

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS KENT NORTH WEST BRANCH

England & Wales · Charity number 210633

Details

Other names	RSPCA KENT-NORTH WEST BRANCH, RSPCA KENT NORTH WEST BRANCH
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1962-10-11
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	20 Carters Wood Hamstreet Ashford Kent TN26 2NN
Phone	01322220921
Email	info@rspca-kentnorthwest.org.uk
Website	www.rspca-kentnorthwest.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: Protects the welfare of all animals.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Other Finance, Provides Services
- **What:** Animals
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NORTH WEST KENT.
- Kent

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£217,197	£280,062	-	-
2023-12-31	£201,649	£242,478	-	-
2022-12-31	£184,924	£173,590	-	-
2021-12-31	£191,903	£149,046	-	-
2020-12-31	£173,805	£135,243	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
BEN CHARMAN	Chair	2018-01-24
ANDRONIKI PAPAGORA		2024-05-01
ERIC JAMES GROVER		
HARRIET GRACE ELIZABETH TAYLOR		2022-08-31
JOHN ANTHONY BOWLEY		
Susanne Wooders		2024-05-01

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for 2024

Charity name: RSPCA – Kent North West Branch

Charity registration number: 210633



Mother and daughter Mango and Winnie rescued and rehomed

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Reference and Administrative details

Charity's principal address	20 Carters Wood, Hamstreet KENT TN26 2NN
Contact details	Branch Manager Becky Blackmore Tel; 01233 733584 Mobile; 07737 045522 www.rspca-kentnorthwest.org.uk/

Name of the Charity Trustees who Manage the Charity

Trustee name	Office held if any	Dates acted if not for the whole year
Ben Charman	Chair	
Harriet Taylor	Treasurer from AGM 26th June 2024	
Rebecca Birs		
John Bowley		
Alison Bruford		From 4th December 2024
Eric Grover	Treasurer until AGM 26th June 2024	
Tom Maddison		Until 3rd March 2024
Androniki Papagora		Co opted 5th May 2024
Susanna Wooders		Co opted 5th May 2024
Dan Wordsworth		Until 31st July 2024

Financial Review

2024 was our busiest year on record. Our income was £219,146.15 (up from £206,661.66 in 2023) and expenditure £280,062.11 (up from £239,604.53 in 2023). The Charity had a deficit of £60,915.96. At the year end we have a balance sheet of £1,035,468.37 which represents just under 4 years of reserves. The Charity remains in a healthy financial position.

IN 2024 WE...

Trapped, neutered
and released

20 feral cats
and kittens



Peaches living
as a stray



Peaches
rehomed

Distributed

5,500 MEALS
FOR PETS VIA OUR LOCAL FOOD BANKS

Ran free microchipping
sessions for cats

120 (up **55%** on the last year)



Helped

50 OWNERS

in financial hardship to pay essential vet bills
to keep their pets safe



Spoke to
870
SCHOOL
CHILDREN
ABOUT ANIMAL WELFARE

Rescued over
200 animals

including dogs, cats,
hamsters, gerbils, rats, mice
and a whopping 69 rabbits!



WINNIE AND HER
DAUGHTER MANGO

Neutered

170 ANIMALS
UP 60% ON
LAST YEAR

Closed the doors of our
Dartford Charity Shop after over

20 YEARS
OF RAISING VITAL FUNDS



RSPCA.

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
RSPCA - Kent North West Branch is a separately registered
Charity. Charity number 210633. We are responsible for
raising our own funds from local donations.

Visit our website www.rspca-kentnorthwest.org.uk to find
out more about our work and how you can get involved.
Follow us on Facebook (RSPCA - Kent North West)

rspca-kentnorthwest.org.uk

Achievements and Performance

2024 was a challenging year and demand for our support increased again from residents in our Branch area. The reasons include a local lack of veterinary capacity and continued increase in veterinary costs. Also the cost of living crisis. We worked hard and increased our impact but finished the year with a deficit of £56,759.29.

Providing our key services

Our key animal welfare achievements in 2024 included;

- We took in 209 animals that were in desperate need (98 cats, 64 rabbits, 5 dogs and 42 small furies). Over 100 of these had been rescued by RSPCA Inspectors from situations of abuse or neglect. Most of the rest were sick or injured stray cats which urgently needed help. We pride ourselves on offering an exemplary service to our local RSPCA Inspectors and will work alongside them when our skills are needed. We rehomed 103 animals ourselves in 2024 and for all of the rest we paid all of the veterinary and boarding costs to enable them to go to RSPCA Rehoming Centres. We are grateful to RSPCA Canterbury, Ashford, Hastings and Thanet branches for allowing us to use their excellent facilities and services.
- We neutered 172 animals (86 cats, 40 dogs, 41 rabbits and 5 small furies) costing £9,414.11 (up from £5,647.79 in 2023). Neutering is very important to prevent future suffering and we intend to keep increasing this service to the community.
- We helped 50 local pet owners who were in receipt of benefits and unable to fund essential vet costs for their pets. Without our help these animals would have suffered and may have had to be rehomed. When we can support responsible owners and help them to keep their pets then we do so.
- We microchipped 121 animals (up from 77 in 2023). It became a legal requirement for cats to be neutered in 2024. Emma, our Animal Welfare Officer, is trained to implant microchips. She ran a number of free cat microchipping sessions in areas of financial hardship. These were very well attended and many of the cats went on to need further services from us such as neutering or vet treatment.

Meet Pumpkin and Spice who were featured in The Kent Messenger in October



Pumpkin and Spice were found dumped in a faeces covered pet carrier by a road in Swanscombe. A concerned member of the public spotted them on the 18th October and took them to a local vet. They had obviously been shut in the tiny carrier for a long time. Despite their terrifying ordeal, friendly and confident two year olds Spice (fluffy female tabby) and Pumpkin (male ginger short haired) proved to be incredibly resilient. They were soon ready to find a loving new home together. Sadly Pumpkin and Spice were just another example of the growing number of animals being abandoned in our Branch area. Thanks to our friends at Canterbury RSPCA Centre for finding them an amazing home where they could stay together.

Going above and beyond

Rescue, neutering and microchipping are the bread and butter work of local RSPCA Branches. At RSPCA - Kent North West Branch we always try to push ourselves further in order to tackle specific problems in our Branch area. We have therefore developed these additional services to address specific local needs.

- **Food banks** - in 2024 we donated 5,500 meals for cats and dogs to local food banks. We work with a number of food banks and so far have never had to say no to their requests. We also provide information for food bank clients to enable them to access our other services for their pets such as neutering.
- **Educational Outreach** - In 2024 Emma reached 870 children providing 20 hours of educational talks. The purpose of the talks is to encourage empathy with animals thereby promoting good animal welfare for the pet owners of the future.
- **Branch Helpline** - We operate a very busy Helpline and often receive in excess of 100 calls per month. Trustee and Branch volunteer John Bowey gives up a huge amount of his time running the helpline. He is a valued source of support and advice to the public, often calling in from much further afield than just our Branch area. Fortunately, with over 30 years of experience at our Branch there isn't much that John can't handle. We took our helpline cloud based in 2024. This provides a much better service, enabling us to share the calls (if John ever asked for a break!) and has also saved us money in line and equipment rental.
- **Support for vulnerable pet owners and those in crisis** - In recent years we have found that we have the time and resources to be able to go further than the Inspectors are able to in terms of offering ongoing support to those in acute need. Mental health and age related impairment are amongst the most common reasons Inspectors ask for our help and Emma steps in where most Branches cannot. Dealing with these owners is time consuming and complex but often there is just no one else and we feel that we do it very well.

Teddi's Story: Compassion in Difficult Circumstances

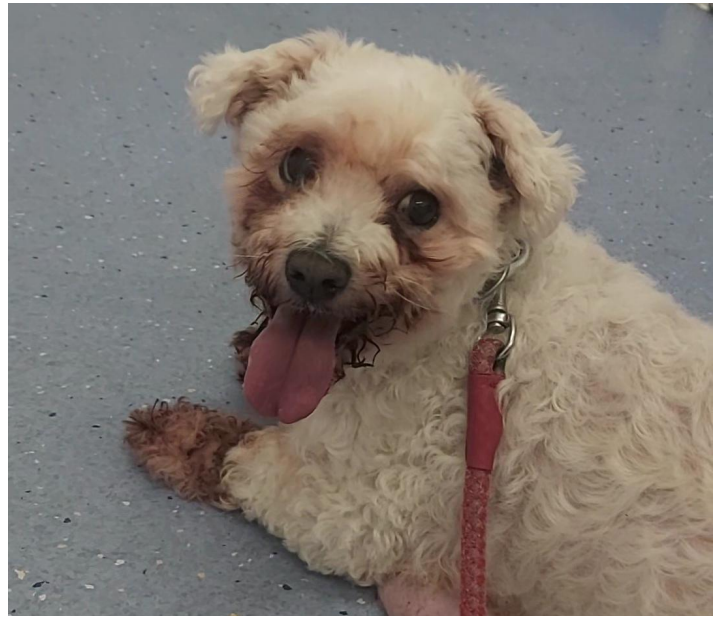
We were asked by national RSPCA staff if we could step in and help with this complex situation. Concerns had been raised about the welfare of a little dog called Teddi who had a clearly visible growth on his chest that had gone untreated. It was apparent that while Teddi was very much loved, his elderly owner was struggling to meet his needs. She was living with dementia, and without regular support, could no longer recognise or respond to Teddi's declining health. Social services and care providers were already working to move the owner into accommodation with more support. We stepped in to help Teddi, starting with a veterinary assessment at no cost to the owner. The results were heartbreaking: Teddi was suffering from several serious, age-related conditions, many of which had conflicting treatment options.

We began the delicate process of helping the owner understand that Teddi was nearing the end of his life. This wasn't easy, especially as her health made it hard for her to fully grasp what was happening. At the same time, we made sure Teddi remained comfortable and pain-free. After ongoing conversations and support, we were able to work with the next of kin—who held power of attorney—to formally transfer Teddi into our care.

Teddi was taken to Harmsworth Animal Hospital for a full and compassionate assessment. Although we had a space ready for him at one of our centres, the veterinary team agreed that trying to manage his many complex health issues would not be in his best interest. The kindest decision was to let him go peacefully.

Throughout the process, we worked closely with housing officers, carers, social workers, and the family to ensure both Teddi and his owner were cared for with dignity and empathy. Everyone involved wanted what was best for Teddi, and we're confident that—had his owner been well—she would have made the same decision out of love for him.

Our involvement enabled Teddi to stay with his owner for longer than would have been possible without our oversight. We balanced Teddi's medical needs and quality of life with the undoubted benefits that he brought to his lifelong companion. Teddi's story is a powerful reminder of how animal welfare and human wellbeing are deeply connected. It also shows the importance of working together with compassion and understanding when people and pets are both in need.



Some cherries on the cake in 2024

Welcome to our brand new team of Volunteer Drivers - Emma is out on the road 3 days a week but the demand never stops. So we advertised for volunteer drivers to assist Emma and we were delighted with the response. The original idea was that the volunteer drivers could get rescued animals where they need to be without delay and also save us time and money. Alex, David, Julie, Martin and Pamela answered our call and between them drove hundreds of miles in 2024, getting animals swiftly to places of safety. The team has really embraced the wider work of the Branch and quickly stepped up to support Emma as the work servicing the local food banks grew. They are there to collect and deliver food and we simply couldn't do this work without their hard work.



The work of a volunteer driver is never over!



Welcome to our new Trustees - A charity is only as strong as its trustees and we are always seeking new people to join us. In 2024 we welcomed Ali, Androniki and Susanna who have the skills and experience to really strengthen our Board. If you would like to find out more about volunteering or becoming a Trustee then contact becky@rspca-kentnorthwest.org.uk

In 2024 we rebranded along with the rest of the RSPCA and we hope you like our new look!



200th Anniversary Celebrations of the RSPCA - We were proud to join in the national celebrations in June of the 200th Anniversary of the RSPCA. We held our own "One Fun Day" in our Dartford Shop which was a great success with our customers. The Shop looked amazing and we made a display showing the history of the Branch dating back to before the 1960s. All of our branch staff and volunteers received a commemorative set of badges to mark the occasion as you can see with some of our team at Gravesend Shop.



An RSPCA Impact Award for our rabbit rehoming - Meet Edward who was typical of the 69 rabbits that we found homes for in 2024. He arrived with us in an awful state. He was missing much of his fur and his claws were growing into his feet. He had been confined in a small space and had been sitting in his own urine and faeces. Rabbits are such long suffering animals and we find that they bounce back very quickly once they settle in with us. They immediately appreciate the proper space and cleanliness as well as environmental enrichment and perfect diet. You can see the transformation which was made complete when Edward went to his new home where he is much loved, has space to roam and a female rabbit for company.



Although we have only been rehoming rabbits for a few years we have rehomed nearly 200 and our hard work has not gone unnoticed. In 2024 we beat off very stiff competition in winning an RSPCA Impact Award in recognition of achieving so much without our own animal centre. The name on the Award should definitely read "Judith" and not "Becky", as it is Judith who has the skills and does all of the hard work caring for our rabbits (ably assisted by Sarah, Becca and Betty).

Partnership Working - We want to extend our gratitude to all of the veterinary practices in our area and further afield who support us in this work. In recent years we have extended this to a number of local Charities which we assist including New Hope, South East Dog Rescue, Dartford Animal Rescue Team, Bexley Cats Protection, Animal Samaritans, Jean Redgrave Rabbit Rescue and Spirits Rest Horse and Animal Sanctuary. We also worked with local Police, Dog Wardens, Lost and Found Group, SLAIN, Bluewater, Jollyes the Pet People Superstore, Asda Greenhithe and a number of Morrisons supermarkets in our area.



In

addition to our local RSPCA Inspectors, we pitched in and helped with animals from South London when that RSPCA Branch had to cease operations. We also foster an excellent mutually beneficial relationship with Emma's counterpart in Canterbury and District Branch, Lin making sure to help one another with public events, microchipping days and sharing educational resources and ideas.

Objectives and Activities

The object of the charity is to promote kindness and good care and 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. Our area of benefit is all DA postcodes plus BR8 postcodes. Any animal that can have a quality of life and can be found a home will not be abandoned by our Branch.

Our activities to achieve the objectives include the following activities which are always available:

- To provide veterinary welfare assistance for those on low incomes. This work benefits pet owners who cannot assist their pets themselves and are distressed to witness their pet suffering.
- To provide neutering and microchipping facilities for those on low incomes. This work benefits those members of the public on low income by giving them financial help and promoting responsible pet ownership. Neutering has both behavioural and health benefits for the animal which in turn benefits the owner.
- To support the Society's inspectorate in their work providing financial assistance and emergency accommodation for mistreated or abandoned animals, including pets whose owners suffer ill health or financial difficulties or pass away. The Society's Inspectorate, as well as providing education, information, and advice, rescues animals in distress and enforces laws against the cruel mistreatment of animals in England and Wales by bringing prosecutions. This work is key to 'the prevention or suppression of cruelty' part of the RSPCA objects and promotes humane sentiments towards animals which involves moral benefit to humankind as a whole. The National Call Centre accepts complaints about animals in distress every day of the year and the public benefits by being able to call in for help when an animal is suffering, which can be very distressing for humans to witness and feel powerless to help.
- To accept stray and owned animals for rehoming or facilitate this by working in partnership with other RSPCA Branches. Animals in our care receive veterinary treatment, vaccination, neutering, microchipping and are assessed for rehoming. This work helps to control the incidence and spread of disease and suffering through vaccination and neutering. The work benefits our local community including local authorities as it reduces the incidence of abandonment and cruelty, and the public knows that we assist animals in need. Whilst we are primarily an animal charity, the service we offer pet owners who cannot assist their pets themselves in times of crisis can relieve much distress for the owner as well as the pet. We take steps to reunite stray animals with their owners which benefits our local community (including local authorities) by preventing animals straying and posing a risk to themselves and to people through road traffic accidents.
- The above activities are largely carried out by John Bowley our volunteer animal Welfare Officer and Emma Byrne a part time member of staff, working in partnership with RSPCA staff, local veterinary practices and other organisations working in the

field of animal welfare. This includes providing pet food to our local food banks in response to the cost of living crisis. In addition, John Bowley runs our very busy Branch Helpline which is of great help to the public.

- We provide many volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work, including shop volunteers, volunteer drivers and volunteer administration support. This benefits local people and companies by providing the possibility of doing work which is both compassionate and rewarding and offers experience which may assist participants in finding paid work. It is not possible to quantify the financial value of our volunteers but in 2024 we had the benefit of over 3,000 hours of volunteer work. Our two charity shops provided a valuable source of low cost, good quality recycled goods to the benefit of the public and the environment.

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

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is constituted as an unincorporated association. The charity operates as an autonomous Branch of the National RSPCA subject to its rules for Branches (as updated in 2012). In the normal course of business, Committee members are elected at every Annual General Meeting from the members of the Branch, to carry on the work for the ensuing year. Candidates must receive 50% of the votes of the members present. The elected Branch Committee can co-opt not more than three members onto the committee until the next annual general meeting. All Committee members must be Society members for a minimum of three months on appointment.

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 regular meetings at which decisions are made and conveyed to the Branch Manager and other staff for action. The day-to-day running of the shops is delegated to the Shop Managers.

Principle Sources of Funds

The Charity is dependent upon donations and fundraising to pay for its activities. One of our main sources of income has always been our two Charity Shops. In 2023 the net profit remained steady at our Shop at 161 Windmill Street, Gravesend led by Val Oakman and her team (£21,335.70). Unfortunately net profits have continued to fall at our Dartford Charity Shop. Without the benefit of the team of volunteers who had run the shop for many years, we had to employ part time staff. An impending large rent increase meant that it was not viable to retain the double unit in Market Place so we condensed back down into number 3 Market Place. The view was taken that this unit was too small to generate a profit. The decision was made to move to Unit 30 at the Orchard Centre in Dartford. We traded there from March to October and the team led by Jayne Martin-Garcia and Eric Grover put in a monumental effort to make this venture viable. However, costs were higher than expected and insufficient income was generated to cover staffing costs and outgoings. With great regret we closed our doors on the Dartford Shop at the end of 2024.

We are not alone in finding it harder to generate income from charity shops and in 2025 we will be exploring additional income streams

Our Local Inspectorate Groups

We want to extend our thanks to all the RSPCA Inspectors and Animal Rescue Officers who work in our area;

London South Group	Kent Group
C/I Mark Miles DCI Deborah Rutherford Inspector Harriet Dalliday Inspector Jade Guthrie ARO Portia Mearns ARO Sidonie Smith ARO Latia Pennant ARO Yalina Blumer ARO Paige Havlin ARO Lewis Ledlie	Chief Inspector Nick Wheelhouse Deputy Chief Inspector Tina Nash ARO Wayne Baker ARO May Bell ARO Brian Milligan ARO Georgia Shelton ARO Adam Tasker ARO Poppy Turk ARO Becca Wilkie Inspector Clive Hopwood Inspector Kirsten Ormerod Inspector Rosie Russon Inspector Deborah Rutherford



ARO Paige Havlin was called to a Sika Deer trapped in a garden in our Branch area. As you can from the picture it was a full-sized adult with huge antlers so she had to be careful. With a little bit of ingenuity, she got the caller to close all the curtains and made some funnelling and eventually herded the deer out into the surrounding area. Luckily it seemed to know the location and got away into nearby woods.



Inspector Kirsten Ormerod rescued 2 German Shepherds and a cat from a property in Gravesend where they had been abandoned by an owner who had moved out. The terrified dogs were in poor condition and appeared not to have been outside or on a lead in a long time. Arrangements were made to take them to private boarding and it transpired that they were mother and daughter and very bonded with each other. We had the dogs transferred into our care and were delighted when German Shepherd Rescue Elite found a great foster placement for them. The first 2 photos show them when the Inspector discovered them and the final picture is a much happier and healthier pair who were rehomed together

We helped RSPCA Inspectors by taking 44 rabbits which they had rescued in 2024. Muppet here came to us in September 2024 from a house with lots of other rabbits whose needs were not being met. He has proved to be our longest staying rabbit and as at June 2025, he is still looking for a home

https://www.rspca.org.uk/find/apet/search/details/-/Animal/MUPPET_/ref/BSA2126118/rehome



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

KENT NORTH - WEST BRANCH
(Registered Charity No. 210633)

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

and

BALANCE SHEET

- for the year ended -

31st DECEMBER 2024

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.
KENT, NORTH-WEST BRANCH
(Registered Charity No: 210633)**

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is incorporated under an Act of Parliament and each Branch is governed by the rules of the Society. The Kent, North-West Branch is an incorporated and a registered Charity No. 210633. The Administrative Office of the Branch is at 37, Gordon Road Dartford Kent DA1 2LG.

The day to day affairs of the Branch are managed by a Branch Committee. During 2024 the members of the Branch Committee were:

Mr B. Charman	Branch Chairman
Mr E.J. Grover.	Branch Treasurer (to 26 June 2024)
Mrs H. Taylor	Branch Treasurer (from 26 June 2024)
Mrs H. Taylor	Branch Trustee to 26 June 2024)
Mr. J. A. Bowley.	Branch Animal Welfare Administrator.
Ms. Rebecca Birs	Branch Trustee
Ms Alison Bruford	Branch Trustee *** (from 4 th December 2024)
Mr E.J. Grover.	Branch Trustee (from 26 June 2024)
Mr.T. Maddison	Branch Trustee (to 10 March 2024)
Mrs K. Maycock	Branch Trustee
Ms. Androniki Papagora	Branch Trustee*** (from 5 th May 2024)
Mr D. Wordsworth	Branch Trustee (to 31 July 2024)
Ms. Susanna Wooders	Branch Trustee *** (from 5 th May 2024)

(Note: *** indicates Co-opted Trustee.)

During the year, the Branch operated two Charity Shops. At Dartford the Charity Shop at Market Place was vacated on 28th February and new premises entered from 1st March at the Orchards Shopping Centre. The Branch appointed Mrs Jayne Garcia to a part time post as Manager of the Shop. In October 2024 the Trustees resolved that they did not wish to proceed with a lease of the premises and the Shop was closed at the end of November 2024. A Full Time Manager and 2 Part Time casual staff to cover for the Manager absences were employed at the Branch Charity Shop at 161, Windmill Street, Gravesend. The Branch also employs a part time Branch Manager who deals with administrative affairs of the Branch and an Animal Welfare Officer who combines her role with education and fund raising. The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year was six.

The Branch Trustees were saddened in March 2024 by the passing Tom Maddison who had served on the Branch Committee for a number of years.

The object of the Charity is to promote kindness and 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 objectives.

The Charity is dependent on donations and fund raising to pay for its activities. The Branch also receives part of the subscriptions paid by members. The Branch constitution is approved by the National RSPCA umbrella body, Charity No.219099, which is considered a related party for accounting purposes. During the financial year, the Branch received a total of £21,816,10p (Door to Door Campaign) grant funding from the National RSPCA for the Branch's purposes and also received grants of £22,052.80 in support of Rabbit care and Emergency Veterinary treatments.

The Branch also receives a number of umbrella body services, including legacy administration under the Branch Legacy Scheme, membership administration and practical guidance and assistance from a Branch Partnership Manager (formerly Branch Support Specialist) employed by the National Society. The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge paid by the charity during the year was £3464.23p

Details of the Charity's activities are disclosed in the accounts. There have been no significant activities during the year requiring a report to the Charity Commissioners. Legacies and In Memoriam donations to the value of £1948.75p were received during the year. Details of assets held by the Branch are disclosed in the accounts. There have been no material post balance sheet events.

Harriet Taylor
Branch Treasurer
1st May 2025

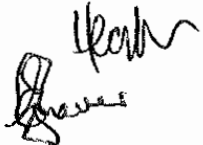
ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

KENT NORTH-WEST BRANCH

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2024

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

	<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>
Balance brought forward	1,096,384.33		1,137,213.40
Property Revaluations in Year			-
Surplus for the Year	(60,915.96)		(40,829.07)
	-----		-----
	1,035,468.37		1,096,384.33
	=====		=====
BRANCH RESTRICTED FUNDS:			
L.C.Croucher Legacy for Equipt.	23,844.31		23,503.35
		23,844.31	23,503.35
BRANCH GENERAL FUNDS:			
Fixed Assets(Note1)			
Property 158,Parrock Street Gravesend.	263,000.00		263,000.00
Property 37,Gordon Road,Dartford	205,000.00		205,000.00
Property 10 Miskin Road,Dartford	196,870.33		196,870.33
Property 161,Windmill Street,Gravesend	168,749.50		168,749.50
Branch Vehicle	4,298.00		6,197.00
Dartford Shop Refurb	4,831.84		7,242.76
Rabbit Accomodation	1,609.91		2,844.72
	-----		-----
		844,359.58	849,904.31
Current Assets			
Nat West Capital Reserve Account	159,062.50		206,350.82
Debtors & Prepayments	7,290.77		6,086.07
Branch Pay Pal Account	713.43		713.43
Cash at Bank & In Hand	19,218.22		31,545.21
	-----		-----
	186,284.92		244,695.53
less Creditors	(19,020.44)		(12,143.86)
Balance Rabbit Awareness Projects	0.00		(2,000.00)
Balance Staffie Matched Funding	0.00		(1,575.00)
Balance Female Cat Spaying Project	0.00		(1,900.00)
Horse Scales			(4,100.00)
Net Current Assets		167,264.48	222,976.67
TOTAL BRANCH GENERAL FUNDS		1,011,624.06	1,072,880.98
		-----	-----
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS		1,035,468.37	1,096,384.33
		=====	=====



Harriet Taylor **Branch Treasurer**
 Eric Grover **Branch Trustee**

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS
KENT NORTH-WEST BRANCH
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

		BRANCH GENERAL FUNDS	
INCOME:	2024	2023	
	<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>	
Collecting Boxes	1,447.42	1,417.97	
RSPCA Grants	22,221.87	14,390.83	
General Donations	5,549.83	1,390.75	
Donations via ACE	673.95	779.16	
Door toDoor Campaign	21,816.10	23,094.00	
Dividends and Interest	3,052.64	2,745.01	
Goods Sold	402.87	207.31	
Rehoming	8,027.50	6,350.00	
Rags and Recycling	724.56	1,342.08	
Rent Received	42,585.00	40,247.00	
Shops Gravesend & Dartford	106,521.59	108,127.06	
eBay Income Dartford shop	1,030.68	534.45	
Special Events****	639.26	163.92	
Subscriptions	392.00	468.00	
Sundry Income	1,816.63	235.16	
Reg Support Food Banks	295.50		
TOTAL BRANCH INCOME	217,197.40	201,492.70	
EXPENDITURE:			
 CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE			
	2024	2023	
Branch Neut.Scheme	8,877.86	5,647.79	
Care of Animals	33,749.86	36,086.71	
Drugs and Medicines	4,841.09	7,840.92	
Microchipping	728.67	233.15	
Veterinary Fees	29,023.17	22,140.60	
Support for Food Banks	295.50	805.28	
TOTAL CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE		77,516.15	72,754.45
NON CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE			
Depreciation & Write Offs	5,544.73	5,544.73	
Heat, Light & Water	5,947.45	9,698.64	
Insurance/Security	3,254.87	5,159.59	
Goods for Resale	101.18	484.06	
Maintenance and Repairs.	13,779.57	11,009.34	
Meetings	75.00	340.90	
Motor Vehicle & Travelling	2,042.05	2,127.29	
Motor Vehicle Costs	3,700.15	3,684.96	
Postage and Telephone	4,208.26	4,588.28	
Printing and Stationery	1,132.25	1,360.75	
Bank & Professional Fees	22,562.25	10,679.66	
Rent & Rates	29,169.63	20,469.97	
Shop Equipment	3,078.62	1,606.46	
Branch Staff Costs	94,223.33	82,881.32	
Sundry Expenses	943.18	2,790.43	
Waste Disposal	2,036.70	2,878.70	
Irrecoverable VAT	7,106.83	4,154.01	
Branch Events	175.68	205.32	
Branch Training	0.00	58.96	
TOTAL NON CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE	3,464.23	202,545.96	169,723.37
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		280,062.11	242,477.82
Surplus/(Deficit) before Legacies		-----	-----
Legacies and In Memoriam donations		(62,864.71)	(40,985.12)
		1,948.75	156.05
Deficit after Legacies		(60,915.96)	(40,829.07)

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS
KENT NORTH-WEST BRANCH
(Registered Charity No: 210633)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES.

The principal accounting policies of the Branch are set out below. The policies have remained unchanged from the previous year.

(a) Basis of Accounting.

The financial statements have been prepared under historical cost conventions and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

(b) Income.

Income is accounted for when received.

(c) Depreciation of Tangible assets.

The Branch Trustees regularly review of the methods used to depreciate Capital Expenditure. It was concluded that the use of a 10% reducing balance gave an unrealistic value of the items over a long term. In future all tangible capital assets would be written off over a determined period with each case of expenditure to be determined at the time of purchase. Details of the period of write off would be recorded in the Branch Asset Register.

As a result of the trustees revised policies the following items were written off at the following rates:

Freehold Buildings.	Nil. During 2018 a further revaluation of the property at 158, Parrock Street, Gravesend, was carried out. The results of that revaluations are shown in the Balance Sheet. The valuations were prepared on an open market basis by McConnells, Chartered Surveyors. The Trustees plan to carry out a revaluation of all property during 2025.
---------------------	--

Shop Fixtures and Fittings.

All of the original assets held at the Branch Shops have now been written off.

Furniture, Plant and Equipment. The use of a 10% reducing balance was reviewed during the year and it was agreed that the Branch Vehicle and Rabbit Accommodation, purchased during the year should be written off over a five year period. All previous items under this heading have now been written off.

(d) Irrecoverable VAT

It is the Branch's policy to write off irrecoverable VAT through the Income & Expenditure account when incurred.

