

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH

England & Wales · Charity number 226126

Details

Other names	RSPCA CAERNARVON - WEST BRANCH, RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH, RSPCA Gwynedd
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1963-11-26
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Arfaes Llwyndyrys Y Ffor Pwllheli LL53 6NG
Phone	01248671304
Email	enquiries@rspcawestgwynedd.org.UK
Website	https://www.rspca.org.uk/local/west-gwynedd-branch

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: RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch runs an almoning scheme offering free or subsidised neutering of cats and dogs to owners on means-tested benefits, while funds last. We also provide assistance for paying veterinary bills on the same proviso. We re-home cats & kittens. Fund-raising is primarily via our shop at Pwllheli. Details of other activities are given on our website at www.RSPCAWestGwynedd.org.uk

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Animals
- **Who:** Elderly/old People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** WEST GWYNEDD.
- Gwynedd

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£252,949	£140,214	-	-
2024-12-31	£106,371	£105,587	-	-
2023-12-31	£91,651	£110,736	-	-
2022-12-31	£94,525	£92,444	-	-
2021-12-31	£100,350	£86,704	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANN ELIZABETH REES	Chair	2021-04-19
Alexandra Sarah Rachel Latham		2021-04-19
DAVID HIBBERT		2021-04-19
Dr ALUN TUDOR REES		2011-10-19
Freda HOLME		2021-04-19
Mair Eluned Jones		2025-04-28
Osian Gruffydd Richards		2021-04-19
PATRICIA MARY HIBBERT		2021-04-19
Rachele Luisa Follini		2021-04-19

Accounts



**CANGEN GORLLEWIN GWYNEDD
WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH**

**ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL
2025
ANNUAL REPORT**



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WEST GWYNEDD ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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NOTICE OF BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

March 2026

Dear Member,

You are invited to attend the annual general meeting (AGM) of the Branch which is to be held on **Monday 13th April 2026 at 7 p.m.** by Google Meet.

To join the video meeting, use this link: <https://meet.google.com/jmc-fbty-oej>

To join by phone instead, dial (GB) +44 20 3956 2177 and enter this PIN: 211 879 720#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/jmc-fbty-oej?pin=4360036757525>

Mrs Freda Holme;
Hon. Branch Secretary
Tel. 07900 597891
freda.holme@rspcawestgwynedd.org.uk

Arfaes, Llwyndyrys,
Y Ffôr, Pwllheli,
Gwynedd, LL53 6NG

HONORARY OFFICERS

President – Robert Eaglestone
Chairman – Ann Rees
Treasurer – Alun Rees

Vice President – Margaret Eaglestone
Secretary – Freda Holme

Regional Board Representative - Alun Rees
Deputy Regional Board Representative – Carl Lloyd
Friends of Bryn-y-Maen Representative - Freda Holme

ELECTED COMMITTEE/TRUSTEES

Rachele Follini	David Hibbert
Freda Holme	Mair Jones
Alun Rees	Ann Rees

Patricia Hibbert
Alexandra Latham
Osian Richards

CO-OPTED COMMITTEE/TRUSTEES

Carl Lloyd

STAFF

Donna Rogers, Branch Partnership Manager

ACTION LINE – 0300 1234 999

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Freda Holme'.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held by Google Meet video conference
7pm Monday, 13th April 2026

AGENDA

- 1 Opening Address and Chairman's welcome
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Approval of minutes of AGM 2025
- 4 Matters arising
- 5 Financial Report
- 6 Adoption of Auditors
- 7 Branch Annual Report
- 8 Election of Committee
- 9 Inspectorate Report
- 10 RSPCA Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre Report
- 11 Talk by Dan Rose, Clwyd Badger Group - **“Protecting Badgers in North Wales”**
- 12 Closing Remarks

April 2026

Dear Fellow Members, Friends and Supporters,

Welcome to RSPCA West Gwynedd's Annual Report. 2025 was another busy year for the Branch as we strive to continue our work to help local animals and support our RSPCA Inspectors.

In last year's annual report, I said that our Branch had decided to employ a Volunteer and Engagement Co-ordinator on a 1-year contract to raise the profile of the RSPCA in Gwynedd and the animal welfare work done by the Branch. On January 1st this year, Luned Hughes started working for us and has brought with her a boost of refreshing enthusiasm. Luned speaks Welsh, which is important to promote our work in Gwynedd, where 64.4% of the population speak Welsh (2021 census) with some local communities having over 80% of their population being Welsh speakers. The RSPCA appears to have a reputation locally for being an English organisation and despite existing as a Branch here since 1877, it has been difficult to change attitudes. Hopefully, with Luned being able to give talks in both English and Welsh, as well as having a bilingual website and social media sites, it will encourage more local people to get involved.

Luned has already started recruiting volunteers and getting involved with local groups and organisations and we are very glad to have her on board.

Another major decision taken by the Branch in 2025 was to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Whilst essentially remaining the same charity, incorporation means that there is Liability Protection: Trustees are not personally liable for the charity's debts or liabilities. It has always been difficult to find new trustees because of the personal liability responsibilities, and it is hoped that by doing this we may attract more trustees in the future. In addition, as a corporate body, the CIO can enter contracts, employ staff, and own assets in its own name.

With this CIO decision being made, we have also taken the decision that we will use RSPCA Gwynedd as a “working name” for our fundraising activities and Pwllheli shop rebranding. We took this decision as we think this is a truer reflection of the geographical area we cover as a branch.

We’ve continued to do everything feasible to help animal welfare in Gwynedd. Increasing veterinary costs have meant pet owners having to make some very difficult decisions. With more modern facilities, equipment and expertise, vets can now offer far more treatment options, which unfortunately come at a cost. So many pets remain uninsured and our funds don’t allow us to offer substantial amounts of help. Having said that, we spent over £65,000 on helping with vet costs last year.

We continue to help funding the operation of the North Wales Mobile Animal Welfare Clinic to visit Bangor, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Caernarfon weekly in our area and we still deliver donated pet food regularly to 6 Gwynedd Foodbanks.

My thanks, as always, go to our Pwllheli shop volunteers, Freda, Alexandra, Pat and Raquel, my fellow trustees, the Inspectorate team, RSPCA Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre staff & volunteers and the Mobile Clinic team and our shared Branch Almoner Kelly .

If you think you can help us in any way please contact us via Facebook, at enquiries@rspcawestgwynedd.org.uk or by phone on 01248 671304.

We will continue to do all that we can to support the animals and to prevent cruelty, promote kindness and alleviate suffering of all animals.

Thank you – Diolch yn fawr iawn.

Ann Rees

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Held via Google Meet Video Conference,
Monday, 28th April 2025

Those present at the meeting are listed on page 8.

1 Chairman's Welcome

Ann welcomed everyone to the meeting and then said that 2024 was the bicentenary of the establishment of the RSPCA as an animal welfare charity. She said that in those 200 years much had been done to improve the lives of animals in homes, labs, farms and wildlife and to change more than 400 laws in England and Wales. Animals are, however, still facing ever-increasing challenges and we risk the prospect of their lives getting worse not better. The National RSPCA introduced the “For Every Kind” campaign with the aim of getting **everyone** involved in the welfare of **all** animals. They introduced a new branding and logo which was hoped would attract the younger generation.

An RSPCA Branch has existed in West Gwynedd, starting in Bangor, since 1877 and became known as RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch in 1973. We face declining membership and are failing to recruit new trustees and active volunteers. During 2024 we held meetings with other Branches across North Wales with a view to merging. We already collaborate to fund the operation of a mobile clinic which provides reduced-cost veterinary treatment to pets whose owners are on means-tested benefits, pension or low income.

Towards the end of 2024 we decided that merging was not the way forward for West Gwynedd at present. We agreed that, for the first time ever, we would employ someone as a Volunteer and Engagement Co-ordinator on a 1-year contract. Hopefully this person will recruit volunteers, members and trustees for the Branch who are willing to actively contribute to our animal welfare activities.

It was a difficult decision to make as we have always taken pride in that we were an entirely volunteer-led Branch that spent all its money on animal welfare. Without new blood and with less of us actively involved, due to age restrictions, drastic measures were deemed necessary to kick-start the Branch again.

Thanks as always to our Pwllheli shop volunteers, my fellow trustees, the Inspectorate, Animal Centre staff & volunteers, the mobile clinic team and Carl Lloyd for his continued efforts in obtaining pet food to enable us to supply local food banks.

2 Apologies received are listed on page 8.

3 Approval of minutes of AGM 2025

These were proposed by Griff Thomas, seconded by Alun Rees, agreed unanimously and there were no abstentions.

4 There were no matters arising

5 Financial Report

Alun commenced his report and said incoming resources for the year amounted to £106,371 with Trade debtors of £5,868 and expenditure was £105,587. There was a growth of £3,385 in the value of investments with current liabilities of £6,622.

The allocation of “House to House” collections organised by RSPCA HQ fell to £21,816 as only one share was allocated after 12 years receiving two shares following our merger with Meirionnydd Branch in 2011.

Our shop in Pwllheli produced a slight decrease in income to £19,517.

£12,000 was refunded from RSPCA Cymru Board as it had not been required and not all Branches had contributed.

A surprise legacy of significant size was received from the late Mr Kenneth Harris of Clwt-y-Bont. £30,000 was received in December 2024 with 3% being deducted by HQ for administrative costs, leaving us with £29,100. Due to the complexities of the will and the need for a property to be sold, the remainder of the legacy is not expected before Spring 2025.

Our investments continued to grow in value to £294,122.

The cost of vet bills reduced slightly to £60,645 and our contribution to the running costs of the shared North Wales Mobile Clinic rose to £26,448.

Alun then gave details of our Reserves Policy, Investment Policy and Future Plans.

The report was then proposed by Freda Holme, seconded by Griff Thomas, agreed unanimously and there were no abstentions.

6 Adoption of Auditors

Alun proposed that the Auditors W. J. Matthews and Son be retained. This was seconded by Griff Thomas, agreed unanimously and there were no abstentions.

7 Branch Annual Report

Freda commenced by saying that everyone was aware of the cost-of-living increases which have caused many problems for people especially those on low incomes who have pets. Apart from the rise in the price of food for them the cost of vet treatment has increased drastically. This means that we are receiving far more calls for financial help with vet bills and requests for help with pet food. At present we still have money to help with the bills and continue to supply 7 food banks in our area with both cat and dog food. Pet food, sourced by Carl Lloyd who is a West Gwynedd Branch Trustee, is nearly-out-of-date food that shops are not allowed to sell, and it would normally end up as land fill. Ann and Alun regularly deliver this to the food banks in our area.

We still receive food from Morrison's, Caernarfon, customers bringing it into our Pwllheli shop and now from Freshfields Animal Charity in Nebo.

During the year we received £14,215 in donations, £918 from collection boxes and £29,100 as an interim payment from a larger legacy from the late Mr K. Harris. The Pwllheli shop is still providing much-needed funds, but this has reduced over the last few years, partly due to customers' shortage of money.

Due to the massive increase in the number of vouchers issued by the Branch it was decided to join with other N. Wales Branches to employ an Almoner, initially on a 1-year contract, to deal with these. Since she commenced in December 2024 it appears to be successful and means that our committee members who dealt with these calls now have more time to deal with other Branch items.

As mentioned at our AGM last year we were considering merging with other N. Wales Branches but have decided to go-it-alone and try to raise the profile of the Branch and increase volunteers and trustees by advertising for a Volunteer Recruitment Co-ordinator on a 12-month contract.

We still have problems with feral cats in our area and cat traps are loaned to the public who trap their ferals, we pay for neutering and they are then returned to where they came from. Ann and Alun also do lots of trapping where there are large colonies of feral cats and range far afield between Harlech, in the south of our area, and Caernarfon and Bangor in the north.

Ann and Alun were still receiving calls from owners of XL Bullies even though the deadline

for registering these has already passed. These owners were advised to contact the Dog Liaison Officer with the Police. The problems were mainly because owners were not aware of the rules and regulations as it had been poorly advertised by the relevant departments, The RSPCA and other charities had done their best to give better information.

The RSPCA mobile clinic is still going to Bangor, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Caernarfon and is busier than ever. It gives a much-needed service to local animals.

Most of the animal welfare done by the RSPCA is now covered by Branch volunteers who do this in their “spare time”.

Thanks as always to our volunteers, the Inspectorate and the Bryn-y-Maen animal centre for all they do to improve the life of animals.

The report was proposed by Alun Rees, seconded by Griff Thomas, agreed unanimously and there were no abstentions.

8 Election of Committee

A virtual ballot took place and as all the proposals received at least 50% of the vote the following were elected to the Branch committee:-

David Hibbert	Patricia Hibbert	Freda Holme	Mair Jones
Alexandra Latham	Alun Rees	Ann Rees	Osian Richards

9 Inspectorate Report.

Chief Insp. Leanne Hardy said 2024 had been a very busy year. Staff numbers had dwindled further when Insp. Andy Broadbent left to pursue a career in the clergy. 4 new AROs were gained and one inspector returned from maternity leave.

It had been challenging to keep our volunteers engaged but Lyn Hughes based near Bryn-y-Maen has been kept busy travelling to Stapeley Wildlife Hospital and beyond.

The Inspectorate has continued to build a good relationship with the team at the animal centre, and they have worked together on several projects during the year.

She then gave details of some court cases and ended by saying that 2024 brought an opportunity to work in partnership with the N. Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

She thanked the Branches, volunteers and animal centres for their unwavering support.

10 Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre Report

The report was given by Amy Chambers who said 2024 had been a successful year for the centre with new employees and volunteers joining the team.

New working relationships were developed with Manchester Animal Hospital and Stockport Rehoming Centre.

The cattery and kennels received some refurbishment, and they are looking forward to further improvements at the centre.

The volunteers committed over 2,400 hours to supporting the centre and we thank them for this. A total of 334 animals were taken into care including some from other parts of the country. 297 animals were rehomed and the centre receives regular updates from the adopters.

The Friends of Bryn-y-Maen Dog Show raised over £3,800 and we thank our Branches who supported us on the day.

Thanks to the Friends of Bryn-y-Maen and N. Wales Branches for their continued support and engagement during 2024.

11 Talk by Claire Blakey, RSPCA Education Dept

Ann introduced Claire and said she has been with the RSPCA for almost 14 years working in the education dept. Her background is within the Criminal Justice System where she worked for the Probation Service for many years. Claire has a particular interest in children, young people and adults who cause harm to animals and is currently the Senior Prevention Manager, managing the national RSPCA prevention and education team, which includes all national tier 1 activities (website, PEP) as well as the tier 2/3 work. Tonight, Claire will be concentrating mainly on Tier 2 (Help & Support) and Tier 3 (Intervene & Resolve).

Claire gave a detailed talk on what her job entailed some of which included helping an animal to stay in the home, providing alternatives to prosecution, supporting children and young people who harm animals, working with schools.

Sally Hyman gave various suggestions regarding the Welsh language and said she has some Power Point items in Welsh. Carl Lloyd said volunteers and Branches may be interested in working with Claire's team. Claire said they are working with Edinburgh University to check the efficiency of what they do.

Claire then left the meeting.

12 Closing remarks

Ann thanked everyone for attending the AGM.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

ATTENDANCE

Members (9)

Freda Holme	David Hibbert	Pat Hibbert	Mair Jones
Alexandra Latham	Alun Rees	Ann Rees	Griff Thomas
Mandy Thomas			

Staff & Friends

Gavin Bevan, RSPCA Operations Manager for Risk Policy and Projects
Claire Blakey, RSPCA Senior Prevention Manager and Guest Speaker
Amy Chambers, RSPCA Bryn-y-Maen Animal Care Supervisor
Rachele Follini, RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch
Leanne Hardy, RSPCA Chief Inspector
Donna Hutton, RSPCA Wales Board Representative
Sally Hyman, RSPCA Llys Nini,
Carl Lloyd, Aberconwy, Montgomery and Wrexham Branch
Donna Rogers, Branch Support Manager

APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Mary Chipperfield	Margaret Eaglestone	Robert Eaglestone
Catherine Head	Lyn Williams	
Vicky Williams, RSPCA Animal Centre Manager		

TREASURER'S REPORT & PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS 2025

The total incoming resources for the year amounted to £252,949 (2024: £106,371) with Trade debtors of £7,161 (2024: £5,868). Expenditure in the year amounted to £140,214 (2024: £105,587) and a growth of £23,085 (2024: a growth of £3,385) in the value of investments with current liabilities of £4,274 (2024: £6,622).

The allocation of the share of the “House to House” collections organised by RSPCA HQ fell from £21,816 in 2024 to £20,519 in 2025 due to the continued fall-off of the donors. The profits gained from the use of professional canvassers are shared 50:50 between HQ and each of the Branches in existence at the time of the collection. Our shop at Pwllheli produced a slight increase in income from £19,517 in 2024 to £20,195 in 2025. The shop takings were also enhanced by £219 from sale of rags (included in the £20,195 figure above) and the £344 in the collection box plus 25% Gift Aid (not included in the £19,517 figure). The Gift Aid scheme brought a welcome grand total return from HMRC of £478 (2024: £708).

A surprise legacy of significant size was received from the late Mr Kenneth Harris of Clwt-y-Bont. £30,000 was received from his solicitors in December 2024 with 3% being deducted by HQ for administrative costs, leaving us with £29,100. The second instalment of £50,000 was received in January 2025 with £1,500 deducted by HQ, and the remaining balance of £72,299 was received in April 2025 with £2,169 deducted by HQ for administration. This is the largest single legacy the Branch has ever received.

Our investments changed in 2025 as Schroders decided to close all SUTL Cazenove Charity Equity accounts. As a result, we transferred £66,442 to our Lloyds Bank 95-day savings account with 3.01% interest. The income on investments and interest over the year rose from £10,916 to £14,677.

The cost of vet bills reduced slightly to £59,182 from £60,645 in 2024. Our contribution to the running of the shared North Wales Mobile Clinic almost doubled to £52,438 compared to £26,448 in 2024.

Reserves Policy

The Branch Reserves Policy remains unchanged from that given in the Annual Report of 1997. This is to maintain a level of financial reserves that will enable the Branch to ensure continuity of activities providing animal welfare support and the ability to adjust, in a measured way, to any significant change in resources. Reserves are those funds which are freely available for general purposes and are uncommitted.

The trustees have established a policy of holding reserves of unrestricted funds equivalent to two to three years' expenditure. Based on our current expenditure of £140,214 and total unrestricted balance (including income-generating investments) of £392,647 in the investment and general funds, we have just under 3.0 years of reserve capital, though with projected year-on-year increases in spending and the substantial planned costs of supporting the mobile clinic and salary for our new Volunteer and Engagement Co-ordinator, this figure is closer to 2.5 years.

This policy therefore conforms to the regulations of expendable endowment in paragraph 16 of the Charity Commission's guide to Charities' Reserves (CC19), namely:

“....many charities with an expendable endowment depend on the income it produces to fund core or continuing activities. Expending any of the endowment itself would reduce the income from it and might jeopardise some of those activities. The charity would then either have to increase its income from other sources, ... or must cut back its activities. The endowment cannot be regarded as free funds if a charity has that degree of dependence on income from it.”

This policy is subject to half-yearly review.

