

# ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS WILTSHIRE-MID BRANCH

England & Wales · Charity number 205295

## Details

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**Other names** RSPCA WILTSHIRE-MID BRANCH

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 1962-03-22

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 1 The Clay  
Easterton  
Devizes  
SN10 4PB

**Phone** 01380812360

**Email** [rspcawiltsmid@gmail.com](mailto:rspcawiltsmid@gmail.com)

**Website** <http://www.rspca.org.uk/local/wiltshire-mid-branch/>

## Activities

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**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:** Fundraising for animal welfare uses - neutering, spaying, microchipping, help with operations on animals, etc.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services
- **What:** Animals
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** MID WILTSHIRE.
- Wiltshire

## Finances

| Period end | Income  | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|---------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| 2024-12-31 | £41,012 | £38,951     | -      | -         |
| 2023-12-31 | £39,168 | £43,253     | -      | -         |
| 2022-12-31 | £30,890 | £57,998     | -      | -         |
| 2021-12-31 | £98,073 | £94,659     | -      | -         |
| 2020-12-31 | £38,090 | £92,417     | -      | -         |

## Trustees

| Name             | Role | Appointed  |
|------------------|------|------------|
| ANDREW SHEPPARD  |      | 1976-06-28 |
| Elizabeth Davies |      | 2018-06-27 |
| JOANNE SHEPPARD  |      |            |
| Jess Portch      |      | 2024-06-24 |
| Jessica Scull    |      | 2022-07-12 |
| LESLEY PAWLAK    |      |            |

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS WILTSHIRE-MID BRANCH**

England & Wales - Charity number 205295

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# Accounts

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Wiltshire Mid Branch Registered Charity 205295

# RSPCA WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED

### 31 DECEMBER 2024



This is 10 year old Parker, he is a blood donor at Estcourt Vets in Devizes and, along another dog called Thicket he provided blood which was used to produce a serum. This serum meant that Boo (a kitten abandoned in a car park with the severe effects of cat flu) was able to have eye drops that saved one of her eyes. Unfortunately, the other eye had to be removed but she is now happy and healthy and coping with life very well.

Thank you, Parker and Thicket

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Alleviating suffering  
Promoting kindness and preventing cruelty  
Volunteering support

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As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

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## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The RSPCA Wiltshire Mid Branch operates in central Wiltshire, covering the four towns of Devizes, Melksham, Warminster and Westbury and the surrounding villages. It is a registered charity and its charity number is **205295**.

### Trustees

The committee comprises 8 volunteers with a broad range of life experiences and careers, all sharing a common passion for animal welfare – specifically preventing cruelty, alleviating suffering and promoting kindness.

### Committee

Mr. Andrew Sheppard (Chairman)

Mrs Caroline Davy (Treasurer)

Mrs. Elizabeth Davies (Secretary)

Mrs. Lesley Pawlak

Mrs. Jo Sheppard

Ms Maddy Goodman

Miss Jessica Scull

Miss Jessica Portch

### Contact Information

For communication purposes the principal address is C/o Rangebourne Pet Care, 38 New Park Street, Devizes, SN10 1DT the business address of the Chairman Mr. Sheppard.

The web site is <https://www.rspca.org.uk/local/wiltshire-mid-branch/> This site shows details of how to get in touch for animal welfare purposes alongside current news and national and local campaigns/events.

The financial accounts are independently examined by Alanbrookes Group Ltd., t/a J S Weeks & Co., 10 Market Place, Devizes, SN10 1HT. Branch funds are held by Lloyds Bank PLC, Devizes.

# STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Branch is constituted as an unincorporated association. The Branch operates as an autonomous Branch of the National RSPCA subject to its rules for Branches. A committee of Trustees, elected at the Annual General Meeting governs the Branch. All Trustees are briefed on their responsibilities as Trustees prior to their acceptance of the role.

The Branch operates within a national network of organisations that pursue the same objectives, known collectively as the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The network comprises independent Branches operating within a defined geographical area for the purposes of fundraising and the provision of animal care facilities and treatments.

A regional structure which is overseen on a national basis, brings several Branch colleagues together with Inspectors, regional and national representatives. The purpose is to discuss regional funding, co-ordinate policies and objectives as well as provide opportunities for colleagues to share knowledge and experiences.

Representatives of the Branches, regional and national organisations meet at this forum on a regular (at least bi-annual) basis.

The Branch also has links with other Branches and organisations committed to the same objectives including among others, Cats Protection, Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital, RSPCA Bath Cats and Dogs Home, Cat Action Trust, Chippenham Cat Rescue, Acorn Rescue and Compassion for Cats.

## **Branch Management**

The Trustees meet every eight weeks to discuss progress on the year's activities and to agree any required actions. The Branch finances are reviewed at each meeting to ensure donated funds are used appropriately and to mitigate any risks.

The Trustees also examine other operational and business risks and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate any significant risks, such as:-

1. Loss of reputation through error or fraud
2. Loss of income through error or fraud
3. Insufficient funds to cover the costs of animal welfare activities

These meetings are also used to ensure that the Branch operates in accordance with any relevant National Society rules, processes and initiatives – guided by the Branch Partnership Manager.

## OBJECTS, OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The objects of the Branch are to promote the work and objectives of the National Society of the RSPCA – to prevent animal cruelty, to promote kindness to animals and to alleviate the suffering of animals through all lawful means – with particular reference to the Branch area and in accordance with the policies of the Society.

The Trustees have reviewed the outcomes and achievements of the Branch's objectives and activities for the year to ensure they remain focused on the charity's aims and continue to deliver benefits to the public. The Trustees have complied with the duty under the Charities Act 1993 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission which can be illustrated as follows: -

### **Alleviating Suffering**

A priority for the Branch is to ensure appropriate veterinary care is available for animals whose owners are on benefits or a low income and may be reluctant or anxious about the costs of seeing a vet. The Branch provides contributions towards veterinary treatment for sick or injured animals owned by local people on low incomes and on benefits through a voucher scheme.

### **Promoting kindness and preventing cruelty**

The branch has a phone which trustees take in turns to hold and answer so that the public can ring to ask for help and advice. This is available for 12 hours a day and when not manned has a lot of useful information the public can access. We issue vouchers where we feel this is necessary to alleviate an animal's suffering (this is only to owners who are on benefits) and always encourage owners to think about pet insurance.

The Branch also offers subsidised neutering of cats for owners on state benefits, this helps to control cat populations and promotes responsible pet ownership.

## Volunteering Support

RSPCA Wiltshire Mid Branch provide volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work including Trusteeship, fundraising and event participation.

The Branch continues to make efforts to attract new Trustees and volunteers.

## Achievements and Performance

### **Joint Report of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer for 2024**

2024 has been a busy and sometimes very difficult year for the trustees and volunteers who work directly with cases brought to our attention.

As you can see from our Chief Inspector's Annual Report that the instances of animal cruelty have risen dramatically

Without the help of our inspectors and Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital it would be very difficult to continue attending animals in distress or suffering from cruelty.

Some of our cases have ended happily and the vital liaison with local vets and the hard work of our volunteers and fosterers have enabled many animals to overcome their problems and find happy homes to live out the rest of their days.

By having a presence at events such as the Melksham River Festival we hope to educate the public about the necessary care that any animal would need and advise on the best way to adopt an animal needing a home.

In June last year Estcourt Vets in Devizes helped us with our cat microchipping campaign following the new law that all cats must be microchipped.

A trustee was on site to assist the veterinary nurses and many owners were very grateful for the opportunity to get their cats microchipped at a reasonable price.

We have had some difficult and urgent cases in 2024 eg: 12 cats and 12 guinea pigs which had to be rehomed urgently due to an eviction notice imposed on their owner. Volunteers, trustees and local organisations managed to find room for them before they were rehomed.

25+ cats needed to be removed from one household so volunteers, trustees and Inspectors managed to achieve a swift removal.

We have also been supported with fund raising events such as: Chirton Primary School who raised funds for us and Coate Village Show who donated money raised at their show to us.

We would like to thank Duncan Thom and Amber Dunham who work tirelessly for the branch as volunteers particularly dealing with feral colonies of cats and fostering kittens.

We owe thanks to the following organisations who have supported us in so many ways in the last year:

Estcourt Vets, Devizes, who have gone that extra mile so many times this year.

Cats Protection, who never fail to provide any help they can however difficult it is for them.

Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital, who provide us with so much support around wildlife in our area.

Ginger Cat Craft who supply (among other things) loved Stinky Ferrets for our rescues to enjoy.

Compassion for Cats who have helped at the most difficult times.

Morrisons supermarket for having our food bank which has been such a help to us and the other organisations we share the contents with.

Last but not least our Inspectors who continue to support us and are always willing to advise/attend any cases concerning cruelty to animals that come our way.

The following is a breakdown of the financial costs and expenditure in relation to our work this year and supplements the end of year accounts:

£ 28,559.69 in Vet Fees in 2024

### **Cat Neutering Campaign.**

A donation of £20 per animal was asked for and we covered the rest of the cost.

In excess of 111 cats were neutered under this scheme and £1,496 was taken in donations.

We offered a microchipping service at the cost of £5 per animal and more than 167 cats were chipped and £836 was raised through this service.

We continued to offer support and help managing feral cat communities in and outside our area and the veterinary cost of ongoing neutering requirements was met by the branch.

These are included in the total vet fees

135 vouchers were insured offering financial contributions to help support people with their vet's fee. All people requesting vouchers were means tested in accordance with RSPCA guidelines.

Remaining vet fees were spent on branch animals

£3,300 was raised through adoption fee. (£150 per cat)

Significant donations were made following social media campaigns.

## Collaboration with the National Society

It is a given that we always support the National Society objectives, where appropriate, and within our capability. Guided by our Branch Partnership Manager we use the regular Branch Communication circulations to identify opportunities to get involved.

As part of our commitment to running a properly regulated charity we have established several Branch policies and have adopted the principle of a Branch Annual Review through which we may reflect on past work and to plan future activities.

## Collaboration with the Community

After a very successful outcome last year we are taking part in the Melksham River Festival this year (30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup>) to promote the branch and it's work in the Melksham community. We will have a pitch at the festival with lots of information about our work and hope to engage with the public by showing them the many and varied strands that make up our work with animals and their owners. There was a huge amount of interest in our stand at last year's festival so we hope for a similar outcome this year.

## Collaboration with other Branches and Charities

As will have been seen from previous reports the Branch agreed to North Wilts Branch siting an RSPCA shop in Warminster, under the terms of the arrangement the Branch receives a percentage of the profits and all donations received, which this year amounted to £1142.08 to benefit the Mid Wilts Branch. This figure was not shown in our annual accounts as it was donated after the end of year accounts were completed.

Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital continues to receive monetary support from the Branch to assist in their work of caring for and rehabilitating local wildlife.

## Collaboration with the Local Inspectors

The RSPCA Inspectors provide knowledge and experience to the Branch which is invaluable, the wide range of issues and problems they face can be seen from the Chief Inspector's Report included within this Report.

## Fundraising

We are actively seeking to raise funds via grants and legacies with leaflets about legacies being part of our events.

Branch Awareness is a focus for the coming year with events that inform and (and hopefully involve) people in the areas we cover.

## Financial Review

The total incoming resources for the year amounted to £41012.81. Expenditure for the year amounted to £38951.57.

It is the policy of the Branch to maintain free reserves for the Branch at a level equal to approximately five years' unrestricted expenditure, to allow for fluctuations in donations and legacies on which the Branch relies. Our Trustees are keen that money should not be retained unnecessarily simply to ensure sustainability.

Free reserves are defined as unrestricted reserves (funds donated for a specific purpose which cannot be used for anything other than the purpose for which they were donated).

In line with the Branch Rules, an annual donation is made to the National Society, this amount is calculated as a percentage of our free reserves. This donation is deducted at source from our share of the Door-to-Door collection that we receive annually from the National Society.

The investment policy, taken on advice following receipt of legacies, takes into account our cautious attitude to risk, with investment funds stored in National Savings Income Bonds.

The Trustees have no designated funds for expenditure in the next twelve months, apart from an amount in the region of £5,000 which will be donated to the Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital during 2025.

## Future Plans

Together with our regular and continuing support provided to those in need of financial veterinary assistance we will be at the Melksham River Festival on 30th/31<sup>st</sup> August and plan another Dog Show in 2025 in Devizes. We have

invested in a gazebo, tablecloth, flags and new branded clothing and we are planning to attend as many local events as possible to raise our profile across the whole of Mid Wilts.

We continue to look to increase our Volunteer / Trustee base with a view to bringing fresh ideas into the group.

We will continue to work with our local Inspectors, supporting them on specific animal welfare projects as identified by them.

We have built up really good working relationships with organisations in our area and the collaboration has both helped and enriched our work.

## **Statement of Trustees Responsibilities**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and their financial statements in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales require the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs and the net incoming and outgoing resources of the Charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, Trustees are required to: -

1. Select suitable policies and then apply them consistently;
2. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
3. Prepare financial statements on a going-concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Branch will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open, to safeguard the assets of the Charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware. Additionally, the Trustees have taken all the steps needed in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information.



**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF  
CRUELTY TO ANIMALS**

**WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**

**CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 205295**

**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS –  
WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**  
**Report of the Independent Examiner**  
**To The Officers and Committee of Royal Society for the Prevention of  
Cruelty to Animals – Wiltshire Mid Branch**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 3 to 5.

