

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH

England & Wales · Charity number 206799

Details

Other names	ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ESSEX NORTH EAST BRANCH, ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS NORTH ESSEX BRANCH, RSPCA ESSEX NORTH EAST BRANCH, RSPCA NORTH ESSEX BRANCH, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Mid & North Essex Branch, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals North West Essex Branch, The Incorporated Trustees of the Charity of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Essex Mid & North Branch
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1962-09-22
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	116 Harwich Road Colchester Essex CO4 3BZ
Phone	0300 323 0403
Email	info@rspca-northessex.org.uk
Website	https://rspca-midandnorthessex.org.uk/

Activities

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

Activities: The Objectives are to promote the work and objectives of the Society. To promote kindness and to prevent or suppress cruelty to animals by all lawful means.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Animals
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** COLCHESTER AND DISTRICT.
- Essex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£0	£0	-	-
2024-12-31	£979,532	£922,781	£1,077,400	24
2023-12-31	£1,195,663	£881,781	£1,015,424	26
2022-12-31	£816,230	£840,783	£701,552	24
2021-12-31	£899,288	£867,174	£734,015	27
2020-12-31	£519,449	£527,394	£747,888	13

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Ruth Elizabeth Jubb	Chair	2020-09-16
Fiona Mary Lawes		2018-03-01
Petula Brigitte Swanton		2022-01-04
Rachel Louise Skillen		2024-08-12
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty Essex Mid & North Branch CIO		2025-09-29

Accounts

**RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31 DECEMBER 2024**

Charity Number : 206799



Edmund Carr LLP
Chartered Accountants
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

CONTENTS	PAGE
Trustees' annual report	1
Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees	10
Statement of financial activities	11
Balance sheet	12
Statement of cashflows	13
Notes to the financial statements	14

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisors

Registered Charity Name: RSPCA Essex Mid & North Branch

Additional Working Charity Name: RSPCA North Essex Branch

Charity Number: 206799

Principal Address: 116 Harwich Road,
Colchester,
Essex,
CO4 3BZ

Trustees:

Ruth Jubb, Chair / Treasurer
Fiona Lawes, Secretary
Brigitte Swanton
Susan North
Stephen Cook (appointed May 2024)
Rachel Skillen (appointed June 2024)
Kris Lown (resigned June 2024)
Mel Childs (resigned 30 January 2024)
James Lawrence (resigned June 2024)

Independent Examiner: Sandra Morrell FCCA,
Edmund Carr LLP,
146 New London Road,
Chelmsford,
CM2 0AW

Solicitors: Lester Aldridge LLP
Alleyn House
Carlton Crescent
Southampton
SO15 2EU

Bankers: Barclays
9 High Street
Colchester

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements of RSPCA Essex Mid & North Branch (hereafter referred to as “the Charity”/ “the Branch”) for the year ended 31st December 2024. The Trustees (hereafter referred to as “we”) confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the Charity comply with the current statutory requirements and the requirements of the Charity's governing document.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Economic Environment

In 2023, we saw increases in the minimum wage alongside rising operational costs, trends that have continued into 2024. The outlook for 2025 suggests further increases in employment costs - particularly with National Insurance - and the branch is preparing for these anticipated changes. The demand for our welfare clinics has grown as many clients face increasing challenges in meeting the costs of pet care. The number of animals rehomed has remained consistent with 2023, as we are currently limited by capacity at our rescue centre. Despite this, there remains significant demand from both the public and the inspectorate for animal intake and rehoming services.

Governance & General Update

a) The merger between the Mid & North Essex Branches was officially completed on 14 May 2024, as registered with the Charity Commission.

b) In 2024, a comprehensive review of our governance structures and shop operating costs was conducted. As a result, we made the difficult decision to close our Moulsham Street shop. Additionally, the leases for our Maldon and Frinton shops are due for renewal, and negotiations commenced in late 2024, with the Frinton lease being signed in early 2025. Early indications suggest that rental costs will see a substantial increase in 2025.

c) Throughout 2024, discussions between the National RSPCA and the Charity Commission led to a recommendation that branches transition to Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs) to enhance governance and improve partnership working for the future. Work towards this transition has already begun, and a new charity number has been allocated in preparation for the conversion, which is expected to take place in late 2025.

d) In 2024, the National RSPCA generously offered funding to branches to support the rehoming costs of animals taken in from the inspectorate. Our branch successfully applied for this funding throughout the year, and we are pleased that this support will continue for at least part of 2025. We are grateful for this contribution, which has enabled us to rehome as many inspectorate animals as our rescue centre capacity allows.

e) In response to the increasing challenges of rising operational costs, the branch is actively seeking grant opportunities to help alleviate these financial pressures, and it is anticipated that grants will be received to assist with refurbishment of our Chelmsford clinic to improve efficiency and offer a service to a greater number of clients

f) We have also placed more emphasis on expanding our fundraising efforts to support both the rehoming programme and our welfare clinics. This work is still in its early stages, but we are optimistic about its potential to generate additional revenue in 2025 to support that generated by the Charity Shops.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Clinics

2024 saw an increase in demand for our welfare clinics. Whilst routine neutering and microchipping was down by approximately one third, the number of appointments and operations increased by 26% from 3655 to 4625 in the year. These welfare clinic services are for people who struggle to afford veterinary care for their pets and we are extending the eligibility criteria in January 2025 to include more people and pets. In November we increased the number of consulting days available across the two clinics to be able to provide more Welfare Care.

However, the increased costs of staff, premises, and pharmaceuticals led to a larger-than-expected financial deficit for the year (see finances). As a result, the branch will implement, as a minimum, annual price increases starting in January 2025 to ensure the continued sustainability of these essential services. A project started in Q4 2024 to look at refurbishment of the Chelmsford clinic which we hope will go ahead in 2025 subject to receiving planning permission and securing funding.

Retail

2024 was a challenging year for our retail operations. In June, we made the difficult decision to close our Moulsham Street shop in Chelmsford to concentrate resources on our three remaining shops in Frinton, Maldon, and Prettygate, alongside our e-commerce platform. Despite this, the total profit from our shops was £67k, down from £89k in 2023. Given the closure of one shop and shifts in consumer buying habits, this remains a commendable result. We are reviewing our pricing model for 2025, with a focus on increasing sales through our online shop, where profit margins are higher. These retail profits directly support our rehoming and welfare clinic activities. Additionally, leases for two of our shops are being renewed to ensure security of tenure. Leases are being renewed for two of our shops for security of tenure. Gift Aid for the year will have brought in approximately £7,000 contribution to our funds.

I would like to extend my thanks to everyone involved with our retail work as this profit has been the result of a dedicated effort from shop staff and volunteers in the past year.

Income Generation

The shops, e-commerce and one day per week effort on Fundraising brought in £76k profit for our branch before the costs incurred to close the one shop. Whilst this is less than 2023, we can see that E-Commerce and Fundraising will be the growth areas moving forwards as shoppers buying habits change to more online purchases.

Partnerships with local businesses, including Pets at Home in Ipswich, continue to bring in cash donations as well as goods for resale. The branch began to use the Crowd Funder platform for fundraising, and this will continue going forward to increase our fundraising revenue.

Legacy Income

During 2024 the branch received £107k in legacies from 3 donors. We received £57k from the estate of Ms Kerry Morris, £40k from Ms Anita Rowntree and £10k from Mr I McKie. These funds help to support our two welfare clinics as well as the rescue and rehoming activities. In addition, any surplus helps with our project plans for the future, including the planned refurbishment of the Chelmsford veterinary clinic.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Trustees

In 2024, we continued to build a diverse and skilled board of trustees. Branch governance requires a minimum of 5 trustees and not more than 14 trustees, all of whom must be elected at the AGM. If the Branch has vacancies for trustees, these are advertised on the Branch website and through other local sources. Applicants must meet eligibility criteria set out by the Charity Commission and are provided with training and support.

In selecting trustees, we look at individual specialist skills to build a diverse trustee committee with the skill required to govern a successful and efficient Branch. Potential trustees are invited to the open section of a Branch meeting where they can see what is involved and ask questions. It also provides the existing trustees with an opportunity to meet new candidates and form an opinion of their suitability.

In 2024 we recruited two new trustees: Stephen Cook who has specialities in HR and Governance and Rachel Skillen who has a lot of experience with fundraising, websites and social media. They have both made a significant contribution to our board since joining. Mel Childs, James Lawrence and Kris Lown resigned in 2024 due to time pressures and we thank them for the assistance they gave to us as both as a board and a charity. Trustee recruitment is continuing in 2025.

The Charity is organised so that the board of trustees vote in order for decisions to be made, with a quorum of four trustees for valid decision making. Trustees meet at least six times per year, mainly online but this is returning to monthly for 2025 with some meetings face to face. In addition, there are one or two strategy meetings each year.

We are fortunate to have approximately 50 dedicated volunteers who make an immense contribution to our clinics, shops, and fundraising efforts. Volunteers assist in all areas of our work, including home checks for rehoming, providing crucial support for our activities.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all our staff and volunteers for their unwavering commitment and hard work in 2024. The branch could not operate without their support, and we are grateful for their contribution.

Ruth Jubb

Ruth Jubb

Chair

Objectives, Purpose and Activities

The objectives of our charity align with those of the National RSPCA and reflect our shared vision of a world where all animals are treated with kindness, respect, and compassion. Our mission is to ensure every animal has a good life, by rescuing and caring for those in need, by speaking on behalf of all animals and by inspiring everyone to treat them with compassion and respect

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The primary aim of our branch is to promote responsible pet ownership and to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome animals in need, and we actively support the animal rescue work of our RSPCA inspectorate. In addition to these core functions, we support our local communities through the provision of welfare veterinary clinics and holding various neutering and microchipping events. We also attend various local events to help educate groups such as cubs, brownies, scouts and guides on animal welfare and responsible pet ownership.

Public Benefit

The trustees regularly monitor our progress to ensure that our activities remain aligned with our charitable objectives and that we consistently deliver tangible benefits for the animals and to the public. Our core focus is on promoting kindness, preventing cruelty, and alleviating the suffering of animals, which directly supports the broader aims of the National RSPCA.

While our animal welfare work primarily serves our Branch area, we also collaborate with other Branches whenever possible. If we have any spare capacity in the centre for rescue animals, or there is a need for welfare veterinary treatment – for example for neutering a pet from another branch area - we will support this.

Animals taken into branch care during 2024 were boarded and rehomed through the Danaher Animal Home where they receive all necessary welfare and veterinary care. All pets rehomed are vaccinated, treated for fleas and worms and neutered as a minimum.

We take in lost animals and take steps to reunite them with their owners; this work benefits our local community, including local authorities, by preventing animals straying and posing a risk to themselves and to people through road traffic accidents. We respond to enquiries both from the public locally and via the Society's national call centre.

Our two Welfare Veterinary Clinics play a key role in supporting individuals with lower incomes in caring for their pets. This service benefits the public by enabling those on limited budgets to access essential veterinary care, while also helping to prevent animals from becoming strays or needing to be surrendered for rehoming.

We offer subsidised prices for the neutering of cats, dogs and rabbits to those on low incomes, which benefits the public by reducing the number of unwanted animals and promoting responsible pet ownership. In addition, this helps those people in rented accommodation where there is a requirement for pets to be neutered. We also offer a low-cost microchipping service, which reduces the number of strays where owners cannot be traced and enables individuals to be reunited with their lost pets.

Our Branch website offers valuable information, advice, and guidance for the public, ensuring that resources are accessible to anyone seeking support.

We also offer a range of volunteering opportunities for individuals interested in supporting our work. This includes opportunities in trusteeship, fostering, fundraising, and assisting in our charity shops.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Achievements and Performance

In 2024, we continued our commitment to improving the welfare and veterinary services offered to our clients. Building on the increased opening hours from 2023, by the end of 2024, we successfully expanded both clinics to a full five-day operation. This enhancement has allowed us to provide additional veterinary consultations at both sites. However, the cost of delivering these vital welfare services has risen due to escalating costs in medications, equipment, and staffing. As a result, the branch has provided a subsidy of £92,000 to ensure the continued operation of both clinics.

There was no increase in veterinary prices for the public in 2024; however, from January 2025, a price increase of approximately 10% was required for the service to remain viable in the long term. Additionally, we have stopped the requirement for Housing Benefit as part of the qualifying criteria for clinic services, now that we have an increased capacity. The clinics saw a 25% increase in the number of treatments provided compared to 2023, reflecting the growing demand for our services.

Despite these challenges, we are optimistic about plans for the future. In 2025, we plan to refurbish the Chelmsford clinic to enhance facilities for both animals and staff while modernising the clinic's layout. A grant secured from the National RSPCA in early 2025 will cover 66% of the refurbishment costs, while Chelmsford City Council has generously contributed £6,000 towards the installation of solar panels which will reduce our electricity consumption from the grid. There will be some minor disruption to clinic operations later in 2025 as this work progresses.

The number of neutering operations performed in 2024 decreased to 469, primarily due to the suspension of "Snip and Chip" days and a temporary halt to the Cats Protection voucher scheme. These programs have always been in high demand, particularly due to the very low cost of these services. Additionally, the number of microchipping procedures decreased by approximately 200, as these are often conducted in conjunction with neutering. We hope to resume the Snip and Chip clinics in 2025, though their availability depends on the availability of volunteer veterinary staff and nurses.

We are grateful for the continued support from Ambivet, whose voluntary operating time has been invaluable in supporting our clinics.

The economic environment remains challenging for our retail operations. After careful consideration, we made the difficult decision to close our Moulsham Street shop in Chelmsford rather than renew the lease. The decline in footfall and income made this decision necessary. We would like to extend our thanks to the customers, volunteers, and staff who supported us over the years at this location.

