch are: **People**. We continue to have difficulties in finding volunteers willing to act as trustees and carry out welfare and fundraising work. We use volunteer recruitment bureaux and other methods as described above to publicise our requirements. **Financial**. Income generation is vital for us to continue our work. Despite pressing need, we must evaluate what we can afford to fund. Insufficient income levels mean that we will have to reduce or cease welfare activity to remain a viable branch. New demands and requests for funding are a key discussion item at every committee meeting. Spending is controlled through delegated limits and required approvals. Levels of pet ownership grew during the pandemic, and whilst owning a pet is a great boost to both mental and physical health it also comes with a substantial financial responsibility, which places additional pressure on charities whose income has been significantly impacted during the same period. Yet again we are seeing that the vets we work with are struggling with significant shortages in staff set against a huge and growing demand for

	appointments. This impacts our ability to negotiate on price and may mean that non urgent procedures such as neuters are delayed. Longer term, we expect this to lead to more unwanted litters and conditions that require emergency treatment such as tumours that are hormone related. **Public opinion**. The RSPCA is a well-known and respected "brand", and we must ensure that we do not tarnish it. Mitigating activities include screening/induction of volunteers, together with appropriate training (e.g. adoption support volunteers must attend a course followed by one to one support). For trustees there is ongoing learning and instruction (specifically on their responsibilities as branch officials), and potential conflicts of interest are discussed at every meeting. **Health and Safety.** We have a duty to take reasonable care of our volunteers' health and safety and that of others who may be affected by our actions. Safeguarding matters are reviewed at every meeting. All volunteers are covered by the RSPCA's liability and personal accident insurance and are provided with appropriate information on our health and safety policies and guidelines. The committee has identified and evaluated risks affecting the Branch and has set in place policies and procedures based on guidelines issued by RSPCA Head Office and the Charity Commission to mitigate the risks where possible. The operation and relevance of these policies and procedures is reviewed regularly. The Branch complies with the Branch Rules as issued by the national Society and has a number of related financial transactions with this organisation. Judith Crowhurst and Abbi Moore are also paid employees of the RSPCA (national Society).

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR WORK - here we showcase **our rehabilitation work**



A vet contacted us with concerns over the welfare of this beautiful cat, who was being shut out of the family home because of unwanted behaviour and child allergy.

Prince was showing unpredictable behaviour and had attacked his carers, unprovoked. He spent many months with our trustee Cat Pilbeam who is an experienced cat fosterer to see if he could be helped. Cat told us *"I discovered he had major trust issues and would prefer to attack then retreat if he felt unsure about things. He was a very confident cat and seeking human interaction, but wasn't keen on hands or being touched.*

Play was really important to him, so using feather teasers on a wand, I started interacting via play, which helped him release aggression and burn some energy. He could play for a good 20 minutes and after every play session I followed up with some positive association in the way of treats. I then slowly worked on touch. Prince was allowed to touch me but I never actively tried to touch him.

I spent hours with him, sitting quietly, talking softly to him. He always sat close by or occasionally got on my knee. Then I introduced a long handled brush, I would groom him with this. Also, when he was eating he would allow me to stroke him. Which again is positive association with touch. Slowly he was learning to trust, we had to move slowly but I was confident he was able to be rehomed".

Prince found a wonderful home, with experienced cat people, who were willing to continue his training. He has been a very good boy ever since.

4. Objectives and activities

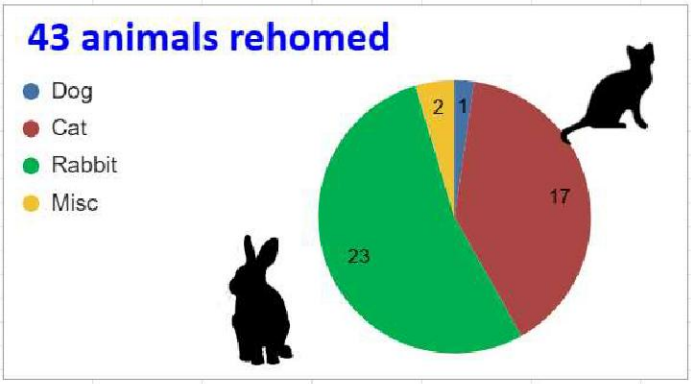
Summary of the objectives of the charity set out in its governing document	To promote the work and objectives of the national Society Royal Society for The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (registered charity number 219099), with particular reference to the area of the Branch, in accordance with the policies of the society. The objectives of the Branch remain unchanged from previous years.
Charity's aim	The RSPCA as a charity will, by all lawful means, prevent cruelty, promote kindness to and alleviate suffering of all animals.
Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects	The Branch promotes animal welfare in the local area primarily through veterinary assistance, neutering and rehoming. • We offer discretionary support to people in need to help pay veterinary bills. • We respond to enquiries from the public about animals and offer free animal care advice by phone, social media, via leaflets and at our events, which promotes responsible pet ownership. • Where funds permit, the Branch takes in abandoned animals, including pets whose owners suffer ill health or financial difficulties, or pass away. We also support the national RSPCA by caring for animals taken in by the Inspectorate if there is no space at the national animal centres. • We continue to support the Inspectorate as a priority. • We undertake educational presentations and workshops with local groups and schools. More detail on our activities can be found in section 5 below.

5. Achievements and performance

A. Animal Welfare

Rehoming, adoption support and fostering

The RSPCA rehomes animals to people who can meet the needs of a companion animal in an appropriate environment.



Most rehoming in the local area is done by Millbrook Animal Centre, which is the nearest RSPCA animal centre to the Branch. The Branch also has space in foster homes and private boarding establishments for cats and rabbits who have been found abandoned or stray or have been taken in via the RSPCA Inspectorate when there is no room for them in an Animal Centre. They are cared for and rehabilitated, while we search for loving new homes. There are few dogs mentioned in our reports because we do not have the facilities or expertise to take them into our direct care and use other RSPCA branches and animal centres or other rescue organisations wherever possible. Animals in our care receive veterinary treatment, vaccinations, neutering and microchipping. Flea and other parasite treatments are kept up to date. This helps to control the incidence and spread of disease and suffering.

During the year we rehomed 43 animals that came into our care. In addition to this, we took on responsibility for a number of other animals before finding them places in RSPCA animal centres. We advertise animals for rehoming on our branch website and Facebook page, as well as the national Society's main website; allowing us to reach a larger audience of prospective adopters. We are finding more and more often that all our facilities are completely full, yet it is so important that we can take in animals in need and give them a chance of a loving home.

Our animals can be loud, quiet, big, small, or three-legged - they all come with a personality and a past that's unique to them and it's our mission to find the perfect adopter to match them with. We support rehoming activity by recruiting and providing volunteers who undertake home suitability assessments as part of adoption support. Their role is to understand each animal's need (for space, stimulation, safety etc) and ensure that what potential adopters can provide matches these needs. They then follow up with the adopter later to ensure that the adoption has been a success. We now mostly undertake this support via video/phone calls rather than in person visits.

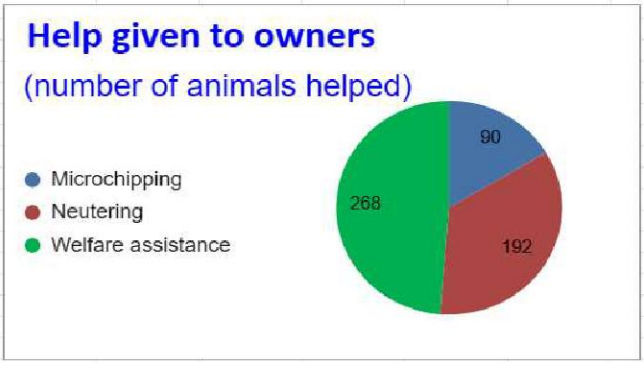
We carried out 43 adoption visits in 2022 (compared with 22 in 2021).

We have cat fosterers who give the special care and attention that is often much easier to provide in a foster home than in a cattery. If we have spaces in this preferred home environment, we can socialise and nurture cats meaning that they are more quickly restored to good health and able to be rehomed earlier. We are extremely keen to find other potential fosterers including cat and kitten fosterers, who will have support from our co-ordinator. This reduces the costs of boarding overall.

Our main rabbit fosterer has outdoor accommodation and has provided a great resource for the branch, the Inspectorate, and wider RSPCA needs by taking in rabbits to full capacity. Our indoor rabbit fosterers obviously have more limited capacity but provide an essential environment to those rabbits that cannot be housed outdoors - especially in the colder months. All of our fosterers have been invaluable in their work to rehabilitate rabbits in their care and progress them to rehoming with wonderful new forever homes.

Welfare assistance

We provide support to people in need to help pay their vet bills. The service is offered in certain circumstances to assist with difficulties experienced by pet owners faced with veterinary costs which they will struggle to meet. This helps to promote responsible pet ownership, prevent suffering, and reduce the numbers of unwanted cats, dogs, and rabbits.



We assisted 268 animals in this way in 2022 (276 in 2021). We also helped with the neutering of 192 animals (147 in the prior year). 139 of these were cats where we offered subsidised neutering to owners under our World Spay Day initiative.

We had 77 animals in our care during the year and we have paid for all their necessary treatments. Our thanks go to the veterinary community for their invaluable help throughout the year.

We also paid Wildlife Aid in Leatherhead for the care of 92 animals including hedgehogs, badgers, foxes, bats, pigeons, owls, and ducklings (which was the same number as in the previous year). These cases originated in our branch area and were taken there by the Inspectorate.

Supporting the Inspectorate

The Branch continued to support the Inspectorate in their vital and sometimes distressing work. We do this through fostering or boarding and paying for veterinary treatment for animals signed over to the RSPCA. We also provide welfare assistance for veterinary treatment and neutering where the Inspectors find owners in need. We provided a dog bed and toys for staff to give out to cases in need and paid for flea and worm

treatment supplies to be held in their vans (helping owners improve care and keep their pets). The Inspectorate report is in a later section of the Annual Report.

Other welfare activities

We take in, free of charge, lost animals and take steps to reunite them with owners. This work benefits our local community (including local authorities) by preventing animals from straying and posing a risk to themselves and to people through road accidents. We respond to enquiries from the public about animals in the Branch area. The public benefits by knowing that we can and will intervene to assist animals in need.

Microchipping continues to help return missing animals to their relieved and delighted owners. We advertised a number of lost and found pets through the year but the care of unidentifiable, stray animals adds significantly to our work. Microchipped pets where contact details are kept up to date are easily reunited with their families, avoiding heartache for the owners and costs for the RSPCA.

For many years it has been the law that you must have your dog microchipped and your details kept up to date. We welcome the recent new legal requirement (in force from 2024) for cat owners to microchip their cats before 20 weeks old and to ensure their contact details are kept up to date in a pet microchipping database. This new law means that more lost cats can be easily identified and reunited with their owners, rather than being handed to rehoming charities like ourselves that are struggling with overflowing waiting lists. We believe all cats, dogs and rabbits should be chipped to ensure that a pet can be reunited with their owner, and to aid this we will pay for chipping where required. We microchipped 105 animals in 2022, compared to 82 in 2021.

B. Education

Education events

We engage children in educational activities at our fundraising events; for example they played spin the wheel for an animal welfare quiz at Ewhurst Parish Fair.

Unfortunately we had no success in engaging with local primary schools to deliver our educational events this year. This is disappointing as we have several trained volunteers and we want everyone to understand that – whatever their age or circumstances – they have the power to change animal welfare for the better. By understanding the causes of neglect or cruelty, we can prevent them from happening in the first place. Our events look at the work of the RSPCA, the welfare needs of animals and the action young people can take to help them at home, at school and in the local community. They are tailored to the audience following consultation with their teachers/youth leaders. We hope to seek new ways to engage with the primary schools to secure invitations in the future.

RSPCA Head Office have online educational facilities which we have promoted on our social media sites. Our welfare line operated throughout the year and provided advice to the general public to help with pets, wildlife, and farm animals.

Social media

Our social media content can be found at www.facebook.com/rspcaguildfordepsom and www.rspcaguildfordepsom.org.uk. You can see more about the Branch trustees and our work, find out about our welfare services, and learn about forthcoming campaigns and events. You can also obtain useful help and advice and contact us via these links.

Other educational activities

We continued to heavily publicise and support World Spay Day and Early Neutering Awareness by running a social media campaign to offer low-cost cat neutering and free microchipping for both male and female cats in the Branch area.

We continue to support Rabbit Awareness Week (RAW) promotions. In 2022 we carried on the previous initiative focussed on getting rabbits vaccinated against the deadly RHD2 disease. The virus causes internal

bleeding and is highly contagious. There is no specific treatment, which makes vaccination essential. Alongside the education campaign we offered subsidised vaccines in the branch area.

C. Fundraising

Fundraising events and activities

Our traditional fundraising events were impacted by Covid and its aftermath to a lesser extent than the previous year, as demonstrated by the table below. I am glad to report that as at the time of writing we have a full calendar of events planned for 2023, and are looking forward to chatting to the public about our work, and the animals we have available for rehoming.

Event type	**2022**	2021
Town centre collections	**Nil**	Nil
Store collections	**Nil**	Nil
Fetes and local fairs	**601**	Nil
Car Boot sales	**162**	124.50

We are so grateful that in addition to the events run by the branch, individual supporters continued to pursue their own fundraising activities and raised close to £1,000 in the year. As shown on our front cover the catnip mice knitted by one of our kind adopters were very popular! Several members of the committee had success selling second-hand items through social media or at vintage fairs/car boot/table top sales. Propagated indoor plants were sold via Facebook Marketplace, bringing in some extra pounds, and in the previous year someone sold their car through GiveaCar which donates all the sale value to charity.

The money raised by these activities is disclosed in the accounts against the following categories: Sales of New and Donated Goods, Branch Fundraising Events and Other Donations. However, Other Donations includes monies raised online as well as at events. Examples of our online receipts are being part of the Guildford Community Lottery and fundraising platforms such as Easyfundraising and Paypal, as well as donations made via our website.

Further details of how we use our income to help local animals can be found in section 5A.

Collection boxes

We would like to have more boxes out in the local area and continue to look for people to manage these boxes; recruits do not need to be branch members although we would encourage them to join our membership. In particular we would like to increase the number of collection boxes in Epsom and the surrounding areas. We would welcome suggestions for new locations and for people to manage collection boxes in the enlarged branch area.

D. Public benefit

Our objectives and activities are outlined in section 4 of this report. Performance against those objectives is detailed above. Our current short term and long-term aims can be found in section 7 of this report.

The trustees have reviewed the outcomes and achievements of our objectives and activities for the year to ensure they remain focussed on our charitable aims and continue to deliver benefits to the public. We have complied with the duty under the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

6. Financial Review

Overview

Overall expenditure in 2022 was down £13,107 to £71,407 compared to £84,514 in 2021. The reduction in expenditure reflects lower levels of donations made by the Branch in the current year that have been partially offset by increased animal welfare activities and the impact of inflation on the Branch's costs, especially the increased cost of veterinary treatments.

The percentage of total expenditure spent in the branch area on animal welfare has increased from 71% in 2021 to 88% in 2022. This reflects the lower levels of donations outside of the branch area in the current year (2021 included a £20,000 donation to RSPCA Canterbury and District Branch for increased cat pen capacity).

Income was £60,787 in 2022, down £3,879 compared to the £64,666 in the prior year. The fall in income is mainly due to the inclusion of a refund of donations from the Branch Emergency Fund of £5,561 in 2021. Adoption fee income increased in 2022 to £3,215 from £1,435 in 2021 as rehoming activities increased following the lifting of all Covid-19 restrictions that had impacted part of the prior year. The branch share of direct debit donations raised by the RSPCA HQ door to door fundraising campaign, which amounted to £46,436 in 2022 makes up 76% of the income in the current year (2021: £48,268 and 75%).

Overall, there was a net deficit for the year of £10,620 compared to a deficit of £19,848 in 2021. The Branch continues to hold significant reserves but aims to reduce these in line with the policy as described below.

The full accounts are provided later within the Annual Report.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Reserves are those funds which are freely available for general purposes and have not been designated for specific projects or activities.

The Trustees have recently reviewed the reserves policy. Having considered the experience of the Covid pandemic and the current inflationary pressures facing the Branch (e.g. the increasing costs of veterinary treatments), the Trustees have decided to continue to hold general reserves to a level that, should all income cease, there would be sufficient funds in hand to run the Branch for approximately 24 months (previously 12 months). Based on this measure the Branch currently has excess reserves. The Trustees aim to reduce reserves over time by targeting increased levels of annual expenditure on activities or donations that further the animal welfare aims of the Branch.