**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 Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

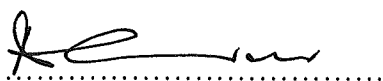
**Basis of Independent Examiner's Report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act,
 have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mrs A M Cross FCCA  
The Alanbrookes Group Ltd t/a J S Weeks & Co  
10 Market Place  
Devizes  
Wiltshire  
SN10 1HT

8 May 2025

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS -  
WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**

**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024**

| 2023        |                               | 2024       |
|-------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| £           |                               | £          |
|             | <b>Accumulated Fund</b>       |            |
| 106,463.43  | Balance Brought Forward       | 102,378.93 |
|             | Add Surplus of Income         |            |
| --          | Over Expenditure              | 2,061.24   |
|             | Deduct Excess of Expenditure  |            |
| (4,084.50)  | Over Income                   | (-.-)      |
| -----       |                               | -----      |
| 102,378.93  |                               | 104,440.17 |
| =====       |                               | =====      |
|             | <b>Represented By:</b>        |            |
|             | <b>Investments</b>            |            |
| 105,000.00  | National Savings Income Bonds | 92,000.00  |
| 4,067.47    | Bank Deposit Account          | 17,202.99  |
|             | <b>Current Assets</b>         |            |
| 3,775.48    | Bank Current Account          | 4,104.66   |
| -----       |                               | -----      |
| 112,842.95  |                               | 113,307.65 |
| (10,464.02) | Less:- Creditors              | (8,867.48) |
| -----       |                               | -----      |
| 102,378.93  |                               | 104,440.17 |
| =====       |                               | =====      |

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS -  
WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

| 2023<br>£                   | INCOME                      | 2024<br>£                   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 6,165.94                    | Subscriptions and Donations | 5,770.14                    |
| -.-                         | Adoptions                   | 3,700.00                    |
| 683.50                      | Shop – Donations            | -.-                         |
| -.-                         | Chipping and Neutering      | 2,495.00                    |
| -.-                         | Legacies                    | 2,000.00                    |
| 6,000.00                    | Grants                      | 1,500.00                    |
| 23,094.00                   | Door to Door Collection     | 21,816.10                   |
| -----<br>35,943.44          |                             | -----<br>37,281.24          |
|                             | <b>Investment Income</b>    |                             |
| 3,225.21                    | Interest Received           | 3,731.57                    |
| -----<br>39,168.65<br>===== |                             | -----<br>41,012.81<br>===== |

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS -  
WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

| 2023      |            | EXPENDITURE                        | 2024      |           |
|-----------|------------|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| £         | £          |                                    | £         | £         |
|           |            | Branch Contribution to RSPCA       | 551.00    |           |
| 551.00    |            | Veterinary Fees                    | 28,559.69 |           |
| 12,580.83 |            | Neutering Campaigns                | -.-       |           |
| 11,818.27 |            | Feral Neutering/Rehoming           | -.-       |           |
| 6,178.07  |            | Feral TNR Expenses                 | -.-       |           |
| 2,237.92  |            | Goods Purchased                    | 2,320.01  |           |
| 764.32    |            | Independent Examiner's Fees        | 360.00    |           |
| 360.00    |            | Telephone                          | 165.18    |           |
| 238.39    |            | Wildlife Hospital                  | 5,000.00  |           |
| 7,500.00  |            | Mileage                            | 1,295.10  |           |
| -.-       |            | Sundries                           | 354.82    |           |
| 95.00     |            | Room Hire                          | -.-       |           |
| 72.00     |            | ICO Fees                           | 35.00     |           |
| 35.00     |            | Insurance                          | 310.77    |           |
| 822.35    |            |                                    |           |           |
| -----     | 43,253.15  |                                    | -----     | 38,951.57 |
|           |            | Surplus of Income over Expenditure |           |           |
|           | -.-        | Carried to Accumulated Fund        |           | 2,061.24  |
|           |            | Excess of Expenditure over Income  |           |           |
|           | (4,084.50) | Carried to Accumulated Fund        |           | (-.-)     |
|           | -----      |                                    |           | -----     |
|           | 39,168.65  |                                    |           | 41,012.81 |
|           | =====      |                                    |           | =====     |



**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF  
CRUELTY TO ANIMALS**

**WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**

**CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 205295**

**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS –  
WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**  
**Report of the Independent Examiner**  
**To The Officers and Committee of Royal Society for the Prevention of  
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I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 3 to 5.

**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 Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

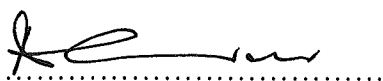
**Basis of Independent Examiner's Report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

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  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act,
 have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



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SN10 1HT

8 May 2025

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS -  
WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**

**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024**

| 2023        |                               | 2024       |
|-------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| £           |                               | £          |
|             | <b>Accumulated Fund</b>       |            |
| 106,463.43  | Balance Brought Forward       | 102,378.93 |
|             | Add Surplus of Income         |            |
| --          | Over Expenditure              | 2,061.24   |
|             | Deduct Excess of Expenditure  |            |
| (4,084.50)  | Over Income                   | (-.-)      |
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| 105,000.00  | National Savings Income Bonds | 92,000.00  |
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|             | <b>Current Assets</b>         |            |
| 3,775.48    | Bank Current Account          | 4,104.66   |
| -----       |                               | -----      |
| 112,842.95  |                               | 113,307.65 |
| (10,464.02) | Less:- Creditors              | (8,867.48) |
| -----       |                               | -----      |
| 102,378.93  |                               | 104,440.17 |
| =====       |                               | =====      |

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS -  
WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

| 2023<br>£                   | INCOME                      | 2024<br>£                   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 6,165.94                    | Subscriptions and Donations | 5,770.14                    |
| -.-                         | Adoptions                   | 3,700.00                    |
| 683.50                      | Shop – Donations            | -.-                         |
| -.-                         | Chipping and Neutering      | 2,495.00                    |
| -.-                         | Legacies                    | 2,000.00                    |
| 6,000.00                    | Grants                      | 1,500.00                    |
| 23,094.00                   | Door to Door Collection     | 21,816.10                   |
| -----<br>35,943.44          |                             | -----<br>37,281.24          |
|                             | <b>Investment Income</b>    |                             |
| 3,225.21                    | Interest Received           | 3,731.57                    |
| -----<br>39,168.65<br>===== |                             | -----<br>41,012.81<br>===== |

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS -  
WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

| 2023      |            | EXPENDITURE                        | 2024      |           |
|-----------|------------|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| £         | £          |                                    | £         | £         |
|           |            | Branch Contribution to RSPCA       | 551.00    |           |
| 551.00    |            | Veterinary Fees                    | 28,559.69 |           |
| 12,580.83 |            | Neutering Campaigns                | -.-       |           |
| 11,818.27 |            | Feral Neutering/Rehoming           | -.-       |           |
| 6,178.07  |            | Feral TNR Expenses                 | -.-       |           |
| 2,237.92  |            | Goods Purchased                    | 2,320.01  |           |
| 764.32    |            | Independent Examiner's Fees        | 360.00    |           |
| 360.00    |            | Telephone                          | 165.18    |           |
| 238.39    |            | Wildlife Hospital                  | 5,000.00  |           |
| 7,500.00  |            | Mileage                            | 1,295.10  |           |
| -.-       |            | Sundries                           | 354.82    |           |
| 95.00     |            | Room Hire                          | -.-       |           |
| 72.00     |            | ICO Fees                           | 35.00     |           |
| 35.00     |            | Insurance                          | 310.77    |           |
| 822.35    |            |                                    |           |           |
| -----     | 43,253.15  |                                    | -----     | 38,951.57 |
|           |            | Surplus of Income over Expenditure |           |           |
|           | -.-        | Carried to Accumulated Fund        |           | 2,061.24  |
|           |            | Excess of Expenditure over Income  |           |           |
|           | (4,084.50) | Carried to Accumulated Fund        |           | (-.-)     |
|           | -----      |                                    |           | -----     |
|           | 39,168.65  |                                    |           | 41,012.81 |
|           | =====      |                                    |           | =====     |



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# Accounts

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# RSPCA WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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## **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

The RSPCA Wiltshire Mid Branch operates in central Wiltshire, covering the four towns of Devizes, Melksham, Warminster and Westbury and the surrounding villages. It is a registered charity and its charity number is **205295**.

### **Trustees**

The committee comprises ten volunteers with a broad range of life experiences and careers, all sharing a common passion for animal welfare - specifically preventing cruelty, alleviating suffering and promoting kindness.

### **Committee**

Mr. Andrew Sheppard (Chairman)

Mr. Richard Pearce (Treasurer)

Miss Jane Barton (Secretary - up to AGM for 2022)

Mrs. Elizabeth Davies (Secretary from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023)

Mrs. Lesley Pawlak

Mrs. Jo Sheppard

Ms. Maddy Goodman

Mrs. Caroline Davy

Miss Jessica Scull

Mrs Lorna Gough

Miss Jessica Portch (co-opted)

### **Contact Information**

For communication purposes the principal address is C/o Rangebourne Pet Care, 38 New Park Street, Devizes, SN10 1DT the business address of the Chairman Mr. Sheppard.

web site is <https://www.rspca.org.uk/local/wiltshire-mid-branch/> This site shows details of how to get in touch for animal welfare purposes alongside current news and national and local campaigns/events.

The financial accounts are independently examined by Alanbrookes Group Ltd., t/a J S Weeks & Co., 10 Market Place, Devizes, SN10 1HT. Branch funds are held by Lloyds Bank PLC, Devizes.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The Branch is constituted as an unincorporated association. The Branch operates as an autonomous Branch of the National RSPCA subject to its rules for Branches. A committee of Trustees, elected at the Annual General Meeting governs the Branch. All Trustees are briefed on their responsibilities as Trustees prior to their acceptance of the role.

The Branch operates within a national network of organisations that pursue the same objectives, known collectively as the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The network comprises independent Branches operating within a defined geographical area for the purposes of fundraising and the provision of animal care facilities and treatments.

A regional structure which is overseen on a national basis, brings several Branch colleagues together with Inspectors, regional and national representatives. The purpose is to discuss regional funding, co-ordinate policies and objectives as well as provide opportunities for colleagues to share knowledge and experiences.

Representatives of the Branches, regional and national organisations meet at this forum on a regular (at least bi-annual) basis.

The Branch also has links with other Branches and organisations committed to the same objectives including among others, Cats Protection, Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital, RSPCA Bath Cats and Dogs Home, Cat Action Trust, Chippenham Cat Rescue, Acorn Rescue and Compassion for Cats.

### **Branch Management**

The Trustees meet every eight weeks to discuss progress on the year's activities and to agree any required actions. The Branch finances are reviewed at each meeting to ensure donated funds are used appropriately and to mitigate any risks.

The Trustees also examine other operational and business risks and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate any significant risks, such as:-

1. Loss of reputation through error or fraud
2. Loss of income through error or fraud
3. Insufficient funds to cover the costs of animal welfare activities

These meetings are also used to ensure that the Branch operates in accordance with any relevant National Society rules, processes and initiatives – guided by the Branch Partnership Manager.

## OBJECTS, OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The objects of the Branch are to promote the work and objectives of the National Society of the RSPCA – to prevent animal cruelty, to promote kindness to animals and to alleviate the suffering of animals through all lawful means – with particular reference to the Branch area and in accordance with the policies of the Society.

The Trustees have reviewed the outcomes and achievements of the Branch’s objectives and activities for the year to ensure they remain focused on the charity’s aims and continue to deliver benefits to the public. The Trustees have complied with the duty under the Charities Act 1993 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission which can be illustrated as follows: -

### **Alleviating Suffering**

A priority for the Branch is to ensure appropriate veterinary care is available for animals whose owners are on benefits or a low income and may be reluctant or anxious about the costs of seeing a vet. The Branch provides contributions towards veterinary treatment for sick or injured animals owned by local people on low incomes and on benefits through a voucher scheme.

During 2023 vouchers to the total value of £12,581 were redeemed in the Branch area. The neutering campaign amounted to a further £11,818. Further expenditure was incurred by our continuing trapping, neutering and releasing of feral adult cats and rehoming of any kittens of feral cats which amounted to £8,415 (including expenses). This is a separate issue from the voucher system. Below is an analysis of veterinary charges incurred in 2023.

| <b>ANALYSIS OF VET CHARGES 2023</b> |                    | £    | £            |        |               |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------|--------------|--------|---------------|
| Cats                                | Spay               | 8519 |              | 27.86% |               |
| Cats                                | Castrate           | 4356 |              | 14.25% |               |
| Cats                                | Medical/Surgical   | 5897 |              | 19.29% |               |
| Cats                                | TNR/Branch Animals | 6178 |              | 20.20% |               |
| Cats                                | Microchipping      | 706  |              | 2.31%  |               |
| <b>Cats Total</b>                   |                    |      | <b>25656</b> |        | <b>83.91%</b> |
| Dogs                                | Spay               | 248  |              | 0.81%  |               |
| Dogs                                | Castrate           | 200  |              | 0.65%  |               |
| Dogs                                | Medical/Surgical   | 4129 |              | 13.50% |               |
| <b>Dogs Total</b>                   |                    |      | <b>4577</b>  |        | <b>14.97%</b> |
| Others                              | Neutering          | 100  |              | 0.33%  |               |

|                     |                  |     |              |       |              |
|---------------------|------------------|-----|--------------|-------|--------------|
| Others              | Medical/Surgical | 244 |              | 0.80% |              |
| <b>Others Total</b> |                  |     | <b>344</b>   |       | <b>1.13%</b> |
|                     |                  |     |              |       |              |
| <b>Grand Total</b>  |                  |     | <b>30577</b> |       | <b>100%</b>  |

## **PROMOTING KINDNESS AND PREVENTING CRUELTY**

The branch has a phone which trustees take in turns to hold and answer so that the public can ring to ask for help and advice. This is available for 12 hours a day and when not manned has a lot of useful information the public can access. We issue vouchers where we feel this is necessary to alleviate an animal's suffering (this is only to owners who are on benefits) and always encourage owners to think about pet insurance.

The Branch also offers subsidised neutering of cats for owners on state benefits, this helps to control cat populations and promotes responsible pet ownership.

### **Volunteering Support**

RSPCA Wiltshire Mid Branch provide volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work including Trusteeship, fundraising and event participation.

The Branch continues to make efforts to attract new Trustees and volunteers.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

### **Joint Report of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer for 2023**

2023 has been a year when our focus has very much been on building the strength of our trustee and volunteer teams in order to continue our work in the area.

We have had a year of concentrating on the cat population and ways to ensure this is kept to a manageable level. Feral colonies have been a major share of the work and our trapping, neutering and releasing has gone some considerable way to reducing unwanted kittens in our area.

Our thanks go to our trustees and volunteers who carried out this vital work and those who have taken on the care of kittens from feral colonies prior to finding homes for them.

It was agreed that we should hold a cat neutering campaign to run from 9<sup>th</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

We were able to secure funding of a £6,00 grant from the RSPCA South West Regional Board was based on an estimate of £12,000 expenditure for the campaign.

We received 339 applications in total for 481 cats to be neutered. Applications by areas of responsibility were as follows:

RSPCA Mid Wilts Branch - 133 female, 101 male, 195 microchips  
Cats Protections Frome and District Branch - 91 female, 91 male, 127 microchips  
Out of campaign area (passed to relevant organisation where possible and practicable  
33 females, 32 males, 58 microchips

All vets in the area were involved in the campaign. Vouchers expired on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Expected cost to RSPCA Mid Wilts Branch if all vouchers are presented is £14,713.64 which includes £236.64 for the supply of RSPCA microchips. By supplying the microchips an estimated saving of £880 in charges was achieved.

During the course of the year, we have, as always, provided financial support in the form of vouchers issued to veterinary practices for owners who cannot afford to take their animals for treatment. This financial assistance is limited per case for people on state benefits and advice is

also given with regard to pet insurance (although this is often too expensive for families on state benefits).

Some restrictions are being made in respect of the amount of money the Branch will give in particular situations and when the need for more expensive assistance is required i.e. operations, benefit status would be taken into consideration. This is a very difficult area to police and every case is individual and needs to be considered carefully to ensure that each animal that comes to our attention receives at the very least, emergency care.

The Branch continues to financially support the Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital at Newton Tony, Salisbury. The financial assistance takes the form of a percentage of the running costs of the Hospital, based upon the numbers of animals / birds which originate from the Mid Wilts Branch area. All payments are open to debate and approval by the committee.

In line with that arrangement, in February 2023 an invoice was duly received and based upon the figures provided, it was agreed that the sum of £9,000 should be paid to the Hospital; this figure would represent our total financial support for 2023 up to and including the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

The Committee are very happy to continue supporting the Hospital which provide dedicated care of injured and rehabilitating wildlife originating from our community area, this in turn has the knock-on effect of helping to reduce the workload of our Inspectors, who, without the Hospital's intervention would be required to attend and deal with many of these casualties.

We have on occasion been most fortunate to receive legacies from some amazing people which has enabled us to carry out the work which we do, without that monetary support the degree of financial assistance we could provide would be minimal. Fundraising in this day and age is very difficult, the majority of people, due to the rise in cost of living are unable to assist charities as they once would have done.

The legacy leaflets which were devised and printed last year are being used at events we run or attend in the hope that members of the public will consider this as an option when making their wills.