2. FIXED ASSETS.

	Freehold Property.	Dt Shop Refurb	Branch Shops Fix & Fitt.	Furniture Plant and Equipment.	TOTAL
Balance at 1st Jan. 2024	833,619.83	7242.76	Nil	9,041.72	842,661.55
Depreciate Branch Van				(1,899.00)	(1,899.00)
Depreciate Rab Acc.				(1,234.81)	(1,234.81)
Depreciate Shop Refurb		(2410.92)			(2410.92)
Balance at 31st Dec 2024	833,619.83	4831.84	00.00	5,907.91	844359.58
=====					
Made up of:					
Original cost.	837,242.71	9877.28	51,045.13	18,537.78	914068.38
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(3,622.88)	(5045.84)	(51,045.13)	(12,629.87)	(69708.80)
	833,619.83	4831.84	00.00	5,907.91	844359.58
=====					

3. BRANCH (formerly the REGIONAL) NEUTERING SCHEME.

During 2024 the Branch continued to offer all of its established services including the well-established Branch Neutering Scheme. The expenditure on this service increased significantly as the Branch took on more cases of Rabbits. During 2024 the Branch sought the approval of the Regional Board to reallocate the Grant made to Branch Neutering Services and this is reflected in the Branch Accounts. A summary of the total expenditure in respect of the three services is as follows:

Branch Neutering Scheme:

Rabbits	(39)	£3,443.63 p
Cats	(73)	£4,466.85 p
Dogs	(11)	£ 967.38 p

Total as per accounts: £8,877.86p

4. DONATIONS/GRANTS.

During the year donations in the sum of £5468 31p were received, and these are summarised as follows:

Branch General Donations	£3440.28
Dartford Shop Donations	£1425.53
Gravesend Shop Donations	£ 340.00
Just Giving Donations	£ 262.50
<u>TOTAL AS PER ACCOUNTS</u>	<u>£5468.31</u>

During the year the Branch received Grants from the RSPCA to be used for various services. The Total of the Grants was: **£22,052.80p**

The Branch received the authority of the South East Regional Board to reallocate the balance in former matched funding grants to various service heads. During the year the Branch utilised the grants as follows:

Regional Rabbit Grant (£2000.00) to Care of Animals.
Regional Staffie grant (£1575.00) to Veterinary Fees.
Regional Female Cat Neutering (£1900.00) to Branch Neutering Scheme.

The reallocation of these funds is reflected in the Branch Accounts

5. SPECIAL EVENTS.

. The Special Events of the Branch during the year were as follows:

Wilmington August Fair	£185.90
Dartford Shop Easter Egg Hunt.	£ 35.00
Dartford Find the Animal	£ 3.92
Dartford Shop RSPCA "200"	£166.22
Dartford Shop Varied Events	<u>£248.22</u>
<u>TOTAL AS PER ACCOUNTS:</u>	<u>£639.26</u>

It should be noted that a number of activities undertaken by our ACE Officer attracted donations which have not been recorded as Special Events and included as donations via ACE.

6. HEAT, LIGHT, WATER & RATES.

Payments made in respect of the items included within this heading are summarised as follows:

	<u>Electricity.</u>	<u>Gas.</u>	<u>Water.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dartford Shop	£1840.14p		£222.02p	£2062.16p
Gravesend Shop	£1685.47p	£922.97p	£379.81p	£2988.25p
Branch.	£ 238.17p	£627.87p	£ 31.00pp	£ 897.04p
			TOTAL	<u>£ 5947.45p</u>

7. PROFESSIONAL FEES

Professional fees include the following amounts for the Independent Examination of the Branch's Accounts:

<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
£615.	£650.

8. CREDITORS.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Trade.	£17,820.44p	£11,943.86p
Accruals	£ 1,200.00p	£ 1,200.00p
	-----	-----
	£ 19,020.44p	£ 12,143,86p
	-----	-----

9. TRUSTEES REMUNERATION & EXPENSES.

No Trustee or connected person received any remuneration during the year.

10. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS.

The Branch had no Capital Commitments at the end of the year.

R.S.P.C.A. KENT NORTH WEST BRANCH.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (PAGE 1 of 2)

INCOMING RESOURCES:

Incoming resources from generated funds

	<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>	
(i) Donations, legacies and other incoming resources:				
General Donations	5549.83		1390.75	
Donations via ACE	673.95		779.16	
Collecting Boxes	1447.42		1417.97	
Door to Door Campaign	21816.10		23094.00	
Income from Legacies & In Memorium donations	1948.75		156.05	
Rabbit Care Support Grants from RSPCA	6350.00		7100.00	
Veterinary Support Grant from RSPCA	8261.77		5326.22	
Care Contribution Grant from RSPCA	7610.10		1097.65	
Food Banks Support from RSPCA	295.50		866.96	
Sundry Income	1816.63	55770.05	235.16	41463.92
(ii) Activities for generating funds.				
Sale of donated items Dartford Shop	42,259.99		41,880.96	
Sale of donated items Gravesend Shop	64,261.60		66,246.10	
Sale of donated items Ebay	1,030.68		534.45	
Sale of Rags Dartford Shop	409.27		662.29	
Sale of Rags Gravesend Shop	315.29		679.79	
Income from Recycling	0.00		0.00	
Sale of RSPCA Logoed Items	385.25		186.37	
Sale of non RSPCA Logoed Items	17.62		20.94	
Income from Rehoming Fees - Rabbits	5,725.00		4,735.00	
Income from Rehoming Fees - Cats& Others	2,302.50		1,615.00	
Special Events	639.26	117,346.46	163.92	116,724.82
(iii) Investment Income				
Income from renting of Gravesend Property	15,260.00		15,210.00	
Income from renting of Dartford Properties	27,325.00		25,037.00	
Interest Bank A/cs	3052.64	45,637.64	2745.01	42,992.01
(iv) Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Subscription Income	392.00		488.00	
		392.00		488.00
Total Incoming Resources:		219,146.15		201,648.75

R.S.P.C.A. KENT NORTH WEST BRANCH.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (PAGE 2 of 2)

RESOURCES EXPENDED:

	<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>	
(i) Costs of generating Funds				
Staff Costs at Gravesend Shop	35,355.44		32,744.46	
Staff Costs at Dartford Shop	18,270.01		10,208.48	
Staff Costs Branch Manager	25,392.60		23,955.51	
Staff Costs ACE	15,205.28		13,873.67	
Branch EE Pension Costs	3,464.23		2,099.20	
Shop Equipment	3,078.62		1,606.46	
Rent Dartford Shop	27,194.65		19,250.00	
Rates Gravesend Shop	1,100.80		1,071.40	
Rates Dartford Shop	874.18		135.56	
Branch Events	175.68		205.32	
Branch Training	0		58.96	
Cost of Goods for Resale	101.18		484.06	
Shop Overheads	18728.13	148,940.80	24337.83	130,030.91
(ii) Charitable activities				
(a) resources granted in furtherance of the Branch's objectives				
Care of Animals - RABBITS	7,311.00		7,238.09	
Care of Animals - CATS & OTHERS	26,438.86		28,848.62	
Care of Animals - FOOD BANK SUPPORT	295.50		805.28	
Regional Quota/Branch Contribution	551.00		515.00	
Microchipping	728.67		233.15	
Branch Neutering Scheme - RABBITS	3,443.63		3,271.44	
Branch Neutering Scheme - CATS & OTHERS	5,434.23	44,202.89	2,376.35	43,287.93
(b) costs of activities in furtherance of the Branch's objectives				
Veterinary Fees Dartford Clinic	0.00		0.00	
Veterinary Fees Gravesend Clinic	0.00		0.00	
Veterinary Fees Emergency and other cases	29,023.17		22,140.60	
Drugs and Medicines	4,841.09		7,840.92	
		33,864.26		29,981.52
(c) support costs for (a) and (b).				
Travelling Expenses	1915.29		1702.70	
Branch Vehicle costs	3700.15		3684.96	
Printing and Stationery	1132.25		1288.77	
Postage and Telephone	3148.87		2499.22	
Electricity Gas and water	897.04		1579.47	
Insurance and Security Costs	2887.58		2854.83	
Maintenance & Repairs	6842.46		5108.90	
Waste Disposal Costs	0.00	Shop O/heads	0.00	Shop O/heads
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	5,544.73		5,544.73	
Professional fees (Properties/Bank)	19896.78		8177.77	
Sundry Expenditure	-707.82		1591.20	
Irrecoverable VAT	7106.83	52,364.16	4154.01	38,186.56
(d) Governance costs.				
Meetings	75.00		340.90	0.00
Professional fees (Audit)	615.00	690.00	650.00	990.90
Total Resources Expended:		280,062.11		242,477.82

RSPCA, KENT,NORTH WEST BRANCH

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2023

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS DURING THE YEAR

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>TABLE ONE: STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS</u>		
<i>Net Cash provided by (used in) operating activities</i>	(60,916)	(40,829)
<i>Cash Flows from investing activities</i>		
Purchase of property,plant and equipment		
<i>Net Cash Provided by (used in) investing activities</i>	(60,916)	(40,829)
<i>Cash Flows from financing activities:</i>		
Repayments of borrowing		
<i>Net Cash Provided by (used in) financing activities</i>		
<i>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</i>	(60,916)	(40,829)
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</i>	261,399	292,737
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</i>	202,838	261,399
<u>TABLE TWO: RECONCILIATION ON NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</u>		
<i>Net Income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)</i>	(60,916)	(40,829)
<i>Adjustments for :</i>		
Depreciation charges	5545	5545
Paypal	713	
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(1205.00)	2050
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(2698.00)	5673
<i>Net cash provided by operating activities</i>	(58,561)	(27,561)
<u>TABLE THREE : ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</u>		
Cash in Hand	202,838	261,399

STATEMENT OF THE BRANCH COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES.

Rule 3.3 of the R.S.P.C.A. Branch Rules (January 2003 edition) empowers the Branch, subject to certain conditions, to raise funds in the name of the Branch for the General or any special purposes of the Branch or for any purpose of the Society or another Branch but all fundraising must be authorised by and reported promptly to the Branch Committee.

Rule 7.1 provides that the Branch Committee as charity trustees have responsibility for the Branch and its property and funds.

Rule 11.1 requires that the Branch Committee must comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 as to the keeping of financial records, the audit or independent examination of accounts and the preparation and transmission to the Charities Commission of:

- annual reports.
- annual returns; and
- annual statements of account.

STATEMENT OF BRANCH RISKS MANAGEMENT POLICY

The main risks facing the Charity are;

- (i) Decreased retail income, combined with increased supply and utility costs.
- (ii) Loss of income through error or fraud.
- (iii) Insufficient trustees for the branch to continue
- (iv) Struggles facing charity shops (Dartford now closed)
- (v) Falling level of Door to Door contribution from national society
- (vi) Loss of income through poor investment performance.

It is the opinion of the trustees that the Branch's policies, procedures and controls are adequate to mitigate financial loss through error or fraud and to maintain the future financial viability of the Branch. The Branch has identified the major risks to which it is exposed and has put into place systems and procedures to minimise the risks, as follows:

(a) **Misappropriation of funds.** To prevent peculation of the Branch's assets, it has set up an internal control system which requires authorisation of all transactions by a person independent of the Branch Treasurer. Income at the Branch's Shops is monitored by the recording of receipts by an electronic till and a check of receipts is made at the end of each working day by the Duty Manager. The Branch also maintains an asset register for all Capital assets.

(b) **Monitoring of income to ensure that there are sufficient resources to meet commitments.** The Branch Officers regularly monitor resources to ensure that there are funds available to meet its commitments.

(c) **Reliance on Sources of income.**

In 2012 The Branch purchased a property with the purpose of renting to a tenant and producing additional income. During 2013 the Branch Trustees agreed to lease the ground floor of 158, Parrock Street Gravesend on a commercial basis. The lease was completed in 2014. A new lease in respect of the property was granted in 2017. Also, during the year 2013 the Branch purchased the property 161 Windmill Street, Gravesend and this will in the longer term eliminate the liability to pay rent on the property. During the year the Branch Trustees reviewed the sustainability of its decision to take a lease on new shop property in Dartford. The Trustees resolved that the shop management could not sustain the shop for the term of a 5 year period and took the decision to close the shop in November 2024. The Branch now rents a total of four properties which continue to produce additional income for the Branch. The Branch Trustees have set up an Income Generation Sub Committee to plan for future income

- (d) **Loss of Key Volunteers.** The Branch has adopted a policy of recruiting and training, where possible, additional volunteers to undertake various duties that participate in running a Branch of the size and character of the Kent, North West Branch of the RSPCA".

- (e) **Security of Shops.** The Branch Trustees have improved the security of Shop Assets by the installation of CCTV units at each of the Branch Charity Shops. In addition, each Shop has arrangements with the Local Authority Shopping Security Force and has radio contact with the Centre should the need arise.

STATEMENT OF BRANCH RESERVES POLICY.

The Branch's reserves policy is to maintain a level of free reserves that will enable;

- (i) Continuity of activity and;
- (ii) adjustments to significant changes in the external economic environment and;
- (iii) increasing demands on our services.

A current Account balance in the range of £10,000 - £20,000 would be sufficient to meet all arising commitments. A level of free reserves of between £200,000 and £250,000 is deemed by the Branch Trustees to be appropriate. In order to maintain sufficient free reserves for use in furtherance of our charitable objects, it may be necessary to sell one of our investment properties in the coming year. The Trustees will seek formal professional advice to ensure that the correct decision regarding our property holdings is made to take into account short and long term needs.

During 2006, the Branch received a legacy from the estate of the late L.C. Croucher. The legacy has a stipulation that the money should only be expended on equipment to be used in the treatment of animals. The Branch Trustees have therefore agreed that the legacy should be maintained in a separately identifiable account within the Branch Funds and recorded as a Restricted Fund and should be available, only for the purchase of equipment required in connection with the meeting of the Branch's revised objectives. During 2024, no application was made from the fund.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the Trustees of **The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Kent, North - West Branch (Charity No 210633)**

I report to the Charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 set out on pages 16 to 26.

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

Independent examiner's statement.

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

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

I have 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.



Stephen Fryer FCA
Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales

18 June 2025

Hedley Dunk Limited,
Trinity House,
3, Bullace Lane,
DARTFORD,
Kent DA1 1BB.

Accounts



**RSPCA Kent-North
West Branch**

Registered Charity No. 210633

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2023



2023 – A tough year for animals

Contents	Page
Reference and administrative details of the charity, trustees and advisers	1
Branch Chairmans Statement	2
Branch Trustees' and Staff Reports	4
London Inspectorate Annual Report	16
Kent Inspectorate Annual Report	18
Branch Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet	21

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisers for the year ended 31 December 2023

Charity Registered Number; 210633

Names of charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole of year	Method of appointment
Mr B Charman	Chair		Elected
Mr E Grover	Treasurer		Elected
Ms H Taylor	Secretary		Elected
Mr J Bowley			Elected
Mr T Maddison			Elected
Ms K Maycock		Up to 5/5/23	Elected
Mr Tim Nicholls		From 28/6/23 to 28/9/23	Elected
Mr D Wordsworth			Elected
Rebecca Birs		From 29/11/23	Co opted

Independent Examiner; Jack Fryer, ACA, Hedley Dunk Ltd, Trinity House, 3 Bullace Lane, Dartford DA1 1BB

Bankers; Nat West Bank Plc, 12 High Street, Dartford DA1 1DD

HR and health and safety advisers; Acton Jennings

Charity's principal address; 37 Gordon Road, Dartford DA1 2LG

Correspondence can be addressed to the principal address or info@rspca-kentnorthwest.org.uk

Branch helpline; 01322 286720 Website; www.rspca-kentnorthwest.org.uk

Branch Shops	Unit 30, Orchard Shopping Centre, DARTFORD DA1 1DN	161 Windmill Street GRAVESEND DA12 1AH
Shop Managers	Mrs J Martin-Garcia	Mrs V Oakman

Chairman's Report

As I come to the end of my second year as Chairman of the RSPCA Kent North West branch, I am pleased to present our annual impact report, highlighting the progress we have made over the past year.

After what was already a highly productive year in 2022/2023, we have been able to build on our success and once again see an increase in our charitable activity. Specifically, we rescued 273 abandoned, neglected and unwanted animals, representing a 32% increase on 2022/23, in addition to neutering, microchipping, and funding the medical costs for many others. Particular highlights have been our leading role in the care of rabbits and our support for local food banks, as well as our responsive action on XL bully dogs. Overall, we have seen our rescue and re-homing work more than double in just a couple of years, which is a testament to the hard work and energy of our staff, volunteers and trustees.

We are continuing to grow in confidence and we are eager to sustain and build on this success. The past year has seen significant change, with the national RSPCA undergoing a rebrand and celebrating its 200th anniversary. We have also welcomed three new trustees, Rebecca, Androniki and Susanna, all with very strong professional backgrounds, while also sadly losing Thomas Madisson who passed away in March. The RSPCA will continue to play a key role but we are conscious that in order to remain relevant, we need to make sure that our work evolves to respond to changing needs and opportunities. At the same time, the volume and diversity of activity that we have been doing now puts us in a position where we will be seeking to organise our work better by developing more focused strategies, something that has begun and will continue over the coming months.

I am pleased to say that we are functioning well as a branch and that we remain united under our shared goals, while being mindful that we need to continue improving to deliver impactful services for the communities within our branch area. Thanks to the careful stewardship of our treasurer, Eric, and other trustees, we remain in a strong financial position and as a result there is scope for us to become more ambitious and expand – although this must be done in a way that is financially responsible and sustainable. The growth in our services and the effect of inflation over the past year mean that we need to continue to offset our spending with new fundraising ventures, something which presents a challenge for us and which will push us to further examine our role and the way we present ourselves to members of the public.

In presenting our annual report, I would like to personally applaud the efforts of Becky, our branch manager, Emma, our animal welfare (ACE) officer, and John, our animal welfare administrator, without whom we would have been unable to deliver our important animal welfare services. All of the work that we do depends on being able to raise the necessary funds, and for that we also owe a debt of gratitude to our charity shop staff and volunteers. Special thanks also to all of our trustees, including our branch secretary Harriet, and those who have recently joined, whose experience, skills and commitment to the cause are sincerely appreciated.



IN 2023 WE...

Spent
£230K
up **30%** on 2022



Worked in partnership with

10 LOCAL ANIMAL CHARITIES



Our Branch has **neutered over**

100 ANIMALS

INCLUDING LOTS OF XL BULLY DOGS

Spent

£30K

on **veterinary bills**
(the biggest of which was

£1,800

 on Mark the ginger cat)

EMMA

OUR ANIMAL WELFARE OFFICER:

Drove her van **11,110 miles** and transported over **150** animals from danger to safety.

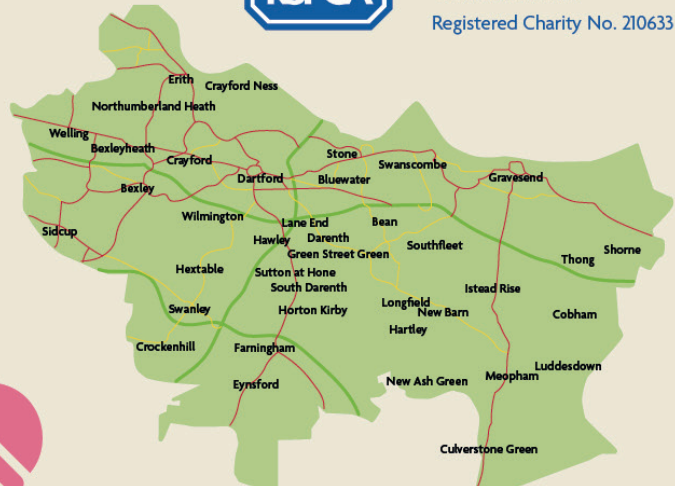
She also delivered over **£1,000** worth of pet food to our local food banks.

She spoke to over **2,000** children about compassion for animals.



Kent-North
West Branch

Registered Charity No. 210633



Rescued **273**
abandoned, neglected
and unwanted animals

(up **32%** on 2022)



These included

80 rabbits
plus cats, dogs, gerbils,
fish and many more



We improved our facilities for rabbits
and found amazing homes for

69

of them



Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
RSPCA - Kent North West Branch is a separately registered Charity.
Charity number 210633. We are responsible for raising our own
funds from local donations.

Visit our website www.rspca-kentnorthwest.org.uk to find out
more about our work and how you can get involved.
Follow us on Facebook (RSPCA - Kent North West)

rspca-kentnorthwest.org.uk

Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

Structure, governance and management

The charity is constituted as an unincorporated association. The charity operates as an autonomous Branch of the National RSPCA subject to its rules for Branches (as updated in 2012). In the normal course of business, Committee members are elected at every Annual General Meeting from the members of the Branch, to carry on the work for the ensuing year. Candidates must receive 50% of the votes of the members present. The elected Branch Committee can co-opt not more than three members onto the committee until the next annual general meeting. All Committee members must be Society members for a minimum of three months on appointment.

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 regular meetings at which decisions are made and conveyed to the Branch Manager and other staff for action. The day-to-day running of the shops is delegated to the Shop Managers.

Aims and objectives, public benefit statement and principle activities

The object of the charity is to promote kindness and good care and 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. Our area of benefit is all DA postcodes plus BR8 postcodes. Any animal that can have a quality of life and can be found a home will not be abandoned by our Branch. Our activities to achieve the objectives include the following activities which are always available:

- To provide veterinary welfare assistance for those on low incomes. This work benefits pet owners who cannot assist their pets themselves and are distressed to witness their pet suffering.
- To provide neutering and microchipping facilities for those on low incomes. This work benefits those members of the public on low income by giving them financial help and promoting responsible pet ownership. Neutering has both behavioural and health benefits for the animal which in turn benefits the owner.
- To support the Society's inspectorate in their work providing financial assistance and emergency accommodation for mistreated or abandoned animals, including pets whose owners suffer ill health or financial difficulties or pass away. The Society's Inspectorate, as well as providing education, information, and advice, rescues animals in distress and enforces laws against the cruel mistreatment of animals in England and Wales by bringing prosecutions. This work is key to 'the prevention or suppression of cruelty' part of the RSPCA objects and promotes humane sentiments

towards animals which involves moral benefit to humankind as a whole. The National Call Centre accepts complaints about animals in distress every day of the year and the public benefits by being able to call in for help when an animal is suffering, which can be very distressing for humans to witness and feel powerless to help.

- To accept stray and owned animals for rehoming or facilitate this by working in partnership with other RSPCA Branches. Animals in our care receive veterinary treatment, vaccination, neutering, microchipping and are assessed for rehoming. This work helps to control the incidence and spread of disease and suffering through vaccination and neutering. The work benefits our local community including local authorities as it reduces the incidence of abandonment and cruelty, and the public knows that we assist animals in need. Whilst we are primarily an animal charity, the service we offer pet owners who cannot assist their pets themselves in times of crisis can relieve much distress for the owner as well as the pet. We take steps to reunite stray animals with their owners which benefits our local community (including local authorities) by preventing animals straying and posing a risk to themselves and to people through road traffic accidents.

- The above activities are largely carried out by John Bowley our volunteer animal Welfare Officer and Emma Byrne a part time member of staff, working in partnership with RSPCA staff, local veterinary practices and other organisations working in the field of animal welfare. This includes providing pet food to our local food banks in response to the cost of living crisis. In addition, John Bowley runs our very busy Branch Helpline which is of great help to the public.

- We provide many volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work, including retail opportunities, fostering and fundraising. This benefits local people and companies by providing the possibility of doing work which is both compassionate and rewarding and offers experience which may assist participants in finding paid work. It is not possible to quantify the financial value of our volunteers but in 2023 we had the benefit of over 3,500 hours of volunteer work. Our two charity shops provide a valuable source of low cost, good quality recycled goods to the benefit of the public and the environment.

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

Achievements and performance

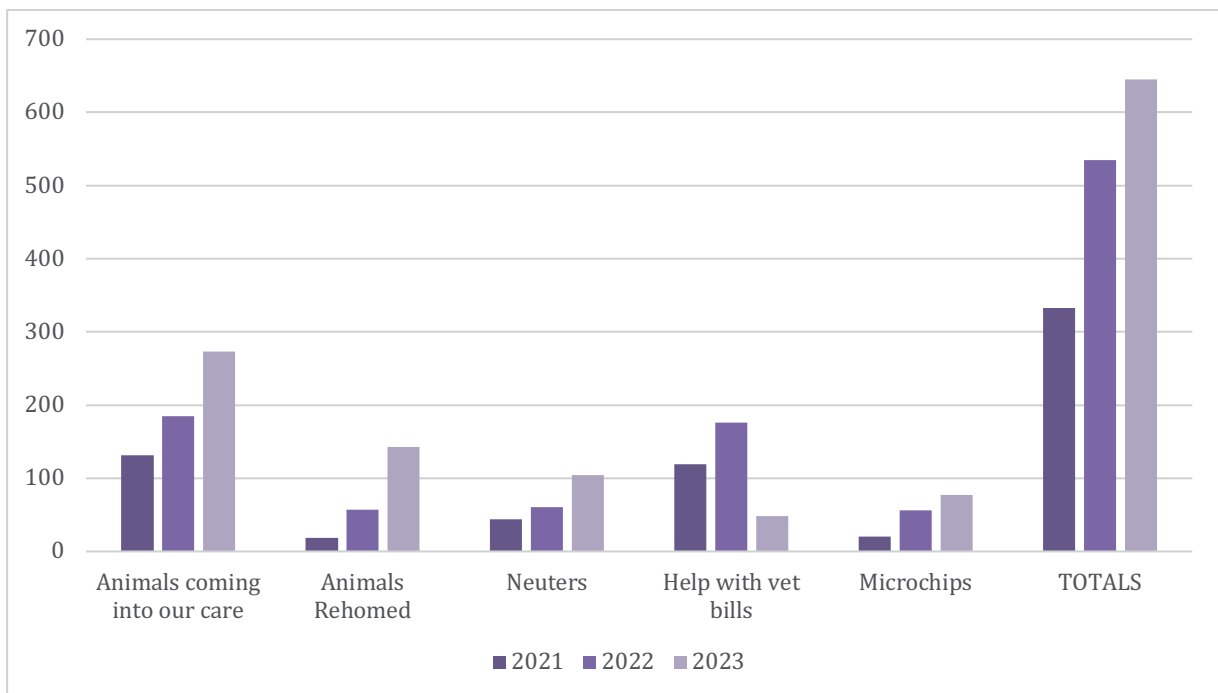
The Branch Trustees have much pleasure in presenting to the Branch Membership, the Annual Report together with the Annual Accounts, Financial Report and Balance Sheet of the Branch. 2023 was a challenging year but Members can be confident that the Branch remains in a very strong financial position. We increased the amount of animal welfare work which we carried out in 2023. This coupled with rising costs

across the board and falling shop profits did result in a deficit for the year of £40,829.07. In summary our income increased by £43,213.97 to £201,648.75. However, our expenditure increased by £67,775.11 to £241,364.11. The result was that the Branch assets decreased in value to £1,096,384.33 (down by £40,829.07). Whilst this situation would not be sustainable long term, we had enjoyed successive years of accruing surpluses which had left us in a very strong position. We do not face these challenges alone and most charities report 2023 having been a very tough year. At the end of 2023 we had implemented various measures to reduce non-charitable expenditure to ensure we didn't have to stop supporting all local animals that could have a good quality of life with our help.

Helping animals and owners in need of support

Our primary aim is continuing to increase, year on year, the amount of animal welfare work that we do and 2023 was another very successful year. We are a small organisation employing only two part time members of staff whose work includes animal welfare. We benefit from a massive contribution from a team of volunteers who enabled us to help over 600 animals in 2023.

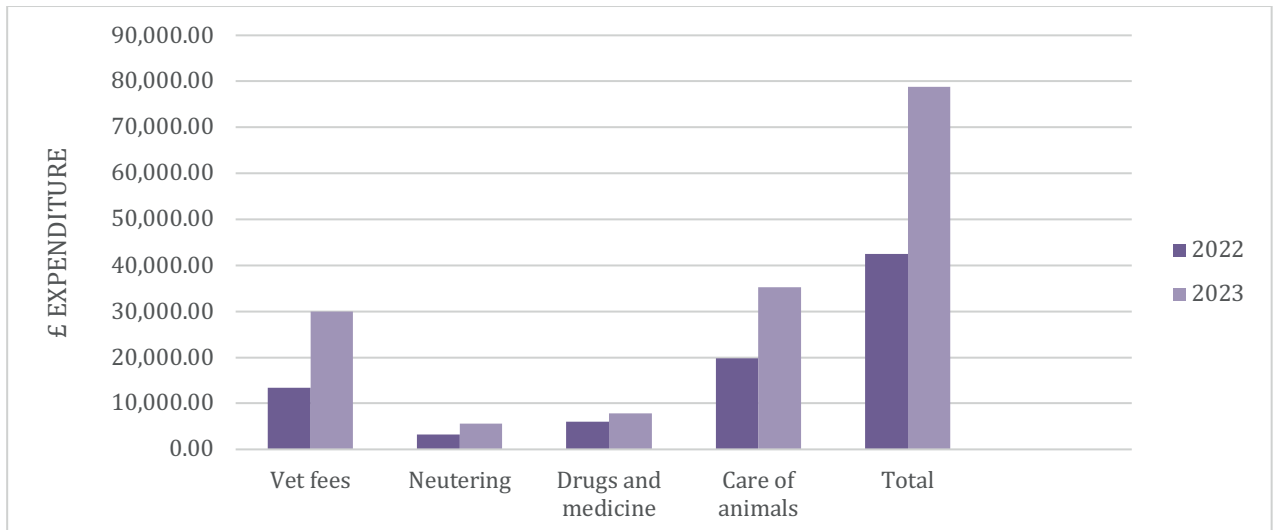
Number of Animals Helped



£807 spent proving pet food to our local Food banks in 2023. Thank you to our Charity Shop customers who donated lots more pet food which was desperately needed by local pet owners.

Animal Welfare Expenditure

The need for our services has never been greater and helping more animals inevitably cost the Branch more money. Our vet fees more than doubled (£13,439 in 2022 and £29,982 in 2023). Unfortunately, costs for all veterinary services increased much quicker than the rate of inflation. The demand for veterinary services still outstrips supply and so we anticipate this situation will continue for the foreseeable future. Nevertheless, our Trustees are committed to ensuring animals get the care that they need to have a happy and healthy future.



Branch Managers Report – Becky Blackmore

We took care of 273 unwanted animals in 2023 which is an increase of 32% on 2022. We actually rehomed 143 of these ourselves, rather than transferring them to other RSPCA Branch Centres, which is an increase of 150% on 2022. These animals included 69 rabbits as well as the survivors from a family of gerbils rescued from a house fire, abandoned guppies (tropical fish), plus the usual 100+ cats and 23 dogs. For a Branch which doesn't have its own animal rehoming centre this is impressive!



A charming group of baby rabbit sisters

The last few of the family of gerbils rescued by the Fire Brigade



Partnership Working - We have always had a superb relationship with our local vets. In recent years we have extended this to a number of local Charities which we assist including New Hope, South East Dog Rescue, Dartford Animal Rescue, and Spirits Rest Horse and Animal Sanctuary. We also worked with local Police, Dog Wardens, Bexley Cats Protection Groups, Lost and Found Group, SLAIN, Bluewater, Jollyes the Pet People Superstore, Asda Greenhithe and a number of Morrisons supermarkets in our area. In addition to our local RSPCA Inspectors, we pitched in and helped with animals from South London when that RSPCA Branch had to cease operations.