The Branch invests surplus funds in capital-safe bank and deposit-based savings accounts where the deposits are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).

7. Plans for the future

Aims and objectives for the future	Our overriding aim is to continue to provide and promote animal welfare for the local area by providing financial assistance for those on low incomes, continuing with our fostering and rehoming work to ensure a healthy and happy lifestyle for adopted animals, and to support the national Society. In January 2021 the committee agreed our short and medium-term priorities and we aligned our goals with the new RSPCA strategy. Our main area of focus is to increase animal welfare across the Region by continuing and extending collaboration with other branches and organisations and supporting more people with animals in need. This is dependent upon and supported by 4 additional pillars: ● People ● Revenue Generation ● Strong Governance ● Public Engagement The 2019 merger still presents significant challenges to deliver this welfare work across the wider geographical area, as most of the volunteer resources came from the Guildford branch area. Consequently, volunteer recruitment is a key objective. Meanwhile we have plans to incrementally expand and consolidate existing activities across the wider area. Financial sustainability is primarily about revenue generation and spending control to fund the welfare work that we do. Our goal is to ensure the Branch remains in existence for (many) years to come. We review the best sources of income in order to best target our limited volunteer resources. The Plan is reviewed regularly and adapted to reflect changing circumstances and priorities.
Activities planned to achieve the objectives	
1. People	● Expand and effectively manage, utilise, and retain our volunteer network and membership ● Define clear roles and responsibility for trustee and volunteer roles with a focus on succession planning
2. Revenue Generation	● Set up a fundraising working group to provide a dedicated focus on revenue generation ideas ● Develop a compelling fundraising plan (including an emphasis on digital) to rely less on door-to-door income ● Empower and engage members and volunteers to spread our messages and support fundraising efforts ● Diversify income generation by exploring alternative revenue streams

3. Strong Governance	• Continue our robust approach to managing and refreshing policies, procedures, and processes • Foster stronger connectivity, sharing, and leverage of best practices across the Branch Network
4. Public Engagement	• Build & enhance positive relationships with the public & our communities, including amplifying national RSPCA advocacy areas • Build our existing and/or adopt new digital channels to communicate branch activities and successes • Analyse 'Audience Profile' for each message/campaign/activity to ensure we're targeting the right demographic

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR WORK - here we showcase **our rehoming work**



Poppy found her new furever home in 2022 but it takes great teamwork to bring an animal into our care, assess them and care for them before finding an adopter.

In this particular case, our welfare assistance contact, Ann, had all the initial conversations with the struggling owner and arranged (over several difficult weeks) what had to be done to sign Poppy over to us. Our driver Steven handled the sign-over and collected Poppy, then settled her in at the fosterers and shopped for her food.

Rene kindly fostered and cared for Poppy, sending us photos and updates on her personality and likes and dislikes so we could work out what sort of adopter would be a perfect match for her. Our media volunteer Abbi promoted Poppy on Facebook using those photos.

Chair, Lucy, supported Rene and carried out the final adoption meeting after trustee Cat reviewed adoption applications and considered the best fit for Poppy. Cat also fed back to all the applicants, did a home visit check, arranged the meet and greet, and had a post adoption follow-up with the adopter. Finally, trustee Katrina helped with the admin; preparing adoption paperwork and medical history, advertising Poppy on Find A Pet, as well as the microchip transfers.

We were thrilled to get a picture from Poppy's new owner, showing her curled up on her lap the very same evening she was adopted!

Declaration

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

Lucy Pollard. Hon. Chair **Date 30 May 2023**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF R.S.P.C.A. GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH

I report on the accounts of the Charity (Registered Charity number 203608) for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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 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.

JIM HALLIDAY, FCA
Chartered Accountant
74 Holly Hill, Southampton, SO16 7EY

30 May 2023

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RSPCA GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	NOTE	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Collecting Boxes		-	49
Sales of New and Donated Goods		-	25
Branch Fundraising Events		762	604
Branch Adoption Fees		3,215	1,435
Donations via HQ Door to Door Fundraising		46,436	48,268
Donations refunded from Branch Emergency Fund		-	5,561
Other Donations		3,038	2,847
Legacies		3,137	2,300
Membership Subscriptions		378	362
Investment Income	3	3,821	3,215
		60,787	64,666
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Charitable Activities			
Veterinary Treatment on Branch Voucher Scheme		33,133	29,602
Neutering on Branch Voucher Scheme		9,969	10,806
Voucher Scheme and Charitable Expenses		260	594
Veterinary Treatment and Neutering of Unowned Animals		7,731	9,935
Boarding and Food		4,606	3,759
Wildlife		7,461	4,934
Donations		3,501	22,869
Branch Contribution to RSPCA Headquarters and Region		3,308	551
		69,969	83,050
Cost of Generating Funds	4	20	17
Governance Costs and Depreciation			
AGM/Annual Reports		214	297
Administrative Expenses		510	508
Depreciation		117	117
Insurance		577	525
		1,418	1,447
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		71,407	84,514
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR		(10,620)	(19,848)
TOTAL FUNDS Balance Brought Forward		277,394	297,242
TOTAL FUNDS Balance Carried Forward		266,774	277,394

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RSPCA GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH
BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	NOTE	2022	2021
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	6	60	177
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	3,476	2,262
Investment Bank Accounts		255,000	286,047
Cash at bank - Current Account		15,732	20,364
		274,208	308,673
CREDITORS (falling due within 1 year)			
Creditors		(7,494)	(31,456)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		266,714	277,217
NET ASSETS		266,774	277,394
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		266,774	277,394

Approved by the Trustees on 30 May 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Hon. Chairman

S J Hooke

Hon. Treasurer

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RSPCA GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A General

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting by Charities.

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis.

B Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations are recognised when the Charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Legacies are recognised on the earlier of either (a) the date that probate is granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Charity that a distribution will be made, or (b) when a distribution is received from the estate. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition has not been met, then the legacy is disclosed in the notes to the accounts. Legacies received via the Branch legacy scheme are grossed up for the administration charges deducted, with the associated charges shown as expenditure in the year the legacy is credited.

Investment income is recognised on an accruals basis.

C Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

D Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided on equipment at a rate of 25% per annum to write off the assets over an estimated useful life of 4 years.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RSPCA GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

E Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds represent those unrestricted funds which have been ring fenced by the trustees for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes, within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

2. STATEMENT OF BRANCH COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Charity law requires the branch committee, as trustees, to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year, and the financial position at the end of the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable Accounting Policies and apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2022 £	2021 £
Interest on Investment Bank Accounts	3,821	3,215

4. COST OF GENERATING FUNDS

	2022 £	2021 £
Pitch fees and licences	20	17

5. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' EXPENSES AND REMUNERATION

No committee member received any remuneration, and the branch has no paid staff. Five committee members were reimbursed a total of £3,023.48 for costs incurred.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RSPCA GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

EQUIPMENT	2022	2021
	£	£
COST		
At 1 January	469	469
At 31 December	469	469
DEPRECIATION		
At 1 January	292	175
Charge for year	117	117
At 31 December	409	292
NET BOOK VALUE		
At 31 December	60	177

7. DEBTORS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	2,563	1,263
Other debtors	913	999
	3,476	2,262

8. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

On 9 February 2023 the Branch received notification from a firm of solicitors in connection with the distribution of an estate, which included a legacy of £64,946 to the Branch. Prior to this notification, the Branch had no knowledge of this legacy. In accordance with our accounting policy on legacies, this will be accounted for as income in 2023. The funds, which are unrestricted, were received by the Branch on 21 February 2023.

RSPCA Surrey Inspectorate Team - Annual Report 2022

Two happy events to begin with!



I am delighted to be able to give the news that Inspector Lauren Evans and her husband Clayton welcomed their beautiful twins Emelia and Kobe into the world in June. The whole team wishes all of them the very best for the future. We hope to have Lauren back with us later in 2023.



On the same happy theme, Inspector Nat Kitchin went off on Maternity Leave at the end of the year and she and her husband Fab welcomed the birth of gorgeous Sofia a few weeks later. Again we wish them all the very best. We hope to have Nat back with us early in 2024.

In March, we sadly said 'farewell' to Inspector Andrew Kirby who rejoined the Sussex team. Myself and the team would like to thank Andrew for all of his hard work while he was a part of the Surrey group. However, on a happier note, March also saw the official arrival of our two new Animal Rescue Officers following completion of their initial 6-months training. Ben Fitzcosta and Sam Matthews have fitted into the team extremely well and have both proven to be hugely committed and dedicated officers. They both bring invaluable experience from their previous roles, and we are delighted to have them with us.





2022 saw a real effort to increase the numbers of our Wildlife Casualty Volunteers (now called Animal Rescue Volunteers). In Surrey we now have 6 ARVs, and we are hoping to recruit even more early in 2023. They are an invaluable resource who can free up Inspectors and AROs to focus on the more complex rescues and complaint work. I would like to thank all of our ARVs (Lucy, Ros, Alex, Katie, Tess and Charlie) and we are delighted to have them in the Surrey team.

Surrey officers instigated 8 prosecution cases files, three of which are either still in the investigation stage or waiting for court hearings. Here are some of the cases we have dealt with:



Inspector Liz Wheeler secured a Caution against a dog owner in Redhill. The dog was handed in to a local vets as a stray and was suffering from very weak back legs due to muscle wastage and weight

loss. The dog owner had several other dogs at her address which were all in good body condition, and the owner agreed to accept a Caution.

DCI Sandy Barlow also secured a Caution against a couple in the Feltham area who had 4 underweight GSD Husky cross dogs. One dog, in particular, was very weak and barely able to stand. I am pleased to report that all 4 dogs were signed over at the earliest opportunity by the owners and were taken to RSPCA Leybourne for rehoming. The owners had no other animals and were reminded of their responsibilities with owning animals.



Inspector Nat Kitchin investigated an allegation involving an elderly Patterdale-x terrier dog in Harrow. Nat found that the dog was underweight and had some severe skin issues. Due to the dog's advanced age and health problems, the decision was taken by a vet that this dog sadly needed to be euthanased. Following a thorough investigation into the background to this incident, a Caution was issued to the owner for their failure to seek veterinary attention.



Inspector Wheeler secured another Caution against an owner in the Morden area who had 20 cats living in a squalid environment at her home address. The owner, who was in hospital at the time, agreed to sign over all of the cats at the first opportunity. A fantastic joint effort between RSPCA Millbrook, RSPCA Mount Noddy, RSPCA Patcham and the Sussex North branch meant we were able to take them all out of their awful living conditions. I would also like to thank Insp Jo Bowling and ARO Sam Matthews, both of whom assisted with this incident, including catching and transporting this large number of cats - it really was a team effort.

Inspector Liz Wheeler secured a 'guilty' plea from the owner of a 7-year old Doberman dog in the Redhill area. The dog had significant untreated wounds. The owner was summonsed to attend court and pleaded guilty to an offence of failing to provide veterinary treatment for her dog. She was ordered to pay £800 costs and to carry out 70 hours of unpaid work under a Community Order. The owner also finally agreed to sign the dog over to the RSPCA and he will hopefully find a new home in the very near future.

We have several cases still waiting for either court dates or for a decision from our Prosecution team. This includes a complex case being led by Inspector Leanna Hone involving several possibly deliberate injuries inflicted on a small dog by one of the owners. Whilst we wait for this matter to proceed, I am pleased to report that the dog has been signed over and is due to go to a new and loving home very shortly. Non-accidental injury' cases are always difficult to prove, and I would like to thank Leanna for her efforts with what has proven to be a complicated case, involving multiple veterinary experts.



Here are some examples of the wide variety of rescues and collections undertaken by Surrey officers. Many of them demonstrate the valuable 'partnership working' which we undertake with RSPCA colleagues and external agencies.

ARO Chloe WIlson was called to Aldershot to collect a small fox cub found alone in someone's garden. The cub had been monitored for several days but the caller became concerned that it couldn't be left unattended any longer due to its young age. Chloe transferred the cub to Hydestile Wildlife Rescue,

where he joined a group of other orphaned fox cubs. A good example of 'partnership' working with a local and supportive organisation.

Animal Rescue Officers Sam Matthews and Louis Horton did an amazing job of releasing a deer caught in netting in a garden. With temperatures soaring the deer was struggling with the heat. Sam and Louis were able to cut the deer free and release it uninjured. Loose netting in gardens is a common problem and often results in animals becoming trapped or entangled.

An unfortunate cat in Warlingham had been stuck up a tree for 7 days. ARO Ben Fitzcosta attended several times during the week and, despite 2 attempts by Fire & Rescue, the cat was still no closer to being brought down. Ben managed to secure the services of a tree surgeon to help, and very quickly the cat was rescued. The cat was microchipped and was soon returned to a very grateful owner who had no idea where the cat had gone. Another really good example of partnership working between different agencies.



Inspector Jo Bowling was called to a house in Addlestone concerning a family who were struggling to deal with too many dogs. Jo managed to get one of the puppies signed over. The puppy was taken in by a fosterer from the Woking branch, who later rehomed her to a fantastic family. The Branch also arranged for financial help to get the mother dog neutered. Jo went back to the same address at a later date and managed to get the mother dog signed over too. Once again Woking branch helped to place her into a foster home. This is an excellent example of how the Inspectorate and all of our fantastic local Branches work together in partnership.

Inspector Pete Yarde responded to a call from the Guildford & Epsom Branch to assist with catching a female cat and her 3 kittens who were living as strays in a shed. The shed was full of clutter, making the rescue a lot harder. With the assistance of ARO Chloe Wilson, the 3 kittens were successfully caught and then the adult female (via a trap). All of the cats were taken to Millbrook Animal Centre where the cat and kittens were later rehomed. I know the Surrey team would like to join me in thanking all of the Millbrook staff for their assistance with this incident and for the numerous other incidents they have helped us with throughout the year.

As always, I would like to thank all of our 'partner' organisations who have continued to assist us in working for animals. This includes local Police, Fire & Rescue, vets, local authorities and other animal charities / wildlife rescues. It is amazing and encouraging that so many different agencies work together for the same cause. Special thanks to our approved hedgehog and bird rehabilitator, vet Hannah Tombs. She has provided an invaluable level of support throughout the year and has taken on and rehabilitated a large number of wild animals. Many thanks to the Woking & District Branch, the Guildford & Epsom Branch and the Hants & Surrey Branch, all of whom kindly contributed towards some new incubators for Hannah to use. On the subject of our local Branches, I would also like to express my gratitude, on behalf of the whole Surrey team, to all of our local Branches for their help and support during 2022. It really is a team effort and, whether it be assisting with veterinary invoices / funding wildlife treatment, arranging boarding or taking on and rehoming animals, we could not have done all of the things we did to alleviate animal suffering and improve welfare without the assistance of all of the Branches we work alongside. Thank you to all

Rob Jackson

Chief Inspector, Surrey

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VICTIMS OF THE PUPPY TRADE

Getting a puppy (or a dog) should be a joyous event following research into the type of dog that will suit your family / lifestyle and ensuring the 'breeder' is genuine.

Sadly since the pandemic, the desire to have a pet has risen massively and the demand for dogs (especially puppies) increased. As a consequence it created a perfect opportunity for those only interested in making money to breed dogs indiscriminately, often mixing unsuitable breeds to fuel the current 'fashions', with no consideration for any genetic imperfections , the welfare of the mother (who often spends years confined in a barren cages in a barn) or resulting puppies.

Once these 'breeding machines' have fulfilled their use older breeding bitches are frequently dumped , the lucky ones may be "found" usually in appalling conditions i.e filthy, matted, with overgrown claws and medical conditions resulting from over breeding and not receiving appropriate veterinary care.

In the run up to Christmas 2021 the incidence of such wicked acts started to increase but thanks to the kindness of the general public several such victims were brought to the attention of our branch (or other local branches) ; veterinary treatment was immediately authorised and safe spaces found for them to recover prior to starting a new life in a loving environment.

This is the story of one of those dogs – Molly.



She was taken to one of the vets in our branch area and they immediately made contact with us. Her condition was typical and she was suffering from the early stages of a pyometra (a very serious womb infection that can cause death). After providing her with all the necessary medical treatment along with a good bath but not perhaps the best haircut it was time to find a place for her to convalesce.