In respect of neutering, again during the year a number of feral cats from various colonies in our Branch area have been successfully trapped, neutered and returned to sites, sincere thanks are extended to trustees Mr. Thom and Ms Goodman for their hard and diligent work in this respect.

Feral colonies are an ongoing problem in the branch area but we will continue to monitor and take necessary action to reduce unwanted kittens.

We have co-opted Jess Portch to our branch and we hope she will become a full trustee after the AGM. Jess lives locally and grew up with horses, dogs and chickens. She wanted to join our branch to make a difference to animal in the area. She had previously volunteered for another charity but wanted to get more involved with rescuing and rehoming so came to Mid Wilts RSPCA.

In June 2023 we held our Annual General Meeting. Inspector Steph Daly kindly attended the meeting and gave a brief resume of her work within the RSPCA. The meeting was as usual small in attendance but matters of business were progressed and the meeting was concluded with light refreshments.

If there are any members or supporters who could assist in any form with any of our events / fundraising initiatives it would be greatly appreciated, the committee are small in number, many with a number of additional responsibilities and limited free time and any offers of assistance would be greatly appreciated.

That brings us to the end of another year in which we feel we have forged good relationships with new organisations and strengthened our relationships with organisations we already work with so that the animals in the Mid Wilts area are supported and cared for with a range of different but caring organisations who have their welfare at heart.

In conclusion, as always, our grateful thanks are extended to everyone who has supported us in whatever way during the past year either financially or by the generous gift of their time. Our thanks go to our Branch Partnership Managers, Mrs Rogers (part of the year) and Mrs. Robson, local authorities and Veterinary Practices and our dedicated Inspectors and their colleagues.

**Detailed below are bullet points in support of the following topics: -**

### **Collaboration with the National Society**

It is a given that we always support the National Society objectives, where appropriate, and within our capability. Guided by our Branch Partnership

Manager we use the regular Branch Communication circulations to identify opportunities to get involved.

As part of our commitment to running a properly regulated charity we have established several Branch policies and have adopted the principle of a Branch Annual Review through which we may reflect on past work and to plan future activities.

### **Collaboration with the Community**

We are taking part in the Melksham River Festival this year to promote the branch and it's work in the Melksham community. We will have a pitch at the festival with lots of information about our work and hope to engage with the public by showing them the many and varied strands that make up our work with animals and their owners.

### **Collaboration with other Branches and Charities**

As will have been seen from previous reports the Branch agreed to North Wilts Branch siting an RSPCA shop in Warminster, under the terms of the arrangement the Branch receives a percentage of the profits and all donations received, which this year amounted to £683.50 to benefit the Mid Wilts Branch. We also collaborate with the Cats Protection Frome and district for our cat neutering campaigns and they have been very supportive.

Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital continues to receive monetary support from the Branch to assist in their work of caring for and rehabilitating local wildlife.

### **Collaboration with the Local Inspectors**

The RSPCA Inspectors provide knowledge and experience to the Branch which is invaluable, the wide range of issues and problems they face can be seen from the Chief Inspector's Report included within this Report.

### **Fundraising**

We are actively seeking to raise funds via grants and legacies with leaflets about legacies being part of our events.

Branch Awareness is a focus for the coming year with events that inform and (and hopefully involve) people in the areas we cover.

The total incoming resources for the year amounted to £39,168. Expenditure for the year amounted to £43,253.

It is the policy of the Branch to maintain free reserves for the Branch at a level equal to approximately five years' unrestricted expenditure, to allow for fluctuations in donations and legacies on which the Branch relies. Our Trustees are keen that money should not be retained unnecessarily simply to ensure sustainability.

Free reserves are defined as unrestricted reserves (funds donated for a specific purpose which cannot be used for anything other than the purpose for which they were donated).

In line with the Branch Rules, an annual donation is made to the National Society, this amount is calculated as a percentage of our free reserves. This donation is deducted at source from our share of the Door-to-Door collection that we receive annually from the National Society.

The investment policy, taken on advice following receipt of legacies, takes into account our cautious attitude to risk, with investment funds stored in National Savings Income Bonds.

The Trustees have no designated funds for expenditure in the next twelve months, apart from an amount in the region of £7,500 which will be donated to the Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital during 2024.

## **FUTURE PLANS**

Together with our regular and continuing support provided to those in need of financial veterinary assistance we will be at the Melksham River Festival on 31<sup>st</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> September and plan another Dog Show in 2025 in Devizes.

We continue to look to increase our Volunteer / Trustee base with a view to bringing fresh ideas into the group.

We will continue to work with our local Inspectors, supporting them on specific animal welfare projects as identified by them.

## **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and their financial statements in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales require the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs and the net incoming and outgoing resources of the Charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, Trustees are required to: -

1. Select suitable policies and then apply them consistently;
2. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
3. Prepare financial statements on a going-concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Branch will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open, to safeguard the assets of the Charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware. Additionally, the Trustees have taken all the steps needed in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information.



# **BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF**

**CRUELTY TO ANIMALS**

**WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**

**CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 205295**

**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO  
ANIMALS -**

**WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**

**Report of the Independent Examiner**

**To The Officers and Committee of Royal Society for the Prevention of  
Cruelty to Animals - Wiltshire Mid Branch**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 3 to 5.

**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 Commissioners (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 Report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

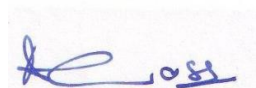
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act,

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



.....

Mrs A M Cross FCCA

The Alanbrookes Group Ltd t/a J S Weeks & Co

10 Market Place

Devizes SN10 1HT

Wiltshire

8 May 2024

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS -  
WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

| <b>2023</b>                        | <b>2022</b> |   |                              |
|------------------------------------|-------------|---|------------------------------|
| <b>£</b>                           |             |   | <b>£</b>                     |
|                                    |             | <b>Accumulated Fund</b>                     |                              |
| 133,571.93                         |             | Balance Brought Forward                     | 106,463.43                   |
|                                    |             | Add Surplus of Income<br>Over Expenditure   | -.-                          |
| -.-                                |             |   |                              |
|                                    |             | Deduct Excess of Expenditure<br>Over Income | (4,084.50)                   |
| (27,108.50)                        |             |   |                              |
| -----<br>106,463.43<br>=====       |             |   | -----<br>102,378.93<br>===== |
|                                    |             | <b>Represented By:</b>                      |                              |
|                                    |             | <b>Investments</b>                          |                              |
| 100,000.00                         |             | National Savings Income Bonds               | 105,000.00                   |
| 15,010.94                          |             | Bank Deposit Account                        | 4,067.47                     |
|                                    |             | <b>Current Assets</b>                       |                              |
|                                    |             | Bank Current Account                        | 3,775.48                     |
| 2,316.30                           |             |   |                              |
| -----<br>117,327.24<br>(10,863.81) |             | Less:- Creditors                            | 112,842.95<br>(10,464.02)    |
| -----<br>106,463.43<br>=====       |             |   | -----<br>102,378.93<br>===== |

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS -  
WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

| <b>2023</b> | <b>2022</b> | <b>INCOME</b>                     | <b>£</b>  |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
|             | <b>£</b>    |                                   | <b>£</b>  |
|             | 2,926.66    | Subscriptions and Donations       | 6,165.94  |
|             | 1,828.00    | Warminster Shop – Share of Profit | -.-       |
| 292.00      |             | Shop – Donations                  | 683.50    |
|             | 1,801.90    | Dog Show Receipts                 | -.-       |
|             | -.-         | Legacies                          | -.-       |
|             | -.-         | Grants                            | 6,000.00  |
|             | 23,218.00   | Door to Door Collection           | 23,094.00 |
|             | -----       |                                   |           |
| -----       | 30,066.56   |                                   | 35,943.44 |
|             |             | <b>Investment Income</b>          |           |
| 823.31      |             | Interest Received                 | 3,225.21  |
|             | -----       |                                   |           |
| -----       | 30,889.87   |                                   | 39,168.65 |
|             | =====       |                                   |           |
| =====       |             |                                   |           |



**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS -  
WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

| <b>2023</b>                 | <b>2022</b> | <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                 |                       |
|-----------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>£</b>                    | <b>£</b>    |                                    | <b>£            £</b> |
| 551.00                      |             | Branch Contribution to RSPCA       | 551.00                |
| 28,437.80                   |             | Veterinary Fees - General          | 12,580.83             |
| 11,105.38                   |             | Neutering Campaigns                | 11,818.27             |
| 3,604.42                    |             | Feral Neutering/Rehoming           | 6,178.07              |
| 3,374.42                    |             | Feral TNR Expenses                 | 2,237.92              |
| 145.88                      |             | Goods Purchased                    | 764.32                |
| 360.00                      |             | Independent Examiner's Fees        | 360.00                |
| 296.05                      |             | Telephone                          | 238.39                |
| 9,000.00                    |             | Wildlife Hospital                  | 7,500.00              |
| 279.50                      |             | Dog Show Expenses                  | --                    |
| --                          |             | Printing                           | 95.00                 |
| 180.00                      |             | Room Hire                          | 72.00                 |
| 35.00                       |             | ICO Fees                           | 35.00                 |
| 628.92                      |             | Insurance                          | 822.35                |
| -----                       | 57,998.37   |                                    |                       |
|                             | -----       | 43,253.15                          |                       |
|                             |             | Surplus of Income over Expenditure |                       |
|                             | --          | Carried to Accumulated Fund        | --                    |
|                             |             | Excess of Expenditure over Income  |                       |
|                             | (27,108.50) |                                    |                       |
| Carried to Accumulated Fund |             |                                    | (4,084.50)            |
|                             | -----       |                                    | -----                 |
|                             | 30,889.87   |                                    |                       |
|                             |             | 39,168.65                          |                       |
|                             | =====       |                                    |                       |
|                             | =====       |                                    |                       |

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO  
ANIMALS -**

**WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**

**Report of the Independent Examiner**

**To The Officers and Committee of Royal Society for the Prevention of  
Cruelty to Animals - Wiltshire Mid Branch**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 3 to 5.

**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 Commissioners (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 Report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act,

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



.....

Mrs A M Cross FCCA

The Alanbrookes Group Ltd t/a J S Weeks & Co

10 Market Place

Devizes SN10 1HT

Wiltshire

8 May 2024



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# Accounts

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Wiltshire Mid Branch Registered Charity 205295

# RSPCA WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH

## TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2022



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## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The RSPCA Wiltshire Mid Branch operates in central Wiltshire, covering the four towns of Devizes, Melksham, Warminster and Westbury and the surrounding villages. It is a registered charity and its charity number is **205295**.

### Trustees

The committee comprises thirteen volunteers with a broad range of life experiences and careers, all sharing a common passion for animal welfare – specifically preventing cruelty, alleviating suffering and promoting kindness.

### Committee

Mr. Andrew Sheppard (Chairman)

Mr. Richard Pearce (Treasurer)

Miss Jane Barton (Secretary)

Mrs. Elizabeth Davies

Mrs. Lesley Pawlak

Mrs. Jo Sheppard

Mrs. Lorna Gough

Mr. Duncan Thom (Regional Representative)

Ms. Maddy Goodman

Ms. Amber Dunham

Mrs. Caroline Davy

### Contact Information

For communication purposes the principal address is C/o Rangebourne Pet Care, New Park Street, Devizes, the business address of the Chairman Mr. Sheppard.

The web site is <https://www.rspca.org.uk/local/wiltshire-mid-branch/> This site shows details of how to get in touch for animal welfare purposes alongside current news and national and local campaigns/events.

The financial accounts are independently examined by Alanbrookes Group Ltd., t/a J S Weeks & Co., 10 Market Place, Devizes, SN10 1HT. Branch funds are held by Lloyds Bank PLC, Devizes.

# STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Branch is constituted as an unincorporated association. The Branch operates as an autonomous Branch of the National RSPCA subject to its rules for Branches. A committee of Trustees, elected at the Annual General Meeting governs the Branch. All Trustees are briefed on their responsibilities as Trustees prior to their acceptance of the role.

The Branch operates within a national network of organisations that pursue the same objectives, known collectively as the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The network comprises independent Branches operating within a defined geographical area for the purposes of fundraising and the provision of animal care facilities and treatments.

A regional structure which is overseen on a national basis, brings several Branch colleagues together with Inspectors, regional and national representatives. The purpose is to discuss regional funding, co-ordinate policies and objectives as well as provide opportunities for colleagues to share knowledge and experiences. The regional representative for the Wiltshire Mid Branch in 2022 was Mr. Duncan Thom.

Representatives of the Branches, regional and national organisations meet at this forum on a regular (at least bi-annual) basis.

The Branch also has links with other Branches and organisations committed to the same objectives including among others, Cats Protection, Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital and RSPCA Bath Cats and Dogs Home.

## **Branch Management**

The Trustees meet every eight weeks to discuss progress on the year's activities and to agree any required actions. The Branch finances are reviewed at each meeting to ensure donated funds are used appropriately and to mitigate any risks.

The Trustees also examine other operational and business risks and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate any significant risks, such as:-

1. Loss of reputation through error or fraud
2. Loss of income through error or fraud
3. Insufficient funds to cover the costs of animal welfare activities

These meetings are also used to ensure that the Branch operates in accordance with any relevant National Society rules, processes and initiatives – guided by the Branch Partnership Manager.

## OBJECTS, OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The objects of the Branch are to promote the work and objectives of the National Society of the RSPCA – to prevent animal cruelty, to promote kindness to animals and to alleviate the suffering of animals through all lawful means – with particular reference to the Branch area and in accordance with the policies of the Society.

The Trustees have reviewed the outcomes and achievements of the Branch's objectives and activities for the year to ensure they remain focused on the charity's aims and continue to deliver benefits to the public. The Trustees have complied with the duty under the Charities Act 1993 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission which can be illustrated as follows: -

### **Alleviating Suffering**

A priority for the Branch is to ensure appropriate veterinary care is available for animals whose owners are on benefits or a low income and may be reluctant or anxious about the costs of seeing a vet. The Branch provides contributions towards veterinary treatment for sick or injured animals owned by local people on low incomes through a voucher scheme.

During 2022 vouchers to the total value of £28,437.80 were issued in the Branch area. The neutering campaign amounted to a further £11,105.80 a separate issue from the voucher system. For a greater understanding of this issue please find detailed below an analysis of veterinary charges incurred in 2022:-

|                     |                  |       |              |        |             |
|---------------------|------------------|-------|--------------|--------|-------------|
| Cats                | Female Spay      | 10874 |              | 25.20% |             |
| Cats                | Male neuter      | 4418  |              | 10.24% |             |
| Cats                | Medical/Surgical | 14119 |              | 32.72% |             |
| Cats                | Microchipping    | 1027  |              | 2.38%  |             |
| <b>Cats Total</b>   |                  |       | 30438        |        | 70.54%      |
|                     |                  |       |              |        |             |
| Dogs                | Female Spay      | 622   |              | 1.44%  |             |
| Dogs                | Male Neuter      | 1410  |              | 3.27%  |             |
| Dogs                | Medical/Surgical | 10067 |              | 23.33% |             |
| <b>Dogs Total</b>   |                  |       | 12099        |        | 28.04%      |
|                     |                  |       |              |        |             |
| Others              | Neutering        | 133   |              | 0.31%  |             |
| Others              | Medical/Surgical | 478   |              | 1.11%  |             |
| <b>Others Total</b> |                  |       | 611          |        | 1.42%       |
|                     |                  |       |              |        |             |
| <b>Grand Total</b>  |                  |       | <b>43148</b> |        | <b>100%</b> |

## Promoting kindness and preventing cruelty

We use our Community Action Days to encourage owners to take responsibility for routine care such as flea treatments and worming to avoid issues developing into acute or chronic situations, causing the animal greater distress. We provide free treatments, which are administered on the spot by the Wiltshire Council Dog Wardens and local vets, who kindly support us at these events.

