



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

RSPCA - ESSEX SOUTH WEST BRANCH

UNAUDITED REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/local/essex-south-west-branch>

Registered charity number: 208381

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

THANK YOU

On behalf of everyone at the RSPCA - Essex South West Branch, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to all our supporters, donors, volunteers, fosterers, and adopters. Your dedication and kindness have made an incredible impact on the lives of so many cats in need throughout our area.

Whether you've donated, volunteered your time, opened your home as a fosterer, or given a cat a forever home, your contribution has played a crucial role in improving the lives of our furry friends. Your kindness provides hope and comfort to cats who might otherwise face an uncertain future, and it allows us to continue our mission.

As part of our ongoing work, we'd like to shine a light on two particular groups of cats who often find it more difficult to find new homes: black cats and older cats. Unfortunately, black cats are often overlooked due to common superstitions and their striking coat colour being less visually "appealing" to some potential adopters. However, black cats are just as loving, playful, and loyal as any other cat, and they truly deserve the same opportunities to find their forever homes.

Similarly, older cats can also be harder to rehome. Many people prefer the idea of adopting a kitten, but older cats come with their own set of unique benefits — they're often calmer, more settled, and have well-established personalities. These cats, with their wisdom and charm, may just need a little extra time and patience to find their perfect match.

We encourage you to read the stories of these special cats below and see the impact that your support has had. Every donation, every hour volunteered, and every cat adopted brings us closer to our goal of providing every cat with the love and care they deserve.

Thank you for being a vital part of this journey. With your help, we are creating brighter futures for cats in need, one paw at a time.

The RSPCA - Essex South West Branch



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Committee present its reports and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities'.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

The objectives of the Essex South West Branch (the Branch) are to support and adhere to the National RSPCA Society (the Society) policies and procedures - to promote kindness and to prevent or suppress cruelty to animals and to do all such lawful acts as the Society may consider to be conducive or incidental to the attainment of those objects. The objectives of the Branch are with particular reference to the area covered by the Branch, ranging from Dagenham & Barking in the South to Epping & Nazeing in the North, Waltham Abbey to the West and Abridge to the East, in accordance with the policies of the Society.

Advancement of animal welfare

Animal welfare concern is our top priority. The Branch recognises animal welfare as a distinctive charitable purpose and focuses its work on prevention of cruelty, providing veterinary care and treatment to animals in need, providing supported care with fully trained staff at the Bed and Biscuits Kennel & Cattery (B&B) based in Romford, and re-homing animals entrusted into our care to a loving home when a qualified vet has given them a clean bill of health.

The Branch animal welfare, although local in nature, has a compassionate and ethical approach which benefits the larger society and continues to help people in need and address issues of animal suffering in general.

Significant activities

The Branch supports the Society's inspectorate in their work by providing financial assistance and emergency accommodation for mistreated or abandoned animals, including pets whose owners suffer ill health or financial difficulties or pass away, in accordance with the Society's standards. On a case-by-case basis, the Branch will also accept animals from the public, prioritising those cases where the animal is in distress and/or injured. In cases where the Branch decides not to support the animal we would always look to advise or re-direct to other charities more suitable for the situation.

All animals under our care, where appropriate, receive veterinary treatments, vaccination, neutering, micro-chipping and are assessed for rehoming. Vaccinations and neutering help control the incidence and spread of disease and suffering. The work benefits our local community, including local authorities, as it reduces the incidences of abandonment and cruelty and the public knows that we assist animals in need.

Public benefit

In shaping the Society's objectives and planning our activities, the Trustees have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission.