Despite this, the remaining three shops generated a profit of £68,000, compared to £89,000 in the previous year. Typically, this profit would support our rehoming efforts; however, in 2024, we were fortunate to receive a generous grant from the National RSPCA, which covered the majority of our rehoming costs. As a result, the surplus has been directed to support our clinic welfare activities.

Our ongoing partnership with Pets at Home in Ipswich has been instrumental in our fundraising efforts. We are also grateful for their donation of several pallets of pet supplies and food, which help supporting the welfare and rescue animals under our care. Additionally, our partnership with Big Yellow Storage in Chelmsford continues to provide much needed storage space for seasonal stock. A generous donation was also received from Master Fluid Solutions for suction pumps.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

A key area of focus in 2024 was our increased emphasis on education and fundraising. We achieved a profit of £8,500 from fundraising activities, compared to £2,800 in 2023. This increase is largely due to the efforts of our Income Generation Manager and our involvement in the Mayor of Colchester's Charities Appeal.

Our Gift Aid income has risen by £3,000 to £8,000 for 2024 due to the generous donations from our customers.

The ongoing success of the "Charity Bazaars" at our clinics remains a much-needed source of donations. It helps raise funds but also provides low-cost pet food to clients with limited income. In 2024, donations were received that allowed the clinics to purchase the following equipment which has improved the quality and range of services we provide to both clients and animals in our care:

- A replacement set of wireless clippers
- Two infusion pumps for use with drips
- Two suction pumps for use in the surgical field
- A Tono-Pen for each clinic to enhance pet ophthalmology services

In 2024, we successfully rehomed 92 dogs and 104 cats, with a notable increase in the number of dogs rehomed compared to the previous year. Of these animals, approximately one third were received from the public or as strays, and two thirds came to us via our inspectorate.

We would like to express our gratitude to our dedicated staff and volunteers, whose tireless efforts have made these achievements possible. Building on the success of the Fundraising Diploma in 2023, one of our Shop Managers has been pursuing a Management Diploma in 2024, which is expected to be completed by mid-2025 and will help us with branch management activities.

Financial Review 2024

The branch made an overall surplus in the year of £62k including legacies. Stripping out the income from the legacies of £107k leaves an overall deficit of £45,000.

Retail income decreased in 2024 with the closure of one shop mid-year. Combined with increasing overheads and salaries this resulted in the three remaining shops and the online sales generating a total of £68,000 profit, compared to the figure of £89,000 for the previous year. Profit from the shops is used in the first instance to cover the costs of our rescue and rehoming activities with surplus being used to support the veterinary clinics. In 2024 the branch received grants to help with rehoming costs so much of the shop profit was used in 2024 to support our welfare clinics.

During 2025 work will continue with the clinics to refine the operating model to decrease the clinic deficit and to improve sustainability whilst maintaining affordable prices for our clients. This will be supported with refurbishment of the Chelmsford clinic to provide facilities for increased numbers of appointments and operations as part of the model.

Investment Policy

The policy of the Trustees is to hold most of the charity's assets as cash deposits to ensure funds are readily available to meet general running costs and other expenditure. In order to minimise risk these deposits are spread across a number of banks and building societies. The charity continues to hold longer term investments with M&G and Schroders investment managers in order to maximise investment income.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Depreciation policy

Our Policy allows for depreciation of short-term equipment and assets over 5 years and longer-term assets over 10 years. Depreciation begins to apply after the first complete month after purchase of the asset. Where an asset has been bought outright by a grant, the charity may choose to allow all income and costs to be in the profit and loss for that year rather than to charge depreciation over several years.

Reserves Policy 2024

Our reserves policy is set to ensure that we retain sufficient funds to cover 6 months of the previous year's operating costs. This gives a figure of £462,000 to be held as free reserves, which exclude fixed assets and restricted and designated funds. This is to enable the branch to continue to provide its vital core services for a period of six months, in the event of a loss of income. At 31 December 2024 free reserves represented by net current assets totalled £301,000 (see note 18). However, including the contingency reserve, which is also available to cover core services, gives a total of £492,000. This is almost 6.5 months, so slightly above the 6 months as set in the policy.

There is no single level, or even a range of, reserves that is right for all charities. The level agreed by our trustees for the level of reserves to be held reflects our particular circumstances. As trustees we are aware of our responsibilities to the Charity and consider these prior to making financial decisions that may or may not have an impact on the Charity's financial position. Our financial position and our reserves policy are regularly reviewed.

Structure, Governance and Management

RSPCA Essex Mid & North is an unincorporated charitable association and a separately registered Branch of the national RSPCA body (the Society); we are governed by the RSPCA Branch Rules (2012 edition). The new Branches Programme, which was developed and approved in 2023, provides a new governance framework including:

- a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) Constitution
- Partnership Agreement - which clarifies branch and national roles and the responsibilities and how we work together

The new framework plays an important part in fulfilling the need to comply with the Charity Commission's instruction to the RSPCA to modernise the governance of branches. Our branch started the journey to become a CIO in late 2024 and hopes to complete this during 2025.

The Branch receives support and advice from the National RSPCA and, in many years, an annual donation of "door to door" money. Apart from this, all other funds are self-generated, or via the Branch Legacy Scheme.

In 2024 the merged Branches received £65,448 door to door money. We would also like to express our gratitude for the generous legacies we have received. These contributions play a vital role in supporting our work and enable us to continue making a positive impact on the animals we rescue and for. The legacy income for 2024 was £107,441 including £57,441 from the estate of Ms K Morris, £40,000 from the estate of Ms A Rowntree and £10,000 from the estate Mr I McKie.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Risk Statement

The Trustees confirm that major risks have been reviewed and systems and procedures established to manage these risks. The RAID log completed each month brings greater focus to Risks and the monitoring of Actions.

Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity 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 enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 14 April 2025. and signed on their behalf by:

Ruth Jubb
.....

Ruth Jubb, Chair

Brigitte Swanton
.....

Brigitte Swanton, Trustee

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 11 to 23.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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

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

Sandra Morrell

Sandra Morrell FCCA
Edmund Carr LLP
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
CM2 0AW

24 April 2025

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	Note	£	£	£	£
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	2	221,763	-	221,763	466,402
Charitable activities	3	352,218	-	352,218	246,060
Other trading activities	4	385,550	-	385,550	468,834
Investments	5	20,001	-	20,001	14,367
TOTAL INCOME		<u>979,532</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>979,532</u>	<u>1,195,663</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	6	358,763	-	358,763	379,671
Charitable activities	7	564,018	-	564,018	502,110
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>922,781</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>922,781</u>	<u>881,781</u>
Net income before investment movements		56,751	-	56,751	313,882
Net gains/(losses) on investments		5,225	-	5,225	(10)
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)		<u>61,976</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>61,976</u>	<u>313,872</u>
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		<u>61,976</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>61,976</u>	<u>313,872</u>
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total Funds brought forward		1,015,424	-	1,015,424	701,552
Total Funds carried forward		<u>1,077,400</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,077,400</u>	<u>1,015,424</u>

In 2023 all income and expenditure was also unrestricted.

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the period as set out above.

The notes on pages 14 to 23 form part of these financial statements.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

		2024	2023
	Note	£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	12	354,821	360,362
Investments	13	147,168	141,943
		<u>501,989</u>	<u>502,305</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks		19,781	23,008
Debtors	14	23,491	16,934
Cash at bank and in hand		579,162	526,636
		<u>622,434</u>	<u>566,578</u>
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(47,023)</u>	<u>(53,459)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		575,411	513,119
NET ASSETS		<u>1,077,400</u>	<u>1,015,424</u>
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Restricted funds	16	-	-
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	17	274,000	298,000
General unrestricted funds	17	803,400	717,424
Total unrestricted funds		<u>1,077,400</u>	<u>1,015,424</u>
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		<u>1,077,400</u>	<u>1,015,424</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 14 April 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:

Ruth Jubb

Ruth Jubb

Chair

Brigitte Swanton

Brigitte Swanton

Trustee

The notes on pages 14 to 23 form part of these financial statements.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		61,976	313,872
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation charges	12	19,201	19,434
Dividends, interest and rent from investments	5	(20,001)	(14,367)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	14	(6,557)	97,475
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	15	(6,436)	(67,487)
(Increase) / decrease in stock		3,226	5,648
(Gains)/losses on investments	13	(5,225)	10
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities		<u>46,184</u>	<u>354,585</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	5	20,001	14,367
Fixed asset additions	12	(14,787)	(181,566)
Fixed asset disposals		1,128	-
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		<u>6,342</u>	<u>(167,199)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		52,526	187,386
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		526,636	339,250
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		<u>579,163</u>	<u>526,636</u>

The notes on pages 14 to 23 form part of these financial statements.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Basis of preparation

RSPCA Essex Mid & North Branch constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Income

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

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate.

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the charity's operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

Tax status

RSPCA Essex Mid & North Branch is a registered charity and is not subject to corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets, other than freehold property, are shown at cost or, if donated, at their value on the date of the gift, less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off their cost or value, less their estimated residual value over their estimated useful lives on the following basis.

Freehold property improvements	- 10 years straight line
Leasehold improvements	- 3 to 15 years straight line depending on lease requirements length of lease and useful economic life of improvements
Motor vehicles	- 4 years straight line
Equipment	- 5 years straight line

Freehold property is recorded in the accounts at cost. No depreciation is provided on freehold property as the charity has a policy and practice of regular maintenance and refurbishment which maintains the value.

Investments

Investments are stated at market value. Realised gains and losses on disposals and unrealised gains or losses when the investments are revalued at the year end are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Stock

Stock purchased for sale in the shops or use at the clinic is valued at cost.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash at Bank and in hand

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and deposits.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Defined contribution pension plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided.

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted general funds – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds – these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

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

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)****YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations and subscriptions	98,470	-	98,470	107,445
Shop gift aid and donations	15,852	-	15,852	14,312
Legacies	107,441	-	107,441	344,645
	<u>221,763</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>221,763</u>	<u>466,402</u>

The estimated value of legacies notified but neither received nor accrued into income (as they do not meet the SORP recognition criteria) at 31 December 2024 is £30,000 (2023 - £0).

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Fees and receipts at clinic	284,616	-	284,616	242,086
Rehoming fees	67,602	-	67,602	3,974
	<u>352,218</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>352,218</u>	<u>246,060</u>

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Shop trading income	385,550	-	385,550	468,834
	<u>385,550</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>385,550</u>	<u>468,834</u>

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Bank interest	11,887	-	11,887	6,195
Income from UK listed investments	8,114	-	8,114	8,172
	<u>20,001</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,001</u>	<u>14,367</u>

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

6. COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Shop and fundraising costs	358,763	-	358,763	379,671

7. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support & governance costs (Note 8) £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Branch and clinic expenditure	482,088	81,930	564,018	502,110
	482,088	81,930	564,018	502,110
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>416,567</i>	<i>85,543</i>	<i>502,110</i>	

8. ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Premises	28,796	-	28,796	21,760
Telephone, postage and stationery	11,460	-	11,460	9,035
Miscellaneous expenses	8,489	-	8,489	12,175
Depreciation	16,391	-	16,391	16,443
Governance costs (Note 9)	16,794	-	16,794	26,131
	81,930	-	81,930	85,543

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)****YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

9. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Independent examination	3,150	-	3,150	-
Accounts preparation	-	-	-	2,740
Audit fee	-	-	-	6,260
Fees payable to examiner/auditor	3,150	-	3,150	9,000
Bookkeeping and payroll fees	400	-	400	1,009
Legal fees	4,041	-	4,041	10,181
Consultancy	4,597	-	4,597	1,447
HR support and advice	4,606	-	4,606	4,494
Total governance costs	<u>16,794</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,794</u>	<u>26,131</u>

10. ANALYSIS OF STAFF COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	460,249	445,018
Social security costs	31,138	28,044
Pension costs	11,873	14,473
	<u>503,260</u>	<u>487,535</u>

None of the employees' emoluments exceeded £60,000.

The average number of employees during the year, by head count was 24 (2023: 26)

The remuneration benefits of key management personnel in the year totalled £43,106 (2023 - £42,025).

11. TRUSTEE REMUNERATION

No trustee or any person connected with them received any remuneration for their services during the current or preceding year.

No trustees received expenses in the current year (2023 - Nil).

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property and improvements £	Leasehold improvements £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 January 2024	331,212	29,960	98,157	459,329
Additions	-	-	14,787	14,787
Disposals	-	-	(2,706)	(2,706)
At 31 December 2024	331,212	29,960	110,238	471,410
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2024	11,999	28,320	58,648	98,967
Charge for year	6,516	193	12,491	19,200
On disposals	-	-	(1,578)	(1,578)
At 31 December 2024	18,515	28,513	69,561	116,589
Net book value				
At 31 December 2024	312,697	1,447	40,677	354,821
At 31 December 2023	319,213	1,640	39,509	360,362

Freehold property is recorded in the accounts at cost. This includes the Harwich clinic with a value of £171,434. The most recent valuation of this property, carried out on 4 February 2020, was £200,000 on a market value basis. Also included is the Great Baddow clinic which has a value of £98,289, as transferred from RSPCA Mid Essex on conversion. The trustees' estimate this has a market value in excess of £250,000.

13. INVESTMENTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Listed investments:		
Market value at 1 January	141,943	141,953
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation	5,225	(10)
Market value at 31 December	<u>147,168</u>	<u>141,943</u>
Historical cost	97,041	97,041

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

14. DEBTORS	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	8,356	2,796
Prepayments and accrued income	9,109	14,128
Other debtors	6,026	10
	<u>23,491</u>	<u>16,934</u>

15. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	22,294	33,440
Accruals	7,253	9,792
Taxation and social security	14,661	9,803
Other creditors	2,815	424
	<u>47,023</u>	<u>53,459</u>

16. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Movement in funds			
	Balance at 01/01/2024	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31/12/2024
	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Prior year restricted funds movement:

	Movement in funds			
	Balance at 01/01/2023	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31/12/2023
	£	£	£	£
a) Restricted legacies	59,000	-	(17,146)	(41,854)
	<u>59,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(17,146)</u>	<u>(41,854)</u>

- b) A legacy of £59,000 was received in 2022 to help fund the cost of a new X-ray imaging suite and was fully spent in the current year. The transfer to unrestricted funds represents that part of the expenditure capitalised as relating to fixed assets.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

17. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

		Movement in funds			
	Balance at	Income	Expenditure	Gains, losses	Balance at
	01/01/2024			& transfers	31/12/2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds					
a) Contingency reserve	250,000	-	-	(59,000)	191,000
b) Mobile veterinary clinic	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
c) Branch van	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
d) Clinic refurbishment	8,000	-	-	8,000	16,000
e) Clinic maintenance	-	-	-	17,000	17,000
f) CIO costs	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
	<u>298,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(24,000)</u>	<u>274,000</u>
General funds	717,424	979,532	(922,781)	29,225	803,400
	<u>1,015,424</u>	<u>979,532</u>	<u>(922,781)</u>	<u>5,225</u>	<u>1,077,400</u>

The Trustees have designated funds for the following purposes:

- a) Contingency reserve: to cover running costs, salaries and potential redundancies.
- b) Mobile veterinary clinic: to set up a mobile veterinary clinic.
- c) Branch van: to purchase a van to use for animal transport and movement of stock.
- d) Clinic refurbishment: towards the refurbishment of the veterinary clinics, including new consultation room and kitchen.
- e) Fund for the maintenance of the Chelmsford and Colchester clinics.
- f) Towards the costs of the required conversion to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Prior year unrestricted funds movement:

		Movement in funds			
	Balance at	Income	Expenditure	Gains, losses	Balance at
	01/01/2023			& transfers	31/12/2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds					
Contingency reserve	150,000	-	-	100,000	250,000
Mobile veterinary clinic	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
Branch van	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
Clinic refurbishment	-	-	-	8,000	8,000
	<u>150,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>148,000</u>	<u>298,000</u>
General funds	492,552	1,195,663	(864,635)	(106,156)	717,424
	<u>642,552</u>	<u>1,195,663</u>	<u>(864,635)</u>	<u>41,844</u>	<u>1,015,424</u>

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS (between restricted and unrestricted funds)

Current year:

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	354,821	-	-	354,821
Investments	147,168	-	-	147,168
Net current assets	301,411	274,000	-	575,411
	<u>803,400</u>	<u>274,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,077,400</u>

Prior year:

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	360,362	-	-	360,362
Investments	141,943	-	-	141,943
Net current assets	215,119	298,000	-	513,119
	<u>717,424</u>	<u>298,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,015,424</u>

19. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions that require disclosure.

20. OPERATING LEASES

Total rental payments due under operating leases in respect of land and buildings are as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Within 1 year	2,475	9,900
Within 2 to 5 years	-	2,475
	<u>2,475</u>	<u>12,375</u>

Accounts

**RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31 DECEMBER 2023**

Charity Number : 206799



Edmund Carr LLP
Chartered Accountants
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

CONTENTS	PAGE
Trustees' annual report	1
Independent Auditor's report to the Trustees	10
Statement of financial activities	14
Balance sheet	15
Statement of cashflows	16
Notes to the financial statements	17

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisors

Registered Charity Name: RSPCA Essex Mid & North Branch

Additional Working Charity Name: RSPCA North Essex Branch

Charity Number: 206799

Principal Address: 116 Harwich Road,
Colchester,
Essex,
CO4 3BZ

Trustees:

Ruth Jubb, Chair 2023
Fiona Lawes
Kris Lown
Susan North
Brigitte Swanton
Mel Childs
James Lawrence (appointed 24/05/2023)

Statutory Auditor: Sandra Morrell FCCA,
Edmund Carr LLP,
146 New London Road,
Chelmsford,
CM2 0AW

Solicitors: Lester Aldridge LLP
Alley House
Carlton Crescent
Southampton
SO15 2EU

Bankers: Barclays
9 High Street
Colchester
CO1 1DA

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements of RSPCA Essex Mid & North Branch (hereafter referred to as “the Charity”/ “the Branch”) for the year ended 31st December 2023. The Trustees (hereafter referred to as “we”) confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the Charity comply with the current statutory requirements and the requirements of the Charity's governing document.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Current Economic Climate

The branch continues to be impacted by the current economic climate with increased running costs, including large rises in the minimum wage for our staff, and ongoing demand for our services through the welfare clinics. We have increased the opening hours of our clinics and are still fully booked for consultations and operations for people's pets. There has been a 25% increase in the number of animals rehomed compared with the previous year, which includes animals brought in via our inspectorate and animals from the public.

Governance Update

a) Progress on Merger between Mid & North Essex

Title deeds for the Great Baddow clinic have now been updated at Land Registry and details have been sent to the charity commission for finalising the merger.

b) Update of contracts into the name of the Incorporated Board

Following incorporation of our board of trustees in 2022, employment contracts were reviewed in 2023 and re issued to employees on 6 January 2024. Other supplier contracts are being updated where necessary.

c) Health and Safety

Health and Safety reviews have continued with various electrical and lighting checks being carried out according to schedule in our various premises.

d) 200th Anniversary of the RSPCA

Preparations have started for this event at branch level and we will be promoting the RSPCA with fundraising activities and a refreshed image.

e) CIO

During 2023 there were governance changes that mean the branch can become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The practicalities of this have been investigated and work may commence towards the end of 2024.

Clinics

Once again, there has been great demand for the welfare clinic services for people who struggle to afford veterinary care for their pets. There has been an increase in clinic staff throughout the year to enable longer opening hours across the two clinics; this has included use of locum staffing and recruitment of a veterinary nurse and a volunteer vet assistant. We have seen a 40% increase in the number of appointments in the year.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Imaging Suite in the Veterinary Clinic in Colchester opened in May 2023 enabling clients to benefit from low-cost immediate diagnostic results from X rays and ultrasounds. This suite was funded by a generous legacy from the late Jennifer Simpson. There has been refurbishment work in both clinics to ensure that there is a safe working environment and to optimise the use of space – this in turn has allowed additional consulting space to enable more clients to use our services.

The cost of drugs and other consumables has continued to rise throughout the year resulting in small price increases on some drugs; these increases have been kept to a minimum.

Retail

As a result of changes in the operating model in 2022 and an increased focus on sales, 2023 was a very good year in our shops. We also established a new online sales section one day per week, starting in quarter 4, this has been selling some of the higher value items from our shops. These five teams made approximately £89,000 profit in the year compared with £35,000 the previous year. In addition, there is a further £14,000 of funds generated through donations and gift aid that was made via our network of retail shops that is shown under donations and gift aid in the accounts. The intention was for the shops to raise sufficient profit to fund our rehoming activities. However, due to the increased profit, not only were we able to take in more animals for rehoming, but they also were able to contribute towards the equipment and funds needed to operate the welfare clinics.

I would like to extend my thanks to everyone involved with our retail work as this profit has been the result of a dedicated effort from shop staff and volunteers in the past year.

Income Generation

In addition to our retail income, we are diversifying into active fundraising. After a year of studying, our Income Generation Manager was awarded a Diploma in Fundraising in December 2023. During 2023 he spent one day per week on Fundraising activities and study to support the income from the retail units. Partnerships with local businesses, including Pets at Home in Ipswich, as well as fundraising events, crowd funding and sponsored events, brought in an additional £7,700 before costs. There were also two significant sponsored events organised by members of the public - The “Miles for Milo” campaign, which raised funds for the clinics in memory of a dog called Milo, and the “Dengie 100” sponsored walk. Again, we would like to extend our thanks to those individuals who organised the campaigns and to the public who sponsored them. The funds raised assist with our animal welfare activities.

Legacy Income

We were very fortunate in March 2023 to receive a large legacy of £330,000 from the estate of Jennifer Anne Trevisan, with two smaller legacies of £13,000 from the estate of Ms Winifred Chaplin and £2,000 from the estate of Ms Iris James. Not only do these funds enable us to continue with our welfare clinics and rescue and rehoming activities, but also to make plans for the future, including setting aside funds towards the cost of the following projects:

- purchasing a branch van to use for animal transport and stock movements
- setting up a mobile veterinary clinic
- additional funding towards the rehoming budget
- refurbishment of the clinics, to ensure the best use of the space

All of these projects will be supported by further fundraising in the future.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Trustees

Branch governance requires a minimum of 5 trustees and not more than 14 trustees, all of whom must be elected at the AGM. If the Branch has vacancies for trustees, these are advertised on the Branch website and through other local sources. Applicants must meet eligibility criteria set out by the Charity Commission and are provided with training and support.

In selecting trustees, we look at individual specialist skills in order to build a diverse trustee committee with the skill required to govern a successful and efficient Branch. Potential trustees are invited to the open section of a Branch meeting where they can see what is involved and ask questions. It also provides the existing trustees with an opportunity to meet new candidates and form an opinion of their suitability.

In 2023 we recruited one new trustee – James Lawrence – who is helping with some of the social media and fundraising activities as well as being actively involved on the board of trustees. Trustee recruitment is continuing in 2024.

The Charity is organised so that the board of trustees vote in order for decisions to be made, with a quorum of four trustees for valid decision making. Trustees meet at least six times per year, mainly online. In addition, we do hold annual strategy meetings.

We have just over 50 volunteers in our clinics and shops and they make an invaluable contribution to keeping us running and generating income. They assist in the shops and clinics and also undertake various fundraising activities on our behalf. We also have a group of volunteers who are trained to undertake home checks on our behalf, thereby helping us to rehome animals.

And, as a last point, thank you very much to all our dedicated staff and volunteers who have helped immensely during 2023. The Branch could not survive without them.

Ruth Jubb

Ruth Jubb

Chair

Objectives, Purpose and Activities

The Charity's objectives follow those of the National RSPCA which are to help prevent and suppress cruelty and promote kindness to animals. The primary aim of the branch is to promote responsible pet ownership and to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome animals in need, including supporting the animal rescue work of our inspectorate. In addition to rescue and rehoming, we support our local communities through the provision of welfare veterinary clinics and holding various neutering and microchipping events. We also attend various local events to help educate groups such as cubs, brownies, scouts and guides on animal welfare and pet ownership.

Our Branch area reaches from Brentwood in the West through to Clacton and Harwich in the East. We support our RSPCA regional inspectors and animal rescue officers by taking in animal welfare cases across this Branch area. There is increasing pressure on our resources to take in and rehome animals such that we have to prioritise the cases, with priority often being given to animals brought in via the inspectorate, but we do also take in animals from the public.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

All animals in Branch care receive any necessary emergency veterinary treatment, vaccination, neutering, micro-chipping, flea treatment, and wormer and are assessed for re-homing. The Branch funds this activity, with the boarding and rehoming in 2023 being undertaken primarily through The Danaher Animal Home in Wethersfield, with overflow capacity for cats in Nutkins Cattery, if required.

We provide two Welfare Veterinary Clinics to help eligible pet owners care for their pets. Some support is required from other vet practices for more complicated procedures that cannot be performed in our own clinics. However, in mid-2023 our Imaging suite was completed and equipped using funds from a generous Legacy received from the late Jennifer Simpson. We are now able to offer our clients low-cost X-Rays and ultrasounds without the need for referral to an external vet.

Public Benefit

The trustees monitor our achievements throughout the year to ensure they remain focused on our charitable aims and that we deliver on our benefits to the public. We focus on promoting kindness, preventing cruelty and alleviating suffering of animals, which supports the National RSPCA in its aims.

Our animal welfare work applies to our Branch area, although we do co-operate with other Branches where possible. If we have any spare capacity in the kennels for rescue animals, or there is a need for welfare veterinary treatment – for example for neutering a pet from another branch area - we will support this.

Animals taken into branch care during 2023 were boarded and rehomed through two centres, where animals receive the necessary initial veterinary treatment prior to rehoming, including neutering, vaccinations and microchipping. All of our cats are microchipped, which means that they will be compliant when the law making it compulsory to microchip cats comes into force in June 2024. This work helps to control the incidence and spread of disease and suffering and promotes responsible pet ownership.

We take in lost animals and take steps to reunite them with their owners; this work benefits our local community, including local authorities, by preventing animals straying and posing a risk to themselves and to people through road traffic accidents. We respond to enquiries both from the public locally and via the Society's national call centre.

The two Welfare Veterinary Clinics help qualifying people on lower incomes to care for their pets. This is of benefit to the public by helping those on low incomes to provide veterinary care for their animals; the public also benefits by knowing that we are able to help animals in need, so potentially reducing the number of animals that could become strays or that could need to be surrendered for rehoming.

We offer subsidised neutering of cats, dogs and rabbits to those on low incomes, which benefits the public by reducing the number of unwanted animals and promoting responsible pet ownership. In addition, this helps those people in rented accommodation where there is a requirement for pets to be neutered. We also offer a low-cost microchipping service, which reduces the number of strays where owners cannot be traced and enables individuals to be reunited with their lost pets.

Our Branch website provides information, advice and guidance for the public.

The Branch also offers volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work, including Trusteeship, fostering, fundraising and assisting within our shops.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Achievements and Performance

We have recently changed the opening hours in one of our two clinics so that we are now able to offer veterinary consultations / operations 5 days per week across the two sites when this was previously 4 days per week. The two clinics treated approximately 40% more pets than in 2022. The number of neutering operations increased from a total of 528 to 741 in the year. Almost 600 of these were cat neutering through the voucher scheme operated in conjunction with Cats Protection at Colchester and Chelmsford. This partnership generated an income of £15,000, whilst also helping to reduce the risk of unwanted cats.

We vaccinated 549 dogs and cats despite the challenges with shortages of vaccines in the year, and microchipped 559 pets.