Investment Policy

On 31st December 2025, 40% of our invested funds were held in selected equities, bonds and gilts, no more than 25% in current accounts, and the 35% balance in fixed interest notice account(s).

Future Plans

Our major plan for the coming year is the continuation of the mobile clinic service in Bangor, Blaenau and Caernarfon with the additional costs of the hub and clinic manager. An additional 2 vets now provide resilience and even the opportunity of extending the current 3-day service to 4 or even 5 days. The costs to our Branch in 2026 are expected to be £50,000 per annum, plus an estimated £5,000 for additional referrals to veterinary practices in our area.

In 2022 the North Wales collaboration to distribute pet food approaching end of shelf-life to animal rescues and pet owners on limited finances via food banks came to realisation. The management of the logistics involved rental of a warehouse facility in Mochdre. In 2024 we moved to a more accessible unit at Mochdre. The use of the mobile clinic for delivery to Blaenau Ffestiniog, Bangor & Caernarfon in our Branch ensures no extra journeys. Local volunteers then redistribute it directly to foodbanks in Bangor, Bethesda, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Caernarfon & Pwllheli

Cats Protection withdrew their collaborative scheme with RSPCA in Wales. In 2026 we are planning to collaborate with Cats Protection and Freshfields to provide TNvR (Trap, Neuter, vaccinate and Return) services to control a colony of up to 20 cats at the Glan-y-Don industrial estate, and to provide residents on means-tested income to cat owners in the LL53 area. Our own free/subsidised cat-neutering scheme is available at all the vet practices in Gwynedd. We also run our own contributions to subsidised neutering costs of £70 per dog and £100 per bitch. Both schemes are subject to the owner(s) being on means-tested benefits or low income, or for rehomed feral and stray cats, and available while funds last.

It is our intention to continue to help in the payment of veterinary bills to owners on low income and un-owned animals and on request, assistance with boarding / treatment of RSPCA Inspectorate animals where no other funding is available.

In December 2024, 5 of the North Wales Branches collaborated in employing an almoner for dealing with phone-calls and issuing vouchers to vet practices. This has proved effective throughout 2025 and so will continue through 2026.

A big shout out to “our” ARO Julia Dalglish for creating and managing our new eBay shop launched in December 2025.

Heavily funded by the legacy from Mr Kenneth Harris, we have appointed a Co-ordinator for volunteers, members and fund-rising. Luned is proving to be very effective, and we are looking forward to continuing to work with her throughout 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alun T Rees', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alun T Rees
Hon Branch Treasurer

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 226126

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2025**

**W J MATTHEWS & SON
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

Independent Examiners' Report to the Members of RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch for the year ended 31st December 2025, which are set out on pages 14-16.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

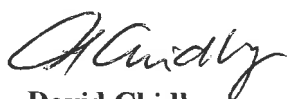
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

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:

- the 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 contents 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 to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



David Chidley
W. J. Matthews & Son
Chartered Accountants
11-15 Bridge Street,
Caernarfon,
Gwynedd.

Dated: 9.4.2026.

**RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025**

	General	Designated	Restricted		2025		2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income:							
Legacies	123,299	-	-	123,299		30,000	
Regional Board re-imbursement	-	-	-	-		12,000	
Membership subscriptions	116	-	-	116		129	
Foodbank Grant from HQ	-	-	300	300		4,323	
<i>From Voluntary Sources</i>							
Sundry donations	3,452	-	-	3,452		1,002	
Gift aid	478	-	-	478		708	
House to house collections	20,519	-	-	20,519	148,164	21,816	69,978
Investment Income:							
Investment income (Gross)	14,677	-	-	14,677		13,260	
Cashing in of investments	64,442	-	-	64,442	79,119	-	13,260
Charitable Trading activities:							
Dog collection boxes	2,267	-	-	2,267		919	
Charity Shop takings	20,195	-	-	20,195		19,517	
VAT refund	3,204	-	-	3,204	25,666	2,697	23,133
	<u>252,649</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>300</u>		<u>252,949</u>		<u>106,371</u>
Direct Charitable Expenditure:							
Contribution to HQ	551	-	-	551		551	
Donations	-	-	-	-		26	
Veterinary costs	34,330	24,852	-	59,182		60,645	
Administrative fees	3,669	-	-	3,669		900	
Boarding	2,401	-	-	2,401		1,580	
Charity Shop rent	9,880	-	-	9,880		9,880	
Charity Shop heat and light	1,116	-	-	1,116		748	
Shared almoner service	-	7,536	-	7,536		1,735	
Mobile Clinic service	-	52,438	-	52,438		26,448	
Mobile Clinic telephone	-	540	-	540		317	
Room hire	-	-	-	-		123	
Support to food bank	-	-	344	344		302	
Insurance	1,160	-	-	1,160		829	
Bank and card charges	117	-	-	117	138,934	-	104,084
Other expenditure:							
Postage and stationery	49	-	-	49		107	
Accountancy	882	-	-	882		846	
Repairs and Equipment	32	-	-	32		305	
Consumables	317	-	-	317	1,280	245	1,503
Total payments	<u>54,504</u>	<u>85,366</u>	<u>344</u>		<u>140,214</u>		<u>105,587</u>
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	<u>198,145</u>	<u>(85,366)</u>	<u>(44)</u>		<u>112,735</u>		<u>784</u>
Transfers between funds	<u>(152,410)</u>	<u>152,366</u>	<u>44</u>		<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
Cash and bank balances							
At 31 st December 2024	68,602	55,000	-		123,602		122,818
At 31 st December 2025	<u>£114,337</u>	<u>£122,000</u>	<u>£-</u>		<u>£236,337</u>		<u>£123,602</u>

**RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
31st DECEMBER 2025**

	2025 £	2024 £
Monetary assets:		
Investments:		
SUTL Cazenove Charity Equity Value Fund A Income	-	60,897
M&G Charifund	156,310	133,225
	<u>156,310</u>	<u>194,122</u>
 Bank and cash balances:		
Bank Deposit Investment Account	75,518	73,432
Bank Deposit Account	61,118	25,002
Bank Current Account	99,525	24,993
PayPal Account	101	100
Cash float	75	75
 Total	<u>236,337</u>	<u>123,602</u>
 General funds	114,337	68,602
Designated funds	122,000	55,000
Restricted funds	-	-
	<u>236,337</u>	<u>123,602</u>
 Debtors:		
Trade debtors	7,161	5,868
Legacies	-	135,000
	<u>7,161</u>	<u>140,867</u>
 Current Liabilities:		
Trade creditors and accruals	4,274	6,622
	<u>4,274</u>	<u>6,622</u>

Approved by the Branch Committee on 09 April 2026 and signed by
Dr. A. T. Rees
Honorary Treasurer



**RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
ACCOUNTING POLICIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025**

Restricted Funds

During the year the branch received a grant from headquarters of £300 to support food banks with pet food. The total cost was more than the grant received, and the additional amount was funded from the general reserve.

Designated Funds

A balance of £25,000 was brought forward from 2024 in relation to the cat and dog free neutering scheme. A total of £24,852 was spent during the year ending 31 December 2025 leaving a balance of £148. The Committee agreed to top up this figure to give a balance of £25,000 at the year end. Of the £25,000, the members of the committee have agreed that £5,000 of this fund is to be used for a farm cat neutering scheme in Dolgellau.

A sum of £55,000 has been designated to subsidise the mobile veterinary clinic serving the Bangor, Caernarfon and Blaenau Ffestiniog. At 31 December 2024, the balance in the fund was £30,000. Expenditure during the year amounted to £52,978 resulting in a deficit of £22,978. The Committee agreed to top up the fund by £77,978, leaving a balance of £55,000 at the year end.

During the year, the charity started using the services of a paid Almoner. Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2025 totalled £7,536. The trustees agreed that £12,000 should be designated to support future Almoner services.

A significant legacy received during the year enabled the trustees to designate £30,000 towards the employment costs of a Volunteer and Engagement Co-ordinator, supporting the charity's work and future development.

Investments

The investments are stated at market value.

Trustees

No trustees received any remuneration in the year. (2024 – NIL).

Reimbursements made to trustees were as follows:

	No of trustees	2025 Cost	No of trustees	2024 Cost
Travel costs reimbursed	Nil	Nil	Nil	£Nil

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH SECRETARY'S REPORT 2025

As I mentioned in my report last year, vet prices are still rising, and some pet owners are finding it difficult to pay vet bills. Although there are increasing demands on our resources the Branch still helps with amounts towards costs but unfortunately, we do not give as much as we did. This is because we are not getting as much money in as we used to. Despite this we gave more than £65,000 towards vet costs in 2025.

The almoner we employ in conjunction with other North Wales Branches is kept busy supplying vouchers for owners requesting help and dealing with enquiries.

We also still have a big demand on the pet food we supply to the food banks in our area which is sourced by Carl Lloyd and delivered to the food banks by Ann and Alun Rees.

We have a collection box for pet food in the Morrison's store in Caernarfon and receive donations also from customers in our Pwllheli charity shop and Freshfields.

During the year we received £3,452 in donations, £478 from gift aid, £2,267 from collection boxes and £123,299 from legacies. Unfortunately, the charity shop in Pwllheli had reduced takings again but hopefully we will be trying to remedy this in 2026.

The big problem in the area is feral cats, and Ann and Alun have been dealing with some very large colonies throughout the year. Dealing with them costs the Branch a fair amount of money as we pay the neutering costs and the cost of maintaining and purchasing the cat traps. People are quick to borrow traps from us when they need them but are not as quick at returning them to us.

We still support the RSPCA Mobile Clinic which goes to Bangor, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Caernarfon and is always busy at these venues, being booked up several weeks in advance at some of them. We paid more than £52,000 in 2025 as our share of the running costs of the clinic.

As Ann said in her opening address, starting from January 1st 2026, we have employed a Recruitment and Engagement Co-ordinator, Luned Hughes, who has already helped with volunteers in the shop and posters etc. She is very enthusiastic and media knowledgeable which for some of us oldies is very helpful.

RSPCA BRYN-Y-MAEN ANIMAL CENTRE

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

2025 was a positive year for the centre continuing to support the intake, rehabilitation and rehoming of a variety of animals who entered our care via our inspectorate colleagues. Our small animal unit provides emergency housing for a variety of species including Rats, Mice, Chinchilla, Gerbils, Rabbits and Guinea Pigs with two separate local properties having over a 100 small animals removed, we welcomed national branch support to accept some species to ease our onsite number we have now successfully found homes for all who remained the centre.

Work started on the installation of newly designed walk-in cattery pod accommodation within our isolation cattery with the design hoping to be rolled out nationally soon. A decarbonisation project is due to start at the centre in early 2026, which will see us move to electric air source heat pumps for our small animal unit and main building. Our kennel block is due to have solar panels installed once the roof has been replaced. Jessica Nova left the organisation to start her role as rehabilitation coordinator with Sarah Heath's behavioural referral practice. Nathan Dawson left his maintenance role to start a new career with an engineering company. We wish them all the best with their future careers.

Molly Powis and Holly Lloyd joined in two-year fixed term Apprentices Animal Care Assistant roles. Sinead Lewis joined as a part time Animal Care Assistant. CJ Barr joined us in a maintenance role; we look forward to supporting our new colleagues' careers into the future.

Over 2300 hours have been committed by our amazing team of volunteers. We continue to be extremely grateful for their support and commitment to the centre. Our local Openreach team committed to three separate corporate volunteer days which included on the Friday ahead of the Dog Show which really helped us with the organisation and set up process.

A total of 466 animals entered our care including 94 Dogs, 160 Cats, 32 Rabbits, 31 Guinea Pigs, 148 Small Animals, 1 Fish.

A total 363 animals moved into adoptive homes which including 48 Dogs, 141 Cats, 29 Rabbits, 77 Small Animals, 68 Fish.

Our Friends of Bryn-y-Maen Dog Show took place in May with over 50 dogs entering classes throughout the day. Over £2,700 was raised with several adoptions and fostering placement following on from the event. Thank you to all our branch colleagues who supported us on the day.

Thank you to all our branch teams who continue to enhance the lives of animals within North Wales and beyond.

Kind Regards

Vicky Williams
Centre Manager Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre



North Wales RSPCA Inspectorate

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Year in summary

Another busy year for North Wales. New staff were getting to grips with the job and settling in, supported by the rest of the team. The new Animal Rescue Officers (AROs) are well on their way to completing their City and Guilds qualification. The case load increased compared to previous years and with only 1.6 inspectors, we needed to outsource some work to other teams for support. Unfortunately, our volunteer numbers dwindled. Plans are afoot to recruit and train up more in 2026. The role has now been expanded to cover more tasks that volunteers are able to take on and hopefully will increase engagement. Chief Leanne handed West Mercia back to Chief Thea as she returned from maternity. Due to our limited capacity, we were unable to take on much discretionary work during the year. Furthermore, the planned partnership work with North Wales Fire and Rescue Service had to be put on hold due to avian influenza. Most of our work centred around neglect (dogs, cats and equine), intentional cruelty (beatings) and multi-cat households.

Case outcomes and Court results

An adult written caution was served on an adult male in Dolgellau for neglecting two dogs that were found in an emaciated condition. The male showed remorse at the interview and signed both animals over at the first opportunity.

An adult female was convicted of causing unnecessary suffering to a pony on Anglesey. She had failed to seek vet treatment for a substantial wound on the pony's head. She was given a 6-month suspended sentence and ordered to pay costs. Due to the number of animals still in her care that were in reasonable condition at the time she did not receive a ban from the court.

A man from Wrexham pleaded guilty to 3 offences of causing unnecessary suffering and 3 offences of failing to prevent unnecessary suffering to several horses. There were overgrown hooves, parasitic conditions, ulcers and respiratory conditions. All horses were signed over, and some sadly had to be euthanised on humane grounds. He received 16 weeks concurrent suspended sentence on each offence and 230 hours of unpaid work plus costs. He was banned from keeping horses for 10 years.

Stats for 2025

In 2025, North Wales officers dealt with 1,172 reported incidents. Slightly up on the previous year. On average, it took 22 days to resolve each incident. This was around the same length of time as the previous year. The team's inspectors submitted 14 cases to prosecutions in 2025. 5 resulted in Adult Written Cautions being served, 3 went to court and were concluded with convictions and the remainder are all still in the court process going into 2026.

Other items of note

ARO Julia Dalgleish stepped up to a new role, liaising with the Branches across the region, giving much welcome digital support to West Gwynedd, creating and managing their online

shop and other fundraising ideas and suggestions. This has already raised over £1,000 for the Branch in the first few months.

Chief Inspector Leanne Hardy completed her apprenticeship at level 5 diploma in leadership and management. This qualification is equivalent to a foundation degree and has already proved invaluable in understanding the organisation's strategic aims and enabled Leanne to support the team better when rolling out new policy and process.

Toward the end of the year, we learned of our colleagues leaving in 2026 due to voluntary severance. A very difficult decision for all but the sacrifice of our colleagues has ensured the RSPCA can move forward in a much more sustainable position. We are very grateful to them.

As always, the team and I would like to thank the Branches, volunteers and animal centre staff for their unwavering support.

Chief Inspector Leanne Hardy 783
North Wales Inspectorate
RSPCA Cymru

Accounts



**CANGEN GORLLEWIN GWYNEDD
WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH**

**ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL
2024
ANNUAL REPORT**



Elusen Gofrestredig Rhif 226126 Registered Charity No

WEST GWYNEDD ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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NOTICE OF BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

Dear Member

We are again holding our AGM by means of a virtual format through Google Meet.

The meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday, 28th April at 7:00 pm.

To enable you to join the meeting we will need your e-mail address so that an invitation can be sent to you. I would be grateful if you could send your e-mail to enquiries@rspcawestgwynedd.org.uk as soon as possible if you are able to attend. Your e-mail address will be saved securely and used only for any relevant West Gwynedd Branch correspondence with you as a Branch member. **Your details will not be shared with any third parties**

Mrs Freda Holme
Hon. Branch Secretary
Tel. 07900 597891

Arfaes, Llwyndyrys,
Y Ffor, Pwllheli,
Gwynedd, LL53 6NG

HONORARY OFFICERS:-

President – Robert Eaglestone

Chairman – Ann Rees

Treasurer – Alun Rees

Branch Regional Representative – Alun Rees

Deputy Regional Representative – Carl Lloyd

Friends of Bryn-y-Maen Representative – Freda Holme

Vice President – Margaret Eaglestone

Secretary – Freda Holme

ELECTED COMMITTEE/TRUSTEES

Rachele Follini

Patricia Hibbert

Alexandra Latham

Ann Rees

David Hibbert

Freda Holme

Alun Rees

Osian Richards

CO-OPTED COMMITTEE/TRUSTEES

Mair Jones

Carl Lloyd

STAFF

Branch Partnership Manager – Donna Rogers

ACTION LINE

0300 1234 999

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held by Google Meet video conference
7:00 pm Monday, 28th April 2025

AGENDA

- 1 Opening address and Chairman's welcome
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Approval of minutes of AGM 2024
- 4 Matters arising
- 5 Financial Report
- 6 Adoption of Auditors
- 7 Branch Annual Report
- 8 Election of Committee
- 9 Inspectorate Report
- 10 Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre Report
- 11 Claire Blakey and Aimee Mason from RSPCA HQ Education Team – **“Tier 2 (Early Help & Support) and Tier 3 (Intervene & Resolve) Prevention and Education Activities”**
- 12 Closing remarks

April 2025

Dear Fellow Members, Friends and Supporters,

Welcome to RSPCA West Gwynedd's Annual Report. 2024 was another busy year for the Branch as we strive to continue our work to help local animals and support our RSPCA Inspectors.

2024 was the bicentenary of the establishment of the RSPCA as an animal welfare charity and in those 200 years it has done so much to improve the lives of animals in homes, labs, farms and wildlife, including taking action that has resulted in changing more than 400 laws in England & Wales. However, animals are still facing ever-increasing challenges and without the help of all of us we are risking the prospect of animals' lives getting worse, not better. It was with this concern in mind that, in 2024, the National RSPCA introduced the "For Every Kind" campaign with the aim of getting **everyone** in society involved in animal welfare. With this came a new modern branding and logo, hoping to attract the younger generation to engage with animal welfare and the RSPCA.

An RSPCA Branch has existed in West Gwynedd for many years - Bangor Branch was established in 1877 and after a series of mergers and reorganisation became known as RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch in 1973. We too face the challenge of declining membership and failure to recruit new trustees and active volunteers, as do neighbouring Branches. During 2024, we held several meetings with other Branches across North Wales with a view to merging. We already collaborate to fund the operation of the North Wales Mobile Animal Welfare Clinic, originally established by Aberconwy Branch. By establishing co-funding, it enables the Mobile Clinic to offer reduced-cost veterinary treatment to pets owned by individuals on means-tested benefits, pension and low income at Bangor, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Caernarfon in our area, together with Amlwch, Llangefni, Llandudno, Deeside and Wrexham across neighbouring Branches. This has become a lifeline for many pet owners in these areas.

Cangen Gorllewin Gwynedd

West Gwynedd Branch

Towards the end of 2024, West Gwynedd Branch took the decision that merging was not the best way forward for us currently. A momentous decision was taken, that for the first time ever, we would employ someone - as a Volunteer and Engagement Co-ordinator – on a 1-year contract. The aim is to raise the profile of the RSPCA in Gwynedd and the animal welfare work done by RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch. Hopefully, this person will recruit volunteers, members and trustees for the Branch who are willing to actively contribute to the Branch's animal welfare activities.