We advocate kindness to animals and provide information and advice to the local community including young people, with the aim of developing empathy to animals at a young age and prevent cruelty in the future. We establish networking with other charities in sharing knowledge and skills and provide volunteering opportunities to those who wish to help and participate in activities that will help us to achieve our work in animal welfare.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

The Essex South West Branch, like all RSPCA branches, is financially independent of the Society, although we often receive an annual grant from them. Our income derives mainly from donations, legacies, adoption fees and fundraising events.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Charitable activities (continued)

Unfortunately, the new contract with Cedar Palm Vets was unsuccessful. We limited our intake of cats until the latter end of the year, when another local veterinary provider was identified - Hills Park Veterinary Group. This relationship showed early, strong signs of a potential future partner to trial and enter negotiations to secure a service agreement. This service agreement has now been signed, effective from 1 April 2025. Recognising industry-wide increases in veterinary costs, a new Trustee and part-time Branch Administrator joined the Branch to assist in recouping some of these increased costs, by increasing our fundraising, social media, adoption, fostering and community exposure.

At the start of 2024 we entered a new contract with B&B to hire 7 pens for boarding our cats. This is at a higher day rate than in 2023 to reflect B&B's relocation and improved cattery facilities. To offset some of these costs, we signed up to the Society's new care contribution fund, which has been set up to contribute to the care of animals signed over to RSPCA branches, by the Inspectorate, for up to 90 days.

	In our care 31/12/23		2024 (2023)				In our care 31/12/24	
	At B&B	In foster care	Taken into our care	Rehomed	Transferred to RSPCA animal centers or claimed by owner	Euthanised or died	At B&B	In foster care
Cats	-	1	22 (46)	14 (46)	- (8)	- (7)	8	1

The numbers in brackets relate to 2023 figures.



RSPCA - Essex South West Branch

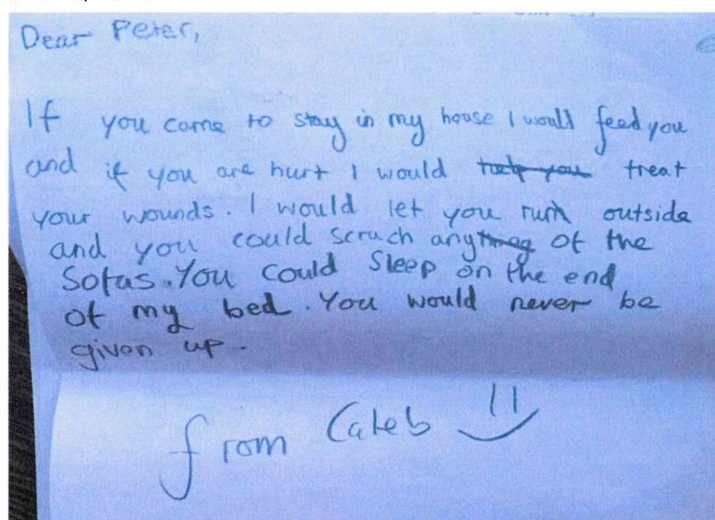
16 March 2024

Last week we attended a local Cubs evening to talk about why people give up pets and the importance of thinking carefully before choosing to commit to an animal.

At the end we asked for the children (8-10 years old) to write a letter to one of our rescue cats explaining why they would be a great home!

Below is a selection of a few of the letters we got! I just love them 🥰🥰🥰

Only through education can we help ensure the next generations of animal owners are responsible.



Our Branch Facebook account continues to be our main platform to promote the Branch work, and we now have an Instagram page. We have also started emailing newsletters to those on our mailing list.

In relation to fundraising, a Trustee completed the London Marathon, doing an amazing job of raising over £2,000 for our Branch.

Another Trustee did a fantastic talk at their local cubs, raising animal welfare awareness.

Investment performance

A review of investment performance is included in the investment section within the financial review section.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

CASE STUDIES

OLAF AND ELSA



Five-year-old Olaf and Elsa were abandoned in a house for at least two weeks when their owner moved out, leaving them behind. Luckily, a kind neighbour noticed and reported it, allowing our inspectors to rescue them just in time!