The clinics have continued to benefit from voluntary operating time from Ambivet, for which we are very grateful. In addition, we held 6 subsidised “Snip & Chip” events for cats during the year and again benefited from donated veterinary supplies and time to make this possible.

The operation of the clinics required an input of £76,000 in total from both the shop and branch profit to support their welfare activities in 2023. This is a 11% increase from the previous year, but has allowed more consultations and operations and a broader range of services.

Costs have remained a challenge for the shops and clinics. We did benefit from £5,982 government rebates and refunds during the year on business rates from the various councils for our premises. We strive to keep our direct costs as competitive as possible. In 2023 Clinic Drugs and Veterinary supplies accounted for 80% of our direct costs – we monitor our suppliers to ensure we achieve the best price possible.

Since our X-Ray and new ultrasound machines became available, we have carried out 104 X-Rays and ultrasounds that would not previously have been possible, so benefitting clients with low-cost and instant diagnostic results for their pet’s treatment.

The four shops made a combined profit of approximately £89,000 in the year and this was used to cover the £62,000 cost of the rehoming during the year and contribute £27,000 towards the operating costs of the clinics.

Our Partnership with Pets at Home at Ipswich continues for Fundraising and they have again donated several pallets of pet supplies and food that has helped feed rescue and welfare animals. Our partnerships with Big Yellow storage in Chelmsford and Pink and Blue Childrens Clothing in Ipswich are also of benefit to us.

The “Charity Bazaars” in the clinics continue to raise funds and provide low-cost pet food for those on lower income. During 2023 sufficient donations were received to purchase the following clinic equipment:

- Oxygen generator for Chelmsford for use in anaesthesia.
- Set of quiet cordless small cat clippers and a set of quiet cordless large clippers for dogs for each clinic.
- Part way towards the target for a Tono-Pen to use in pet ophthalmology and a new centrifuge.

This equipment helps to improve the quality and range of service provided both for client’s pets and those who come into Branch care.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Throughout the year we rehomed 56 dogs and 151 cats – this is a 25% increase on 2022 and the increased funding required has been generated by donations from the public and increased income from the Charity Shops; every penny of profit generated by the shops goes directly to rehoming and animal welfare.

In December we were able to accept multiple cats from a large multi-cat household and hope to rehome these in early 2024.

There were no grants received in 2023.

Our staff have worked hard throughout the year to achieve this performance. We believe it is important to invest in our staff - they have attended various courses including online training, fire safety courses and first aid courses. One of our staff has passed his Fundraising Diploma with Distinction and we have two further staff signed up for Management Diplomas in 2024. Sadly, we will be losing one of our shop managers in 2024 after 15 years successful service with us – we would like to thank her for all her efforts over the years.

Financial Review 2023

The branch made an overall surplus in the year of £314k including legacies as detailed on page 3. Stripping out the income from the legacies of £345k leaves an overall deficit of £31,000.

Retail income improved significantly in 2023 with the four shops generating a total of £89,000 profit, compared to the figure of £35,000 for the previous year. A cost review exercise was successfully completed in 2022 and the focus for 2023 was on generating income. Sales increased by 5% year on year and the profit margin rose from 8% to 21% through control of costs. However, with costs continuing to increase, in particular the increase in minimum wage for 2024, we are predicting a lower margin for the coming year.

During 2024 work will continue with the clinics to increase revenue by recruiting further veterinary staff to allow more consulting / operating hours during the week. This will make it easier for the public to access our services and keep waiting lists for non-essential surgery as short as possible. We will be monitoring the cost and margin on drugs through our various suppliers to manage the costs of these welfare activities.

There were no government grants received during the year.

Please see the Statement of Financial Activities and notes to the accounts for more details.

Investment Policy

The policy of the Trustees is to hold most of the charity's assets as cash deposits to ensure funds are readily available to meet general running costs and other expenditure. In order to minimise risk these deposits are spread across a number of banks and building societies. The charity continues to hold longer term investments with M&G and Schroders investment managers in order to maximise investment income.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Reserves Policy

There is no single level, or even a range of, reserves that is right for all charities. Any target set by trustees for the level of reserves to be held should reflect the particular circumstances of the individual charity. As trustees we are aware of our responsibilities to the Charity and consider these prior to making financial decisions that may or may not have an impact on the Charity's financial position. Our financial position and our reserves policy are regularly reviewed.

Our reserves policy is set to ensure that we retain sufficient funds to cover 6 months of the previous year's operating costs. This gives a figure of £420,000 to be held as reserves. This is to enable the branch to continue to provide its vital core services for a period of six months, in the event of a loss of income. We have a designated contingency reserve of £250,000 so require free reserves (being general unrestricted funds that are not represented by tangible fixed assets) of £170,000 in order to meet our target. As at 31 December 2023 total funds were £1,015,424, of which £298,000 were designated as set out in Note 17, and £360,362 were represented by fixed assets. Free reserves were therefore £357,062, which exceeds the target level as a result of the legacies received in the year.

Structure, Governance and Management

RSPCA Essex Mid & North is an unincorporated charitable association and a separately registered Branch of the national RSPCA body (the Society); we are governed by the RSPCA Branch Rules (2012 edition).. The new Branches Programme, which was developed and approved in 2023, provides a new governance framework including:

- a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) Constitution
- Partnership Agreement - which clarifies branch and national roles and the responsibilities and how we work together

The new framework plays an important part in fulfilling the need to comply with the Charity Commission's instruction to the RSPCA to modernise the governance of branches.

The Branch receives support and advice from the National RSPCA and, in many years, an annual donation of "door to door" money. Apart from this, all other funds are self-generated, or via the Branch Legacy Scheme.

In 2023 the merged Branches received £69,172 door to door money and legacy income of £330,000 from the estate of Jennifer Anne Trevisan, £13,000 from the estate of Ms Winifred Chaplin and £2,000 from the estate of Ms Iris James. These legacies are discussed in more detail in the Chair's report.

Risk Statement

The Trustees confirm that major risks have been reviewed and systems and procedures established to manage these risk.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed[, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements1];
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity 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 enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 13 May 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Ruth Jubb
.....

Ruth Jubb, Chair

Brigitte Swanton
.....

Brigitte Swanton, Trustee

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of RSPCA Essex Mid & North Branch for the year ended 31 December 2023, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows, and Notes to the Financial Statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the original financial statements were authorised for issue. Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Other Matter

The financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022 were unaudited as the gross income of the charity for that year was below the audit threshold.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities (set out on page 9), the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made or having effect thereunder. Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows;

- The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity from our commercial knowledge and experience of the charity sector.
- We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations for the company, including the Charities Act 2011, tax legislation and employment legislation.
- We assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur by;

- Making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud.
- Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate the risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to;

- Agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation.
- Reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we;

- Performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships.
- Tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions.
- Investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees (ie. gives a true and fair view).

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Edmund Carr LLP

.....
Edmund Carr LLP

Statutory Auditor

146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

~~22 May 2024~~

Edmund Carr LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	Note	£	£	£	£
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	2	466,402	-	466,402	168,854
Charitable activities	3	246,060	-	246,060	192,867
Other trading activities	4	468,834	-	468,834	449,344
Investments	5	14,367	-	14,367	5,165
TOTAL INCOME		<u>1,195,663</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,195,663</u>	<u>816,230</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	6	379,671	-	379,671	414,910
Charitable activities	7	484,964	17,146	502,110	425,873
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>864,635</u>	<u>17,146</u>	<u>881,781</u>	<u>840,783</u>
Net income before investment movements		331,028	(17,146)	313,882	(24,553)
Net gains/(losses) on investments		(10)	-	(10)	(7,910)
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)		<u>331,018</u>	<u>(17,146)</u>	<u>313,872</u>	<u>(32,463)</u>
Transfer between funds		41,854	(41,854)	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		<u>372,872</u>	<u>(59,000)</u>	<u>313,872</u>	<u>(32,463)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total Funds brought forward		642,552	59,000	701,552	734,015
Total Funds carried forward		<u>1,015,424</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,015,424</u>	<u>701,552</u>

In 2022, all income and expenditure was unrestricted, apart from restricted legacy income of £59,000.

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the period as set out above.

The notes on pages 17 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

		2023	2022
	Note	£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	12	360,362	198,230
Investments	13	141,943	141,953
		<u>502,305</u>	<u>340,183</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks		23,008	28,657
Debtors	14	16,934	114,409
Cash at bank and in hand		526,636	339,249
		<u>566,578</u>	<u>482,315</u>
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(53,459)</u>	<u>(120,946)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		513,119	361,369
NET ASSETS		<u>1,015,424</u>	<u>701,552</u>
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Restricted funds	16	-	59,000
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	17	298,000	150,000
General unrestricted funds	17	717,424	492,552
Total unrestricted funds		<u>1,015,424</u>	<u>642,552</u>
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		<u>1,015,424</u>	<u>701,552</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 13 May 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

Ruth Jubb

Ruth Jubb

Chair

Brigitte Swanton

Brigitte Swanton

Trustee

The notes on pages 17 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		313,872	(32,463)
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation charges	12	19,434	8,282
Dividends, interest and rent from investments	5	(14,367)	(5,165)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	14	97,475	35,258
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	15	(67,487)	58,713
(Increase) / decrease in stock		5,648	(1,309)
(Gains)/losses on investments	13	10	7,910
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities		<u>354,585</u>	<u>71,227</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	5	14,367	5,165
Fixed asset additions	12	(181,566)	(9,978)
Fixed asset disposals		-	140
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		<u>(167,199)</u>	<u>(4,673)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		187,386	66,554
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		339,249	272,695
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		<u>526,636</u>	<u>339,249</u>

The notes on pages 17 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Basis of preparation

RSPCA Essex Mid & North Branch constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Income

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

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate.

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the charity's operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

Tax status

RSPCA Essex Mid & North Branch is a registered charity and is not subject to corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets, other than freehold property, are shown at cost or, if donated, at their value on the date of the gift, less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off their cost or value, less their estimated residual value over their estimated useful lives on the following basis.

Freehold property improvements	- 10 years straight line
Leasehold improvements	- 3 to 15 years straight line depending on lease requirements length of lease and useful economic life of improvements
Motor vehicles	- 4 years straight line
Equipment	- 5 years straight line

Freehold property is recorded in the accounts at cost. No depreciation is provided on freehold property as the charity has a policy and practice of regular maintenance and refurbishment which maintains the value.

Investments

Investments are stated at market value. Realised gains and losses on disposals and unrealised gains or losses when the investments are revalued at the year end are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Stock

Stock purchased for sale in the shops or use at the clinic is valued at cost.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash at Bank and in hand

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and deposits.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Defined contribution pension plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided.

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted general funds – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds – these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

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

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)****YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023****2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Donations and subscriptions	121,757	-	121,757	100,374
Legacies	344,645	-	344,645	68,480
	<u>466,402</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>466,402</u>	<u>168,854</u>

The estimated value of legacies notified but neither received nor accrued into income (as they do not meet the SORP recognition criteria) at 31 December 2023 is £0 (2022 - £325,000).

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Fees and receipts at clinic	242,086	-	242,086	192,867
Rehoming fees	3,974	-	3,974	-
	<u>246,060</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>246,060</u>	<u>192,867</u>

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Shop income	468,834	-	468,834	449,344
	<u>468,834</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>468,834</u>	<u>449,344</u>

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Bank interest	6,195	-	6,195	1,393
Income from UK listed investments	8,172	-	8,172	3,772
	<u>14,367</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,367</u>	<u>5,165</u>

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)****YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

6. COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Shop costs	<u>379,671</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>379,671</u>	<u>414,910</u>

7. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support & governance costs (Note 8) £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Branch and clinic expenditure	<u>416,567</u>	<u>85,543</u>	<u>502,110</u>	<u>425,873</u>
	<u>416,567</u>	<u>85,543</u>	<u>502,110</u>	<u>425,873</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>363,672</i>	<i>62,201</i>	<i>425,873</i>	

8. ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Premises	21,760	-	21,760	19,764
Telephone, postage and stationery	9,035	-	9,035	5,163
Miscellaneous expenses	12,175	-	12,175	16,945
Depreciation	16,443	-	16,443	3,755
Governance costs (Note 9)	26,131	-	26,131	16,574
	<u>85,543</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>85,543</u>	<u>62,201</u>

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)****YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

9. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Independent examination	-	-	-	890
Accounts preparation	2,740	-	2,740	2,610
Audit fee	6,260	-	6,260	-
Fees payable to auditor	9,000	-	9,000	3,500
Bookkeeping and payroll fees	1,009	-	1,009	933
Legal fees	10,181	-	10,181	7,020
Consultancy	1,447	-	1,447	5,121
HR support and advice	4,494	-	4,494	-
Total governance costs	<u>26,131</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,131</u>	<u>16,574</u>

10. ANALYSIS OF STAFF COSTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	445,018	454,932
Social security costs	28,044	30,514
Pension costs	14,473	11,152
	<u>487,535</u>	<u>496,598</u>

None of the employees' emoluments exceeded £60,000.

The average number of employees during the year, by head count was 26 (2022: 29)

The remuneration benefits of key management personnel in the year totalled £42,025 (2022 - £40,628).

11. TRUSTEE REMUNERATION

No trustee or any person connected with them received any remuneration for their services during the current or preceding year.

No trustees received expenses in the current year (2022 - one trustee received £64).