Having dealt with the recent influx there was no more room but after all she had been through the thought of her spending her recovery in a kennels was out of the question. After a few phone calls a plan was agreed. Molly was taken to one of the branch trustees, a dog owner who also had experience of the breed. Molly was gradually introduced to her dogs (very important as you cannot assume pets will welcome another member) and so Molly's introduction to everything she had been missing commenced. such as walking on a lead, meeting other dogs/people and enjoying all the sights and sounds

As the weeks passed thoughts of rehoming her became possible. Whilst she could be a little diva her winning smile and dinnerplate feet would be sure to attract someone. Of course not knowing her background meant any potential owner would be made fully aware and their expectations may need consideration.

After a couple of unsuccessful 'dates' there was the offer of a home with a 'sister' dog, the potential adopters were actually keen to have a slightly older dog so a meet and greet was arranged. Early signs were positive and after further meetings it was agreed to proceed (with of course the assurance that in the event that any problems arose 'we' were there to offer support and if necessary take her back)

Any concerns however were unfounded and Molly soon got her paws under the table, selected her favourite chair and has both her new Mum & Dad wrapped round her paws!

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR WORK - here we showcase **an all too frequent case of prevention being better than cure**

Molly, pictured below, was handed into a vet in a terrible state. Her full story is on the inside back cover but she had been used for breeding and left abandoned when she was no longer financially viable. Her road to recovery was expensive and long, and completely avoidable had she been neutered and groomed regularly.



Volunteer Ann kindly took Molly into her home to enable her to recuperate after we had her spayed. Whilst fostering a dog or puppy can be extremely rewarding it is not without challenges. Dogs come in all shapes and sizes and their backgrounds and experiences of people vary enormously. As a branch we would usually network dogs into our centres where they can be fully health checked and assessed for appropriate rehabilitation (most centres have trained behaviourists). The journey towards a new "fur ever" home is likely to include basics such as housetraining, regular visits to the vet, lots of 1 to 1 time, exercise and socialisation.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANC

England & Wales - Charity number 203608

Accounts

RSPCA GUILDFORD and EPSOM BRANCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Read Esme's story later in our report

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

COMPLAINTS AND ADVICE

Anyone suspecting cruelty or mistreatment to animals should report the incident to the RSPCA by contacting the Cruelty Line on 0300 1234 999 (or www.rspca.org.uk/reportcruelty) where all calls are dealt with in the strictest confidence

CHIEF INSPECTOR	**BRANCH PARTNERSHIP MANAGER**
Chief Inspector Rob Jackson RSPCA Millbrook Animal Centre Guildford Road, Chobham, Surrey GU24 8EH	Sarah Piggott C/O RSPCA HQ Wilberforce Way, Southwater, West Sussex RH13 9RS

Branch Contact Details

Telephone 07906 924002
Facebook www.facebook.com/rspcaguildfordepsom
Website www.rspcaguildfordepsom.org.uk
Email info@rspcaguildfordepsom.org.uk

LOCAL ANIMAL CENTRES

RSPCA Millbrook Animal Centre Guildford Road Chobham, Surrey GU24 8EH Tel: 0300 123 0740 Email **millbrook@rspca.org.uk**	Services: • Adopt an animal • Microchipping • Pet merchandise • Gala days, car boot sales and dog shows • Dog behaviourist Animal viewings and introductions by appointment only.

Postcodes covered by the Branch

GU1 1, GU1 2, GU1 3, GU1 4, GU2 4, GU2 5, GU2 6, GU2 7, GU2 8, GU2 9, GU3 1, GU4 7, GU4 8, GU5 0, GU5 9, GU6 7, GU6 8, GU7 1, GU7 2, GU7 3, GU8 4, GU8

KT4 9, KT9 1, KT9 2, KT9 9, KT17 1, KT17 2, KT17 3, KT17 4, KT17 6, KT17 9, KT18 5, KT18 6, KT18 7, KT19 0, KT19 7, KT19 8, KT19 9, KT20 5, KT20 6, KT20 7, KT20 9, KT21 1, KT21 2, KT22 0, KT22 2, KT22 7, KT22 8, KT22 9, KT23 3, KT23 4, KT24 5, KT24 6, KT24 7

SM7 1, SM7 2, SM7 3

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6 Financial review

7 Plans for the future

Inspectorate report

Financial statements

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR WORK - here we showcase **our work with animals**

AMBER- Amber is a lovely 15 year old tabby cat who came into our care when her owner could no longer meet her ongoing needs for hyperthyroidism. This is a common ailment in elderly cats but can be managed by medication and regular blood tests to check the medication is controlling the thyroid activity. This requires regular veterinary visits and can be very expensive.



Long term treatment can also give rise to a risk of kidney disease, so regular monitoring is essential.

For Amber, the good news is that after a brief period in our foster care, she was adopted by a super couple with experience of this problem in elderly cats and her condition has been stabilised. She quickly settled into her new home, enjoying the garden and indoor comforts!

1. Reference and administration details

Charity Name	The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Guildford and Epsom Branch
Other names charity is known by	RSPCA Guildford and Epsom Branch
Registered charity number	203608
Charity's principal addresses	The Branch does not have an address for members of the public to visit but can be contacted via email or telephone.
Charity's principal bankers	Lloyds Bank plc
Independent examiner	Jim Halliday FCA – Chartered Accountant

Names of the trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
Judith Crowhurst*		
Rebecca Greaves		
Garth Hampson		Resigned 21 Dec 2021
Steven Hooke	Hon. Treasurer	
Abbi Moore*		
Cat Pilbeam		
Lucy Pollard	Hon. Chair	
Katrina Tully	Hon. Secretary	
Sarah White		
Ann Winter		

*Judith and Abbi are employed by the RSPCA National Society. We obtained its approval before co-opting them as trustees, as required by branch rule 7.4.

Other support provided by

Sarah Piggott	Branch Partnership Manager	
Trasna Palmer	President	

2. Introduction by the Chair

This year's annual report reflects on our continued transition from the Covid pandemic, which has led to changes in the way we all live, work and interact. For the Branch, this has mainly affected our ability to rehome animals and fundraise.

There was a huge rise in pet ownership coupled with a loss of vet resources (with varying causes: some chose not to remain after Brexit; the industry is not seeing new recruits come through and a lot of vet practices are moving to corporate ownership) which put an enormous strain on both the cost of and the availability of treatment. Sadly, many pets not being neutered is just one example of this. This affects our provision of welfare services and the volume of people needing our assistance.

The rise in pet ownership has also meant that we are seeing an increasing number of requests for assistance towards costly veterinary treatments, many of which the owners could have made better provision towards, when they took the decision to own an animal. For example, thinking about the impacts of owning multiple animals and introducing them appropriately to avoid fighting (especially dogs) and unnecessary injury. Or putting some money aside to cover potential additional costs / taking out pet insurance, and not allowing children to 'man handle' kittens or puppies like toys.

Some animals have also very sadly become 'unwanted' as Covid restrictions have lifted. This is as a result of the desire to own pets growing during the pandemic lockdown. Whilst owning a pet is a great boost to both mental and physical health and provides companionship, it also comes with a substantial financial responsibility which with high levels of job losses and furlough creates additional requests and pressures on charities whose income has been significantly impacted. Sadly, dogs in particular are suffering as owner ignorance continues from infections such as Pyometra, which would have been easily avoided if the dog was spayed. Other examples are a lack of awareness of Parvovirus in puppies (more frequently affecting puppies born in puppy farms) and puppies and kittens with limbs broken due to being left alone or unsupervised with children.

We are trying to support owners with vet costs so that they can keep their animal rather than sign them over to us and we are also trying to educate owners with the considerations they need to make when returning to work e.g suffering from separation anxiety.

Fundraising continued to be impacted by restrictions. However, plenty of initiative was shown by our volunteers to overcome this. We opened up new ways to generate support and much needed funds; moving to online donation platforms, online fundraising activity and selling items online. For example we are now part of the Guildford Community Lottery. As in the previous year, sales of pet items such as hand-made dog beds and catnip mice were a great success, and "lockdown clearouts" turned unwanted items into cash. We also held another virtual pet show this year. Of course, we want to keep our volunteers safe, so we only attended very small fairs instead of the large fetes we were used to, and we have bought an ecard reader to allow us to take contactless donations at future events.

I hope that you enjoy reading through this year's annual report and the heart-warming stories about the animals we have helped.

As always, I would like to pay special thanks to all our volunteers for their unwavering support and generosity and to all of our supporters. It is hugely appreciated.

I wish you all the best for 2022, as some level of normality returns to our lives





Lucy Pollard

3. Structure, governance, and management

How the charity is constituted	We are a separately registered charity, constituted as an unincorporated association, working within the Rules, Policies and Guidelines of the national RSPCA. Our governing document is the RSPCA Society's Branch Rules. The charity operates as an autonomous branch, responsible for our own funding and for managing local animal welfare work.
Trustee selection methods	The committee consists of a maximum of 17 individuals, being: (1) at least 7 and not more than 14 elected committee members, all of whom must be eligible branch members, elected at the AGM and (2) up to 3 co-opted committee members, who may also be branch members.
How trustees are recruited and appointed	Elected from branch members at every AGM to carry on the Branch work for the forthcoming year. Potential trustees are recruited via various methods including volunteer agencies, RSPCA websites and Head Office enquiries, advertising and appeals to members. Potential new trustees are vetted in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines and sign the recommended declarations upon appointment.
Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	All trustees are briefed on their responsibilities prior to their acceptance of the role. New trustees receive appropriate training in RSPCA and Branch Policies and Procedures, in line with Information Commissioner's Office and Charity Commission guidance. They also receive support from other trustees, guidance from Head Office and Branch Partnership Managers and handover from retiring officers if applicable.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Some services such as those of the inspectorate are carried out by the national society whereas others are carried out by a network of branches which are independently registered charities operating in defined local areas. Our branch is the Guildford and Epsom branch, which is a member of the South East Regional Board area. All the work of the Branch is carried out by volunteers, so we have no paid staff. Decisions are made by the trustees at committee meetings, usually held every 4 to 6 weeks. The Branch works with Head Office staff, the Inspectorate, Millbrook and other branches and animal centres in its day-to-day work.
Trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them	The main risks facing the Branch are: **Financial**. Income generation is vital for us to continue our work. Despite pressing need, we must evaluate what we can afford to fund. Insufficient income levels mean that we will have to reduce or cease welfare activity to remain a viable branch. New demands and requests for funding are a key discussion item at every committee meeting. Spending is controlled through delegated limits and required approvals. Levels of pet ownership grew during the pandemic, and whilst owning a pet is a great boost to both mental and physical health it also comes with a substantial financial responsibility, which places additional pressure on charities whose income has been significantly impacted during the same period. At the time of writing, we are seeing that the vets we work with are struggling with significant shortages in staff set against a huge and growing demand for appointments. This impacts our ability to negotiate on price and may mean that non urgent procedures such as neuters are delayed. Longer term, we expect this to lead to more unwanted litters and conditions such as tumours that are hormone related.

	Public opinion. The RSPCA is a well-known and respected "brand", and we must ensure that we do not tarnish it. Mitigating activities include screening/induction of volunteers plus ongoing training and education for trustees (specifically on their responsibilities as branch officials) and other volunteers. All adoption support volunteers must attend a training course followed by one to one support. **People**. We continue to have difficulties in finding volunteers willing to act as trustees and carry out welfare and fundraising work. We use volunteer recruitment bureaux and other methods as described above to publicise our requirements. **Health and Safety.** We have a duty to take reasonable care of our volunteers' health and safety and that of others who may be affected by our actions. All volunteers are covered by the RSPCA's liability and personal accident insurance and are provided with appropriate information on our health and safety policies and guidelines. The committee has identified and evaluated risks affecting the Branch and has set in place policies and procedures based on guidelines issued by RSPCA Head Office and the Charity Commission to mitigate the risks where possible. The operation and relevance of these policies and procedures is reviewed regularly. The Branch complies with the Branch Rules as issued by the National Society and has a number of related financial transactions with this organisation. Judith Crowhurst and Abbi Moore are also paid employees of the RSPCA (National Society).

4. Objectives and activities

Summary of the objectives of the charity set out in its governing document	To promote the work and objectives of the national Society Royal Society for The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (registered charity number 219099), with particular reference to the area of the Branch, in accordance with the policies of the society. The objectives of the Branch remain unchanged from previous years.
Charity's aim	The RSPCA as a charity will, by all lawful means, prevent cruelty, promote kindness to and alleviate suffering of all animals.
Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects	The Branch promotes animal welfare in the local area primarily through veterinary assistance, neutering and rehoming. ● We offer discretionary support to people in need to help pay veterinary bills. ● We respond to enquiries from the public about animals and offer free animal care advice by phone, social media, via leaflets and at our events, which promotes responsible pet ownership. ● Where funds permit, the Branch takes in abandoned animals, including pets whose owners suffer ill health or financial difficulties, or pass away. We also support the national RSPCA by caring for animals taken in by the Inspectorate if there is no space at the national animal centres. ● We continue to support the Inspectorate as a priority. ● We undertake educational presentations and workshops with local groups and schools. More detail on our activities can be found in section 5 of the Trustees Report.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR WORK - here we showcase **how supporters have helped care for our animals**

ESME – Esme featured on our front cover, is a white and brown female mini lop rabbit who came into our care in Nov 2020 when her owners could not afford the vet dental treatment required and she had fallen out and was fighting with the other 2 female rabbits all adopted as a trio from Pets at Home.

Our vet extracted 4 of Esme's teeth, but an abscess had formed due to a delay in dental treatment and the infection required antibiotics. The infection proved persistent, needing several antibiotic treatments, and sadly leading to a gut stasis episode (when rabbits stop eating and is life threatening). Poor Esme required hospitalisation and hand feeding for recovery.

All through her suffering, Esme was a sweet tempered friendly rabbit, the sweetest bun we have ever cared for. No doubt her amazing temperament influenced our decision to spend our scarce resources on the continuing vet care she required. Once we knew she was firmly on the road to recovery, we launched a social media appeal for supporters to help with the vet bills.

When fully recovered we soon found a wonderful new home for Esme where she swiftly bonded with a partner male rabbit and is living happily ever after. A wonderful success!

5. Achievements and performance

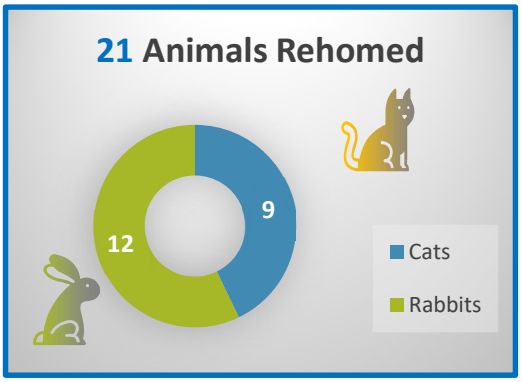
A. Animal Welfare

Rehoming, adoption support and fostering

The RSPCA rehomes animals to people who can meet the needs of a companion animal in an appropriate environment.

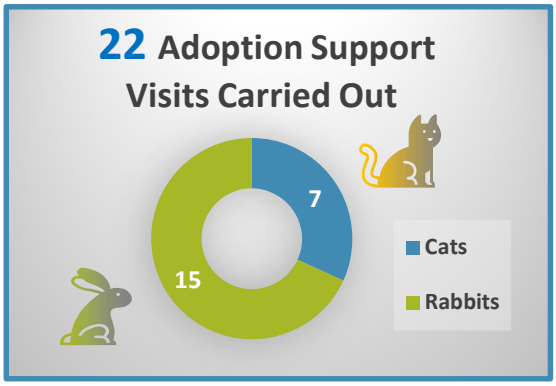
Most rehoming in the local area is done by Millbrook Animal Centre, which is the nearest RSPCA animal centre to the Branch. The Branch also has space in foster homes and private boarding establishments for cats and rabbits who have been found abandoned or stray or have been taken in via the RSPCA Inspectorate when there is no room for them in an Animal Centre. They are cared for and rehabilitated, while we search for loving new homes. There are few dogs mentioned in our reports because we do not have the facilities or expertise to take them into our direct care and use other RSPCA branches and animal centres or other rescue organisations wherever possible. Animals in our care receive veterinary treatment, vaccinations, neutering and microchipping. Flea and other parasite treatments are kept up to date. This helps to control the incidence and spread of disease and suffering.

During the year we rehomed 21 animals that came into our care. In addition to this, we took on responsibility for a number of other animals before finding them places in RSPCA animal centres. We advertise animals for rehoming on our branch website and Facebook page, as well as the National Society's main website; allowing us to reach a larger audience of prospective adopters. At certain times all our facilities are completely full, yet it is so important that we can take in animals in need and give them a chance of a loving home.