In 2023 we had stands at several events, the biggest being Dartford Big Day Out and Wilmington Fair.



Our website is a great place to keep up with news about everything we are doing <https://www.rspca-kentnorthwest.org.uk/>

Finally, I would say that if you are reading this report then you are obviously interested in animal welfare in our area. We are always looking for people to join our committee and no previous experience is required, as training is provided. If you would like to know more about becoming a Trustee, then email becky@rspca-kentnorthwest.org.uk or call me on 07737 045522.

**COULD YOU BE OUR
NEXT TRUSTEE?**

Report From Emma Byrne Branch Animal Welfare, Community and Education Officer (ACE)

Commitment to Animal Welfare and Collaboration

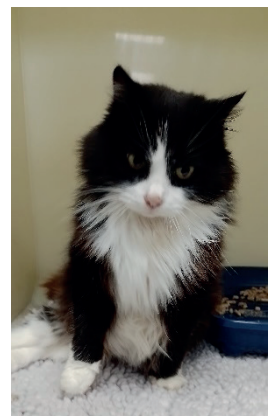
The biggest demand remained cat welfare, with 2023 seeing numerous successful rehabilitation and rehoming efforts. Our collaboration with various RSPCA Rehoming Centres including Canterbury and District Branch has been pivotal in achieving:

- Efficient Rehabilitation and Rehoming: Cats are rehabilitated and rehomed quickly, benefiting both organisations and reducing our costs.
- Cost-Effective Operations: Joint efforts with Canterbury and District Branch allow for efficient resource sharing, maintaining high-quality care for the cats while reducing operational costs.

Case Study: Talia the Cat - Resilience and Recovery

Background

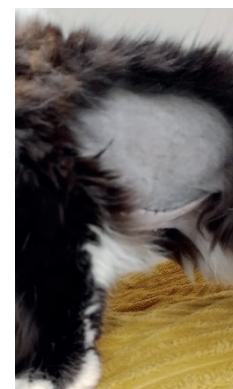
Easipetcare referred “Talia”, a young cat found unable to walk in a garden. With no known owner and urgent care needed, immediate intervention was crucial.



Initial Assessment and Treatment

Instead of transferring Talia to another vets as we would have done previously, we transferred her directly to Canterbury and District for a comprehensive evaluation, minimising suffering and saving

both time and money. Initial exams and X-rays showed potential spinal or internal injuries affecting her mobility.



Treatment Plan

- Medical Investigations: Extensive tests were done to assess Talia's injuries and ensure she retained bowel and bladder control.
- Surgical Intervention: Surgery revealed Talia's spleen was in three pieces, a complex condition requiring immediate attention. The team successfully attempted the challenging repair.

Recovery and Rehabilitation

Despite facing a tough recovery, Talia remained resilient and cheerful. The team provided constant care, monitoring, medications, and emotional support, even monitoring remotely by camera.

Rehoming

After a full recovery, Talia found a loving home. Her new family adores her, sharing updates of her happy life.



Diverse Species

While we primarily focus on cat welfare, we've rehabilitated and rehomed various species this year, including rats, mice, gerbils, and rabbits. In a challenging case, a home with five rabbits led to unexpected litters and financial strain for the owner.

Intervention and Assistance

- Neutering and Vaccination: We arranged neutering and vaccination for all rabbits.
- Transport and Support: We provided transport to vet appointments and financial aid.
- Reintegration and Rehoming: All 5 rabbits signed over for rehoming with the original pair successfully reintroduced.



Assistance to Dogs



Despite not having our own kennels, we assist dogs in need. Cosmo was living in very poor conditions and was at risk of physical harm.

Intervention and Rescue

After some careful work he was surrendered into our care.

Rehabilitation

Cosmo, a vibrant and eager-to-please 2-year-old, lacked stimulation and attention. Under the care of Thanet Animal Centre,

he thrived and quickly learned new skills.



Rehoming

Cosmo found a loving home with a young couple who adore him. He has gained weight, continues to learn, and happily settles into his new life.



Community Outreach and Education

In addition to our hands on welfare work, we have been actively involved in community outreach. We provide pet



food to the following food banks; Hive Hope, Northfleet and Slade Green and Erith Swap shop and food bank. I run in store pet food collections at four supermarkets and collect a semi regular donation from Jollyes, The Pet People and Morrisons Sidcup. Both of our Shops have helped us by collecting donated pet food.

Along with cat and dog food we provide leaflets about our services such as neutering and assistance with vet bills. We will do whatever we can to help

struggling owners to be able to keep their pets happy and healthy through these tough times

Preventing Cruelty and Promoting Welfare:

Our commitment to preventing cruelty and promoting animal welfare has led us to spread our message to as many people in the community as possible. I get out to meet as many people as I can.

School Talks: Educating students about responsible pet ownership and animal welfare. Last year I spoke to 2,000 children.

Social Group Talks: Engaging with social groups to raise awareness and foster compassion towards animals. These have included Parkinsons Society, Gravesend, Swanley Police Cadets, Kent Fire and Rescue, Bluewater Community Forum, Bluewater police engagement day, Dartford Animal Community.

Event Attendance: Participating in community events to connect with the public, share information, and promote our cause, including Dartford's Big Day Out and a Kent fire and rescue initiative on Dartford Heath to highlight the risks to wildlife and pets of fire on the Heath.

Free Cat Microchipping Day at our Gravesend RSPCA Shop

This not only ensured 14 cats were microchipped but it also signposted our customers to other services such as neutering, of which 7 took us up on the opportunity.

In conclusion, 2023 has been a year of growth, collaboration, and impactful work. Our ongoing collaboration with the Canterbury and District Branch has been a key factor in our success, enabling us to rehabilitate and rehome cats efficiently and cost-effectively. Additionally, our community outreach and education initiatives have allowed us to make a positive difference in the lives of animals and the people who care for them.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the charity trustees for their continued support and guidance. Together, we are making a difference and building a brighter future for animals in need.

Emma Byrne - Animal Welfare, Community and Education Officer (ACE)



Animal Welfare Administrator Report – John Bowley

Animal Welfare 2023

As in previous years 2023 has proven to be both very busy and rewarding where issues relating to animal welfare are concerned. The primary contacts dealt with on a daily basis are calls received from members of the public via the Gordon Road helpline, veterinary practices, Inspectorate and to a lesser degree, police, fire brigade, and social service departments.

Members of the public

Calls received from members of the public cover a wide range of requests for advice and assistance. These will include financial assistance for pet owners in receipt of benefits to help with vet bills. Occasionally assistance will be provided where owners are not in receipt of a benefit but are suffering hardship. The number of calls received during a seven day period varies from day to day with occasionally just a few up to maybe twenty.

Veterinary Practices

The Branch primarily has dealings with four practices, Mead Road, Shrubbery, Meopham and Swanscombe although as and when required the Branch does deal with other practices within the DA and BR8 postcode area. During 2023 the Branch has been dealing with veterinary practices located in Dover and Folkestone. These practices primarily care for all the rabbits which are cared for at Paws by the Coast. The Branch has built up a very good working relationship with all practices and Shrubbery offers cat neutering service at discounted rates for those pet owners in receipt of a benefit. It has always been the policy of the Branch to build and extend vet practice/Branch relationship as this has proven beneficial to the Inspectorate when animals from the Branch area are taken directly to the vet for treatment.

Inspectorate

As with the veterinary practices, the Branch has developed a very good working relationship with the Inspectorate and ARO's. The Branch will always be available to assist any officer whether it might be identifying the nearest veterinary practice, finding a suitable placement for an animal whether it be an RSPCA centre or if necessary, a private boarding establishment. The Branch will always strive to assist the Inspectorate in order to hopefully make their job a bit easier.

RSPCA Animal Centres and Paws by the Coast

The Branch has dealings with several RSPCA animal centres including Ashford Garden Cattery, Bluebell Ridge Cattery and Canterbury and Dover (CADAC). Paws by the Coast is a private boarding establishment that cares for our many rabbits that the Branch is responsible for. Once again the Branch has developed a very good relationship with all these centres and animals taken in are soon found their forever home.

Private Boarding Establishments

When spaces are not immediately available at an RSPCA centre then the Branch will arrange for a temporary placement at a Private Boarding Establishment. The two PBE's are The Lodge at Biggin Hill and The Gables located in Swanley. These have proven invaluable at busy times and the Branch is also offered a preferential daily rate.

Other Services

Whilst not as frequent as other calls, the Branch does receive calls from organisations including the police, fire brigade and social services. Often in these instances we can direct the caller to the appropriate department.

Reacting to changes

XL Bullies - This suddenly became an issue in the latter part of the year when the government made a surprise announcement about adding XL Bullies to the list of breeds banned under the Dangerous Dogs Act. We reacted and are giving financial assistance to qualifying owners to help them get their XL Bullies neutered in order to get them exempted.

Charity Shops Report

There are increasing challenges in running a profitable charity shop including rising wage costs, utility bills and rent. In addition, more people now sell their own second-hand clothes online. It is not an easy time for charities on the high street and we are feeling the pinch too. Our Gravesend Shop in Windmill Street had a steady year with a profit of £22,000.

In 2023 our Dartford Shop was facing a huge rise in rent and so we reduced the size of the shop by half. We were still struggling to make enough to cover the costs and so we are moving to a new location in Dartford in 2024. (You can now find us in Unit 30 of The Orchard Centre, Dartford). Despite a monumental effort by our Treasurer, Eric Grover, Shop Manager and team of volunteers, Dartford Shop made only £1,000 profit in 2023. We are looking forward to positive changes in 2024 in our new location.

The Trustees extend our sincere thanks to the shop staff, volunteers, customers and those who donate.

SHOP PROFITS

		Income	Expenditure	Profit
2023	Dartford	£44,969	£45,724	£1k
	Gravesend	£66,946	£44,894	£22k
2022	Dartford	51,332	33,955	17k

	Gravesend	67,828	40,748	27k
2021	Dartford	38k + COVID grant of 12k = total 50k	28,912	£21k
	Gravesend	46k + COVID grant of 16k = total 62k	31,197	£31k
2020	Dartford	26k + COVID Grant 27k = total 54k	51,718	£2k
	Gravesend	33k + COVID Grant 11k = total 44k	25,519	£20k
2019	Dartford	65,857	62,126	£4k
	Gravesend	71,398	31,504	£40k
2018	Dartford	66,481	65,827	£1k
	Gravesend	72,776	30,720	£42k
2017	Dartford	67,437	61,199	£6k
	Gravesend	73,174	31,699	£41k

Over the last seven years our Dartford Charity Shop has raised an average of £7,000 per annum. An upturn resulted when the current team of volunteers took over the running of the shop in 2020. However, we have since started paying a part time Manager and the rent also increased in 2023 so we actually made a loss. There will be major changes in 2024 and we are hoping to see a major improvement. Over the last seven years our Gravesend Shop has raised an average of £32,000 per annum (we own the freehold for this premises so that no rent is paid.)





Chief Inspector's Annual Report - 2023 London South Group

Chief Inspector Mark Miles 468

Personnel:

C/I Mark Miles
DCI Lynn Serrano
Inspector Harriet Dalliday
Inspector Emily Buckett
ARO Mat Hawkins
ARO Emma Haines
ARO Portia Mearns
ARO Sidonie Smith
ARO Latia Pennant
ARO Yalina Blumer

Branches covered :

London South East Branch
South London Branch
Bromley & District Branch
Purley, Caterham & District Branch
Kent North West Branch
Wimbledon, Wandsworth & Sutton District Branch

Welcome to the 2023 Chief Inspector's report for London South group

2023 was another busy year for the Group with yet more new recruits joining the Team. This proved challenging in terms of trying to train people whilst simultaneously continuing frontline services. I am pleased to say that the group rose to the challenge and I would like to thank the group for their motivation, positivity and resilience in difficult circumstances throughout the year.

In addition to the paid staff we have a number of Animal Rescue Volunteers (ARV) who are becoming more and more involved with collections and transfers in the Group. They are proving to be really worthwhile and are a valued part of the team. We have 4 who regularly give up their own time and are in the process of recruiting several more. As time goes on it is hoped we can upskill them to allow them to assist in a wider variety of tasks.

Finally, on behalf of everyone in the London South Group, a big thank you to all of the London and Kent Branches, members and volunteers for making us feel so welcome at your meetings and for all the difficult and invaluable work you have done throughout 2023 and into this year already. Without you dedicating your time and efforts we would not be able to achieve all that we do.

In terms of stats to give you an idea of the volume of work carried out by officers in London South during 2023, we:

Attended 2400 Incidents

Gave out 240 Welfare notices advising on improvements needed and 34 Warning notices which are recommendations of a more serious nature.

In our area in 2023

Mat Hawkins was called to a horse thoroughly tangled in barbed wired in Erith Marshes. Lucky for him the horse was well natured and extremely patient as it took Mat over an hour to cut away all the wired. Luckily there was no damage and the horse walked away unscathed.





Chief Inspector's Annual Report - 2023 KENT GROUP

Chief Inspector Nick Wheelhouse
ARO Lisa Miller 16142
ARO Brian Milligan 11516
ARO Lynn White 6833
ARO Emily Hoad 18091
Inspector Dave Grant 173
Inspector Grace Harris-Bridge 15085
Inspector Clive Hopwood 16768
Inspector Tina Nash 10608
Inspector Kirsten Ormerod 16741
Inspector Rosie Russon 723
Inspector Rosie Wren 14023
Inspector Deborah Rutherford 15892

Welcome to the 2023 Kent Group annual branch report. A few team changes in 2023 we said goodbye to two officers: Inspector Rosie Wren and ARO Lisa Miller who have both moved on from the Society. We thank them for their hard work in 2023 and wish them the best of luck in their new ventures. We also saw a transfer of ARO Emily Hoad to the group from London East, who was a welcome addition to the Kent Group. Emily settled in well with the team and took on board the training provided by the team. Emily put in a transfer request to move to Hertfordshire at the end of 2023 and was successful in her application. We will see Emily move on to the Herts/Beds Group in early January 2024. We thank Emily for her hard work during her time in the Kent Group and wish her the best for her move in January. We also saw the start of the recruitment of three new AROs to the Kent group, which we will be interviewing and welcoming to the group in 2024.

As always, the start of the year 2023 gave us the opportunity to catch up on essential Health & Safety and mandatory training to prepare us for the year ahead and officers setting their own priorities for the year, including equine training, small animal care and completing developmental courses.

The unexpected cost of living crisis which developed in 2022 and continued throughout 2023 impacted the community and we saw more genuine need in people who may have owned pets for a long time but found their circumstances had taken a downward turn. A number of branches were able to assist with veterinary care and supplying pet food to those in need, for which we are very grateful.

We saw a jump in case investigations completed by the Inspectors in the group to 35 submitted cases in 2023, with some cases coming from neighbouring groups, which we have continued to support. Dealing with case investigations is not an easy part of

the job faced by the Inspectorate and the decision to progress to a case investigation is not something that is taken lightly. Officers will always do what they can to keep an animal in situ and support the owners to make improvements, particularly with the cost of living crisis continuing, however the increase in cases has shown that there is still an increase in serious cases of neglect and cruelty.

Throughout the year avian influenza kept a tight hold on both wild and domestic bird populations and the group had many calls for ill and stricken birds, particularly swans, geese and seabirds which fall into the highest risk category. We were particularly saddened to see first hand the way the disease decimated the wild gannet population along the coast in Kent. Although the group is glad that they do carry the means to end suffering humanely - it still takes its toll when dealing with and seeing such vast numbers of suffering wildlife - and for their extra hard work and professionalism dealing with this disease, I am grateful. As we progressed towards the end of 2023 this eased, with Mallydams Wildlife centre continuing to increase their intake of wildlife.

Without the support of the Regional Board and Branch networks, we would simply not be as effective in rescuing animals in all sorts of predicaments. The field officers are under significant pressure and your continued patience and support is very much appreciated. Your work in supporting members of the public with funding, helping rehome unwanted animals, and caring for the sick and traumatised is to be commended. It can be a thankless task but I can assure you my team and I fully appreciate the hard work you and your teams put in.

In Kent we helped rescue, collect and rehabilitate thousands more animals from situations that would have resulted in severe injury and suffering. Within the Kent group you have officers who specialise in wildlife, specialist flood rescue, Inland boat rescue, and equine rescue to name but a few.

Our thanks goes out to our team of Animal Rescue Volunteers, who continue to provide support to the Inspectorate Group, Branch Network and Animal Centres. They completed a whopping 123 tasks in 2023. They will often travel huge distances to move animals to new homes or other centres. Their work is invaluable in supporting the Inspectorate group, allowing officers time to continue to work on incidents of cruelty and neglect and allowing us to respond quicker to these calls.

We wish to offer our thanks to Kent Police for their invaluable assistance in exercising their powers of entry, search, seizure and occasionally arrest of people who mistreat their animals. Our thanks also go to Kent Fire and Rescue Service for the many occasions that they have helped with rescues of animals that have got themselves trapped or in difficulty and we have needed their equipment and manpower to resolve the situation.

Of course we have not forgotten the RSPCA animal centres that take in our animals, care for them and eventually rehome them. Our sincere thanks to the Branch catteries and kennels that board, care for and rehome our animals, usually at very short notice and at the most inconvenient times, and to the experts who care for our sick and injured wildlife until they have been rehabilitated and are able to be released back into the wild.

We are also supported by Veterinary Practices from all across Kent. The support they provide helps us bring justice for animals, and support for the sick & injured. We work with other charities such as World Horse Welfare, The British Horse Society, Folly Wildlife Hospital and numerous more. We are most grateful to them all.

Finally, on behalf of everyone in the Kent group, a big thank you to all of the Branches, members and volunteers for making us feel so welcome at your meetings and for all the difficult and invaluable work you have done throughout 2023. Without you dedicating your time and efforts we would not be able to achieve all that we do.

Here are some of the many jobs we dealt with in 2023 in your branch areas...

Kent North West



In North West Kent we have rescued wildlife including swans, snakes, foxes and owls. Farm animals including lambs and chickens as well as rescuing horses, cats, ferrets and dogs with the support of Kent North West Branch as well as providing financial aid to a number of domestic animals and neutering

Inspector Kirsten Ormerod went to this poor fox in Swanley that got his head stuck in someone's fence! Kirsten carefully managed to lift the fox out of the fencing. After monitoring the fox was found to be unharmed and healthy so was released back in the area. Animal Rescue Officer Brian Milligan rescued this swan that had a hook in its beak in Swanley. Brian took the swan to RSPCA Mallydams and after a week of assessment and treatment Inspector Tina Nash released it back to the lake happily.

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

KENT NORTH - WEST BRANCH
(Registered Charity No. 210633)

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

and

BALANCE SHEET

- for the year ended -

31st DECEMBER 2023

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.
KENT, NORTH-WEST BRANCH
(Registered Charity No: 210633)**

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is incorporated under an Act of Parliament and each Branch is governed by the rules of the Society. The Kent, North-West Branch is an incorporated and a registered Charity No. 210633. The Administrative Office of the Branch is at 37, Gordon Road Dartford Kent DA1 2LG.

The day to day affairs of the Branch are managed by a Branch Committee. During 2023 the members of the Branch Committee were:

Mr B. Charman	Branch Chairman
Mr E.J. Grover.	Branch Treasurer
Mr. J. A. Bowley.	Branch Animal Welfare Administrator.
Mr. T. Maddison	Branch Trustee
Mrs K. Maycock	Branch Trustee
Mrs H. Taylor	Branch Trustee
Mr D. Wordsworth	Branch Trustee

During the year, the Branch operated two Charity Shops. At Dartford the Charity Shop the management was undertaken by a volunteer Group until March 26th when the Branch appointed Mrs Jayne Garcia to a part time post as Joint manager A Full Time Manager and 2 Part Time casual Deputy Managers were employed at the Branch Charity Shop at 161, Windmill Street, Gravesend Also, during the year, the Branch employed a part time Branch Manager. The role of Branch Treasurer was filled during the year and the role of Branch Secretary was filled in August 2023. The Branch also employs a part time Animal Welfare Officer who combines her role with education and fund raising. The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year was six.

The object of the Charity is to promote kindness and 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 objectives.

The Charity is dependent on donations and fund raising to pay for its activities. The Branch also receives part of the subscriptions paid by members. The Branch constitution is approved by the National RSPCA umbrella body, Charity No.219099, which is considered a related party for accounting purposes. During the financial year, the Branch received a total of £23094.00p (Door to Door Campaign) grant funding from the National RSPCA for the Branch's purposes, and also received grants of £7100.00 in support of Rabbit care and a sum of £2.900.00 for the provision of additional Rabbit Accommodation. Additionally grants were receive to support emergency veterinary support for veterinary care in the sum of £5326.22 plus a VAT grant of £1097.65. The Branch has agreed to fund a set of scales the Branch Equine Centre at Leybourne and a Regional Grant was received in the sum of £4100 to meet the cost of the scales and this is held in a holding account until such times as the Scales are purchased.

The Branch also receives a number of umbrella body services, including legacy administration under the Branch Legacy Scheme, membership administration and practical guidance and assistance from a Branch Partnership Manager (formerly Branch Support Specialist) employed by the National Society. The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge paid by the charity during the year was £2099.20

Details of the Charity's activities are disclosed in the accounts. There have been no significant activities during the year requiring a report to the Charity Commissioners. Legacies and In Memoriam donations to the value of £156.05p were received during the year. Details of assets held by the Branch are disclosed in the accounts. There have been no material post balance sheet events.

E.J. Grover,
Branch Treasurer
20th March 2024

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

KENT NORTH-WEST BRANCH

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2023

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>	
Balance brought forward	1,137,213.40		1,121,487.22	
Property Revaluations in Year	-		-	
Surplus for the Year	(40,829.07)		15,726.18	
	-----		-----	
	1,096,384.33		1,137,213.40	
	=====		=====	
BRANCH RESTRICTED FUNDS:				
L.C.Croucher Legacy for Equip	23,503.35		23,222.66	
		23,503.35		23,222.66
BRANCH GENERAL FUNDS:				
Fixed Assets(Note1)				
Property 158,Parrock Street Gr	263,000.00		263,000.00	
Property 37,Gordon Road,Dartf	205,000.00		205,000.00	
Property 10 Miskin Road,Dartfc	196,870.33		196,870.33	
Property 161,Windmill Street,G	168,749.50		168,749.50	
Branch Vehicle	6,197.00		8,096.00	
Dartford Shop Refurb	7,242.76			
Rabbit Accomodation	2,844.72		3,221.86	
	-----		-----	
		849,904.31		844,937.69
Current Assets				
Nat West Capital Reserve Accr	206,350.82		203886.50	
Debtors & Prepayments	6,086.07		4035.67	
Branch Pay Pal Account	713.43		713.43	
Cash at Bank & In Hand	31,545.21		72363.65	
	-----		-----	
	244,695.53		280999.25	
less Creditors	- 12,143.86		(6,471.20)	
Balance Rabbit Awareness Prc	- 2,000.00		(2,000.00)	
Balance Staffie Matched Fundii	- 1,575.00		(1,575.00)	
Balance Female Cat Spaying P	- 1,900.00		(1,900.00)	
Horse Scales	- 4,100.00			
Net Current Assets		222,976.67		269,053.05
TOTAL BRANCH GENERAL FUNDS		1,072,880.98		1,113,990.74
		-----		-----
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS		1,096,384.33		1,137,213.40
		=====		=====

E.J.Grover. **BRANCH TREASURER**

John A.Bowley **BRANCH TRUSTEE**

R.S.P.C.A. KENT NORTH WEST BRANCH.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (PAGE 1 of 2)

INCOMING RESOURCES:

Incoming resources from generated funds	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>		
(i) Donations, legacies and other incoming resources:				
General Donations	1390.75	1,440.65		
Donations via ACE	779.16	50.00		
Collecting Boxes	1417.97	1,634.94		
Door to Door Campaign	23094.00	23,218.00		
Income from Legacies & In Memorium donations	156.05	407.50		
Rabbit Care Support Grants from RSPCA	7100.00	4,098.00		
Veterinary Support Grant from RSPCA	5326.22			
Veterinary Support Grant VAT from RSPCA	1097.65			
Food Banks Support from RSPCA	866.96	0.00		
Sundry Income	235.16	32.21	30,861.30	
	41463.92			
(ii) Activities for generating funds.				
Sale of donated items Dartford Shop	41,880.96	48,703.70		
Sale of donated items Gravesend Shop	66,246.10	66,621.41		
Sale of donated items Ebay	534.45			
Sale of Rags Dartford Shop	662.29	976.57		
Sale of Rags Gravesend Shop	679.79	767.74		
Income from Recycling	0.00	0.00		
Sale of RSPCA Logoed Items	186.37	307.40		
Sale of non RSPCA Logoed Items	20.94	25.50		
Income from Rehoming Fees - Rabbits	4,735.00	2,947.50		
Income from Rehoming Fees - Cats	1,615.00			
Special Events	163.92	507.20	120,857.02	
	116,724.82			
(iii) Investment Income				
Income from renting of Gravesend Property	15,210.00	14,880.00		
Income from renting of Dartford Properties	25,037.00	21,778.00		
Interest Bank A/cs	2745.01	493.26	37,151.26	
	42,992.01			
(iv) Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Subscription Income	468.00	426.50	426.50	
	468.00		426.50	
Total Incoming Resources:	201,648.75		158,434.78	

R.S.P.C.A. KENT NORTH WEST BRANCH.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (PAGE 2 of 2)

RESOURCES EXPENDED:

	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>	
(i) Costs of generating Funds				
Staff Costs at Gravesend Shop	32,744.46		28,555.72	
Staff Costs at Dartford Shop	10,208.48		0.00	
Staff Costs Branch Manager	23,955.51		21,444.83	
Staff Costs ACE	13,873.67		6,117.27	
Branch EE Pension Costs	2,099.20			
Shop Equipment	1,606.46			
Rent Dartford Shop	19,250.00		23,500.00	
Rates Gravesend Shop	1,071.40		580.00	
Rates 37 Gordon Road	135.56		0.00	
Branch Events	205.32			
Branch Training	58.96			
Cost of Goods for Resale	484.06		160.80	
Shop Overheads	24337.83	130,030.91	22,628.37	102,986.99
(ii) Charitable activities				
(a) resources granted in furtherance of the Branch's objectives				
Care of Animals - RABBITS	7,238.09		19,801.89	
Care of Animals - CATS & OTHERS	28,848.62			
Care of Animals - FOOD BANK SUPPORT	805.28			
Regional Quota/Branch Contribution	515.00		551.00	
Microchipping	233.15		374.33	
Branch Neutering Scheme - RABBITS	3,271.44		3,214.89	23,942.11
Branch Neutering Scheme - CATS & OTHERS	2,376.35	43,287.93		
(b) costs of activities in furtherance of the Branch's objectives				
Veterinary Fees Dartford Clinic	0.00		Nil	
Veterinary Fees Gravesend Clinic	0.00		Nil	
Veterinary Fees Emergency and other cases	22,140.60		12,627.74	
Drugs and Medicines	7,840.92		4,369.79	
		29,981.52		16,997.53
(c) support costs for (a) and (b).				
Travelling Expenses	1702.70		70.20	
Branch Vehicle costs	3684.96			
Printing and Stationery	1288.77		904.17	
Postage and Telephone	2499.22		1595.02	
Electricity Gas and water	1579.47		382.55	
Insurance and Security Costs	2854.83		1996.51	
Maintenance & Repairs	5108.90		6181.12	
Waste Disposal Costs		Shop O/heads	-	Shop O/heads
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	5,544.73		-	
Professional fees (Properties/Bank)	8177.77		6873.79	
Sundry Expenditure	1591.20		175.00	
Irrecoverable VAT	4154.01	38,186.56	3661.05	21,839.41
(d) Governance costs.				
Meetings	340.90		290.83	
Professional fees (Audit)	650.00	990.90	650.00	940.83
Total Resources Expended:		242,477.82	166,706.87	

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS
KENT NORTH-WEST BRANCH
(Registered Charity No: 210633)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES.

The principal accounting policies of the Branch are set out below. The policies have remained unchanged from the previous year.

(a) Basis of Accounting.

The financial statements have been prepared under historical cost conventions and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

(b) Income.

Income is accounted for when received.

(c) Depreciation of Tangible assets.

During 2005 the Branch Trustees conducted a review of the methods used to depreciate Capital Expenditure. It was concluded that the use of a 10% reducing balance gave an unrealistic value of the items over a long term. In future all tangible capital assets would be written off over a determined period with each case of expenditure to be determined at the time of purchase. Details of the period of write off would be recorded in the Branch Asset Register.

As a result of the trustees revised policies the following items were written off at the following rates:

Freehold Buildings.	Nil. During 2013 the Trustees arranged for the revaluation of some of the Branch Property. During 2018 a further revaluation of the property at 158, Parrock Street, Gravesend, was carried out. The results of that revaluations are shown in the Balance Sheet. The valuations were prepared on an open market basis by McConnells, Chartered Surveyors.
---------------------	--

Shop Fixtures and Fittings.

All of the original assets held at the Branch Shops have now been written off. The conversion costs for the development of the Dartford Shop Premises are to be written off over

the ten year period of the lease, and were finally depreciated during 2020.

Furniture, Plant and Equipment. The use of a 10% reducing balance was reviewed during the year and it was agreed that the Branch Vehicle and Rabbit Accommodation, purchased during the year should be written off over a five year period. All previous items under this heading have now been written off.

(d) Irrecoverable VAT

It is the Branch's policy to write off irrecoverable VAT through the Income & Expenditure account when incurred.

2. FIXED ASSETS.

	Freehold Property.	Branch Shops Fix & Fitt.	Furniture Plant and Equipment.	TOTAL
Balance at 1 st Jan. 2023	833,619.83	Nil	10,961.86	844,581.69
Additions		9,877.28	3,757.67	13,634.95
RSPCA Grant Rab.Acc			(2,900.00)	(2,900.00)
Depreciate Branch Van			(1,899.00)	(1,899.00)
Depreciate Rab Acc.			(878.81)	(878.81)
Depreciate Shop Refurb		(2,634.52)		(2,634.52)
Balance at 31st Dec 2023	833,619.83	7,242.76	9,041.72	849,904.31
Madee up of:				
Original cost.	837,242.71	60,922.41	21,939.45	905,469.62
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(3,622.88)	(53,679.65)	(12,897.73)	(64,164.07)
	833,619.83	7,242.76	9,041.72	849,904.31

3. BRANCH (formerly the REGIONAL) NEUTERING SCHEME.

During 2023 the Branch continued to offer all of its established services including the well-established Branch Neutering Scheme. The expenditure on this service increased significantly as the Branch took on more cases of Rabbits. occasioned by the tremendous impact of the number of rabbits abandoned in the Branch area and because the Branch adapted to the needs of these and other rabbits in a similar plight, was able to establish a specialty in the system of acceptance, fostering and care, the Branch soon became adept in the acceptance fostering care and rehoming in the care of these most maligned animals. Since the inception

was made on the retained fund. The service will remain available during 2024. During the year, the Branch continued to offer to spay female cats from the age of four months and originally conducted jointly from 2015 with Cat Protection however from 2020 the Branch has continued to offer the service bearing the whole of the cost, as the funding from Cats Protection ceased in 2018. During 2023 only two cats were treated under this project. No application was made for support to this service from the Regional Joint Funding funds held for this purpose. The funds will be available in 2024 should the need arise.