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property and improvements £	Leasehold improvements £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 January 2023	182,468	28,261	67,034	277,763
Additions	148,744	1,699	31,123	181,566
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	331,212	29,960	98,157	459,329
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2023	8,716	25,115	45,702	79,533
Charge for year	3,283	3,205	12,946	19,434
On disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	11,999	28,320	58,648	98,967
Net book value				
At 31 December 2023	319,213	1,640	39,509	360,362
At 31 December 2022	173,752	3,146	21,332	198,230

Freehold property is recorded in the accounts at cost. This includes the Harwich clinic with a value of £171,434. The most recent valuation of this property, carried out on 4 February 2020, was £200,000 on a market value basis. Also included is the Great Baddow clinic which has a value of £98,289, as transferred from RSPCA Mid Essex on conversion. The trustees' estimate this has a market value in excess of £250,000.

13. INVESTMENTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Listed investments:		
Market value at 1 January	141,953	149,863
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation	(10)	(7,910)
Market value at 31 December	<u>141,943</u>	<u>141,953</u>
Historical cost	97,041	97,041

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

14. DEBTORS	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	2,796	-
Prepayments and accrued income	14,128	5,884
Other debtors	10	108,525
	<u>16,934</u>	<u>114,409</u>

15. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	33,440	11,702
Accruals	9,792	3,000
Taxation and social security	9,803	3,721
Other creditors	424	102,523
	<u>53,459</u>	<u>120,946</u>

16. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at	Movement in funds			Balance at
	01/01/2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31/12/2023
	£	£	£	£	£
a) Restricted legacy	59,000	-	(17,146)	(41,854)	-
	<u>59,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(17,146)</u>	<u>(41,854)</u>	<u>-</u>

- a) A legacy of £59,000 was received in 2022 to help fund the cost of a new X-ray imaging suite and was fully spent in the current year. The transfer to unrestricted funds represents that part of the expenditure capitalised as relating to fixed assets.

Prior year restricted funds movement:

	Balance at	Movement in funds			Balance at
	01/01/2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31/12/2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted legacies	-	59,000	-	-	59,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>59,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>59,000</u>

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

17. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

		Movement in funds			
	Balance at	Income	Expenditure	Gains, losses	Balance at
	01/01/2023			& transfers	31/12/2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds					
a) Contingency reserve	150,000	-	-	100,000	250,000
b) Mobile veterinary clinic	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
c) Branch van	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
d) Clinic refurbishment	-	-	-	8,000	8,000
	<u>150,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>148,000</u>	<u>298,000</u>
General funds					
General fund	492,552	1,195,663	(864,635)	(106,156)	717,424
	<u>492,552</u>	<u>1,195,663</u>	<u>(864,635)</u>	<u>(106,156)</u>	<u>717,424</u>
	<u>642,552</u>	<u>1,195,663</u>	<u>(864,635)</u>	<u>41,844</u>	<u>1,015,424</u>

The Trustees have designated funds for the following purposes:

- a) Contingency reserve: to cover running costs, salaries and potential redundancies.
- b) Mobile veterinary clinic: to set up a mobile veterinary clinic.
- c) Branch van: to purchase a van to use for animal transport and movement of stock.
- d) Clinic refurbishment: towards the refurbishment of the veterinary clinics, to ensure the best use of space.

Prior year unrestricted funds movement:

		Movement in funds			
	Balance at	Income	Expenditure	Gains, losses	Balance at
	01/01/2022			& transfers	31/12/2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds					
Contingency reserve	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
	<u>150,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>150,000</u>
General funds					
General Fund	584,015	757,230	(840,783)	(7,910)	492,552
	<u>584,015</u>	<u>757,230</u>	<u>(840,783)</u>	<u>(7,910)</u>	<u>492,552</u>
	<u>734,015</u>	<u>757,230</u>	<u>(840,783)</u>	<u>(7,910)</u>	<u>642,552</u>

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS (between restricted and unrestricted funds)

Current year:

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	360,362	-	-	360,362
Investments	141,943	-	-	141,943
Net current assets	215,119	298,000	-	513,119
	<u>717,424</u>	<u>298,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,015,424</u>

Prior year:

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	198,230	-	-	198,230
Investments	141,953	-	-	141,953
Net current assets	152,369	150,000	59,000	361,369
	<u>492,552</u>	<u>150,000</u>	<u>59,000</u>	<u>701,552</u>

19. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions that require disclosure.

20. OPERATING LEASES

Total rental payments due under operating leases in respect of land and buildings are as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Within 1 year	9,900	30,900
Within 2 to 5 years	2,475	12,375
	<u>12,375</u>	<u>43,275</u>

Accounts

**RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31 DECEMBER 2022**

Charity Number : 206799



Edmund Carr LLP
Chartered Accountants
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

CONTENTS	PAGE
Trustees' annual report	1
Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees	8
Statement of financial activities	9
Balance sheet	10
Statement of cashflows	11
Notes to the financial statements	12

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisors

Registered Charity Name: RSPCA Essex Mid & North Branch

Additional Working Charity Name: RSPCA North Essex Branch

Charity Number: 206799

Principal Address: 116 Harwich Road,
Colchester,
Essex,
CO4 3BZ

Trustees: Julia Byers, Chair 2021 Resigned January 2022
Ruth Jubb, Chair 2022
Joanna Hall Resigned May 2022
Fiona Lawes
Kris Lown
Susan North
Brigitte Swanton Appointed January 2022
Mel Childs Appointed May 2022
Dorothy Lee Resigned January 2022
Jack Simmonds Appointed May 2022
Resigned November 2022

Independent Examiner: S. A. Morrell FCCA,
Edmund Carr LLP,
146 New London Road,
Chelmsford,
CM2 0AW

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements of RSPCA Essex Mid & North Branch (hereafter referred to as “the Charity”/ “the Branch”) for the year ended 31st December 2022. The Trustees (hereafter referred to as “we”) confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the Charity comply with the current statutory requirements and the requirements of the Charity's governing document.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Effect of Current Economic Downturn and Cost of Living Crisis on the Charity

Many charities, including our branch, have been adversely impacted by the recent economic situation. 2022 saw increasing costs to run the charity throughout the year. This included the increasing cost of key areas such as consumables, utility bills and staffing. The cost-of-living crisis had a direct impact on our staffing costs in particular and this is continuing into 2023. In addition, there is greater demand for our services through the welfare clinics and more demand from members of public looking for support to rehome animals that they are no longer able to care for.

In the past 12 months we worked hard to reduce our cost base as much as possible to improve the profitability of our shops. Shop profit directly supports our rehoming and welfare activities.

Research shows that some members of the public are finding it harder to make charitable donations and they are seeking better bargains for their purchases in charity shops. All of this will gradually trickle through to impact our fundraising activities in the coming months.

Governance Update

a) Progress on Merger between Mid & North Essex

The two former North Essex and Mid Essex branches have been working operationally as one branch since January 2021. During 2022 we worked on the transfer of assets into the newly merged charity, leaving two bank accounts to update and one set of Property Title Deeds to transfer at Land Registry. These will be completed in 2023 as the final step of the merger prior to entry on the Register of Mergers.

b) Legal Name Change

The Charity was officially renamed at the charity commission on 15 February from RSPCA North Essex Branch to RSPCA Essex Mid & North Branch and this is now used on our letter headings, signage, website, social media etc.

c) Incorporation of the Board

We incorporated the Board of Trustees in June 2022. The key purpose of this was to facilitate the signing of documents and remove the need to update documents with each Trustee membership change. It is now possible to have 2 Trustees to sign a document instead of needing all Trustees to sign.

d) Health and Safety

The annual review of Health & Safety was carried out and included the update of information as the Covid restrictions have been relaxed.

e) Staffing

The Board started to implement performance reviews and appraisals for staff towards the end of the year, with work continuing into 2023. In addition, there has been further investment in training with compulsory online training for all staff on specific topics, and one staff member starting a Fundraising Apprenticeship with a view to improving fundraising capability within the branch.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

f) Gift Aid

With the increasing size of the branch, a gift aid registration was set up and claims made for the previous two years, bringing a further £3,173 income. This will now be claimed annually after the end of the tax year.

CLINICS

The veterinary clinic in Colchester is now working at full capacity and started the planning phase for a new Imaging Suite in late 2022. This was made possible through a generous legacy from the late Jennifer Simpson. This will provide X-Rays and Ultrasound services and will enable our clients to benefit from diagnostics for their pets without needing to visit an external vet. The Chelmsford clinic had some issues with staff availability in 2022 resulting in working below capacity. This is being reviewed and we hope to return to full capacity in the near future.

Our two Clinics are part of welfare activity of the branch and as such are partly funded from the branch. At the end of 2021 the intention was that the branch would fund each clinic with approximately £20,000. Due to the challenges with opening hours and the rising costs of consumables and utilities, the deficit in the clinics for the year was just over £60,000. In December we took the decision to increase our consultation fees. We have kept the increase to a minimum and clients still benefit from greatly reduced costs in comparison to private veterinary clinics.

Retail

Our four charity shops had challenges in 2021 with the partial year of trading due to COVID restrictions. It was clear from quarter one this year that some shops would only make minimal profit in 2022. Therefore, we reviewed our cost base and operational model and implemented various changes throughout the year, including staffing levels. By quarter 4 the impact of rising utility bills was clear and measures have been taken to monitor and control electricity consumption where possible. The four shops made an overall profit of £35,000 for the year which is a great improvement on the previous year. All four shops have worked very hard to find new ways to generate income and we appreciate all their efforts and can see the difference in the profit made. This should improve again in 2023 as some changes were only implemented in Quarter 4 2022. Since the pandemic we have completed more online sales with approximately £2,000 income during the year. In addition to this we started to increase the use of volunteers in shops so that as much money as possible from the shops can be returned to animal welfare. The profit from the shops helps to cover the costs of rescue and rehoming within the branch.

Fundraising

In 2022 the branch started to diversify income streams. In addition to updating our legacy leaflet and selling more goods online, the branch began to consider more active fundraising projects. Several events were held / attended which, in addition to raising funds, raised our presence locally. The Retail Manager started a Fundraising Apprenticeship in Quarter 4 to improve our skillsets in this area. We are hoping that this investment in our staff will have a positive impact on both the individual and the branch income. We work with several charity partners to boost our income streams including Pets at Home in Ipswich, Big Yellow storage in Chelmsford and Pink and Blue Children's Clothing Store in Ipswich. For 2023 there is an initial target of £20,000 profit from fundraising which will help branch funds.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Trustees

From November 2021, the Branch governance was updated and required a minimum of 5 trustees and not more than 14 trustees, elected at the AGM. If the Branch has vacancies for trustees, these are advertised on the Branch website and through other local sources. Applicants must meet eligibility criteria set out by the Charity Commission and are provided with training and support. Potential trustees are invited to the open section of a Branch meeting where they can see what is involved and ask questions. It also provides the existing trustees with an opportunity to meet new candidates and form an opinion of their suitability.

In selecting trustees, we look at individual specialist skills in order to build a diverse trustee committee with the skill required to govern a successful and efficient Branch. During 2022 we recruited one new trustee with accountancy skills who became our temporary treasurer. Trustee recruitment is continuing in 2023.

The Charity is organised so that the board of trustees vote in order for decisions to be made with a quorum of four trustees for valid decision making. Trustees meet at least six times per year, but continue to meet almost every month through Hybrid meetings. There are occasional face to face meetings of sub groups.

Several Trustees resigned at the last AGM due to changes in their personal lives and their availability. Our thanks go to Jo Hall, Julia Byers, Jack Simmonds and Dorothy Lee for their input whilst they remained as trustees. Dorothy Lee remains as a volunteer for animal welfare. Brigitte Swanton joined us in January 2022, and Mel Childs returned as a trustee at the AGM in May 2022. He has since been re-appointed as treasurer in 2023.

We have many volunteers in our clinics and shops and they make an invaluable contribution to keeping us running and generating income. Many were not able to help during the pandemic when shops were closed, but returned as the shops opened again.

And as a last point, thank you very much to all our dedicated staff and volunteers who have helped immensely during 2022. The Branch could not survive without them.

Ruth Jubb

Ruth Jubb

Chair

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Objectives, Purpose and Activities

The Charity's objectives follow those of the National RSPCA. The primary aim of the branches is to support the animal rescue work of our inspectorate. We additionally support our local communities through the rescue and rehoming of animals, the provision of welfare veterinary clinics and holding various neutering and microchipping events. Our Branch area reaches from Brentwood in the West through to Clacton and Harwich in the East. We support our RSPCA regional inspectors and animal rescue officers by taking in animal welfare cases across this Branch area. There is increasing pressure on our resources to take in and rehome animals such that we have to prioritise the cases, with priority often being given to animals brought in via the inspectorate.

All animals in Branch care receive any necessary emergency veterinary treatment, vaccination, neutering, micro-chipping, flea treatment, and wormer and are assessed for re-homing. The Branch funds this activity, with the boarding and rehoming in 2022 being undertaken through two centres: The Danaher Animal Home in Wethersfield and Nutkins Cattery.

We provide two Welfare Veterinary Clinics to help eligible pet owners care for their pets. Some support is required from other vet practices to perform procedures (such as X Rays) that cannot be performed in our own clinics. We are however investing in an Imaging suite with proceeds from a Legacy from Jennifer Simpson in 2021. The planning phase started in 2022 with the suite expected to be fully functional by mid-2023.

Public Benefit

The trustees monitor our achievements throughout the year to ensure they remain focused on our charitable aims and that we deliver on our benefits to the public.

The two Welfare Veterinary Clinics help qualifying people on lower incomes to care for their pets. In the latter part of 2022, we started to investigate the possibility of increasing the scope of people we are able to help. We also endorse the work and objectives of the National RSPCA by encouraging good care and welfare of animals and by re-homing abandoned or mistreated pets.

Our animal welfare work applies to our Branch area although we do co-operate with other Branches where we are able to. This applies both to the intake of rescue animals and to eligibility for welfare clinics. This is of benefit to the public by helping people care for their animals, so potentially reducing the number of animals that could become strays. Our charitable activities focus on promoting kindness and good welfare which supports several of the current National RSPCA campaigns, and are undertaken both for the animals themselves and for public benefit.