We support rehoming activity by recruiting and providing volunteers who undertake home suitability assessments as part of adoption support. Their role is to understand each animal's need

(for space, stimulation, safety etc) and ensure that what potential adopters can provide matches these needs. They then follow up with the adopter later to ensure that the adoption has been a success. We now mostly undertake this support via video/phone calls rather than in person visits.



We carried out 22 adoption visits in 2021 (compared with 60 in 2020). These continued to be mostly conducted remotely under the DEFRA compliant Covid related protocols/guidance. Our team of home visitors not only carry out visits for our branch animals, but also on behalf of other RSPCA branches and centres where the potential adopter lives within the Branch area.

We have cat fosterers who give the special care and attention that is often much easier to provide in a foster home than in a cattery. If we have spaces in this preferred home environment, we can socialise and nurture cats meaning that they are more quickly restored to good health and able to be rehomed earlier. We are extremely keen to find other potential fosterers including cat and kitten fosterers, who will have support from our co-ordinator. This reduces the costs of boarding overall.

Our main rabbit fosterer has outdoor accommodation and has provided a great resource for the branch, the Inspectorate, and wider RSPCA needs by taking in rabbits to full capacity throughout the Covid difficulties. Our indoor rabbit fosterer has more limited capacity but provides an essential environment to those rabbits that cannot be housed outdoors - especially in the colder months. Both fosterers have been invaluable in their work to rehabilitate rabbits in their care and progress them to rehoming with wonderful new forever homes.

Welfare assistance

We provide support to people in need to help pay their vet bills. The service is offered in certain circumstances to assist with difficulties experienced by pet owners faced with veterinary costs which they will struggle to meet. This helps to promote responsible pet ownership, prevent suffering, and reduce the numbers of unwanted cats, dogs, and rabbits. We assisted 276 animals in this way in 2021 (178 in 2020). We also helped with the neutering of 147 animals (129 in 2020). 117 of these were cats where we offered subsidised neutering to owners under our World Spay Day initiative.

We had 83 animals in our care during the year and we have paid for all their necessary treatments. Our thanks go to the veterinary community for their invaluable help throughout the year.

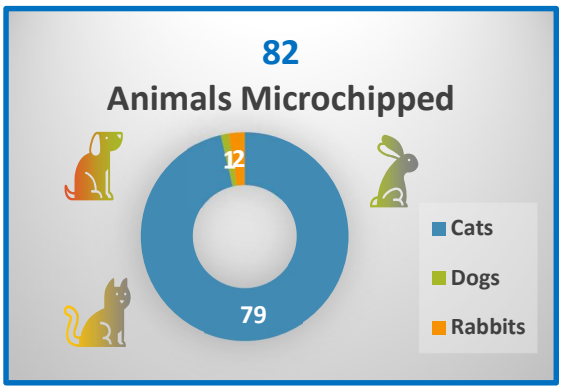
We also paid Wildlife Aid in Leatherhead for the care of 92 animals including hedgehogs, badgers, foxes, bats, pigeons, owls, and ducklings (compared with 53 animals in the previous year). These cases originated in our branch area and were taken there by the Inspectorate.

Supporting the Inspectorate

The Branch continued to support the Inspectorate in their vital and sometimes distressing work. We do this through fostering or boarding and paying for veterinary treatment for animals signed over to the RSPCA. We also provide welfare assistance for veterinary treatment and neutering where the Inspectors find owners in need. The Inspectorate report is in a later section of the Annual Report.

Other welfare activities

We take in, free of charge, lost animals and take steps to reunite them with owners. This work benefits our local community (including local authorities) by preventing animals from straying and posing a risk to themselves and to people through road accidents. We respond to enquiries from the public about animals in the Branch area. The public benefits by knowing that we can and will intervene to assist animals in need.



It is the law that you must have your dog microchipped and your details kept up to date in England and Wales. We believe all cats, dogs and rabbits should be chipped to ensure that a pet can be reunited with their owner, and to aid this we will pay for chipping where required.

We microchipped 82 animals in 2021, compared to 66 in 2020.

Microchipping continues to help solve one of our regular challenges; that of stray or lost animals. We advertised a number of lost and found pets through the year and the care of stray animals adds significantly to our work. Microchipped pets where contact details are kept up to date are easily reunited with their families, avoiding heartache for the owners and costs for the RSPCA.

B. Education

Education events

Educational activities were severely curtailed due to Covid restrictions all year. We have been unable to visit schools or engage face to face with groups. RSPCA Head Office have online educational facilities which we have promoted on our social media sites. Our welfare line operated throughout the year, without interruption and provided advice to the general public to help with pets, wildlife, and farm animals.

We hope to be able to start planning in educational activities again as soon as schools are comfortable for us to do so.

Social media

Our social media content can be found at www.facebook.com/rspcaguildfordepsom and www.rspcaguildfordepsom.org.uk. You can see more about the Branch trustees and our work, find out about our welfare services, and learn about forthcoming campaigns and events. You can also obtain useful help and advice and contact us via these links.

Other educational activities

We continued to heavily publicise and support World Spay Day and Early Neutering Awareness by running a social media campaign to offer low-cost cat spay/snip and free microchipping for both male and female cats in the Branch area.

We continue to support Rabbit Awareness Week (RAW) promotions. In 2021 we carried on the previous initiative focussed on getting rabbits vaccinated against the deadly RHD2 disease. The virus causes internal bleeding and is highly contagious. There is no specific treatment, which makes vaccination essential. Alongside the education campaign we offered subsidised vaccines in the branch area.

C. Fundraising

Fundraising events and activities

Our traditional fundraising events were again impacted by Covid and its aftermath, as demonstrated by the table below. The 2020 events were all held prior to the first National Lockdown.

Event type	2021	2020
Town centre collections	Nil	£599.44
Store collections	Nil	£63.22

As in the previous year, we continued to pursue other activities including selling dog beds and greetings cards online; the catnip mice knitted by one of our kind adopters were very popular! Several members of the committee had success selling second-hand items and plants through social media and at car boot sales.

Recognising that not all volunteers felt comfortable to attend public events when restrictions were lifted, we also sold donated items at some smaller fairs instead of the large fetes and carnivals we were used to.

Other digital fundraising included hosting a virtual pet show, much as we did in 2020. We are now part of the Guildford Community Lottery, so supporters can raise money for us, whilst being in with a chance to win a cash prize for themselves.

The money raised by these activities is disclosed in the accounts against the following categories – Sales of New and Donated Goods, Branch Fundraising Events and Other Donations.

We are always mindful of the need to fundraise responsibly and ensure that we remain compliant with law and best practice, especially in line with Covid restrictions. Further details of how we use our income to help local animals can be found in section 5A.

Collection boxes

As expected, Covid impacted on our collection boxes which are usually placed in coffee and pet shops, as those places were either closed or saw large drops in customers. We therefore only had 1 box actively in use (compared with 23 for the previous year). The 2020 results included a very generous collection at Maggie's Pets in Ewell.

2021 takings	2020 takings
£49.10	£216.45

D. Public benefit

Our objectives and activities are outlined in section 4 of this report. Performance against those objectives is detailed above. Our current short term and long-term aims can be found in section 7 of this report.

The trustees have reviewed the outcomes and achievements of our objectives and activities for the year to ensure they remain focussed on our charitable aims and continue to deliver benefits to the public. We have complied with the duty under the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

6. Financial Review

Overview

The Covid pandemic continued to have a significant impact on activities during 2021, with many traditional activities undertaken by the Branch remaining subdued compared to pre-pandemic levels.

Overall expenditure in 2021 was down £1,806 to £84,514 compared to £86,320 in 2020.

The percentage of total expenditure spent in the branch area on animal welfare has increased from 55% in 2020 to 71% in 2021. This largely reflects higher levels of animal welfare activity within the branch area during the current year, together with lower donations made outside of the area in 2021 compared to the prior year. Donations in the year included £20,000 to RSPCA Canterbury and District Branch for increased cat pen capacity across the region.

Income was £64,666 in 2021, broadly flat compared to the £64,323 in the prior year. The branch share of direct debit donations raised by the RSPCA HQ door to door fundraising campaign, which amounted to £48,268 in 2021 makes up 75% of the income in the current year (2020: £50,346 and 78%). Branch income reduced during 2021 as the Community Action Event (CAE) cat neutering programme support from Cats Protection ended. The Branch received a refund of £5,561 in 2021 from the Branch Emergency Fund (2020: donation expense of £25,000) and legacy income of £2,300 (2020: nil), offsetting the reduction from CAE ending and a fall in other income.

Overall, there was a net deficit for the year of £19,848 compared to a deficit of £21,997 in 2020. The Branch continues to hold significant reserves but aims to reduce these in line with the policy as described below.

The full accounts are provided later within the Annual Report.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Reserves are those funds which are freely available for general purposes and have not been designated for specific projects or activities.

During 2020 the Branch received permission from the Charity Commission to remove restrictions in respect of former Epsom branch funds, which became effective on 29 September 2020. Since this time the Branch has only held unrestricted reserves.

The Trustees have recently reviewed the reserves policy. Having considered the experience of the Covid pandemic and the current inflationary pressures facing the branch (e.g., the increasing costs of veterinary treatments), the Trustees have decided to target general reserves to a level that, should all income cease, there would be sufficient funds in hand to run the Branch for approximately 24 months (previously 12 months). Based on this measure the Branch currently has excess reserves. The Trustees aim to reduce reserves over time by targeting increased levels of annual expenditure on activities or donations that further the animal welfare aims of the Branch.

The Branch invests surplus funds in capital-safe bank and deposit-based savings accounts where the deposits are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).

7. Plans for the future

Aims and objectives for the future	Our overriding aim is to continue to provide and promote animal welfare for the local area by providing financial assistance for those on low incomes, continuing with our fostering and rehoming work to ensure a healthy and happy lifestyle for adopted animals, and to support the national Society. In January 2021 the new committee agreed our short and medium-term priorities and we aligned out goals with the new RSPCA strategy. Our main area of focus is to increase animal welfare across the Region by continuing and extending collaboration with other branches and organisations and supporting more people with animals in need. This is dependent upon and supported by 4 additional pillars: ● Revenue Generation ● Strong Governance ● Public Engagement ● People The 2019 merger presents significant challenges to deliver this welfare work across the wider geographical area. Consequently, volunteer recruitment will be featuring as a future key objective. Meanwhile we have plans to incrementally expand and consolidate existing activities across the wider area. Financial sustainability is primarily about revenue generation and spending control to fund the welfare work that we do. Our goal is to ensure the Branch remains in existence for (many) years to come. We review the best sources of income in order to best target our limited volunteer resource. The Plan will be reviewed regularly and adapted to reflect changing circumstances and priorities.
Activities planned to achieve the objectives 1. Revenue Generation	● Set up a fundraising working group to provide a dedicated focus on revenue generation ideas ● Develop a compelling fundraising plan (including an emphasis on digital) to rely less on door-to-door income ● Empower and engage members and volunteers to spread our messages and support fundraising efforts ● Diversify income generation by exploring alternative revenue streams

2. Strong Governance	• Deliver a more robust approach to managing and refreshing policies, procedures, and processes • Foster stronger connectivity, sharing, and leverage of best practices across the Branch Network
3. Public Engagement	• Build & enhance positive relationships with the public & our communities, including amplifying National RSPCA advocacy areas • Build our existing and/or adopt new digital channels to communicate branch activities and successes • Analyse 'Audience Profile' for each message/campaign/activity to ensure we're targeting the right demographic
4. People	• Expand and effectively manage, utilise, and retain our volunteer network and membership • Define clear roles and responsibility for trustee and volunteer roles with a focus on succession planning

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR WORK - here we showcase **our work with wildlife**

We recently donated some incubators to Hannah's Bird and Hedgehog Rehabilitation, which has helped to provide additional essential care for hedgehogs and hoglets. Heat is very important to sick hogs and these lifesaving pieces of kit can really make the difference between life and death. The incubators are used all the time, making it possible to provide more poorly hedgehogs with this care and ensures that they are more settled during their stay. A poorly patient (a very skinny hog) recently arrived from a vet very dehydrated and covered in ticks (over 100!). After spending some time in his incubator and receiving lots of love and care, he has made a good recovery and is almost at the weight needed for him to be released back into the wild.



Declaration

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

Lucy Pollard. Hon. Chair **Date 9 June 2022**

Inspectorate report

RSPCA Surrey Inspectorate Team - Annual Report 2021

Group Statistics

In Surrey during 2021, my officers dealt with:

- over 1,600 rescues and collections
- nearly 1,500 complaints and enquiries

In addition, Surrey officers have frequently undertaken collections, rescues, complaints and enquiries in all of the surrounding areas.

Report

2021 saw the continuation of Coronavirus and of the ongoing restrictions, including the furloughing of some staff. However, the team continued to work with dedication throughout the year, and in a way which protected both themselves and members of the public.

We were delighted to welcome back Inspector Leanna Hone from her maternity leave in June and she has certainly 'hit the ground running' since her return.

Two of our team, Inspector Lauren Evans and Inspector Nat Kitchin, were both finally able to celebrate their much-delayed weddings towards the end of 2021. Several of the team attended these wonderful occasions, and we all wish them the very best for the future.

Our two Animal Rescue Officers, Louis and Chloe, continued to make excellent progress throughout 2021 having completed their training in December 2020. Whilst their Field Training was inevitably disrupted by the pandemic, they have thrown themselves into their new roles and have both proven to be highly capable officers and an asset to the team.

We were also delighted to welcome two brand new trainee Animal Rescue Officers, Sam Matthews and Ben Fitzcosta. They both started their training in November 2021 and will be ready to join the team in March 2022 - good luck to them both in their new careers.

In August, we were also joined by Surrey's first ever Wildlife Casualty volunteer, Tess Macpherson-Woods. Tess already works for the RSPCA full time as our Social Media Manager. As a WCV, Tess is able to collect small birds and hedgehogs before transporting them to vets or wildlife centres in the area. We are delighted to have her as part of the team.

Partnership working is a large part of the new RSPCA Strategy, and Deputy Chief Inspector Sandy Barlow managed to secure another wildlife facility we could use in the area. "Hannah's bird and hedgehog rehabilitation" is in Farnborough, Hants and Hannah works at a local veterinary surgery so we can guarantee that every animal is fully assessed and has a safe place to stay whilst receiving treatment. Our grateful thanks to the Guildford and Epsom Branch and the Surrey and North Hants Branch who got together to kindly fund a couple of incubators for Hannah to use.

Proving that Inspectorate officers don't just deal with animals, Inspector Jo Bowling gave a talk to a primary school in Tadworth recently. Jo discussed what pet animals needed to keep them happy and healthy. Inspector Nat Kitchin also gave a talk at Merrist Wood Agricultural College near Guildford and faced some interesting and challenging questions from some of the students there.



Finally, both Inspector Jo Bowling and I received our long service awards towards the beginning of 2021. The award is given to staff who have served 20 years with the RSPCA and Jo and I were very proud to receive this recognition.

Cases 2021

Surrey officers instigated 14 prosecution cases files, of which 10 were submitted to our Prosecutions department for consideration of further action. The remaining 4 are still in the investigation stage (with 2 waiting for the first court hearing). Here are some of the completed cases and investigations we have dealt with:



Inspector Natalie Kitchen conducted a lengthy investigation into a complaint regarding a sweet chihuahua called 'Kiki' in the Windsor area. The owner was suffering from mental health issues and had thrown Kiki against a wall, breaking her leg. After discussions with the Prosecution department, a Section 20 application was made under the Animal Welfare Act and the court authorised removal of the dog from the owner's care. Poor Kiki had to have her leg amputated but has since been successfully rehomed with a loving family.

Inspector Pete Yarde was called to 2 thin horses in Leatherhead in March and, after calling out a vet, confirmed that both emaciated horses needed to be seized and removed from the location. Pete tracked down the owner who agreed to sign over one of the horses (Bella). The owner accepted an adult written caution, and the other horse was returned to the owner with appropriate advice for ongoing care.





Inspector Natalie Kitchin was called to a poor pony in Woking who had a very nasty injury to the top of his head, caused by a head collar. Having called out a vet to examine the pony, Nat asked Surrey Police to seize the pony.

The investigation was concluded with a Caution, and the pony was returned to the owner with appropriate advice.

Inspector Nat Kitchin also dealt with a chicken in Egham which sadly had untreated wounds around the rear end and ongoing diarrhoea. The poor chicken was also being fed a wholly inappropriate diet. The owner had failed to provide the necessary veterinary attention and accepted a Caution for this offence.