A summary of the total expenditure in respect of the three services is as follows:

Branch Neutering Scheme:

Rabbits (55)	£3,271.44p	
Cats& other (30Cats/8Dogs)	£2,174.66p	
Total:		£5446.10p

Female Cat Spaying Project:

Expenditure in respect of Cat Spaying	£ 201.69p (3)	
Total:		£ 201.69p

Total as per accounts: **£5647.79p**

4. DONATIONS/GRANTS.

Where appropriate included in the heading Donation/Grants for 2023 would be the contribution made to the Branch in the form of Regional Matched Funding Grants. No Matched funding Grants were applied in 2023 The figure in the Accounts is therefore summarised as follows:

General Donations.	£1390.75p
ACE Donations	£ 779.18p
TOTAL.£	2169.93p

5. SPECIAL EVENTS.

The Branch Trustees are conscious of the efforts need to undertake Special Events on behalf of the Branch. Sadly the after effects of Covid continued to restrict the activities required to undertake a special event.

A sum of £163 92P has been allocate to Special Events although many of the activities undertaken by our ACO attracted donations which have not been recorded as Special Events.

6. HEAT, LIGHT, WATER & RATES.

Payments made in respect of the items included within this heading are summarised as follows:

	<u>Electricity.</u>	<u>Gas.</u>	<u>Water.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dartford Shop	£3991.71p		£ 217.18p	£4208.89p
Gravesend Shop	£2575.81p	£613.58p	£209.61p	£3399.00p
Branch.	£ 316.66p	£1047.49p	£452.30p	£1816.45p
			TOTAL	<u>£9424.34p</u>

7. PROFESSIONAL FEES

Professional fees include the following amounts for the Independent Examination of the Branch's Accounts:

<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
£650.	£650.

8. CREDITORS.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Trade.	£11,343.86p	£5,271.20p
Accruals	£ 800.00p	£1,200.00p p
	-----	-----
	£ 12,143.86	£ 6.471.20p
	-----	-----

9. TRUSTEES REMUNERATION & EXPENSES.

No Trustee or connected person received any remuneration during the year.

10. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS.

The Branch had no Capital Commitments at the end of the year.

RSPCA, KENT,NORTH WEST BRANCH

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2022

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS DURING THE YEAR

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
TABLE ONE: STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS		
<i>Net Cash provided by (used in) operating activities</i>	(40,829)	14,150
<i>Cash Flows from investing activities</i>		
Purchase of property,plant and equipment		-
<i>Net Cash Provided by (used in) investing activities</i>	(40,829)	14,150
<i>Cash Flows from financing activities:</i>		
Repayments of borrowing		
<i>Net Cash Provided by (used in) financing activities</i>		
<i>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</i>	(40,829)	14,150
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</i>	292,737	292,497
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</i>	261,399	292,737
TABLE TWO: RECONCILIATION ON NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
<i>Net Income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)</i>	(40,829)	15,694
<i>Adjustments for :</i>		
Depreciation charges	5545	2,704
Transfer of Funds		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	2050	7,172
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	5673	2,824
<i>Net cash provided by operating activities</i>	(27,561)	28,494
TABLE THREE : ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash in Hand	261,399	292,737

STATEMENT OF THE BRANCH COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES.

Rule 3.3 of the R.S.P.C.A. Branch Rules (January 2003 edition) empowers the Branch, subject to certain conditions, to raise funds in the name of the Branch for the General or any special purposes of the Branch or for any purpose of the Society or another Branch but all fundraising must be authorised by and reported promptly to the Branch Committee.

Rule 7.1 provides that the Branch Committee as charity trustees have responsibility for the Branch and its property and funds.

Rule 11.1 requires that the Branch Committee must comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 as to the keeping of financial records, the audit or independent examination of accounts and the preparation and transmission to the Charities Commission of:

annual reports.
annual returns; and
annual statements of account.

STATEMENT OF BRANCH RISKS MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Branch has identified the major risks to which it is exposed and has put into place systems and procedures to minimise the risks, as follows:

- (i) **Misappropriation of funds.** To prevent peculation of the Branch's assets, it has set up an internal control system which requires authorisation of all transactions by a person independent of the Branch Treasurer. Income at the Branch's Shops is monitored by the recording of receipts by an electronic till and a check of receipts is made at the end of each working day by the Duty Manager. The Branch also maintains an asset register for all Capital assets.
- (ii) **Monitoring of income to ensure that there are sufficient resources to meet commitments.** The Branch Officers regularly monitor resources to ensure that there are funds available to meet its commitments.
- (iii) **Reliance on Sources of income.** The Branch has in recent years, opened two Charity Shops to improve the income that is required to meet the demands on it services. In 2012 The Branch purchased a property with the purpose of renting to a tenant and producing additional income. During 2013 the Branch Trustees agreed to lease the ground floor of 158, Parrock Street Gravesend on a commercial basis. The lease was completed in 2014. A new lease in respect of the property was granted in 2017 for a period of 10 years. Also, during the year 2013 the Branch purchased the property 161 Windmill Street, Gravesend and this will in the longer term eliminate the liability to pay rent on the property. The Branch now rents a total of four properties which continue to produce additional income for the Branch.
- (iv) **A Commitment to fund Capital Projects.** The Branch has adopted a number of objectives to meet its service provision in the medium and long term. It has agreed that no progress can be made on these projects until sufficient resources are in place to fund any project to arise from those objectives.
- (v) **Loss of Key Volunteers.** The Branch has adopted a policy of recruiting and training, where possible, additional volunteers to undertake various duties that participate in running a Branch of the size and character of the Kent, North

West Branch of the RSPCA.

- (vi) **Security of Shops.** The Branch Trustees have improved the security of Shop Assets by the installation of CCTV units at each of the Branch Charity Shops. In addition, each Shop has arrangements with the Local Authority Shopping Security force and has radio contact with the Centre should the need arise. Branch

STATEMENT OF BRANCH RESERVES POLICY.

The Branch Committee has reviewed the Branch Reserves Policy during the year and has considered that the steps taken to ensure a source of regular income are now adequate to be confident that the resources within the Branch are sufficient to meet its current commitments throughout the coming year and beyond if commitments are continued at the current rate of expenditure. It further considers that a Current Account balance in the range of £10,000.00 to £20,000.00 would be sufficient to meet all arising commitments. It resolved that the Branch reconsider the need for a Branch Development Fund, to accrue a reserve to meet the policy objectives set by the Branch in December 2001. The Branch Committee agreed to review its long-term objectives in the light of estimated requirements of the Branch in respect of the Branch Clinics and animal home facilities. During 2016 the Trustees agreed that the target for the Development Fund should remain at the figure of £1,000, 000.00p. and this would be reviewed in the light of any changing circumstances. During 2017 the Branch Trustees re-considered the retention of a Development Fund in the light of current financial conditions. The Trustees concluded that the aspirations of the Branch developing an Animal Centre in the light of the numbers of animals that come into its care and considering the continuing escalating costs of such a venture, the objective would be unsustainable and therefore concluded that the Development Fund should be dissolved, and the Funds recorded in the General Funds of the Branch.

During 2006, the Branch received a legacy from the estate of the late L.C. Croucher. The legacy has a stipulation that the money should only be expended on equipment to be used in the treatment of animals. The Branch Trustees have therefore agreed that the legacy should be maintained in a separately identifiable account within the Branch Funds and recorded as a Restricted Fund and should be available, only for the purchase of equipment required in connection with the meeting of the Branch's revised objectives. During 2018 the Branch Trustees agreed that some of the equipment costs of the Kent North West Branch, Equine Rehoming Centre could properly be appropriated to this account. Consequently, a sum of £12,545.00 of this fund has been expended on the said Branch Equine Rehoming Centre

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' UNQUALIFIED REPORT.

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of **The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Kent, North - West Branch.**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2023 as set out on pages 23 to 31.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.

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

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

Independent examiners' statement.

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 Trust 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.



Jack Fryer, ACA,
Hedley Dunk Limited,
Trinity House,
3, Bullace Lane,
DARTFORD,
Kent DA1 1BB.

May 2024

Accounts



**RSPCA Kent-North
West Branch**

Registered Charity No. 210633

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2022



Helping even more animals in 2022 thanks to Emma, our brand-new ACE!
(Animal Welfare, Community Engagement and Education Officer)

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Reference and administrative details of the charity, trustees and advisers	1
Branch Chairmans Statement	2
Branch Trustees' and Staff Reports	4
Kent Inspectorate Annual Report	13
London Inspectorate Annual Report	17
Branch Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet	21

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisers for the year ended 31 December 2022

Charity Registered Number; 210633

Names of charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole of year	Method of appointment
Mr B Charman	Chair	From 22/6/22	Elected
Mr E Grover	Chair Treasurer	To 22/6/22 From 22/6/22	Elected
Mr J Bowley			Elected
Mrs J Allen		From 22/6/22 to 1/7/22	Elected
Mr T Maddison			Elected
Ms K Maycock			Elected
Ms H Taylor			Elected
Mrs P Wood		From 22/6/22 to 27/7/22	Elected
Mr D Wordsworth			Elected
Miss L Cartwright		To 22/6/22	Elected
Miss K Hargreaves		To 22/6/22	Elected
Mr C Ireland		To 22/6/22	Elected

Independent Examiner; Jack Fryer, ACA, Hedley Dunk Ltd, Trinity House, 3 Bullace Lane, Dartford DA1 1BB

Bankers; Nat West Bank Plc, 12 High Street, Dartford DA1 1DD

HR and health and safety advisers; Acton Jennings

Charity's principal address; 37 Gordon Road, Dartford DA1 2LG

Note; Correspondence can be addressed to the principal address or info@rspca-kentnorthwest.org.uk

Branch helpline; 01322 286720 Website; www.rspca-kentnorthwest.org.uk

Branch Shops	2/3 Market Place	161 Windmill Street
Shop Managers	DARTFORD DA1 1EX	GRAVESEND DA12 1AH
	Voluntary Management	Mrs V Oakman

Branch Chairman's Statement

As I come to the end of my first year as Chairman of the RSPCA Kent North West branch, I am pleased to present our annual impact report, highlighting the significant progress we have made over the past year. In the face of numerous challenges, our dedicated team of volunteers and staff have worked tirelessly to increase our charitable activities and reach even more animals in need.


My goal is to help guide us towards a prosperous future where we enjoy a significant local presence while delivering wide-reaching impact for animals and their owners within our branch area. I would like to see us become more ambitious, identifying opportunities for bigger projects, while ensuring that our growth is sustainable and financially responsible. Thanks to the careful stewardship of my predecessor, we remain in a robust financial position, with total assets exceeding £1.1million and income of more than £180,000. Over the past year, we have begun to invest more in our animal welfare work, with total spending on animal welfare activities rising by 92% from £22,323 in 2021 to £42,867 in 2022. The result has been that we have been able to help 60% more animals, a total of 535 in 2022. In the process, we have grown in confidence and we're now eager to replicate and build on that success in the year ahead. In particular, we want to ensure that our support evolves to respond to the changing needs of our uncertain world, such as our initiatives to mitigate the effects of the cost-of-living crisis. We will also seek to identify needs which, without us, would otherwise not be met – as we have done very successfully with rabbits.

I would like to personally applaud the efforts of Becky, our branch manager, Emma, our animal welfare (ACE) officer, and John, our animal welfare administrator, without whom we would have been unable to deliver our important animal welfare services. All of the work that we do depends on being able to raise the necessary funds, and for that we owe a debt of gratitude to every one of our charity shop staff and volunteers, who I would name individually if space allowed. Special thanks also to our trustees, who over the past year, have united under a common goal which I hope to continue pursuing together. Finally, I thank Eric, our branch treasurer and former chair, for his unrivalled energy and continuing dedication to our charity.



Ben Charman, Branch Chair RSPCA – Kent North West Branch

IN 2022 WE HAVE...

Spent
£63K 
on helping animals
(an increase of over
50%
on 2021)

Employed our **first ever**

ANIMAL WELFARE OFFICER

to rescue animals locally and educate
children about animal welfare.



£20K
spent on **vet bills**
including helping
170 owners who were struggling



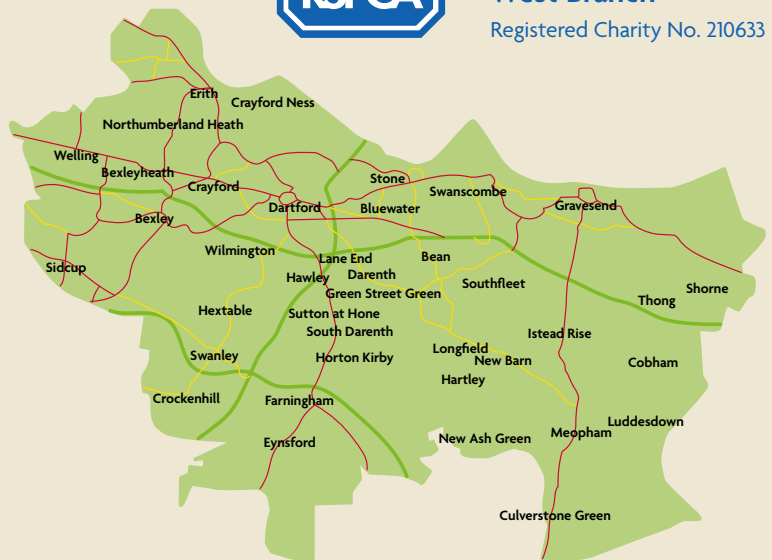
Worked with

18 VETS & 4 OTHER LOCAL CHARITIES



**Kent-North
West Branch**

Registered Charity No. 210633



Last year we helped

535



animals including hamsters, fish, birds, rabbits, cats and dogs.

Rescued **185** abandoned,
abused and neglected animals

(up over **40%** on 2021)



Started to rehome rabbits and
found great homes for over

50 OF THEM IN OUR FIRST YEAR

Our Branch has **neutered**

61 ANIMALS



Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Wilberforce Way, Southwater, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 9RS

0300 1234 999 www.rspca.org.uk

facebook.com/RSPCA twitter.com/RSPCA_official

The RSPCA helps animals in England and Wales.

Registered charity no. 219099.

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rspca-kentnorthwest.org.uk

Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2022

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

Structure, governance and management

The charity is constituted as an unincorporated association. The charity operates as an autonomous Branch of the National RSPCA subject to its rules for Branches (as updated in 2012). In the normal course of business, Committee members are elected at every Annual General Meeting from the members of the Branch, to carry on the work for the ensuing year. Candidates must receive 50% of the votes of the members present. The elected Branch Committee can co-opt not more than three members onto the committee until the next annual general meeting. All Committee members must be Society members for a minimum of three months on appointment.

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 regular meetings at which decisions are made and conveyed to the Branch Manager and other staff for action. The day-to-day running of the shops is delegated to the Shop Managers or the lead team of volunteers.

Aims and objectives, public benefit statement and principle activities

The object of the charity is to promote kindness and good care and 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. Our area of benefit is all DA postcodes plus BR8 postcodes. Any animal that can have a quality of life and can be found a home will not be abandoned by our Branch. Our activities to achieve the objectives include the following activities which are always available:

- To provide veterinary welfare assistance for those on low incomes. This work benefits pet owners who cannot assist their pets themselves and are distressed to witness their pet suffering.
- To provide neutering and microchipping facilities for those on low incomes. This work benefits those members of the public on low income by giving them financial help and promoting responsible pet ownership. Neutering has both behavioural and health benefits for the animal which in turn benefits the owner.
- To support the Society's inspectorate in their work providing financial assistance and emergency accommodation for mistreated or abandoned animals, including pets whose owners suffer ill health or financial difficulties or pass away. The Society's Inspectorate, as well as providing education, information, and advice, rescues animals in distress and enforces laws against the cruel mistreatment of animals in England and Wales by bringing prosecutions. This work is key to 'the prevention or suppression of cruelty' part of the RSPCA objects and promotes humane sentiments

towards animals which involves moral benefit to humankind as a whole. The National Call Centre accepts complaints about animals in distress every day of the year and the public benefits by being able to call in for help when an animal is suffering, which can be very distressing for humans to witness and feel powerless to help.

- To accept stray and owned animals for rehoming or facilitate this by working in partnership with other RSPCA Branches. Animals in our care receive veterinary treatment, vaccination, neutering, microchipping and are assessed for rehoming. This work helps to control the incidence and spread of disease and suffering through vaccination and neutering. The work benefits our local community including local authorities as it reduces the incidence of abandonment and cruelty, and the public knows that we assist animals in need. Whilst we are primarily an animal charity, the service we offer pet owners who cannot assist their pets themselves in times of crisis can relieve much distress for the owner as well as the pet. We take steps to reunite stray animals with their owners which benefits our local community (including local authorities) by preventing animals straying and posing a risk to themselves and to people through road traffic accidents.

- The above activities are largely carried out by John Bowley our volunteer animal Welfare Officer and Emma Byrne a part time member of staff, working in partnership with RSPCA staff, local veterinary practices and other organisations working in the field of animal welfare. In addition, John Bowley runs our busy Branch Helpline which is of great help to the public.

- We provide many volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work, including fostering, fundraising and retail opportunities. This benefits local people and companies by providing the possibility of doing work which is both compassionate and rewarding and offers experience which may assist participants in finding paid work. It is not possible to quantify the financial value of our volunteers but in 2022 we had the benefit of over 3,500 hours of volunteer work. Our two charity shops provide a valuable source of low cost, good quality recycled goods to the benefit of the public and the environment.

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

Achievements and performance

The Branch Trustees have much pleasure in presenting to the Branch Membership, the Annual Report together with the Annual Accounts, Financial Report and Balance Sheet of the Branch. Members can be confident that the Branch remains in a very strong financial position. Thanks to the Trustees activities, at the end of the year the Branch assets increased from the sum of £1,121,487.22 at the conclusion of trading in 2021 to Emma has hit the ground running. £1,137,213.40 at the end of 2022. With

an income of £184,810.54 and expenditure of £173,589.90, we end the year with a surplus of £11,220.64.

After the restrictions on the pandemic the Branch was finally able to move forward with plans and aspirations in 2022. Our primary focus for the period was to increase our charitable activities. We smashed our target of increasing animal welfare activity by 40% and actually achieved a 60% increase. This is a testament to the hard work of a great many Branch volunteers and our small team of staff.

Number of Animals Helped in 2022

	Animals coming into Branch	Animals Rehomed	Neuters	Help with vet bills	Microchips	TOTALS	
2021	131	19	44	119	20	333	60% increase
2022	185	57	61	176	56	535	

We helped 60% more animals and our charitable expenditure rose accordingly

Animal Welfare Expenditure	2021	2022	
Veterinary fees	£11,318	£13,439	
Branch Neutering Scheme	£1,166	£3,215	
Drugs and Medicine	£3,753	£6,037	
Care of animals	£5,869	£19,802	
Chipping and rehoming	£126	£374	
TOTAL	£22,323	£42,867	Up 92%

In addition to rescuing and rehoming more animals, we were also able to diversify our activities thanks to our new employee Emma Byrne (see Emma's Report below). Emma brings to the Branch twenty years' experience working for the national RSPCA in a variety of different roles. The Trustees created this new role to rescue animals but also to educate young people and to increase engagement with the local community.

The cost-of-living increase was already starting to bite in the latter half of 2022. More pet owners needed help with vet costs and even the basics such as buying pet food. In response we started reaching out to local food banks to make sure they had pet supplies and passed on our details to pet owners needing further support such as help with vet bills.

As a Branch we always want to be ready to respond to new emerging animal welfare issues and 2022 certainly challenged us to do this in ways we had not anticipated. On New Years Eve 2021 ten rabbits were abandoned in Sandringham Drive in a

collection of pet carriers. All but one survived the chilly night and fireworks and were discovered and rescued by the RSPCA on New Years Day. As a Branch we had never taken in and cared for rabbits before but this was the impetus we needed to start. We soon discovered that thousands of rabbits, acquired as lockdown pets, were now being abandoned or neglected. We located a private boarding establishment with excellent experience of caring for rescue rabbits and started what has proved to be a very fruitful working relationship with *Paws By the Coast* private boarding establishment. Once we started, we found that the flood gates opened and to our amazement we needed to rescue fifty rabbits in 2022. These rabbits were neutered and microchipped and by the end of the year most of them had gone to lovely new homes. Demand is still high, so we are carrying on with this new area of work. We have even been able to assist a couple of our local rescues such as Spirits Rest and New Hope by taking rabbits for them. We even helped the national RSPCA with a group of rabbits they had had in their care for almost a year, finding them excellent new homes.



Brothers Eric and Ernie were two of the original group of 10 rabbits abandoned in Dartford on New Years Eve who went off to a new home together.

Animal Welfare Officer Report – John Bowley

Our volunteer Animal Welfare Officer, John Bowley works very closely with national society staff, and we pride ourselves on being always available to assist our local RSPCA Inspectors and Animal Rescue Officers. 57% of the animals that we were involved in the rescue of in 2022 came directly from our national society colleagues. Of the 185 animals there were 121 cats, 9 dogs, 52 rabbits and there were also fish, hamsters and terrapins. Mr Bowley acts as principal liaison officer between members of the public, veterinary practices, RSPCA Inspectorate, Logistics, RSPCA Centres and very occasionally police, fire brigade etc. The public help line is fairly constant with perhaps anything between fifteen and twenty calls per day. Nature of the calls varies but would include; worries concerning mistreatment of an animal, financial assistance in respect of veterinary treatment for their pet, seeking to adopt an RSPCA animal, seeking to rehome their pet, seeking general advice in respect of a lost pet.

Animal Welfare, Community Engagement and Education Officer (ACE) Annual Report – Emma Byrne

Having been in post for 6 months now, I am starting to get a better picture of the needs of the region that we cover. As a diverse area, covering both rural and urban areas, we are called on to address a variety of animal welfare needs and I have seen our impact and reach steadily grow over the second half of 2022 since my role was created.

Direct Animal Welfare

As an ACE I have been directly involved in helping around 40 individual animals within our branch area, many of whom were cats but also assisting dogs, rabbits, hamsters and even koi carp. Some of the ways we have helped include, sign over of animals from owners who can no longer cope, stray animals either via vets or the public, abandoned animals and, encouragingly, those few that the owners want to keep but were struggling with either financially or otherwise.

I have also been involved with the adoption of our animals, conducting home visits and delivering animals to their new homes when we have been lucky enough to have applicants from outside our area.

In addition to this I have assisted Inspectors with cases and warrants and dealt with a number of wild animals. Unfortunately, people still seem unsure if we can assist with wildlife so this is an area I hope to grow for the following year.

I have now completed microchip training and, with the impending change in the law regarding the microchipping of cats, this will be a really useful tool for our branch to get as many animals compliant with the law as possible, leading to a reduction in some of the problems listed above.



Harry the stray cat needed surgery on both his ears and eyes before he was ready to find his new home

Bobby the 16-year-old Border Terrier came to us after his owner died. Like Harry he needed very expensive surgery but was otherwise in good health for his age. We got him the help he needed and now he is spending his days extremely happy in a foster home.



Community

As a direct response to the current cost of living crisis, I have done my best to forge relationships with both potential donors of pet food and food banks.

This is a simple solution to remove one cost associated with pet care from those most in need and insure as many pets as possible can stay in loving homes. Morrisons have been very accommodating allowing us to conduct pet food drives in their stores and from that we have a regular donation of food from Sidcup store. In addition, Jollyes the pet people also make regular donations of pet food and accessories they can no longer sell and they also hold a low-cost clinic on a Tuesday afternoon that we can signpost people to. Not forgetting of course, the wonderful work of both of our shops continuing to collect pet food and accessories in their stores.

St Edmunds Church and the Dartford food bank are the most regular beneficiaries of our collections, but we have reached out to all the food banks in the area and have also supplied Bexley food bank and Riverside Community centre in Gravesend on occasion. I keep in constant contact with them in case they need more, they often have limited storage space, so it is a bit of a balancing act.

Another way we work within the community is offering educational talks to schools and other groups. So far, I have conducted 4 school talks and one to the police cadets reaching almost 2000 young people. The talks to primary schools have been focusing on the needs of our pets and improving their lives and I have taken rabbits as an example species given our branches expertise in the area. The police cadets received a bespoke talk on the ways in which the RSPCA and police work together

and has yielded a request for us to provide talks to other branches of the cadets and to the Kent control centre. Here I am on a school visit....



Partnership Working

I am in regular contact with up to 20 veterinary practices in our Branch area. I have forged relationships with many organisations, businesses and charities in the area, including pet food stores, supermarkets, other rescue centres, food banks and schools and this will continue to grow over time.

In 2022 we worked with the following RSPCA Rehoming Centres; Ashford Garden Cattery, Canterbury and District Animal Centre, Bluebell Ridge in Hastings and Isle of Thanet RSPCA Centre. We extend our thanks to them for assisting with our Branch animals. Our Equine Rehoming Facility which is based at Leybourne RSPCA Centre rehabilitated and rehomed 29 horses which had been rescued from appalling situations.

I hope this gives some idea of the kinds of ways we have helped local animals in the last 6 months and I look forward to reporting back in the future as our reach grows.

Charity Shops Report

The Trustees extend our sincere thanks to the shop staff, volunteers, customers and those who donate. Thanks to you Dartford Shop generated a profit of £17,377 and The Gravesend shop £27,080 in 2022.

SHOP PROFITS

		Income	Expenditure	Profit
2022	Dartford	51,332	33,955	17k
	Gravesend	67,828	40,748	27k
2021	Dartford	38k + COVID grant of 12k = total 50k	28,912	£21k
	Gravesend	46k + COVID grant of 16k = total 62k	31,197	£31k
2020	Dartford	26k + COVID Grant 27k = total 54k	51,718	£2k
	Gravesend	33k + COVID Grant 11k = total 44k	25,519	£20k
2019	Dartford	65,857	62,126	£4k
	Gravesend	71,398	31,504	£40k
2018	Dartford	66,481	65,827	£1k
	Gravesend	72,776	30,720	£42k
2017	Dartford	67,437	61,199	£6k
	Gravesend	73,174	31,699	£41k

Shop totals for the last 6-year period

Over the last six years our Dartford Charity Shop has raised an average of £8,000 per annum. An upturn resulted when the current team of volunteers took over the running of the shop in 2020. Over the same period our Gravesend Shop has raised an average of £36,000 per annum (we own the freehold for this premises so that no rent is paid.)

A report on our performance in 2022 against the Branch Strategic Plan which we shared with you in our 2021 Report

ANIMAL WELFARE

- *Increase our core animal welfare activity by 40% in 2022, 2023 and 2024.*
Exceeded up 60%

- *Run 6 additional animal welfare initiatives each year aimed at new beneficiaries. **Despite ongoing communication with all of the vet practices in our area, this proved impossible due to staff shortages and lack of capacity at all practices. Our efforts continue.***
- *Design a new role and recruit the correct person to assist in development and provision of local animal welfare services by April 2022. **Our new ACE (Animal Welfare, Community and Education Officer) joined us in June***

FINANCIAL

- *Commitment to utilise all of our annual income in 2022 and 2023. To be reviewed for 2024 depending upon our financial situation then. **We had a surplus of £15,726 in 2022 which is a lower level than previous year.***
- *65% of our annual expenditure to be on charitable activities. **It was only 36%***
- *Produce a Fundraising Strategy for 2022 to 2025 to ensure diversification of income and increase income streams. **Not achieved - rolled over***
- *Review of all assets by end of 2022. **Achieved***

EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS

- *Conduct analysis of awareness of our Branch and our Services to establish a benchmark and implement a programme to raise awareness. **Not achieved***
- *Develop a Communication Strategy. **Rolled over to 2023***
- *Attend at least six local events each year to raise our profile. **We did attend a few events but 6 was not possible due to the delay in appointing our ACE***
- *Increase the number of vet practices and local Charities that we work with each year. **In 2022 we began collaborating with local food banks and other community groups. We were in contact with all of the local vet practices***

GOVERNANCE

- *Add three new Trustees to the Committee, selected for their skills based upon a skills audit. **Following on from our trustee skills audit, we recruited two excellent new Trustees. However, three members of the Committee chose not to re-stand at our AGM. Like many small to medium size charities, trustee recruitment is an ongoing challenge.***
- *Aim for a Committee which is twelve strong as the norm. **Not yet achieved***
- *Have three Officers (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) in post by the end of 2022. **Ben Charman took the Chair allowing Eric Grover is to focus solely on the Treasurer role. The Branch Manager continues to carry out most of the Secretary duties***
- *Develop tailored Trustee Training. **Thanks to HQ staff we provided induction training to our new Trustees which was delivered at our Trustee Away Day***




Kent Annual Branch Report

Branch Report 2022 - Inspectorate Group Kent

Chief Inspector Nick Wheelhouse
ARO Lisa Miller 16142
ARO Brian Milligan 11516
ARO Lynn White 6833
Inspector Dave Grant 173
Inspector Grace Harris-Bridge 15085
Inspector Clive Hopwood 16768
Inspector Tina Nash 10608
Inspector Kirsten Ormerod 16741
Inspector Rosie Russon 723
Inspector Rosie Wren 14023
Inspector Deborah Rutherford 15892

Welcome to the 2022 Kent Group annual branch report.

A few team changes in 2022 saw Inspector Rosie Wren join us following the conclusion of her maternity leave in the Spring of 2022, following her transfer from the London South Group. We also welcomed ARO Lisa Miller, also from London South. Lisa joined our group whilst at the beginning of her maternity leave and we look forward to welcoming her back on the road in 2023! Rosie Russon was successful in her application for the secondment to the Wilberforce team at the




end of 2022 and will be working on this ever changing project throughout 2023. We wish her the best of luck for her 12 month secondment.

As always, the start of the year 2022 gave us the opportunity to catch up on essential Health & Safety and mandatory training to prepare us for the year ahead and officers setting their own priorities for the year, including equine training, small animal care and completing developmental courses.