The Branch also offers subsidised neutering of companion animals for owners on low incomes, this helps to control dog and cat populations and promotes responsible pet ownership.

### **Volunteering Support**

RSPCA Wiltshire Mid Branch provide volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work including Trusteeship, fundraising and event participation.

The Branch continues to make efforts to attract new Trustees.

# ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

## **Joint Report of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer for 2022**

Another year has passed us by since our last report and as usual before we begin a record of our endeavours for 2022, our thanks must in the first instance be directed to the continued support and dedication provided by the members of the committee and to our helpers and supporters who continue to assist when needed.

Thankfully with the decline in Covid, some degree of normality in our day-to-day living has returned and during this year we have been able to interact more fully with the public.

As will be recollected from previous reports, the Branch continues to financially support the Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital at Newton Tony, Salisbury, following a financial crisis a few years back. The financial assistance takes the form of a percentage of the running costs of the Hospital, based upon the numbers of animals / birds which originate from the Mid Wilts Branch area. All payments are open to debate and approval by the committee.

In line with that arrangement, in February 2022 an invoice was duly received and based upon the figures provided, it was agreed that the sum of £11,547.86 should be donated to the Hospital; this figure would represent our total financial support for 2021 up to and including the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022. Details of our contribution to cover 2022 was not available at close of play of this year and will be included in our report to cover 2023.

The Committee are very happy to continue supporting the Hospital which provide dedicated care of injured and rehabilitating wildlife originating from our community area, this in turn has the knock-on effect of helping to reduce the workload of our Inspectors, who, without the Hospital's intervention would be required to attend and deal with many of these casualties.

In line with World Spay Day and as in previous years, the Branch Treasurer Mr. Pearce expressed a desire to carry out a neutering campaign in support of this event which would be run in conjunction with the Cats Protection League (Frome and District Branch), the RSPCA Inspectorate are very supportive of these events. The Committee members approved of this suggestion, and it was agreed that the campaign should take the form previously used, by utilising computer-based application forms which have proved very successful in the past. The event was to run from February to the end of May 2022. Mr. Pearce was ably assisted by members of the committee in monitoring and processing the applications.

At the end of May, at the conclusion of the neutering campaign, 276 applications had been received to neuter 378 cats of which 249 were covered by the Branch, the remainder by Cats Protection (Frome Branch) and adjoining Branches.

During the course of the year, we have, as always, provided financial support in the form of vouchers issued to veterinary practices for owners who cannot afford to take their animals for treatment. Whilst the call for this type of support has considerably lessened from that which we experienced during the Covid Pandemic, it still amounts to one of the larger expenditures that the Branch makes, and whilst financial support continues to be one of our priorities, the committee is

very much aware that for the Branch to continue to be sustainable, some reductions need to be made in this area and budgetary restrictions set.

The Branch had for a considerable period picked up the shortfall for members of the public who lived in the Bath Branch area, particularly in the Trowbridge district and the crossover of boundaries, this was due to the fact that the Bath Branch which constitutes the Bath Cats and Dogs Home were unable to provide monetary support in this capacity, the majority of their funding being directed to the upkeep of the Home.

However, due to increasing numbers of requests being received during 2022, this situation is in the process of being re-assessed and steps are being taken by the Bath Branch to address this issue. To that end the committee decided to take the stance not to support any further applications from people residing in the Bath Branch area. Bath Branch has started to take up this need and are in the process of setting up a fund to provide financial assistance.

Further restrictions are being made in respect of the amount of money the Branch will give in particular situations and when the need for more expensive assistance is required i.e. operations, benefit status would be taken into consideration. This is a very difficult area to police and every case is individual and needs to be considered carefully to ensure that each animal that comes to our attention receives at the very least, emergency care.

We have on occasion been most fortunate to receive legacies from some amazing people which has enabled us to carry out the work which we do, without that monetary support the degree of financial assistance we could provide would be minimal. Fundraising in this day and age is very difficult, the majority of people, due to the rise in cost of living are unable to assist charities as they once would have done.

The committee have considered at length how this might be addressed, and Mr. Thom (trustee) has devised and had printed some leaflets detailing how people, who may be intending to make a will, could leave a gift / legacy to the Branch, this was an excellent initiative and hopefully may allow people to make such a consideration in favour of the Branch in their wills in the future.

In respect of neutering, during the year a number of feral cats from various colonies in our Branch area have been successfully trapped, neutered and returned to sites, sincere thanks are extended to trustees Mr. Thom and Ms Goodman for their hard and diligent work in this respect.

In July, we were fortunate to welcome a new trustee to the Branch, Miss Jess Scull. Miss Scull has previously been involved with various animal welfare charities and her expertise and knowledge will be of great benefit to the branch.

In June 2022 we held our Annual General Meeting; unfortunately no members of the National Society or the Inspectorate were able to attend. The meeting was as usual small in attendance but matters of business were progressed and the meeting was concluded with light refreshments.

At a meeting prior to the AGM Mrs. Sheila Colcomb and Mrs. Claire Maggs had both informed the committee that they would not be standing for re-election. Mrs. Colcomb had been a long-standing member of the committee for some twenty years, but due to age and health reasons felt it was time to retire. Mrs. Maggs, who not only being a trustee but was also the Auxiliary Secretary for the Warminster area, had decided that due to work and family commitments she was unable to

continue in her role. Both ladies would be sincerely missed, at the conclusion of the AGM both ladies were presented with bouquets of flowers and gift vouchers / cards in appreciation of everything they had done for the Branch.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2022 after a lot of hard work by members of the committee we held a Dog Show / Animal Event on The Green, in Devizes. The event was amazingly supported and contrary to the weather forecast rain held off and we were blessed with sunshine. A number of associated animal charities attended promoting all forms of animal welfare, the day was a great success, and everyone had a most enjoyable time. The event raised £1,801. 90 in support of the Branch.

It may be recollected that the North Wilts and Newbury Branch of the RSPCA have a charity shop located in Warminster, as part of that agreement to host the shop in our Branch area the Branch receive 10% of any profits accrued together with any donations, this year that sum amounted to in total £2,120.

At close of play for 2022, the Branch have agreed that we should hold another Animal Event / Fun Dog Show on the Green in Devizes next year, probably early September 2023, posters will be displayed nearer the date and information regarding any events we have planned can be found on the Branch website / Facebook page. The possibility of holding a Community Action Day in one of our towns is also under consideration.

As an aside, if there are any members or supporters who could assist in any form with any of our events / fundraising initiatives it would be greatly appreciated, the committee are small in number, many with a number of additional responsibilities and limited free time and any offers of assistance would be greatly appreciated.

That brings us to the end of another year, we feel that the Branch has made a very worthy contribution in support of our local communities during the past year, and hopefully have helped to make people's lives and financial situations more bearable.

In conclusion, as always, our grateful thanks are extended to everyone who has supported us in whatever way during the past year either financially or by the generous gift of their time. Our thanks go to our Branch Partnership Manager, Mrs. Rogers, local authorities and Veterinary Practices and our dedicated Inspectors and their colleagues.

**Detailed below are bullet points in support of the following topics: -**

### **Collaboration with the National Society**

It is a given that we always support the National Society objectives, where appropriate, and within our capability. Guided by our Branch Partnership Manager we use the regular Branch Communication circulations to identify opportunities to get involved.

As part of our commitment to running a properly regulated charity we have established several Branch policies and have adopted the principle of a Branch Annual Review through which we may reflect on past work and to plan future activities.

### **Collaboration with the Community**

This is a core objective for the Branch, which during the Covid pandemic had to be put on hold, however in September 2022 we were able to hold an Animal Event / Dog show in Devizes, which was hugely supported by the local community.

### **Collaboration with other Branches and Charities**

As will have been seen from previous reports the Branch agreed to North Wilts Branch siting an RSPCA shop in Warminster, under the terms of the arrangement the Branch receives a percentage of the profits and all donations received, which this year amounted to £2,120.00 to benefit the Mid Wilts Branch.

Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital continues to receive monetary support from the Branch to assist in their work of caring for and rehabilitating local wildlife.

### **Collaboration with the Local Inspectors**

The RSPCA Inspectors provide knowledge and experience to the Branch which is invaluable, the wide range of issues and problems they face can be seen from the Chief Inspector's Report included within this Report.

### **Fundraising**

Over the years we have been fortunate to receive several legacies which by careful investment has enabled us to fund our current range of activities, no bequests were received by the Branch in 2022. With a view to allowing us to continue to provide the current level of support, the Branch is actively seeking fundraising initiatives.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

The total incoming resources for the year amounted to £30,889.87, the reduction compared to the previous year relates to legacies which the Branch received during 2021. Expenditure for the year amounted to £57,998.37 considerably less than last year following the high demand for veterinary assistance during the Covid pandemic.

It is the policy of the Branch to maintain free reserves for the Branch at a level equal to approximately five years' unrestricted expenditure, to allow for fluctuations in donations and legacies on which the Branch relies. Our Trustees are keen that money should not be retained unnecessarily simply to ensure sustainability.

Free reserves are defined as unrestricted reserves (rather than funds donated for a specific purpose which cannot be used for anything other than the purpose for which they were donated).

In line with the Branch Rules, an annual donation is made to the National Society, this amount is calculated as a percentage of our free reserves. This donation is deducted at source from our share of the Door-to-Door collection that we receive annually from the National Society.

The investment policy, taken on advice following receipt of legacies, takes into account our cautious attitude to risk, with investment funds stored in National Savings Income Bonds.

The Trustees have no designated funds for expenditure in the next twelve months, apart from an amount in the region of £9,000 which will be donated to the Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital during 2023.

## FUTURE PLANS

Together with our regular and continuing support provided to those in need of financial veterinary assistance, our plans include a neutering campaign in support of World Spay Day 2023 and an Animal Event / Dog show in September 2023.

We continue to look to increase our Volunteer / Trustee base with a view to bringing fresh ideas into the group.

We will continue to work with our local Inspectors, supporting them on specific animal welfare projects as identified by them.

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and their financial statements in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales require the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs and the net incoming and outgoing resources of the Charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, Trustees are required to: -

1. Select suitable policies and then apply them consistently;
2. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
3. Prepare financial statements on a going-concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Branch will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open, to safeguard the assets of the Charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware. Additionally, the Trustees have taken all the steps needed in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information.

# **BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF  
CRUELTY TO ANIMALS**

**WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**

**CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 205295**

**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS –  
WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**  
**Report of the Independent Examiner**  
**To The Officers and Committee of Royal Society for the Prevention of  
Cruelty to Animals – Wiltshire Mid Branch**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 3 to 5.

**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 Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

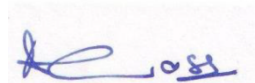
**Basis of Independent Examiner's Report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act, have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



.....  
Mrs A M Cross FCCA  
The Alanbrookes Group Ltd t/a J S Weeks & Co  
10 Market Place  
Devizes  
Wiltshire SN10 1HT

7 June 2023

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS -  
WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**

**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022**

| 2021   |                               | 2022   |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| £  |                               | £  |
|  | <b>Accumulated Fund</b>       |  |
| 130,157.61   | Balance Brought Forward       | 133,571.93   |
|  | Add Surplus of Income         |  |
| 3,414.32   | Over Expenditure              | -.-  |
|  | Deduct Excess of Expenditure  |  |
| (-.-)  | Over Income                   | (27,108.50)  |
| -----<br>133,571.93<br>=====                                       |                               | -----<br>106,463.43<br>=====                                       |
|  | <b>Represented By:</b>        |  |
|  | <b>Investments</b>            |  |
| 120,000.00   | National Savings Income Bonds | 100,000.00   |
| 22,000.19  | Bank Deposit Account          | 15,010.94  |
|  | <b>Current Assets</b>         |  |
| 9,795.60   | Bank Current Account          | 2,316.30   |
| -----<br>151,795.79<br>(18,223.86)<br>-----<br>133,571.93<br>===== | Less:- Creditors              | -----<br>117,327.24<br>(10,863.81)<br>-----<br>106,463.43<br>===== |

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS -  
WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

| <b>2021</b> | <b>INCOME</b>                     | <b>2022</b> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>£</b>    |                                   | <b>£</b>    |
| 837.17      | Subscriptions and Donations       | 2,926.66    |
| 588.40      | Warminster Shop – Share of Profit | 1,828.00    |
| 2337.92     | Warminster Shop – Donations       | 292.00      |
| -.-         | Dog Show Receipts                 | 1,801.90    |
| 64,898.47   | Legacies                          | -.-         |
| 5,252.89    | BEF Donation Refunded             | -.-         |
| 24,134.00   | Door to Door Collection           | 23,218.00   |
| -----       |                                   | -----       |
| 98,048.85   |                                   | 30,066.56   |
|             | <b>Investment Income</b>          |             |
| 24.19       | Interest Received                 | 823.31      |
| -----       |                                   | -----       |
| 98,073.04   |                                   | 30,889.87   |
| =====       |                                   | =====       |



# MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR YEAR ENDING 2022

## RSPCA WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2022

IN THE NURSTEED CENTRE, NURSTEED ROAD, DEVIZES

#### Introduction

The Chairman, Mr. Sheppard opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

#### Apologies for Absence

Mrs. Gail Pearce

Mrs. Liz Davies

Mrs. Caroline Davy

Mrs. Lorna Gough

Miss Maddy Goodman

Mrs. Donna Rogers (BPM)

#### Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (25/08/21) were approved and signed.

#### Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

#### Joint Report of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer

The Chairman drew the meetings attention to the Annual Report for 2021 and specifically the Joint Report from the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, the Chairman asked whether there were any comments / questions in relation to the report – none were forthcoming. The Chairman thanked the Secretary for compilation of the Report.

#### Adoption of the Accounts / Election of the Auditors

The Chairman drew the meetings attention to the financial accounts as detailed in the Annual Report requesting any comments be directed to Mr. Pearce (Treasurer). No issues were raised, and the Chairman requested a proposer and seconder for adoption of the accounts – Mr. Duncan Thom proposed, and Ms. Amber Dunham seconded, the accounts were duly adopted.

The Chairman requested the committee's approval of the re-election of JS Weeks & Co., of Devizes as Auditors, Mr. Duncan Thom proposed, and Mrs. Lesley Pawlak seconded the proposal, JS Weeks and & Co., were duly elected.

### **Election of the Committee**

The Chairman drew the meetings attention to the ballot papers which had been circulated with eleven nominees standing for election, in the absence of Mrs. Rogers (BPM) or anyone else from the Inspectorate, Mr. Sheppard asked Mrs. Barbara Myers, ex Chairman of the Branch and as someone unbiased, whether she would count the votes, Mrs. Myers readily agreed and having counted the papers Mrs. Myers announced that all nominees had received 100% of the votes and were duly elected as Committee Members for 2022/2023.

### **Chief Inspector's Report**

In the absence of anyone from the Inspectorate attending the AGM the Chairman drew the meetings attention to the Chief Inspector's Report which was incorporated into the Annual Report, having been compiled by Chief Inspector Lewis Taylor, Manager of the re-structured Dorset / Wiltshire group of the Inspectorate.