Very sadly, the poorly chicken had to be euthanised.







In January 2021, Inspector Becky Timberlake secured a successful conviction against the owner of "Scrappy and Chance", 2 lovely dogs from Aldershot. Both were emaciated when first discovered and they were seized and taken to a vet who confirmed that both were sadly suffering under section 4 of the Animal Welfare Act. Both dogs were found loving new homes via Millbrook Animal Centre. The owner received a 12 month community order, with 160 hours unpaid work, £200 of costs, £90 victim surcharge and a 5 year disqualification under section 34 of the Animal Welfare Act, in respect of all animals.

Inspector Andrew Kirby dealt with an individual in Merstham who had 2 cats suffering with severe flea allergies and significant hair loss. One of the poorly cats sadly died, but the other was signed over and put up for rehoming. Due to several factors, the decision was made not to take the owner through the courts, but a caution was issued and accepted.





Inspector Andrew Kirby finally saw a conclusion to a prosecution case that he picked up on Christmas Eve 2019 near Chichester. Two ponies were emaciated with terrible diarrhoea. Sadly, one of the ponies died on Christmas day, but the other pony luckily survived and has been rehomed. The owner was found guilty in his absence. He was sent to prison but, on appeal, this was suspended. He was also banned from keeping horses and fined.

Deputy Chief Inspector Sandy Barlow also had a long wait to get her prosecution case through court, mainly due to Covid. In January 2021 Sandy attended an address in Basingstoke concerning Max, an emaciated Staffordshire bull terrier. Max was seized by police and taken to a vet. Sadly, Max was not strong enough to pull through and he had to be put to sleep. His owner was found guilty in court and received a community service order for 12 months, as well as a ban on keeping dogs for 5 years and ordered to pay costs.

Collections & Rescues 2021

Here is a wide range of some of the collections and rescues undertaken by Surrey officers during 2021:

Inspector Liz Wheeler was called to Dorking, when a member of the public walking his dog came across this very unfortunate deer tangled in some fencing.

Liz managed to free the deer and, after a few minutes to recover, it bounded away across the field!





Animal Rescue Officers Chloe Wilson and Louis Horton were called to Guildford when a landlord surprisingly discovered that 5 snakes had been abandoned by the previous tenants who had moved out a few weeks earlier.



Louis and Chloe collected one cornsnake, two Boa constrictors, one royal python and a hog nose. All the snakes were taken to a specialist private boarding establishment in Leighton Buzzard from where they will be rehomed. Sadly, the owner was never traced.

Animal Rescue Officer Louis Horton also dealt with a job that involved a great deal of multi-agency teamwork. Three badgers (an adult and 2 sweet babies) had very unfortunately managed to fall into a slurry tank at a sewage plant in Horley and were unable to get out. With the help of Fire and Rescue and Wildlife Aid, all three were caught and taken to Wildlife Aid for a check over. Fortunately, all were fine and were later released back to their familiar surroundings.





Inspector Nat Kitchin and Insp Lauren Evans dealt with a particularly difficult job in Windsor in October, where a gentleman had very sadly been found deceased in his house and had no next of kin to deal with his 10 cats. None of the cats had been socialised so it was a massive effort on Lauren and Nat's part to locate and catch them in the very run-down property. The environment was particularly bad with years of cat faeces and rubbish having built up. After numerous days of catching and trapping they could finally declare the house cat free.



The cats were split between Millbrook Animal Centre and the Hillingdon Branch, where they were assessed and put up for rehoming.

Inspector Jo Bowling was called to a florist in Cranleigh who had discovered a small frog nesting in one of the flower 'cups' imported from overseas! Jo took the frog to the RSPCA Exotic Centre in Patcham, where it was identified as a 'Striped Spiny Reed' frog, all the way from bushland in West Africa, so it had certainly travelled a fair distance!





DCI Sandy Barlow attended an emergency in Bracknell regarding 2 abandoned ducks in some disused garages. One was walking but the other had her feet taped together and was unable to move. Upon searching the area, Sandy also discovered a bag containing another 2 ducks, both of which had their legs and beaks taped up. Both of these ducks had sadly died. Despite press releases and an exhaustive investigation, Sandy was unable to track down the person responsible. The surviving ducks were taken to Swan Support in Denham and are doing really well.

This is one of those really upsetting and frustrating mysteries that we have been unable to solve.

Thank you's

I would like to thank all of our 'partner' organisations who have continued to assist us in working for animals. This includes local Police, Fire & Rescue, vets, local authorities and other animal charities. It is amazing and encouraging that so many different agencies work together for the same cause.

Finally, I would also like, on behalf of the whole Surrey team, to express my gratitude to all of our local Branches for their help and support during 2021. It really is a team effort and, whether it be assisting with veterinary invoices, arranging boarding or providing extra kit, we could not have done all of the things we did to alleviate animal suffering and improve welfare without the assistance of all of the Branches we work alongside.

Rob Jackson
Chief Inspector, Surrey

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF RSPCA GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH

I report on the accounts of the Charity (Registered Charity number 203608) for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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 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.

JIM HALLIDAY, FCA
Chartered Accountant
74 Holly Hill, Southampton, SO16 7EY

9 June 2022

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RSPCA GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	NOTE	Total funds* 2021	Total funds* 2020
			£
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Collecting Boxes		49	216
Sales of New and Donated Goods		25	282
Branch Fundraising Events		604	720
Branch Adoption Fees		1,435	790
Donations via HQ Door to Door Fundraising		48,268	50,346
Donations refunded from Branch Emergency Fund		5,561	-
Other Donations		2,847	3,920
Legacies		2,300	-
Contributions received for Community Action Events		-	3,524
Membership Subscriptions		362	418
Investment Income	3	3,215	4,107
		64,666	64,323
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Charitable Activities			
Veterinary Treatment on Branch Voucher Scheme		29,602	23,129
Neutering on Branch Voucher Scheme		10,806	3,517
Voucher Scheme and Charitable Expenses		594	540
Veterinary Treatment and Neutering of Unowned Animals		9,935	5,736
Boarding and Food		3,759	3,207
Wildlife		4,934	7,622
Community Action Events		-	3,730
Donations		22,869	35,757
Branch Contribution to RSPCA Headquarters and Region		551	1,378
		83,050	84,616
Cost of Generating Funds	4	17	234
Governance Costs and Depreciation			
AGM/Annual Reports		297	173
Administrative Expenses		508	611
Depreciation		117	161
Insurance		525	525
		1,447	1,470
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		84,514	86,320
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR		(19,848)	(21,997)
TOTAL FUNDS Balance Brought Forward		297,242	319,239
TOTAL FUNDS Balance Carried Forward		277,394	297,242

*All funds are unrestricted in 2021; note 8 provides an analysis of comparatives for 2020 between restricted and unrestricted funds.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RSPCA GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH
BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	NOTE	2021	2020
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	6	177	294
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	2,262	6,682
Investment Bank Accounts		286,047	295,962
Cash at bank - Current Account		20,364	10,103
		308,673	312,747
CREDITORS (falling due within 1 year)			
Creditors		(31,456)	(15,799)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		277,217	296,948
NET ASSETS		277,394	297,242
FUNDS			
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		277,394	297,242

Approved by the Trustees on 09 June 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

____L Pollard_____ Hon. Chairman

___S Hooke_____ Hon. Treasurer

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RSPCA GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A General

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting by Charities.

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis.

B Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations are recognised when the Charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Legacies are recognised on the earlier of either (a) the date that probate is granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Charity that a distribution will be made, or (b) when a distribution is received from the estate. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition has not been met, then the legacy is disclosed in the notes to the accounts. Legacies received via the Branch legacy scheme are grossed up for the administration charges deducted, with the associated charges shown as expenditure in the year the legacy is credited.

Investment income is recognised on an accruals basis.

C Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

D Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided on equipment at a rate of 25% per annum to write off the assets over an estimated useful life of 4 years.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RSPCA GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

E Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds represent those unrestricted funds which have been ring fenced by the trustees for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes, within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

2. STATEMENT OF BRANCH COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Charity law requires the branch committee, as trustees, to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year, and the financial position at the end of the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable Accounting Policies and apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2021	2020
	£	£
Interest on Investment Bank Accounts	3,215	4,107

4. COST OF GENERATING FUNDS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Pitch fees and licences	17	234

5. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' EXPENSES AND REMUNERATION

No committee member received any remuneration, and the branch has no paid staff. Four committee members were reimbursed a total of £1,461.09 for costs incurred.

RSPCA GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

EQUIPMENT	2021	2020
	£	£
COST		
At 1 January	469	1,264
Disposals	-	(795)
At 31 December	469	469
DEPRECIATION		
At 1 January	175	235
Charge for year	117	161
Disposals	-	(221)
At 31 December	292	175
NET BOOK VALUE		
At 31 December	177	294

7. DEBTORS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	1,263	1,959
Other debtors	999	4,723
	2,262	6,682

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RSPCA GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

8. COMPARATIVES FOR STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Collecting Boxes	216	-	216
Sales of New and Donated Goods	282	-	282
Branch Fundraising Events	720	-	720
Branch Adoption Fees	790	-	790
Donations via HQ Door to Door Fundraising	50,346	-	50,346
Donations refunded from Branch Emergency Fund	-	-	-
Other Donations	3,920	-	3,920
Legacies	-	-	-
Contributions received for Community Action Events	3,524	-	3,524
Membership Subscriptions	418	-	418
Investment Income	1,951	2,156	4,107
	62,167	2,156	64,323
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Charitable Activities			
Veterinary Treatment on Branch Voucher Scheme	16,831	6,298	23,129
Neutering on Branch Voucher Scheme	2,379	1,138	3,517
Voucher Scheme and Charitable Expenses	376	164	540
Veterinary Treatment and Neutering of Unowned Animals	5.532	204	5,736
Boarding and Food	3,141	66	3,207
Wildlife	4,764	2,858	7,622
Community Action Events	3,730	-	3,730
Donations	35,757	-	35,757
Branch Contribution to RSPCA Headquarters and Region	1,378	-	1,378
	73,888	10,728	84,616
Cost of Generating Funds	234	-	234
Governance Costs and Depreciation			
AGM/Annual Reports	108	65	173
Administrative Expenses	382	229	611
Depreciation	161	-	161
Insurance	328	197	525
	979	491	1,470
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	75,101	11,219	86,320
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR	(12,934)	(9,063)	(21,997)
TOTAL FUNDS Balance Brought Forward	114,320	204,919	319,239
Transfer of funds	195,856	(195,856)	-
TOTAL FUNDS Balance Carried Forward	297,242	-	297,242

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Spotlight on our work – here we showcase **the work of our volunteers**



We are incredibly lucky to have had Ann volunteering with us since 2011 as a branch welfare coordinator, which is a huge time commitment and can at times, be very upsetting. We asked Ann to write about her experience and put together some examples of situations where the branch has assisted local animals both wild and domestic. You can read Ann's story below:

I soon realised this was extremely challenging as every day our branch offers help and advice across such a wide range of scenarios either via phone calls or emails. No two days are the same and there are still the occasional surprises such as a wallaby recently being spotted!

My day may start with a potential emergency, and whilst not the kind of activity requiring inspectorate intervention, it may still involve numerous calls back and forth between the owner and vet possibly involving a lot of negotiations to achieve a good result for the animal. These emergencies have included road traffic accidents, pyometra (a life-threatening condition so easily avoided if the dog had been spayed and from which cats can also suffer), pregnancy complications (sometimes due to immature animals becoming pregnant) or sick puppies (many are still being purchased online and/or unknowingly from puppy farms etc and parvo virus is often fatal). Sadly, many people still fail to recognise how expensive it can be 'meeting an animal's needs ', accidental injuries can occur at any time, many pets will require dental procedures during their lifetime and the occurrence of cancer is sadly increasing. The enhanced demand for pets has only fuelled indiscriminate breeding which brings more health problems, and in situations where there are multiple animals the issue is exacerbated.

There may be calls about wildlife, especially birds which often the member of the public can help to resolve by taking the bird to a local wildlife centre, for other wild animals in distress then an officer will usually be required to assist, and I will direct the member of the public to our National Control Centre number 03001234999. For example, a duck may have laid her eggs in a quiet spot in someone's garden and there are now 10 ducklings on the loose, or there could be a disorientated swan, perhaps an injured fox caught in a football net or a hedgehog wandering around in daylight. These will all require intervention by our Inspectorate. There might even be an anti-social stray Tom cat terrorising the local neighbourhood that needs trapping, or someone's cat has gone missing, and they need help trying to find it. In fact, there was one occasion when I received both a call about a missing cat and another about a cat stuck up a tree -after comparing the postcodes it seemed there was a possibility that they were one and the same and they were luckily reunited.

I regularly receive enquiries from people seeking pets but also sadly from those needing to rehome them. Rabbits are a massive problem as they are cheap to buy but complicated to keep, frequently bought without adequate research and often for children whose interest soon wanes. Our branch has a small number of dedicated Fosterers (for cats and rabbits), however, if no spaces are available then I will network with surrounding branches and centres to try to locate a space. For the animals that come into our care they receive any necessary veterinary treatment and rehabilitation in readiness for their 'fur ever' homes. I often receive calls from Social Services, sometimes when an owner has been taken into hospital or sadly where a family is not coping and there are pets involved. Such circumstances require a delicate touch. At this time more than ever with the repercussions from Covid, many more people are encountering difficulties, both mentally and financially. Other sensitive conversations are with owners whose pets are in an end of life situation. Despite the wonders of modern medicine our beloved pets' lifespans are significantly less than ours and I try to help owners when they need to make these heart-breaking decisions (a day too early is better than a day too late).

I may also receive calls from our local Inspectorate whom we are delighted to support. If our branch can help them provide some financial assistance where an owner is struggling, coupled with their advice and support, a welfare situation can often be avoided e.g. a flea infestation causing a nasty skin condition. On many occasions we are also supported by local vets with whom we also work and who too are also struggling during these challenging times due to being short of staff but with a huge and growing demand for appointments.

Well, I hope you have enjoyed reading this snapshot into my volunteer role. It can certainly be 'full on', and as a Trustee it is also accompanied by a variety of other tasks, but for every animal I can assist, I know I am helping to prevent suffering, alleviate pain and offering support and kindness to the owner at the end of the tail. *Must go… phone is ringing!*

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANC

England & Wales - Charity number 203608

Accounts

RSPCA GUILDFORD and EPSOM BRANCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Storm – just one of the animals we helped in 2020. See her story on the back cover

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

COMPLAINTS AND ADVICE

Anyone suspecting cruelty or mistreatment to animals should report the incident to the RSPCA by contacting the Cruelty Line on 0300 1234 999 (or www.rspca.org.uk/reportcruelty) where all calls are dealt with in the strictest confidence

CHIEF INSPECTOR
Chief Inspector Rob Jackson
RSPCA Millbrook Animal Centre
Guildford Road, Chobham, Surrey
GU24 8EH

BRANCH PARTNERSHIP MANAGER
Sarah Piggott
C/O RSPCA HQ
Wilberforce Way, Southwater, West Sussex
RH13 9RS

Branch Contact Details

Telephone 07906 924002
Facebook www.facebook.com/rspcaguildfordepsom
Website www.rspcaguildfordepsom.org.uk
Email info@rspcaguildfordepsom.org.uk

LOCAL ANIMAL CENTRES

RSPCA Millbrook Animal Centre
Guildford Road
Chobham, Surrey
GU24 8EH
Tel: 0300 123 0740
Email **millbrook@rspca.org.uk**

Services:

- Adopt an animal
- Microchipping
- Pet merchandise and charity shop
- Gala days, car boot sales and dog shows
- Dog behaviourist

Opening hours: 11.30am-4pm Tuesday to Sunday. Closed Monday.

Currently closed and by appointment only, due to Covid restrictions

Postcodes covered by the Branch

GU1 1, GU1 2, GU1 3, GU1 4, GU2 4, GU2 5, GU2 6, GU2 7, GU2 8, GU2 9, GU3 1, GU4 7, GU4 8, GU5 0, GU5 9, GU6 7, GU6 8, GU7 1, GU7 2, GU7 3, GU8 4, GU8

KT4 9, KT9 1, KT9 2, KT9 9, KT17 1, KT17 2, KT17 3, KT17 4, KT17 6, KT17 9, KT18 5, KT18 6, KT18 7, KT19 0, KT19 7, KT19 8, KT19 9, KT20 5, KT20 6, KT20 7, KT20 9, KT21 1, KT21 2, KT22 0, KT22 2, KT22 7, KT22 8, KT22 9, KT23 3, KT23 4, KT24 5, KT24 6, KT24 7

SM7 1, SM7 2, SM7 3

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SPOTLIGHT ON OUR WORK - here we showcase **our work with our fosterers**



TED - Ted is a 2 year old sweet black lop who came into our care with 10 other rabbits, all kept in tiny indoor hutches. Initially he was very shy but in the tender care of our fosterer, Jackie, Ted absolutely blossomed. He was adopted by Polly's (also pictured here) owner, and the two successfully bonded and are very content and happy together.