2022 continued to be a year of change and we continued to battle the aftermath of Covid, seeing an increase of abandoned animals or households where owners were struggling to continue to meet the needs of pets that were gained during the coronavirus lockdowns of 2020 & 2021. Although this was predicted, it was a real challenge and towards the end of 2022 it was particularly difficult to cope with the extra intake of animals into our branch & headquarter centres - putting extra strain on our committed officers when desperately needing to remove animals from a dire situation.

The unexpected cost of living crisis which developed in 2022 also had an impact and we saw more genuine need in people who may have owned pets for a long time but then started to struggle as the year progressed and many found their circumstances had taken a downward turn. A number of branches were able to assist with veterinary care and supplying pet food to those in need, for which we are very grateful.

Throughout the year avian influenza kept a tight hold on both wild and domestic bird populations and the group had many calls for ill and stricken birds, particularly swans / geese and seabirds which fall into the highest risk category. We were particularly saddened to see first hand the way the disease decimated the wild gannet population along the coast in Kent and the swan population on lakes in the Swindon area of the group. Although the group is glad that they do carry the means to end suffering humanely - it still takes its toll when dealing with and seeing such vast numbers of suffering wildlife - and for their extra hard work and professionalism dealing with this disease, I am grateful.



2022 also saw the roll out of the 'Cancel out Cruelty' Campaign in the summer - in August our National Control centre took more neglect and cruelty complaints as a priority and signposted / diverted some wildlife collection calls to other wildlife charities.

Kent has continued to see a huge number of calls relating to puppy farming following the boom of breeding and selling during COVID. Working alongside our Police colleagues, the group has assisted with a number of Police led warrants which has been disrupting the illegal trade and the unscrupulous breeders.

Without the support of the Regional Board and Branch networks, we would simply not be as effective in rescuing animals in all sorts of predicaments. The field officers are under significant pressure and your continued patience and support is very much appreciated. Your work in supporting members of the public with funding, helping rehome unwanted animals, and caring for the sick and traumatised is to be commended. It can be a thankless task but I can assure you my team and I fully appreciate the hard work you and your teams put in.

In Kent we helped rescue, collect and rehabilitate thousands more animals from situations that would have resulted in severe injury and suffering. Within the Kent group you have officers who specialise in wildlife and care, specialist flood rescue, Inland boat rescue, and equine rescue to name but a few.

We wish to offer our thanks to Kent Police for their invaluable assistance in exercising their powers of entry, search, seizure and occasionally arrest of people who mistreat their animals. Our thanks also goes to Kent Fire and Rescue Service for the many occasions that they have helped with rescues of animals that have got themselves trapped or in difficulty and we have needed their equipment and manpower to resolve the situation.

We are also supported by Veterinary Practices from all across Kent. The support they provide helps us bring justice for animals, and support for the sick & injured. We work with other charities such as World Horse Welfare, The British Horse Society, Folly Wildlife Hospital and numerous more. We are most grateful to them all.

Finally, on behalf of everyone in the Kent group, a big thank you to all of the Branches, members and volunteers for making us feel so welcome at your meetings and for all the difficult and invaluable work you have done throughout 2022. Without you dedicating your time and efforts we would not be able to achieve all that we do.

In North West Kent we have rescued wildlife including swans, snakes, foxes and owls. Farm animals including lambs and chickens as well as rescuing horses, cats, ferrets and dogs with the support of Kent North West Branch as well as providing financial aid to a number of domestic animals and neutering

We rescued Milo the cat from a fox hole in Greenhithe, having been seen running down there following being hit by a car. Kent Fire and Rescue assisted with the rescued and he was reunited with his owner.



2022



Chief Inspector's Annual Report - 2022 London South Group

Chief Inspector Mark Miles 468

Personnel:

DCI Lynn Serrano
Inspector Harriet Dalliday
Inspector Emily Buckett
ARO Mat Hawkins
ARO Rodney Kenny
ARO Emma Haines
ARO Portia Mearns
ARO Sidonie Smith
ARO Chloe Sutton
ARO Latia Pennant

Branches covered :

London South East Branch
South London Branch
Bromley & District Branch
Purley, Caterham & District Branch
Kent North West Branch
Wimbledon, Wandsworth & Sutton District Branch

Welcome to the 2022 Chief Inspector's report for London South group

2022 proved yet again to be a difficult year for the Group but we were finally starting to see an improvement in the staffing levels this year which had an obvious knock on effect to the animal welfare service we were able to provide as well as the morale of all the officers. I would like to thank the group once more for rising to all challenges that faced us and their motivation, resilience and dedication to all the animals they dealt with throughout the year.

In terms of staff changes, we once more said goodbye to a couple of officers. Inspector Natasha Wallis our 2nd most experienced officer and my Deputy moved to new pastures in Hampshire after 14 years loyal service. ARO Lisa Miller also moved to Kent group prior to maternity.

In April our new recruits from the previous year started their time out on their own. I am pleased to say they are all doing well. Emily Buckett returned from Maternity in June. We also recruited 3 new Animal Rescue officers; Chloe Sutton, Latia Pennant and Sidonie Smith. They completed the training course and are also now out on their own having hit the ground running in October. So for the first year in a long time we ended the year with more staff than we started which is very very welcome.

In addition to the paid staff we have recruited a number of Animal Rescue Volunteers (ARV) who we are currently in the process of giving all the necessary training and equipment needed to support the frontline work, collecting and transferring animals . As time progresses it is hoped that these volunteers will become more and more beneficial.

Once again we wish to offer our thanks to the Metropolitan Police, Kent Police and Surrey Police for their invaluable assistance in exercising their powers of entry, search, seizure and occasionally arrest of people who mistreat their animals. Our thanks also goes to London Fire Brigade and Kent Fire and Rescue Service for the many occasions that they have helped with rescues of animals that have got themselves trapped or in difficulty and we have needed their equipment and manpower to resolve the situation (as evidenced in the stories that follow below!).

Of course we have not forgotten the RSPCA animal centres that take in our animals, care for them and eventually re-home them. Our sincere thanks to the Branch catteries and kennels that board, care for and rehome our animals, usually at very short notice and at the most inconvenient times, and to the experts who care for our sick and injured wildlife until they have been rehabilitated and are able to be released back into the wild.

Finally, on behalf of everyone in the London South Group, a big thank you to all of the London and Kent Branches, members and volunteers for making us feel so welcome at your meetings and for all the difficult and invaluable work you have done throughout 2022 and into this year already. Without you dedicating your time and efforts we would not be able to achieve all that we do.

In terms of stats to give you an idea of the volume of work carried out by officers in London South during 2022, we:

Attended 7931 Incidents

Gave out 228 Welfare notices advising on improvements needed and Warning notices which are recommendations of a more serious nature
Picked up 13 cases that were sent in to the prosecutions department with a view to a possible cruelty conviction.

We hope you enjoy this Annual Report where we've put together our best selection of collections, rescues and complaints from your branch areas. Apologies in advance for all the puns!!

Sincerely,
London South Team

Inspector Lynn Serrano was called to a rescue of a duckling stuck under a Jetty in Sidcup. She was unable to get it by herself so called LFB to assist. Between them they were able to rescue the duckling. It was checked over by a vet and then released.



Inspector Lynn Serrano was called to an address where it was alleged a puppy had been subject to a road traffic collision. She found a poor dog with a broken back leg which was clearly suffering having not been taken to a vet...



The owner was prosecuted, found guilty and given a 12 months community order with 200 hrs unpaid work and was banned from keeping animals for 10 years.

The dog made a full recovery and is pictured here very happy in its loving new forever home:



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

KENT NORTH - WEST BRANCH
(Registered Charity No. 210633)

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

and

BALANCE SHEET

- for the year ended -

31st DECEMBER 2022

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.
KENT, NORTH-WEST BRANCH
(Registered Charity No: 210633)**

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is incorporated under an Act of Parliament and each Branch is governed by the rules of the Society. The Kent, North-West Branch is an incorporated and a registered Charity No. 210633. The Administrative Office of the Branch is at 37, Gordon Road Dartford Kent DA1 2LG.

The day to day affairs of the Branch are managed by a Branch Committee. During 2022 the members of the Branch Committee were:

Mr B. Charman	Branch Trustee (To 22 nd June 2022)
Mr B. Charman	Branch Chairman(wef 22 nd June 2022)
Mr. E.J. Grover.	Branch Chairman. (To 23 rd March 2022)
Mr E.J. Grover.	Branch Treasurer. (wef 23 rd March 2022)
Mrs J. Allen	Branch Trustee (From 22 nd June to 1 st July 2022)
Mr. J. A. Bowley.	Branch Animal Welfare Administrator.
Miss L. A. Cartwright	Branch Trustee (To 22 nd June 2022)
Miss K. Hargreaves	Branch Trustee (To 22 nd June 2022)
Mr C. Ireland	Branch Trustee (To 22 nd June 2022)
Mr T. Maddison	Branch Trustee
Mrs K. Maycock	Branch Trustee (wef 22 nd June 2022)
Mrs H. Taylor	Branch Trustee (wef 22 nd June 2022)
Miss K. Ward	Branch Trustee (To 22 nd June 2022)
Mr D. Wordsworth	Branch Trustee

During the year, the Branch operated two Charity Shops. At Dartford the Charity Shop, with effect from 1st October 2020 the shop has been under the Management of a Voluntary Management Committee of four volunteers approved by the Branch Trustees.

A Full Time Manager and Part Time Deputy Manager (who retired on 30th June 2022) were employed at the Branch Charity Shop at 161, Windmill Street, Gravesend The Manager has been supported by casual part time deputy managers since 1st August 2022
Also, during the year, the Branch employed a part time Branch Manager. The role of Branch Treasurer was filled during the year and the role of Branch Secretary is being held in abeyance until such times as a suitable candidate can be appointed. The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year was five.

The object of the Charity is to promote kindness and 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 objectives.

The Charity is dependent on donations and fund raising to pay for its activities. The Branch also receives part of the subscriptions paid by members. The Branch constitution is approved by the National RSPCA umbrella body, Charity No.219099, which is considered a related party for accounting purposes. During the financial year, the Branch received a total of £23,218.00p (Door to Door Campaign) grant funding from the National RSPCA for the Branch's purposes, and also received grants of £1,000 in support of Rabbit care and a sum of £3,098 for the provision of additional Rabbit Accommodation. The Branch also receives a number of umbrella body services, including legacy administration under the Branch Legacy Scheme, membership administration and practical guidance and assistance from a Branch Partnership Manager (formerly Branch Support Specialist) employed by the National Society. The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge paid by the charity during the year was £1431.24p.

Details of the Charity's activities are disclosed in the accounts. There have been no significant activities during the year requiring a report to the Charity Commissioners. Legacies and In Memoriam donations to the value of £407.50p were received during the year. Details of assets held by the Branch are disclosed in the accounts. There have been no material post balance sheet events.

E.J. Grover,
Branch Chairman.
20th March 2023.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

KENT NORTH-WEST BRANCH

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2022

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>
Balance brought forward	1,121,487.22		1,078,631.48
Property Revaluations in Year	-		-
Surplus for the Year	15,726.08		42,855.74
	<u>1,137,213.30</u>		<u>1,121,487.22</u>

BRANCH RESTRICTED FUNDS:

L.C.Croucher Legacy for Equipt.	23,222.66		33,167.01
		23,222.66	33,167.01

BRANCH GENERAL FUNDS:



Fixed Assets(Note1)			
Property 158,Parrock Street Gravesend.	263,000.00		263,000.00
Property 37,Gordon Road,Dartford	205,000.00		205,000.00
Property 10 Miskin Road,Dartford	196,870.33		196,870.33
Property 161,Windmill Street,Gravesend	168,749.50		168,749.50
Branch Vehicle	8,096.00		Nil
Plant and Equipment (Rabbit Accomodation)	3,221.86		Nil
		<u>844,937.69</u>	<u>833,619.83</u>

Current Assets

Nat West Capital Reserve Account	203,886.50		203,443.89
Debtors & Prepayments	4,035.67		10,100.39
Branch Pay Pal Account	713.43		713.43
Cash at Bank & In Hand	72,363.65		53,667.50

	280,999.25		267,925.21
less Creditors	(6,471.30)		(7,749.83)
Balance Rabbit Awareness Projects	(2,000.00)		(2,000.00)
Balance Staffie Matched Funding	(1,575.00)		(1,575.00)
Balance Female Cat Spaying Project	(1,900.00)		(1,900.00)

Net Current Assets	269,052.95		254,700.38
TOTAL BRANCH GENERAL FUNDS	<u>1,113,990.64</u>		<u>1,088,320.21</u>
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	<u>1,137,213.30</u>		<u>1,121,487.22</u>

E.J.Grover.

BRANCH TREASURER

T.A.Maddison

BRANCH TRUSTEE

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

KENT NORTH-WEST BRANCH

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

BRANCH GENERAL FUNDS						
<u>SHOPS</u>	<u>BRANCH</u>	INCOME:	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>BRANCH</u>	<u>SHOPS</u>
			<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>		
246.62	1,388.32	Collecting Boxes	1,634.94	1,509.74	1,203.90	305.84
		Coronavirus Grants		27,487.43		27,487.43
589.08	851.57	Donations & Grants	1,465.65	971.22	712.35	258.87
	50.00	Donations via ACE	50.00	-		
	23,218.00	Door toDoor Campaign	23,218.00	24,134.00	24,134.00	
	493.26	Dividends and Interest	493.26	19.55	19.55	
332.90		Goods Sold	332.90	133.42		133.42
	2,947.50	Microchipping & Rehoming	2,947.50	847.50	847.50	
1,744.31		Rags and Recycling	1,744.31	1,044.60	40.40	1,004.20
	36,658.00	Rent Received	36,658.00	37,451.00	37,451.00	
115,325.11		Shops Gravesend & Dartfor	115,325.11	82,122.81		82,122.81
377.27	129.93	Special Events****	507.20	1,375.97	1,070.13	305.84
	514.50	Subscriptions	514.50	555.00	555.00	
	32.21	Sundry Income	32.21	43.49	43.49	
118,615.29	66,283.29	TOTAL BRANCH INCOME		177,695.73	66,077.32	111,618.41
	184,898.58		184,923.58			177,695.73
EXPENDITURE:						
<u>Shops</u>	<u>Branch</u>	CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>BRANCH</u>	<u>SHOPS</u>
	3,403.27	Branch Neut.Scheme	3,214.89	1,272.37	1,272.37	
	19,801.89	Care of Animals	19,801.89	9,223.29	9,223.29	
	5,849.02	Drugs and Medicines	6,037.40	4,369.79	4,369.79	
	374.33	Microchipping & Rehoming	374.33	126.48	126.48	
	618.12	Printing and Stationery	618.12	247.00	247.00	
	10,722.41	Staff Costs:Branch Manage	10,722.41	9,299.88	9,299.88	
	4,078.18	Staff Costs:Branch ACE	4,078.18			
	1,191.72	Telephone services	1,191.72	978.09	978.09	
	2,320.80	Vehicle costs A/Welfare	2,320.80			
	13,428.59	Veterinary Fees	13,428.59	12,627.74	12,627.74	
	1,352.49	Irrecoverable VAT	1,352.49	2504.16	2504.16	
		TOTAL CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE		40,648.80	40,648.80	
	63,140.82					
				63,140.82	40,648.80	
<u>Shops</u>	<u>Branch</u>	NON CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE				
	2,704.46	Depreciation & Write Offs	2,704.46			
5438.01	557.95	Heat, Light & Water	5,995.96	3,374.85	382.55	2,992.30
1166.85	2,474.67	Insurance/Security	3,641.52	2,713.11	1,996.51	716.60
160.80		Goods for Resale	160.80	212.30		212.30
7714.11	4,631.11	Maintenance and Repairs.	12,345.22	11,470.70	6,181.12	5,289.58
329.35	171.47	Meetings	500.82	290.83	290.83	
290.50	613.80	Motor Vehicle & Travelling	904.30	243.00	70.20	172.80
	340.92	Motor Vehicle Costs	340.92			
1504.23	119.36	Postage and Telephone	1,623.59	1,644.45	616.93	1,027.52
203.14	1,495.40	Printing and Stationery	1,698.54	684.37	657.17	27.20
2241.02	6,118.51	Bank & Professional Fees	8,359.53	8,742.91	7,523.79	1,219.12
24080.00	-	Rent & Rates	24,080.00	21,745.92	6.63	21,739.29
673.49		Shop Equipment	673.49	756.00		756.00
28,555.72		Staff Costs:Shops	28,555.72	22,567.35		22,567.35
	10,722.42	Staff Costs:Branch Manager	10,722.42	9,299.88	9,299.88	
	2,039.09	Staff Costs:Branch ACE	2,039.09	4,370.58		4,370.58
1320.74	1,888.18	Sundry Expenses	3,208.92	1,010.61	290.00	720.61
2076.38		Waste Disposal	2,076.38	2,618.88		2,618.88
	817.50	Irrecoverable VAT	817.50	1,156.89	1156.89	
		TOTAL NON CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE		92,902.63	28,472.50	64,430.13
75754.34	34694.84					92,902.63
	110,449.18	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	173,590.00	133,551.43		
Surplus/(Deficit) before Legacies			11,333.58	44,144.30		
Legacies and In Memoriam donations			407.50	13,102.66		
Add REGIONAL GRANT FOR RABBIT SUPPORT			1,000.00	1103.78	REFUND BEF	
Add REGIONAL GRANT FOR RABBIT ACCOMMODATION			2,985.00	(15,495.00)	DON EQUINE CENTRE	
Surplus after Legacies & other items			15,726.08	42,855.74		

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS
KENT NORTH-WEST BRANCH
(Registered Charity No: 210633)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES.

The principal accounting policies of the Branch are set out below. The policies have remained unchanged from the previous year.

(a) Basis of Accounting.

The financial statements have been prepared under historical cost conventions and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

(b) Income.

Income is accounted for when received.

(c) Depreciation of Tangible assets.

During 2005 the Branch Trustees conducted a review of the methods used to depreciate Capital Expenditure. It was concluded that the use of a 10% reducing balance gave an unrealistic value of the items over a long term. In future all tangible capital assets would be written off over a determined period with each case of expenditure to be determined at the time of purchase. Details of the period of write off would be recorded in the Branch Asset Register.

As a result of the trustees revised policies the following items were written off at the following rates:

Freehold Buildings.	Nil. During 2013 the Trustees arranged for the revaluation of some of the Branch Property. During 2018 a further revaluation of the property at 158, Parrock Street, Gravesend, was carried out. The results of that revaluations are shown in the Balance Sheet. The valuations were prepared on an open market basis by McConnells, Chartered Surveyors.
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Shop Fixtures and Fittings.

All of the original assets held at the Branch Shops have now been written off.

The conversion costs for the development of the Dartford Shop Premises are to be written off over the ten year period of the lease, and were finally depreciated during 2020.

Furniture, Plant and Equipment. The use of a 10% reducing balance was reviewed during the year and it was agreed that the Branch Vehicle and Rabbit Accommodation, purchased during the year should be written off over a five year period. All previous items under this heading have now been written off.

(d) Irrecoverable VAT

It is the Branch's policy to write off irrecoverable VAT through the Income & Expenditure account when incurred.

2. FIXED ASSETS.

	Freehold Property.	Branch Shops Fix & Fitt.	Furniture Plant and Equipment.	TOTAL
Balance at 1st Jan. 2022.	833,619.83	Nil	Nil	833,619.83
Additions			13,666.32	13,666.32
Add Revaluation in year.	Nil	Nil	Nil	000.00
Less Depreciation and Write offs for year.	Nil	Nil	(2,704.46)	(2,704.46)
<hr/>				
Balance at 31st Dec 2022	833,619.83	00.00	10961.86	844,581.69
833,619.83				
<hr/>				
Made up of:				
Original cost.	836,242.71	51,045.13	18,181.78	905.469.62
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(2,622.88)	(51,045.13)	(7,219.92)	(60,887.93)
<hr/>				
	833,619.83	00.00	10,961.86	844,581.69
<hr/>				

3. BRANCH (formerly the REGIONAL) NEUTERING SCHEME.

During 2022 the Branch continued to offer all of its established services including the well-established Branch Neutering Scheme. The expenditure on this service increased by 153%, occasioned by the tremendous impact of the number of

needs of these and other rabbits in a similar plight, was able to establish a specialty in the system of acceptance, fostering and care, the Branch soon became adept in the acceptance fostering care and rehoming in the care of these most maligned animals. Since the inception of the Staffie Neutering Scheme the Branch dealt with 233 animals, in 2022 no call was made on the retained fund. The service will remain available during 2023.

During the year, the Branch continued to offer to spay female cats from the age of four months and originally conducted jointly from 2015 with Cat Protection however from 2020 the Branch has continued to offer the service bearing the whole of the cost, as the funding from Cats Protection ceased in 2018.

During 2022 only two cats were treated under this project. No application was made for support to this service from the Regional Joint Funding funds held for this purpose. The funds will be available in 2022 should the need arise.

A summary of the total expenditure in respect of the three services is as follows:

Branch Neutering Scheme:

Cats	(14)	£ 540.28p
Rabbits	(29)	£1860.98p
Dogs	(5)	£ 625.57p
Total:		£3026.83p

Female Cat Spaying Project:

Expenditure in respect of Cat Spaying	£ 188.06 (3)
Total:	£ 188.06p

Total as per accounts: **£3214.89p**

4. DONATIONS/GRANTS.

Where appropriate included in the heading Donation/Grants for 2022 would be the contribution made to the Branch in the form of Regional Matched Funding Grants. No Matched funding Grants were applied in 2022 The figure in the Accounts is therefore summarised as follows:

General Donations.	£1,465.65p
Donations via Branch ACE	£ 50.00p
TOTAL.	£1,515.65p

5. SPECIAL EVENTS.

The Branch Trustees are pleased to report that in 2022 several events were held raising a sum of £ 507.20p. and the Trustees are truly grateful for the efforts made in raising such an impressive sum. Details of these events is as follows:

Danson Park Stall	£ 90.00p
Pets at Home Week:	£ 39.93p
Dartford Shop Tombola (Easter)	£ 114.10p

Dartford Shop Tombola (Easter)	£ 114.10p
Dartford Shop Fashion Show	£ 23.17p
Dartford Shop Tombola (Jubilee)	£ 75.50p
Donated Hand Made Poppies.	£ 13.00p
Dartford Shop Tombola (Christmas)	£ 151.50p
Total	<u>£ 507.20p</u>

6. HEAT, LIGHT, WATER & RATES.

Payments made in respect of the items included within this heading are summarised as follows:

	<u>Electricity.</u>	<u>Gas.</u>	<u>Water.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dartford Shop	£ 3389.59p		£ 429.03p	£3,818.62p
Gravesend Shop	£ 873.43p	£508.86p	£2237.10p	£1,619.39p
Branch.	£ 142.14p	£ 225.05p	£ 190.76p	£ 557.95p
			TOTAL	<u>£5,995.96p</u>

7. PROFESSIONAL FEES

Professional fees include the following amounts for the Independent Examination of the Branch's Accounts:

<u>2022.</u>	<u>2021</u>
£650.	£650.

8. CREDITORS.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Trade.	£5,271.20p	£ 6,984.83p
Accruals	£1,200.00p	£ 765.00p
	-----	-----
	£ 6.471.20p	£ 7,749.83p
	-----	-----

9. TRUSTEES REMUNERATION & EXPENSES.

No Trustee or connected person received any remuneration during the year.

10. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS.

The Branch had no Capital Commitments at the end of the year.

R.S.P.C.A. KENT NORTH WEST BRANCH.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (PAGE 1 of 2)

INCOMING RESOURCES:

Incoming resources from generated funds	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>	
(i) Donations, legacies and other incoming resources:				
General Donations	1,440.65		971.22	
Donations via ACE	50.00		0.00	
Collecting Boxes	1,634.94		1,509.74	
Door to Door Campaign	23,218.00		24,134.00	
Income from Legacies & In Memorium donations	407.50		13,102.66	
Rabbit Support Grants from RSPCA	4,098.00		0.00	
Grants from HMRC iro Coronavirus	0.00		27,487.43	
Sundry Income	32.21	30,881.30	43.49	67,248.54
(ii) Activities for generating funds.				
Sale of donated items Dartford Shop	48,703.70		36,778.46	
Sale of donated items Gravesend Shop	66,621.41		45,344.35	
Sale of Rags Dartford Shop	976.57		496.60	
Sale of Rags Gravesend Shop	767.74		507.60	
Income from Recycling	0.00		40.40	
Sale of RSPCA Logoed Items	307.40		133.42	
Sale of non RSPCA Logoed Items	25.50			
Income from Rehoming Fees	2,947.50		847.50	
Special Events	507.20	120,857.02	1,375.97	85,524.30
(iii) Investment Income				
Income from renting of Gravesend Property	14,880.00		14,700.00	
Income from renting of Dartford Properties	21,778.00		22,751.00	
Interest Bank A/cs	493.26	37,151.26	19.55	37,470.55
(iv) Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Subscription Income	426.50		555.00	
Refund of Branch Emergency Fund	0.00	426.50	1103.78	1658.78
Total Incoming Resources:		189,316.08		191,902.17

R.S.P.C.A. KENT NORTH WEST BRANCH.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (PAGE 2 of 2)

RESOURCES EXPENDED:

	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>	
(i) Costs of generating Funds				
Staff Costs at Shops	28,555.72		22,567.35	
Covis Grants to Staff costs (JRS)	0.00		4,370.58	
Staff Costs Branch Manager	21,444.83		18,599.76	
Staff Costs ACE	6,117.27		0.00	
Shop Equipment			756.00	
Rent Dartford Shop	23,500.00		21,494.26	
Rates Gravesend Shop	580.00		245.03	
Rates 37 Gordon Road	0.00		6.63	
Cost of Goods for Resale	160.80		212.30	
Shop Overheads	22,628.37	102,986.99	14,784.61	83,036.52
(ii) Charitable activities				
(a) resources granted in furtherance of the Branch's objectives				
Care of Animals	19,801.89		9,223.29	
Regional Quota/Branch Contribution	551.00		115.00	
Microchipping	374.33		126.48	
Grant to Leybourne Equine Rehoming Centre	0.00		15,495.00	
Branch Neutering Scheme	3,214.89	23,942.11	1,272.37	26,232.14
(b) costs of activities in furtherance of the Branch's objectives				
Veterinary Fees Dartford Clinic	0.00		Nil	
Veterinary Fees Gravesend Clinic	0.00		Nil	
Veterinary Fees Emergency and other cases	13,428.59		12,627.74	
Drugs and Medicines	6,037.40		4,369.79	
		19,465.99		16,997.53
(c) support costs for (a) and (b) .				
Travelling Expenses	1,002.69		70.20	
Branch Vehicle costs	2,272.83			
Printing and Stationery	2,113.52		904.17	
Postage and Telephone	1,311.08		1595.02	
Electricity Gas and water	557.95		382.55	
Insurance and Security Costs	2,474.67		1996.51	
Maintenance & Repairs	4,631.11		6181.12	
Waste Disposal Costs	0.00	Shop O/heads	-	Shop O/heads
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	2,704.46		-	
Professional fees (Properties/Bank)	5,523.51		6873.79	
Sundry Expenditure	1,337.18		175.00	
Irrecoverable VAT	2,169.99	26,098.99	3661.05	21,839.41
(d) Governance costs.				
Meetings	500.82	1,095.82	290.83	940.83
Professional fees (Audit)	595.00		650.00	
Total Resources Expended:		173,589.90		149,046.43

RSPCA, KENT,NORTH WEST BRANCH

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2022

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS DURING THE YEAR

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
TABLE ONE: STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS		
<i>Net Cash provided by (used in) operating activities</i>	14,150	48,065
<i>Cash Flows from investing activities</i>		
Purchase of property,plant and equipment	-	
<i>Net Cash Provided by (used in) investing activities</i>	14,150	48,065
<i>Cash Flows from financing activities:</i>		
Repayments of borrowing		
<i>Net Cash Provided by (used in) financing activities</i>		
<i>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</i>	14,150	48,065
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</i>	292,497	244,432
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</i>	227,176	292,497
TABLE TWO: RECONCILIATION ON NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
<i>Net Income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)</i>	15,694	42,856
<i>Adjustments for :</i>		
Depreciation charges	2,704	Nil
Transfer of Funds		Nil
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	7,172	1007
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	2,924	4202
<i>Net cash provided by operating activities</i>	28,494	48,065
TABLE THREE : ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash in Hand	227,176	292,497

STATEMENT OF THE BRANCH COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES.

Rule 3.3 of the R.S.P.C.A. Branch Rules (January 2003 edition) empowers the Branch, subject to certain conditions, to raise funds in the name of the Branch for the General or any special purposes of the Branch or for any purpose of the Society or another Branch but all fundraising must be authorised by and reported promptly to the Branch Committee.

Rule 7.1 provides that the Branch Committee as charity trustees have responsibility for the Branch and its property and funds.

Rule 11.1 requires that the Branch Committee must comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 as to the keeping of financial records, the audit or independent examination of accounts and the preparation and transmission to the Charities Commission of:

annual reports.
annual returns; and
annual statements of account.

STATEMENT OF BRANCH RISKS MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Branch has identified the major risks to which it is exposed and has put into place systems and procedures to minimise the risks, as follows:

- (i) **Misappropriation of funds.** To prevent peculation of the Branch's assets, it has set up an internal control system which requires authorisation of all transactions by a person independent of the Branch Treasurer. Income at the Branch's Shops is monitored by the recording of receipts by an electronic till and a check of receipts is made at the end of each working day by the Duty Manager. The Branch also maintains an asset register for all Capital assets.
- (ii) **Monitoring of income to ensure that there are sufficient resources to meet commitments.** The Branch Officers regularly monitor resources to ensure that there are funds available to meet its commitments.
- (iii) **Reliance on Sources of income.** The Branch has in recent years, opened two Charity Shops to improve the income that is required to meet the demands on its services. In 2012 The Branch purchased a property with the purpose of renting to a tenant and producing additional income. During 2013 the Branch Trustees agreed to lease the ground floor of 158, Parrock Street Gravesend on a commercial basis. The lease was completed in 2014. A new lease in respect of the property was granted in 2017 for a period of 10 years. Also, during the year 2013 the Branch purchased the property 161 Windmill Street, Gravesend and this will in the longer term eliminate the liability to pay rent on the property. The Branch now rents a total of four properties which continue to produce additional income for the Branch.
- (iv) **A Commitment to fund Capital Projects.** The Branch has adopted a number of objectives to meet its service provision in the medium and long term. It has agreed that no progress can be made on these projects until

sufficient resources are in place to fund any project to arise from those objectives.