### **Any Other Business**

The Chairman concluded the meeting by thanking two members of the previous committee, Mrs. Sheila Colcomb and Mrs. Claire Maggs who had decided not to stand for re-election. Mrs. Colcomb has been involved with the RSPCA and the Branch in particular for many years and had decided the time was right to retire, Mrs. Maggs who was also a long serving member was standing down due to increased family and work commitments, both were sincerely thanked for their years of support and dedication to the Branch and were presented with bouquets of flowers, cards and gift vouchers for Marks and Spencer in recognition of everything they had contributed to the Branch.

Mr. David Myers asked for clarification with regard to the monies received from the Branch Emergency Fund, Mr. Pearce (Treasurer) explained that these were monies which had been refunded following closure of the BEF which had been set up during COVID to support Branches who were struggling to continue. Mr. Myers was happy with the response.

The Chairman concluded the meeting by expressing his thanks to the committee for all their work and support over the year with particular reference to the Treasurer and the Secretary.

There being no other business, the meeting was concluded and was followed by light refreshments.



Please help us to continue our work by becoming a member. Details on how to join the different options provided are shown on the main RSPCA website:

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/getinvolved/becomeamember>

You can find out about and donate to your local Branch (RSPCA Wiltshire Mid Branch) through our web pages: -

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/local/wiltshire-mid-branch>

If you live in our Branch area and need advice or to apply for financial support with your companion pets please email us on:-

[rspcawiltsmid@gmail.com](mailto:rspcawiltsmid@gmail.com)

or, in an emergency, please take your pet to a vet and ask the vet to call us to discuss, if you receive state benefits and are in need of financial assistance, how we may be able to help.

**To report incidents of cruelty or an animal in distress call the RSPCA National Society 24 hour cruelty line:-**

**0300 1234 999**

You can also use the secure online reporting facility on the National Society's web page: -

<https://rspca.org.uk/utilities/contactus/reportcruelty>

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# Accounts

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Wiltshire Mid Branch Registered Charity 205295

# RSPCA WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH

## TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2021



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## **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

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## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Branch Management

## **OBJECTS, OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES**

Alleviating suffering

Promoting kindness and preventing cruelty

Volunteering support

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

Joint Report of the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary

Collaboration with the National Society

Collaboration with the community

Collaboration with other Branches

Collaboration with the local Inspectors

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

## **FUTURE PLANS**

## **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

## **BALANCE SHEET / ACCOUNTS**

As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021**

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The RSPCA Wiltshire Mid Branch operates in central Wiltshire, covering the four towns of Devizes, Melksham, Warminster and Westbury and the surrounding villages. It is a registered charity and its charity number is **205295**.

### Trustees

The committee comprises thirteen volunteers with a broad range of life experiences and careers, all sharing a common passion for animal welfare – specifically preventing cruelty, alleviating suffering and promoting kindness.

### Committee

Mr. Andrew Sheppard (Chairman)

Mr. Richard Pearce (Treasurer)

Miss Jane Barton (Secretary)

Mrs. Sheila Colcomb

Mrs. Elizabeth Davies

Mrs. Claire Maggs (Auxiliary Secretary Warminster / Westbury)

Mrs. Lesley Pawlak

Mrs. Jo Sheppard

Mrs. Lorna Gough

Mr. Duncan Thom (Regional Representative)

Ms. Maddy Goodman

Ms. Amber Dunham

Mrs. Caroline Davy

### Contact Information

For communication purposes the principal address is C/o Rangebourne Pet Care, 38 New Park Street, Devizes, SN10 1DT the business address of the Chairman Mr. Sheppard.

The web site is <https://www.rspca.org.uk/local/wiltshire-mid-branch/> This site shows details of how to get in touch for animal welfare purposes alongside current news and national and local campaigns/events.

The financial accounts are independently examined by Alanbrookes Group Ltd., t/a J S Weeks & Co., 10 Market Place, Devizes, SN10 1HT. Branch funds are held by Lloyds Bank PLC, Devizes.

# STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Branch is constituted as an unincorporated association. The Branch operates as an autonomous Branch of the National RSPCA subject to its rules for Branches. A committee of Trustees, elected at the Annual General Meeting governs the Branch. All Trustees are briefed on their responsibilities as Trustees prior to their acceptance of the role.

The Branch operates within a national network of organisations that pursue the same objectives, known collectively as the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The network comprises independent Branches operating within a defined geographical area for the purposes of fundraising and the provision of animal care facilities and treatments.

A regional structure which is overseen on a national basis, brings several Branch colleagues together with Inspectors, regional and national representatives. The purpose is to discuss regional funding, co-ordinate policies and objectives as well as provide opportunities for colleagues to share knowledge and experiences. The regional representative for the Wiltshire Mid Branch in 2021 until August 2021 was Mrs. Liz Davies, Mr. Duncan Thom was elected to this role at the AGM in 2021.

Representatives of the Branches, regional and national organisations meet at this forum on a regular (at least bi-annual) basis.

The Branch also has links with other Branches and organisations committed to the same objectives including among others, Cats Protection, Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital and RSPCA Bath Cats and Dogs Home.

## **Branch Management**

The Trustees meet every eight weeks to discuss progress on the year's activities and to agree any required actions. The Branch finances are reviewed at each meeting to ensure donated funds are used appropriately and to mitigate any risks.

The Trustees also examine other operational and business risks and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate any significant risks, such as:-

1. Loss of reputation through error or fraud
2. Loss of income through error or fraud
3. Insufficient funds to cover the costs of animal welfare activities

These meetings are also used to ensure that the Branch operates in accordance with any relevant National Society rules, processes and initiatives – guided by the Branch Partnership Manager.

## OBJECTS, OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The objects of the Branch are to promote the work and objectives of the National Society of the RSPCA – to prevent animal cruelty, to promote kindness to animals and to alleviate the suffering of animals through all lawful means – with particular reference to the Branch area and in accordance with the policies of the Society.

The Trustees have reviewed the outcomes and achievements of the Branch's objectives and activities for the year to ensure they remain focused on the charity's aims and continue to deliver benefits to the public. The Trustees have complied with the duty under the Charities Act 1993 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission which can be illustrated as follows: -

### **Alleviating Suffering**

A priority for the Branch is to ensure appropriate veterinary care is available for animals whose owners are on benefits or a low income and may be reluctant or anxious about the costs of seeing a vet. The Branch provides donations towards veterinary treatment for sick or injured animals owned by local people on low incomes through a voucher scheme.

During 2021 vouchers to the total value of £52,874.62 were issued in the Branch area this was a colossal increase almost doubling from that issued the previous year (£35,898.75). The neutering campaign amounted to a further £18,274.71 a separate issue from the voucher system. For a greater understanding of this issue please find detailed below an analysis of veterinary charges incurred in 2021:-

|                     |                  |       |              |        |             |
|---------------------|------------------|-------|--------------|--------|-------------|
| Cats                | Female Spay      | 15809 |              | 20.78% |             |
| Cats                | Male neuter      | 8416  |              | 11.06% |             |
| Cats                | Medical/Surgical | 22258 |              | 29.25% |             |
| Cats                | Microchipping    | 2427  |              | 3.19%  |             |
| <b>Cats Total</b>   |                  |       | 48910        |        | 64%         |
|                     |                  |       |              |        |             |
| Dogs                | Female Spay      | 3054  |              | 4.01%  |             |
| Dogs                | Male Neuter      | 875   |              | 1.15%  |             |
| Dogs                | Medical/Surgical | 20910 |              | 27.48% |             |
| <b>Dogs Total</b>   |                  |       | 24839        |        | 33%         |
|                     |                  |       |              |        |             |
| Others              | Neutering        | 672   |              | 0.88%  |             |
| Others              | Medical/Surgical | 1671  |              | 2.19%  |             |
| <b>Others Total</b> |                  |       | 2343         |        | 3%          |
|                     |                  |       |              |        |             |
| <b>Grand Total</b>  |                  |       | <b>76092</b> |        | <b>100%</b> |

The Branch has had a continuing involvement in feral cat colonies where a number have been trapped and either returned to site or rehomed, veterinary expenses and associated costs amounted to £8,805.15.

## Promoting kindness and preventing cruelty

We use our Community Action Days to encourage owners to take responsibility for routine care such as flea treatments and worming to avoid issues developing into acute or chronic situations, causing the animal greater distress. We provide free treatments, which are administered on the spot by the Wiltshire Council Dog Wardens and local vets, who kindly support us at these events.

The Branch also offers subsidised neutering of companion animals for owners on low incomes, this helps to control dog and cat populations and promotes responsible pet ownership.

### **Volunteering Support**

RSPCA Wiltshire Mid Branch provide volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work including Trusteeship, fundraising and event participation.

The Branch continues to make efforts to attract new Trustees.

# ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

## **Joint Report of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer for 2021**

Another year has passed us by since our last report and as usual before we begin a record of our endeavours for 2021, our thanks must in the first instance be directed to the continued support and dedication provided by the members of the committee and to our helpers and supporters who continue to assist when needed.

With the continuing Covid pandemic, we have again been very limited as to the type of activities which we have been able to carry out and have again directed our efforts towards neutering and welfare assistance.

As will be recollected from previous reports, the Branch continues to financially support the Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital at Newton Tony, Salisbury, following a financial crisis a few years back. The financial assistance takes the form of a percentage of the running costs of the Hospital, based upon the numbers of animals / birds which originate from the Mid Wilts Branch area. All payments are open to debate and approval by the committee.

In line with that arrangement, in February 2021 an invoice was duly received and based upon the figures provided, it was agreed that the sum of £11,547.86 should be donated to the Hospital; this figure would represent our total financial support for 2020 up to and including the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. Details of our contribution to cover 2021 was not available at close of play of this year and will be included in our report to cover 2022.

The Committee are very happy to continue supporting the Hospital which provide dedicated care of injured and rehabilitating wildlife originating from our community area, this in turn has the knock-on effect of helping to reduce the workload of our Inspectors, who, without the Hospital's intervention would be required to attend and deal with many of these casualties.

In line with World Spay Day and as in previous years, the Branch Treasurer Mr. Pearce expressed a desire to carry out a neutering campaign in support of this event which would be run in conjunction with the Cats Protection (Frome and District Branch). The Committee members were supportive of this suggestion, and it was agreed that the campaign should take the form previously used, by utilising computer-based application forms which have proved very successful in the past. The event was to run from the 23<sup>rd</sup> February until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 Mr. Pearce was ably assisted by members of the committee in monitoring and processing the applications.

In March 2021 a new committee member was co-opted onto the Branch, Mr. Duncan Thom. Mr. Thom had previously had a lot of experience with the Cats Protection particularly with regard to trapping and neutering of feral cat colonies, his expertise in this area would be very welcome.

In May 2021 the Branch welcomed a new Branch Partnership Manager from the National Society, Mrs. Donna Rogers who was taking over from the previous incumbent, Mrs. Vicky Robson who had moved on to another area.

A tentative booking had been made to hold a Community Action Event in Devizes, but due to the continuing uncertainty with regard to Covid, this was cancelled, and the future of these events has been left in abeyance until things have settled down.

During the course of the year, we again had to concentrate on what we could do, within the confines of lockdowns and restricted public access. This really centred around the neutering campaign and to providing much needed veterinary financial assistance and welfare advice, due to an increase in the number of people suffering financial distress.

At the end of May, at the conclusion of the neutering campaign, 468 applications had been received to neuter 724 cats of which 452 were covered by the Branch, 223 by Cats Protection (Frome Branch) and the remainder being from outside of the area covered by the campaign, by other organisations.

In respect of neutering, during the year a large number of feral cats were trapped and returned to various sites, one particularly large colony took several months of hard diligent work by Mr. Thom and Ms. Goodman, but hopefully the situation is now in hand. The number of feral cats coming to the Branch's attention appears to have increased considerably.

In 2020 Mr. Pearce (Treasurer) had received notification from a Trust based in Florida (America) that a bequest had been made to the Branch alongside with some other animal related charities in the UK. From the limited information available, it would appear that the lady to whom the Trust applies had some interest in the Melksham area of Wiltshire. The process of transferring monies from abroad has been laborious, and at the close of 2020 the amount to be allotted to the Branch from the Trust Fund had not been received. In 2021 the sum of £62,860.67 was successfully transferred into the Branch's account.

Also during 2021 the sum of £2,037. 80 was received being a legacy from the estate of the late Mr. Rawlings.

In 2020 we were unable to hold our Annual General meeting due to the pandemic restrictions and dispensation had been given to hold a joint 2019 / 2020 meeting during 2021 Covid permitting. In 2021 as restrictions were gradually being lifted it enabled us to hold a face-to-face meeting, and an Annual General Meeting was duly arranged and held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021. Chief Inspector Lewis Taylor, Manager of the Dorset / Wiltshire group of the RSPCA Inspectorate very kindly attended and gave a breakdown of various aspects of the work that the Inspectors undertake on a day-to-day basis, and the difficulties they often encounter, he concluded by thanking the Branch for their continued support, particularly during the last couple of difficult years.

Towards the latter part of the year we were fortunate to have three people interested in becoming trustees Miss Maddy Goodman, Ms. Amber Dunham and Mrs. Caroline Davy, all three were duly co-opted onto the Branch as Trustees, Mrs. Davy was previously a trustee some years ago and Ms. Dunham is a veterinary nurse whose knowledge and skills will be useful to the Branch.

At close of play for 2021, no specific plans for events / activities to be held in 2022 had been made awaiting on governmental decisions with regard to public access to sites / venues, etc.,

however at the time of writing this report I am able to report that the Branch will be holding an Animal Event / Fun Dog Show on The Green in Devizes on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2022, this is usually a very popular event with lots of educational / interactive animal welfare stands and the Dog Show is great fun, please put the date in your diaries and we will look forward to seeing you there.

As an aside, if there are any members or supporters who could assist with any of our events (as and when / if they happen!) in the future, it would be greatly appreciated, the committee are small in number, many with a number of additional responsibilities and limited free time and any offers of assistance would be greatly appreciated.

That brings us to the end of another year, we were again unfortunately unable to carry out many of the things we had planned, but together with the neutering campaign and the extensive financial veterinary assistance we have provided, we have, we hope, helped to make people's lives and financial situations more bearable.

In conclusion, as always, our grateful thanks are extended to everyone who has supported us in whatever way during the past year either financially or by the generous gift of their time. Our thanks go to our Branch Partnership Manager, Mrs. Rogers, local authorities and Veterinary Practices and our dedicated Inspectors and their colleagues.

**Detailed below are bullet points in support of the following topics: -**

### **Collaboration with the National Society**

It is a given that we always support the National Society objectives, where appropriate, and within our capability. Guided by our Branch Partnership Manager we use the regular Branch Communication circulations to identify opportunities to get involved.

As part of our commitment to running a properly regulated charity we have established several Branch policies and have adopted the principle of a Branch Annual Review through which we may reflect on past work and to plan future activities.

### **Collaboration with the Community**

This is a core objective for the Branch, however due to the Governmental restrictions imposed during the Covid pandemic we have been unable to hold any community-based events, however with the lifting of restrictions, this will we hope, be addressed during the course of 2022.