This decision was not taken lightly, as we have always taken pride in the fact that we were an entirely volunteer-led Branch and spent all money raised directly on animal welfare. However, without new blood and with the few of us actively involved getting older, drastic measures were considered necessary. We are hopeful that with an enthusiastic recruit it will kick-start the Branch again.

My thanks, as always, go to our Pwllheli shop volunteers, Freda, Alexandra, Raquel and Patricia, my fellow trustees, the Inspectorate team, RSPCA Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre staff & volunteers, the Mobile Clinic team and Carl Lloyd for his continued endeavours in getting us pet food supplies for the Foodbanks we support.

If you think you can help us in any way please contact us via Facebook, at enquiries@rspcawestgwynedd.org.uk or by phone on 01248 671304.

We will continue to do all that we can to support the animals and to prevent cruelty, promote kindness and alleviate suffering of all animals.

Thank you – Diolch yn fawr iawn.

Ann Rees

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Held by Google Meet video conferencing
Monday, 22nd April 2024 at 7:00 pm

Those present at the meeting are listed on page 7.

1 Chairman's Welcome

Ann Rees welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that despite the declining membership, the Branch committee strives to continue the work to help local animals and support our RSPCA Inspectors. Freda and Alexandra have continued to keep the Pwllheli shop open to bring in much-needed funds and Alun and herself take most of the phone calls from pet owners requiring assistance with vet bills and advice.

The cost of living continues to impact on animal welfare, and we've seen an increase in demand for dog and cat foods and requests for help with flea and worm treatment and vaccinations. It is a sad reflection of our times when pet owners can't even afford to pay for the basic needs of their animals. Luckily, we are still supporting the North Wales RSPCA Mobile Clinic that makes weekly visits to Bangor, Caernarfon and Blaenau Ffestiniog and can direct callers there for basic welfare treatment for their pets. The demand on the mobile clinic is sometimes overwhelming with vets Jim and Llinos having to extend their hours on site.

Fortunately, Branch Trustee Carl Lloyd has continued to source pet food that is approaching the date when shops aren't willing to offer it for sale. This year I nominated Carl for an RSPCA Impact Award under the Rescue and Care Category, and I was delighted when Carl won the category and was awarded a certificate, a trophy and an invitation for him and a guest to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. Carl has said he will take his Mum with him to achieve "serious Brownie points"! It is a well-deserved recognition of Carl's endeavours allowing our Branch to supply dog and cat food regularly to 7 Foodbanks in our area as well as providing cat food for people supporting feral cat populations and cats in Branch care. In addition, the food is distributed across North Wales and transported to three depots in South Wales, making this a Wales-wide scheme.

Since our last AGM we've lost 3 true supporters. Richard Williams from Bangor was a committee member for some years and a stalwart collector during fundraising events at Pets at Home and Tesco, Bangor. Then we learned of the death of fellow trustee Rhianon Jones of Rhos Isaf, Caernarfon. Known locally as "The Cat Lady" she had at one time, over 20 cats as everyone locally knew that if a cat needed a home Rhianon would always take it in. At the time of her death only one 19-year-old cat remained. Fortunately, RSPCA Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre was able to take her in.

Our third loss was the death of our Pwllheli shop landlord and Branch supporter, Paul Brett who lost his fight against heart disease. Paul was an eminent guitarist who would donate guitars to sell at our shop and he and his partner Michelle, a former West End performer, have held fundraising shows locally to raise funds for the Branch.

Richard, Rhianon and Paul will be missed.

Demand has increased for financial assistance to pay vet bills by pet owners, resulting in as many as 20 incoming telephone calls a day.

In April 2023 we held the first meeting of the six North Wales Branches to discuss the future of the RSPCA across the region. Branch trustees, as well as members, are diminishing putting more pressure onto fewer people. We will be having further meetings this year with one possibility being mergers of Branches and employment of staff. David and Pat Hibbert, long-standing committee members, moved from Bangor to Ruthin this year. Luckily, they've chosen to stay with our Branch, meaning we now have 4 trustees living in Denbighshire – thank goodness for Google Meet!

My thanks to our Inspectorate team, RSPCA Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre staff and volunteers, the Mobile Clinic and Gavin and Donna our Branch Partnership Team for their support.

As always, my thanks go to all our committee members for all that they do for this Branch. If you think you can help us in any way please contact us via Facebook, at enquiries@rspcawestgwynedd.org.uk or by phone on 01248 671304.

We will continue to do all that we can to support the animals and to prevent cruelty, promote kindness and alleviate suffering of all animals. Thank you – Diolch yn fawr iawn.

2 Apologies received are listed on page 7.

3 Minutes of AGM 2023

These were proposed by Carl Lloyd, seconded by Griff Thomas and accepted by the meeting

4 There were no matters arising

5 Financial Report

Alun commenced his report by saying the total incoming resources for 2023 amounted to £91,651 (2022 - £94,525).

Expenditure for the year amounted to £110,736 (2022 - £92,444).

The largest single source of income was £46,188 from the House-to-House collections organised throughout England and Wales by the national RSPCA. The second largest source was £21,393 from our shop run by our dedicated and unpaid small group of volunteers led by Freda and Alexandra. Our investment income came to £10,404 for the year, up from

£8,280 in 2022. A £5,000 grant for the all-Wales pet food scheme “Paws, People, Planet” was received from HQ. The largest single source of expenditure was the £63,013 cost of vet bills and the £20,000 contribution towards the costs of running the mobile clinic, kindly managed by RSPCA Aberconwy Branch, providing veterinary advice and treatment to animals that are unlikely to be taken to ordinary vet practices. Thanks to all those who have helped us achieve these results in such a cost-effective manner, largely due to their willingness to work unpaid and submit claims only for actual out-of-pocket expenditure. I would also like to thank Laura Adams of W.J. Matthews & Son who has examined our accounts meticulously for the last 3 years and now also submits our VAT returns to HMRC. Alun's report was proposed by Griff Thomas, seconded by Osian Richards and accepted by the meeting.

6 Adoption of Auditors

Alun proposed that the examiners Matthews & Son be retained. This was seconded by Griff Thomas and accepted by the meeting.

7 Branch Annual Report

Although the Covid pandemic is now, hopefully, behind us we still have a cost-of-living crisis, possibly a recession. This causes many problems and a massive increase in the calls we receive for financial help with vet bills due to these rising sharply

We still provide free neutering of cats and kittens above 6 months old and an amount of £100 for neutering female dogs and £70 for males.

The RSPCA runs a joint scheme with the Cat's Protection for neutering pet cats which includes microchipping and costs the owner £5.

At the end of the year, you may be aware of the problems caused with XL Bully dogs. The Branch, in the person of Alun Rees, has been involved in the problems of administration and some funding of costs to help the owners of these dogs.

We still received, and are grateful for, donations of pet food from Morrisons during the year and also from members of the public who bring it into our charity shop in Pwllheli.

The Branch shop is still open and trying to increase the takings although being manned by an ever-decreasing number of volunteers. Thanks to the few who help there. Referring to the shop our landlord, Paul Brett, died on 31st January 2024. He was a great animal lover and with his partner, Michelle Breeze, supported the Branch and shop and organised various fund-raising events over the years. He will be greatly missed.

We also lost two friends during 2023, these were Richard Williams and Rhianon Jones. Richard was a past committee member who still helped with fundraising, and Rhianon was still a committee member until the time of her death. When she moved back to Wales more than 40 years ago, she was already an RSPCA member. She joined the West Gwynedd Branch and was Secretary of the Branch for several years. We shall miss them both.

During the year various collection boxes were emptied, £2,035.07; donations received, £5,013.15.

£63,013.61 was spent on vet costs and £8,222.90 on boarding.

We still have the RSPCA mobile clinic visiting Bangor, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Caernarfon each week. This is now so busy that appointments at most venues are being booked weeks in advance.

Several cat traps were loaned to members of the public as needed and Ann and Alun are still involved with some hands-on catching of various types of animals.

The Branch is still receiving pet food which is sourced and distributed to various Branches in Wales by Carl Lloyd, a West Gwynedd Branch Trustee. Carl recently received an award from HQ for the work he puts into this venture,

The food is delivered to numerous food banks in our area mainly by Ann and Alun Rees,

Because of the shortage of volunteers and trustees on the committees of Branches in North Wales the Branches have been discussing mergers with each other to find ways of solving these problems., Nothing has yet been agreed for West Gwynedd and meetings will continue during 2024. We assure our members that all decisions will be taken with the best interests of the Branch at the heart of them.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with the Branch and also the Inspectorate and the Animal Centre for their work during the year.

8 Election of Committee

A virtual ballot took place and as all the proposals received 50% of the vote the following were elected to the Branch Committee:-

Rachele Follini	David Hibbert	Patricia Hibbert	Freda Holme
Alexandra Latham	Alun Rees	Ann Rees	Osian Richards

9 Inspectorate Report

Chief Inspector Leanne Hardy started by saying that avian flu was still prevalent during 2023 and was affecting support from vets, volunteers and wildlife hospitals.

The year had seen changes in the numbers of inspectors due to retirement etc.

The Inspectorate office has now moved to the Animal Centre at Bryn-y-Maen which Leanne considers a positive step.

The year also saw the introduction of the Care Contribution Fund (CCF) which will provide a financial contribution

towards the first 90 days of care of Inspectorate-generated animals signed over to RSPCA Branches.

She then gave details of various cases dealt with by the Inspectorate during the year.

She ended by saying how much they appreciated the help and support they get from volunteers, local Branches and animal centres.

10 Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre Report

As Vicky Williams, Centre Manager, was unable to attend, the report was given by Amy C Chambers, Animal Care Supervisor. She commenced by saying 2023 had been another year full of variety with both centre and national changes taking place.

The demand for animal spaces reached an all-time high and the team of volunteers completed an amazing 3,024 hours with May being the highest. We continue to remain incredibly grateful to all our volunteers for their commitment in supporting the centre and animals in our care.

710 animals entered the centre during 2023, the highest number for many years. 336 animals found new homes, 37 dogs, 87 cats, 41 rabbits and 171 other species which included fish, guinea pigs and mice.

She thanked the Friends of Bryn-y-Maen and North Wales Branches for their continued support.

11 Talk by Gavin Bevan, Senior Branch Partnership Manager -

“The RSPCA and its response to the XL Bully Ban”

Gavin gave details starting with the Dangerous Dogs Act and saying that the RSPCA is not in favour of banning specific breeds, it should be done by behaviour etc. Dog's Trust, Blue Cross and SSPCA agree with us. Part of the problem with XL Bully dogs is the type of person who originally wanted these dogs and trained them to be nasty.

He gave details of the steps the owner has to go through with the police and then have the dog neutered and muzzled when out in public places, The RSPCA is helping with the cost of the neutering.

12 Closing remarks

Ann thanked everyone for attending and reminded them of the Bryn-y-Maen Dog Show on 19th May.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

ATTENDANCE

Members (11)

Rachele Follini	David Hibbert	Pat Hibbert	Freda Holme
Alexandra Latham	Vicky Potter	Alun Rees	Ann Rees
Osian Richards	Griff Thomas	Mandy Thomas	

Staff

Kieren Barlow, RSPCA C&C Manager	Gavin Bevan, Snr. BPM
Amy Chambers, RSPCA Animal Care Supervisor	Melanie Froude, RSPCA ARO
Sophie Griffiths, BPM	Leanne Hardy, RSPCA Chief Insp.
Carl Lloyd, RSPCA Aberconwy Manager	Donna Rogers, BPM

Friends and Guests

Jon Francis, RSPCA Conwy	Mair Eluned Jones
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APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Sally Hyman, RSPCA Llys Nini	Vicky Williams, RSPCA Animal Centre Manager
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TREASURER'S REPORT & PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS 2024

The total incoming resources for the year amounted to £106,371 (2023: £91,651) with Trade debtors of £5,868 (2023: £3,885). Expenditure in the year amounted to £105,587 (2023: £110,736) and a growth of £3,385 (2023: a growth of £22,088) in the value of investments with current liabilities of £6,622 (2023: £1,977).

The allocation of the two shares of the "House to House" collections organised by RSPCA HQ fell from £46,188 in 2023 to £21,816 due to only 1 share being allocated after 12 years since merging with RSPCA Meirionnydd Branch in 2011. The profits gained from the use of professional canvassers are shared 50:50 between HQ and each of the Branches in existence at the time of the collection. Our shop at Pwllheli produced a slight decrease in income from £21,393 in 2023 to £19,517 in 2024. The shop takings were also enhanced by £480 from sale of rags (included in the £19,517 figure above) and the £683 in the collection box plus 25% Gift Aid (not included in the £19,517 figure). The Gift Aid scheme brought a welcome grand total return from HMRC of £708 (2023: £815).

£12,000 was refunded from RSPCA Cymru Board as it had not been required at the time and not all Branches contributed that year.

A surprise legacy of significant size was received from the late Mr Kenneth Harris of Clwt-y-Bont. £30,000 was received from his solicitors in December 2024 with 3% being deducted by HQ for administrative costs, leaving us with £29,100. Due to the complexities of the will and the need for a property to be sold, the remainder of the legacy is not expected to be received before Spring 2025.

Our investments continued to grow in value from £190,737 in 2023 to £194,122 in 2024 as well as slightly increased income over the year from £10,404 to £10,916.

The cost of vet bills reduced slightly to £60,645 from £63,839 in 2023. Our contribution to the running of the shared North Wales Mobile Clinic came to £26,448 compared to £20,235 in 2023.

Reserves Policy

The Branch Reserves Policy remains unchanged from that given in the Annual Report of 1997. This is to maintain a level of financial reserves that will enable the Branch to ensure continuity of activities providing animal welfare support and the ability to adjust, in a measured way, to any significant change in resources. Reserves are those funds which are freely available for general purposes and are uncommitted.

The trustees have established a policy of holding reserves of unrestricted funds equivalent to two to three years' expenditure. Based on our current expenditure of £105,587 and total unrestricted balance (including income-generating investments) of £322,662 in the investment and general funds, we have just over 3.0 years of reserve capital, though with projected year-on-year increases in spending and the substantial planned costs of supporting the mobile clinic, this figure is closer to 2.5 years.

This policy therefore conforms to the regulations of expendable endowment in paragraph 16 of the Charity Commission's guide to Charities' Reserves (CC19), namely:

".....many charities with an expendable endowment depend on the income it produces to fund core or continuing activities. Expending any of the endowment itself would reduce the income from it and might jeopardise some of those activities. The charity would then either have to increase its income from other sources, ... or have to cut

back its activities. The endowment cannot be regarded as free funds if a charity has that degree of dependence on income from it.”

This policy is subject to half-yearly review.

Investment Policy

On 31st December 2024 61% of our invested funds were held in selected equities, bonds and gilts, no more than 8% in current accounts, and the 31% balance in fixed interest notice account(s).

Future Plans

Our major plan for the coming year is the continuation of the mobile clinic service in Bangor, Blaenau and Caernarfon with the additional costs of the hub and clinic manager. An additional 2 vets now provide resilience and even the opportunity of extending the current 3-day service to 4 or even 5 days. The costs to our Branch are expected to be £55,000 per annum, plus an estimated £5,000 for additional referrals to veterinary practices in our area.

In 2022 the North Wales collaboration to distribute pet food approaching end of shelf-life to animal rescues and pet owners on limited finances via food banks came to realisation. The management of the logistics involved rental of a warehouse facility in Mochdre. In 2024 we moved to a more accessible unit at Mochdre. The use of the mobile clinic for delivery to Blaenau Ffestiniog, Bangor & Caernarfon in our Branch ensures no extra journeys. Local volunteers then redistribute it directly to foodbanks in Bangor, Bethesda, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Caernarfon & Pwllheli

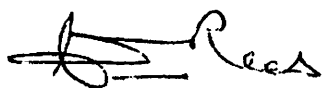
Cats Protection withdrew their collaborative scheme with RSPCA in Wales. Our own free/subsidised cat-neutering scheme is available at all the vet practices in Gwynedd. We also run our own contributions to subsidised neutering costs of £70 per dog and £100 per bitch. Both schemes are subject to the owner(s) being on means-tested benefits or low income, or for rehomed feral and stray cats, and available while funds last.

It is our intention to continue to help in the payment of veterinary bills to owners on low income and un-owned animals and on request, assistance with boarding / treatment of RSPCA Inspectorate animals where no other funding is available.

In December 2024, 5 of the North Wales Branches collaborated in employing an almoner for dealing with phone-calls and issuing vouchers to vet practices.

Heavily funded by the legacy from Mr Kenneth Harris, we are exploring employing a Co-ordinator for volunteers, members and fund-raising.

We are continuing to investigate the prospect of more of the current RSPCA Branches in North Wales merging to form one or more super-Branched. So far, RSPCA Aberconwy, RSPCA Wrexham District & Deeside, and RSPCA Montgomery and Radnorshire have merged under the name “RSPCA Aberconwy, Montgomeryshire & Wrexham Branch”. RSPCA Ynys Môn and RSPCA West Gwynedd are at the early stages of discussing a merger.



Alun T Rees
Hon Branch Treasurer

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 226126

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2024**

**W J MATTHEWS & SON
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

Independent Examiners' Report to the Members of RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch for the year ended 31st December 2024, which are set out on pages 12-14.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

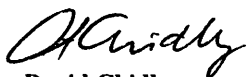
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

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:

- the 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.



David Chidley
W. J. Matthews & Son
Chartered Accountants
11-15 Bridge Street,
Caernarfon,
Gwynedd.