- (v) **Loss of Key Volunteers.** The Branch has adopted a policy of recruiting and training, where possible, additional volunteers to undertake various duties that participate in running a Branch of the size and character of the Kent, North West Branch of the RSPCA.
- (vi) **Security of Shops.** The Branch Trustees have improved the security of Shop Assets by the installation of CCTV units at each of the Branch Charity Shops. In addition, each Shop has arrangements with the Local Authority Shopping Security force and has radio contact with the Centre should the need arise.
Branch

STATEMENT OF BRANCH RESERVES POLICY.

The Branch Committee has reviewed the Branch Reserves Policy during the year and has considered that the steps taken to ensure a source of regular income are now adequate to be confident that the resources within the Branch are sufficient to meet its current commitments throughout the coming year and beyond if commitments are continued at the current rate of expenditure. It further considers that a Current Account balance in the range of £10,000.00 to £20,000.00 would be sufficient to meet all arising commitments. It resolved that the Branch reconsider the need for a Branch Development Fund, to accrue a reserve to meet the policy objectives set by the Branch in December 2001. The Branch Committee agreed to review its long-term objectives in the light of estimated requirements of the Branch in respect of the Branch Clinics and animal home facilities. During 2016 the Trustees agreed that the target for the Development Fund should remain at the figure of £1,000, 000.00p.and this would be reviewed in the light of any changing circumstances. During 2017 the Branch Trustees re-considered the retention of a Development Fund in the light of current financial conditions. The Trustees concluded that the aspirations of the Branch developing an Animal Centre in the light of the numbers of animals that come into its care and considering the continuing escalating costs of such a venture, the objective would be unsustainable and therefore concluded that the Development Fund should be dissolved, and the Funds recorded in the General Funds of the Branch.

During 2006, the Branch received a legacy from the estate of the late L.C. Croucher. The legacy has a stipulation that the money should only be expended on equipment to be used in the treatment of animals. The Branch Trustees have therefore agreed that the legacy should be maintained in a separately identifiable account within the Branch Funds and recorded as a Restricted Fund and should be available, only for the purchase of equipment required in connection with the meeting of the Branch's revised objectives. During 2018 the Branch Trustees agreed that some of the equipment costs of the Kent North West Branch, Equine Rehoming Centre could properly be appropriated to this account. Consequently, a sum of £12,545.00 of this fund has been expended on the said Branch Equine Rehoming Centre

R.S.P.C.A. - KENT NORTH WEST BRANCH - ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2022
 (Registered Charity 210633)
 MEMORANDUM TRADING ACCOUNT FOR THE BRANCH CHARITY SHOPS
 FOR THE PERIOD 1st JANUARY 2022 TO 31st DECEMBER 2022

(This account does not form part of the Branch Annual Accounts)

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>DARTFORD</u>	<u>GRAVESEND</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>DARTFORD</u>	<u>GRAVESEND</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
SALE OF DONATED ITEMS	48,703.70	66,621.41	115,325.11	<u>NON RECURRING COSTS</u>			
SALE OF RSPCA GOODS	307.40	0.00	307.40				0.00
SALE OF CARRIER BAGS	25.50	0.00	25.50				
DONATIONS VIA SHOP	589.08	0.00	589.08				
COLLECTING BOX(SHOP)	177.68	68.94	246.62	TOTAL N/R COSTS			
SALE OF RAGS	976.57	767.74	1,744.31				
SPECIAL EVENTS	382.22	0.00	382.22	<u>RECURRING COSTS</u>			
COLL.BOX(BRANCH A/c)	170.00	0.00	170.00	E BAY & PAYPAL FEES	874.96	1,366.06	2,241.02
IN MEMORIUM DONS	0.00	370.00	370.00	BANK CHARGES (CREDIT CARDS)	23,500.00	580.00	24,080.00
				ACT. RENT & RATES		251.50	251.50
				TRAVEL COSTS		29,625.54	29,625.54
				STAFFING COSTS			0.00
				STAFFING COSTS JRS SUPPORT	158.06	515.43	673.49
				SHOP EQUIPMENT	1,626.93	5,340.83	6,967.76
				MAINT & REPAIRS	1,450.35	318.50	1,768.85
				WASTE DISPOSAL	957.40	446.83	1,404.23
				TELEPHONE/POSTAGE	3,818.62	1,457.23	5,275.85
				HEAT, LIGHT & WATER	916.85	250.00	1,166.85
				INSURANCE/SECURITY	194.56	72.81	369.52
				PRINT & STATIONERY	160.80		160.80
				GOODS FOR RESALE	296.71	523.15	819.86
				SUNDRY EXP.			
				BANK & PROF.FEES			
				<u>TOTAL RECURRING COSTS</u>	33,955.24	40,747.88	74,805.27
TOTAL	51,332.15	67,828.09	119,160.24		33,955.24	40,747.88	74,805.27
				<u>TRADING PROFIT ON SHOPS:</u>			
				DARTFORD	17,376.91		
				GRAVESEND	27,080.21		
				OVERALL	44,457.12		

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' UNQUALIFIED REPORT.

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Kent, North - West Branch.

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2022 as set out on pages 23 to 31.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.

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

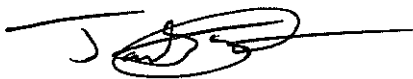
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the Act.

Independent examiners' statement.

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 Trust 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.



Jack Fryer ACA.,
Hedley Dunk Limited,
Trinity House,
3, Bullace Lane,
DARTFORD,
Kent DA1 1BB.

31 May 2023

Accounts



RSPCA - KENT NORTH WEST BRANCH

Registered Charity 210633

ANNUAL REPORT for THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020



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ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

KENT NORTH WEST BRANCH

(Registered Charity 210633)

Branch Officers and Trustees during 2020

Branch President: Mrs. E .M .Grover (to 31st Jan2020))
Branch Chairman: Mr. E .J. Grover
Branch Vice Chairman: Mrs. J .R. Allen
Branch Secretary: Ms. C.A. Campbell (to 31st March 2020)
Branch Treasurer: Miss N. Dunton A.C.A.
(to 31st March 2020)

Branch Animal Welfare

Administrator: Mr.J A.Bowley
Branch Membership Secretary Mrs.J.R Allen
Branch Committee Members: Mr.B.Charman
Miss. K.Hargreaves (wef 23rd Sept 2020)
Mr. C. Ireland (wef 23rd Sept 2020)
Mr. T. Maddison.
Mr. A.J. McDermott. (to 31st Dec.2020)
Miss.K.Thatcher (wef 23rd Sept 2020)
Miss. K. Ward.
Mr.D.Wordsworth (wef 23rd Sept 2020)

The roles of Branch Secretary and Branch Treasurer remained vacant at 31st Dec. 2020

Branch Manager: Miss R (Becky)Blackmore
(wef 1st Oct2020)

Bankers: Nat West Bank Plc
12, High Street,
DARTFORD DA1 1DD

Branch Clinic & Admin Centre: 37, Gordon Road,
DARTFORD DA1 2LG

Note: Correspondence to; Branch Officers and Trustees can be addressed to the Branch Admin Centre

Branch Helpline 01322 286720

Branch Shops: 2/3 Market Place, 161, Windmill Street,
DARTFORD GRAVESEND
Kent DA1 1EX Kent DA12 1AH
Shop Managers Voluntary Management Mrs Val Oakman

Branch Website: www.rspca-kentnorthwest.org.uk

RSPCA KENT NORTH WEST BRANCH

SUMMARY OF ANIMAL WELFARE ACHIEVEMENTS 2017-2020

Animals in Branch Care at beginning of year	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Dogs		2	0	1	0
Cats	2	5	1	5	2
Rabbits		0	0	0	0
Others		0	0	0	2
TOTAL	2	7	1	6	4

Animals coming into Branch Care during year

Dogs	8	12	23	10	27
Cats	73	157	150	126	177
Rabbits	1	0	2	14	9
Others	5	48	9	19	27
TOTAL	87	217	184	169	240

Animals leaving Branch Care during year

	Rehomed	Transferred	Other					
Dogs	0	10	3	13	13	18	11	23
Cats	12	50	8	70	121	115	131	145
Rabbits	0	1	0	1	0	2	14	9
Others	1	3	0	4	46	9	19	29
TOTAL				88	180	144	175	206

Animals PTS on Vets Advice during year

Dogs	2	2	3	3	3
Cats	17	17	28	31	29
Rabbits	0	0	0	0	0
Others	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	19	30	34	34	32

Branch Service Activity in Year

	<u>Microch</u>	<u>Neutered</u>	<u>Clinic attendances</u>					
Dogs	0	1	0	1	8	11	73	157
Cats	7	25	0	32	103	150	180	341
Rabbits	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
TOTALS	7	26	0	33	111	163	258	501

Welfare Vouchers issued in year

Dogs	10	11	12	4	3
Cats	4	11	13	1	5
Rabbits	0	3	12	0	0

RSPCA, KENT NORTH WEST BRANCH
(Registered Charity 210633)

Annual Report of the Branch Committee, presented by Eric Grover, Branch Chairman, for the year ending 31st December 2020.

1. I have much pleasure in presenting the report of the Branch Committee on their work and activities during the past year. 2020 for our Charity, along with the rest of the nation, proved to be totally dominated by the Coronavirus 19 Pandemic. The Coronavirus had no care for age, colour or creed and simply swept aside anyone who stood in its path. It did not prove to be a highly active time for the Branch.
2. During the year, the Branch Trustees met in February, and this was the last occasion they able to meet face to face because of the lockdown caused by the pandemic. The Trustees did however continue to meet virtually using Information Technology. The year also proved to be less busy in the field of Animal Welfare. This again was mainly due to the pandemic and its consequences. We continued to offer all of our services but non-emergency vet treatments such as neutering were suspended for much of the year due to the restricted services of Veterinary Surgeons under Lockdown. The call upon our services from the public were lower. We always provide the local Inspectors with any practical or financial support that they need but their working hours and practices were restricted by the pandemic and demand fell.
3. The Branch Committee continues to seek to strengthen the Branch by recruiting new trustees with the necessary skills and experience to oversee the activities of the Branch and keep our policies and practices up to date.
4. The Branch was prevented from holding an Annual General Meeting in 2020 because of Covid 19 restrictions. The Trustees did not think that a would be appropriate for our members to hold a virtual AGM which would have excluded some of our members and guests. We considered the advice of the Charity Commission and the national RSPCA and opted instead to defer our 2020 AGM and hold a dual AGM in 2021 to cover a period of two years. As long as restrictions have lifted this will be a traditional meeting rather than being held virtually.
5. Miss Correen Campbell, Branch Secretary, and Miss Natalie Dunton, Branch Treasurer, both resigned their individual posts with effect from 31st March 2020. Mr Ashley McDermott resigned his post as a Branch Trustee with effect from 31st December 2021. The Branch were extremely fortunate in recruiting four new Trustees during the year. Mr Chris Ireland; Miss Kate Hargreaves; Miss Kelly Thatcher and Mr Dan Wordsworth. It is particularly impressive given that we were prevented from meeting face to face that got into their stride and assisted the Trustees with the revision of governance and policy matters by the end of the year.
6. Members were advised in last years report of the passing of the Branch President in January 2020. Sadly, not many of those reports were viewed by members and so it is pleasing to report that the Branch Trustees resolved that the main stabling Block at the Branch Equine Rehoming Facility should

be commemorated to the memory of Edna, and it is hoped that a service of commemoration can be arranged during 2021.

7. As with other non-essential shops, our shops were required to close for three periods in order to comply with Lockdown Regulations. In March, the Shops were closed for a period to mid June. In November there was a short closure and from December 21st 2020 the shops were closed for a period that was not to end until 12th April 2021. These closures were completely unforeseen at the beginning of the year. The Branch Trustees placed all paid staff on furlough and were able to ensure that no member of staff lost earnings due to the pandemic. The Branch also received generous grants from the Government to cover loss of income caused by the pandemic and details of the Grants are recorded in the Accounts that follow in the Financial Report. On the staffing front the Charity Shop at Gravesend continues to be under the management of Mrs Valerie Oakman, supported by Mrs Dawn Broad as her deputy and a band of loyal volunteers. At the Dartford Charity Shop, Mr Brendan Woodbridge the Shop Manager resigned with effect from 30th September. Earlier in the Year, Mr Chris Weaver's contract ended at the end of July. As a result of these changes the Trustees agreed that the Dartford Shop should be managed by a Group of 4 Volunteers (Mrs Jean Allen, Mrs Hilarie Jones, Mrs Joan Burgess and Mrs Norma Harber). It was unfortunate that the trading was so disrupted by the pandemic in the latter part of the year and it is hoped that a fresh start can be made in early 2021.

The Trustees had been discussing the merits of appointing a Branch Manager for several years and on the 1st October 2020 Miss Becky Blackmore was employed part time on a temporary contract. As the Branch Support Specialist employed by the national RSPCA she had already been working with the Branch for a number of years.

8. Members will recall that in June 2018 the Charity Commission issued a Certificate of Incorporation to the Trustees of the Branch which allows them to enter into contracts and hold property in the name of the Trustees for the time being of the Branch, rather than in the names of individual Trustees.
9. At a National level, The National Trustees were faced with a financial deficit which required a major review under the guidance of Mr Chris. Sherwood the Society CEO. The review concluded that there should be a drastic reduction in staff, and in September/October some 312 staff were made redundant, together with a major restructuring of staff and services. The National Society Mission Statement contains a "Vision of a world where all animals are respected and treated with compassion". The Society Officers gave notice that a major new strategy document would be announced in the New Year.

The Branch continues to take its part in the activities of the South East Regional Board and regularly attends the Regional Board Meetings (most of which were conducted by Google Hangout during 2020). This is made up of all Branches within the South East of the Region.

10. During the year the Branch continued to receive valuable support from our Branch Support Specialist, and we are grateful that Becky Blackmore was always ready to offer us assistance and guidance on a day to day basis

whenever we needed it. As reported earlier, Becky ceased her role with the national society due to the restructure on 30th September and joined us on 1st October. Sarah Piggott is now responsible for our Branch in the newly created role of Branch Partnership Manager, as a result of the National Society restructure.

11. As the Year 2020 came to an end the Branch Trustees were working on a major Strategy document to cover the next five years. The Trustees will also ensure that policy documents are revised to ensure that due governance is in place to satisfy not only the Society but also the Charity Commissioners.
12. During the early part of 2019, the construction of the Branch Equine Rehoming Centre was completed except for the Exercise Ring which was due to be completed by the end of 2019. We are able to report that the Exercise Ring was installed by the end of 2020, but the Branch still awaits invoices for the work.
13. Our two shops continue to produce results that enable the Branch to undertake our key role in Animal Welfare within our large Branch area and it is of little doubt that we could not make that contribution without the revenue that the shops continue to produce on a regular basis. Unfortunately, during 2020 the Pandemic took its toll, but the Government Grant for non-essential business and the job retention scheme ensured that the closures did not result in an annual deficit for the Branch. Details of the Shops activities are reported in a Memorandum Trading account which is included in but not part of the Branch Annual Financial Report. It will be noted that one of the significant items in the report is that of rent at the shops. The Branch had the foresight to purchase the freehold of the property at Gravesend and therefore no rent is paid. At the Dartford shop the Branch has negotiated a reduced rent and this was effected by a new lease arrangement from 1st June 2020.
14. The Branch continues to support the Staffie Neutering Scheme and has committed funds to it but the demand has been reducing over recent years. The Branch received a further sum of £2,500.00 in 2013 of matched funding to support the initiative and part of this sum has continued to be rolled over into 2020. During the year not one request was received for use of the fund. Whether this was occasioned by the pandemic is not known, but the sum of £1575.00p will remain available in 2021.
15. The operation of a weekly Branch RSPCA Clinic remains a high objective for the Trustees. Because of COVID 19 it has proved impossible to meet with veterinary practices to discuss establishing new initiatives due to their own operational difficulties. It will continue to be a main objective for us.
16. The Branch Trustees advocate a policy for the microchipping of all domestic animals and will offer assistance with the cost in cases of financial hardship. All animals that come into the Branch's care and are rehomed via one of the three catteries that the branch deals with are micro-chipped before being rehomed. Members of the public will continue to be advised of the benefits of micro-chipping.

17. The Female Cat Neutering Project, pioneered during 2015 by our Branch with the cooperation of Cats Protection and a number of Veterinary Surgeons, continued to be available during 2020 but funded solely by our Branch. The partnership with the Cats Protection ceased at 31 December 2018 with an agreement on both sides that we would be prepared to cooperate with similar projects in the future. Such a working arrangement will be discussed with Cats Protection in 2021

At the end of 2019, the Trustees agreed that the project should be retained and funded by the Branch. During 2020 a further 10 Cats were treated. This brought the total to 247 female cats spayed under the project. The Trustees were pleased that they have been involved in what was a tremendously successful exercise, meeting a much-needed service, unique in the field of animal welfare. Full details of the costings of the project can be found in the notes to the Branch Accounts.

18. The Branch has again during the year enjoyed a close working relationship with the Inspectorate in our area. The pandemic meant that those working arrangements were conducted at a distance, but Inspectors do attend our meeting as and when their duties permit, even by Google Hangout. During the year Chief Inspectors Steve Dockery chose to take retirement and he was succeeded in post at Leybourne by Chief Inspector Nick Wheelhouse. The Branch receives the services of Chief Inspector Mark Miles on the east side of the Branch and the team of Inspectors from both sides of the Branches are regularly in our large Branch area, providing a most effective service for which we are truly grateful. Details of the Inspectorate activities are contained in the body of the Annual Report, with Annual Reports from both Chief Inspectors.
19. The Branch has continued to seek to improve its fund-raising activities and although the Branch continued without the services of a Fund-Raising Co-ordinator, the Branch has been very active in this area. The Branch owns properties at Miskin Road Dartford, Gordon Road Dartford, and Parrock Street Gravesend (Flat & Shop). The leasing of these properties produces a substantial rental income for the Branch on a regular basis, and fortunately COVID could not interfere with these arrangements.

The Branch continues to seek new sources of income generation. The placements of collecting boxes in several of the Co-operatives largest Stores within the Branch area has proved to be most successful. The Branch is grateful to all the Co-operative Store Managers for their cooperation in the placement of the boxes. The Branch Trustees are also extremely grateful that Joan Burgess continues to collect and bank the proceeds of the collecting boxes on behalf of the Branch. Unfortunately, COVID did do its destructive work on this area as will be seen from the accounts

20. The Branch Committee make every effort to ensure that any cat or dog that comes into our care is found a comfortable temporary home, receives veterinary care, and is neutered and micro-chipped before it is considered for re-homing. The Branch has continued with the arrangements for the placement of cats at the Ashford Cattery, Bluebell Ridge, Hastings, and the Canterbury & Dover Branch Cattery. At all of these catteries the Branch receives part of any rehoming fee for any cat that has been placed in the

cattery for more than one month. The number of cats proved to be greatly reduced during the year but we were always at the ready to offer help to any cats that wanted our care. Arrangements continued with the Lodge Cattery & Kennels to accept cats and dogs that came into our care and could not be cared for at one of the RSPCA Catteries, but here again the service was restricted by the pandemic.

21. The Branch website remains;

www.rspca-kentnorthwest.org.uk

and the Branch Trustees are committed to ensuring the service of the website is improved to contain better information for users.

The Branch Helpline for use by the public and was well used during the pandemic. It seems our helpline is used far and wide beyond our Branch area.

22. John Bowley, the Branch Animal Welfare Administrator, continued to forge strong relationships with the veterinary clinics and other establishments not only in our Branch area, but because of the inflow of Cats during the year, over a wider field. John works tirelessly to ensure that Animal Welfare service in the Branch are available 14 hours a day and always goes that additional mile to assist any animal. John ensured that all animals signed over to the Branch's care always receive the best veterinary care possible at the caring Veterinary Surgeries. These animals are placed to ensure that there will be suitable homes for their future care. The Branch and its members owe a particular vote of thanks and gratitude to John for Volunteering his services to the Branch.
23. Sadly, as will be seen from the Branch Accounts, no Special Events could be undertaken during the year.
24. To conclude this report, I would like to place on record the thanks of the Trustees to everyone who has contributed to the success of the Branch during the year. This relies on the Branch Trustees working as a team with each taking responsibility for their own special part in the Branch success. Also, to a band of volunteers, each making a special contribution which enables us to achieve so much for animal welfare in our large Branch area. To each and every one of them I offer my own personal thanks for making my role as Chairman so much easier and rewarding.

On behalf of the Branch Trustees who freely give of their time to undertake the governance of the Branch, I offer our sincere thanks to our dedicated Volunteers and all those people and organisations who have so kindly given their time in helping us with our work throughout a very difficult year. Without this assistance, the Branch would undoubtedly have struggled in meeting its commitment to improving animal welfare. Our thanks are offered also to Chief Inspectors Steve Dockery (retired), Mark Miles and Nick Wheelhouse together with their teams of Inspectors in our Group, and a special thank you to Becky Blackmore, our Branch Support Specialist for ten months of the year, and then joining us and bringing her knowledge and experience in our work for Animal Welfare and will, I am sure lead us on to

being a better and certainly a more progressive Branch. I would also like to thank the Police, Local Authorities and Fire Brigades, together with all the other services who, when called upon, have helped as the need arose.

Eric Grover

Branch Chairman,
for the Branch Trustees

RSPCA KENT, NORTH WEST BRANCH.
(Registered Charity 210633)

BRANCH MANAGERS REPORT FOR 2020, presented by Becky Blackmore

I joined the Branch in the newly created role of Branch Manager in October 2020. Previously I had been employed by the national RSPCA and my role included supporting this Branch for some fifteen years. This made for a very smooth transition, and I was able to hit the ground running.

The Branch had just recruited a group of new Trustees to work with our longstanding ones but COVID restrictions made it impossible for us to meet face to face. One of the first challenges was therefore to get our new team working together effectively. This involved embracing new technologies such as holding virtual meetings, instating Gmail for all and using shared drives. We also set up several new Sub Committees to help us make progress on the following key areas;

- Governance, Compliance, Strategic Planning and Risk
- Finance
- Shops
- Income Generation, Profile and Digital
- Strategic Planning

By the end of 2020 we had agreed a Branch Mission statement. We had also produced a first draft of a Branch Strategic Plan. The aim was to take stock of our successes in the past and also to explore how we might adapt to the contemporary circumstances and extend our impact over the next 3-5 years. Our Branch is in a position of strength in terms of both our human and financial resources. The time is therefore right for us to improve our current services in the key areas of rescue/rehoming, neutering, microchipping and veterinary assistance. Also to explore new ways in which we can help animals and owners in need of support in our Branch area.

As a first step in identifying local needs, I sent a survey to the local RSPCA Inspectorate. We asked about the main challenges they face in our area and what services and support they would find most valuable for us to provide in future. The responses were interesting as they showed that in addition to sick, injured, abandoned or unneutered cats and dogs, they were often dealing with problems arising from fly grazed horses and exotic animals such as reptiles. One of the services they most supported was for us to reinstate a subsidised veterinary Clinic within a local vets practice (our Clinic at Shrubbery Vets having been not active in recent years). We also agreed that the Branch wanted to do more to educate pet owners of the future to promote kindness and understanding to animals. One of the main species we want to improve knowledge and care of is rabbits.

The obvious next step was to make contact with all of the 20 vet practices in our Branch area to find welfare minded practices who would partner with us in the provision of low-cost neutering and also a basic clinic or clinics.

Our Branch has excellent relationships with many of the local practices, but COVID during 2020. Although all the paperwork and funding was now in place, the launch of these new services could not happen in 2020. John Bowley, our Animal Welfare Administrator, did continue to offer assistance and support on a reactive basis right through the pandemic and the Branch was always there to help when asked with a very high volume of calls.

I also introduced myself to a range of other local organisations to find out what issues they faced and to promote partnership working. This included Dartford and Gravesham Borough Councils, Community wardens and Animal Welfare Officers. I also reached out to the following Charities and the signs are that once things return to normal after COVID there could well be opportunities to collaborate; Cats Protection Bexley, Cats Protection Sidcup and Eltham, PDSA and Celia Hammond.

One of my responsibilities is to oversee our two Charity Shops in Dartford and Gravesend. I did not have long to work with them before they were forced to close due to Lockdown. Our shop staff and volunteers are a close-knit team and they were keen to get back as soon as was possible. While the shops were closed, I reviewed the Branch literature and created a new leaflet to promote volunteering in our shops and donating goods and a Volunteer Handbook. I was greatly assisted by a volunteer Graphic Designer, Cheryl Warner to whom I am very grateful.

I have been working to make sure that the Branch has a full suite of up-to-date policies and procedures in line with advice from the Charity Commission and the national RSPCA.

Becky Blackmore

R.S.P.C.A., KENT, NORTH-WEST BRANCH
(Registered Charity No:210633)

Annual Financial Report of the Branch Trustees for the year ended 31st December 2020.

1. The Branch Trustees have much pleasure in presenting to the Branch Membership, the Annual Financial Report together with the Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet of the Branch, accompanied by the report of the Independent Examiner of the Accounts as required by the Charity Commissioners, on what was probably the most difficult and traumatic year that the Branch has ever encountered. Like every other Charity, Business and Households the year was frustrated by the Covid 19 pandemic. We did however manage to come through in an acceptable financial situation the reasons for which will be explained in the following paragraphs. The Branch Trustees are confident in the belief that the financial future of the Branch is secure for some years to come.

2. The Trustees are conscious of The Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 and the regulation requirements of the Fund-Raising Regulator. The Branch Shops accept donations of goods and the Branch via donations made through its collecting boxes. Other than a request for donations on its Website, the Branch does not solicit individual donations from members of the public or members of the branch via written correspondence or via Professional Fund-Raising Agents.

3. The Branch Trustees are pleased to report that after all the trials and tribulations of 2020 the Branch was able to record a small surplus. Members can be confident that the Branch remains in a very strong financial position with a very strong balance sheet. Thanks to the Trustees activities, at the end of the year the Branch Assets increased from the sum of £1,040,069.60p in 2019 to £1,078,631.48p at the conclusion of trading in 2020.

4. 2020 once again proved to be a most challenging year as the Pandemic took its toll with the number of animals coming into our care decreasing significantly. Overall, our business income decreased by £37,458.11p (18.2%) We were fortunate that the Branch met the criteria set by the Government and as a non-essential retailer so that some of our losses were offset by coronavirus grants. During 2020 our expenditure was reduced due the reduced requests of our services again occasioned by the pandemic decreasing by £42,891.11p (24.8%) resulting in an overall surplus of £38053.82p. The Branch takes great pride that our services were always available throughout 2020.

5. During 2020 the Branch Trustees reviewed the objectives that the Branch set itself at the end of the year 2001. The Trustees confirmed that in the current financial climate and with the reducing number of animals that are coming into our care, the objective of an animal centre within the Branch area would not be sustainable and concluded that there might be other objectives that they could realistically meet. With this in mind, the Trustees resolved that in 2021 they would develop a Strategic Plan for the Branch, review the governance of the Branch and update all Branch policy documents to ensure that the structure of the Branch was safe for years to come.

6. During 2020 the Branch Trustees appointed Miss Becky Blackmore to the post of Branch Manager to be responsible for carrying out the instructions of the Trustees and strengthening the Branch. The Trustees wish the Branch to seek new income streams in order that we can, and will, meet more challenging objectives as they arise. The Branch Trustees will seek possible projects to advance animal welfare within our Branch area and

beyond. We will seek to make suitable contributions to the field of animal welfare wherever we can make a difference.

7. 2020 was a challenging year for our two Charity Shops which, along with all retail outlets, were forced to close due to Coronavirus. When the Shops were able to reopen, they achieved sterling results and the thanks of the Trustees goes to Valerie Oakman at Gravesend, together with her Deputy and a band of hardworking and loyal volunteers. Also, to the loyal and hard-working group of volunteers who have taken on the running of our Dartford Shop after the departure of the paid staff.

8. The results shown in the Accounts are a true reflection of the tremendous effort undertaken by those who volunteer for the Branch in all aspects of our work. Our core business is Animal Welfare and all in the Branch remain committed to this ideal. The Branch Trustees have reiterated the policy that any animal that can have a quality of life and be rehomed, will be accepted, and treated by the Branch.

9. The Branch has in the past derived most of its income from four major sources; the Branch Shops, Donations and Collecting Boxes and in more recent years Rent from the Branch properties. We have also been fortunate to receive an allocation from the Door to Door Campaign run by the national RSPCA which has produced a good source of income and we are truly thankful to all those who sign up to the Campaign. In addition to the effect on our Shops, the dreaded pandemic also affected our collecting boxes. Also, our clientele were reluctant to come forward as most veterinary clinics were forced to an emergency service only. Fortunately, our investments proved to be a reliable source and permitted us to provide additional services as they were required.

10. A glance at the accounts for 2020 will show that our main sources of income changed significantly. Our Branch Shops produced in 2019 some 63.59% of our income and for 2020 this was reduced to 31% and this reflected that income from the sale of Rags was reduced by 65.6%. Income from Rent produced some 22.4% of Branch Income in 2019 compared to 17.68% in 2020. The income from the Door to Door Campaign continued to produce 15.0% of income compared to 12.9% in 2019. As our Shops met the criteria set by the Government, Grants in respect of Covid supplemented the Branch income by 29.6%.

11. 2020 was a very atypical year for our Branch as well as for other Charities. The results of COVID 19 affected various aspects of both our income and expenditure as highlighted throughout this report and so 2020 cannot be a year to be used in comparisons. It is the hope of the Trustees that these challenges will not recur and that we can get back to normal at some point during 2021.

12. The figures for 2020 remain fairly comfortable but the Trustees realise that they must remain vigilant in order to be alert to the ever changing requirements within the world of animal welfare.

During 2020 We continued with the unique initiative of the Female Cat Spaying Project although the cooperation with Cats Protection ended in 2018. The Branch has agreed that it will continue the service as it is required and fund the service from its own resources, together with the Regional matched funding that was unspent at the end of the year.

13. The following paragraphs highlight the variations that have occurred within the

accounts presented to you over the last twelve months.

14. **INCOME:**

The year 2020 proved to be an incredibly difficult year as the shops were the subject of lockdown on three separate occasions. The Income derived from the sale of donated items from the two shops still proves to be quite impressive. Total income from the shops decreased in the year by the incredible sum of £80,582 an astonishing 60.7% achieving a total of just £52,108.20 compared to £132,690.28p in 2019. A truly disappointing year. On the occasions of lockdown, the Branch Trustees took the decision to furlough our employees and to protect them from the fears and apprehensions of the Coronavirus Pandemic. During 2020 the Branch Trustees considerations of the placement of "Donation Stations" at various locations throughout the Branch area was thwarted by the pandemic but it remains a high priority once we are able to proceed with the project to ensure a continuing supply of high-quality donated items coming into the Branch Shops

15. Subscription income increased by £28.00p (5.3%) although this is not supported by Branch Membership numbers. During the year the membership of the Branch remained at about the 150 level. It has always been difficult to reconcile the income from subscriptions with the actual number of members. This is due to the varying amount due to the Branch from varying classification of Membership Fees.