### **Collaboration with other Branches and Charities**

As will have been seen from previous reports the Branch agreed to North Wilts Branch siting an RSPCA shop in Warminster, under the terms of the arrangement the Branch receives a percentage of the profits which this year amounted to £588,40 and £2,337.92 being donations made at the shop to benefit the Mid Wilts Branch. It will be noted that these figures are almost the reverse of last years due to the fact that for a large proportion of 2021 due to Covid restrictions the shop had been unable to open, but this was offset by some very generous monetary donations.

Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital continues to receive monetary support from the Branch resulting in a payment of £11,547. 86 being awarded to them in January 2021 covering the period up until the close of 2020.

### **Collaboration with the Local Inspectors**

The RSPCA Inspectors provide knowledge and experience to the Branch which is invaluable, the wide range of issues and problems they face can be seen from the Chief Inspector's Report included within this Report.

### **Fundraising**

Over the years we have been fortunate to receive several legacies which have enabled us to fund our current range of activities. During 2020 , we received notification of a legacy from a Trust based in Florida, USA, at the time of writing the report for 2020 were still in the course of transference, an amount of £62,860.67 was ultimately received (please see Joint Report for further information). The sum of £2,037.80 was also received from the estate of a Mr. Rawlings.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

The total incoming resources for the year amounted to £98,073.04 – in 2021 we received legacies amounting to £64,898.47. Expenditure for the year amounted to £98,073.04 this reflects the high level of veterinary welfare assistance provided (see accounts). The surplus at the end of the year 2021 is £133,571.93.

It is the policy of the Branch to maintain free reserves for the Branch at a level equal to approximately five years' unrestricted expenditure, to allow for fluctuations in donations and legacies on which the Branch relies. Our Trustees are keen that money should not be retained unnecessarily simply to ensure sustainability.

Free reserves are defined as unrestricted reserves (funds donated for a specific purpose which cannot be used for anything other than the purpose for which they were donated).

In line with the Branch Rules, an annual donation is made to the National Society, this amount is calculated as a percentage of our free reserves. This donation is deducted at source from our share of the Door-to-Door collection that we receive annually from the National Society.

With regard to the Door to Door Collection Fund, in 2020 Branches were asked to donate monies to a Branch Emergency Fund to assist Branches who were experiencing financial difficulties during the covid pandemic, when the Fund was closed in 2021 unused monies were refunded to individual Branches which resulted in the branch receiving a refund of £5,252, 89.

The investment policy, taken on advice following receipt of legacies, takes into account our cautious attitude to risk, with investment funds stored in National Savings Income Bonds.

The Trustees have no designated funds for expenditure in the next twelve months, apart from an amount in the region of £11,000 which will be donated to the Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital during 2022.

## FUTURE PLANS

Together with our regular and continuing support provided to those in need of financial veterinary assistance, our plans include a neutering campaign in support of World Spay Day 2022 and hopefully now restrictions have lifted some Community Action Events.

We continue to look to increase our Volunteer / Trustee base with a view to bringing fresh ideas into the group.

We will continue to work with our local Inspectors, supporting them on specific animal welfare projects as identified by them.

# STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and their financial statements in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales require the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs and the net incoming and outgoing resources of the Charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, Trustees are required to: -

1. Select suitable policies and then apply them consistently;
2. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
3. Prepare financial statements on a going-concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Branch will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open, to safeguard the assets of the Charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware. Additionally, the Trustees have taken all the steps needed in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information.

# **BRANCH ACCOUNTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF  
CRUELTY TO ANIMALS**

**WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**

**CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 205295**

**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS –  
WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**  
**Report of the Independent Examiner**  
**To The Officers and Committee of Royal Society for the Prevention of  
Cruelty to Animals – Wiltshire Mid Branch**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 3 to 5.

**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 Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

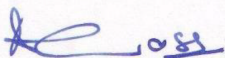
**Basis of Independent Examiner's Report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act,
 have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



.....  
Mrs A M Cross FCCA  
The Alanbrookes Group Ltd t/a J S Weeks & Co  
10 Market Place  
Devizes  
Wiltshire  
SN10 1HT  
30 April 2022

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS -  
WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**

**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021**

| <b>2020</b>  |                               | <b>2021</b>  |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>£</b>   |                               | <b>£</b>   |
|  | <b>Accumulated Fund</b>       |  |
| 184,484.29   | Balance Brought Forward       | 130,157.61   |
|  | Add Surplus of Income         |  |
| -  | Over Expenditure              | 3,414.32   |
|  | Deduct Excess of Expenditure  |  |
| (54,326.68)  | Over Income                   | (-)  |
| -----<br>130,157.61<br>=====                                       |                               | -----<br>133,571.93<br>=====                                       |
|  | <b>Represented By:</b>        |  |
|  | <b>Investments</b>            |  |
| 130,000.00   | National Savings Income Bonds | 120,000.00   |
| 13,002.68  | Bank Deposit Account          | 22,000.19  |
|  | <b>Current Assets</b>         |  |
| 1,663.83   | Bank Current Account          | 9,795.60   |
| -----<br>144,666.51<br>(14,508.90)<br>-----<br>130,157.61<br>===== | Less:- Creditors              | -----<br>151,795.79<br>(18,223.86)<br>-----<br>133,571.93<br>===== |

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS -  
WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

| <b>2020</b> | <b>INCOME</b>                     | <b>2021</b> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>£</b>    |                                   | <b>£</b>    |
| 580.80      | Subscriptions and Donations       | 837.17      |
| 2,290.00    | Warminster Shop – Share of Profit | 588.40      |
| 813.00      | Warminster Shop – Donations       | 2,337.92    |
| -           | Collecting Boxes                  | -           |
| 7,377.58    | Cat Cage Costs Refunded           | -           |
| 79.42       | VAT Refund                        | -           |
| -           | Legacies                          | 64,898.47   |
| -           | BEF Donation Refunded             | 5,252.89    |
| 25,173.00   | Door to Door Collection           | 24,134.00   |
| -----       |                                   | -----       |
| 36,313.80   |                                   | 98,048.85   |
|             | <b>Investment Income</b>          |             |
| 1,776.54    | Interest Received                 | 24.19       |
| -----       |                                   | -----       |
| 38,090.34   |                                   | 98,073.04   |
| =====       |                                   | =====       |

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS -  
WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

| 2020      |             | EXPENDITURE                        | 2021      |           |
|-----------|-------------|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| £         | £           |                                    | £         | £         |
|           |             |                                    |           |           |
| 1,378.00  |             | Branch Contribution to RSPCA       | 1,378.00  |           |
| 35,898.75 |             | Veterinary Fees – General          | 52,874.62 |           |
| 19,009.35 |             | Neutering Campaigns                | 18,274.71 |           |
| -         |             | Feral Neutering/Rehoming           | 4,942.23  |           |
| -         |             | Feral TNR Expenses                 | 3,862.92  |           |
| 15.00     |             | Goods Purchased                    | 403.13    |           |
| -         |             | Bank Charges                       | 7.00      |           |
| 360.00    |             | Independent Examiner's Fees        | 360.00    |           |
| 200.18    |             | Telephone                          | 275.72    |           |
| 11,201.63 |             | Wildlife Hospital                  | 11,547.86 |           |
| 23,795.00 |             | Donation to RSPCA Emergency Fund   | -         |           |
| -         |             | VAT Repayment                      | 79.42     |           |
| -         |             | Room Hire                          | 94.00     |           |
| 35.00     |             | ICO Fees                           | 35.00     |           |
| 524.11    |             | Insurance                          | 524.11    |           |
| -----     | 92,417.02   |                                    | -----     | 94,658.72 |
|           |             | Surplus of Income over Expenditure |           |           |
|           | -           | Carried to Accumulated Fund        |           | 3,414.32  |
|           |             | Excess of Expenditure over Income  |           |           |
|           | (54,326.68) | Carried to Accumulated Fund        |           | (-)       |
|           | -----       |                                    | -----     |           |
|           | 38,090.34   |                                    | 98,073.04 |           |
|           | =====       |                                    | =====     |           |

# MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR YEAR ENDING 2021

## **RSPCA WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2021**

**IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOM, TOWN HALL, DEVIZES**

#### **Introduction**

The Chairman, Mr. Sheppard opened the meeting and welcomed everyone asking those present to introduce themselves to the meeting.

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Mrs. Lesley Pawlak

Mrs. Sheila Colcomb

#### **Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (26/06/19 there having been no meeting in 2020 due to the COVID 19 pandemic) were approved and signed.

#### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes

#### **Joint Report of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer**

The Chairman drew the meetings attention to the Annual Reports for 2019 and 2020 there having been no Annual General Meeting in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic, the Joint Reports from the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were highlighted which were fairly self-explanatory and members present were asked whether there were any comments / questions in relation to the report – none were forthcoming. The Chairman thanked the Secretary for compilation of the Report.

#### **Adoption of the Accounts / Election of the Auditors**

The Chairman drew the meetings attention to the financial accounts as detailed in the Annual Reports requesting any comments be directed to Mr. Pearce (Treasurer). No issues were raised and the Chairman requested a proposer and seconder for adoption of the accounts – Mrs. Lorna Gough proposed and Mrs. Liz Davies seconded, the accounts were duly adopted.

The Chairman requested the committee's approval of the re-election of JS Weeks & Co., of Devizes as Auditors, Mr. Richard Pearce proposed and Mrs. Claire Maggs seconded the proposal, JS Weeks and & Co., were duly elected.

**Election of the Committee**

Mrs. Donna Rogers, Branch Partnership Manager drew the meetings attention to the ballot papers which had been circulated with ten nominees standing for election. Having counted the papers Mrs. Rogers announced that all nominees had received 100% of the votes and were duly elected as Committee Members for 2021/2022.

**Chief Inspector's Report**

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Chief Inspector Lewis Taylor, being the Manager responsible for the new re-structured Dorset / Wiltshire group of the Inspectorate.

Mr. Taylor thanked the Branch for the invitation to attend the meeting, it being an excellent opportunity to meet everyone. Mr. Taylor currently works with eleven officers who cover the entire area, this will be increased in the New Year by one further officer, a newly recruited Animal Rescue officer who will be a welcome addition to their number.

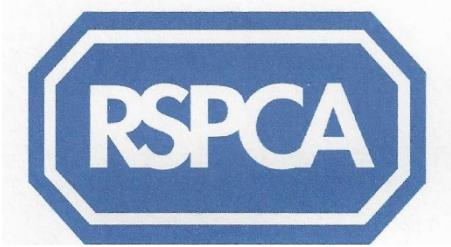
Recruitment for new Inspectors will recommence in 2022.

Mr. Taylor spoke of the worrying increase in the number of non-accidental injuries being reported by vets.

He thanked the Branch for all their support to the Inspectorate over the past couple of years.

**Any Other Business**

There being no other business, the meeting was concluded and was followed by light refreshments.



Please help us to continue our work by becoming a member. Details on how to join the different options provided are shown on the main RSPCA website:

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/getinvolved/becomeamember>

You can find out about and donate to your local Branch (RSPCA Wiltshire Mid Branch) through our web pages: -

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/local/wiltshire-mid-branch>

If you live in our Branch area and need support with your companion pets please email us on:-

[rspcawiltsmid@gmail.com](mailto:rspcawiltsmid@gmail.com)

For local welfare / financial assistance please call us on: -

**07395 560639 or  
07748 468355**

To report incidents of cruelty or an animal in distress call the National Society 24 hour cruelty line:-

**0300 1234 999**

You can also use the secure online reporting facility on the National Society's web page: -

<https://rspca.org.uk/utilities/contactus/reportcruelty>

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# Accounts

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Wiltshire Mid Branch Registered Charity 205295

# RSPCA WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH

## TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2020



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## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The RSPCA Wiltshire Mid Branch operates in central Wiltshire, covering the four towns of Devizes, Melksham, Warminster and Westbury and the Surrounding villages. It is a registered charity and its charity number is **205295**.

### Trustees

The committee comprises ten volunteers with a broad range of life experiences and careers, all sharing a common passion for animal welfare – specifically preventing cruelty, alleviating suffering and promoting kindness.

### Committee

Mr. Andrew Sheppard (Chairman)

Mr. Richard Pearce (Treasurer)

Miss Jane Barton (Secretary)

Mrs. Sheila Colcomb

Mrs. Elizabeth Davies (Regional Representative)

Mrs. Claire Maggs (Auxiliary Secretary Warminster / Westbury)

Mrs. Lesley Pawlak

Mrs. Jo Sheppard

Miss Sarah Welch

Mrs. Lorna Gough

### Contact Information

For communication purposes the principal address is C/o Rangebourne Pet Care, New Park Street, Devizes, the business address of the Chairman Mr. Sheppard.

The web site is <https://www.rspca.org.uk/local/wiltshire-mid-branch/> This site shows details of how to get in touch for animal welfare purposes alongside current news and national and local campaigns/events.

The financial accounts are independently examined by Alanbrookes Group Ltd., t/a J S Weeks & Co., 10 Market Place, Devizes, SN10 1HT. Branch funds are held by Lloyds Bank PLC, Devizes.

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Branch is constituted as an unincorporated association. The Branch operates as an autonomous Branch of the National RSPCA subject to its rules for Branches. A committee of Trustees, elected at the Annual General Meeting governs the Branch. All Trustees are briefed on their responsibilities as Trustees prior to their acceptance of the role.

The Branch operates within a national network of organisations that pursue the same objectives, known collectively as the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The network comprises independent Branches operating within a defined geographical area for the purposes of fundraising and the provision of animal care facilities and treatments.

A regional structure which is overseen on a national basis, brings several Branch colleagues together with Inspectors, regional and national representatives. The purpose is to discuss regional funding, co-ordinate policies and objectives as well as provide opportunities for colleagues to share knowledge and experiences. The regional representative for the Wiltshire Mid Branch in 2020 was Mrs. Liz Davies.

Representatives of the Branches, regional and national organisations meet at this forum on a regular (at least bi-annual) basis.

The Branch also has links with other Branches and organisations committed to the same objectives including among others, Cats Protection, Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital and RSPCA Bath Cats and Dogs Home.

### **Branch Management**

The Trustees meet every eight weeks to discuss progress on the year's activities and to agree any required actions. The Branch finances are reviewed at each meeting to ensure donated funds are used appropriately and to mitigate any risks.

The Trustees also examine other operational and business risks and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate any significant risks, such as:-

1. Loss of reputation through error or fraud
2. Loss of income through error or fraud
3. Insufficient funds to cover the costs of animal welfare activities

These meetings are also used to ensure that the Branch operates in accordance with any relevant National Society rules, processes and initiatives – guided by the Branch Partnership Manager.

## OBJECTS, OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The objects of the Branch are to promote the work and objectives of the National Society of the RSPCA – to prevent animal cruelty, to promote kindness to animals and to alleviate the suffering of animals through all lawful means – with particular reference to the Branch area and in accordance with the policies of the Society.

The Trustees have reviewed the outcomes and achievements of the Branch’s objectives and activities for the year to ensure they remain focused on the charity’s aims and continue to deliver benefits to the public. The Trustees have complied with the duty under the Charities Act 1993 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission which can be illustrated as follows: -

### **Alleviating Suffering**

A priority for the Branch is to ensure appropriate veterinary care is available for animals whose owners are on benefits or a low income and may be reluctant or anxious about the costs of seeing a vet. The Branch provides donations towards veterinary treatment for sick or injured animals owned by local people on low incomes through a voucher scheme.