Dated: 23/04/2025

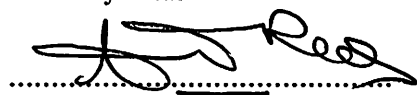
**RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024**

	General Designated Restricted				2024		2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income:							
Legacies	30,000	-	-	30,000	-	-	
Regional Board re-imbursement	12,000	-	-	12,000	-	-	
Membership subscriptions	129	-	-	129	148		
Grants from HQ	4,023	-	300	4,323	5,000		
<i>From Voluntary Sources</i>							
Sundry donations	1,002	-	-	1,002	820		
Gift aid	708	-	-	708	815		
House to house collections	21,816	-	-	21,816	69,978	46,188	52,971
Investment Income:							
Investment income (Gross)	13,260	-	-	13,260	10,404		
Cashing in of Cazenove investment	-	-	-	-	13,260	1,235	11,639
Charitable Trading activities:							
Dog collection boxes	919	-	-	919	2,035		
Charity Shop takings	19,517	-	-	19,517	21,393		
VAT refund	2,697	-	-	2,697	23,133	3,613	27,041
	<u>£106,071</u>	<u>£-</u>	<u>£300</u>		<u>£106,371</u>		<u>£91,651</u>
Direct Charitable Expenditure:							
Contribution to HQ	551	-	-	551	551		
Donations	26	-	-	26	-		
Veterinary costs	36,067	24,578	-	60,645	63,839		
Administrative fees	900	-	-	900	-		
Boarding	1,580	-	-	1,580	2,112		
Charity Shop rent	9,880	-	-	9,880	9,880		
Charity Shop heat and light	748	-	-	748	747		
Charity Shop trade refuse	-	-	-	-	328		
Shared almoner service	1,735	-	-	1,735	-		
Mobile Clinic service	-	26,448	-	26,448	20,235		
Mobile Clinic Telephone	-	317	-	317	318		
Room hire	123	-	-	123	-		
Comic Relief Officer's Travel	-	-	-	-	1,452		
Comic Relief Storage unit rental	-	-	-	-	2,220		
Support to food bank	-	-	302	302	6,543		
Insurance	829	-	-	829	104,084	1,184	109,409
Other expenditure:							
Postage and stationery	107	-	-	107	123		
Accountancy	846	-	-	846	810		
Repairs and Equipment	305	-	-	305	-		
Consumables	245	-	-	245	394		
	-	-	-	-	1,503	-	1,327
Total payments	<u>£53,942</u>	<u>£51,343</u>	<u>£302</u>		<u>£105,587</u>		<u>£110,736</u>
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	<u>52,129</u>	<u>(51,343)</u>	<u>(2)</u>		<u>784</u>		<u>(19,085)</u>
Transfers between funds	(51,345)	51,343	2		-		-
Cash and bank balances							
At 31 st December 2023	67,818	55,000	-		122,818		141,903
At 31 st December 2024	<u>£68,602</u>	<u>£55,000</u>	<u>£-</u>		<u>£123,602</u>		<u>£122,818</u>

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
31st DECEMBER 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Monetary assets:		
Investments:		
SUTL Cazenove Charity Equity Value Fund A Income	60,897	60,897
M&G Charifund	133,225	129,840
	<u>£194,122</u>	<u>£190,737</u>
Bank and cash balances:		
Bank Deposit Investment Account	73,432	83,432
Bank Deposit Account	25,002	-
Bank Current Account	24,993	38,469
PayPal Account	100	842
Cash float	75	75
Total	<u>£123,602</u>	<u>£122,818</u>
 General funds	 68,602	 67,818
Designated funds	55,000	55,000
Restricted funds	-	-
	<u>£123,602</u>	<u>£122,818</u>
 Debtors:		
Trade debtors	5,868	3,885
Legacies	135,000	-
	<u>£140,867</u>	<u>£3,885</u>
 Current Liabilities:		
Trade creditors and accruals	£6,622	£1,977

Approved by the Branch Committee on ²³/₀₄/₂₀₂₅..... and signed by
Dr. A. T. Rees
Honorary Treasurer


.....

**RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
ACCOUNTING POLICIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024**

Restricted Funds

During the year the branch received a grant from headquarters of £300 to support food banks with pet food. The total cost was more than the grant received and the additional amount was funded from the general reserve.

Designated Funds

A balance of £25,000 was brought forward from 2023 in relation to the cat and dog free neutering scheme. A total of £24,578 was spent during the year ending 31 December 2024 leaving a balance of £422. The Committee agreed to top up this figure to give a balance of £25,000 at the year end. Of the £25,000, the members of the committee have agreed that £5,000 of this fund is to be used for a farm cat neutering scheme in Dolgellau.

A sum of £30,000 had been designated to subsidise a mobile clinic providing veterinary services and advice to pet owners in the Bangor, Caernarfon and Blaenau Ffestiniog areas. The balance in the fund at 31 December 2023 was £30,000. A total of £26,765 was spent during the year ending 31 December 2024 leaving a balance of £3,235. The Committee agreed to top up this figure to give a balance of £30,000 at the year end.

Investments

The investments are stated at market value.

Trustees

No trustees received any remuneration in the year. (2023 – NIL).

Reimbursements made to trustees were as follows

	No of trustees	2024 Cost	No of trustees	2023 Cost
Travel costs reimbursed	Nil	Nil	Nil	£Nil

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH SECRETARY'S REPORT 2024

As you are all aware the cost-of-living increases have caused many problems for people, especially those on low incomes and who have pets. Apart from the rise in the price of food for them, the cost of vet treatment has increased drastically. This means that we are receiving far more calls for financial help with vet bills and requests for help with pet food. At present we still have the money to help with the bills and continue to supply 7 food banks in our area with both cat and dog food.

Pet food which is approaching its best-before date, is sourced by Carl Lloyd - a West Gwynedd Branch Trustee. Shops are not allowed to sell such food beyond this date, so it would normally end up in land fill or incinerated. Ann and Alun Rees regularly deliver this to the food banks within the Branch area.

We still receive pet food from Morrison's Caernarfon and customers bringing it into the Pwllheli shop. Freshfields Animal Charity in Nebo also donate some cat food plus dog food given to them even though they no longer rehome dogs there.

During the year we received £14,215 in donations, £918 from collection boxes and £29,100 as an interim payment from a larger legacy from the late Mr K. Harris. The Pwllheli shop is still providing much-needed funds, but this has reduced over the past few years, partly due to customers' shortage of money.

Due to the massive increase in the number of vouchers issued by the Branch it was decided to join with Aberconwy Branch, (now merged with Wrexham and Montgomery Radnorshire Branches) and Ynys Môn Branch to employ an Almoner, initially on a year's contract, to deal with these. Since she commenced in December 2024 it appears to be successful and certainly means that our committee members who previously dealt with these calls, now have more time to deal with other Branch matters.

As mentioned at our AGM last year we were considering merging with other N. Wales Branches but have decided to go-it-alone and try to raise the profile of the Branch and increase volunteers and trustees by soon advertising for a Volunteer Recruitment Co-ordinator, on a 12-month contract.

We still have problems with feral cats in our area and cat traps are loaned out to the public who trap their ferals and we pay for the neutering. They are then returned to where they came from. Ann and Alun Rees also do lots of cat trapping when there are larger colonies of feral and stray cats and range far afield between Harlech and Bala in the south of our area and Caernarfon and Bangor areas in the north.

Ann and Alun Rees were still receiving calls from owners of XL Bullies even though the deadline for registering these had already passed. These owners were advised to contact the Dog Liaison Officer with the Police. The problems were mainly because owners were not aware of the rules and regulations as the relevant departments had poorly advertised it. The RSPCA and other charities had done their best to give better information.

The RSPCA mobile clinic is still going to Bangor, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Caernarfon within our area and is busier than ever. This gives a much-needed subsidised service to local animals and their owners.

Most of the animal welfare done by the RSPCA is now covered by volunteers in the Branches who do this in their "spare time."

Thanks as always to all our volunteers and the Inspectorate and the Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre for all that they do to make the life of animals better.

RSPCA BRYN-Y-MAEN ANIMAL CENTRE

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

2024 was a successful year for the centre with new employees and volunteers joining the team. We developed new working relationships with our colleagues at Manchester Animal Hospital and Stockport Rehoming Centre to best support our intake and rehoming opportunities for cats. Our cattery outruns experienced refurbishments, and the first double kennel was created, by joining two previous kennels into one and incorporating a hide space within it. The completed works have successfully supported the animals during their stays. We look forward to seeing further improvements around the centre soon.

We welcomed Bonnie Jones into her Deputy Manager role, Siwan Brown and Ryan Cassar into Animal Care Assistant roles. Jodie Parfitt and Alicia Jones secured permanent Animal Care positions after joining the team in 2023 as apprentices. Hope Hover transferred into an Animal Rescue Officer role locally, we look forward to continuing to work with Hope.

Our incredible team of volunteers committed over 2400 hours to supporting the centre, many of whom have now completed over six years with us. We welcomed eight new volunteers all are now completing weekly sessions within our Cattery and Small Animal Unit. Our local Openreach team have committed to supporting the centre with corporate volunteering days with five team members completing three full days already. Their focus has been supporting groundwork activities, and we look forward to expanding this opportunity further in the year ahead. We are incredibly grateful to the time and energy our volunteers continue to contribute to the centre and animals within our care.

A total of 334 animals entered our care including 79 Dogs, 126 Cats, 39 Rabbits, 3 Chickens, 12 Guinea Pigs, 8 Small Animals, 67 Fish. We supported animals from across the country including increase in the networking of case and long-stay animals from regional centres to best support individual animals' welfare and rehoming opportunities.

A total 297 animals moved into adoptive homes including 42 Dogs , 123 Cats, 35 Rabbits, 3 Chickens , 12 Guinea Pigs, 15 Small Animals, 67 Fish. The team receives regular updates from our adopters and these happy ending stories are promoted through our social media channels.

Our Friends of Bryn-y-Maen Dog Show raised over £3800 which is our highest recorded profit. Thank you to our Branch colleagues who supported us on the day and our Friends Committee who continue to make the Friends Group possible. We look forward to another successful **Dog Show on 18th May 2025**, we hope you can join us.

Thank you to all our Branch colleagues who continue to enhance the lives of animals within North Wales and beyond.

Thank you to Friends of Bryn-y-Maen and the North Wales Branches teams for your continued support and engagement during 2024. Your commitment and support to raise the profile and support the work of the centre and continue to improve the lives of animals is much appreciated.

Kind Regards

Vicky Williams
Centre Manager Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre



North Wales RSPCA Inspectorate

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Year in summary

2024 was a very busy year indeed! Staff numbers dwindled further when Inspector Andy Broadbent left the Society to pursue a career in the clergy, however we gained four new AROs on the second and third training courses of the year. AROs Beth Newis, Hope Hover, Julia Dalglish and Seb Fabian joined the team covering both East and West sides of the group and into the Merseyside and Cheshire group. Inspector Jenny Anderton returned from maternity leave. North Wales now consists of two inspectors (one part time) and 6 full time AROs. Much of the second half of 2024 was focussed on field training the new staff and ensuring they are equipped sufficiently.

Due to changes in our scope of service it has been challenging to keep the volunteers engaged, however Lyn Hughes based near Bryn-y-Maen has been kept busy. This is mainly due to her location and her ability to travel distances such as Stapeley Wildlife Hospital and beyond. The help and support volunteers provide is crucial to enabling the team to dedicate more time to animals most in need, the cruelty investigation work.

We have continued to build good relationships with the team at the animal centre and have worked together on several projects throughout the year, including the annual dog show.

In 2024, North Wales officers, which for the majority of the year consisted of 2 inspectors and 2 AROS, dealt with a total of 1,159 jobs. 140 of these were about intentional harm caused to animals, 208 were regarding animals left unattended and 556 were regarding neglect. The remaining work undertaken was the rescue and/or collection of trapped/abandoned/sick or injured wildlife or domesticated animals and birds. In addition, the team provided support for their colleagues over the border in Merseyside and Cheshire, adding to the overall figures by about 24%.

Court results

A man from Llanfairfechan was found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to his daughter's French bulldog by kicking and beating it so hard he broke one of its legs, which later had to be amputated. The male was given 9 months imprisonment which was suspended for a period of 12 months with the following requirements:-

1. 6-month Drug Rehabilitation Requirement.
2. Rehabilitation Activity Requirement of 15 days and
3. Program Requirement - 35 sessions.

He was also given 28 days consecutive for a breach of bail which was suspended for 12 months. He was disqualified from keeping a dog under Section 34 for 3 years. No order for costs or compensation was made given his financial circumstances.

A male from Mold pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to a Jack Russell cross dog by throwing it in the air, causing a skull fracture and brain injury when the dog landed on concrete. Sadly, the dog was later put to sleep at the vets due to its injuries.

The male was sentenced to 12 months community order, 180 hours unpaid work and 25 Rehabilitation Activity Requirement days. He was disqualified from keeping all animals for 6 years. Legal costs of £1,381.20 and Victim Surcharge of £114 were awarded.

Other items of note

2024 saw an opportunity to finally look at partnership work with the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service. It has been many years since we have been able to get them round the table. This will hopefully move forward in 2025.

Partnership working is a key aspect of the organisational strategy and North Wales officers work hard at ensuring our network of partners are engaged and kept up to date with our scope of service.

As always, the team and I would like to thank the Branches, volunteers and animal centre staff for their unwavering support.

Chief Inspector Leanne Hardy 783
North Wales Inspectorate
RSPCA Cymru

Accounts



**CANGEN GORLLEWIN GWYNEDD
WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH**

**ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL
2023
ANNUAL REPORT**



Elusen Gofrestredig Rhif 226126 Registered Charity No

WEST GWYNEDD ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre Report	18
Inspectorate Report	19

March 2024

NOTICE OF BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING 2024

Dear Member,

We are again holding our AGM by means of a virtual format through Google Meet.

The meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday, 22nd April at 7pm.

To enable you to join the meeting we will need your e-mail address so that the invitation to join the Google Meet meeting can be sent to you. I would be grateful if you could send your e-mail to enquiries@rspcawestgwynedd.org.uk as soon as possible if you are able to attend. Your e-mail address will be saved securely and used only for any relevant West Gwynedd Branch correspondence with you as a Branch member. **Your details will not be shared with any third parties.**

Mrs Freda Holme
Hon. Branch Secretary.
Tel. 07900 597891

Arfaes, Llwyndyrys,
Y Ffor, Pwllheli,
Gwynedd, LL53 6NG

HONORARY OFFICERS:-

President - Robert Eaglestone

Chairman - Ann Rees

Treasurer - Alun Rees

Regional Representative - Alun Rees

Deputy Regional Representative – Carl Lloyd

Friends of Bryn-y-Maen Representative - Freda Holme

Vice President – Margaret Eaglestone

Secretary - Freda Holme

ELECTED COMMITTEE / TRUSTEES:-

Rachele Follini

Patricia Hibbert

Rhianon Jones (died Sept. 2023)

Alun Rees

Osian Richards

David Hibbert

Freda Holme

Alexandra Latham

Ann Rees

CO-OPTED COMMITTEE / TRUSTEES

Carl Lloyd

Mair Eluned

STAFF:-

Senior Branch Partnership Manager Gavin Bevan (to 16.7. 2023)

Branch Partnership Manager Donna Rogers (from 17.7.2023)

ACTION LINE

0300 1234 999

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held by Google Meet video conference
7pm Monday, 22nd April 2024

AGENDA

- 1 Opening address and Chairman's welcome
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Approval of minutes of AGM 2023
- 4 Matters arising
- 5 Financial Report
- 6 Adoption of Auditors
- 7 Branch Annual Report
- 8 Election of Committee
- 9 Inspectorate Report
- 10 Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre Report
- 11 Talk by Gavin Bevan, Senior Branch Partnership Manager –
“The RSPCA and its response to the XL Bully Ban”
- 12 Closing remarks

April 2024

Dear Fellow Members, Friends and Supporters,

Welcome to RSPCA West Gwynedd's Annual Report. Despite our declining membership, year on year the Branch committee strives to continue our work to help local animals and support our RSPCA Inspectors. Freda and Alexandra have continued to keep the Pwllheli shop open to bring in much-needed funds and Alun and I take most of the phone calls from pet owners requiring assistance with vet bills and advice.

The cost-of-living crisis continues to impact on animal welfare, and we've seen an increase in demand for dog and cat food and requests for help with flea & worm treatment and vaccinations. It is a sad reflection of our times when pet owners can't even afford to pay for the basic needs of their animals. Luckily, we are still supporting the North Wales RSPCA Mobile Clinic that makes weekly visits to Bangor, Caernarfon and Blaenau Ffestiniog and can direct callers there for basic welfare treatment for their pets. The demand on the mobile clinic is sometimes overwhelming with vets Jim and Llinos having to extend their hours on site.

Fortunately, Branch Trustee Carl Lloyd has continued to source pet food that is approaching the date when shops aren't willing to offer it for sale. This year, I nominated Carl for an RSPCA Impact Award under the Rescue and Care category, and I was delighted when Carl won the category and was awarded a certificate, a trophy and an invitation for him and a guest to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. Carl has said he will take his mum with him to achieve "serious Brownie points"! It is a well-deserved recognition of Carl's endeavours, allowing our Branch to supply dog and cat food regularly to 7 Foodbanks in our area, as well as providing cat food for people supporting feral cat populations and cats in Branch care. In addition, the food is distributed across North Wales and transported to three depots in South Wales, making this a Wales-wide scheme.

Since our last AGM we've lost 3 true supporters. Richard Williams from Bangor was a committee member for some years and a stalwart collector during fundraising events at Pets at Home and Tesco, Bangor. Then we learnt of the death of fellow trustee Rhianon Jones of Rhos Isaf, Caernarfon. Known locally as "The Cat Lady" she had, at one time, over 20 cats, as everyone locally knew that if a cat needed a home Rhianon would always take it in. At the time of her death only one 19-year-old cat remained and fortunately, RSPCA Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre was able to take her in. Our third loss was the death of our Pwllheli shop landlord and Branch supporter, Paul Brett, who lost his fight against heart disease. Paul was an eminent guitarist who would donate guitars to sell at our shop and he and his partner Michele, a former West End performer, have held fundraising shows locally to raise funds for the Branch. Richard, Rhianon and Paul will be missed.

Demand has increased for financial assistance to pay vet bills by pet-owners, resulting in as many as 20 incoming telephone calls a day. In April 2023 we held the first meeting of the six North Wales branches to discuss the future of the RSPCA across the region. Branch trustees, as well as members, are diminishing, putting more pressure onto fewer people. We will be having further meetings this year with one possibility being mergers of Branches and employment of staff. David and Pat Hibbert, long-standing committee members, moved from Bangor to Ruthin this year. Luckily, they've chosen to stay with our Branch, meaning that we now have 4 trustees living in Denbighshire – thank goodness for Google meet!

My thanks go to our Inspectorate team, RSPCA Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre staff & volunteers, the Mobile Clinic and Gavin & Donna, our Branch Partnership Team for their support.

As always, my thanks go to all our committee members for all that they do for this Branch. If you think you can help us in any way please contact us via Facebook, at enquiries@rspcawestgwynedd.org.uk or by phone on 01248 671304.

We will continue to do all that we can to support the animals and to prevent cruelty, promote kindness and alleviate suffering of all animals.

Thank you – Diolch yn fawr iawn.

Ann Rees

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Held via Google Meet video conference
Monday, 17th April 2023 at 7.00pm.

Those present at the meeting are listed on page 8

1 Chairman's Welcome

Ann Rees welcomed everyone to the meeting including Sylvia from Clwyd and Colwyn Branch and Jon from Aberconwy Branch. She said they had both been involved with the RSPCA for a long time, as had Jon's wife, Sheila, who recently passed away and she offered our deepest sympathy to him. We also lost our friend and past committee member, Richard Williams, in November 2022. He was always willing to help with store and street collections and will be missed.

Here we go again with another year gone by and another Annual Report and AGM. Although our membership is declining year on year, the Branch committee and an exceedingly small band of volunteers strive to keep the Pwllheli shop open and to take all the phone calls from pet owners requiring assistance with vet bills.

During the cost-of-living crisis veterinary costs have continued to rise meaning that many owners can't even meet the cost of basic treatment and vaccinations for their pets. We are glad that the North Wales RSPCA Mobile Clinic makes weekly visits to Bangor, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Caernarfon. Eligible owners can be directed to this, but it is so popular and needed that we now have a waiting list for appointments.

The number of requests has certainly increased which means Alun spends most of his days on the phone. Freda also gets requests via the shop. There is an increasing demand for:- advice on behavioural issues with dogs, pet owners wanting to rehome as they can no longer afford their pets and some whose pets no longer fit into their lifestyle. Recently we have seen a worrying trend of dog owners wanting to rehome dogs with aggressive traits and a rise in XL Bully breeds locally.