We could not take in and rehabilitate rabbits without the dedication of our fosterers. Jackie fostered 12 rabbits in the course of 2020, which is amazing, continuing to take in cases in need throughout the pandemic. The limited veterinary services during lockdown proved challenging and we are proud that we managed to keep going and keep our volunteers and animals safe in our care.

1. Reference and administration details

Charity Name	The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Guildford and Epsom Branch
Other names charity is known by	RSPCA Guildford and Epsom Branch
Registered charity number	203608
Charity's principal addresses	The Branch does not have an address for members of the public to visit but can be contacted via email or telephone.
Charity's principal bankers	Lloyds Bank plc
Independent examiner	Jim Halliday FCA – Chartered Accountant

Names of the trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
Judith Crowhurst*		
Rebecca Greaves		Co-opted 15 December 2020
Garth Hampson		Co-opted 20 April 2020
Steven Hooke	Hon. Treasurer	
Abbi Moore*		
Trasna Palmer		Until 17 October 2020 when she became President
Cat Pilbeam		
Lucy Pollard	Hon. Chair	
Katrina Tully	Hon. Secretary	
Sarah White		
Ann Winter		

*Judith and Abbi are employed by the RSPCA National Society. We obtained its approval before co-opting them as trustees, as required by branch rule 7.4.

Other support provided by

Sarah Piggott	Branch Partnership Manager	
Trasna Palmer	President	From 17 October 2020

2. Introduction by the Chair

This year's annual report reflects a year of considerable change for the Branch. Against a backdrop of Covid measures, we welcomed two new trustees, adapted to new ways of working and a much greater reliance on technology. I'm pleased to say that we were still able to deliver animal welfare, helping hundreds of animals by neutering, assisting with veterinary treatment, taking in strays, and rehoming dogs, cats and rabbits that came into our care.

Educational talks and fundraising were understandably the most impacted by restrictions. However, plenty of initiative was shown by volunteers in finding new ways to raise money. Online sales of hand-made dog beds and catnip mice were a great success, and "lockdown clearouts" turned unwanted items into cash. We also held two virtual pet shows with the star of one winning the national final! This was a lovely rescue story with a transformation in the cat testament to how patience and support can rehabilitate animals who have been through significant trauma, whatever their age. More examples of our fundraising efforts are in section 5 of this report.

The Inspectorate team, with whom we have always enjoyed an excellent relationship, became invaluable when it came to our rehoming work. Under DEFRA rules all animal centres had to be closed to the public, and we were unable to visit adopters homes or enable them to go into fosterer's homes. RSPCA staff were deemed to be key workers so our fabulous Inspectorate team willingly delivered our animals to their foster homes or adopters in a safe way, enabling us to continue to take in animals in need.

The second half of the year saw big changes throughout the whole of the RSPCA in response to a ten-year strategy review coupled with financial pressures heightened by the pandemic. Our inspectorate team and head office colleagues had to say goodbye to valued colleagues, and several animal centres we used or collaborated with (Putney Animal Hospital, South Godstone Animal Centre and the Lockwood Equine Centre) closed. The way that the national Society will support and engage with branches in future will have to change too, but we were delighted that Sarah Piggott remains as our main source of assistance and liaison, albeit her role is a little different now.

Looking ahead, the new committee have defined our three-year priorities which align with the new National RSPCA strategy. They reflect the changing environment we operate in, and the additional challenges we will face. Section 7 gives more details on this. In the nearer term we are really looking forward to seeing members of the public face to face and engaging with them at community events. If you see us out and about, please come and say hello - we have really missed this interaction.

I hope that you enjoy reading about the animals we have helped and the impact that our volunteers have made on local animal welfare. Given how crucial volunteers are to the level of activity we can undertake, we will be focussing on recruiting people to get more involved and give up their time in order to deliver on the priorities mentioned above. To everyone who is already volunteering for us thank you for your generosity and support - it is hugely appreciated. That of course includes my fellow trustees who are such a pleasure to work with.



3. Structure, governance, and management

How the charity is constituted	We are a separately registered charity, constituted as an unincorporated association; working within the Rules, Policies and Guidelines of the national RSPCA. Our governing document is the RSPCA Society's Branch Rules. The charity operates as an autonomous branch, responsible for our own funding and for managing local animal welfare work.
Trustee selection methods	The committee consists of a maximum of 17 individuals, being: (1) at least 7 and not more than 14 elected committee members, all of whom must be eligible branch members, elected at the AGM and (2) up to 3 co-opted committee members, who may also be branch members.
How trustees are recruited and appointed	Elected from branch members at every AGM to carry on the Branch work for the forthcoming year. Potential trustees are recruited via various methods including volunteer agencies, RSPCA websites and Head Office enquiries, advertising and appeals to members. Potential new trustees are vetted in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines and sign the recommended declarations upon appointment.
Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	All trustees are briefed on their responsibilities prior to their acceptance of the role. New trustees receive appropriate training in RSPCA and Branch Policies and Procedures, in line with Information Commissioner's Office and Charity Commission guidance. They also receive support from other trustees, guidance from Head Office and Branch Partnership Managers and handover from retiring officers if applicable.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Some services such as those of the inspectorate are carried out by the national society whereas others are carried out by a network of branches which are independently registered charities operating in defined local areas. Our branch is the Guildford and Epsom branch, which is a member of the South East Regional Board area. All the work of the Branch is carried out by volunteers, so we have no paid staff. Decisions are made by the trustees at committee meetings, usually held every 4 to 6 weeks. The Branch works with Head Office staff, the Inspectorate, Millbrook and other branches and animal centres in its day-to-day work.
Trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them	The main risks facing the Branch are: **Financial**. Income generation is vital for us to continue our work. Despite pressing need, we must evaluate what we can afford to fund. Insufficient income levels mean that we will have to reduce or cease welfare activity to remain a viable branch. New demands and requests for funding are a key discussion item at every committee meeting. Spending is controlled through delegated limits and required approvals. **Public opinion**. The RSPCA is a well-known and respected "brand" and we must ensure that we do not tarnish it. Mitigating activities include screening/induction of volunteers plus ongoing training and education for trustees (specifically on their responsibilities as branch officials) and other volunteers. All home visitors must attend a training course followed by one to one support. **People**. We continue to have difficulties in finding volunteers willing to act as trustees and carry out welfare and fundraising work. We use volunteer recruitment bureaux and other methods as described above to publicise our requirements. **Health and Safety.** We have a duty to take reasonable care of our volunteers' health and safety and that of others who may be affected by our actions. All volunteers are covered by the RSPCA's liability and personal accident insurance and are provided with appropriate information on our health and safety policies and guidelines.

	At the time of writing we are unsure what long-term effect COVID-19 will have on our ability to fundraise and rehome animals. We believe it will have an impact on all the main risks above, and the need for our services will change because of the effect of the pandemic on the economy. The committee has identified and evaluated risks affecting the Branch and has set in place policies and procedures based on guidelines issued by RSPCA Head Office and the Charity Commission to mitigate the risks where possible. The operation and relevance of these policies and procedures is reviewed regularly. The Branch complies with the Branch Rules as issued by the National Society and has a number of related financial transactions with this organisation. Judith Crowhurst and Abbi Moore are also paid employees of the RSPCA (National Society).

4. Objectives and activities

Summary of the objectives of the charity set out in its governing document	To promote the work and objectives of the national Society [Royal Society for The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (registered charity number 219099), with particular reference to the area of the Branch, in accordance with the policies of the society. The objectives of the Branch remain unchanged from previous years.
Charity's aim	The RSPCA as a charity will, by all lawful means, prevent cruelty, promote kindness to and alleviate suffering of all animals.
Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects	The Branch promotes animal welfare in the local area primarily through veterinary assistance, neutering and rehoming. • We offer discretionary support to people in need to help pay veterinary bills. • We respond to enquiries from the public about animals and offer free animal care advice by phone, social media, via leaflets and at our events, which promotes responsible pet ownership. • Where funds permit, the Branch takes in abandoned animals, including pets whose owners suffer ill health or financial difficulties, or pass away. We also support the national RSPCA by caring for animals taken in by the Inspectorate if there is no space at the national animal centres. • We continue to support the Inspectorate as appropriate. • We undertake educational presentations and workshops with local groups and schools. More detail on our activities can be found in section 5 of the Trustees Report.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR WORK - here we showcase **our work with animals**

SNOW and LUNAR – Snow is the mother of Lunar (left, with one blue and one green eye). They came to us because their owner had unfortunately been made redundant and the family could sadly no longer afford to keep their beloved pets. They are beautiful girls but had a very bad flea infestation that needed to be treated urgently. Poor little Snow was suffering terribly, and her lovely white coat was stained with thick black flea dirt which was very itchy and needed



We gave Snow a much-needed special bath, definitely not a cat's favourite pastime(!) but she felt much better after it. The RSPCA Hants and Surrey Border branch were kindly able to take these two gorgeous girls into their cattery until they were rehomed.

5. Achievements and performance

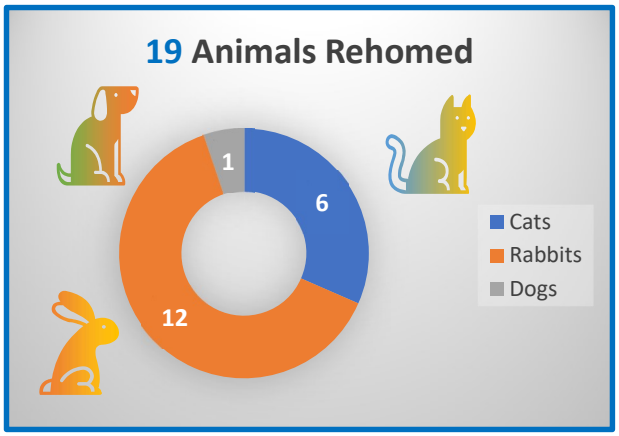
A. Animal Welfare

Rehoming, adoption support and fostering

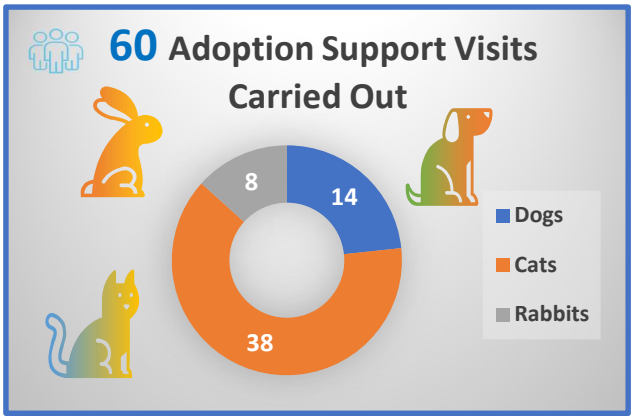
The RSPCA rehomes animals to people who can meet the needs of a companion animal in an appropriate environment.

Most rehoming in the local area is done by Millbrook and before it's closure, South Godstone Animal Centres, which are the nearest RSPCA animal centre to the Branch. The Branch also has space in foster homes and private boarding establishments for cats and rabbits who have been found abandoned or stray or have been taken in via the RSPCA Inspectorate when there is no room for them in an Animal Centre. They are cared for and rehabilitated, while we search for loving new homes. There are few dogs mentioned in our reports because we do not have the facilities or expertise to take them into our direct care and use other RSPCA branches and animal centres or other rescue organisations wherever possible. Animals in our care receive veterinary treatment, vaccinations, neutering and microchipping. Flea and other parasite treatments are kept up to date. This helps to control the incidence and spread of disease and suffering.

During the year we rehomed 19 animals that came into our care. In addition to this, we took on responsibility for a number of other animals before finding them places in RSPCA animal centres. We advertise animals for rehoming on our branch website and Facebook page, as well as the National Society's main website; allowing us to reach a larger audience of prospective adopters. At certain times all our facilities are completely full, yet it is so important that we can take in animals in need and give them a chance of a loving home.



We support rehoming activity by recruiting and providing volunteers who undertake home visits as part of adoption support. The role of the home visitor is to visit the homes of potential adopters (after they have spoken to the RSPCA) to ensure they can provide a suitable home, and then to revisit the homes later to ensure that the adoption has been a success. We continued with this throughout the pandemic but had to change the way we work and undertook home visits via video.



We carried out 60 adoption visits in 2020 (compared with 230 in 2019). From April, these were mostly conducted remotely under new DEFRA compliant Covid related protocols/guidance. Our team of home visitors not only carry out visits for our branch animals, but also on behalf of other RSPCA branches and centres where the potential adopter lives within the Branch area. Usually and when there are no restrictions, many of our home visitors are happy to drive a bit further or cover for absence if it helps to get an animal into their new home more quickly.

We have cat fosterers who give the special care and attention that is often much easier to provide in a foster home than in a cattery. If we have spaces in this preferred home environment, we can socialise and nurture cats meaning that they are more quickly restored to good health and able to be rehomed earlier. We are extremely keen to find other potential fosterers including cat and kitten fosterers, who will have support from our co-ordinator. This reduces the costs of boarding overall. We also have rabbit fosterers.

Welfare assistance

We provide support to people in need to help pay their vet bills. This service is offered in certain circumstances to assist with difficulties experienced by pet owners faced with veterinary costs which they will struggle to meet. This helps to promote responsible pet ownership, prevent suffering and reduce the numbers of unwanted cats, dogs and rabbits. We assisted 178 animals in this way in 2020 (199 in 2019). We also helped with the neutering of 129 animals (194 in 2019). 97 of these were cats where we offered subsidised neutering to owners under our World Spay Day joint project with Guildford and Godalming Cats Protection. Both charities are keen to neuter as many cats as possible, to tackle the ongoing problem of unwanted kittens in the area.

We had 37 animals in our care during the year and we have paid for all their necessary treatments. Our thanks go to the veterinary community for their invaluable help throughout the year.

We also paid Wildlife Aid in Leatherhead for the care of 53 hedgehogs badgers, foxes, bats, pigeons, owls, and ducklings. These cases originated in our branch and were taken there by the Inspectorate.

Supporting the Inspectorate

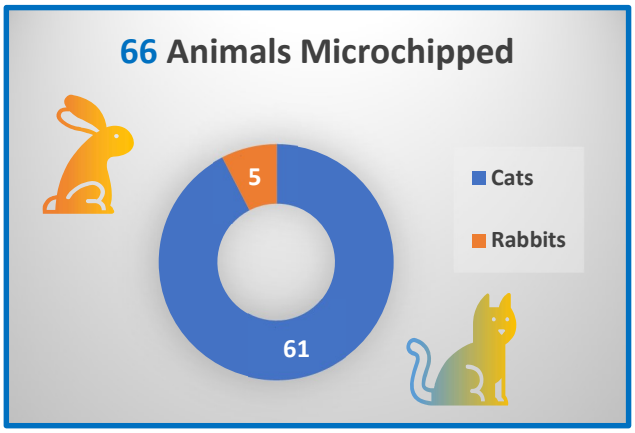
The Branch continued to support the Inspectorate in their vital and sometimes distressing work. We do this through fostering or boarding and paying for veterinary treatment for animals signed over to the RSPCA. We also provide welfare assistance for veterinary treatment and neutering where the Inspectors find owners in need. The Inspectorate report is in a later section of the Annual Report.

Other welfare activities

We take in, free of charge, lost animals and take steps to reunite them with owners. This work benefits our local community (including local authorities) by preventing animals from straying and posing a risk to themselves and to people through road accidents. We respond to enquiries from the public about animals in the Branch area. The public benefits by knowing that we can and will intervene to assist animals in need.

It is the law that you must have your dog microchipped and your details up to date in England and Wales. We believe all cats, dogs and rabbits should be chipped to ensure that a pet can be reunited with their owner, and to aid this we will pay for chipping where required.

We microchipped 5 rabbits in 2020, compared to 23 in 2019. The figure is lower as we had a higher than average intake in 2019.