During 2020 vouchers to the total value of £35,898.75 were issued in the Branch area this was a colossal increase almost doubling from that issued the previous year (£16,738.53). The neutering campaign amounted to a further £19,009.35 a separate issue from the voucher system. For a greater understanding of this issue please find detailed below an analysis of veterinary charges incurred in 2020:-

|                     |                  |       |              |        |             |
|---------------------|------------------|-------|--------------|--------|-------------|
| Cats                | Female Spay      | 12390 |              | 22.56% |             |
| Cats                | Male neuter      | 7634  |              | 13.90% |             |
| Cats                | Medical/Surgical | 15935 |              | 29.02% |             |
| Cats                | Microchipping    | 2824  |              | 5.14%  |             |
| <b>Cats Total</b>   |                  |       | 38782        |        | 71%         |
|                     |                  |       |              |        |             |
| Dogs                | Female Spay      | 3081  |              | 5.61%  |             |
| Dogs                | Male Neuter      | 1441  |              | 2.62%  |             |
| Dogs                | Medical/Surgical | 10899 |              | 19.85% |             |
| <b>Dogs Total</b>   |                  |       | 15421        |        | 28%         |
|                     |                  |       |              |        |             |
| Others              | Neutering        | 397   |              | 0.72%  |             |
| Others              | Medical/Surgical | 308   |              | 0.56%  |             |
| <b>Others Total</b> |                  |       | 705          |        | 1%          |
|                     |                  |       |              |        |             |
| <b>Grand Total</b>  |                  |       | <b>54908</b> |        | <b>100%</b> |

## Promoting kindness and preventing cruelty

We use our Community Action Days to encourage owners to take responsibility for routine care such as flea treatments and worming to avoid issues developing into acute or chronic situations, causing the animal greater distress. We provide free treatments, which are administered on the spot by the Wiltshire Council Dog Wardens and local vets, who kindly support us at these events.

The Branch also offers subsidised neutering of companion animals for owners on low incomes, this helps to control dog and cat populations and promotes responsible pet ownership.

### **Volunteering Support**

RSPCA Wiltshire Mid Branch provide volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work including Trusteeship, fundraising and event participation.

The Branch continues to make efforts to attract new Trustees.

# ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

## **Joint Report of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer for 2020**

Another year has passed us by since our last report and as usual before we begin a record of our endeavours for 2020, our thanks must in the first instance be directed to the continued support and dedication provided by the members of the committee and to our helpers and supporters who continue to assist when needed.

As will be recollected from previous reports, following a financial crisis which occurred at the Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital at Newton Tony, Salisbury, the Committee were unanimous in their desire to assist them and provide some financial support. To this end a proposal was presented to the Regional Board for consideration.

The proposal took the form of a suggestion which would enable the Branch to provide long term financial assistance; 'the Hospital would provide the Branch with an invoice based on the number of wildlife casualties treated, which originated from the Mid Wilts area, this would be broken down into a percentage of the running costs of the Hospital, all payments would be open to debate and approval by the committee'. The Regional Board placed their seal of approval on the proposal and the hospital was informed of the decision.

In line with that agreement, in February 2020 an invoice was duly received and based upon the figures provided, it was agreed that the sum of £11,174. 50 should be donated to the Hospital; this figure would represent our total financial support for 2019 up to and including the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020. Details of our contribution to cover 2020 was not available at close of play of this year and will be included in our report to cover 2021.

The Committee are very happy to continue supporting the Hospital which provide dedicated care of injured and rehabilitating wildlife originating from our community area, this in turn has the knock-on effect of helping to reduce the workload of our Inspectors, who, without the Hospital's intervention would be required to attend and deal with many of these casualties.

World Spay Day was nominated for the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and Mr. Pearce our Treasurer and in conjunction with Cats Protection (Frome and District Branch) expressed a desire to carry out a neutering campaign in support of this event. The Committee members were supportive of this suggestion and it was agreed that the campaign should take the form previously used, by utilising computer based application forms which proved very successful in the past. Mr. Pearce was ably assisted by members of the committee in monitoring and processing the applications.

In February 2020 we had great plans to hold further Community Action Events; the first was planned and booked for Devizes, Mrs. Pawlak (committee member) was also keen to continue our support of the Keep Britain Tidy Day (Great British Spring Clean) and had made tentative steps to organise this. Unfortunately, due to the COVID pandemic everything was put on hold,

we had hoped that we could perhaps go ahead with some of our plans later in the year, but as we all know that did not happen.

During the course of the year, we had to concentrate on what we could do, within the confines of lockdowns and restricted access. This really centred around the neutering campaign which was extended for a further three months until the end of July 2020 and to providing much needed veterinary financial assistance and welfare advice, due to an increase in the number of people suffering financial distress.

In the early part of the year, we were contacted by the National Society requesting assistance with a view to providing a monetary contribution to a newly created Branch Emergency Fund. Due to the current restrictions, animal centres were closed to the public and Branch clinics and shops were also closed resulting in a devastating effect on many Branches finances. The fund would be set up to provide much needed financial assistance to those Branches most in need, in order to enable them to continue serving their communities and animals.

The suggestion was that Branches might consider donating the residue of the Door-to-Door Fundraising money after the National Societies allocation had been deducted. The committee were all provided with the relevant information and asked if they would be agreeable to the donation of the Door-to-Door fundraising money to the Emergency Fund a figure of £23,795.00. All the committee were unanimous in their wish to assist, and the National Society were informed accordingly.

As with all things at this time, we were unable to hold our Annual General Meeting in June 2020, the National Society had given Branches dispensation to defer AGMs until the end of the year, in the hope that restrictions might ease and meetings could take place, as the situation did not improve, we had the option of holding a 'virtual' meeting or deferring to 2021, when, if meetings were permitted, we could hold a joint 2019/2020 AGM.

The Committee discussed the options and due to the logistics needed to hold a 'virtual' meeting it was decided to defer until June 2021. A letter was sent to all members informing them of this decision and directed them to the Branch website where the Annual Report for 2019 could be viewed.

The extended neutering campaign concluded at the end of July 2020 overall 474 applications had been received providing neutering vouchers for 744 cats, the value of the vouchers being in the region of £28,000, this figure included the trapping, neutering and returning to site of approximately 30-40 cats from established feral colonies.

Last year it may be recalled that Mrs. Jo Sheppard (committee member) had established two cat pens within her garden for the purposes of fostering / rehoming cats which had come to the Branch's attention. The question of registration with the RSPCA had been in abeyance for some time, but the crux of the decision amounted to whether we wished to re-home to the general public or to an RSPCA facility i.e. Bath Cats and Dogs Home, if the latter then the pens could only be used as a holding facility until they could be matched to a prospective owner through BCDH.

Mrs. Sheppard wished to have a 'hands on' approach with regard to re-homing and following an approach by a local Cat Rescue charity it was decided to sell the pens, and the total cost of purchase and erection of the pens was reimbursed to the Branch.

Mrs. Sheppard retains control of the pens on her property and will still be taking cats which originate from the Branch area, nothing in essence will change in that respect, the only difference being that she will be working with Cat Rescue instead of the RSPCA with regard to their care and re-homing.

Earlier in the year, Mr. Pearce (Treasurer) had received notification from a Trust based in Florida (America) that a bequest had been made to the Branch alongside some other animal related charities in the UK. From the limited information available, it would appear that the lady to whom the Trust applies had some interest in the Melksham area of Wiltshire. The process of transferring monies from abroad has been laborious, and at the close of this financial year, the amount to be allotted to the Branch from the Trust Fund had not been received, the amount is believed to be in the region of £62,000, full details and confirmation of amount received will be included in our report for 2021.

At close of play for 2020, no plans for events to be held in 2021 have been able to be made due to the current governmental restrictions imposed during lockdown, however all things being equal we will be aiming for at least one Community Action Event later in the year, possibly in Devizes as previously agreed. The same applies to holding our Annual General Meeting, when and if we are able to go ahead with an AGM which is open to the public, a letter will be forwarded to members and notification will be made on the Branch website along with the 2020 Annual Report which can be viewed there.

As an aside, if there are any members or supporters who could assist with any of our events (as and when / if they happen!) in the future, it would be greatly appreciated, the committee are small in number, many with a number of additional responsibilities and limited free time and any offers of assistance would be greatly appreciated.

That brings us to the end of another year; an eventful one in ways which none of us expected, we were unfortunately unable to carry out many of the things we had planned, but together with the extended neutering campaign and the extensive financial veterinary assistance we have provided, we have we hope, helped to make peoples lives and financial situations more bearable.

In conclusion, as always, our grateful thanks are extended to everyone who has supported us in whatever way during the past year either financially or by the generous gift of their time. Our thanks go to our Branch Partnership Manager, Mrs. Robson, local authorities and Veterinary Practices and our dedicated Inspectors and their colleagues.

**Detailed below are bullet points in support of the following topics: -**

### **Collaboration with the National Society**

It is a given that we always support the National Society objectives, where appropriate, and within our capability. Guided by our Branch Partnership Manager we use the regular Branch Communications to identify opportunities to get involved.

As part of our commitment to running a properly regulated charity we have established several Branch policies and have adopted the principle of a Branch Annual Review through which we may reflect on past work and to plan future activities.

### **Collaboration with the Community**

This is a core objective for the Branch, however due to the Governmental restrictions imposed during 2020 we have been unable to hold any community-based events, however with the lifting of restrictions, this will we hope, be addressed during the course of 2021.

### **Collaboration with other Branches and Charities**

As will have been seen from previous reports the Branch agreed to North Wilts Branch siting an RSPCA shop in Warminster, under the terms of the arrangement the Branch receives a percentage of the profits which this year amounted to £2,290.00 and £813.00 being donations made at the shop to benefit the Mid Wilts Branch.

Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital continues to receive monetary support from the Branch resulting in a payment of £11,201.63 being awarded to them in January 2020 covering the period up until the close of 2019.

### **Collaboration with the Local Inspectors**

The RSPCA Inspectors provide knowledge and experience to the Branch which is invaluable, the wide range of issues and problems they face can be seen from the Chief Inspector's Report included within this Report.

### **Fundraising**

Over the years we have been fortunate to receive several legacies which have enabled us to fund our current range of activities. During the course of this year, we received notification of a legacy from a Trust based in Florida, USA, at the time of writing this report the monies were still unavailable (please see Joint Report for further information).

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

The total incoming resources for the year amounted to £38,090.34 (2019 : £84,255.94 – in 2019 we received a legacy amounting to £51,533.78 to clarify the difference in totals). Expenditure in the year amounted to £92,417.02 (2019 : £58,026.32) a considerable increase compared to the previous year as a result of the high volume of veterinary welfare assistance provided (see accounts). The surplus at the end of the year 2020 is £130,157.61 (2019 : £184,484.29).

It is the policy of the Branch to maintain free reserves for the Branch at a level equal to approximately five years' unrestricted expenditure, to allow for fluctuations in donations and legacies on which the Branch relies. Our Trustees are keen that money should not be retained unnecessarily simply to ensure sustainability.

Free reserves are defined as unrestricted reserves (funds donated for a specific purpose which cannot be used for anything other than the purpose for which they were donated).

In line with the Branch Rules, an annual donation is made to the National Society, this amount is calculated as a percentage of our free reserves. This donation is deducted at source from our share of the Door-to-Door collection that we receive annually from the National Society.

As will be seen from the Joint Report the remainder of the Door-to-Door funding which we would have received was donated back to the National Society this year as the Branch's contribution to the Branch Emergency Fund which was set up in April 2020 to provide financial support to the Branch network, due to the closure of Animal Homes and Clinics during the lockdown period (please see the Joint Report for further information).

The investment policy, taken on advice following receipt of legacies, takes into account our cautious attitude to risk, with investment funds stored in National Savings Income Bonds.

The Trustees have no designated funds for expenditure in the next twelve months, apart from an amount in the region of £11,000 which will be donated to the Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital during 2021.

## FUTURE PLANS

Together with our regular and continuing support provided to those in need of financial veterinary assistance, our plans include a neutering campaign in support of World Spay Day 2021 and hopefully some Community Action Events the latter being dependant on an easing of governmental restrictions during the COVID pandemic.

We continue to look to increase our Volunteer / Trustee base with a view to bringing fresh ideas into the group.

We will continue to work with our local Inspectors, supporting them on specific animal welfare projects as identified by them.

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and their financial statements in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales require the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs and the net incoming and outgoing resources of the Charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, Trustees are required to: -

1. Select suitable policies and then apply them consistently;
2. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
3. Prepare financial statements on a going-concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Branch will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open, to safeguard the assets of the Charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware. Additionally, the Trustees have taken all the steps needed in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information.

# **BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF  
CRUELTY TO ANIMALS**

**WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**

**CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 205295**

,

**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS –  
WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**  
**Report of the Independent Examiner**  
**To The Officers and Committee of Royal Society for the Prevention of  
Cruelty to Animals – Wiltshire Mid Branch**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 3 to 5.

**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 Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

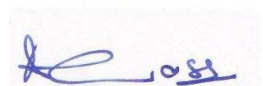
**Basis of Independent Examiner's Report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act,have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



.....  
Mrs A M Cross FCCA  
Alanbrookes Group Ltd t/a J S Weeks & Co  
10 Market Place  
Devizes  
Wiltshire  
SN10 1HT

30 April 2021

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS -  
WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**

**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020**

| <b>2019</b> |                               | <b>2020</b> |
|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| £           |                               | £           |
|             | <b>Accumulated Fund</b>       |             |
| 158,254.67  | Balance Brought Forward       | 184,484.29  |
|             | Add Surplus of Income         |             |
| 26,229.62   | Over Expenditure              | -           |
|             | Deduct Excess of Expenditure  |             |
| -           | Over Income                   | (54,326.68) |
| -----       |                               | -----       |
| 184,484.29  |                               | 130,157.61  |
| =====       |                               | =====       |
|             | <b>Represented By:</b>        |             |
|             | <b>Investments</b>            |             |
| 180,000.00  | National Savings Income Bonds | 130,000.00  |
| 15,006.20   | Bank Deposit Account          | 13,002.68   |
|             | <b>Current Assets</b>         |             |
| 2,850.00    | Bank Current Account          | 1,663.83    |
| -----       |                               | -----       |
| 197,856.20  |                               | 144,666.51  |
| (13,371.91) | Less:- Creditors              | (14508.90)  |
| -----       |                               | -----       |
| 184,484.29  |                               | 130,157.61  |
| =====       |                               | =====       |

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS -  
WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

| <b>2019</b> | <b>INCOME</b>                     | <b>2020</b> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>£</b>    |                                   | <b>£</b>    |
| 411.85      | Subscriptions and Donations       | 580.80      |
| 3,055.49    | Warminster Shop – Share of Profit | 2,290.00    |
| -           | Warminster Shop – Donations       | 813.00      |
| 53.78       | Collecting Boxes                  | -           |
| -           | Cat Cage Costs Refunded           | 7,377.58    |
| -           | VAT Refund                        | 79.42       |
| 813.54      | Devizes Dog Show                  | -           |
| 51,533.78   | Legacy                            | -           |
| 26,739.00   | Door to Door Collection           | 25,173.00   |
| -----       |                                   | -----       |
| 82,607.44   |                                   | 36,313.80   |
|             | <b>Investment Income</b>          |             |
| 1,648.50    | Interest Received                 | 1,776.54    |
| -----       |                                   | -----       |
| 84,255.94   |                                   | 38,090.34   |
| =====       |                                   | =====       |

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS -  
WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

| 2019                        | EXPENDITURE   | 2020                        |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| £                           |   | £                           |
| 6,064.00                    | Branch Contribution to RSPCA                                      | 1,378.00                    |
| 16,738.53                   | Veterinary Fees – General   | 35,898.75                   |
| 14,700.99                   | Neutering Campaigns   | 19,009.35                   |
| 478.41                      | Veterinary Fees - Rehoming  | -                           |
| 45.00                       | Goods Purchased   | 15.00                       |
| 15.00                       | Bank Charges  | -                           |
| 360.00                      | Independent Examiner’s Fees                                       | 360.00                      |
| 33.00                       | Telephone   | 200.18                      |
| 11,174.50                   | Wildlife Hospital   | 11,201.63                   |
| -                           | Donation to RSPCA Emergency Fund                                  | 23,795.00                   |
| 7,377.58                    | Rehoming Service Setup – Cat Pens                                 | -                           |
| 515.20                      | Dog Show Devizes  | -                           |
| -                           | Action Day Devizes  | -                           |
| -                           | ICO Fees  | 35.00                       |
| 524.11                      | Insurance   | 524.11                      |
| ----- 58,026.32             |   | ----- 92,417.02             |
| 26,229.62                   | Surplus of Income over Expenditure<br>Carried to Accumulated Fund | -                           |
| (-)                         | Excess of Expenditure over Income<br>Carried to Accumulated Fund  | (54,326.68)                 |
| -----<br>84,255.94<br>===== |   | -----<br>38,090.34<br>===== |



# Dorset & Wilts 2020 Annual Branch Report

2020



## Dorset & Wilts news...

So where do we start with Dorset & Wiltshire news for the year? A lot has changed since January 2020!