We took more calls about "abandoned" seal pups on our Gwynedd beaches. The likelihood is that the pups are left on the beach whilst the adult seal has gone for food and would return if the pup was not surrounded by onlookers and their dogs. We also had many reports of sick seabirds likely to be suffering from Avian influenza. Our Inspectors have been trained and kitted-out with special protective clothing as there is a risk to human health from close contact with infected birds.

August 2022 saw Branch Trustee Carl Lloyd secure a grant of over £7,000 from Comic Relief's Community Fund in Wales Small Grants Scheme to support our work with Foodbanks. Carl had already sourced pet food reaching the end of its "best before" date that would otherwise end up in landfill or incinerated. This has enabled the Branch to regularly supply dog and cat food to Foodbanks in Bangor, Bethesda, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Caernarfon and Pwllheli. We soon hope to add Barmouth to the list.

Thanks to our Inspectorate Team, RSPCA Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre staff and volunteers, the Mobile Clinic and Gavin Bevan, our Senior Branch Partnership Manager, for his support.

As always, I thank all our committee members for what they do to prevent this Branch from slipping into RSPCA trusteeship as so many other Branches have done.

We will continue to do all we can to prevent cruelty, promote kindness, alleviate suffering, and support all animals.

2 Apologies received are listed on page 8.

3 Minutes of AGM 2022

These were proposed by Carl Lloyd seconded by Alun Rees and accepted by the meeting.

4 There were no matters arising.

5 Financial Report

Alun Rees reported that incoming resources for the year amounted to £94,525 and expenditure was £92,444. There was a massive fall in investments resulting in an overall loss of £48,776.

Alun then went into more detail about the entries in his report.

The allocation of the two shares of the "House-to-House" collections organised by RSPCA HQ fell slightly to £46,436. The Pwllheli shop takings were £23,381 plus £2,000 received from The Welsh Government Covid Business Rates Grant. The Gift Aid Scheme brought a welcome total return from HMRC of £413.

The decrease in our investments was mainly due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and uncertainty from the Liz Truss/Kwasi Kwarteng mini budget in September.

The cost of vet bills rose slightly due to cost-of-living increases and inflation.

Our North Wales Mobile Clinic was back in action for most of the year despite staffing problems resulting from lengthy illness due to Covid (our driver) and maternity (one of our vets). Veterinary costs charged by commercial vet practices to the public increased significantly.

The Branch Reserves Policy remains unchanged since that given in the Annual Report of 1997.

Alun's report was proposed by Freda Holme, seconded by Osian Richards, and accepted by the meeting.

6 Adoption of Independent Examiners

Alun Rees proposed that the examiners, W.J. Matthews and Son, are retained. This was seconded by Osian Richards and accepted by the meeting.

7 Branch Annual Report

Freda Holme said that 2022 saw us slowly recovering from the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic but facing new problems with the rise in the cost of living. Due to both these circumstances calls increased for help with both costs of vet bills and rehoming of animal.

Some of the rehoming problems occurred because owners had obtained animals during the pandemic as something to occupy their time. When their lives returned to normal, they were unable to cope with the new addition to the family as it didn't fit in with their normal way of life. More thought should be given when deciding to have an animal as part of your family.

Even though income was limited the Branch still provided financial help to pet owners. We provide free neutering of cats and kittens over 6 months of age and an amount towards neutering of dogs of £100 for females and £70 for males. We also help with an allowance towards the cost of vet treatment. Owners must be on means-tested benefits or have a low income to qualify.

The RSPCA also runs a joint scheme with the Cat's Protection for neutering pet cats which includes microchipping and costs the owner £10.

We still received donations of pet food from Morrisons during the year for which we are always grateful.

The Branch charity shop in Pwllheli is slowly trying to recover from all the problems of the last two years. We are still receiving pet food, cages etc brought into the shop by customers and supporters.

During the year various collection boxes were emptied raising £2,199; donations received, £1,392. No other fundraising was undertaken during the year, any ideas for 2024?

£53,259 was spent on vet costs and £1,568 on boarding.

The RSPCA Mobile Clinic, which visits Bangor, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Caernarfon in Gwynedd each week, is much appreciated by pet owners and in 2022 1,244 animals were seen. It is now by appointment only and some venues are booked well in advance.

Several cat traps were loaned out to members of the public and Ann and Alun did some "hands-on" catching of various types of animals.

A new venture being pursued by the Branch is to receive pet food near its best-before date from a supplier and distribute it to local food banks. It is safe to use for at least another 6 months but cannot be sold. This has proved to be very successful and keeps some committee members extremely busy with the practicalities of supply and demand.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone involved with the Branch for their help during another difficult year and the Inspectorate and the Animal Centre for their work during a continuing trying time.

Freda's report was proposed by Carl Lloyd, seconded by Dave Hibbert, and accepted by the meeting.

8 Election of Committee

A virtual ballot took place and as all proposals received 50% of the vote the following were elected to the Branch Committee:-

Rachele Follini	David Hibbert	Patricia Hibbert	Freda Holme
Rhianon Jones	Alexandra Latham	Alun Rees	Ann Rees
Osian Richards			

9 Inspectorate Report

Chief Inspector Leanne Hardy started her report by saying 2022 was predominantly governed by Avian influenza making it harder for the frontline teams to seek assistance from volunteers, vets, and wildlife hospitals. Many of these services had to close their doors whilst we were still being tasked with collecting sick or injured wild birds. This put a lot of pressure on the North Wales team, but they worked really hard under difficult circumstances in order to get to as many animals in need as possible.

Summer was particularly difficult with the NCC, and frontline staff overwhelmed with work. Looking ahead, there are several projects that will hopefully enable us to get faster to the animals needing help and deal with animal cruelty and neglect quickly and professionally to secure the best outcome for these animals.

The Wildlife Casualty Volunteers have been rebranded as Animal Rescue Volunteers to better reflect the diversity of the tasks they are being asked to assist us with.

Leanne then continued by giving details of the number and variety of calls being passed to the Inspectorate and several of the notable cases and complaints.

She finished her report by thanking the Animal Centres, Branches, members, and volunteers for all their support.

10 Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre Report

As there was no one attending from Bryn-y-Maen the report was read by Ann Rees and commenced by listing staff changes during 2022.

The volunteer team completed 3,936 hours supporting centre staff with animal care, maintenance, and gardening duties.

284 animals were taken in from local and national inspectorate teams and included 72 dogs, 110 cats, 53 rabbits and 49 other species including fish, poultry, and small animals. Restrictions were experienced on wild birds entering the centre due to Avian flu, but we continued to support the short-term housing of wild mammals ahead of transfer to Stapeley Grange.

A total of 164 animals found new homes which included 40 dogs, 71 cats, 27 rabbits and 26 other species. We experienced an increase in adopters travelling great distances to adopt the smaller animals such as rabbits hamsters and gerbils.

We completed our first fundraising event at Pets at Home since the start of the pandemic which was a positive experience and raised vital funds plus food and enrichment toys.

Thank you to Friends of Bryn-y-Maen and the North Wales Branches for continuing to support the centre throughout these difficult times. This ensures we continue to best support the animals that need it most.

We look forward to seeing you at the Friends Dog Show in 2023.

11 Talk by Alexandra Davies, Education Officer, Welsh Mountain Zoo “Conservation Starts at Home”

Ann Rees introduced the speaker and said Alexandra qualified as a Bachelor of Science in Zoology before going on to doing a master’s degree. She then spent six years as a Zookeeper before moving a short while ago to being Education Officer at the Welsh Mountain Zoo.

Alexandra said the Welsh Mountain Zoo celebrates its 60th Anniversary this year and is no longer run by the family that started it.

She gave a very interesting, illustrated talk about the various species in their conservation programmes and also spoke of the way animals coped with captivity.

At the end of her talk Ann thanked her for her informative and interesting talk on the work of conservation and rehabilitation at the zoo and said Alexandra’s enthusiasm for her job is brilliant. For such a long time some zoos had a dubious reputation in animal welfare, so it was a delight to hear such positive comments about our local zoo. Thank goodness for people like you who do so much work educating the young generation through group visits, outreach programmes and your virtual Wildlife Inspiring Learning and Discovery (WILD) sessions.

12 Closing comments

Ann said we had now come to the end of the AGM for another year. She thanked everyone who had been part of putting the reports together etc and taking part in the meeting and to all for joining us this evening.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Chairman.....date.....

ATTENDANCE

Members (11)

Rachele Follini	David Hibbert	Pat Hibbert	Freda Holme
Alexandra Latham	Vicky Potter	Alun Rees	Ann Rees
Osian Richards	Griff Thomas	Mandy Thomas	

Staff

Gavin Bevan BPM	Chief Insp. Leanne Hardy
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Friends and Guests

Carl Lloyd	Jonathon Francis, Aberconwy Branch
Sylvia Moss, Clwyd & Colwyn Branch	Jenny Kinsman, Red Squirrels Trust, Wales
Alexandra Davies, Education Officer, Welsh Mountain Zoo	Mair Eluned

APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Gaynor Elis-Williams	Catherine Head	Heather Roberts	Lyn Williams
Victoria Williams, ByM		Gwenfron Evans, Ynys Mon Branch	

TREASURER'S REPORT & PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS 2023

The total incoming resources for the year amounted to £91,651 (2022: £94,525) with Trade debtors of £3,885. Expenditure in the year amounted to £110,736 (2022: £92,444) and a recovery of £22,088 (2022: a fall of £50,246) in the value of investments with current liabilities of £1,977 (2022: £8,292). This resulted in an overall gain for the year of £2,403.

The allocation of the two shares of the “House to House” collections organised by RSPCA HQ fell slightly from £46,436 in 2022 to £46,188. The profits gained from the use of professional canvassers are shared 50:50 between HQ and each of the Branches in existence at the time of the collection. As a result of RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch taking over RSPCA Meirionnydd Branch in 2011, the “new” Branch received two portions of the profit for the first 10 years. Our shop at Pwllheli produced a slight decrease in income from £23,831 in 2022 to £21,393 in 2023. The shop takings were also enhanced by £910 from sale of rags (included in the £21,393 figure above) and the £1,518 in the collection box 25% Gift Aid. The Gift Aid scheme brought a welcome total return from HMRC of £771 (2022: £790).

Our investments recovered some of the losses experienced in 2022 growing from £168,649 to £190,737 as well as increased income over the year from £8,280 to £10,404. Schroders also decided to close their SUTL Cazenove Charity Bond Fund during the year, so we withdrew £1,235 and transferred the remaining balance to our M&G Charifund account. Our sit and wait strategy appears to be working.

The cost of vet bills rose significantly to £63,839 from £53,259 in 2022 largely due to the cost of living and inflation rises and an increase in the number of requests for financial help. Our North Wales Mobile Clinic was back in action for most of the year, despite staffing problems resulting from illness and maternity (one of our vets). Veterinary costs charged by commercial vet practices to the public increased significantly.

Reserves Policy

The Branch Reserves Policy remains unchanged from that given in the Annual Report of 1997. This is to maintain a level of financial reserves that will enable the Branch to ensure continuity of activities providing animal welfare support and the ability to adjust, in a measured way, to any significant change in resources. Reserves are those funds which are freely available for general purposes and are uncommitted.

The trustees have established a policy of holding reserves of unrestricted funds equivalent to two to three years' expenditure. Based on our current expenditure of £92,444 and total unrestricted balance (including income-generating investments) of £310,552 in the investment and general funds, we have just over 3.3 years of reserve capital, though with projected year-on-year increases in spending and the substantial planned costs of supporting the mobile clinic, this figure is closer to 2.8 years.

This policy therefore conforms to the regulations of expendable endowment in paragraph 16 of the Charity Commission's guide to Charities' Reserves (CC19), namely:

“.....many charities with an expendable endowment depend on the income it produces to fund core or continuing activities. Expending any of the endowment itself would reduce the income from it and might jeopardise some of those activities. The charity would then either have to increase its income from other sources, ... or have to cut back its activities. The endowment

cannot be regarded as free funds if a charity has that degree of dependence on income from it.”

This policy is subject to half-yearly review.

Investment Policy

On 31st December 2023 19% of our invested funds were held in selected equities, about 41% in bonds and gilts, no more than 13% in current accounts, and the 27% balance in fixed interest notice account(s).

Future Plans

Our major plan for the year is the continuation of the mobile clinic service in Bangor, Blaenau and Caernarfon with the additional costs of the hub and clinic manager. An additional 2 vets now provide resilience and even the opportunity of extending the current 3-day service to 4 or even 5 days. The costs to our Branch are expected to be £20,000 per annum, plus an estimated £5,000 for additional referrals to veterinary practices in our area.

In 2022 the North Wales collaboration to distribute pet food approaching end of shelf-life to animal rescues and pet owners on limited finances via food banks came to realisation. The management of the logistics involved rental of a warehouse facility in Mochdre which still continues. The Comic Relief Grant of £7,122 towards storage and distribution has now been used. The use of the mobile clinic for delivery to Blaenau Ffestiniog, Bangor & Caernarfon in our Branch ensures no extra journeys. Local volunteers then redistribute it directly to foodbanks in Bangor, Bethesda, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Caernarfon & Pwllheli

We will also be continuing to participate in the all-Wales cat neutering scheme with Cats Protection via Regional Board which is currently available in 5 practices in our Branch area. Our own free/subsidised cat-neutering scheme is available at all the vet practices in Gwynedd. We also run our own contributions to subsidised neutering costs of £70 per dog and £100 per bitch. Both schemes are subject to the owner(s) being on means-tested benefits or low income, or for rehomed feral and stray cats, and available while funds last.

It is our intention to continue to help in the payment of veterinary bills to owners on low income and un-owned animals and on request, assistance with boarding / treatment of RSPCA Inspectorate animals where no other funding is available.

We are looking into the prospect of several of the current RSPCA Branches in North Wales merging to form a super-Branch. This proposal began back in the early 2020s but is becoming increasingly likely as the numbers of volunteers fall and the administrative and financial burdens increase. Due to RSPCA Branch rules, only 2 Branches may merge at one time, extending the time required for multi-Branch reorganisation.



Alun T Rees
Hon Branch Treasurer

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 226126

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2023**

**W J MATTHEWS & SON
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

Independent Examiners' Report to the Members of RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out on pages 13-15.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity 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 2011 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:

- the 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.

David Chidley
W. J. Matthews & Son
Chartered Accountants
11-15 Bridge Street,
Caernarfon,
Gwynedd.

Dated:

**RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023**

	General	Designated	Restricted		2023		2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income:							
Membership subscriptions	148	-	-	148		161	
Covid Business Rates grant	-	-	-	-		2,000	
Comic Relief Food Bank grant	-	-	-	-		7,122	
Pet Food grant from HQ	-	-	5,000	5,000		-	
<i>From Voluntary Sources</i>							
Sundry donations	820	-	-	820		1,392	
Gift aid	815	-	-	815		413	
Flag Days	-	-	-	-		100	
House to house collections	46,188	-	-	46,188		46,436	
Jumble	-	-	-	-	52,971	48	57,672
Investment Income:							
Investment income (Gross)	10,404	-	-	10,404		8,280	
Cashing in of Cazenove investment	1,235	-	-	1,235	11,639	-	8,280
Charitable Trading activities:							
Dog collection boxes	2,035	-	-	2,035		2,199	
Charity Shop takings	21,393	-	-	21,393		23,831	
Adoption fees	-	-	-	-		270	
VAT refund	3,613	-	-	3,613	27,041	2,273	28,573
	<u>£86,651</u>	<u>£-</u>	<u>£5,000</u>		<u>£91,651</u>		<u>£94,525</u>
Direct Charitable Expenditure:							
Contribution to HQ	551	-	-	551		551	
Donations	235	20,000	-	20,235		20,265	
Veterinary costs	41,256	22,583	-	63,839		53,259	
Boarding	2,112	-	-	2,112		1,568	
Charity Shop rent	9,880	-	-	9,880		9,880	
Charity Shop heat and light	747	-	-	747		835	
Charity Shop trade refuse	328	-	-	328		309	
Charity Shop F.R. goods	-	-	-	-		182	
Mobile Clinic Telephone	-	318	-	318		351	
Mobile Clinic Room hire	-	-	-	-		120	
Mobile Clinic Driver Hire	-	-	-	-		190	
Comic Relief Haulage	-	-	-	-		1,800	
Comic Relief Officer's Travel	-	-	1,452	1,452		333	
Comic Relief Storage unit rental	-	-	2,220	2,220		1,284	
Support to food bank	-	-	6,543	6,543		-	
Insurance	1,184	-	-	1,184	109,409	-	90,927
Other expenditure:							
Postage and stationery	123	-	-	123		149	
Accountancy	810	-	-	810		650	
Repairs and Equipment	-	-	-	-		361	
Consumables	394	-	-	394		73	
VAT not recoverable	-	-	-	-	1,327	284	1,517
Total payments	<u>£57,620</u>	<u>£42,901</u>	<u>£10,215</u>		<u>£110,736</u>		<u>£92,444</u>
Net (expenditure) / income for the year	29,031	(42,901)	(5,215)		(19,085)		2,081
Transfers between funds	(44,444)	42,901	1,543		-		-
Cash and bank balances							
At 31 st December 2022	83,231	55,000	3,672		141,903		139,822
At 31 st December 2023	<u>£67,818</u>	<u>£55,000</u>	<u>£-</u>		<u>£122,818</u>		<u>£141,903</u>

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
31st DECEMBER 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Monetary assets:		
Investments:		
SUTL Cazenove Charity Equity Value Fund A Income	60,897	35,441
SUTL Cazenove Charity Bond Fund A Income	-	77,033
M&G Charifund	129,840	56,175
	<u>£190,737</u>	<u>£168,649</u>
Bank and cash balances:		
Bank Deposit Investment Account	83,432	83,223
Bank Current Accounts	38,469	57,881
PayPal Account	842	724
Cash float	75	75
Total	<u>£122,818</u>	<u>£141,903</u>
General funds	67,818	83,231
Designated funds	55,000	55,000
Restricted funds	-	3,672
	<u>£122,818</u>	<u>£141,903</u>
Debtors: Trade debtors	<u>£3,885</u>	<u>£2,884</u>
Current Liabilities:		
Trade creditors and accruals	<u>£1,977</u>	<u>£8,292</u>

Approved by the Branch Committee on and signed by
Dr. A. T. Rees
Honorary Treasurer

.....

**RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
ACCOUNTING POLICIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023**

Restricted Funds

In April 2022 the branch set up a new scheme which involved collecting donated animal food and distributing to food banks across North Wales. A Comic Relief Grant was received for £7,122 to cover storage and distribution costs. As of December 2023, the grant income was spent in full.

During the year the branch received a grant from headquarters of £5,000 to support food banks with pet food. The total cost was more than the grant received and the additional amount was funded from the general reserve.

Designated Funds

A balance of £25,000 was brought forward from 2022 in relation to the cat and dog free neutering scheme. A total of £21,679 was spent during the year ending 31 December 2023 leaving a balance of £8,777. The Committee agreed to top up this figure to give a balance of £25,000 at the year end. Of the £25,000, the members of the committee have agreed that £5,000 of this fund is to be used for a farm cat neutering scheme in Dolgellau.