The Branch website went live in 2022 and this provides advice and guidance for the public.

As stated above, boarding and rehoming in 2022 was undertaken through two centres where animals receive the necessary initial veterinary treatment prior to rehoming. This work helps to control the incidence and spread of disease and suffering through vaccination and neutering. We take in lost animals and take steps to reunite them with their owners; this work benefits our local community including local authorities by preventing animals straying and posing a risk to themselves and to people through road traffic accidents. Our neutering schemes help to reduce the incidence of unwanted pets. We respond to enquiries both from the public locally and via the Society's national call centre.

The Branch also offers volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work, including Trusteeship, fostering, fundraising and assisting within our shops.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Achievements and Performance

The two clinics again saw and treated a similar number of pets as the previous year, with 2022 seen across both clinics. This included 395 neutering operations through the voucher scheme operated in conjunction with Cats Protection at Colchester and Chelmsford. This subsidised voucher scheme generated an income of £11,000 towards the cost of the service, whilst also ensuring the risk of unwanted pets was reduced.

The clinics have continued to benefit from voluntary operating time from Ambivet, for which we are very grateful. In addition, by the end of 2022 we started planning our Snip & Chip clinics again with the first one being held in January 2023. We are extremely grateful to the staff who donated their time on a voluntary basis and our veterinary suppliers who donated the supplies needed. Without their support we may not have been able to provide this service.

Costs have remained a challenge for the clinics and prices charged for Drugs and Veterinary supplies are reviewed regularly, including a small increase in the cost of consultations. The operation of the clinics required an input of £60,000 from the branch to support their welfare activities in 2022.

The four shops made a combined profit of approximately £35,000 in the year and this was used to cover the majority of the rescue and rehoming costs of the branch. Work has continued throughout 2022 to improve profitability as much as possible

During 2022 we started a Partnership with Pets at Home at Ipswich which has presented fundraising opportunities within their shop. Pets at Home also kindly donated several pallets of dog and cat food that helped feed rescue animals. Our partnerships with Big Yellow storage in Chelmsford and Pink and Blue Childrens Clothing in Ipswich are also of benefit to us.

Both Clinics now operate a “Charity Bazaar” where customers can obtain pet food or used pet supplies such as beds and harness for a small donation. This helps to raise funds but also helps those on lower income who have been struggling. By the end of 2022, the Colchester clinic had raised enough money for a Blood Pressure monitor for the clinic.

2022 saw the branch recommence some of its educational talks with presentations to the Cubs and Brownies. Overall, the message for these sessions remains unchanged “To prevent cruelty and promote kindness through awareness and education”.

Our Animal Welfare activities continued to promote responsible pet ownership with neutering and microchipping activities. We started the year with 28 cats and 11 dogs in our care – of which 5 were in long term foster. Throughout the year we rehomed 166 animals. This was a reduction in numbers rehomed compared with the previous year where we rehomed 274. We believe this was due to two factors. First, there were increasing numbers of people trying to give up animals rather than rehome as they were during lockdown, so making it harder to rehome animals. Second, animals were staying longer in our care so reducing the throughput. We also took in several cats from multi-cat households in the year.

We are very grateful for the income the Branch receives, which varies from year to year. These generous donations help support the Branch activities and services we provide. In 2022 we received £68,480 legacy income which was spent / planned to be spent improving the clinical services we are able to offer in the clinics. There were no grants received in 2022.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Financial Review 2022

Retail income improved significantly in 2022 with the four shops generating a total of £35,000 profit compared to the loss of £70,000 for the previous year. This has been due to several factors; reducing the cost base, being open all year after the COVID closures, and the tremendous efforts of all shop staff to sell goods both online and through the shops.

The net movement in unrestricted funds for the reporting period was a loss of £83,553 compared with the operating deficit of £180,432 in 2021 after removal of the transfer of assets from RSPCA Mid Essex of £212,546. 2022 saw a legacy of £59,000 from the late Jennifer Simpson which will be used to build an imaging suite in our Colchester clinic.

There were no government grants received during the year.

Work is continuing into 2023 to review costs within our clinics to enable them to continue to provide low-cost support for eligible local pet owners.

Please see the Statement of Financial Activities for more detail.

Reserves Policy 2022

Our reserves policy is to ensure that we retain sufficient funds to cover approximately three months of salaries plus outstanding shop leases and any associated costs at any one time (approximately £350,000). We have a designated contingency reserve of £150,000 so require free reserves (net current assets less restricted and designated funds) of £200,000 in order to meet our target. As at 31 December 2022 free reserves totalled £152,369, however a legacy received in Quarter 1 2023 has enabled us to meet our target reserves at the date of this report.

As trustees we are aware of our responsibilities to the Charity and consider these prior to making financial decisions that may or may not have an impact on the Charity's financial position. Our financial position and our reserves policy are regularly reviewed.

Structure, Governance and Management

RSPCA Essex Mid & North is an unincorporated charitable association and a separately registered Branch of the national RSPCA body (the Society). We are governed by the RSPCA Branch Rules (2012 edition) and this applies to all RSPCA Branches. The majority of assets have been transferred from the former mid Essex charity to the current charity, with remaining assets being transferred in early 2023.

The Branch receives support and advice from the National RSPCA and in many years an annual donation of "door to door" money. Apart from this, all other funds are self-generated, or via the Branch Legacy Scheme.

In 2022 the merged Branches received £69,544 door to door money and legacy income from the late Oswald Buckenham of £9,480 and the late Jennifer Simpson of £59,000. These monies are being spent on various items of veterinary equipment and a new Imaging Suite at the Colchester Clinic

This report was approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by:

.....

Ruth Jubb, Chair

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 9 to 21.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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

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

Sandra Morrell FCCA
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
CM2 0AW

.....

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	Note	£	£	£	£
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	2	109,854	59,000	168,854	110,252
Charitable activities	3	192,867	-	192,867	204,143
Other trading activities	4	449,344	-	449,344	272,281
Investments	5	5,165	-	5,165	5,415
Government grants		-	-	-	94,651
Transfer of assets on merger		-	-	-	212,546
TOTAL INCOME		<u>757,230</u>	<u>59,000</u>	<u>816,230</u>	<u>899,288</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	6	414,910	-	414,910	389,018
Charitable activities	7	425,873	-	425,873	478,156
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>840,783</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>840,783</u>	<u>867,174</u>
Net income before investment movements		(83,553)	59,000	(24,553)	32,114
NET GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS		(7,910)	-	(7,910)	20,097
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)		<u>(91,463)</u>	<u>59,000</u>	<u>(32,463)</u>	<u>52,211</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS					
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total Funds brought forward		734,015	-	734,015	681,804
Total Funds carried forward		<u>642,552</u>	<u>59,000</u>	<u>701,552</u>	<u>734,015</u>

All income and expenditure in the prior year was unrestricted

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the period as set out above.

The notes on pages 12 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

		2022	2021
	Note	£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	12	198,230	196,675
Investments	13	141,953	149,863
		<u>340,183</u>	<u>346,538</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks		28,657	27,348
Debtors	14	114,409	149,667
Cash at bank and in hand		339,249	272,695
		<u>482,315</u>	<u>449,710</u>
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(120,946)</u>	<u>(62,233)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		361,369	387,477
NET ASSETS		<u>701,552</u>	<u>734,015</u>
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Restricted funds	16	59,000	-
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	17	150,000	150,000
General unrestricted funds	17	492,552	584,015
Total unrestricted funds		<u>642,552</u>	<u>734,015</u>
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		<u>701,552</u>	<u>734,015</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on and are signed on their behalf by:

.....
Ruth Jubb
Chair

The notes on pages 12 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	Total 2022	Total 2021
		£	£
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(32,463)	52,211
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation charges	12	8,282	10,818
Dividends, interest and rent from investments	5	(5,165)	(5,415)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	14	35,258	(108,134)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	15	58,713	17,492
(Increase) / decrease in stock		(1,309)	(11,920)
(Gains)/losses on investments	13	7,910	(20,097)
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities		<u>71,227</u>	<u>(65,045)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	5	5,165	5,415
Purchase of fixed assets	12	(9,978)	(12,818)
Fixed asset disposals		140	-
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		<u>(4,673)</u>	<u>(7,403)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		66,554	(72,448)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		272,695	345,143
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		<u>339,249</u>	<u>272,695</u>

The notes on pages 12 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Basis of preparation

RSPCA North Essex Branch constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Income

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

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate.

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the charity's operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

Tax status

RSPCA Essex Mid & North Branch is a registered charity and is not subject to corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets, other than freehold property, are shown at cost or, if donated, at their value on the date of the gift, less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off their cost or value, less their estimated residual value over their estimated useful lives on the following basis.

Freehold property improvements	- 10 years straight line
Leasehold improvements	- 3 to 15 years straight line depending on lease requirements length of lease and useful economic life of improvements
Motor vehicles	- 4 years straight line
Equipment	- 5 years straight line

Freehold property is recorded in the accounts at cost. No depreciation is provided on freehold property as the charity has a policy and practice of regular maintenance and refurbishment which maintains the value.

Investments

Investments are stated at market value. Realised gains and losses on disposals and unrealised gains or losses when the investments are revalued at the year end are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Stock

Stock purchased for sale in the shops or use at the clinic is valued at cost.

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash at Bank and in hand

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and deposits.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Defined contribution pension plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided.

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted general funds – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds – these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

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

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)****YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022****2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Donations and subscriptions	100,374	-	100,374	104,252
Legacies	9,480	59,000	68,480	6,000
	<u>109,854</u>	<u>59,000</u>	<u>168,854</u>	<u>110,252</u>

The estimated value of legacies notified but neither received nor accrued into income (as they do not meet the SORP recognition criteria) at 31 December 2022 is £325,000.

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Fees and receipts at clinic	192,867	-	192,867	203,057
Rehoming fees	-	-	-	1,086
	<u>192,867</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>192,867</u>	<u>204,143</u>

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Shop income	449,344	-	449,344	272,281
	<u>449,344</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>449,344</u>	<u>272,281</u>

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Bank interest	1,393	-	1,393	889
Income from UK listed investments	3,772	-	3,772	4,526
	<u>5,165</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,165</u>	<u>5,415</u>

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)****YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

6. COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Shop costs	<u>414,910</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>414,910</u>	<u>389,018</u>

7. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support & governance costs (Note 8) £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Branch and clinic expenditure	<u>363,672</u>	<u>62,201</u>	<u>425,873</u>	<u>478,156</u>
	<u>363,672</u>	<u>62,201</u>	<u>425,873</u>	<u>478,156</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<i>413,050</i>	<i>65,106</i>	<i>478,156</i>	

8. ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Premises	19,764	-	19,764	22,035
Telephone, postage and stationery	5,163	-	5,163	5,160
Miscellaneous expenses	16,945	-	16,945	13,427
Depreciation	3,755	-	3,755	6,763
Governance costs (Note 9)	16,574	-	16,574	17,721
	<u>62,201</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>62,201</u>	<u>65,106</u>

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)****YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

9. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Independent examination	890	-	890	880
Accounts preparation	2,610	-	2,610	5,473
Fees payable to Independent Examiner	3,500	-	3,500	6,353
Bookkeeping and payroll fees	933	-	933	262
Legal fees	7,020	-	7,020	3,272
Consultancy	5,121	-	5,121	6,812
HR support and advice	-	-	-	1,022
Total governance costs	<u>16,574</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,574</u>	<u>17,721</u>

10. ANALYSIS OF STAFF COSTS

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	454,932	450,702
Social security costs	30,514	29,001
Pension costs	11,152	12,198
	<u>496,598</u>	<u>491,901</u>

None of the employees' emoluments exceeded £60,000.

The average number of employees during the year, by head count was 29 (2021: 27)

The remuneration benefits of key management personnel in the year totalled £40,628 (2021 - £39,663).

11. TRUSTEE REMUNERATION

No trustee or any person connected with them received any remuneration for their services during the current or preceding year.

One trustee received expenses totalling £64 in the current year (2021 - £0)

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property and improvements £	Leasehold improvements £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 January 2022	180,594	28,261	59,071	267,926
Additions	1,874	-	8,104	9,978
Disposals	-	-	(141)	(141)
At 31 December 2022	182,468	28,261	67,034	277,763
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2022	8,460	23,321	39,470	71,251
Charge for year	256	1,794	6,246	8,296
On disposals	-	-	(14)	(14)
At 31 December 2022	8,716	25,115	45,702	79,533
Net book value				
At 31 December 2022	173,752	3,146	21,332	198,230
At 31 December 2021	172,134	4,940	19,601	196,675

Freehold property is recorded in the accounts at cost. This includes the Harwich clinic with a value of £172,333. The most recent valuation of this property, carried out on 4 February 2020, was £200,000 on a market value basis.

13. INVESTMENTS

	2022 £	2021 £
Listed investments:		
Market value at 1 January	149,863	129,766
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation	(7,910)	20,097
Market value at 31 December	141,953	149,863
Historical cost	97,041	97,041

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

14. DEBTORS	2022	2021
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	104,173	136,374
Other debtors	10,236	13,293
	<u>114,409</u>	<u>149,667</u>

15. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	11,702	40,834
Accruals	3,000	4,080
Taxation and social security	3,721	8,289
Other creditors	102,523	9,030
	<u>120,946</u>	<u>62,233</u>

16. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Movement in funds			
	Balance at 01/01/2022	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31/12/2022
	£	£	£	£
a) Restricted legacy	-	59,000	-	59,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>59,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>59,000</u>

a) A legacy of £59,000 to help fund the cost of a new X-ray imaging suite.