Microchipping continues to help solve one of our regular challenges; that of stray or lost animals. We advertised a number of lost and found pets through the year and the care of stray animals adds significantly to our work. Microchipped pets where contact details are kept up to date are easily reunited with their families, avoiding heartache for the owners and costs for the RSPCA.

B. Education

Education events

Educational activities were severely curtailed due to Covid restrictions all year. We have been unable to visit schools or engage face to face with groups. RSPCA Head Office have online educational facilities which we have promoted on our social media sites. Our welfare line operated throughout the year, without interruption and provided advice to the general public to help with pets, wildlife, and farm animals.

We hope to be able to start planning in educational activities again as soon as it is safe to do so.

Social media

Our social media content can be found at www.facebook.com/rspcaguildfordepsom and www.rspcaguildfordepsom.org.uk. You can see more about the Branch trustees and our work, find out about our welfare services and learn about forthcoming campaigns and events. You can also obtain useful help and advice and contact us via these links.

Other educational activities

We continued to heavily publicise and support World Spay Day and Early Neutering Awareness by running a social media campaign in collaboration with Cats Protection to offer low-cost cat spay/snip for both male and female cats in the Branch area.



This year, due to the pandemic we have altered our approach to the promotion of neutering services nationally as we are aware of the variation in the public's ability to access veterinary services for routine appointments like neutering and vaccinations. For this year's World Spay Day, we have created an animation which aims to address the tricky situation we are currently facing with the pandemic, the importance of neutering, and to provide members of the public information on where to access advice and support. It was really important for us to manage people's expectations regarding vet capacity and assure them that there are resources available to ensure that their cats are happy when an appointment cannot be made for any reason. The benefits of neutering are manifold; clearly stopping unwanted or unplanned litters, and reducing the risk of serious illness, accidents, and infectious disease.

We continue to support Rabbit Awareness Week (RAW) promotions. In 2020 this focussed on getting rabbits vaccinated against the deadly RHD2 disease. The virus causes internal bleeding and is highly contagious. There is no specific treatment, which makes vaccination essential. Alongside the education campaign we offered subsidised vaccines in the branch area.

C. Fundraising

Fundraising events and activities

Fundraising events were curtailed due to Covid restrictions, but we changed our focus to other activities including selling dog beds and greetings cards online. Our president also did a fantastic job of selling second-hand items through social media and the catnip mice knitted by one of our kind adopters were a huge success.

We also looked at how we could still engage with our supporters and members of the public. This meant us adapting to changing circumstances so that we could still run events through lockdown. We switched to digital and ran two virtual events:

Howl-o-ween - Our 'stay at home' fun event, giving owners the perfect opportunity to show how unique animals are - from black cats to bats, creepy crawlies, scaly creatures, furry or feathered. Well done to the beautiful black cat Mishka, who was one of the winners in our Branch Pet Show, but also was crowned the overall RSPCA National Howl-o-ween Pet Show winner. This was a fantastic story - Mishka was rescued by the RSPCA several years ago from very difficult circumstances following the illness of a previous owner and has since been on a wonderful journey with her new adopter.

Home Pet Show and Virtual One Fun Day - This ran from 17 May to 14 June offering 6 all-animal categories that were designed to celebrate pets' natural behaviours, and their owners' special bond with them. Local heats took place for 4 weeks from 17 May to 14 June and the finalists were invited to take part in the Live Zoom Final on 19 June hosted by RSPCA CEO Chris Sherwood and our wonderful celebrity ambassador Sophie Craig.

We will be looking at how we run our events in the future and may continue with a blended approach. Although we want to engage in person as restrictions start to lift, this would allow more flexibility with taking part in events. We did manage to run some events throughout the year the results of the collections are summarised in the table below.

Event type	2019	2020
Town centre collections	567.61	599.44
Store collections	197.27	63.22

We are always mindful of the need to fundraise responsibly, especially in line with and ensure that we remain compliant with law and best practice, especially in line with Covid restrictions. Further details of how we use our income to help local animals can be found in section 5A.

Collection boxes

During 2020 we had 23 collection boxes in use (compared with 24 for the previous year). Takings totalled £216.45 for 2020 including a very generous collection at Maggie's Pets in Ewell.

2019 takings	2020 takings
£219.53	£216.45

Last year we noticed that fewer people are carrying cash which has been further exacerbated by the pandemic. Covid-19 has also made it increasingly difficult to place collection new boxes in shops and other locations. However, we would like to have more boxes out in the local area and continue to look for people to manage these boxes; recruits do not need to be branch members although we would encourage them to join our membership. In particular we would like to increase the number of collection boxes in Epsom and the surrounding areas. We would welcome suggestions for new locations and for people to manage collection boxes in the enlarged branch area.

D. Public benefit

Our objectives and activities are outlined in section 4 of this report. Performance against those objectives is detailed above. Our current short term and long-term aims can be found in section 7 of this report.

The trustees have reviewed the outcomes and achievements of our objectives and activities for the year to ensure they remain focussed on our charitable aims and continue to deliver benefits to the public. We have complied with the duty under the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

6. Financial Review

Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the Branch during 2020. For a large part of the year, Government restrictions meant many traditional activities undertaken by the Branch were not permitted.

Overall expenditure in 2020 was down £2,478 to £86,320 compared to £88,798 in 2019.

The percentage of total expenditure spent in the branch area on animal welfare has decreased from 76% in 2019 to 55% in 2020. This largely reflects both lower levels of welfare assistance activity within the branch area due to the impact of the pandemic and increased donations made by the branch to support animal welfare outside of the branch area; in particular, the Branch donated £25,000 to the Branch Emergency Fund organised by the RSPCA National Society to support branches that were struggling financially due to the impact of the pandemic and in December 2020, the Committee agreed a donation of £10,000 to Millbrook Animal Centre to cover three months' food costs. Governance costs reduced by £866 in 2020 as one-off costs related to the merger in 2019 did not recur.

Income was £64,323 in 2020, a reduction of £17,698 on the previous year, as many fund-raising activities were restricted due to the pandemic and no legacy income was received in 2020 compared to £5,100 in 2019. In 2020 78% of the branch income came from the branch share of direct debit donations raised by the RSPCA HQ door to door fundraising campaign, which amounted to £50,346 for 2020 (2019: 65% and £53,478).

Overall, there was a net deficit for the year of £21,997 compared to a deficit of £6,777 in 2019. The Branch continues to hold significant reserves but aims to reduce this over time, in line with the policy as described below.

The full accounts are provided later within the Annual Report.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Reserves are those funds which are freely available for general purposes and have not been designated for specific projects or activities. At the start of the year, the reserves of the Branch were split into two:

- General reserves – these are unrestricted funds less any unrestricted funds that have been designated for a particular purpose as disclosed in the Accounts
- Former Epsom branch reserves - these are disclosed as restricted income funds in the Accounts

In July 2020 the Branch applied to the Charity Commission for permission to remove the restrictions in respect of former Epsom branch funds created by the merger of the Branch with the RSPCA Surrey Epsom & District branch ("former Epsom branch") in 2019. On 12 August 2020 the Charity Commission confirmed they were satisfied the requirements of section 275 of the Charities Act 2011 had been met and the removal of the restrictions became effective on 29 September 2020. Following this the Branch now only holds unrestricted reserves.

The policy of the branch is to:

- Maintain general reserves at a level that, should all income cease, there would be sufficient funds in hand to run the Branch for approximately 12 months.
- Invest surplus funds in low risk bank and investment accounts where the deposits are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR WORK - here we showcase **our inter branch co-operation**



FRED - Fred is a very young gorgeous fluffy tricoloured rabbit who came into our care. Fred was a very shy rabbit but once he overcame this, he turned into possibly one of the most confident and busy rabbits our fosterer had ever met! He wanted to be involved in everything going on and is very inquisitive! Fred was rehomed with lots of space to play, and the company of a partner bun, Peppers.

Fred was one of 10 rabbits rescued from a private property where rabbit population had got out of control. The local branch could not cope with the large number and appealed for help from other branches. We offered to take 2 into foster care. They flourished with a healthy diet and bigger living space, and after neuters and vaccinations were soon adopted to live with partner buns in lovely spacious homes. This is an example of one of the many ways we work with other arms of the RSPCA to improve animal welfare and reduce costs.

7. Plans for the future

Aims and objectives for the future	Our overriding aim is to continue to provide and promote animal welfare for the local area by providing financial assistance for those on low incomes, continuing with our fostering and rehoming work to ensure that a healthy and happy lifestyle for adopted animals, and to support the national Society. In January 2021 the new committee agreed our short and medium-term priorities and we aligned out goals with the new RSPCA strategy. Our main area of focus is to increase animal welfare across the Region by continuing and extending collaboration with other branches and organisations, and supporting more people with animals in need. This is dependent upon and supported by 4 additional pillars: • Revenue Generation • Strong Governance • Public Engagement • People The 2019 merger presents significant challenges to deliver this welfare work across the wider geographical area. Consequently, volunteer recruitment will be featuring as a future key objective. Meanwhile we have plans to incrementally expand and consolidate existing activities across the wider area. Financial sustainability is primarily about revenue generation and spending control to fund the welfare work that we do. Our goal is to ensure the Branch remains in existence for (many) years to come. We review the best sources of income in order to best target our limited volunteer resource The Plan will be reviewed regularly and adapted to reflect changing circumstances and priorities.

Activities planned to achieve the objectives	
1. Revenue Generation	• Set up a fundraising working group to provide a dedicated focus on revenue generation ideas • Develop a compelling fundraising plan (including an emphasis on digital) to rely less on door-to-door income • Empower and engage members and volunteers to spread our messages and support fundraising efforts • Diversify income generation by exploring alternative revenue streams
2. Strong Governance	• Deliver a more robust approach to managing and refreshing policies, procedures, and processes • Foster stronger connectivity, sharing, and leverage of best practices across the Branch Network
3. Public Engagement	• Build & enhance positive relationships with the public & our communities, including amplifying National RSPCA advocacy areas • Build out existing and/or adopt new digital channels to communicate branch activities and successes • Analyse 'Audience Profile' for each message/campaign/activity to ensure we're targeting the right demographic
4. People	• Expand and effectively manage, utilize, and retain our volunteer network and membership • Define clear roles and responsibility for trustee and volunteer roles with a focus on succession planning

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR WORK - here we showcase **our support for owners**



GIZMO - Gizmo's owner is an elderly blind gentleman who didn't know how to get help for his cat. He was aware poor Gizmo's ear was swollen but being blind, he didn't know how bad it was or how to get the help he needed. His neighbour had got in touch to help during the lockdown and on seeing Gizmo knew that the cat needed veterinary assistance urgently. Gizmo's owner desperately wanted to help his cat but wasn't in a financial position to afford vet fees. Gizmo gives huge support and companionship to him and he had had her since a kitten.

We got in touch with the vets who advised that Gizmo needed an operation on his ear to drain it from infection. After her operation, Gizmo stayed with one of our adopters so that she could be looked after until she had fully recovered. This wasn't easy during lockdown as she still needed to be checked by the vets which was done via video calls. photos and emails. Gizmo was an absolutely smashing patient and we stayed in touch with Gizmo's owner the whole time. Gizmo was finally reunited with her owner who was missing her terribly.

Declaration

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

Lucy Pollard **Lucy Pollard. Hon. Chair** **Date 19 July 2021**

Inspectorate report

RSPCA Surrey Inspectorate Team - Annual Report 2020

I am pleased to present the 2020 annual report for the Surrey Group.

Surrey Group Statistics for 2020

Due to the group restructure in October, the following statistics are only for the three months from October to December. In that three-month period, the team attended 374 incidents. Of these incidents, three became potential prosecution investigations and case files were submitted. Two 'Improvement Notices' were also issued to owners.

Surrey Group News



2020 has seen many changes, arrivals and departures within the team. In March, Inspector Derek Wilkins said goodbye to the RSPCA after nearly 40 years' dedicated service. Derek retired once before in 2017 but missed the work too much and so he returned to our group again last year.

However this 'farewell' appears to be final, and so we would like to thank Derek for all his hard work over the years and wish him well for his retirement.

Congratulations to Inspector Pete Yarde who successfully completed his Trainee Inspector course in March. Pete has settled very well into his new role and is rising to the new challenges and responsibilities that it brings. Pete's dedication to the cause of animal welfare is clear. Whilst on holiday, Pete noticed a swan who unfortunately had a fishing line caught around her leg. Even with no equipment to hand, Pete came to the rescue and managed to catch the poor swan. Pete and his wife carried it to a local vet who helped with the removal of the line. The vets kept hold of the swan to await a transfer to a local swan



In April, we were delighted to welcome back Inspector Liz Wheeler to the Surrey team. Liz previously worked as an Inspector in the Surrey area, and she brings with her many years of valuable experience and knowledge to the team.



On 18th May, Inspector Leanna Hone gave birth to a beautiful baby girl; Seren Esme Hone. Our huge congratulations to Leanna and Carl, and we wish the whole family much happiness for the future.

Leanna will be rejoining us again next year after her maternity leave finishes. We are all very much looking forward to having her back with us.

October 2020 saw huge changes throughout the whole RSPCA, and we had to deal with the very sad departure of many valued colleagues from the Society.

In Surrey, we said goodbye to Animal Collection Officers Jayne Jones and Tasha Clarke. We thank them both for all their hard work, and they will be greatly missed. We do of course wish them all the very best for the future.



However, October also brought us happier news. Our former Animal Collection Officer, Louis Horton, was successful in his application for the new position of Trainee Animal Rescue Officer (ARO). We were also pleased to welcome a brand-new team member, Trainee ARO Chloe Wilson, from RSPCA South Godstone.



Both Chloe and Louis began their 5-week intensive ARO training in November. They successfully completed the course, and in December they re-joined the team to begin their field training. We are delighted to have both of them working with us, and we wish Louis and Chloe all the very best in their new roles.

Due to the new group boundaries introduced in October, we said 'farewell' to Inspector Becky Timberlake and Animal Rescue Officer Carl Hone, both of whom left the Surrey team and joined the Thames Valley group. Whilst we were sad to lose them as team members, they are still very much part of the RSPCA family.

Happily, Inspector Andrew Kirby (previously in the Sussex group) and Inspector Sandy Barlow (previously in the Berkshire group) arrived in our team to help fill the vacancies. We are very pleased to have two such dedicated and experienced officers working with us.

On a personal note, I would also like to thank Sandy for accepting the vacant position of Deputy Chief Inspector and for providing so much support to both myself and the whole group.

Surrey Group Work – Our Investigations

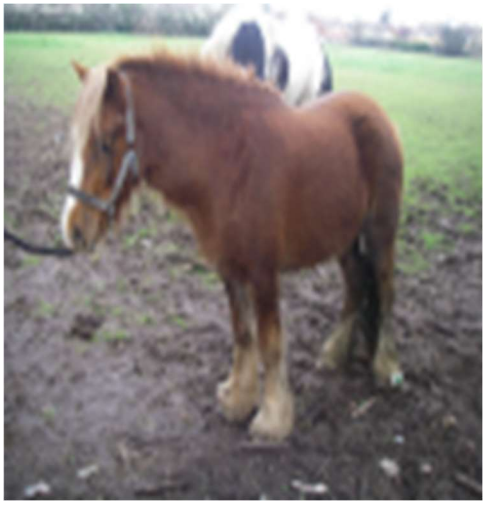


Inspectors Nat Kitchin, Lauren Evans, Becky Timberlake, Jo Bowling, and Animal Collection Officer Tasha Clarke all assisted with a complex multi-bird complaint in Camberley. Sadly, there were numerous birds including ducks, guinea fowl, a turkey, geese, chickens, and peacocks, all of which were being kept in poor conditions.



A warning notice was issued to the owner about improving conditions and he agreed to sign over eighteen of the birds. When we returned at a later date to check the conditions for the remaining birds, Inspectors were happy with the improvements made. The birds that had been previously signed over were distributed amongst the Hillingdon branch and RSPCA Millbrook, and some even went to stay with an officer in the Surrey group. A great team effort was made all round.

Inspector Jo Bowling was called to check some struggling ponies in Hillingdon. As the only access to the field was through a tall, locked gate, the Police and then Fire & Rescue were asked to attend to help us get access. On examination, one poor pony had chronic diarrhoea and was removed from the field and taken to a private equine boarding establishment. The pony was placed on fluids, but very sadly she then went on to develop severe colic and had to be put to sleep. An unhappy outcome and, as is sadly often the case with these types of situations. Unfortunately, the owner was never found. However, this is ar rely on other types of organisations to undertake our work.