Despite their gentle personalities and loving nature, Olaf and Elsa have been overlooked by potential adopters, likely due to their age. They stayed with us for nearly six months. Luckily, thanks to our team's relentless work on trying to break the stigma around adopting adult cats, Olaf and Elsa are now happy in their new home.

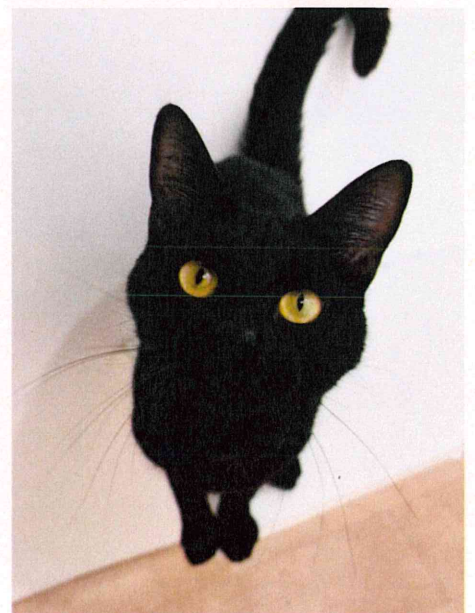
Their new family recently shared an update:



"They have assimilated to their new surrounding much faster than we could have hoped. They are happy and so are we and bless you and the team for introducing them to us! They are exploring our little bungalow and are being perfect lady and gentleman between them. They both allow us to fuss them, but we let them come to us before we reach out to them. They purr a lot and seem to wait for us to go to bed before taking over the sitting room for a couple of hours of rampaging around and tearing up and down the cat tree."

MAVERICK

As with many black cats, Maverick faced challenges in finding a forever home, as they are often overlooked. However, thanks to the dedication and hard work of our incredible team, Maverick found his perfect match in just over four months. Today, he's thriving in his forever home!



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Investment policy and objectives

The Trustees have wide powers of investment governed and restricted by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Investment Act 1958. The Branch needs to have quick and easy access to sufficient funds and so consider the most appropriate policy to hold funds is in a Bank Santander current and savings account. To increase the return earned on funds, £250,000 is held as income bonds with National Savings and Investments (NS&I), earning interest at a rate of 3.49% AER as at 31 December 2024.

The Trustees consider the future return on the Branch's investments to be satisfactory.

Reserves policy

The Branch holds reserves in order that the level of service provided for animal welfare is maintained should there be a reduction in incoming resources. With the uncertainty in our incoming resources, we have kept our reserve policy to a level that allows resilience and capacity to manage unforeseen financial difficulties. Reserves relate to funds that are freely available for the Branch's general purposes or can be restricted if they are for a specific purpose only.

The Trustees have established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed and held by the Branch should be at least twelve months of the resources expended. The resources expended in the year were £69,331 (2023: £67,742). The Branch has unrestricted reserves represented by net current assets of £325,331 (2023: £328,561), which covers the resources expended by 4.7 times (2023: 4.9). The adequacy of the reserves policy is reviewed annually.

Financial review

A net expense of £3,230 resulted in the year (2023: £24,104), which includes £26,559 of legacy income (2023: negative adjustment £1,569). The major items of expenditure remain as boarding fees, veterinary costs, administration support wages (via an agency) and the Society regional contribution. The £23,329 difference compared to last year is mainly due to the legacy income. Having £250,000 with NS&I for the whole year, resulted in higher investment income of £9,875 in 2023 compared to £6,197 in 2023. Direct charitable expenditure reduced from £48,955 to £46,328 (5%) compared to 2023, with the increase in boarding fees being offset by the reduction in veterinary fees (as less cats were taken in) and the reduction in the regional contribution to the Society (which is calculated by the Society). Stripping out the legacy income, income reduced by £5,665 compared to 2023, mainly as a result of a reduction in rehoming fees as less cats were rehomed.