Prior year restricted funds movement:

	Movement in funds			
	Balance at 01/01/2021	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31/12/2021
	£	£	£	£
Restricted legacies	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

17. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Movement in funds			
	Balance at 01/01/2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses & transfers £
Designated funds				
Contingency reserve	150,000	-	-	-
	<u>150,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
General funds				
General fund	584,015	757,230	(840,783)	(7,910)
	<u>584,015</u>	<u>757,230</u>	<u>(840,783)</u>	<u>(7,910)</u>
	<u>734,015</u>	<u>757,230</u>	<u>(840,783)</u>	<u>(7,910)</u>

The trustees have designated funds to cover running costs, salaries and potential redundancies.

Prior year unrestricted funds movement:

	Movement in funds			
	Balance at 01/01/2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses & transfers £
Designated funds				
Contingency reserve	150,000	-	-	-
	<u>150,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
General funds				
General Fund	531,804	899,288	(867,174)	20,097
	<u>531,804</u>	<u>899,288</u>	<u>(867,174)</u>	<u>20,097</u>
	<u>681,804</u>	<u>899,288</u>	<u>(867,174)</u>	<u>20,097</u>

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS (between restricted and unrestricted funds)

Current year:

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	198,230	-	-	198,230
Investments	141,953	-	-	141,953
Net current assets	152,369	150,000	59,000	361,369
	<u>492,552</u>	<u>150,000</u>	<u>59,000</u>	<u>701,552</u>

Prior year:

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	196,675	-	-	196,675
Investments	149,863	-	-	149,863
Net current assets	237,477	150,000	-	387,477
	<u>584,015</u>	<u>150,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>734,015</u>

19. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions that require disclosure.

20. OPERATING LEASES

Total rental payments due under operating leases in respect of land and buildings are as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Within 1 year	-	2,475
Within 2 to 5 years	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,475</u>

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The following pages do not form part of the statutory financial statements

RSPCA ESSEX MID & NORTH BRANCH
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
INCOME				
Subscriptions, donations and grants	100,374		104,252	
Legacies	68,480		6,000	
Government grant income	-		94,651	
Interest and investment income	5,165		5,415	
Clinics	192,867		203,057	
Shops	449,344		272,281	
Rehoming fees	-		1,086	
Transfer of assets from RSPCA Mid Essex	-		212,546	
Total income		816,230		899,288
EXPENDITURE				
Charitable activities - Branch and clinic				
Animal boarding and welfare	48,487		71,968	
Veterinary costs	5,165		21,391	
Other clinic costs	56,552		67,777	
Salaries and payroll expenses	247,965		245,617	
Motor and travel expenses	5,503		6,297	
		363,672		413,050
Support costs				
Maintenance, rent, rates, insurance, refuse and cleaning	15,214		19,888	
Telephone, computer, postage and stationery	5,163		5,160	
Electricity	4,550		2,147	
Staff training	145		1,846	
Bank and credit card charges	3,874		4,651	
Miscellaneous expenses	6,168		95	
Professional and accountancy	16,574		17,721	
Subscriptions	6,679		6,441	
Recruitment	79		394	
Depreciation	3,755		6,763	
		62,201		65,106
Total branch and clinic costs		425,873		478,156
Raising Funds				
Goods purchased for resale	33,042		27,520	
Shop staff salaries and payroll costs	248,633		246,284	
Shop rent	66,325		62,296	
Other shop costs	66,910		52,918	
		414,910		389,018
Total expenditure		840,783		867,174
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(24,553)		32,114
Gains/(losses) on investment assets		(7,910)		20,097
Total Funds brought forward		734,015		681,804
Total Funds carried forward		701,552		734,015

Virtual Cabinet Portal Digital Signatures

Digital Signature Verification

You can verify that this is a genuine Virtual Cabinet Document Portal signed document by uploading it to the following secure web page:

<https://www.virtualcabinetportal.com/VerifySignedDocument>

Signature Dates and Times

All dates and times shown in the signatures below are expressed in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), which is generally equivalent to GMT.

You can find out more about UTC at the following web page:

<http://www.virtualcabinetportal.com/WhatIsUTC>

Signature 1

Signed by Ruth Jubb using authentication code TEkpLj5haFxXcnBE at IP address 92.18.28.41, on 2023/06/12 21:36:01 Z.

Ruth Jubb's e-mail address is: ruth.jubb@rspca-northessex.org.uk.

Ruth Jubb added the following comments:

"Approved at AGM June 2023"

Accounts

**RSPCA NORTH ESSEX BRANCH
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31 DECEMBER 2021**

Charity Number : 206799



Edmund Carr LLP
Chartered Accountants
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

RSPCA NORTH ESSEX BRANCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

CONTENTS	PAGE
Trustees' annual report	1
Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees	7
Statement of financial activities	8
Balance sheet	9
Statement of cashflows	10
Notes to the financial statements	11
Management information	22

RSPCA NORTH ESSEX BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisors

Registered Charity Name: RSPCA Essex Mid & North Branch

Additional Working Charity Name: RSPCA North Essex Branch

Charity Number: 206799

Principal Address: 116 Harwich Road,
Colchester,
Essex,
CO4 3BZ

Trustees:	Julia Byers, Chair 2021	Resigned January 2022
	Ruth Jubb, Chair 2022	
	Joanna Hall	
	Fiona Lawes	
	Kris Lown	
	Susan North	Appointed January 2021
	Brigitte Swanton	Appointed January 2022
	Mel Childs	Resigned September 2021
	Brian O'Sullivan Voisey	Trfr from Mid Essex Jan 2021
		Resigned September 2021
	Elaine Clouter	Resigned October 2021
	Monica Fox	Trfr from Mid Essex Jan 2021
		Resigned October 2021
Dorothy Lee	Resigned January 2022	

Independent Examiner: S. A. Morrell FCCA,
Edmund Carr LLP,
146 New London Road,
Chelmsford,
CM2 0AW

RSPCA NORTH ESSEX BRANCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements of RSPCA Essex Mid & North Branch (hereafter referred to as "the Charity"/ "the Branch") for the year ended 31st December 2021. The Trustees (hereafter referred to as "we") confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the Charity comply with the current statutory requirements and the requirements of the Charity's governing document.

CHAIR'S REPORT

IMPACT OF COVID ON THE CHARITY - The pandemic continued to affect our operations in 2021, with shops being closed for part of the year. This unfortunately had a negative effect on our income for the year. However, we used this closure period to update/rotate stock in preparation for when we reopened in April 2021 and look forward to a positive year ahead.

We are pleased that we have been able to continue to provide a veterinary service throughout the Covid pandemic, with our clinics remaining open, providing a safe and secure service in line with all legal restrictions. During the past two years, we have implemented various procedures and precautions to ensure that our shops and clinics are Covid secure and that our staff and customers are safe. These have included outdoor gazebos at the clinics for clients to wait in whilst their animals were treated by vets, provision of hand sanitiser, the wearing of masks and the installation of safety screens etc. Pets were taken into the clinic by a clinic assistant to see the vet in order to keep everyone safe. Our clinics did however make a loss during the year due to our decreased income and the details are in the financial section of the report.

PROGRESS ON THE MERGER - From January 2021 the two former Branches of North Essex and Mid Essex worked operationally as a single Branch with a merged workforce, and all income and expenses processed through the newly merged Charity. Work has continued on the administrative aspects of the merger to transfer assets such as property, property leases and bank accounts into the new name of RSPCA Essex Mid & North Branch. Significant progress has been made, leaving only one asset to be transferred, hopefully in Spring 2022. Once this is complete, the Mid Essex Charity will be entered to the register of mergers. Both clinics now share the same manager and there is one retail manager who covers all four of the Charity shops.

CLINICS - The two veterinary clinics in Colchester and Chelmsford are working well now that we are out of lockdown, and both clinics are open Monday to Thursday. We are considering options moving forward to change the hours slightly to give some cover on Fridays if possible. The vets, vet nurses and receptionists have all worked very hard in the past year, adhering to safe Covid practices for the benefit of both staff and public.

RETAIL - We now have four Charity shops in the newly merged Branch, with a new shop opening for trading at 76 High Street in Maldon on 1st July. Our shops began to open again in mid-April 2021 with social distancing in place. There was almost a full year of costs (some Covid grants and rebates were received) but only a part year of trading. As mentioned previously, this unfortunately had a significant negative impact on the retail income for the year. In addition, we believe that Covid has had an impact on the way in which people shop, with far more purchases made online than previously. Going forward in 2022 we will focus on diversifying the income generation through the shops, investigating online platforms such as eBay, monitoring our pricing and reviewing the sale of new goods such as greeting cards, candles and homeware in all of the shops.

RSPCA NORTH ESSEX BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

TRUSTEES - In 2021 the Branch governance required a minimum of 7 trustees and not more than 14 trustees, elected at the AGM. If the Branch has vacancies for trustees, these are advertised on the Branch website and through other local sources. Applicants must meet eligibility criteria set out by the Charity Commission and are provided with training and support. Potential trustees are invited to the open section of a Branch meeting where they can see what is involved and ask questions. It also provides the existing trustees with an opportunity to meet new candidates and form an opinion of their suitability. Applicants must meet eligibility criteria as set out by the Charity Commission.

In selecting trustees, we look at individual specialist skills in order to build a diverse trustee committee with the skill required to govern a successful and efficient Branch.

The Charity is organised so that the board of trustees vote in order for decisions to be made with a quorum of four trustees for valid decision making. Trustees meet at least six times per year, but during the pandemic have met almost every month – and still remotely via Zoom. We do hope to return to face-to-face meetings soon.

Several Trustees resigned around the time of the last AGM as work / life balances changed so much for everyone with the pandemic. Our thanks go to Elaine Clouter, Mel Childs, Monica Fox and Brian Voisey for their input whilst they remained as trustees. Dorothy Lee, who resigned in early 2022, had well over 20 years of service as a trustee and still remains a volunteer for animal welfare. Active recruitment for a new treasurer and general trustees started later in the year, with Brigitte Swanton joining in January 2022.

I would also like to mention Paul Spendlove, our former President, who resigned in 2021 after 24 years' service to our Branch. He chaired our AGMs throughout, and we were sorry to lose him.

We have many volunteers in our clinics and shops and they make an invaluable contribution to keeping us running and generating income. Many were not able to help during the pandemic when shops were closed, but they did return as the shops opened again.

And as a last point, thank you very much to all our dedicated staff and volunteers who helped to keep us going through these difficult times. The Branch could not survive without them.

Ruth Jubb

Chair

RSPCA NORTH ESSEX BRANCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Objectives, Purpose and Activities

The Charity's objectives follow those of the National RSPCA. This entails preventing or suppressing cruelty, promoting kindness and alleviating suffering to animals, in particular within the Branch area and in accordance to the policies of the National RSPCA. Our Branch area now reaches from Brentwood in the West through to Clacton and Harwich in the East. We support our RSPCA regional inspectors and animal rescue officers by taking in animal welfare cases across our Branch area.

The Branch aims to achieve this by re-homing animals which are brought into their care by RSPCA Inspectors, have been picked up as strays or handed in by members of the public. These animals may have been abandoned or mistreated, or their owners can no longer care for them. All animals in Branch care receive veterinary treatment, vaccination, neutering, micro-chipping, flea treatment, and wormer and are assessed for re-homing. The Branch funds this activity, with the boarding and rehoming in 2021 being undertaken through three centres: The Danaher Animal Home for Essex, Latneys Boarding Kennels in Witham and Nutkins Cattery.

We provide two Welfare Veterinary Clinics to help eligible pet owners care for their pets. Some support is required from other vet practices to perform procedures (such as X Rays) that cannot be performed in our own clinics.

Public Benefit

The trustees monitor our achievements throughout the year to ensure they remain focused on our charitable aims and that we deliver on our benefits to the public.

The Welfare Veterinary Clinics help qualifying people on lower incomes to care for their pets. We also endorse the work and objectives of the National RSPCA by encouraging good care and welfare of animals and by re-homing abandoned or mistreated pets.

The Branch's animal welfare work applies to our Branch area although we do co-operate with other Branches where we are able to. This is of benefit to the public by helping people care for their animals, so potentially reducing the number of animals that could become strays. Our charitable activities focus on promoting kindness to support the national "Cancel out Cruelty" campaign and these are undertaken both for the animals themselves and for public benefit.

During 2021 we built a new Branch website which will provide advice and guidance for the public.

As stated above, boarding and rehoming in 2021 was undertaken through three centres where animals receive the necessary initial veterinary treatment prior to rehoming. This work helps to control the incidence and spread of disease and suffering through vaccination and neutering. We take in lost animals and take steps to reunite them with their owners; this work benefits our local community including local authorities by preventing animals straying and posing a risk to themselves and to people through road traffic accidents. We respond to enquiries both from the public locally and via the Society's national call centre.

The Branch also offers volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work, including Trusteeship, fostering, fundraising and assisting within our shops.

RSPCA NORTH ESSEX BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Achievements and Performance

The pandemic continued to impact the way in which we worked in 2021, particularly for fundraising and shop trading. Our clinics remained open throughout, albeit with safety and hygiene measures in place. The two clinics saw and treated almost the same number of pets as the previous year, with 3169 seen across both clinics in 2020 and 3120 in 2021.

The Colchester clinic has worked with the Cats Protection League for many years on a neutering scheme with vouchers and this has been extended to include the Mid Essex area. The clinics have continued to benefit from voluntary operating time from Ambivet, for which we are very grateful. The cost of drugs has increased massively in the pandemic, causing some increase in charges. There were periods where it was difficult to vaccinate pets due to shortages of vaccines. The clinics have made larger losses than usual (see Financial Review) in 2021 and there will be a review of charges for consultations and operations during 2022.

We started the year with 59 animals in our care and rehomed 274 in the year.

Despite having some Covid grants in 2021, our shops made a financial loss, although work is ongoing to improve sales in 2022 as the shopping habits of the public settle into a “new normal”. We hope to return to seeing a profit from each shop during 2022. We opened a new shop in Maldon in the middle of 2021 as we believe that this will be a good location for a profitable Charity shop.