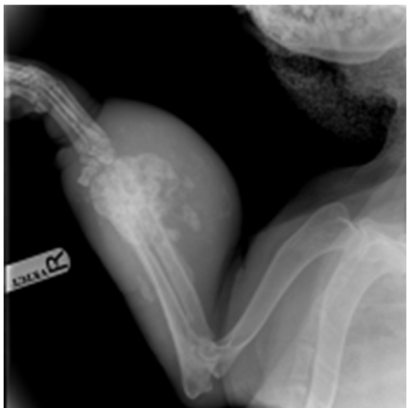
Inspector Natalie Kitchin investigated an incident in Leatherhead involving a cat in a very poor bodily condition. The cat sadly had an untreated cancerous mouth tumour. The owner was issued with an RSPCA Caution as a result of his failure to address his cat's obviously deteriorating poor health. Sadly, by the time Nat become involved, the tumour was untreatable and "Fat the cat" had to be euthanised. Another unhappy outcome, and a further example of the type of neglect our officers routinely face.

Inspector Lauren Evans secured a conviction against a horse owner in Merstham. The owner was found guilty of neglecting her two horses that were found to have had their feet trimmed inappropriately, leaving them with mechanical laminitis. The horses also had signs of chronic laminitis. The owner was given a 16-week prison sentence, suspended for 18 months, a ten-year disqualification from keeping equines and ordered to pay £1,900 in court costs.



The vet found that laminitis had been evident as an active and painful disease process, with the period of suffering for both horses present for a prolonged period. Sadly one of the horses had to be euthanised as there was no way of alleviating her suffering, but the other horse responded well to her treatment and was later transferred to an equine rescue charity.

A dog owner in West Drayton pleaded guilty to an offence of causing unnecessary suffering to a pit bull terrier type bitch, known as Missy, by failing to provide veterinary attention in respect of a tumour on the dog's leg. Missy had been brought into a vet practice in Hillingdon. The vet contacted the RSPCA as the dog was unable to move because of the pain, and her leg was swollen to between six and eight times its normal size. X-rays later showed a huge growth on her front right leg which had become ulcerated. The vet found that poor Missy's leg was broken and that she'd have been suffering for at least three weeks. Sadly, the decision was made to put Missy to sleep.



Inspector Jo Bowling launched an investigation and was able to track down and interview the owner. She was sentenced to a 12-week prison sentence, suspended for one year, and 25 rehabilitation activity requirement days. She was also ordered to pay costs of £450 and was disqualified from keeping all animals (except fish) for two years.

Surrey Group Work: Our Collections and Rescues

Following lockdown in March, our local animal centre RSPCA Millbrook was closed to the public. To ensure our essential work of continuing to rehome their animals, the Surrey Inspectorate team through themselves into the task of delivering Millbrook's animals in a safe way. Over 90 animals, including cats, guinea pigs, budgies, rabbits, ferrets, gerbils and rats were collected by the team and taken to very grateful new owners.



Animal Collection Officer Louis Horton was called to assist with a complex rescue of a pony that had fallen down a cesspit in Guildford. The poor pony had been down there for around three hours by the time Louis arrived. The Fire and Rescue services were called to assist, and a local vet came to sedate the pony. Fire and Rescue managed to get a hydraulic crane with a sling attached into the pit. After several hours' hard work, the pony was lifted out and was fortunately uninjured. The vet was happy the pony could be left with his owners, who were given appropriate advice about ongoing care. This is a great example of how we work in partnership with others.

It is a sad fact that discarded fishing tackle often causes injuries to birds and mammals living around our waterways. Animal Welfare Officer Carl Hone was called to this coot on the Thames in Kingston which had become entangled in fishing line, hook and a decoy. The bird was unable to fly or swim properly and finally became caught in reeds at the side of the river. Carl took the bird to Swan Support who managed to remove all the line and the bird was luckily released safely back on the Thames.

Local Branches Helping our Officers with their Work

There are many examples of where our local branches have assisted our officers with their work. Here are just a few:

Guildford and Epsom Branch very kindly agreed to pay for a poor owl, which had been unfortunately struck by a car, to go to The Wildlife Aid Foundation in Leatherhead. The owl was treated and later released.

Hants and Surrey Border Branch stepped in to help with a multi-cat operation in Yateley. Not only did they assist by supplying neutering vouchers, but they also agreed to take on some of the more challenging cats for potential rehoming.

Surrey East Branch kindly stepped in to help pay boarding costs for a stray abandoned cockerel in their area. Sadly, this type of incident involving cockerels is not uncommon as they are still used by some owners for fighting.

Surrey Group: "Thank-You's"

As you will see from many of the incidents described above, our work is very much a team effort. So we would like to thank all of our local Branches for their help and assistance, whether by providing funding for a welfare issue or by taking in animals for our officers. We also rely on the invaluable support provided by our own animal centres and hospitals, and particular thanks is owed to RSPCA Millbrook, RSPCA South Godstone and RSPCA Putney Animal Hospital, all of whom have helped us out so much during the year. The closure of three local centres used often by our team (RSPCA Putney Animal Hospital, RSPCA South Godstone and RSPCA Lockwood) was felt very strongly by our officers, and I know they would like to wish all the staff the very best for the future.

We also work closely with other agencies and charitable organisations to secure the welfare and care each animal deserves. Our particular thanks go to all the local Police and Fire and Rescue teams, and to all of the veterinary practices who have so ably assisted our work throughout 2020. We really could not undertake the work we do without this support.

Finally, I would like to extend my personal thanks to all of the Surrey officers who have continued to work with such commitment during what has undoubtedly been an extremely difficult and challenging year. The pandemic has dramatically changed much of what we do (including the overnight closure of the National Control Centre in April) and has caused great anxiety and concern. Some officers have had to cancel their wedding plans and holidays, and all of them have faced anxieties and concerns in relation to the pandemic. However, every one of them has continued to be out there on the front line dealing with animal welfare issues and rescuing animals in need. I would like to express my sincere and heartfelt thanks for their amazing professionalism and dedication shown by every single member of the team.

Rob Jackson
Chief Inspector - Surrey Group

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF R.S.P.C.A. GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH

I report on the accounts of the Charity (Registered Charity number 203608) for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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 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.

JIM HALLIDAY, FCA
Chartered Accountant
74 Holly Hill, Southampton, SO16 7EY

19 July 2021

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

R.S.P.C.A GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	NOTE	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Collecting Boxes		216	-	216	298
Sales of New and Donated Goods		282	-	282	364
Branch Fundraising Events		720	-	720	1,786
Branch Adoption Fees		790	-	790	2,160
Donations via HQ Door to Door Fundraising		50,346	-	50,346	53,478
Other Donations		3,920	-	3,920	8,407
Legacies		-	-	-	5,100
Contributions received for Community Action Events		3,524	-	3,524	4,284
Membership Subscriptions		418	-	418	455
Investment Income	3	1,951	2,156	4,107	5,689
		62,167	2,156	64,323	82,021
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Charitable Activities					
Veterinary Treatment on Branch Voucher Scheme		16,831	6,298	23,129	25,644
Neutering on Branch Voucher Scheme		2,379	1,138	3,517	5,011
Voucher Scheme and Charitable Expenses		376	164	540	1,068
Veterinary Treatment and Neutering of Unowned Animals		5,532	204	5,736	7,322
Boarding and Food		3,141	66	3,207	19,206
Wildlife		4,764	2,858	7,622	4,455
Community Action Events		3,730	-	3,730	4,749
Donations		35,757	-	35,757	15,445
Branch Contribution to RSPCA Headquarters and Region		1,378	-	1,378	3,308
		73,888	10,728	84,616	86,208
Cost of Generating Funds	4	234	-	234	254
Governance Costs and Depreciation					
AGM/Annual Reports		108	65	173	811
Administrative Expenses		382	229	611	765
Depreciation		161	-	161	235
Insurance		328	197	525	525
		979	491	1,470	2,336
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		75,101	11,219	86,320	88,798
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	5	(12,934)	(9,063)	(21,997)	(6,777)
TOTAL FUNDS Balance Brought Forward		114,320	204,919	319,239	326,016
Transfer of funds		195,856	(195,856)	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS Balance Carried Forward	5	297,242	-	297,242	319,239

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

R.S.P.C.A GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH
BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	NOTE	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible fixed assets	7	294	-	294	1,029
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	6,682	-	6,682	11,294
Investment Bank Accounts		295,962	-	295,962	306,317
Cash at bank - Current Account		10,103	-	10,103	19,666
		312,747	-	312,747	337,277
CREDITORS (falling due within 1 year)					
Creditors		(15,799)	-	(15,799)	(19,067)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		296,948	-	296,948	318,210
NET ASSETS		297,242	-	297,242	319,239
FUNDS					
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds		297,242	-	297,242	114,320
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Restricted income funds		-	-	-	204,919
TOTAL FUNDS	5	297,242	-	297,242	319,239

Approved by the Trustees on 19 July 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Lucy Pollard _____ Hon. Chairman

Steven Hooke _____ Hon. Treasurer

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

R.S.P.C.A GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A General

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting by Charities.

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis.

B Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations are recognised when the Charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Legacies are recognised on the earlier of either (a) the date that probate is granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Charity that a distribution will be made, or (b) when a distribution is received from the estate. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition has not been met, then the legacy is disclosed in the notes to the accounts. Legacies received via the Branch legacy scheme are grossed up for the administration charges deducted, with the associated charges shown as expenditure in the year the legacy is credited.

Investment income is recognised on an accruals basis.

C Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

D Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided on equipment at rates of 25% to 33.3% per annum to write off the assets over their estimated useful lives of 3 or 4 years.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

R.S.P.C.A GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

E Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees. Designated funds represent those unrestricted funds which have been ring fenced by the trustees for a specific purpose. Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes, within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. STATEMENT OF BRANCH COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Charity law requires the branch committee, as trustees, to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year, and the financial position at the end of the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable Accounting Policies and apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2020 £	2019 £
Interest on Investment Bank Accounts	4,107	3,801
Gains in valuation of investments	-	1,888
	4,107	5,689

4. COST OF GENERATING FUNDS

	2020 £	2019 £
Pitch fees and licences	234	254

5. FUNDS MOVEMENT

	At 1 January 2020 £	Transfers between funds £	Net movement £	At 31 December 2020 £
Unrestricted funds				
Unrestricted funds	94,320	215,856	(12,934)	297,242
Designated funds	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
	114,320	195,856	(12,934)	297,242
Restricted funds				
Restricted income funds	204,919	(195,856)	(9,063)	-
Total funds	319,239	-	(21,997)	297,242

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

R.S.P.C.A GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

In July 2020 the branch applied to the Charity Commission for permission to remove the restrictions in respect of former Epsom branch funds created by the merger of the branch with the RSPCA Surrey Epsom & District branch ("former Epsom branch") in 2019. On 12 August 2020 the Charity Commission confirmed they were satisfied the requirements of section 275 of the Charities Act 2011 had been met and the removal of the restrictions became effective on 29 September 2020.

In December 2019, the Committee designated £20,000 of unrestricted funds to support the building of a new cattery at South Godstone. The South Godstone site was closed in 2020 as part of a restructuring of the RSPCA National Society. Following the closure, the Committee has removed the designation on this £20,000.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' EXPENSES AND REMUNERATION

No committee member received any remuneration and the branch has no paid staff. Four committee members were reimbursed a total of £1,215.19 for costs incurred.

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

EQUIPMENT	2020	2019
	£	£
COST		
At 1 January	1,264	-
Additions	-	1,264
Disposals	(795)	-
At 31 December	469	1,264
DEPRECIATION		
At 1 January	235	-
Charge for year	161	235
Disposals	(221)	-
At 31 December	175	235
NET BOOK VALUE		
At 31 December	294	1,029

8. DEBTORS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	1,959	3,008
Other debtors	4,723	8,286
	6,682	11,294

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

R.S.P.C.A GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

9. COMPARATIVES FOR STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Collecting Boxes	298	-	298
Sales of New and Donated Goods	364	-	364
Branch Fundraising Events	1,786	-	1,786
Branch Adoption Fees	2,160	-	2,160
Donations via HQ Door to Door Fundraising	53,478	-	53,478
Other Donations	8,194	213	8,407
Legacies	-	5,100	5,100
Contributions received for Community Action Events	4,284	-	4,284
Membership Subscriptions	455	-	455
Investment Income	3,738	1,951	5,689
	74,757	7,264	82,021
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Charitable Activities			
Veterinary Treatment on Branch Voucher Scheme	16,055	9,589	25,644
Neutering on Branch Voucher Scheme	2,502	2,509	5,011
Voucher Scheme and Charitable Expenses	649	419	1,068
Veterinary Treatment and Neutering of Unowned Animals	6,234	1,088	7,322
Boarding and Food	13,461	5,745	19,206
Wildlife	2,227	2,228	4,455
Community Action Events	4,749	-	4,749
Donations	15,445	-	15,445
Branch Contribution to RSPCA Headquarters and Region	3,308	-	3,308
	64,630	21,578	86,208
Cost of Generating Funds	254	-	254
Governance Costs and Depreciation			
AGM/Annual Reports	211	600	811
Administrative Expenses	426	339	765
Depreciation	235	-	235
Insurance	263	262	525
	1,135	1,201	2,336
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	66,019	22,779	88,798
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	8,738	(15,515)	(6,777)
TOTAL FUNDS Balance Brought Forward	326,016	-	326,016
Transfer of funds	(220,434)	220,434	-
TOTAL FUNDS Balance Carried Forward	114,320	204,919	319,239

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

R.S.P.C.A GUILDFORD AND EPSOM BRANCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

10. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

On 5 January 2021, the U.K. Government announced a new set of restrictions to limit the spread of COVID-19. These restrictions have impacted the day to day operations of the branch during 2021, for example by restricting fund raising and welfare assistance activities that can be undertaken. The branch continues to be fortunate in having a good level of reserves and the majority of the branch's cost base is variable, so expenditure can be reduced quickly if necessary. All investments are also available within one year, so the branch has limited liquidity risk.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR WORK - here we showcase **our educational work**

Storm (featured on our front cover) was a beautiful 10-week-old German Shepherd puppy when she started to display severe signs of illness just 3 days after her owner Amber purchased her from an online seller. Storm had become lethargic and begun severely vomiting. Amber was obviously very concerned about Storm and took her to a vet. It was initially unclear exactly what was wrong with poor Storm and further investigations were needed; Storm also needed to have an IV drip as she was very dehydrated.

Amber was becoming increasingly concerned as her condition began to deteriorate further, the poor pup was also suffering from diarrhoea. Despite an examination Storm had still not been given a specific diagnosis and there was also the added worry of vets' bills, which was causing additional concern for Amber because she had recently lost her job. Unfortunately, Amber was unable to claim any costs through her pet insurance, due to a clause in the policy.

Unsure as to what to do and in desperation, she contacted our branch to seek some advice and to ask if there was anything we could do. One of our volunteers Ann spoke with her, to find out more about Storm and to see if and how we could help.

After discussing the situation with Amber, it seemed possible that Storm could be suffering from parvovirus. Parvovirus is sadly very common, especially in dogs that have come from unsafe environments such as a puppy farm. Parvovirus is very contagious and can be caught from another infected dog, dog poo (it spreads in dog poo particles), or anything an infected dog has touched such as a food bowl or bedding. Sadly, the conditions that dogs have been kept in are not always clear to new owners who are seeking to give a puppy a lovely new home. Unvaccinated puppies, less than 6 months old are particularly prone to parvovirus infections and often get the most severe symptoms. Sadly, the chances of survival can be very low.

Ann stayed in touch with Amber throughout this traumatic time and spoke with another vet to look at options for Storm's treatment, as well as discussing the possibility of some financial support so that Storm could get a test to confirm whether she was in fact suffering from parvovirus.

Amber then took Storm to a 24-hour vet where she had to stay for 3 nights, as sadly the test for parvovirus had been positive. This was a very distressing and uncertain time for Amber and her children, especially when at one point she was advised that Storm may not make it through and might need to be put to sleep.

Amber also set up a fundraising page following some advice from Ann to help raise funds for treatment.

Incredibly, over the 3 days Storm responded to the treatment provided by the caring veterinary team and she began to pull through and she amazingly survived this deadly virus. Storm is now going from strength to strength and settling into her new home with a loving family who adore her.

Amber has since reported the breeder to the relevant authorities and wants to help raise awareness of parvovirus to hopefully prevent any other dogs going through what Storm did.

We are pleased that we were able to help Amber and Storm and that this story had a very happy ending. The sun really did shine after the storm!