



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

500 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

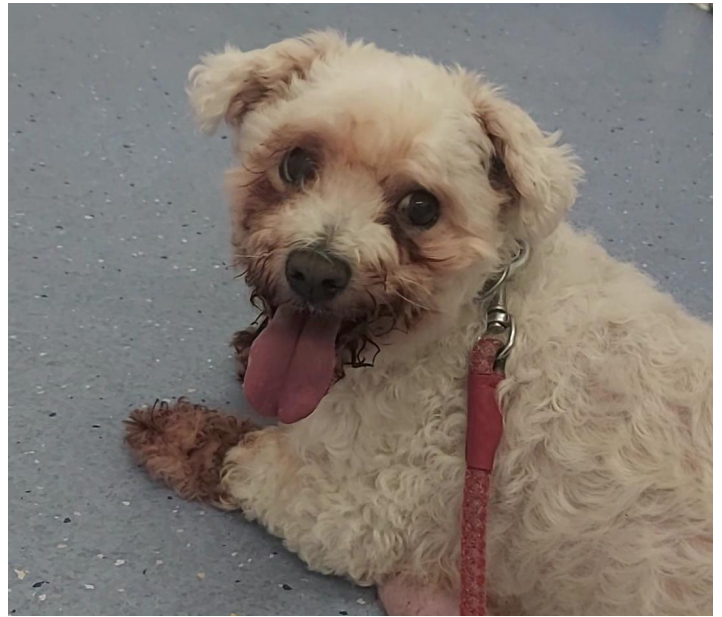
We were asked by national RSPCA staff if we could step in and help with this complex situation. Concerns had been raised about the welfare of a little dog called Teddi who had a clearly visible growth on his chest that had gone untreated. It was apparent that while Teddi was very much loved, his elderly 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/findapet/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

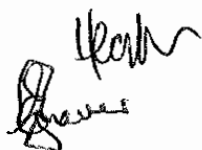
ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

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	
	TOTALS	TOTALS	
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.
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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		468.00	
		392.00		468.00
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:

	2024		2023	
(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>
TABLE ONE: STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS		
<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
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>	(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)
TABLE THREE : ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash in Hand	202,838	261,399

R.S.P.C.A. - KENT NORTH WEST BRANCH - ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2024
(Registered Charity 210633)
MEMORANDUM TRADING ACCOUNT FOR THE BRANCH CHARITY SHOPS
FOR THE PERIOD 1st JANUARY 2024 TO 31st DECEMBER 2024

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

INCOME	DARTFORD		DARTFORD		EXPENDITURE		DARTFORD		DARTFORD		TOTAL	
	MKT PLACE	ORCHARDS	GRAVESEND	TOTAL	MKT PLACE	ORCHARDS	GRAVESEND	TOTAL	MKT PLACE	ORCHARDS	TOTAL	
SALE OF DONATED ITEMS	5,436.35	36,622.53	64,261.60	106,320.48	NON RECURRING COSTS							
SALE OF RSPCA GOODS	25.63	359.62	0.00	385.25								
SALE OF CARRIER BAGS	1.25	16.37	0.00	17.62								
DONATIONS VIA SHOP	213.76	1,211.77	340.00	1,765.53	TOTAL N/R COSTS							
COLLECTING BOX(SHOP)		433.37	26.91	460.28								
SALE OF RAGS	91.17	318.10	315.29	724.56	RECURRING COSTS							
COMPENSATION	0.98	3.12	0.00	4.10	E BAY FEES							
SPECIAL EVENTS	35.00	418.36	0.00	453.36	BANK CHARGES (CREDIT CARDS)							
IN MEMORIUM DONS				0.00	ACT. RENT & RATES							
E BAY SALES	332.52	698.16	0.00	1,030.68	TRAVEL COSTS							
E BAY DONATIONS	2.00	70.00	0.00	72.00	STAFFING COSTS							
E BAY POSTAGE INCOME	68.25	132.67	0.00	200.92	MEETINGS							
WORLD OF BOOKS	157.39	43.72		201.11	SHOP EQUIPMENT							
				0.00	MAINT & REPAIRS							
					WASTE DISPOSAL							
					TELEPHONE/POSTAGE							
					HEAT, LIGHT & WATER							
					INSURANCE/SECURITY							
					PRINT & STATIONERY							
					GOODS FOR RESALE							
					SUNDRY EXP.							

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,
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3, Bullace Lane,
DARTFORD,
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