16. The income from Collection Boxes declined considerably and again this was occasioned by the fact that stores would not permit collections due to the pandemic. Income was reduced to a sum of £330.83 compared to a sum of £2,178.56p, in 2019. The Branch continues to seek new placement of collecting boxes. The Branch, as reported previously, continues to receive the cooperation of a number of Co-op Food outlets in placing several Collecting Boxes in the larger stores and the result has been truly phenomenal. It is hoped that should the Branch receive the voluntary services of a Branch Fundraising Administrator, their first priority would be the seeking of additional sites for the placement of our collecting boxes. The Branch Trustees continue to be most grateful to the help given by Mrs. Joan Burgess, who regularly collects from the boxes throughout the Branch area and banks the collections on behalf of the Branch.

17. The heading in the income section of the accounts General Donations does not include a contribution from matched funding as the Branch did not apply to seek support from the matched funding that it did in the previous year. This had the effect of reducing the donations that the Branch received overall in addition to the decrease in donations recorded. The donations received during the year amounted to £ 987.52p a decrease of £1356.99p (58.9%) over the previous year. Donations are a source of income that cannot be predicted. The Branch is grateful for all donations received but is conscious that we now receive donations in many guises, particularly through our shops.

18. There is always a tinge of sadness in the receipt of Legacies and In Memoriam donations, as it means that a loved one has passed on and that the deceased or the grieving family wish to mark the passing with either a legacy or donation. In 2020 the Branch received £5,508.06p from Legacies and In Memoriam donations and the Branch has a duty to ensure that such donations are spent in the best manner for the benefit of Animal Welfare. The Branch is truly grateful to be remembered in this manner.

19. During the year there was no income from Special Events. All events that may have been planned could not be undertaken during the lockdown periods and even when lockdowns were lifted, they did not permit such fundraising activities to be undertaken

20. As covered earlier in this report, Interest on the Branch bank accounts remained low with income at just £125.13 in 2020 compared to £278.85p in 2019 which reflects the continuing fall in interest rates. We anticipated as far back as 2017 that interest rates would continue to be at their lowest rate for several years and unfortunately, we were correct. The Branch Trustees were truly justified in investing in property to ensure that a reasonable level of income could be achieved to support its objectives.

21. Income from Rent received an increase in the year by a small sum of £1095.00p (3%). It is to the advantage of the Branch that in the financial climate prior to the pandemic, rents were on the increase. This is likely to stall until the effects of the pandemic are truly realised. In 2020 Rents produced an income of 37,710.00p, compared to £36,615.00 in 2019. The Branch continues to receive income from the renting of properties at 158 Parrock Street Gravesend (the ground floor as a catering establishment and the upper floor flat), Gordon Road Dartford and Miskin Road, Dartford. The Branch Trustees are extremely grateful for the help and advice they receive from the staff at McConnells, Estate Agents, Dartford, and for the assistance they receive in the management of the Branch's properties.

22. The Branch Trustees decided in 2006 that the Legacy from the late L.C. Croucher (referred to in the Annual Accounts), having a restriction of only being able to be spent on equipment for the treatment of animals, would be better placed in a separate deposit account within the Branch Funds as a Restricted Account. On the abolition of the Branch Development Fund, it was decided that it should be used as necessary within the terms of the Branch objectives. In 2018/9, a small proportion of the fund was allocated to the Branch Equine Rehoming Centre.

EXPENDITURE:

23. Members will recall that since 2013 the Branch has used a system of electronic payment of Creditors. The system permits a payment directly into a payees Bank Account without the need for the writing of cheques and the posting to the client. Although there is a charge for each transaction, the system eliminates the need for postage on each payment and the need for the payee to transport a cheque to the bank. The system continues to operate in an efficient manner and all the Branch payees have readily accepted the payment system.

24. Overall, it will be noted that the Business expenditure of the Branch did reduce by £42,891.11 (24.1) and that the contributions expected to be paid during the year to complete the Branch Equine Unit did not materialise. The Branch does have a Capital Commitment to meet the costs of a Training/Exercise Ring in the sum of £19,000.00p, which was going to be constructed in 2019 and payment met in that year.

25. Traditionally the highest level of expenditure for the Branch was for many years Veterinary Fees. The Branch spent 11.16% in 2019 and sadly this figure was reduced in 2020 to 7.09%. This represented a reduction in Veterinary fees of approaching 50% and a similar reduction in the cost of Drugs and Medicines. This was undoubtedly attributed to the effects of the pandemic. The highest level of expenditure in the Animal Welfare field for 2019 was once again Care of Animals although there was a reduction in the costs of this service. The Branch only spent £9,323.95 on this service compared to a sum of £24,095.11 in 2019, a reduction of £14771.16p (61.3%). Another service drastically

affected by the Covid 19 Lockdowns was that the Animal Centres that we work with were not able to operate as normal or open to the public during these periods. It should be reiterated that Animal Welfare is the core business of the Branch, and we can be proud of the number of animals we were available for during the pandemic. The Branch is not able to control the influx of animals coming into the Branch but would never refuse any animal requiring veterinary assistance, although it is not always possible with all the will in the world to be able to save every animal that we are able to take in. No animal would be denied treatment on account of costs .and, even more recently, budget costings

26. Unfortunately, our Branch Clinic remained suspended at the Shrubbery Veterinary Practice due to the unavailability of Veterinary cover. The Branch Trustees are truly very grateful to the Shrubbery Veterinary Practice for the provision of this very valuable service and understand the problems that are involved in providing such a service. It will be part of the Branch's future plans to provide a clinic service within the Branch area and we are seeking Veterinary practices that would work with the Branch on such a project. The Branch is also fortunate that a number Veterinary Practices offer the Branch generous discounts on the costs of animal treatments.

27. The actual expenditure on Veterinary Fees decreased from a figure of £18,318.44p in 201, to a figure of £9227.74, a reduction of £9090.70p (49.6%) for the same reasons attributed to the Care of Animals

28. At the same time the Branch expenditure on Drugs reduced in 2020 to a sum of £3,660.99 compared to £6,363.05p in 2019, a decrease of 2702.06p (42.56%) over the previous year.

29. The Branch SAWA Statistics reveal that we took in some 105 animals in 2020 compared to 222 animals in 2019. A further 59 animals received treatments in some form or other in spite of the restrictions that were in force. Members can be assured that no animal in need would ever be refused our help. During the year the Branch continued the arrangements for both cats and dogs to be cared for in Kennels and other private boarding Catteries in the Branch area before being re-homed.

The Branch continues working in partnership with the Ashford Branch Garden Cattery, the Canterbury and District Animal Centre (CADAC) and also Bluebell Ridge Cattery, Hastings, for the rehoming of Cats. The Branch benefits from a proportion of the rehoming fees that are charged by these Catteries. The demand for places was unusually low in the year for the reasons previously stated. For certain periods of the year the Branch had once again to call on the services of a number of Private Catteries including the Lodge Kennels & Cattery with whom the Branch has developed a good working relationship. The Branch Animal Welfare Administrator, John Bowley, continued his tremendous work in arranging for the placements and transportation of the animals that come into our care.

30. The Branch Neutering Scheme was another service that was drastically reduced by the Covid restrictions with a reduction in overall expenditure of £700.65p, (43.7%). Although the Branch was previously able to recover some of the neutering fees under a scheme administered by H.Q., this scheme was curtailed in 2020 due to expenditure cuts, therefore no claims could be made in 2020. The Branch continues to offer assistance with neutering despite this cut back from the national RSPCA. As we also reported previously, the Branch undertook a project jointly with Cats Protection for the Spaying of female cats and although this arrangement ended in 2018, the Branch continued to offer the service

funding the costs itself. Full details of the Branch expenditure under this heading are shown in the notes to the Accounts. At the end of 2020 a sum £1,575.00p remained to be carried forward to 2021 as no contribution was sought from the Matched Funding for the year.

A total of 10 cats were spayed under the Female Neutering scheme bringing the total treated to 250 at the end of 2019. A sum of £5,000 was received in 2015 from the Regional Board for matched funding of the Branch's Contribution. Of this sum, £1575.00 will be available in 2021 should it be needed. The Branch Trustees have however agreed that the cost of cases can still be met whilst there is a balance in the matched funding account.

The Branch Trustees are extremely grateful to the services of a number of Veterinary Practices that have supported the Cat Spaying which lasted some three years. The Branch is particularly grateful to Becky Blackmore for her negotiations of the introduction of the schemes with the participating Veterinary Practices.

31. The Branch Contribution is required to be paid to the national RSPCA and according to their formula was set at a rate of £110.00p in 2020. This is accounted for as Sundry Expenditure.

32. The expenditure on Shop Staff costs during the years increased by £926.51p, an increase of just 2%. The Branch Trustees implemented the increase in the National Living Wage of some 4% which was operative from 1st April 2019. It is the policy of the Branch Trustees to implement the Nation Living Wage in accordance with the relevant legislation and to pay slightly above the Governments rates, whilst at the same time retaining the differentials in the rates paid to the Managers and their deputies. During the periods of the Shop closure the Branch successfully applied for grants under the Government's Job Retention Scheme and received a total of 11431,59 towards the Branch salary costs.

Both the Manager and the Deputy Manager left the Dartford Shop during 2020. The Trustees considered the situation at the Dartford Shop and agreed that with effect from 1st October 2020 there would be a team of volunteers responsible for management arrangements at the Dartford Shop. This team includes two Branch Trustees.

Having considered the appointment of a Branch Manager of several previous occasion, the Trustees took the opportunity to offer the post to Miss Becky Blackmore, who had previously been the Branch Support Specialist and was fully aware of the needs of the Branch. Miss Blackmore commenced her duties on 1st October 2020, commencing on a contract for 2 days per week.

33. Printing & Stationery costs decreased by £107.28p (18.2%) in the year. The new photocopier leased from KCC in 2019 is proving to produce much cheaper copies for materials that may be required in the Branch Shops. It is also able to produce A3 posters in colour for advertising at the Branch Shops. The modest decrease in printing costs is because due to the pandemic the Annual General Meeting could not be held in 2020 and will hopefully be held in late 2021. The Branch did however advise the membership of the deferral of the AGM and the reasons for it.

34. Expenditure on Postage and Telephone decreased by £533.24p (21.4%). Included within this heading are the facilities of the Branch helpline and there is a mobile phone service for the Branch Animal Welfare Administrator. During the year the Trustees continued to improve the service and every call now reaches an officer of the Branch with

an answerphone alternative on each of the extensions. It would seem that many members of the public, including those outside of the Branch area, seem to find the Branch number quicker for contact with the RSPCA than the National helpline. Each call is dealt with and the caller notified of the correct contact and where possible directed to the correct number. The Dartford Shop also has access to a BT Broadband system installed so that sales can be made via the internet. The telephonic helpline information service of the Branch appears to be working satisfactorily and the Branch Trustees are truly grateful to the Branch Animal Welfare Administrator who takes and settles most of the calls that come via the helpline.

35. The cost of Shop Equipment decreased by £13.49p (<1%). Many of the Shop equipment purchases are essential for the smooth operation of the Shops. No major items of shop equipment were purchased during 2020, and it should be remembered that the shops were closed on three separate occasions during the year.

36. As has been our practice in recent years, Rent & Rates have been identified separately from Heating and Lighting Costs. This will make it easier for members to understand the individual element of the expenditure. The only Rent now payable is in respect of the Dartford Shop and this was increased to £27,500 in 2017. In the light of the delicate trading position at the Dartford Shop an application was made to the Landlord to request a reduction in the rent. The request was agreed to and a new one-year lease was drawn up in 2020 with a one-year lease at £23,500.00. A further short term lease will be negotiated in 2021. The decision to purchase the premises at 161 Windmill Street Gravesend means that no rent is payable, although Rates are payable and for 2019 this amounted to £779.00p. Members may wish to be reminded that the expenditure on the conversion of the two units into a single trading unit at the Dartford Shop were fully written off during 2020.

37. Expenditure on the Heating and lighting element of the expenditure decreased by £1788.96p (39.1%), this reduction was occasioned by the fact that the shops were closed for periods during the pandemics.

38. The expenditure on Maintenance and Repairs and Waste disposal at the Shops has also been shown separately again this year to give a clearer understanding of the elements of the expenditure. The expenditure on Maintenance and Repairs increased by the sum of £1489.91p (32%). In 2019 there were no major items under the Maintenance and Repair heading other than the replacement of the of carpeting at 158a Parrock Street and a new water heater at the Dartford Shop. There was a reduction in the charges for Waste Disposal of £2911.33p (46.4%) and this reflects the reduction in service requirements occasioned by the pandemic.

39. Irrecoverable VAT decreased by £2684.88p (46.41%), the decrease being due to an overall reduction in the expenditure heads where irrecoverable VAT applies. It should be noted that expenditure on the neutering of "Staffies" attracts VAT which is not recoverable as is any work on the Branch properties. The Branch Clinic, the Female Cat Spaying Project and the Subsidised Cat Neutering Scheme also attract VAT which is not recoverable. It has been clarified that the Branch can only recover VAT on Animal Welfare matters where the animal is to be rehomed and for which a fee is likely to be received. The Branch carefully monitors and tries to be aware of the relevant log numbers of all the animals that are dealt with by the Branch and the discharge details for all the animals that we care for so as to maximise our VAT position.

40. The Branch has once again recorded, after taking into account legacies and in Memoriam payments, a surplus in our business income of £38,053.82p in 2020, compared to a surplus of £42,867.82p in the previous year. Members can be assured that the Branch remains in a strong financial position and can confidently continue to plan its main objectives. Although that will not now be the provision of an Animal Centre within the Branch's area, we will continue to be proactive and progressive in animal welfare and will confidently meet any challenges that we may encounter in the near future.

41. Finally, the Branch Trustees would like to place on record their thanks and appreciation for all the assistance and support that we have received during the year. The past year is one of which we feel the Branch can once again be justly proud of its achievements, despite the different challenges that we were required to overcome during the year. 2021 will undoubtedly throw up new challenges but also opportunities for new initiatives once the effects of the dreaded Covid19 subside. The Trustees remain confident that they are on course to meet the main objectives of our Branch and that the targets we set will be achievable. Further that the Branch will continue to be progressive in the field of animal welfare as the demands on its services require.

Eric Grover,

**Branch Chairman,
on behalf of the Branch Trustees.**

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

KENT NORTH - WEST BRANCH
(Registered Charity No. 210633)

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

and

BALANCE SHEET

- for the year ended -

31st DECEMBER 2020

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.
KENT, NORTH-WEST BRANCH
(Registered Charity No: 210633)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is incorporated under an Act of Parliament and each Branch is governed by the rules of the Society. The Kent, North-West Branch is an incorporated and a registered Charity No. 210633. The Administrative Office of the Branch is at 37, Gordon Road Dartford Kent DA1 2LG.

The day to day affairs of the Branch are managed by a Branch Committee. During 2018 the members of the Branch Committee were:

Mrs.E.M. Grover.	Branch President. (ex officio wef 25 th July 2018)
Mr. E.J. Grover.	Branch Chairman.
Mrs J. Allen	Branch Vice Chairman.
Miss C. Campbell.	Branch Secretary (to31 st March 2020)
Miss N. Dunton	Branch Treasurer (to31 st March 2020)
Mr. J. A. Bowley.	Branch Animal Welfare Administrator.
Mr B. Charman	Branch Trustee
Miss K. Hargreaves	Branch Trustee (wef 23 rd September 2020)
Mr C. Ireland	Branch Trustee (wef 23 rd September 2020)
Mr T. Maddison	Branch Trustee
Mr A. McDermott	Branch Trustee (resigned 31 st December2020)
Miss K. Thatcher	Branch Trustee (wef 23 rd September 2020)
Miss K. Ward	Branch Trustee
Mr D.Wordsworth	Branch Trustee (wef 23 rd September 2020)

During the year the Branch employed a Full Time Manager and a Part Time Deputy Managers supported by a Casual Assistant Deputy Managers at the Branch Charity Shop at 2-3, Market Place, Dartford Kent. The Full time Manager resigned his post on 30th September 2020 and the Part Time Manager resigned his post on 31st July 2020. With effect from 1st October 2020 the shop has been under the Management of a Voluntary Management Committee of four volunteers approved by the Branch Trustees.

A Full Time Manager and Part Time Deputy Manager are also employed at the Branch Charity Shop at 161, Windmill Street, Gravesend. A part time Branch Manager was appointed on 1st October 2020. The roles of Branch Treasurer and Branch Secretary have been held in abeyance until such times as suitable candidates can be appointed. The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year was 4.

The object of the Charity is to promote kindness and 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 objectives.

The Charity is dependent on donations and fund raising to pay for its activities. The Branch also receives part of the subscriptions paid by members. The Branch constitution is approved by the National RSPCA umbrella body, Charity No.219099, which is considered a related party for accounting purposes. During the financial year, the Branch received a total of £25,173.00p (Door to Door Campaign) grant funding from the National RSPCA for the Branch's purposes. Also, during the financial the Branch paid a donation to the National RSPCA in the sum of £5,000.00p to support a Branch Emergency Fund which was introduced earlier in the year to support Branches throughout the Country who were experiencing difficult financial problems occasioned by the Covid 19 pandemic. The Branch also receives a number of umbrella body services, including legacy administration under the Branch Legacy Scheme, membership administration and practical guidance and assistance from a Branch Partnership Manager (formerly Branch Support Specialist) employed by the National Society. The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge paid by the charity during the year was £930.

Details of the Charity's activities are disclosed in the accounts. There have been no significant activities during the year requiring a report to the Charity Commissioners. Legacies and In Memoriam donations to the value of £5,508.06p were received during the year. Details of assets held by the Branch are disclosed in the accounts. There have been no material post balance sheet events.

E.J. Grover,
Branch Chairman.
31st March 2021.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

KENT NORTH-WEST BRANCH

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2020

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Balance brought forward	1,040,069.60	1,011,123.78
Property Revaluations in Year	-	-
Surplus for the Year	38,561.88	28,945.82
	-----	-----
	1,078,631.48	1,040,069.60
	=====	=====

BRANCH RESTRICTED FUNDS:

L.C.Croucher Legacy for Equipt.	33,163.72	33,134.53
	33,163.72	33,134.53

BRANCH GENERAL FUNDS:

Fixed Assets(Note1)

Property 158,Parrock Street Gravesend.	263,000.00	263,000.00
Property 37,Gordon Road,Dartford	205,000.00	205,000.00
Property 10 Miskin Road,Dartford	196,870.33	196,870.33
Property 161,Windmill Street,Gravesend	168,749.50	168,749.50
Branch Shops Fix.& Fittings	Nil	2,912.07
Plant and Equipment	Nil	Nil
	-----	-----
	833,619.83	836,531.90

Current Assets

Nat West Capital Reserve Account	158,922.63	108,826.69
Debtors & Prepayments	11,207.29	14,491.66
Branch Pay Pal Account	713.43	577.42
Cash at Bank & In Hand	51,655.35	56,657.17
	-----	-----
	222,498.70	180,552.94
less Creditors	(3,547.35)	(4,674.77)
Balance Rabbit Awareness Projects	(2,000.00)	(2,000.00)
Balance Staffie Matched Funding	(1,575.00)	(1,575.00)
Balance Female Cat Spaying Project	(1,900.00)	(1,900.00)
Australian Bush Fire Fund	(1,628.42)	

Net Current Assets	211,847.93	170,403.17
TOTAL BRANCH GENERAL FUNDS	1,045,467.76	1,006,935.07
	-----	-----
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	1,078,631.48	1,040,069.60
	=====	=====

E.J.Grover.	CHAIRMAN
J.R.Allen	VICE CHAIRMAN
T.A.Maddison	BRANCH TRUSTEE

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

KENT NORTH-WEST BRANCH

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020

BRANCH GENERAL AND AUXILIARIES.

INCOME:	2020		2019	
Microchipping & Rehoming	840.00		2,043.39	
Subscriptions	553.00		525.00	
Rent Received	37,710.00		36,615.00	
General Donations/Grants	618.62		987.52	
Donations via Inspectors	0.00		10.00	
Coronavirus Grants	49,765.59			
Collecting Boxes	330.83		2,178.66	
Door toDoor Campaign	25,173.00		26,739.00	
Special Events****	0.00		560.84	
Goods Sold	2.50		13.73	
Dividends and Interest	125.13		278.85	
Shops Gravesend & Dartford	52,108.20		132,690.28	
Rags and Recycling	1,069.70		3,112.41	
Sundry Income			0.00	
	-----	168,296.57	-----	205,754.68
EXPENDITURE:				
Motor Vehicle & Travelling	92.45		197.15	
Printing and Stationery	480.73		588.01	
Postage and Telephone	1,959.52		2,492.76	
Rent & Rates	26,579.64		28,426.74	
Heat, Light & Water	2,783.60		4,572.56	
Insurance/Security	2,354.98		2,293.62	
Maintenance and Repairs.	6,146.60		4,656.69	
Waste Disposal	3,362.22		6,273.55	
Branch Staff Costs	35,991.95		46,497.03	
Covid Grants JRS	11,431.59	47,423.54		
Covid 19 PPE costs	1,001.87			
Shop Equipment	1,416.95		1,403.46	
Goods for Resale	-		-	
Depreciation & Write Offs	2,912.07		2,912.05	
Professional Fees	6,669.75		5,938.67	
Branch Neut.Scheme	902.98		1,603.63	
Transfer to Neutering Funds	-		-	
Veterinary Fees	9,227.74		18,318.44	
Drugs and Medicines	3,660.99		6,363.05	
Care of Animals	9,323.95		24,095.11	
Microchipping & Rehoming	52.17		185.79	
Annual & General Meetings.	-		64.00	
Sundry Expenses	791.15		1,544.82	
Irrecoverable VAT	3,099.85		5,784.73	
		130,242.75		164,211.86
		-----		-----
Surplus/(Deficit) before Legacies		38,053.82		41,542.82
Legacies and In Memoriam donations		5,508.06		1,325.00
Grant toBranch Emergency Fund		(5,000.00)		(13,922.00)
		-----		-----
Surplus/(Deficit) after Legacies		38,561.88		28,945.82
		=====		=====

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS
KENT NORTH-WEST BRANCH
(Registered Charity No: 210633)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES.

The principal accounting policies of the Branch are set out below. The policies have remained unchanged from the previous year.

(a) Basis of Accounting.

The financial statements have been prepared under historical cost conventions and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

(b) Income.

Income is accounted for when received.

(c) Depreciation of Tangible assets.

During 2005 the Branch Trustees carried out a review of the methods used to depreciate Capital Expenditure. It was concluded that the use of a 10% reducing balance gave an unrealistic value of the items over a long term. In future all tangible capital assets would be written off over a determined period with each case of expenditure to be determined at the time of purchase. Details of the period of write off would be recorded in the Branch Asset Register.

As a result of the trustees revised policies the following items were written off at the following rates:

Freehold Buildings.	Nil. During 2013 the Trustees arranged for the revaluation of some of the Branch Property. During 2018 a further revaluation of the property at 158, Parrock Street, Gravesend, was carried out. The results of that revaluations are shown in the Balance Sheet. The valuations were prepared on an open market basis by McConnells, Chartered Surveyors.
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Shop Fixtures and Fittings.	The majority of the original assets held at the Branch Shops have now been written off. The conversion costs for the development of the Dartford Shop Premises are to be written off
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over the ten year period of the lease, and were finally depreciated during 2020

Furniture, Plant and Equipment. The use of a 10% reducing balance to all previous items under this heading have now been either depreciated or written off.

(d) Irrecoverable VAT

It is the Branch's policy to write off irrecoverable VAT through the Income & Expenditure account when incurred.

2. FIXED ASSETS.

	Freehold Property.	Branch Shops Fix & Fitt.	Furniture Plant and Equipment.	TOTAL
Balance at 1st Jan. 2020.	833,619.83	2,912.07	Nil	836,531.90
Add Revaluation in year.	Nil	Nil	Nil	000.00
Less Depreciation and Write offs for year.	Nil	(2,912.07)	Nil	(2,912.07)
Balance at 31st Dec 2020	833,619.83	00.00	00.00	833,619.83
Made up of:				
Original cost.	836,242.71	51,045.13	4,515.46	891,803.30
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(2,622.88)	(51,045.13)	(4,515.46)	(53,359.35)
	833,619.83	00.00	00.00	833,619.83

3. BRANCH (formerly the REGIONAL) NEUTERING SCHEME.

The former South East Regional Board (now part of the Southern Region) terminated the former Regional Neutering Scheme arrangements on 31st December 2003. The Branch Trustees have agreed to maintain the neutering policy on the same basis as the former Regional Scheme operated.

During the year the Branch were notified that the arrangements whereby the Branch would be able to recover some of the expenditure made in respect of certain types of neutering would be terminated and such arrangements would be transferred to the South East Regional Board, should they wish to retain the practice.

In 2011, the Branch Trustees agreed to join the Regional Initiative for the neutering of Staffordshire Terriers and like cross breeds. Arrangements were

made with the Shrubbery Veterinary Centre for the administration of the initiative and during 2012 these arrangements were extended to the Pilgrims Veterinary Clinic, Dartford during 2013 and to the Meopham Veterinary Hospital during 2014. Regrettably at the 31st December 2020 no application for the service were received during the year. (This means that the total treated since the initiative commenced remains at a total of 230 animals) The Branch also received a further grant in 2015 from Regional Funds to assist the Initiative on a “matched funding” basis. The Balance of the matched funding grant that will be available for 2021 is shown in the accounts. It will be noted that because of no take up in the Initiative no funding was drawn for the Regional Funding for 2020. The service will remain available during 2021.

In addition to these services during 2017 the Branch continued the project inaugurated in 2015 to spay female cats from the age of four months and received support from Cat Protection, who agreed to meet half of the costs of the Spaying. The funding from Cats Protection ceased in 2018. During 2020 10 cats were treated under this project.

The Branch received the continuing support from a number of Veterinary Surgeons in the area together with support in the form of a Grant from Three County Councillors at the commencement of the Project.

A summary of the total expenditure in respect of the three services is as follows:

Branch Neutering Scheme:

Expenditure in respect of Neutering	736.28	
Total:		736.28

Staffies Neutering Initiative:

Staffies Neutering Initiative Expenditure	Nil	
Total:		Nil

Female Cat Spaying Project:

Expenditure in respect of Cat Spaying	166.70	
Total:		166.70

Total as per accounts: **902.98**

In the light of the low take up of the various schemes no application was made in respect of the RSPCA refund scheme

4. DONATIONS/GRANTS.

Included in the heading Donation/Grants this year is the contribution made to the Branch in the form of Regional Matched Funding Grants. No Matched funding Grants were applied in 2020 The figure in the Accounts is therefore summarised as follows:

General Donations.	618.62
Donations via Inspectorate	Nil
TOTAL.	618.62

5. SPECIAL EVENTS.

It is regrettable that in 2020 due to the Coronavirus Pandemic no Special Events were permitted to be undertaken.

6. **HEAT, LIGHT, WATER & RATES.**

Payments made in respect of the items included within this heading are summarised as follows:

	<u>Electricity.</u>	<u>Gas.</u>	<u>Water.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dartford Shop	£ 937.16		£173.40	£1,110.56
Gravesend Shop	£ 604.24	£372.00	£177.80	£1,154.04
Branch.	£ 168.90	£176.30	£173.80	£ 519.00
			TOTAL	<u>£2783.60</u>

7.. **PROFESSIONAL FEES.**

Professional fees includes the following amounts for the Independent Examination of the Branch's Accounts:

<u>2020.</u>	<u>2019</u>
£595.	£600.

8. **CREDITORS.**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019.</u>
Trade.	2,837.35	£3,959,77p
Accruals	£ 710.00p	£ 715.00p
	<u>£ 3,547.35p</u>	<u>£ 4,674.77p</u>

9. **TRUSTEES REMUNERATION & EXPENSES.**

No Trustee or connected person received any remuneration during the year.