At the beginning of the year, I managed the Inspectors, Animal Welfare officers (AWOs) and Animal Collection officers (ACOs) of the previously known SSW6 group and I recall the first couple months were very busy. The group found themselves dealing with many welfare concerns presented by the ceaseless wet weather. Much time and effort was spent working with owners of equines and livestock who faced the greatest challenges with their animals. Due to proactive working the group managed to facilitate positive resolutions throughout this period without the need for a single prosecution which was fantastic.

In the first couple months the group rescued and found homes for a variety of animals including dogs, cats, pigs, ponies, snakes & lizards!



In February I visited our National Control Centre along with Deputy Chief Inspector Sandy Barlow to spend some time with our local schedulers and scheduling manager who work so hard assessing and tasking out welfare concerns to the field officers received from members of the public.

It is strange now thinking back to that time, enjoying a visit to our NCC friends in the bubbling busy call centre..... for nearly a year now they have been carrying on their vital role working individually from home. The NCC had to adapt very quickly to the changing world around us as we all have done.

In March and April with the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic, the group faced the challenges of adapting to new ways of working with the added pressures this presented. 2 officers from the group were furloughed to help support the RSPCA financially as predictions for a difficult year were being realised. The SSW6 team dedicated themselves to doing all that they could to reach and help the animals most in need during this time. Throughout the following 6 months the group attended emergency collections / rescues and complaints as well as giving advice on the phone and constantly assessing all other jobs which came in to ensure animals in need were not let down. We assisted people in the community who had been affected by the pandemic including rescuing animals left home alone because their owners had been taken seriously ill, people struggling to make ends meet due to financial pressures of the crisis and assistance to vulnerable people who need to get their animals to a vet or need help with provisions for their animals.

With animal centres closed to the public we assisted our branch and animal centre partners with new fostering and adopting of animals by helping to transport animals to their new homes.

The team became even more accomplished at solving problems and worked together supportively, resolving jobs in the height of the initial lockdown period and it was good to see the easing of pressures as we came out the summer.



However, although the lockdown restrictions had eased and there was some relief to be had, at the same time the financial pressures on the society as a result of the pandemic were extreme and sadly we saw some redundancies at this time. We lost Animal Collection officers Darren Woodroof, Sue Brooks and Rebecca Ladd as part of the nationwide restructure and disestablishment of the ACO role. With the restructure came the formation of new group areas and the field officers had a difficult time adjusting to the loss of some of their colleagues, changes to their group and line manager whilst still being on the front line for animal welfare during the pandemic. The officers remained dedicated to doing all they could do for animal welfare and any extra help provided to them at this time from our fantastic branches was very much appreciated, especially as our branches would have been struggling under their own pressures too due to the 'coronavirus effect'.

In October I became Chief Inspector for the newly structured Dorset & Wiltshire group, which is where we are today. It was a big change for us as the officers in our Dorset & Wiltshire group have come together from 4 surrounding groups. The group are amazing and work well to support each other which has been excellent to see.



The introduction of new voucher books to the group and the ability to provide animal welfare assistance more efficiently has been a great help. These are the voucher books which provide aid from the regional branch fund. Here are some of the issues that the vouchers have helped resolve this year:

[Cat with sores on face](#)

Dog with life threatening complications during pregnancy - emergency C-section  
Dogs with overgrown claws  
Dogs with mammary tumour  
Flea allergies and associated skin problems for both dogs and cats  
Consultations and initial meds for arthritic animals  
Assistance with PTS for an elderly dog  
Dog with painful swollen abdomen - foreign body blockage  
Assistance with wound management after accident  
Operation on dog to remove tumour  
Self mutilation wounds from stress caused by phantom pregnancy for a dog  
Assistance with flea treating and worming, various animals  
Assistance towards dental costs, various animals  
Initial consultation appointment with vet for various animals

Many Thanks for this assistance, it has helped make a difference to so many animals! ❁



Between Autumn and Christmas we saw the gradual creep towards a fuller lockdown again as we are all aware. However, one of the positive things we saw during this time is many of our delayed court cases coming through the system. Many prosecution cases that had been dealt with by the officers had been 'on hold' due to a backlog of cases in the courts due to the pandemic - seeing them come

through enables us to progress positive outcomes for animal welfare offences and rehome some animals which previously had not been signed over and were ‘stuck’ in our animal centres or in private boarding. We had some very good results in court which is testament to the quality and integrity of the officers’ investigations.

2020 saw: (Data taken from stats available from Oct -Dec after new group restructure then estimated for previous group structures)

| Incidents Attended | New Prosecution Cases |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 2164               | 15                    |

Here are some links to a few successful prosecution cases from the year:

[Press Release](#) (Rottie, Lulu)

[Press Release](#) (Cat, Maisie & Jack Russel, Lola)

[Press Release](#) (Kitten, Betty Boo)

[Press Release](#) (Birds)

[Press release](#) (Dog, Bella)

The group still have 14 open prosecution cases currently proceeding through the courts at this time.

# Here's a review of the year in pictures including some of our favourite rescues!



## Poodle Pandemonium.....

Inspector Harriet Maund & DCI Sandy Barlow worked together to help some poodles which were in a house of 25 where the owner had let things get out of hand. By working hard to build a relationship of trust with the owner the majority of the poodles have now been removed for rehoming. The job is ongoing, and the aim is to leave the owner with a few manageable and neutered dogs where they will have a good quality of life together. Animal Collection Officer Becky Ladd with Chief Inspector Lewis Taylor (who had a much-needed day out of the office!) also assisted Harriet & Sandy with transporting some of the dogs.

# For Falcons Saker!



Inspector Jan Edwards was called to a stray falcon found near Basingstoke. Jan identified the beautiful bird as a Gyr Saker Falcon. It was tired and hungry but otherwise not hurt. Jan was initially thankful that the Saker was chipped but on making enquiries found that he had been sold to a new owner but the new owner had not updated their details. Jan took him to West Hatch for some much-needed TLC and rehoming.

# Most Improved Pooch.....



Animal Welfare Officer Laura Wheeler was able to secure the sign over of this bedraggled and matted Shitzhu in Thatcham.

Look what a difference a simple bath and trim makes!

# Bordon badger is the friendliest kind.....



Inspector Jan Edwards made several visits to some horses in Bordon regarding concerns for their welfare. Jan was able to deal with the various issues at the location including a particular issue involving the abandonment of a beautiful young horse, a Cob aged about 1 ½ years who Jan described as very cute ..... A member of the public named the little colt 'Badger'.

Badger has gone on to find a new loving forever home!

## Masked Intruders ....

After a call from social Services, Inspector Sharon Chrisp and Chief Inspector Lewis Taylor attended an address in the Newbury area after 2 pet birds had been left unattended at a flat. The owners had been admitted to hospital due to Coronavirus and their beloved pets, a budgie and a cockatiel had been left at home free flying around the living room.

It certainly wasn't a fashion show after Sharon and Lewis donned full PPE to enter the property. The birds gave the perceived masked intruders the run around for a short while before they were expertly



caught and transported to a boarding establishment where they will be cared for until the owners have returned home.

## A Mothers Love.....

Animal Welfare Officer Justine Hermon had a very sad call late one Sunday night when a deer had been badly hit by a car on one of the main roads in Basingstoke. On arrival Justine saw a female Roe Deer which had been hit by the car and had suffered a badly broken leg. Despite the horrendous injury the mother deer had dragged herself across the road to a field in order to feed her 2 fawns

which were waiting for her hunkered down in the grass. After the fawns had been fed and Justine was able to make a closer assessment, sadly the mother's injuries were extensive, and she needed to be euthanized to stop her suffering.

On a more happier note Justine was able to swiftly take the orphaned fawns to oak & furrows wildlife Hospital and on a recent update they are thriving and have also been joined by a third fawn - all will be released together as soon as they are old enough. If the caller hadn't seen the mother deer hit by the car we never would have known about the 2 fawns that would need rescuing when the mother died.



## One team!

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the current restrictions in place surrounding animal rehoming, our animal centres have been closed to the public. This has made it more difficult for centres to rehome animals and the team have been helping the centres with taking animals to their new fur-ever home.

Animal Welfare Officer Justine Hermon helped out RSPCA Southall by chauffeuring Elsa, who had fallen from a high balcony whilst pregnant and broken all her toes! After 3 months of cage rest, she is now relaxing with loving owners in her new home in Newbury. Elsa had kittens whilst in our care and happily these also have loving new homes.



Animal Collection Officer Becky Ladd also helped out South Cotswold Animal Home by transporting Pippy and Pebbles. Becky took Pippy to her lovely new home in Marlborough, and then met with Inspector Harriet Maund who took Pebbles down to her new home in Southampton.

I feel it's a lovely change for our front-line officers who deal with so many distressing incidents to experience this brighter side of the RSPCA's work rehabilitating and rehoming.

Safely transported to a new forever home!



## Toe-loose and Fancy Free!



Inspector Charlotte Coggins was called to rescue a Bearded Dragon which had been callously dumped in a cardboard box behind some bins in Dorchester. Affectionately names Toe-less Trevor by Charlotte as he had a toe missing on one foot - he was taken to the vets for a check over and treatment for dehydration. Despite following every line of enquiry, Charlotte was unable to locate Trevor's owner and he was transported to RSPCA Brighton for rehoming.

# Skua...aaawwk!!



Inspector Patrick Bailey was called to Chesil Beach after a call was received about a distressed bird. Patrick found a large bird which had been washed up and battered by the waves and took the poor bird home for the immediate relief of warmth / food / water.

Patrick was delighted when he realised, he had rescued a Great Skua, not commonly seen and known as 'Pirates of the Sea'. Well, this pirate was much brighter after a night of warmth and nourishment but looked to have lost its waterproofing. Patrick transported the Skua to West hatch for further rehab and release.

# True love after a stormy start



Animal Rescue Officer Jo Blackburn (aka. Cupid) was called to rescue a crash-landed swan after a storm in Poole. It started to head for a busy dual carriageway middle of rush hour but luckily the police were contacted and very bravely herded it into a small children's play park.

When Jo arrived she expertly caught up the poor swan after a good check over decided it was OK to be released.

Jo guessed it may have come from the River Stour but rather than risk accidentally releasing the swan into another's territory which could result in aggressive fighting - Jo thought it would be safer to release the swan straight into a flock situation in Holes Bay, Poole harbour.

Well, that was certainly a sliding doors moment  
.....as this was the result....



# Happy homecoming

Inspector Charlotte Coggins dealt with a job in Dorchester where a poor cat Called Jordan was found caught in an illegal gin trap. Jordan had been missing from his home for at least a month before he was found and thankfully was rushed to the vets for treatment and was able to to go home and make a full recovery. Jordan's owners were overjoyed when the news came that he had been found and would be OK.

Inspector Charlotte Coggins investigated and despite a press release for information Charlotte was unable to find who had set the deadly trap.



# Joint effort at Portland Bill



Before Christmas Animal Rescue officer Jo Blackburn had a call about a possibly injured seal pup around Chesil beach - but despite attending and searching for some time for the pup Jo was unable to locate as the pup must have been washed back out to sea. Then a few days later Jo was called out to an injured seal pup on a small rocky cove near the lighthouse at Portland Bill. It was likely the same seal Jo had previously looked for on Chesil beach.

The pup had various old looking wounds on it, but was extremely feisty still and difficult to confine. Due to the inaccessibility of the location, Jo contacted the coastguard for assistance. About 15 Coast Guard crew turned up very quickly and helped Jo get her kennel down to the cove. Jo was able to successfully confine the seal inside the kennel and with the assistance of the crew carried the poor pup back to her van.

The seal was taken straight to West Hatch for assessment.





Although we were all glad to see the back of 2020, with all the challenges faced with the coronavirus pandemic I am proud of the officers of both teams I have managed in this time, of what they have achieved alone, working in a very difficult climate, what they achieved working together with their colleagues and what we have all achieved working alongside each other.

It is easy to forget all the positive outcomes we achieve in a world where often only the negative news endures - but there have been many!



As well as looking forward to having a bit of respite from this pandemic, we look forward to being able to do even more Together for Animal Welfare in 2021!

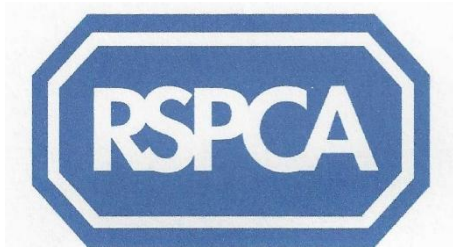
Thank you to our branches for your help throughout all of 2020 🌸

- **We are Compassionate**
- **We are Inspirational**
- **We are Committed**
- **We are Expert**
- **We act with Integrity**



# **MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR YEAR ENDING 2020**

Due to the COVID pandemic the Branch was unable to hold an Annual General Meeting in 2020, dispensation has been granted by the National Society to hold a joint 2019 / 2020 AGM in 2021, when restrictions will hopefully be relaxed.



Please help us to continue our work by becoming a member. Details on how to join the different options provided are shown on the main RSPCA website:

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/getinvolved/becomeamember>

You can find out about and donate to your local Branch (RSPCA Wiltshire Mid Branch) through our web pages: -

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/local/wiltshire-mid-branch>

If you live in our Branch area and need support with your companion pets please email us on:-

[rspcawiltsmid@gmail.com](mailto:rspcawiltsmid@gmail.com)

For local welfare / financial assistance please call us on: -

**07395 560639 or  
07748 468355**

To report incidents of cruelty or an animal in distress call the National Society 24 hour cruelty line:-

**0300 1234 999**

You can also use the secure online reporting facility on the National Society's web page: -

<https://rspca.org.uk/utilities/contactus/reportcruelty>