There are no restricted funds. Unrestricted funds of £325,331 compared to £328,561 in 2023, are general funds to meet ongoing operating expenditure. With the uncertainty in our incoming resources, we have kept our reserve policy to a level that allows resilience and capacity to manage unforeseen financial difficulties. A budgetary projection for 2025 is to make a loss due to unpredictability of funding e.g., legacy income, and that boarding and veterinary costs are greater than rehoming fees received. Although we have started to increase our efforts to raise more funds from donations and fundraising, it is not expected that this income will make up the full difference. We enter 2025 with sufficient cash reserves to cover these losses and to maintain cash reserves at a suitable level.

Going concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Branch to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make their assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements.

The Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in existence for the foreseeable future.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

FUTURE PLANS

With animal welfare being the Branch's top priority, the Trustees have agreed to concentrate on a few but effective operational, tactical and strategic initiatives covering areas such as:

1. Volunteers, to continue our volunteer recruitment drive. This includes new potential Trustees and building on our cat fostering network.
2. Fundraising, to continue to increase methods and channels.
3. Marketing and Social Media, to try and increase our mailing list and extend membership.
4. Education, this is mainly through social media, but we hope to increase the number of visits we do to schools and clubs.
5. Long term development, for example, this may involve development of our own cattery. This particular investment would be funded by the Branch's cash reserves and corporate sponsorships.

In addition to increasing the Branch's capacity to grow our animal welfare activities and intake of animals, these initiatives may generate revenue to bolster future income, protect reserves, maintain our liquidity requirements and enable the reinvestment of broadening our animal welfare.

In February 2024 we bolstered our administrative support by splitting the role into two part-time positions, via an agency, to mitigate any single point of contact and cover for absences. This administrative support enables Trustees to bring greater rigour around the development of policies, remain compliant, recruit volunteers and enable strategic initiatives to materialise. We look forward to continuing the Branch work with a strong Board of Trustees, volunteers and our two Branch Administrators, offering different skills and expertise.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Branch is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust. The Branch is constituted as an unincorporated charitable association. The Branch operates as an autonomous branch of the Society subject to The Branch Rules 2012 alongside the accompanying updates of these rules (updated August 2022) and is separately registered with the Charity Commission.

Organisational structure

Committee members are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) from the members of the Branch. Each candidate is nominated by at least two eligible branch members and must receive the votes of at least fifty per cent of the eligible branch members present and voting. All Committee members must be Society members for a minimum of three months on appointment. Up to three co-opted Committee members may be co-opted by the Committee to hold office until the next AGM. The Committee may at any time appoint a replacement Committee member from eligible branch members to fill a causal vacancy. The Committee members are Trustees of the Branch and are briefed on their responsibilities as Trustees prior to their acceptance of the role. The Trustees hold meetings every 1-2 months at which decisions are made, tasks are delegated for actions, risks are assessed and written reports on the Branch's financial position and activities are reviewed. Minutes of each meeting are kept.

The Society's animal welfare work is reported by the Society's Chief Inspector in the London East Group and the Society's Branch Partnership Manager (BPM). All Trustees are volunteers and the Trustees carry out their duties on a voluntary basis.

Induction and training

New Trustees, other volunteers and agency resources are provided with an induction pack the Branch has created to ensure they have all the relevant literature required. Training provided by the Society is available and attended where applicable.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

Risk management

The Branch has carried out a review to identify major risks and has taken steps to mitigate them. The major risks identified are:

- insufficient Trustees and volunteers to continue;
- availability of suitable cat pens at private boarding establishments;
- veterinary services - scarcity of industry capacity, rising national costs and threat of scarcity of vaccinations;
- Cost to income ratio attributable to an increase in animals and above routine treatment because of cost of living and affordability;
- a reduction in fundraising activities that affect the level of protection of operating income and reserves; and
- adverse publicity and loss of reputation due to misconceptions of our and the Society's activities, or due to error or fraud.