A sum of £30,000 had been designated to subsidise a mobile clinic providing veterinary services and advice to pet owners in the Bangor, Caernarfon and Blaenau Ffestiniog areas. The balance in the fund at 31 December 2022 was £30,000. A total of £21,222 was spent during the year ending 31 December 2023 leaving a balance of £8,778. The Committee agreed to top up this figure to give a balance of £30,000 at the year end.

Investments

The investments are stated at market value.

Trustees

No trustees received any remuneration in the year. (2022 – NIL).

Reimbursements made to trustees were as follows

	No of trustees	2023 Cost	No of trustees	2022 Cost
Travel costs reimbursed	Nil	Nil	Nil	£Nil

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH SECRETARY'S REPORT 2023

Although the Covid pandemic is now, hopefully, behind us we still have a cost -of-living crisis, possibly a recession. This causes many problems and a massive increase in the calls we receive for financial help with vet bills, due to these rising sharply.

We still provide free neutering of cats and kittens above 6 months old and an amount of £100 for neutering female dogs and £70 for males. We also make an allowance towards the cost of vet treatment. To qualify the owners must be on means-tested benefits or a low income.

The RSPCA also runs a joint scheme with the Cat's Protection for neutering pet cats which includes microchipping and costs the owner £10.

At the end of the year, you may be aware of the problems caused with XL Bully dogs. The Branch, in the person of Alun Rees, has been involved in the problems of administration and some funding of costs to help the owners of these dogs across the North Wales Branches and reclaiming the costs from RSPCA HQ and the Cymru Board.

We still received, and are grateful for, donations of pet food from Morrisons during the year and also from members of the public who bring it into our charity shop in Pwllheli.

The Branch shop is still open and trying to increase the takings although being manned by an ever-decreasing number of volunteers. Thanks to the few who help there.

Referring to the shop, our landlord, Paul Brett, died on 31st January 2024. He was a great animal lover and with his partner, Michele Breeze, supported the Branch and shop and organised various fund-raising events over the years. He will be greatly missed.

We also lost two other friends since our last AGM. These were Richard Williams and Rhianon Jones. Richard was a past Committee member who still helped with fundraising and Rhianon was still a Committee member until the time of her death. When she moved back to Wales more than 40 years ago, she was already an RSPCA member, she joined the West Gwynedd Branch and was Secretary of the Branch for a number of years. We shall miss them both.

During the year various collection boxes were emptied, £2,035, donations received, £820.

£63,013.61 was spent on vet costs and £2,112 on boarding.

We still have the RSPCA mobile clinic visiting Bangor, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Caernarfon each week. This is now so busy that appointments at some venues are being booked weeks in advance.

Several cat traps were loaned out to members of the public as needed and Ann and Alun are still involved with some hands-on catching of various types of animals.

The Branch is still receiving pet food which is sourced and distributed to various Branches in Wales by Carl Lloyd, a West Gwynedd Branch Trustee. Carl recently received an award from RSPCA HQ regarding the work he puts into this venture. The food is then delivered to numerous food banks within our area, by Ann and Alun Rees.

Because of the shortage of volunteers and trustees on the committees the Branches in North Wales have been discussing mergers with each other to find ways of solving these problems. Nothing has yet been agreed for West Gwynedd and meetings will continue during 2024. We assure our members that all decisions will be taken with the best interests of the Branch at the heart of them.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with the Branch, the Inspectorate and the Animal Centre for their work during the year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Freda Holme', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Freda Holme

RSPCA BRYN-Y-MAEN ANIMAL CENTRE

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

2023 was another year full of variety with both centre and national changes taking place and the demand for animal space at an all-time high. Our team remained committed to best supporting the animals entering our care through timely rehabilitation and rehoming processes. We supported the hand rearing of a variety of kittens through the year, during July a total of 12 kittens required around the clock feeding!!

Our team of volunteers completed an amazing 3024 hours with May being our highest month for hours. Vicky, our cattery volunteer, committed the highest number of hours for the second year running totalling 384 hours and Sue, our kennel volunteer completed the second highest at 235. We continue to remain incredibly grateful to all our volunteers for their commitment to support the centre and animals in our care.

Russ Smith completed his fixed term role at the centre. Abbie Griffiths left the team to join Dogs Trust Merseyside and Rachel Gibbs remained with the organisation but transferred to the volunteering team. We look forward to continuing to work with Rachel in the future, following her return from maternity leave after the arrival of baby Ivy.

Amy Chambers transferred into an Animal Care Supervisor Role and Rachel Ali transferred to a part time Behaviour and Welfare Advisor role within the centre. We welcomed Jessica Nova, Jodie Parfitt, and Alicia Jones to the team in Animal Care Assistant roles and Sarah Davies returned from her maternity leave.

An incredible 710 animals entered our care with this being the highest numbers seen for many years, our Small Animal Block supported the intake of a variety of species from multi animal homes including tropical and cold-water fish and over 200 mice. Our team displayed their adaptability to accommodate such a variety of species requiring specialist care.

Dog 83, Cats 133, Rabbits 44 Guinea Pigs 10, Ferrets 5, Mice 273, Fish 167

A total of 336 animals found new homes: 37 Dogs, 87 Cats, 41 Rabbits, 171 other species which included Fish, Guinea Pigs and Mice. We received national Branch support for the relocation of so many mice, as the females started to give birth! We experienced a positive return and sunshine included for our Friends of Bryn-y-Maen Dog Show, with 85 Dogs entering our fun and rescue classes. We look forward to the show continuing to grow in the years ahead after the 3-year gap with Covid restrictions.

Thank you to Friends of Bryn-y-Maen and the North Wales Branches teams for your continued support and engagement during 2023. Your commitment and support to raise the profile and support the work of the centre and continue to improve the lives of animals is much appreciated.

Kind Regards

Vicky Williams
Centre Manager Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre



North Wales RSPCA Inspectorate

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

North Wales Inspectorate Annual Report 2023 Year in summary Avian influenza still had a grip on 2023 affecting support from volunteers, vets and wildlife hospitals. Even the small transportable wildlife project was hampered as it reduced the number of collections we could empower the public to do themselves. The summer, whilst still our busiest period, was better managed by the introduction of the priority matrix pilot. Inspectorate groups are allocated work taking account of the number of jobs not yet attended. If the total workload for the group statistically shows more than 25% of jobs waiting to be visited for the first time, then only P1 and P2 priority calls are taken and scheduled to the officers in that group. Once the percentage of jobs not yet attended drops below 25% lower priority work P3,4 & 5 is then accepted and passed to the field. This has meant that we have been able to respond faster to animals most in need, namely those that are victims of the worst cruelty and neglect. This has helped to manage public expectations and better for the wellbeing of officers and NCC staff.

2023 saw more changes in the staff numbers of the team. Inspectors Dave McCartney and Mike Pugh retired, both time-served officers (approx. 65 years' service between them!). Their wealth of knowledge and experience was second to none and they will be missed. Inspector Jenny Anderton went on maternity leave and has since given birth to a perfect little girl, Isla. It is hoped that she will be back sometime toward the latter part of 2024. Inspector Rachael Davies left us to go on a secondment to the workload management team for 12 months. This has now been extended for another year into 2025, and Phil Lewis secured his 12-month secondment to the welfare oversight team. Our army of volunteers grew in 2023 to 5, cementing them firmly within the team. The help they have provided has been invaluable and enables officers to concentrate their efforts better on their investigative work.

We completed our office move in 2023 to Bryn-y-Maen. It has been a really positive step for the team. They can meet with their animal centre colleagues and build on their relationships there. It has helped to reduce the feelings of isolation that often come with being a lone worker in a big geographical area. It has also assisted us in achieving the organisational priority of nurturing the culture of being "One Team". 2023 also brought the dissolution of the rope rescue team sadly. This was a tough decision that North Wales officers felt deeply. They had built such a fantastic reputation with international recognition. I am so very proud of their achievements and grateful on behalf of the Society and every animal they rescued.

Last year we also saw the introduction of the Care Contribution Fund (CCF), which will provide a financial contribution towards the first 90 days of care of Inspectorate generated animals signed over to RSPCA Branches. Branch sustainability remains our utmost priority and is paramount to us jointly being able to deliver on our Animal Journey programme part of the Together for Animal Welfare Strategy. This will ensure the best possible outcome for animals in our care.

Interesting Cases and Complaints

Inspector Phil Lewis collected a rabbit that was found in a cardboard box with 4 newborn kits near to Ysgol Rhos Helyg Primary School, Rhosesmor. No-one knew why the poor rabbit was abandoned or if she had even had the kits before being left. Local enquiries were made to locate the owner, while the rabbit and her kits were transferred to a private boarding facility to wait for space to become available in one of our RSPCA animal centres. Unfortunately, one of the

kits, a pure white one, didn't survive the night. The mother rabbit had moved it away from the rest of the litter and it was thought that she must have known something was wrong. The other 3 kits thankfully survived. Despite extensive enquiries, no owner or person responsible was ever found. They were rehomed when space became available, and they were old enough to leave mum.

All the team encountered increasing cases of abandonments last year. We can only assume that it was a knock-on effect from the cost-of-living crisis and overbreeding that was seen during the COVID pandemic. Inspector Broadbent was called to a complaint in Rhyl where a Pig called 'Iggy' was being kept down the side of the alley of a house. The conditions were appalling. It was literally a squalid mud bath with no shelter and no dry bedding area. The owner realised it was not a suitable environment for Iggy and signed him over for rehoming. Inspector Phil Lewis then transported Iggy to a safe location especially set up to house pigs. Iggy thrived and was sent to an animal centre for rehoming.

A Wrexham man was sent to prison for 26 weeks for the neglect and suffering of several animals while in breach of a disqualification order. He had previously been found guilty, following a trial, of five offences under the Animal Welfare Act. As a result of a new investigation, officers discovered that he had caused unnecessary suffering to a yellow Labrador - who was found in an emaciated state. Another offence related to two puppies who were found dead. The third was in relation to a cat, who he had failed to provide veterinary treatment for a large polypoid affecting his ear. Another offence was that he failed to care for



11 dogs and puppies and a final offence was that he was keeping the animals - which included 11 dogs, three cats and a goose - in breach of a lifetime disqualification order. He was sentenced to 26 weeks imprisonment each for three unnecessary suffering offences, 11 weeks imprisonment for failing to care for the dogs and 16 weeks for breach of ban. They were all to run concurrently. He was also ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £154 to be paid within 28 days of release. He was given an indefinite

disqualification of keeping any animals. Inspector Rachael Davies led the operation with North Wales Police and a team of RSPCA officers. A warrant was executed on the location where the animals were kept. All the surviving animals were eventually put up for rehoming.

[Collections and rescues in 2023](#)

Inspector Dave McCartney was called to a location near Berriew, just outside Welshpool, to reports of two Fallow Deer that had become entangled together by their antlers with electric fencing wire. The caller had seen them thrashing around in the brook and was concerned that they may drown. Dave and the caller found the deer. They had managed to get into the field alongside the brook. Dave knew straight away that this was not a job for one person, so he called for assistance. He was soon joined by Inspectors Mike Pugh, Andrew Broadbent and Nayman Dunderdale. The deer were still very mobile, and the team had to follow them for almost a kilometre through marsh land, over fences and fields until they ended up back in the brook. A rope was attached to the antlers of one deer using a reach and rescue pole and both

deer were safely secured. Mike Pugh was then able to cut the wire from one deer's antler and it ran off. A short while later the wire was cut away from the second deer's antlers and it also ran off, uninjured. By fortunate coincidence, Dave and Mike had attended the Large Animal Rescue training only the week before so were able to put their refreshed skills into practice. Dave said, "This was a really special successful rescue and was very satisfying for all involved. It was a great all-round team effort, and it was very pleasing to see both deer run off to be reunited with each other. It is jobs like this which make the job of an RSPCA officer so unique and very worthwhile. The AR2 training completed the week before this rescue helped, as we were able to rescue the deer in a safe manner."

Inspectors Jenny Anderton and Andy Broadbent had fun and games rescuing a gull trapped down a mediaeval well in Conwy Castle. It took a few hours for them to work out how to get the gull out. The water level was about 10-15 metres down and there was a fence around the top of the well. In addition, naturally, the gull didn't fancy getting caught. It took the ingenious officers 3 different attempts, lowering various strange, improvised contraptions cobbled together from their equipment, before they were successful. They had constructed a 'big spoon' made from ropes and a net. After demonstrating excellent teamwork, they managed to scoop the gull up, operating the whole thing like puppeteers from the top.



ARO Melanie Froude attended the RSPB Cors Ddyga reserve on Anglesey after calls were received regarding a swan with a broken wing. The swan was located on a small body of water, the wing appearing in very bad shape. After assessing the situation, it was clear the swan was never going to be caught single-handed, so Inspector Mark Roberts, who is trained for water rescues, was called in to help. Mark donned his dry suit and with reach and rescue poles and swan hooks at the ready, they set out to catch the swan. Mel scrambled through some brambles on one side of the water and attempted to lure the swan towards Mark, who was ready to enter the water if needed. The swan evaded them at first. By wading and swimming through the cold water, Mark then attempted to lure the swan back towards Mel, who was on the bank waiting with the reach and rescue pole and swan hook. The swan was hooked this time but attempts to get the bird out the water and up the steep bank were thwarted, and the swan escaped again. It was third time lucky though when Mark eventually managed to catch the swan and get it safely into a swan bag. The wound was properly assessed but unfortunately the wing was so badly damaged that the swan had to be put to sleep.

Other items of note

At the end of March, officers committee members from the part in the Keep Britain Tidy Clean' campaign. This great team were keen to join in to help prevent and reduce any that might occur. With the beach at Dinas Dinlle was with locals and tourists alike beachfront cafes, and lots of council kindly provided bin arranged for the disposal of



from North Wales and West Gwynedd Branch took 'The Great British Spring project is in its 8th year and the tidy up their local beaches to litter-related animal problems support from the local council, selected. This spot is popular due to the stunning scenery, parking availability. The bags and litter pickers and all the litter collected.

It was a successful day, and many bags of rubbish were removed containing plastics, cans, bottle-tops, glass bottles, blue nylon cord, shotgun cartridges, poo bags and an assortment of hard plastics of various origins. A huge thanks and well done to everyone involved. Go #teamnorthwales!

To finish, in the words of one of my team, “I just wanted to say we really appreciate all the help and support we get from our volunteers, local Branches and animal centre as we rely on you all to help us make the most of the work we can do in the day. From helping with clinics, voucher schemes and assisting with taking in animals, we would be stuck without you.”

Thank you!

Chief Inspector Leanne Hardy 783
North Wales Inspectorate
RSPCA Cymru

Accounts



**CANGEN GORLLEWIN GWYNEDD
WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH**

**ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL
2022
ANNUAL REPORT**



Elusen Gofrestredig Rhif 226126 Registered Charity No

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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March 2023

NOTICE OF BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING 2023

Dear Member,

We are again holding our AGM by means of a virtual format through Google Meet.

The meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday, 17th April at 7pm.

To enable you to join the meeting we will need your e-mail address so that the invitation to join the Google Meet meeting can be sent to you. I would be grateful if you could send your e-mail to enquiries@rspcawestgwynedd.org.uk as soon as possible if you are able to attend. Your e-mail address will be saved securely and used only for any relevant West Gwynedd Branch correspondence with you as a Branch member. **Your details will not be shared with any third parties.**

Mrs Freda Holme
Hon. Branch Secretary.
Tel. 07900 597891

Arfaes, Llwyndyrys,
Y Ffor, Pwllheli,
Gwynedd, LL53 6NG

HONORARY OFFICERS:-

President - Robert Eaglestone
Chairman - Ann Rees
Treasurer - Alun Rees
Regional Representative - Alun Rees
Deputy Regional Representative – Carl Lloyd
Friends of Bryn y Maen Representative - Freda Holme

Vice President – Margaret Eaglestone
Secretary - Freda Holme

ELECTED COMMITTEE / TRUSTEES:-

Kath Caddick (to May 2022)

Philip Caddick(to May 2022)

Rachele Follini
Patricia Hibbert
Rhianon Jones
Alun Rees
Osian Richards

David Hibbert
Freda Holme
Alexandra Latham
Ann Rees

CO-OPTED COMMITTEE / TRUSTEES

Carl Lloyd

STAFF:-

Branch Partnership Manager Gavin Bevan

ACTION LINE **0300 1234 999**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held by Google Meet video conference
7pm Monday, 17th April 2023

AGENDA

- 1 Opening address and Chairman's welcome
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Approval of minutes of AGM 2022
- 4 Matters arising
- 5 Financial Report
- 6 Adoption of Auditors
- 7 Branch Annual Report
- 8 Election of Committee
- 9 Inspectorate Report
- 10 Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre Report
- 11 Talk by Alexandra Davies, Education Officer, Welsh Mountain Zoo on
"Conservation Starts at Home"
- 12 Closing remarks

April 2023

Dear Fellow Members, Friends and Supporters,

Here we go again, another year gone by and another Annual Report and AGM. Although our membership is declining, year on year the Branch committee and an exceedingly small band of volunteers strive to keep the Pwllheli shop open and to take all the phone calls from pet owners requiring assistance with vet bills.

During the cost-of-living crisis veterinary costs have continued to rise meaning that a lot of pet owners can't even meet the basic costs of worming, flea treatment and vaccination of their pets. Thank goodness for the continued operation of the North Wales RSPCA Mobile Clinic that makes weekly visits to Bangor, Caernarfon and Blaenau Ffestiniog. This allows us to direct eligible pet owners to subsidised treatment there, although this year we've seen demand outrun the available appointments, resulting in waiting lists.

The number of requests has certainly increased since last year, meaning that Alun spends most days with his ear glued to the phone taking calls, authorising vouchers and phoning the vets. Freda gets lots of requests via the shop too. We've seen an increasing demand for advice on behavioural issues with dogs, pet owners wishing to rehome pets as they can no longer afford to keep them, or they no longer fit into the families' lives. Recently we've seen a worrying trend of dog owners wanting to rehome dogs with aggressive traits and a rise in XL Bully breeds locally.

Last summer we also took more calls about "abandoned" seal pups on our Gwynedd beaches. The likelihood is that the pups have been left on the beach whilst the adult seal has gone fishing for food and would return provided the pup isn't surrounded by onlookers and their dogs. We also had lots of reports of sick seabirds on the beaches, likely to be suffering from Avian influenza. Our Inspectors have had to be trained and kitted out with specialised full personal protective clothing and masks to deal with such pick-ups, as there is a risk to human health from close contact with infected birds.

August 2022 saw Branch Trustee Carl Lloyd secure a grant of over £7,000 from Comic Relief's Community Fund in Wales Small Grants Scheme to support our work with Foodbanks. Carl had already sourced pet food approaching the end of its best before date that would otherwise end up in landfill. This has enabled the Branch to regularly supply dog and cat food to Foodbanks in Bangor, Bethesda, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Caernarfon and Pwllheli. Soon we hope to add Barmouth to our list.

My thanks go to our Inspectorate team, RSPCA Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre staff & volunteers, the Mobile Clinic and Gavin Bevan, our Senior Branch Partnership Manager for his support.