10. **CAPITAL COMMITMENTS.**

The Branch is committed to the funding of an Equine Rehoming Centre and was approved by the Trustees in 2017. The costs of Stages One and Two plus other sundry items (including the Planning costs) of the project were included in the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2018. The Branch is also committed to the funding of an exercise ring which was carried out in 2020. However, the recharge for the work was not received in 2020. The work payment will be carried forward to 2021 at cost of £19,000

RSPCA, KENT,NORTH WEST BRANCH

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2020

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS DURING THE YEAR

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<u>TABLE ONE: STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS</u>		
<i>Net Cash provided by (used in) operating activities</i>	45,885	(31,060)
<i>Cash Flows from investing activities</i>		
Purchase of property,plant and equipment		
<i>Net Cash Provided by (used in) investing activities</i>	45,885	(31,060)
<i>Cash Flows from financing activities:</i>		
Repayments of borrowing		
<i>Net Cash Provided by (used in) financing activities</i>		
<i>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</i>	45,885	(31,060)
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</i>	199,916	230,786
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</i>	244,432	199,916
<u>TABLE TWO: RECONCILIATION ON NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</u>		
<i>Net Income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)</i>	38,562	28,946
<i>Adjustments for :</i>		
Depreciation charges	2,912	2,912
Transfer of Funds	0	0
Increase/(decrease) in debtors	3284	266
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	1127	(63,183)
<i>Net cash provided by operating activities</i>	45,885	(31,060)
<u>TABLE THREE : ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</u>		
Cash in Hand	244,432	199,916

R.S.P.C.A. KENT NORTH WEST BRANCH.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2020

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (PAGE 1 of 2)

INCOMING RESOURCES:

Incoming resources from generated funds	<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>	
(i) Donations, legacies and other incoming resources:				
General Donations	618.62		987.52	
Donations via Inspectors			10.00	
Collecting Boxes	330.83		2,178.56	
Door to Door Campaign	25,173.00		26,739.00	
Income Received from Recycling	-		-	
Income from Legacies & In Memorium donatic	5,508.06		1,325.00	
Grants from HMRC iro Coronavirus	49,765.590	81,396.10		31,240.08
(ii) Activities for generating funds.				
Commision Received iro Pet Insurance	-		-	
Sale of donated items Dartford Shop	20,207.78		62,738.08	
Sale of donated items Gravesend Shop	31,900.42		69,952.20	
Sale of Rags Dartford Shop	537.09		1,894.00	
Sale of Rags Gravesend Shop	532.61		1,218.41	
Sale of RSPCA Items	2.50		13.73	
Donations from Microchipping	-		-	
Income from Rehoming Fees	840.00		2,043.39	
Special Events	-		560.84	
		54,020.40		138,420.65
(iii) Investment Income				
Income from renting of Gravesend Property	14,610.00		14,340.00	
Income from renting of Dartford Properties	23,100.00		22,275.00	
Interest Nat Savings A/c	-		-	
Interest Bank A/cs	125.13	37,835.13	278.85	36,893.85
(iv) Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Subscription Income	553.00		525.00	
	-	553.00	-	525.00
Total Incoming Resources:		173,804.63		207,079.58

R.S.P.C.A. KENT NORTH WEST BRANCH.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2020

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (PAGE 2 of 2)

RESOURCES EXPENDED:

	<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>	
(i) Costs of generating Funds				
Staff Costs at Shops	35,991.95		46,497.03	
Covis Grants to Staff costs (JRS)	11,431.59			
Goods for Resale	-	1,001.87	-	
Shop Equipment	1,416.95	1,021.58	1,403.46	
Covid 19 PPE cost for Shops	1,001.87	19.71		
Rent Dartford Shop	26,503.64		27,647.74	
Rates Gravesend Shop	76.00		779.00	
Shop Overheads	10,349.86	86,771.86	15,671.00	91,998.23
(ii) Charitable activities				
(a) resources granted in furtherance of the Branch's objectives				
Care of Animals	9,323.95		24,095.11	
Regional Quota	110.00		105.00	
Microchipping	52.17		185.79	
Grant to Leybourne Equine Rehoming Centre			13,922.00	
Branch Neutering Scheme	902.98		1,653.63	
Transfer to Neutering Funds		10,389.10		39,961.53
(b) costs of activities in furtherance of the Branch's objectives				
Veterinary Fees Dartford Clinic	Nil		Nil	
Veterinary Fees Gravesend Clinic			117.15	
Veterinary Fees Emergency and other cases	9,227.74		18,201.29	
Drugs and Medicines	3,660.99		6,363.05	24,681.49
Grant to National Branch Emergency Fund	5,000.00	17,888.73		
(c) support costs for (a) and (b).				
Travelling Expenses	23.85		109.35	
Printing and Stationery	338.09		543.22	
Postage and Telephone	961.93		1,260.08	
Electricity Gas and water	382.63		877.61	
Insurance and Security Costs	1,864.98		1,803.62	
Maintenance & Repairs	3,506.76		1,326.33	
Waste Disposal Costs	-	Shop O/heads		Shop O/head
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	2,912.07		2,912.05	
Professional fees (Properties/Bank)	6,074.75		5,343.67	
Sundry Expenditure	433.15		922.95	
Irrecoverable VAT	3,099.85	19,598.06	5,734.73	20,833.61
(d) Governance costs.				
Meetings	-		64.00	
Professional fees (Audit)	595.00	595.00	595.00	659.00
Total Resources Expended:		135,242.75		178,133.86

R.S.P.C.A. - KENT NORTH WEST BRANCH - ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2020
 (Registered Charity 210633)
MEMORANDUM TRADING ACCOUNT FOR THE BRANCH CHARITY SHOPS
FOR THE PERIOD 1st JANUARY 2020 TO 31st DECEMBER 2020

(This account does not form part of the Branch Annual Accounts)

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>DARTFORD</u>	<u>GRAVESEND</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>DARTFORD</u>	<u>GRAVESEND</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
SALE OF DONATED ITEMS	20,604.39	32,775.75	53,380.14	<u>NON RECURRING COSTS</u>			
SALE OF RSPCA GOODS	2.50	0.00	2.50				
DONATIONS VIA SHOP	55.09	25.00	80.09	ROOF REPAIRS(NET)	0.00	0.00	0.00
COLLECTING BOX(SHOP)	0.00	0.00	46.47	ELECTRICAL REWIRING	0.00	0.00	0.00
SALE OF RAGS	537.09	490.91	1,028.00	INSTALL AIR CONDITIONING	0.00	0.00	0.00
DARTFORD FESTIVAL SHOP	0.00	0.00	0.00		=====	=====	=====
QUIZ NIGHT	0.00	0.00	0.00	TOTAL N/R COSTS	0.00	0.00	0.00
BOOT FAIR	0.00	0.00	0.00				
COLL.BOX(BRANCH A/c)	46.47	0.00	46.47	<u>RECURRING COSTS</u>			
IN MEMORIUM DONS	0.00	0.00	0.00	E BAY & PAYPAL FEES	59.18	0.00	59.18
E BAY SALES	346.18	0.00	346.18	BANK CHARGES (CREDIT CARDS)	213.42	248.66	462.08
E BAY POSTAGE INCOME	32.80	0.00	32.80	ACT. RENT & RATES	25,500.00	76.00	25,576.00
COVID GRANTS	27,000.00	11,334.00	38,334.00	TRAVEL COSTS	20.00	48.60	68.60
COVID GRANTS JRS	5,172.82	5,706.33	10,879.15	STAFFING COSTS	14,119.26	13,295.28	27,414.54
				JRS SUPPORT	5,172.82	5,706.33	10,879.15
				SHOP EQUIPMENT	57.89	1,296.03	1,353.92
				MAINT & REPAIRS	1,034.22	1,417.14	2,451.36
				WASTE DISPOSAL	2,682.12	939.90	3,622.02
				TELEPHONE/POSTAGE	739.29	226.10	965.39
				POSTAGE E BAY	93.35	0.00	93.35
				HEAT, LIGHT & WATER	1,243.11	1,157.86	2,400.97
				INSURANCE/SECURITY	240.00	250.00	490.00
				PRINT & STATIONERY	89.14	53.50	142.64
				GOODS FOR RESALE	0.00	0.00	0.00
				SUNDRY EXP.	145.03	281.21	426.24
				COVID PPE	309.24	521.94	831.18
					=====	=====	=====
TC	53,797.34	50,331.99	104,129.33	TOTAL RECURRING COSTS	51,718.07	25,518.55	77,236.62
				TOTAL EXPENDITURE	51,718.07	25,518.55	77,236.62
					=====	=====	=====
				TRADING PROFIT ON SHOPS:	2,079.27		
				GRAVESEND	24,813.44		
				OVERALL	26,892.71		

another Branch but all fundraising must be authorised by and reported promptly to the Branch Committee.

Rule 7.1 provides that the Branch Committee as charity trustees have responsibility for the Branch and its property and funds.

Rule 11.1 requires that the Branch Committee must comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 as to the keeping of financial records, the audit or independent examination of accounts and the preparation and transmission to the Charities Commission of :

annual reports;
annual returns; and
annual statements of account.

STATEMENT OF BRANCH RISKS MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Branch has identified the major risks to which it is exposed and has put into place systems and procedures to minimise the risks, as follows:

- (i) **Misappropriation of funds.** In an effort to prevent peculation of the Branch's assets, it has set up an internal control system which requires authorisation of all transactions by a person independent of the Branch Treasurer. Income at the Branch's Shops is monitored by the recording of receipts by an electronic till and a check of receipts is made at the end of each working day. The Branch also maintains an asset register for all Capital assets.
- (ii) **Monitoring of income to ensure that there are sufficient resources to meet commitments.** The Branch Officers regularly monitor resources to ensure that there are funds available to meet its commitments.
- (iii) **Reliance on Sources of income.** The Branch has in recent years, opened two Charity Shops in an effort to improve the income that is required to meet the demands on its services. In 2012 The Branch purchased a property with the purpose of renting to a tenant and producing additional income. During 2013 the Branch Trustees agreed to lease the ground floor of 158, Parrock Street Gravesend on a commercial basis. The lease was completed in 2014. A new lease in respect of the property was granted in 2017 for a period of 10 years. Also, during the year 2013 the Branch purchased the property 161 Windmill Street, Gravesend and this will in the longer term eliminate the liability to pay rent on the property. The Branch now rents a total of four properties which continue to produce additional income for the Branch.
- (iv) **A Commitment to fund Capital Projects.** The Branch has adopted a number of objectives to meet its service provision in the medium and long term. It has agreed that no progress can be made on these projects until sufficient resources are in place to fund any project to arise from those objectives.
- (v) **Loss of Key Volunteers.** The Branch has adopted a policy of recruiting and training, where possible, additional volunteers to undertake various duties that are involved in running a Branch of the size and character of the Kent, North West Branch of the RSPCA.

STATEMENT OF BRANCH RESERVES POLICY.

The Branch Committee has reviewed the Branch Reserves Policy during the year and has considered that the steps taken to ensure a source of regular income are now adequate to be confident that the resources

within the Branch are sufficient to meet its current commitments throughout the coming year and beyond, if commitments are continued at the current rate of expenditure. It further considers that a Current Account balance in the range of £10,000.00 to £20,000.00 would be sufficient to meet all arising commitments. It resolved that the Branch reconsider the need for a Branch Development Fund, to accrue a reserve to meet the policy objectives set by the Branch in December 2001. The Branch Committee agreed to review its long-term objectives in the light of estimated requirements of the Branch in respect of the Branch Clinics and animal home facilities. During 2016 the Trustees agreed that the target for the Development Fund should remain at the figure of £1,000,000.00p. and this would be reviewed in the light of any changing circumstances. During 2017 the Branch Trustees re-considered the retention of a Development Fund in the light of current financial conditions. The Trustees concluded that the aspirations of the Branch developing an Animal Centre in the light of the numbers of animals that come into its care and considering the continuing escalating costs of such a venture, the objective would be unsustainable and therefore concluded that the Development Fund should be dissolved, and the Funds recorded in the General Funds of the Branch.

During 2006, the Branch received a legacy from the estate of the late L.C. Croucher. The legacy has a stipulation that the money should only be expended on equipment to be used in the treatment of animals. The Branch Trustees have therefore agreed that the legacy should be maintained in a separately identifiable account within the Branch Funds and recorded as a Restricted Fund and should be available, only for the purchase of equipment required in connection with the meeting of the Branch's revised objectives. During 2018 the Branch Trustees agreed that some of the equipment costs of the Kent North West Branch, Equine Rehoming Centre could properly be appropriated to this account. Consequently, a sum of £12,545.00 of this fund has been expended on the said Branch Equine Rehoming Centre

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' UNQUALIFIED REPORT.

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Kent, North - West Branch.

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2020 as set out on pages 23 to 33.

Responsibilities and basis of report.

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

Independent examiner's statement.

I have completed my examination. I 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 Trust 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.



Jack Fryer ACA,
Hedley Dunk Limited,
Trinity House,
3 Bullace Lane,
Dartford,
Kent DA1 1BB.

02 July 2021

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY

KENT NORTH WEST BRANCH

Registered Charity 210633

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFITS

1. The RSPCA, Kent, North West Branch is an incorporated charitable Association and a separately registered Branch of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (the Society), carrying out its direct animal welfare work in the areas of all DA postcodes and the postcode area BR8.
2. The objects of the Branch are to promote the work and objects of the Society which is 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.
3. The Trustees have reviewed the outcomes and achievements of our objectives and activities for the year to ensure they remain focused on our charitable aims and continue to deliver benefits to the public. We have complied with the duty under the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.
4. Under the Charities Act 2006, the advancement of animal welfare is recognised as a distinct statutory charitable purpose. This legislation and the Animal Welfare Act of the same year indicate an acceptance by society that treating living creatures with compassion has a moral benefit for the public as a whole. Whilst the public benefit is clear, it is sometimes difficult to quantify and must be balanced against any detriment.
5. The Branch's animal welfare work, although local in nature, benefits society at large, and also aims to help people in need with the care of their animals. The next section of this report highlights the Branch's main activities and demonstrates the benefit provided to the public. All our charitable activities as described in more detail in the following paragraphs, and the content of the Branch Annual Report, focus on promoting kindness and preventing or suppressing cruelty to animals and are undertaken to further these purposes for the public benefit.
6. The Branch supports our local Inspectors by taking in, free of charge, mistreated or abandoned animals, including pets whose owners suffer ill health or financial difficulties or pass away. The Society's Inspectorate (in addition to providing education, information, and advice) rescues animals in distress and enforces laws against cruel mistreatment of animals in England and Wales by

bringing prosecutions. This work is key to the “prevention or suppression of cruelty” part of the RSPCA objectives and promotes humane sentiments towards animals which involves moral benefit to humankind as a whole.

7. The Branch provides subsidised veterinary treatment for animals which are sick or injured and belong to local people on benefit. We do this through the services of a volunteer Branch Animal Welfare Administrator who arranges for the service to be carried out at a local veterinary clinic and agrees the level of grant that can be paid for each episode of treatment. This work benefits those on means tested benefit by giving them financial help to obtain care for companion animals in need of veterinary treatment.
8. The Branch provides subsidised neutering and microchipping of companion animals for those in the Branch area for those on low incomes. This is done by a number of methods; arrangements with local veterinary clinics; as part of specific schemes such as the Neutering of Staffordshire Terriers and the like; arrangements with a Specific scheme for the spaying of female cats (a project that was run originally, jointly with Cats Protection); at catteries with whom the Branch has made specific arrangements and also through the services of the Branch Animal Welfare Administrator. This work helps control cat/dog populations through neutering and benefits those on means tested benefits by giving them financial help to neuter and microchip companion animals, thereby promoting responsible pet ownership.
9. Animals coming into the care of the Branch receive veterinary treatment and where necessary vaccinations, neutering and microchipping. This work helps to control the incidence and spread of disease and suffering through with their owners should they become lost or involved in a Road Traffic Accident.
10. Animals coming into our care that are suitable for rehoming are transferred to one of the three rehoming catteries that the Branch has made special arrangements with. These are at the Canterbury and Dover Branch, the Ashford Branch or the Hastings Branch at Bluebell Ridge. These centres rehome Branch animals after making the necessary arrangement and enquiries. Whilst the Branch does rely on other agencies to rehome Branch animals we do recognise that companion animal provide measurable benefits to people’s physical and mental health, we consider the provision of pets as subsidiary to the main charitable aim of this service, which is to reduce animal suffering. The policy to charge a reasonable adoption fee for animals aims to highlight the ongoing personal and financial commitment of pet ownership. It would not be in the best interests of animals, and therefore would fall outside of our objectives to rehome animals to those who could not afford the upkeep of them.

11. We take in, free of charge, 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.
12. The Branch responds to enquires and requests for assistance both directly through the Branch telephone helpline and the Society's Nation Call Centre. The public benefit from knowing that they can contact any part of the Branch service and the knowledge that we can intervene to assist animals in need. The Branch helpline is accessed by members of the public in Essex and other Branches throughout Kent.
13. The Branch operates two charity shops, one in Dartford and one in Gravesend. This permits the public to donate unwanted but serviceable items to the Branch in order to raise funds to support our services and also allows members of the public to purchase the donated items at reasonable and competitive prices, whilst adding to the funds that we seek to raise to meet the costs of the services we provide.
14. The shops also provide volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work and provides valuable insights into the world of retailing and fundraising. We also offer opportunities including, Trusteeship, fostering and fundraising, all of which benefits local people and companies by providing the possibility of doing work which is compassionate and rewarding.
15. Within the terms the terms of our governing document we support the National Society; other RSPCA Branches collaborating on matters such as care of animals, rehoming of animal and during 2018-19 made a grant to the National Society to meet the costs of an equine rehoming centre at the Leybourne Animal Centre. Members of the public benefit by the services that these services can provide



Kent Annual Branch Report

Branch Report 2020 - Inspectorate Group Kent

Chief Inspector Nick Wheelhouse
ARO Emma Byrne 8654
ARO Brian Milligan 11516
ARO Lynn White 6833
Inspector Dave Grant 173
Inspector Grace Harris-Bridge 15085
Inspector Clive Hopwood 16768
Inspector Tina Nash 10608
Inspector Kirsten Ormerod 16741
Inspector Rosie Russon 723
Inspector Rosie Wren 14023
Inspector Deborah Rutherford 15892

Welcome to the 2020 Kent Group annual branch report. 2020 saw lots of changes within the Kent Group, in February we saw Chief Inspector Steve Dockery retire after over 20 years service and move to sunny Spain. Not long after my appointment we were hit with the Covid-19 lockdown! This had an impact on how we could respond to incidents and officer safety was paramount.

The Wilberforce tasking model was changed to offer greater protection to our staff, however this did not stop us responding to calls of animals in need. Covid-19 saw an impact on the RSPCA as it did to all of the country and as a result the RSPCA suffered financially. In April the RSPCA embarked on a restructuring like no other time seen in the Society's history. We had to reduce expenditure by 20 million pounds which unfortunately

meant job losses throughout the Society as well as frontline staff, regional animal homes and animal hospitals.

When the consultation was completed, it was very difficult as we all had to say goodbye to a lot of colleagues of which we had worked with for many years. It was difficult for all of us and no one was unaffected by it.

We saw the closure of South Godstone and Putney Animal Hospital, Southall Clinic and Cattery as well. This was an attempt to rebalance resources in the South as the North has limited animal centres.

We are now in a much stronger position to go forward and do what we do best for animals in need. We also saw the creation of Animal Rescue Officers, who take the place of Animal Collection Officers and Animal Welfare Officers. This new role after their training allows them to do complaints including emergency one, as well as collections and rescues. This gives us more scope to attend more incidents and utilise our officers better. The role also allows a career path into the role of an inspector in future if they so choose.

Within the restructure and creation of the new ARO role, we saw Brian Milligan and Emma Byrne be successful in applying to become AROs within Kent and Lynn White was moved over to ARO as part of the consultation process. We said goodbye to ACO Roy Jezard, who after nearly 20 years service within a few roles across the Society left at the end of September. Emma and Brian's 5 week conversion course from ACO to ARO took place November to December 2020, with both rejoining the group in early December. The second (or third?!) lockdown meant that they weren't able to shadow their colleagues in the field following their training, however both have been doing brilliantly and have been and continue to be, supported by their colleagues following from the course and are now out and about on their own, tackling whatever incidents they are tasked with.

Like the other groups and equine charities, the winter months saw an increase in the number of complaints relating to horses. Muddy fields, the rising water table, poor weather including flooding and the rising cost of hay were the main issues being called about. This resulted in an increase in visits to horses, resulting in multiple advice notices issued and a handful of horses removed from a few locations across the county.

Kent has seen a huge number of calls relating to puppy farming and dog thefts. Working alongside our Police colleagues, the group have assisted with a number of Police led warrants which has been disrupting the illegal trade and the unscrupulous breeders.

The group have been working hard over 2020 supporting RSPCA Leybourne and a number of the branch run animal centres in transferring animals to their new home. The group have enjoyed seeing this side of the job and being able to work more closely with our branch network.

We also saw the introduction of the Inspectorate Welfare Voucher Scheme, which has already proved to be a vital part of the Inspectorate's toolkit.

Without the support of the Regional Board and Branch networks, we would simply not be as effective in rescuing animals in all sorts of predicaments. The field officers are under significant pressure and your continued patience and support is very much appreciated. Your work in supporting members of the public with funding, helping rehome unwanted animals, and caring for the sick and traumatised is to be commended. It can be a thankless task but I can assure you my team and I fully appreciate the hard work you and your teams put in.

In Kent we helped rescue, collect and rehabilitate thousands more animals from situations that would have resulted in severe injury and suffering. Within the Kent group you have officers who specialise in exotic animal rescue and care, specialist flood rescue, inland boat rescue, and equine rescue to name but a few.

We wish to offer our thanks to Kent Police for their invaluable assistance in exercising their powers of entry, search, seizure and occasionally arrest of people who mistreat their animals. Our thanks also goes to Kent Fire and Rescue Service for the many occasions that they have helped with rescues of animals that have got themselves trapped or in difficulty and we have needed their equipment and manpower to resolve the situation.

Of course we have not forgotten the RSPCA animal centres that take in our animals, care for them and eventually rehome them. Our sincere thanks to the Branch catteries and kennels that board, care for and rehome our animals, usually at very short notice and at the most inconvenient times, and to the experts who care for our sick and injured wildlife until they have been rehabilitated and are able to be released back into the wild.

We are also supported by Veterinary Practices from all across Kent. The support they provide helps us bring justice for animals, and support for the sick & injured. We work with other charities such as World Horse Welfare, The British Horse Society, Folly Wildlife Hospital and numerous more. We are most grateful to them all.

Finally, on behalf of everyone in the Kent group, a big thank you to all of the Branches, members and volunteers for making us feel so welcome at your meetings and for all the difficult and invaluable work you have done throughout 2020. Without you dedicating your time and efforts we would not be able to achieve all that we do.

Here are some of the many jobs we dealt with in 2020 in your branch areas...

Ashford, Tenterden and District



In Ashford and the surrounding areas we have rescued animals including sheep, and wildlife including badgers, snakes, buzzards, peacocks, swans and ducklings. With the support of Ashford branch we have collected injured and stray cats and provided financial aid to a number of domestic animals needed veterinary treatment

Canterbury and District



In the Canterbury area we have rescued wildlife including seals, swans, hedgehogs, herons and woodpeckers. Steve the dog was found tied to a bus stop with a broken leg in Canterbury and he is now well on the way to recovery and his forever home. Canterbury branch have helped us rescue a number of stray cats as well as financial aid to many owned cats in need of veterinary treatment and neutering



Isle of Thanet



In Thanet we have rescued wildlife including foxes, many many gulls, pigeons and kestrels. With the support of Thanet branch both Sammy and Sally have been rescued, rehabilitated and rehomed. Thanet branch have also supported us rescuing and rehoming a number of abandoned cockerels and provided financial aid to a number of domestic animals including cats



Medway West



In Medway we have rescued wildlife including foxes, hedgehogs, pigeons and peregrine falcons. With the support of Medway branch we have rescued many stray and injured cats as well as provided financial support for dogs and cats with skin conditions and neutering



North West Kent



In North West Kent we have rescued wildlife including swans, snakes, foxes and owls. Farm animals including lambs and chickens as well as rescuing horses, cats, ferrets and dogs with the support of North West Branch as well as providing financial aid to a number of domestic animals and neutering

Folkestone and District



In Folkestone and the surrounding areas we have rescued wildlife including seals, gulls, pigeons and foxes. We also managed to join Branch AWO Lucy Smith in completing school talks before lockdown hit



Isle of Sheppey



On the Isle of Sheppey we have rescued wildlife including gulls, foxes, swans, pigeons, rabbits and hedgehogs. With the support of Isle of Sheppey branch we have supported people after house fires and provided financial aid for veterinary treatment for domestic pets

Kent West, Sevenoaks and Tonbridge



In Kent west areas of Tonbridge and Sevenoaks we have rescued wildlife including foxes, swans, ducks and badgers. We have rescued cats up trees and with the support of Kent West branch we have provided financial aid to dogs needed emergency veterinary treatment



Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone

In Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone we have rescued wildlife including deer, coots, swans, birds of prey, foxes, badgers and pigeons. We have rescued horses, trapped, injured and stray cats, cockerels and hens and with the support of Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone branch we have provided financial aid to domestic animals including cats and dogs





Chief Inspector's Annual Report - 2020 London South Group

Chief Inspector Mark Miles 468

Personnel:

DCI Natasha Wallis
Inspector James Whipps
Inspector Lynn Serrano
Inspector Becky Phillips
Inspector Ed Halligan
Inspector Harriet Dalliday
Inspector Emily Buckett
ARO Lisa Miller
ARO Mat Hawkins
ACO Kirstie Gillard
ACO Monica Faloon
ACO/ARO Joe Tambini
ACO Barry Gridley
ACO Paul Taylor

Branches covered :

London South East Branch
Croydon, Crystal Palace and District Branch
Bromley & District Branch
Purley, Caterham & District Branch
Kent North West Branch

Welcome to the 2020 Chief Inspector's report for London South group!

What can be said for 2020 other than - thank goodness it's over! There's no way of writing a report of the year without acknowledging the coronavirus pandemic, and the huge impact it had, and continues to have, on the Society. When we went into the first lockdown back in March, none of us knew where the year would take us and what it would mean long term for the Society. We carried on, we adapted our way of working, and we all faced the changes and challenges head on.

Sadly towards the end of the year we lost a few of our ACOs, namely Kirstie Gillard, Paul Taylor, Monica Faloon, Barry Gridley and Joe Tambini, to redundancies made as a result of the impact of coronavirus on the Society. With a combined commitment of almost 70 years in the job, they're sorely missed in the field.

In other staff news, 2020 saw the development of the ACO role become the Animal Rescue Officer (ARO), and Mat Hawkins and Lisa Miller were successful in their application, interview and training in order to progress into it. Sadly due to further lockdowns their field training had to be paused in December, but they are both looking forward to cracking on again as soon as permitted!

London South group also gained Inspector Emily Buckett from London West group towards the end of the year, which we were all very pleased about! Emily has been an Inspector for a couple of years now, and it's great to have her living over in the SW area of the group.

Inspector Rosie Wren also moved group, heading over into Kent, and Inspector Liz Wheeler moved to Surrey group.

Once again we wish to offer our thanks to the Metropolitan Police, Kent Police and Surrey Police for their invaluable assistance in exercising their powers of entry, search, seizure and occasionally arrest of people who mistreat their animals. Our thanks also goes to London Fire Brigade and Kent Fire and Rescue Service for the many occasions that they have helped with rescues of animals that have got themselves trapped or in difficulty and we have needed their equipment and manpower to resolve the situation (as evidenced in the stories that follow below!).

Of course we have not forgotten the RSPCA animal centres that take in our animals, care for them and eventually re-home them. Our sincere thanks to the Branch catteries and kennels that board, care for and rehome our animals, usually at very short notice and at the most inconvenient times, and to the experts who care for our sick and injured wildlife until they have been rehabilitated and are able to be released back into the wild.

Finally, on behalf of everyone in the London South Group, a big thank you to all of the London and Kent Branches, members and volunteers for making us feel so welcome at your meetings and for all the difficult and invaluable work you have done throughout 2020 and into this year already. Without you dedicating your time and efforts we would not be able to achieve all that we do.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter where we've put together our best selection of collections, rescues and complaints from your branch areas!

Sincerely,

London South Team

London South East Branch

A Bridge Over Troubled Pigeons

In January, this fine young bird was caught in a bit of a situation when it's wings became tangled in some netting under a railway bridge in Catford. The fine young bird wielding the Reach & Rescue Pole is none other than Inspector Liz, who along with ACO Joe managed to cut it down and free it. The bird flew into the sunset to poop on a windscreen elsewhere.



A Bit of Light Donkey Work

This little donkey/Shetland pony cross with a big attitude decided she'd take matters into her own hands and forage in the Ocado lorry delivery bays for food in Abbeywood! ACO Kirstie and Inspector Harriet had to catch her, make a makeshift head collar from dog leads, get her back in the field, open her hay bale for her plus make some repairs to the fence to make sure she couldn't get out again! Well done team!



Can Anyone Shed Any Light?

This poor skinny girl was found straying behind a member of the public's shed in Peckham for around a week before they called us.



Very nervous and a little bit growly, Inspector James called ACO Lisa for backup and they managed to get her safely into James' van. The dog, now aptly named Bas (Behind A Shed), was taken to Putney Animal for assessment and treatment. No chip was found, and no response came forward from the posters put up in the area she was found.



Croydon, Crystal Palace and District Branch

Heads, Shoulders, Chimneys and Toes



ACO Kirstie called upon our friends in the London Fire Brigade for this rescue in Kenley. A rescue cat called Lennon who had been adopted during lockdown (not from the RSPCA!) had decided to escape through a Velux window and make the nearest chimney his new sunbathing spot. Lennon was soon comfortably back at home behaving as though nothing had happened!

A Starling Choice



This young starling was picked up by Inspector Harriet after being caught by a cat.

Luckily the cat's owners saw the attack happen and managed to grab the bird from the feline's jaws.

Harriet gave the bird the once over, and after seeing all the tail feathers were missing, decided to check it into rehab for a few months whilst they grew back, before successful release back to the skies.

Bromley & District Branch

Me-ouch



Feline hero ACO Joe rushed to the scene of this poor cat who was found collapsed but with no visible injuries in Orpington.

After zooming it to the vet at Putney Animal Hospital, an x-ray showed the cat had in fact been shot twice with a pellet gun, causing irreversible damage.

Sadly, the cat didn't make it, and was unchipped so we were unable to trace an owner.

Tree's A Crowd!



ACO Mat called in the Fire Brigade for help with this tricky rescue which saw an Iderly cat stuck up a very tall tree in Bromley. After seeing an initial call for help on Facebook, Mat was dispatched to the incident to see what he could do.

The cat had been stuck for over 24 hours and had some medical conditions, so the decision was made to get him down! Some of the lower branches had accidentally been removed by the well-meaning owners who had already tried and failed to get the cat down.

LFB were soon summoned, and Mat missed an opportunity to go up in the rising platform!

The cat was successfully brought down and taken back home for his dinner.

ACO Paul's Swansong



This swan (if you can spot it) was downed by power lines in a remote field near Orpington. ACO Paul called AROs Mat and Lisa for backup, the swan gave a bit of a runaround before being secured and taken to Essex Wildlife Hospital for treatment for a suspected broken wing.

Great job team!

Purley, Caterham & District Branch

Rodent You Like To Know



This little rat was found shivering in a cold October garden by a concerned member of the public in Caterham. Originally called in as 'an escaped baby chinchilla', and 'definitely, definitely 100% not a rat', ARO Lisa was quick to the scene and after stretching him out a bit, the little fuzzpot was identified as 100% rat. The poor mite was in quite a bad way, after suspectedly ingesting some poison, and so was unfortunately PTS to relieve his suffering.

Life Behind Bars for One Sour Puss



ACOs Mat and Kirstie doubled up to help this poor kitty who found itself stuck behind bars in a communal hallway at some flats in New Addington. Luckily, when they tried to get it out it became clear the cat wasn't actually stuck, just absolutely terrified.

He was a local cat, according to residents, so it was given a paper collar and off he trotted to tell his mates.

Almost a Trip to the Purley Gates



A pigeon's number was almost up over in Purley, where ACO Kirstie had to call in the fire brigade to reach it stuck in some high netting.

After cutting it free, it just needed a drink and a little rest and off it flew!

Well done Kirstie and LFB!

Kent North West Branch

By Hook or By Crook



ARO Mat teamed up with our nearest fire & rescue boat team to grab this poor swan near Crossways Business Park in Dartford who had a huge fishing hook and weight attached to his beak. After a bit of gentle wrestling the hook was removed and the swan released back to their family.

Well done Mat & team!

You Can't Park That There Mate!



ACO Joe was called to this lovely horse found straying in an underground car park in Erith.

After persuading it to trust him, Joe and a gentleman from Butterstones Rescue managed to catch it and it went for rehoming (after Joe posted an abandonment notice of course!)

Luring Us Into a False Sense of Security



ACOs Lisa and Joe had their work cut out for them trying to catch this young swan with a large fishing lure through its beak. The swan was still very mobile and though several members of the public tried to help catch it, it still flew away.

On a later visit, the swan appeared to have removed the lure itself, though nobody could get close enough to check for permanent damage.