At the date of this report, it is the opinion of the Trustees that the Branches policies, procedures and controls are adequate to minimise the possibility of financial loss through error or fraud and to maintain the future financial viability of the Branch.

Related party relationships

As described above the Branch operates as a branch of the Society. Details of transactions with the Society and other branches of the Society are set out in note 8.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

208381

Principal address

Winsley's House
High Street
Colchester
CO1 1UG

Trustees

Ms Manisha Aatkar
Mr David Stewart Andrews - Chair
Ms Sharon Jacqueline Gillett - Treasurer
Ms Joey Kapff
Ms Laura Monaghan
Ms Amina Sahbegovic (appointed 25/07/2024)

Independent Examiner

Community360
Winsley's House
High Street
Colchester
CO1 1UG

Bankers

Santander Business Banking
Bridle Road
Bootle
L30 4GB

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees 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 and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed 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, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (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.

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on 27 May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Ms S Gillett – Trustee, Treasurer

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF RSPCA - ESSEX SOUTH WEST BRANCH

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of RSPCA - Essex South West Branch (the charity)

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the accounts in accordance with 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) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 2011 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.

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. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed:



Dated:

5th June 2025

Address:

Community360
Winsley's House
High Street
Colchester
CO1 1UG

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations and legacies		28,979	-	28,979	981
Charitable activities					
Fundraising and collection boxes		2,097	-	2,097	393
Subscriptions		792	-	792	521
Other income		-	-	-	92
Rehoming fees		1,680	-	1,680	12,360
Care contribution fund		862	-	862	-
Society grant		21,816	-	21,816	23,094
Investment income	2	9,875	-	9,875	6,197
Total		<u>66,101</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>66,101</u>	<u>43,638</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable activities					
Direct charitable expenditure		46,328	-	46,328	48,955
Administration expenditure		23,003	-	23,003	18,787
Total		<u>69,331</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>69,331</u>	<u>67,742</u>
NET EXPENSE		<u>(3,230)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,230)</u>	<u>(24,104)</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		328,561	-	328,561	352,665
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>325,331</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>325,331</u></u>	<u><u>328,561</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements


STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	5	3,420	-	3,420	2,495
Prepayments and accrued income		27,691	-	27,691	380
Cash at bank		297,621	-	297,621	329,938
		<u>328,732</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>328,732</u>	<u>332,813</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(3,401)	-	(3,401)	(4,252)
		<u>325,331</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>325,331</u>	<u>328,561</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>325,331</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>325,331</u>	<u>328,561</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		<u>325,331</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>325,331</u>	<u>328,561</u>
NET ASSETS					
		<u>325,331</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>325,331</u>	<u>328,561</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds:	7				
General fund				325,331	328,561
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>325,331</u>	<u>328,561</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 27 May 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



Ms S Gillett – Trustee, Treasurer



Mr D Andrews – Trustee, Chair

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General information

RSPCA – Essex South West Branch is a charitable unincorporated association registered in the United Kingdom. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information page of the financial statements.

The nature of the charity's operation and principal activities 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, with particular reference to the area of the branch in accordance with the policies of the Society.

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Going concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make their assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements. After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Branch has adequate resources to continue in existence for the foreseeable future.

Income

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

- Investment income is included in the financial statements when received.
- Legacies are included in the financial statements when the Branch is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.
- Online donation income and gift aid is included in the financial statements net of platform and processing fees.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Governance costs

Governance costs include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory financial statements, the costs of Trustee meetings and cost of any legal advice to Trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Fund accounting

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

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

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

Debtors and prepayments

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

Cash at bank

Cash at bank includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less.

Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the statement of financial position 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. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Branch anticipates it will pay to settle the debt.

Judgements and estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the financial position date and the amounts reported in the statement of financial activities during the year. However, the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates.

The Trustees do not consider there to be any critical accounting judgements, estimates or assumptions.