As always, my thanks go to all our committee members for all that they do to keep this Branch from following the path of so many other Branches, slipping into RSPCA trusteeship. If you are reading this and think you can help us in any way please contact us via facebook, at enquiries@rspcawestgwynedd.org.uk or by phone on 01248 671304.

We will continue to do all that we can to support the animals and to prevent cruelty, promote kindness and alleviate suffering of all animals.

Thank you – Diolch yn fawr iawn.

Ann Rees

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Held via Google Meet video conference.
Monday, 25th April 2022 at 7.00pm.

Those present at the meeting are listed on page 8

1 Chairman's Welcome

Ann welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that Covid-19 is still with us and continuing to hamper fundraising. The Pwllheli shop, despite risks, has been kept open and reminded everyone that the RSPCA is still alive in the area and remains a hub where people can drop in if they require help with vet bills or just a chat about animals. Alun continued to man the phones and deal with the many calls, including one on Christmas Day 2021. He not only deals with almoning calls but has become the friendly voice for pet owners struggling with finances and others struggling with loneliness where their pet is their main support.

We continue to see the consequences of the purchase of a “designer pet” during lockdowns with an increase of calls from owners wanting a neutering voucher or help with veterinary costs. It is frightening to see how many people spent hundreds of pounds on buying a dog and then can't afford to pay for veterinary care, or even vaccinations, de-worming, or flea treatment in some cases. We do what we can, when we can, and are often glad we contribute to the operating of the Mobile Clinic that is now back to weekly visits to Bangor, Caernarfon and Blaenau Ffestiniog. This allows us to direct eligible owners to subsidised treatment otherwise these animals would be unlikely to get these basic needs.

The national RSPCA released their “Together for Animal Welfare 2021 – 2030” strategy last year. Their vision is “a world where all animals are respected and treated with kindness and compassion”. The mission is to ensure animals have a good life by rescuing and caring for those in need, by advocating on behalf of all animals and by inspiring everyone to treat them with compassion and respect. RSPCA Branches are pivotal to the success of this vision and mission. The National Society is finally starting to recognise the valuable work done by Branches and that they would be a far poorer Society if they lost the tremendous contributions made by all the unpaid Branch volunteers across England and Wales.

RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch has striven to continue supporting our Inspectorate and Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre again in 2022. Alun, Freda and I are on The Friends of Bryn-y-Maen committee, and our own West Gwynedd Committee member, Osian Richards, has become integral to the development of the Friends' website. He is also modernising the RSPCA West Gwynedd website, so watch this space.

My thanks go to the Inspectorate, Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre staff and volunteers, the Mobile Clinic and Gavin Bevan, our Branch Partnership Manager for his support.

As always particular thanks go to all our committee members for all they do to keep the Branch from following the path of so many other Branches, slipping into RSPCA trusteeship. An RSPCA Branch has existed in this area since 1877 – please help us to keep on going – by becoming a Branch member, committee member, volunteer, fosterer, fundraiser or considering leaving a legacy to RSPCA West Gwynedd.

We will continue to do all that we can to support animals and to prevent cruelty, promote kindness and alleviate suffering of all animals.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish two of our committee members our best wishes. Unfortunately, Philip Caddick is having numerous health issues at the moment and both he and Kath feel they are not in a position to stay on committee. I'd like to thank them

for their services to the Branch, the Mobile Clinic and for fostering cats and kittens. I wish them both well.

In addition, in recent months we've lost some Society friends and colleagues in neighbouring Branches – Frances Miller, Ceredigion Branch and Ruth Williams, Ynys Môn Branch, both long-standing stalwarts of the Society. We also lost Inspector Tim Jones to cancer at 63 years of age. Tim was a marvellous Inspector, a true gentleman, and a good friend to West Gwynedd Branch. I'm sure you'll join me in sending our sympathies to their families and friends.

2 Apologies received are listed on page 8.

3 Minutes of AGM 2021

These were proposed by Freda Holme, seconded by Carl Lloyd, and accepted by the meeting.

4 There were no matters arising

5 Financial Report

Alun Rees reported that incoming resources for 2021 amounted to £100,350 and expenditure £86,704. Covid restrictions continued but as compensation we received £10,000 Business Rate Grant from the Welsh Government via Gwynedd Council.

We also received a welcome, albeit unexpected, legacy of £12,843 from the late Ms Marion Una Massey of Bangor.

The largest single source of income was again the House-to-house collections organised throughout England and Wales by the National RSPCA. The second largest source was from our shop, run by our dedicated and unpaid small group of volunteers led by Freda and Alexandra.

The largest sources of expenditure were the cost of vet bills and the contribution towards the costs of running the Mobile Clinic, kindly managed by Aberconwy Branch. This provides veterinary advice and treatment to animals that are unlikely to be taken to ordinary vet practices. £10,000 was donated to RSPCA Clwyd and Colwyn Branch to pay towards their x-ray machine and £500 towards Pen Farthing's NOWZAD charity in Afghanistan.

Thanks to all those who have helped to achieve these results in such a cost-effective manner, largely due to their willingness to work unpaid and submit claims only for actual out-of-pocket expenditure.

I would also like to thank Laura Adams of W.J. Matthews & Son who has examined our accounts meticulously for the last 2 years and now also submits our VAT returns to HMRC. This was done in 2022 despite being on maternity leave.

Alun's report was proposed by Freda Holme, seconded by Rachele Follini and accepted by the meeting.

6 Adoption of Independent Examiners

Alun Rees proposed that the examiners, W.J. Matthews and Son, are retained. This was seconded by David Hibbert and accepted by the meeting.

7 Branch Annual Report

Freda Holme commenced her report by saying that although 2021 saw us still in the grip of the Covid-19 pandemic the Branch had continued to do as much as possible to help local animals and their owners.

We received donations of pet food from Morrisons stores at Caernarfon during the year proving that some people were still unselfishly thinking of others.

The Branch charity shop in Pwllheli was again closed due to the lockdown and also during the summer of 2021 due to continuous verbal abuse from some members of the public. The latter was reported in The Daily Post, The Times and also on TV. Even when it was open it still had all the safety measures in place to help prevent the spread of the virus and to keep staff and customers safe. As well as bringing in income we also receive pet food, cages etc.

In-between the various lockdowns and difficulties of day-to-day living, collection boxes were emptied, £397; legacies received, £12,843; donations received, £6,752. We were unable to undertake any other form of fundraising.

Even though income was limited the Branch continued to receive requests for help with vet bills. We still provide free neutering for cats and kittens over 6 months old and an amount towards the cost of vet treatment. To qualify for the help owners must be on means-tested benefit or a low income. £48,486 was spent on vet costs and £1,834 on boarding. A total of 665 animals were treated and 316 neutered in the 18 vet practices we work with. We also provided emergency short-term boarding for dogs at 3 private boarding establishments when the owners were hospitalised.

The RSPCA Mobile Clinic, which visits Bangor, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Caernarfon, reopened in 2021, but is now by appointment only. A new manager and extra vets were appointed during the year and the service is now running very well. Just to remind you all the clinic costs are paid by the Branches using this facility. In 2021 a total of 1,042 animals were seen by the clinic at the 3 locations in West Gwynedd.

Several cat traps were loaned to members of the public. Alun and I have 12 traps between us, but most are out on loan at any one time.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with the Branch for their help in another difficult year and also the Inspectorate and the Animal Centre for their work during such a trying time.

8 Election of Committee

A virtual ballot took place and as all candidates received 50% or more of the vote the following were elected to the Branch Committee:-

Rachele Follini	David Hibbert	Patricia Hibbert	Freda Holme
Rhianon Jones	Alexandra Latham	Alun Rees	Ann Rees
Osian Richards			

9 Inspectorate Report

Chief Inspector Leanne Hardy started her report by saying she named 2021 the year of the mask! It started still under pandemic restrictions that continued throughout the rest of the year. We were also hit with the avian influenza outbreak. Both these events have had a significant impact on our day-to-day work. Credit has to be given to the Inspectorate for their resilience and ability to respond, adapt and overcome quickly in these situations. Whilst the use of face coverings became routine under Covid-19 regulations, the discovery of the zoonotic strain of avian influenza required the use of specific mandatory PPE that had to be safety-checked by trained staff before officers were able to work with birds.

She then went on to talk about staff changes and also gave details of some of the cases dealt with during the year.

She ended by thanking animal centres, Branches, members and volunteers for all their support and help during the year.

10 Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre Report

Chris Butler from the centre read the report which said the centre welcomed 2021 with the hope of returning to normality, but the pandemic continued to have an impact on the centre's work. The dedicated team remained committed and positive throughout the year and focussed on achieving the very best for the animals entering their care.

The report then gave details of the number and types of animals dealt with and how they coped with the difficulties.

The report ended by thanking the North Wales Branches and Friends of Bryn-y-Maen for continuing to support the animals that were in need in this challenging time.

11 Talk by Sally Hyman, Chair, Llys Nini Branch; Chair, RSPCA Cymru Regional Board - "Llys Nini, Past and Present"

Ann Rees introduced Sally and gave a brief resume of her history with the RSPCA.

Sally then proceeded to give a very interesting, illustrated talk about Llys Nini, how it dealt with animals in their care and the use the site was put to in order to raise money, raise the profile of the Branch and help the environment. She also spoke of the interaction with the local community and how this benefitted both sides.

Ann thanked Sally for her talk and said we could all learn something from her about fundraising and tenacity.

12 Closing comments

Ann thanked everyone for attending and said the Branch would continue to carry on working for the animals and pet owners in Gwynedd. And that it would do whatever it could to prevent cruelty, promote kindness and alleviate suffering of all animals.

The meeting closed at 8:15pm

Chairman.....date.....

ATTENDANCE

Members (9)

Rachele Follini	David Hibbert	Pat Hibbert	Freda Holme
Alexandra Latham	Alun Rees	Ann Rees	Griff Thomas
Mandy Thomas			

Staff

Gavin Bevan BPM	Chris Butler, ByM	Chief Insp. Leanne Hardy
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Friends and Guests

Mair Eluned	Jon Francis	Sally Hyman	Carl Lloyd
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APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Victoria Williams, Bryn-y-Maen

TREASURER'S REPORT & PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS 2022

The total incoming resources for the year amounted to £94,525 (2021: £100,350) with Trade debtors of £2,884. Expenditure in the year amounted to £92,444 (2021: £86,704) and a massive fall of £50,346 (2021: a rise of £11,519) in the value of investments with current liabilities of £8,292 (2021: £11,512). This resulted in an overall loss for the year of £48,776.

The allocation of the two shares of the “House to House” collections organised by RSPCA HQ fell slightly from £48,268 in 2021 to £46,436. The profits gained from the use of professional canvassers are shared 50:50 between HQ and each of the Branches in existence at the time of the collection. As a result of RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch taking over RSPCA Meirionnydd Branch in 2011, the “new” Branch received two portions of the profit for the first 10 years. We are expected to revert to a single share in 2023. Our shop at Pwllheli produced a sizeable increase in income from £10,654 in 2021 to £23,831 in 2022. The takings were increased further by the £2,000 (2021: £10,000) received from the Welsh Government Covid Business Rates Grant. The shop takings were also enhanced by £960 from sale of rags (included in the £23,381 figure above) and also the £750 in the collection box plus £187.50 Gift Aid. The Gift Aid scheme brought a welcome total return from HMRC of £413 (2021: £482). £25 was claimed under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme.

The recorded sharp decrease in the value of our investments compared with 2021 is due mainly to the “perfect storm” of the Russian invasion of Ukraine starting on 24th February 2022 and the uncertainty resulting from the Liz Truss / Kwasi Kwarteng mini budget of 23rd September 2022. The cost of vet bills rose slightly to £53,259 (2021: £48,486) largely due to the cost-of-living and inflation rises. Our North Wales Mobile Clinic was back in action for most of the year, despite staffing problems resulting from lengthy illness due to Covid (our driver) and maternity (one of our vets). Veterinary costs charged by commercial vet practices to the public increased significantly.

Reserves Policy

The Branch Reserves Policy remains unchanged from that given in the Annual Report of 1997. This is to maintain a level of financial reserves that will enable the Branch to ensure continuity of activities providing animal welfare support and the ability to adjust, in a measured way, to any significant change in resources. Reserves are those funds which are freely available for general purposes and are uncommitted.

The trustees have established a policy of holding reserves of unrestricted funds equivalent to two to three years' expenditure. Based on our current expenditure of £92,444 and total unrestricted balance (including income-generating investments) of £310,552 in the investment and general funds, we have just over 3.3 years of reserve capital, though with projected year-on-year increases in spending and the substantial planned costs of supporting the mobile clinic, this figure is closer to 2.8 years.

This policy therefore conforms to the regulations of expendable endowment in paragraph 16 of the Charity Commission's guide to Charities' Reserves (CC19), namely:

“.....many charities with an expendable endowment depend on the income it produces to fund core or continuing activities. Expending any of the endowment itself would reduce the income from it and might jeopardise some of those activities. The charity would then either have to increase its income from other sources, ... or have to cut back its activities. The endowment cannot be regarded as free funds if a charity has that degree of dependence on income from it.”

This policy is subject to half-yearly review.

Investment Policy

At 31st December 2022 11% of our invested funds are now held in selected equities, about 43% is held in bonds and gilts, no more than 19% is held in current accounts, and the 27% balance to be held in fixed interest notice account(s).

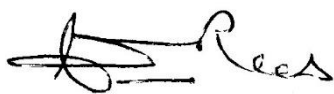
Future Plans

Our major plan for the year is the continuation of the mobile clinic service in Bangor, Blaenau and Caernarfon with the additional costs of the hub and clinic manager. An additional 2 vets now provide resilience and even the opportunity of extending the current 3-day service to 4 or even 5 days. The costs to our Branch are expected to be £15,000 per annum, plus an estimated £5,000 for additional referrals to veterinary practices in our area.

In 2022 the North Wales collaboration to distribute pet food approaching end of shelf-life to animal rescues and pet owners on limited finances via food banks came to realisation. The management of the logistics involved rental of a warehouse facility in Mochdre, the successful application for a Comic Relief Grant of £7,122 towards storage and distribution. The use of the mobile clinic for delivery to Blaenau Ffestiniog, Bangor & Caernarfon in our Branch ensures no extra journeys. Local volunteers then redistribute it directly to foodbanks in Bangor, Bethesda, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Caernarfon & Pwllheli

We will also be continuing to participate in the all-Wales cat neutering scheme with Cats Protection via Regional Board which is currently available in 4 practices in our Branch area. Our own free cat-neutering scheme is available at all the vet practices in Gwynedd. We also run our own contributions to subsidised neutering costs of £70 per dog and £100 per bitch. Both schemes are subject to the owner(s) being on means-tested benefits or low income, or for rehomed feral and stray cats, and available while funds last.

It is our intention to continue to provide assistance in the payment of veterinary bills to owners on low income and un-owned animals and on request, assistance with boarding / treatment of RSPCA Inspectorate animals where no other funding is available.



Alun T Rees
Hon Branch Treasurer

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 226126

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2022**

**W J MATTHEWS & SON
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

Independent Examiners' Report to the Members of RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on pages 12-14.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity 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 2011 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:

- the 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.

David Chidley
W. J. Matthews & Son
Chartered Accountants
11-15 Bridge Street,
Caernarfon,
Gwynedd.

Dated:

**RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022**

	General	Designated	Restricted		2022		2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income:							
Legacies	-	-	-	-		12,843	
Membership subscriptions	161	-	-	161		394	
Covid Business Rates grant	2,000	-	-	2,000		10,000	
Comic Relief Food Bank grant	-	-	7,122	7,122		-	
<i>From Voluntary Sources</i>							
Sundry donations	1,392	-	-	1,392		6,752	
Gift aid	413	-	-	413		482	
Flag Days	100	-	-	100		-	
House to house collections	46,436	-	-	46,436		48,268	
Jumble	48	-	-	48		-	
Contribution from Aberconwy branch	-	-	-	-	57,672	233	78,972
Investment Income:							
Investment income (Gross)	8,280	-	-	8,280	8,280	7,479	7,479
Charitable Trading activities:							
Dog boxes	2,199	-	-	2,199		397	
Charity Shop takings	23,831	-	-	23,831		10,654	
Adoption fees	270	-	-	270		160	
VAT refund	2,273	-	-	2,273	28,573	2,688	13,899
	£87,403	£-	£7,122		£94,525		£100,350
Direct Charitable Expenditure:							
Contribution to Regional Board	-	-	-	-		6,000	
Contribution to HQ	551	-	-	551		551	
Donations	5,265	15,000	-	20,265		17,634	
Veterinary costs	37,035	16,224	-	53,259		48,486	
Boarding	1,568	-	-	1,568		1,834	
Charity Shop rent	9,880	-	-	9,880		9,880	
Charity Shop heat and light	835	-	-	835		554	
Charity Shop trade refuse	309	-	-	309		287	
Charity Shop F.R. goods	182	-	-	182		-	
Mobile Clinic Telephone	-	351	-	351		167	
Mobile Clinic Room hire	-	120	-	120		-	
Mobile Clinic Driver Hire	-	190	-	190		-	
Comic Relief Haulage	-	-	1,800	1,800		-	
Comic Relief Officer's Travel	-	-	333	333		-	
Comic Relief Storage unit rental	-	-	1,284	1,284		-	
					90,927	-	85,393
Other expenditure:							
Postage and stationery	149	-	-	149		100	
Accountancy	650	-	-	650		560	
Repairs and Equipment	361	-	-	361		138	
Consumables	73	-	-	73		55	
VAT not recoverable	181	70	33	284	1,517	458	1,311
Total payments	£57,039	£31,955	£3,450		£92,444		£86,704
Net income/ (expenditure) for the year	30,364	(31,955)	3,672		2,081		13,646
Transfers between funds	(31,955)	31,955	-		-		-
Cash and bank balances							
At 31 st December 2021	84,822	55,000	-		139,822		126,176
At 31 st December 2022	£83,231	£55,000	£3,672		£141,903		£139,822

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
31st DECEMBER 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Monetary assets:		
Investments:		
SUTL Cazenove Charity Equity Value Fund A Income	35,441	57,770
SUTL Cazenove Charity Bond Fund A Income	77,033	101,637
M&G Charifund	56,175	59,488
	<u>£168,649</u>	<u>£218,895</u>
 Bank and cash balances:		
Bank Deposit Investment Account	83,223	83,016
Bank Current Accounts	57,881	56,080
PayPal Account	724	651
Cash float	75	75
Total	<u>£141,903</u>	<u>£139,822</u>
 General funds	83,231	84,822
Designated funds	55,000	55,000
Restricted funds	3,672	-
	<u>£141,903</u>	<u>£139,822</u>
 Debtors: Trade debtors	<u>£2,884</u>	<u>£1,899</u>
 Current Liabilities:		
Trade creditors and accruals	<u>£8,292</u>	<u>£11,512</u>

Approved by the Branch Committee on and signed by
Dr. A. T. Rees
Honorary Treasurer

.....

**RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
ACCOUNTING POLICIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022**

Restricted Funds

In April 2022 the branch set up a new scheme which involved collecting donated animal food and distributing to food banks across North Wales. A Comic Relief Grant was received for £7,122 to cover storage and distribution costs.