During 2021 we were still unable to attend or hold fundraising events, which again affected our income. We intend to focus on fundraising and income generation again in 2022.

It should be noted that the Branch does receive legacy income which varies from year to year and helps to support the underlying Branch performance. In 2021 we received £6,000 legacy income.

Financial Review

Retail income continued to be affected by the pandemic in 2021 as it was in 2020. The net movement in funds for the reporting period was a gain of £52,211. Excluding the £20,097 gain on investments and the transfer of assets from RSPCA Mid Essex of £212,546, there was a net operating deficit of £180,432. In previous years there has been legacy income to support our position. In 2021 the legacy income was much lower with only £6,000 being received. We are due a substantial legacy in 2022 that was notified in 2021 but cannot be recognised until the value is clear. Some of this loss was from central branch costs but also the clinics and the shops lost approximately £70,000 each after taking into account support via the furlough scheme and district council rebates. The Welfare clinics will be reviewing drug and operation fees during 2022 to remain on a sound financial basis, but will still provide low-cost support for eligible local pet owners.

It should be noted that there was a prior year restatement which reduced unrestricted reserves and fixed assets brought forward at 1 January 2020 by £66,084 due to removing some freehold property from the accounts.

Please see the Statement of Financial Activities for more detail.

RSPCA NORTH ESSEX BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Reserves Policy

Our reserves policy is to ensure that we retain sufficient funds to cover approximately three months of salaries plus outstanding shop leases at any one time (approximately £190,000). We have a contingency reserve of £150,000 in the designated funds with free reserves (net current assets less designated funds) of £137,000. The trustees are confident that as normal trading conditions resume in 2022 free reserves will increase to the target level.

As trustees we are aware of our responsibilities to the Charity and consider these prior to making financial decisions that may or may not have an impact on the Charity's financial position. Our financial position and our reserves policy are regularly reviewed.

Structure, Governance and Management

RSPCA North Essex is an unincorporated charitable association and a separately registered Branch of the national RSPCA body (the Society). We are governed by the RSPCA Branch Rules (2012 edition) and this applies to all RSPCA Branches. In 2021, following the merger with RSPCA Mid Essex mentioned in the Chair's report above, the process of transferring the assets of RSPCA Mid Essex to the combined Charity was commenced. The Branch now operates as RSPCA Essex Mid & North.

The Branch receives support and advice from the National RSPCA and in many years an annual donation of "door to door" money. Apart from this, all other funds are self-generated, or via the Branch Legacy Scheme. In 2021 the merged Branches received £ 71,851 door to door money.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 11 April 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Ruth Jubb
.....

Ruth Jubb

Chair

RSPCA NORTH ESSEX BRANCH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 8 to 20.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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

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

Sandra Morrell

Sandra Morrell FCCA
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
CM2 0AW

9 May 2022

RSPCA NORTH ESSEX BRANCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020 (restated)
	Note	£	£	£	£
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	2	110,252	-	110,252	219,962
Charitable activities	3	204,143	-	204,143	113,482
Other trading activities	4	272,281	-	272,281	115,274
Investments	5	5,415	-	5,415	5,537
Government grants		94,651	-	94,651	65,194
Transfer of assets on merger		212,546	-	212,546	-
TOTAL INCOME		899,288	-	899,288	519,449
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	6	389,018	-	389,018	185,510
Charitable activities	7	478,156	-	478,156	341,884
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		867,174	-	867,174	527,394
Net income before investment movements		32,114	-	32,114	(7,945)
NET GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS		20,097	-	20,097	(26,861)
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)		52,211	-	52,211	(34,806)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS					
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total Funds brought forward		681,804	-	681,804	716,610
Total Funds carried forward		734,015	-	734,015	681,804

All income and expenditure in the current and prior year was unrestricted

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the period as set out above.

The notes on pages 11 to 20 form part of these financial statements.

RSPCA NORTH ESSEX BRANCH
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

		2021		2020 (restated)	
	Note	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	12		196,675		194,675
Investments	13		149,863		129,766
			<u>346,538</u>		<u>324,441</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks		27,348		15,428	
Debtors	14	149,667		41,533	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>272,695</u>		<u>345,143</u>	
		449,710		402,104	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(62,233)</u>		<u>(44,741)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			387,477		357,363
NET ASSETS			<u>734,015</u>		<u>681,804</u>
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Restricted funds	16		-		-
Unrestricted funds					
Designated Funds	17		150,000		150,000
General unrestricted funds	17		<u>584,015</u>		<u>531,804</u>
Total unrestricted funds			<u>734,015</u>		<u>681,804</u>
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			<u>734,015</u>		<u>681,804</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 11 April 2022 and are signed on their behalf by:

Ruth Jubb

.....
Ruth Jubb

Chair

The notes on pages 11 to 20 form part of these financial statements.

RSPCA NORTH ESSEX BRANCH
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 (restated) £
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		52,211	(34,806)
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation charges	12	10,818	8,143
Dividends, interest and rent from investments	5	(5,415)	(5,537)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	14	(108,134)	(30,516)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	15	17,492	(453)
(Increase) / decrease in stock		(11,920)	(3,027)
(Gains)/losses on investments	13	(20,097)	26,861
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities		<u>(65,045)</u>	<u>(39,335)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	5	5,415	5,537
Purchase of fixed assets	12	<u>(12,818)</u>	<u>(9,002)</u>
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		<u>(7,403)</u>	<u>(3,465)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(72,448)	(42,800)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		345,143	387,943
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		<u>272,695</u>	<u>345,143</u>

The notes on pages 11 to 20 form part of these financial statements.

RSPCA NORTH ESSEX BRANCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Basis of preparation

RSPCA North Essex Branch constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The Trustees have considered the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in their assessment of the charity's ability to prepare accounts as a going concern. Because of the uncertainties surrounding its effects it is difficult to predict the impact on the charity, but having taken all the factors into account, the trustees are of the opinion that the charity has sufficient resources to continue its activities for the next 12 months from the date of signing these accounts.

Income

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

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate.

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

RSPCA NORTH ESSEX BRANCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the charity's operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

Tax status

RSPCA North Essex Branch is a registered charity and is not subject to corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets, other than freehold property, are shown at cost or, if donated, at their value on the date of the gift, less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off their cost or value, less their estimated residual value over their estimated useful lives on the following basis.

Freehold property improvements	- 10 years straight line
Leasehold improvements	- 3 to 15 years straight line depending on lease requirements length of lease and useful economic life of improvements
Motor vehicles	- 4 years straight line
Equipment	- 5 years straight line

Freehold property is recorded in the accounts at cost. No depreciation is provided on freehold property as the charity has a policy and practice of regular maintenance and refurbishment which maintains the value.

Investments

Investments are stated at market value. Realised gains and losses on disposals and unrealised gains or losses when the investments are revalued at the year end are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Stock

Stock purchased for sale in the shops or use at the clinic is valued at cost.

RSPCA NORTH ESSEX BRANCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash at Bank and in hand

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and deposits.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Defined contribution pension plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided.

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted general funds – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds – these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

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

RSPCA NORTH ESSEX BRANCH**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)****YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021****2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Donations and subscriptions	104,252	-	104,252	39,949
Legacies	6,000	-	6,000	179,513
Grants	-	-	-	500
	<u>110,252</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>110,252</u>	<u>219,962</u>

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Fees and receipts at clinic	203,057	-	203,057	113,482
Rehoming fees	1,086	-	1,086	-
	<u>204,143</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>204,143</u>	<u>113,482</u>

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Shop income	272,281	-	272,281	115,274
	<u>272,281</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>272,281</u>	<u>115,274</u>

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Bank interest	889	-	889	1,018
Income from UK listed investments	4,526	-	4,526	4,519
	<u>5,415</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,415</u>	<u>5,537</u>

RSPCA NORTH ESSEX BRANCH**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)****YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

6. COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Shop costs	<u>389,018</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>389,018</u>	<u>185,510</u>

7. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support & governance costs (Note 8) £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Branch and clinic expenditure	<u>413,050</u>	<u>65,106</u>	<u>478,156</u>	<u>341,884</u>
	<u>413,050</u>	<u>65,106</u>	<u>478,156</u>	<u>341,884</u>

<i>Total 2020</i>		<i>24,287</i>	<i>341,884</i>	
-------------------	--	---------------	----------------	--

8. ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Premises	22,035	-	22,035	7,450
Telephone, postage and stationery	5,160	-	5,160	594
Miscellaneous expenses	13,427	-	13,427	6,017
Depreciation	6,763	-	6,763	5,896
Governance costs (Note 9)	17,721	-	17,721	4,330
Fixed asset disposal	-	-	-	-
	<u>65,106</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>65,106</u>	<u>24,287</u>

RSPCA NORTH ESSEX BRANCH**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)****YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

9. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Independent examination	880	-	880	840
Accounts preparation	5,473	-	5,473	1,670
Fees payable to Independent Examiner	6,353	-	6,353	2,510
Bookkeeping and payroll fees	262	-	262	364
Legal fees	3,272	-	3,272	1,281
Consultancy	6,812	-	6,812	175
HR support and advice	1,022	-	1,022	-
Total governance costs	<u>17,721</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,721</u>	<u>4,330</u>

10. ANALYSIS OF STAFF COSTS

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	450,702	218,509
Social security costs	29,001	10,602
Pension costs	12,198	5,013
	<u>491,901</u>	<u>234,124</u>

None of the employees' emoluments exceeded £60,000.

The average number of employees during the year, by head count was 27 (2020: 13)

The remuneration benefits of key management personnel in the year totalled £39,663 (2020 - £38,470).

11. TRUSTEE REMUNERATION

No trustee or any person connected with them received any remuneration for their services during the current or preceding year.

No trustee was reimbursed for expenses during the current or preceding year.

RSPCA NORTH ESSEX BRANCH**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)****YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property and improvements £	Leasehold improvements £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 January 2021 (restated)	180,594	28,261	49,829	258,684
Additions	-	-	12,818	12,818
Disposals	-	-	(3,576)	(3,576)
At 31 December 2021	<u>180,594</u>	<u>28,261</u>	<u>59,071</u>	<u>267,926</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2021	8,360	21,301	34,348	64,009
Charge for year	100	2,020	8,698	10,818
On disposals	-	-	(3,576)	(3,576)
At 31 December 2021	<u>8,460</u>	<u>23,321</u>	<u>39,470</u>	<u>71,251</u>
Net book value				
At 31 December 2021	<u>172,134</u>	<u>4,940</u>	<u>19,601</u>	<u>196,675</u>
At 31 December 2020 (restated)	<u>172,234</u>	<u>6,960</u>	<u>15,481</u>	<u>194,675</u>

Freehold property is recorded in the accounts at cost. This includes the Harwich clinic with a value of £172,333. The most recent valuation of this property, carried out on 4 February 2020, was £200,000 on a market value basis.

13. INVESTMENTS

	2021 £	2020 £
Listed investments:		
Market value at 1 January	129,766	156,627
Net gains on revaluation	20,097	(26,861)
Market value at 31 December	<u>149,863</u>	<u>129,766</u>
Historical cost	97,041	97,041

RSPCA NORTH ESSEX BRANCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

14. DEBTORS	2021	2020
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	136,374	11,190
Other debtors	13,293	30,343
	<u>149,667</u>	<u>41,533</u>

15. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	40,834	35,356
Accruals	4,080	2,310
Taxation and social security	8,289	4,744
Other creditors	9,030	2,331
	<u>62,233</u>	<u>44,741</u>

16. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at	Movement in funds			Balance at
	01/01/2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31/12/2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted grants	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Prior year restricted funds movement:

	Balance at	Movement in funds			Balance at
	01/01/2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31/12/2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted grants	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

RSPCA NORTH ESSEX BRANCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

17. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Movement in funds			
	Balance at 01/01/2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses & transfers £
Designated funds				
Contingency reserve	150,000	-	-	-
	<u>150,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
General funds				
General fund	531,804	899,288	(867,174)	20,097
	<u>531,804</u>	<u>899,288</u>	<u>(867,174)</u>	<u>20,097</u>
	<u>681,804</u>	<u>899,288</u>	<u>(867,174)</u>	<u>20,097</u>

The trustees have designated funds to cover running costs, salaries and potential redundancies.

Prior year unrestricted funds movement (restated):

	Movement in funds			
	Balance at 01/01/2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses & transfers £
Designated funds				
Contingency reserve	150,000	-	-	-
	<u>150,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
General funds				
General Fund	566,610	519,449	(527,394)	(26,861)
	<u>566,610</u>	<u>519,449</u>	<u>(527,394)</u>	<u>(26,861)</u>
	<u>716,610</u>	<u>519,449</u>	<u>(527,394)</u>	<u>(26,861)</u>

RSPCA NORTH ESSEX BRANCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS (between restricted and unrestricted funds)

Current year:

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	196,675	-	-	196,675
Investments	149,863	-	-	149,863
Net current assets	237,477	150,000	-	387,477
	<u>584,015</u>	<u>150,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>734,015</u>

Prior year (restated):

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £
Tangible fixed assets	194,675	-	-	194,675
Investments	129,766	-	-	129,766
Net current assets	207,363	150,000	-	357,363
	<u>531,804</u>	<u>150,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>681,804</u>

19. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions that require disclosure.

20. OPERATING LEASES

Total rental payments due under operating leases in respect of land and buildings are as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Within 1 year	2,475	21,400
Within 2 to 5 years	-	2,475
	<u>2,475</u>	<u>23,875</u>

21. PRIOR YEAR RESTATEMENT

The charity's fixed assets at 31 December 2019 included freehold property that was not owned by the charity at that date.

The impact of the restatement on the accounts for the year 31 December 2020 has been to reduce unrestricted reserves and fixed assets brought forward at 1 January 2020 by £66,084.