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total funds	2023 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
NS&I income bonds	9,431	-	9,431	5,733
Bank interest	444	-	444	464
	<u>9,875</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,875</u>	<u>6,197</u>

3. TRUSTEES' AND STAFF REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no Trustees' remuneration or other benefits, and no staff who received employee benefits of more than £60,000, for the year ended 31 December 2024 nor for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Trustee expenses

For the year ending 31 December 2024 there were £nil (2023: £538) of Trustees' expenses reimbursed to Trustees, whilst acting in their capacity as a Trustee.

Average number of staff (employed by an agency)

During the year the average number of part-time staff was 2 (2023: 1), equivalent to approximately 0.7 (2023: 0.6) full-time members of staff.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	981	-	981
Charitable activities			
Fundraising and collection boxes	393	-	393
Subscriptions	521	-	521
Other income	92	-	92
Rehoming fees	12,360	-	12,360
Society grant	23,094	-	23,094
Investment income	6,197	-	6,197
Total	43,638	-	43,638
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Direct charitable expenditure	48,955	-	48,955
Administration expenditure	18,787	-	18,787
Total	67,742	-	67,742
NET EXPENSE	(24,104)	-	(24,104)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	352,665	-	352,665
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	328,561	-	328,561

5. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
VAT	3,334	2,495
Other debtors	86	-
	3,420	2,495

6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	391	1,293
Accrued expenses and deferred income	3,010	2,959
	3,401	4,252

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/1/24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/12/24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	328,561	(3,230)	325,331
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>328,561</u>	<u>(3,230)</u>	<u>325,331</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	66,101	(69,331)	(3,230)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>66,101</u>	<u>(69,331)</u>	<u>(3,230)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/1/23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/12/23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	352,665	(24,104)	328,561
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>352,665</u>	<u>(24,104)</u>	<u>328,561</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	43,638	(67,742)	(24,104)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>43,638</u>	<u>(67,742)</u>	<u>(24,104)</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

8. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

The Society, all branches of the Society and affiliated RSPCA animal homes and hospitals are considered related parties.

The Branch receives income and purchases goods and services from the Society. In 2024 the value of grants received was £21,816 (2023: £23,094), with £6,064 (2023: £12,128) deducted towards regional contribution costs. In 2024 the Branch also received £862 from the care contribution fund (2023: £nil). In 2024 the value of purchases was £480 (2023: £1,233). The Branch also paid £414 (2023: £192) in legacy service administration fees to the Society.

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS	2024 £	2023 £
Donations and legacies		
Donations	2,129	2,479
Gift aid	291	71
Legacies	26,559	(1,569)
	<u>28,979</u>	<u>981</u>
Investment income		
NS&I income bonds and bank interest	9,875	6,197
Charitable activities		
Fundraising and collecting boxes	2,097	393
Membership subscriptions	792	521
Pet insurance commission	-	92
Rehoming fees	1,680	12,360
Care contribution fund	862	-
Society grant	21,816	23,094
	<u>27,247</u>	<u>36,460</u>
Total incoming resources	<u>66,101</u>	<u>43,638</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Society regional contributions	6,064	12,128
Veterinary fees	4,020	14,064
Boarding fees	35,868	21,907
Food, litter, toys, beds etc.	376	856
	<u>46,328</u>	<u>48,955</u>
Support costs		
Other		
Administration support wages	20,684	15,238
Insurance	479	598
Fundraising costs	-	45
IT software	290	411
Printing, postage and stationery	146	413
Sundries	35	188
Telephone	425	-
Advertising	80	22
Society legacy service administration fee	414	192
Governance costs		
Independent examination fee	450	1,500
Trustee meetings	-	180
	<u>23,003</u>	<u>18,787</u>
Total resources expended	<u>69,331</u>	<u>67,742</u>
Net expense	<u>(3,230)</u>	<u>(24,104)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.