Designated Funds

A balance of £25,000 was brought forward from 2021 in relation to the cat and dog free neutering scheme. A total of £16,223 was spent during the year ending 31 December 2022 leaving a balance of £8,777. The Committee agreed to top up this figure to give a balance of £25,000 at the year end. Of the £25,000, the members of the committee have agreed that £5,000 of this fund is to be used for a farm cat neutering scheme in Dolgellau.

A sum of £30,000 had been designated to subsidise a mobile clinic providing veterinary services and advice to pet owners in the Bangor, Caernarfon and Blaenau Ffestiniog areas. The balance in the fund at 31 December 2021 was £30,000. A total of £15,732 was spent during the year ending 31 December 2022 leaving a balance of £14,268. The Committee agreed to top up this figure to give a balance of £30,000 at the year end.

Investments

The investments are stated at market value.

Trustees

No trustees received any remuneration in the year. (2021 – NIL).

Reimbursements made to trustees were as follows

	No of trustees	2022 Cost	No of trustees	2021 Cost
Travel costs reimbursed	Nil	Nil	Nil	£Nil

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH SECRETARY'S REPORT 2022

2022 saw us slowly recovering from the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic but facing new problems with the rise in the cost of living. Due to both these circumstances calls increased for help with both costs of vet bills and rehoming of animals.

Some of the rehoming problems occurred because owners had obtained animals during the pandemic as something to occupy their time. When their lives returned to normal, they found they were unable to cope with the new addition to the family as it sometimes did not fit in with their usual way of life.

More thought should be taken when deciding to have an animal as part of your family.

Even though income was limited the Branch still provided financial help. We provide free neutering of cats and kittens over 6 months old and an amount towards neutering dogs of £100 for female dogs and £70 for male dogs. We also help with an allowance towards the cost of vet treatment of animals. Of course, to qualify for the help owners must be on means-tested benefit or a low income.

The RSPCA also runs a joint scheme with Cats Protection for neutering pet cats which includes microchipping and costs the owner £5. There are 4 vet practices in our Branch area that are part of this scheme:

<https://www.cats.org.uk/what-we-do/neutering/neutering-campaigns/walescampaign>

We still received donations of pet food from Morrisons during the year for which we are always grateful.

The Branch charity shop in Pwllheli is slowly trying to recover from all the problems of the past two years. At present it is the only fundraising being done by the Branch. We are still receiving pet food, cages etc. brought into the shop by customers and supporters.

During the year various collection boxes were emptied yielding £2,199. Miscellaneous donations totalling £1,392 were received, supplemented by £413 Gift Aid. No other form of fundraising was undertaken during the year.

Any ideas for 2023????

£53,259 was spent on vet costs and £1,568 on boarding.

The RSPCA mobile clinic - <https://www.rspcamobileclinic.org.uk/>, which visits Bangor, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Caernarfon each week, is much appreciated by pet owners and is always busy. It is now by appointment only and some venues are booked up well in advance of the visits.

Just to remind you, all the clinic costs are paid by the Branches using this facility.

In 2022 1,244 animals were seen by the clinic at the 3 locations in Gwynedd.

Several cat traps were loaned out to members of the public as needed and Ann and Alun did some hands-on catching of various types of animal.

A new venture being pursued by the North Wales RSPCA Branches is to acquire almost out of date dog and cat food donated by a small number of suppliers and distribute it to local food banks who issue it to people in need –

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/costofliving/foodbank#onSubmitSetHere>

This is also environmentally friendly as under Trading Standards legislation the food cannot be sold legally after expiry of the “best before date”, even though it is still safe for consumption. It then has to be incinerated or sent to landfill. The mobile clinic is used to transport food from our central depot to the outlying clinic venues while making its weekly visits. The work has been supported by a Comic Relief Fund grant.

Cronfa Gymunedol Comic Relief yng Nghymru



This has proved to be very successful and keeps some Branch members extremely busy with the practicalities of supply and demand.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with the Branch for their help during another difficult year and also the Inspectorate and the Animal Centre for their work during a continuing trying time.

Freda Holme

RSPCA BRYN-Y-MAEN ANIMAL CENTRE

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The centre experienced a number of staff changes during 2022, Cally Harris our committed receptionist started her well-deserved retirement having dedicated over seventeen years to the centre. We will miss Cally's positive approach and commitment to supporting animals and people in need, we wish her a relaxing retirement.

Chris Butler transferred into a Deputy Manager role at RSPCA Great Ayton. We look forward to continuing our working relationships with Chris and his new centre into the future.

Clare Jones transferred into a receptionist role at the centre having spent over 28 years as an Animal Care Assistant, her local knowledge and animal care expertise will continue to benefit the centre team and wider communities.

Libby Ali and Callum Bartley transferred into supervisor positions and we welcomed Terri Round, Hope Hover and Russ Smith to the team as Animal Care Assistants.

Our dedicated volunteer team completed an incredible 3,936 hours supporting the centre team with animal care, maintenance and gardening duties. We remain incredibly grateful for the dedication and support our volunteers provide to the animals in our care.

Our highest recorded hours for the year went to Vicky, our cattery volunteer who completed 391 hours.

284 animals entered our care through our local and national inspectorate teams. This included 72 dogs, 110 cats, 53 rabbits and 49 other species including Fish, Poultry and Small Animals. We experienced restrictions on wild birds entering our care due to the Avian flu outbreaks, but continued to support the short term housing of wild mammals ahead of transfer to Stapeley Grange.

A total of 164 animals found new homes through the centre's adoption process this included 40 Dogs, 71 Cats, 27 Rabbits, 26 other species. We experienced an increase in adopters travelling great distances to adopt our smaller animals including Rabbits, Hamsters and Gerbils.

We completed our first community fundraising event at Pets at Home since the start of the pandemic, which was a positive experience and raised vital funds and food, treats and enrichment toys for the animals in our care.

Thank you to Friends of Bryn-y-Maen and the North Wales Branches for continuing to support the centre throughout these difficult times to ensure we can continue to best support the animals that need us most. We look forward to seeing you all at the Friends Dog Show in 2023.

Kind Regards

Vicky Williams
Centre Manager Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre



North Wales RSPCA Inspectorate

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

North Wales Inspectorate Annual Report 2022 Year in summary 2022 was predominantly governed by avian influenza, making it harder for the frontline teams to seek assistance from volunteers, vets and wildlife hospitals. Many of these services had to close their doors, whilst we were still being tasked with collecting sick or injured wild birds. This put a lot of pressure on the team here in North Wales, but they worked really hard under difficult circumstances in order to get to as many animals in need as possible.

Last summer was particularly difficult with the NCC and frontline overwhelmed with work. Senior management and the inspectorate are continually developing the modernisation program in order for the front line to be as efficient and effective as possible. Looking ahead there are a number of projects that will hopefully enable us to get to the animals that need help faster and deal with animal cruelty and neglect quickly and professionally to secure the best outcome for those animals.

We welcomed Inspector Jenny Anderton back from her maternity leave to work part time. She was up and running in no time, after a number of weeks refreshing her knowledge and skills and pairing up with her colleagues.

Our Wildlife Casualty Volunteers have been rebranded to Animal Rescue Volunteers (ARV) to better reflect the diversity of the tasks they are being asked to assist us with. The focus going forward is engagement. Due to the avian influenza crisis, much of the wildlife collection work dropped off so the inspectorate has been looking at other ways to best utilise the thousands of hours our amazing volunteers kindly offer each year.

The Inspectorate Veterinary Assistance Voucher (IVAV) scheme was introduced in 2022 across all of Wales and England. This is an invaluable resource for the Inspectors and AROs who are encountering all the more potential neglect issues with pet owners being impacted by the cost-of-living crisis.

Feedback from the three regional operational superintendents include;

- “Having the flexibility to use the IVAVs for neutering animals as a preventative measure is very useful... the vouchers offer more scope to assist struggling pet owners with veterinary treatment. Officers would like to see the scheme continuing and find the IVAVs very useful.”
- “The consensus from the East, Midlands and Wales Inspectorate management and officers is that the voucher scheme is extremely beneficial and that they have made a significant difference to animal welfare, to the well-being of owners and our officers.
- Members of the public that have received them have been extremely grateful for the help.
- As a management team we are confident that it has stopped a number of animals needing to come into our care and has reduced the number of visits we have had to make to particular households. This means that we have been able to respond to more animals in need. We are grateful to the Branches for their support with these vouchers and hope that we are able to continue to fund

them, as they are a useful tool for Inspectors and Animal Rescue Officers when trying to resolve animal welfare issues.”

- “It is a great example of Branches and the Boards supporting the day-to-day challenges Inspectors and ARO’s face. In these turbulent times the teams are encountering more and more people who simply need a little support in hard times. On behalf of the officers, I would like to thank all Regional Boards for their support with the IVAV scheme.”

Cases and Complaints of note

Inspector Rachael Davies investigated a family after a puppy with freshly cropped ears was found in their possession. Two males pleaded guilty to one offence each of failing to meet the needs of a bulldog under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 by failing to provide proper and necessary veterinary care and attention for her cropped ears. Both defendants received the same sentence - disqualification from keeping all animals for 24 months and were ordered to pay £300 costs, a £120 fine and a £34 victim surcharge. The court heard that the two men had told the RSPCA that the seven-week-old puppy was taken into their care with already cropped ears and they had owned her for a week. Ear cropping is illegal in Wales and England under the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

During the winter, ARO John Littlewood assisted an elderly couple and their two dogs in Rhyl, North Wales. The elderly lady had recently had a hip replacement after being immobile for some time. The gentleman had suffered a stroke a few months previous, and this had meant they had not been able to get their 2 dogs groomed for some time. The couple admitted that once the dogs’ condition had got to a certain point, they were then too scared and embarrassed to take the dogs anywhere in case the RSPCA were called, and they would have the dogs taken away. When ARO Littlewood attended, he found 2 Shih Tzu type dogs very matted. Both of the owners were visibly upset and in tears and expressed that all they wanted to do, as part of their rehabilitation, was to be able to take their dogs for a walk. So John contacted the RSPCA Rhyl Branch clinic and the manager Kieran quickly arranged an appointment for the 2 dogs to be dematted. Kieran also arranged for his staff to collect the 2 dogs from their home address thus freeing up the inspectorate to attend to more animals in need.

A week later John was able to visit the dogs again and the very grateful owners. The little pooches looked amazing, and from being 2 quiet shy dogs they had now transformed into 2 very friendly and happy dogs. A brilliant example of collaboration between the frontline officers and our fantastic Branches.

Rope rescue Inspectors Roberts, Dunderdale, Pugh, Broadbent and Davies all came to the rescue of a stuck sheep on Craig Ddu in the Snowdonia mountain range in May. Inspector Roberts was alerted to the sheep and was told that it had been stuck on the ledge for around 2 weeks. When he went to assess the job, he discovered that the sheep had eaten everything that had been available on the ledge so it was important we acted before she starved. Fortunately, conditions on the day were dry and clear, Inspectors Dunderdale and Davies descended down to her, Inspector Davies managed to catch her as she was getting drastically close to the edge and together, they got her into a animal bag and lowered her to the ground where Inspector Pugh was waiting to ensure she made a safe landing. Once everyone was down on the

ground she was let out, checked over and soon returned to the flock below, a much happier sheep!

Collections and rescues of note In March 2023

Two swans were reunited on a pond in North Wales after flying into the windscreen of an ambulance. Thankfully neither the paramedic, his colleague or either of the swans were injured in the incident which happened on the westbound carriageway of the A55 near Abergele. There were no patients on board at the time of the collision. RSPCA officer Mike Pugh was called to the scene shortly after 6pm to find the windscreen of the ambulance completely smashed and the vehicle being loaded onto a lorry to be towed away. The birds were thought to have flown into the windscreen as they were flying low over the carriageway, possibly on their way to a pond in Pentre Mawr Park. Mike was able to load both birds into his van and relocate them safely.

Other items of note

ARO John Littlewood was invited along to a cost-of-living event in Wrexham. The event was well supported by other agencies and charities to assist the local community with advice regarding the cost-of-living issues we are currently facing. John enlisted the help from Insp Leanne Cooper from Cheshire who is involved in the North of England's pet food bank project. John was given fantastic support from Carl Lloyd from Aberconwy Branch who was able to supply a large amount of pet food which was then distributed to local people identified as being in need of some support.

John and Leanne were able to meet with teams from Wrexham's Cats Protection adoption centre who are proactive with trap, neuter and release schemes as well as local housing, social services and mental health teams who all are likely to attend locations with animal welfare issues. We were able to advise agencies on what to look for so they can identify animals and people who may be in need of support from the RSPCA. More importantly we were approached by many local residents giving them a chance to find out more about the Inspectorate and the work we do. It became apparent that local residents seem to picture the Inspectorate as people who only take people's animals away. It was a great opportunity to dispel some myths and promote all the other aspects of our work. At the same time we were able to promote the work our Branches, clinics and hospitals carry out on a daily basis both regionally and nationally.

In April, a partnership between RSPCA, North Wales Police, RSPB, NRW, the Wildlife Trust, BDMLR and other marine welfare groups began, called "Operation Seabird". It was an educational initiative to teach people who use our coastlines the basic rules of interacting with marine life in a safe and respectful manner. It was hoped that with promotional material, press coverage and action days we will see a reduction in the amount of disturbance and damage at key sites across North Wales. This was to encompass seal colonies, tern colonies, sand dune systems, whales and dolphins and rafting seabirds. It was aimed at influencing climbers, powerboat and jet ski owners and other water users to keep their speed down, and the distances from animals up.

To finish, I would like to thank the animal centres, Branches, members and volunteers for all their support and help throughout 2022 and look forward to more opportunities in 2023 to work together for animal welfare.

Chief Inspector Leanne Hardy 783
North Wales Inspectorate
RSPCA Cymru

Accounts



**CANGEN GORLLEWIN GWYNEDD
WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH**

ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL

2021

ANNUAL REPORT



Elusen Gofrestredig Rhif 226126 Registered Charity No



RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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Inspectorate Report	19

March 2022

NOTICE OF BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

Dear Member,

Due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic situation we are unable to hold our AGM in its usual format we are again holding our AGM by means of a virtual format through Google Meet.

The meeting is scheduled to be held on MONDAY, 25TH APRIL at 7pm.

To enable you to join the meeting we will need your e-mail address so that the invitation to join the Google Meet meeting can be sent to you. I would be grateful if you could send your e-mail to enquiries@rspcawestgwynedd.org.uk as soon as possible if you are able to attend. Your e-mail address will be saved securely and used only for any relevant West Gwynedd Branch correspondence with you as a Branch member. **Your details will not be shared with any third parties.**

Mrs Freda Holme
Hon. Branch Secretary.
Tel. 07900 597891

Arfaes, Llwyndyrys,
Y Ffor, Pwllheli,
Gwynedd, LL53 6NG

HONORARY OFFICERS:-

President - Robert Eaglestone

Chairman - Ann Rees

Assistant Secretary – Rachele Follini

Treasurer - Alun Rees

Regional Representative - Alun Rees

Deputy Regional Representative – Carl Lloyd (from May 2021)

Friends of Bryn-y-Maen Representative - Freda Holme

Vice President – Margaret Eaglestone

Secretary - Freda Holme

ELECTED COMMITTEE / TRUSTEES:-

Kath Caddick

Rachele Follini

Patricia Hibbert

Rhianon Jones

Alun Rees

Osian Richards

Philip Caddick

David Hibbert

Freda Holme

Alexandra Latham

Ann Rees

CO-OPTED COMMITTEE / TRUSTEES

Carl Lloyd

STAFF:-

Branch Partnership Manager Gavin Bevan (from March 2021)

ACTION LINE

0300 1234 999

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held by Google Meet video conference
Monday, 25th April 2022
at 7:00 pm

AGENDA

- 1 Opening address and Chairman's welcome
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Approval of minutes of AGM 2021
- 4 Matters arising
- 5 Financial Report
- 6 Adoption of Auditors
- 7 Branch Annual Report
- 8 Election of Committee
- 9 Inspectorate Report
- 10 Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre Report
- 11 Talk by Sally Hyman, Chair, Llys Nini Branch; RSPCA Cymru Regional Board Chair -
"Llys Nini, Past and Present"
- 12 Closing remarks

April 2022

Dear Fellow Members, Friends and Supporters,

Another year has gone by, Covid-19 is still with us and continuing to hamper fundraising efforts. However, Freda and Alexandra, together with their small band of shop volunteers, have been resolute, despite the risks, to keep our Pwllheli shop open. The shop is a reminder to everyone that the RSPCA exists in this area and remains a hub for people to drop in if they are seeking financial help with vet bills or just a chat about animals. Alun has continued manning the phone which is very busy daytime, evenings and weekends including a call on Christmas Day in 2021. He not only deals with almoning calls but has become the friendly voice at the other end of the phone for pet owners struggling with finances and others struggling with loneliness where their pet is their main support. Sickness in that pet can be devastating for them.

We continue to see the consequences of the purchase of a “designer pet” during lockdowns with an increase in calls from their owners wanting a neutering voucher or help with veterinary costs. It is frightening to see how many people spent hundreds of pounds plus on buying a dog and then can't afford to pay for veterinary care or even vaccinations, de-worming, or flea treatment in some cases. We do what we can when we can and are very often glad that we contribute to the operating of the Mobile Clinic that is now back to weekly visits to Bangor, Caernarfon and Blaenau Ffestiniog. This allows us to direct eligible pet owners to subsidised treatment. Otherwise these animals would be unlikely to get these basic needs.

The National RSPCA released their Together for Animal Welfare 2021 – 2030 strategy last year. Their vision is “*A world where all animals are respected and treated with kindness and compassion.*” The mission is to ensure animals have a good life by rescuing and caring for those in need, by advocating on behalf of all animals and by inspiring everyone to treat them with compassion and respect. RSPCA Branches are pivotal to the

success of this vision and mission. The National Society is finally starting to recognise the valuable work that is done by Branches and that they would be a far poorer Society if they lost the tremendous contribution made by all the unpaid Branch volunteers across England and Wales.

RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch has strived to continue supporting our Inspectorate and Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre again in 2022. Freda, Alun and I are on the Friends of Bryn-y-Maen committee and our own West Gwynedd committee member Osian Richards has become integral to the development of the Friends website. He is also modernising the RSPCA West Gwynedd website, so watch that space!

My thanks go to our Inspectorate team, Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre staff & volunteers, the Mobile Clinic and Gavin Bevan, our Branch Partnership Manager for his support.

As always, my particular thanks go to all our committee members for all that they do to keep this Branch from following the path of so many other Branches, slipping into RSPCA trusteeship. An RSPCA Branch has existed in this area since 1877 – please help us to keep on going – by becoming a Branch member, committee member, volunteer, fosterer, fundraiser or considering leaving a legacy to RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch.

We will continue to do all that we can to support the animals and to prevent cruelty, promote kindness and alleviate suffering of all animals.

Stay safe and well.

Diolch yn fawr iawn.

Ann Rees

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Held via Google Meet video conference
Monday, 19th April 2021 at 7.00pm.

Present at Meeting:

Members: Kath Caddick, Philip Caddick , Rachele Follini, David Hibbert, Patricia Hibbert, Freda Holme, Alexandra Latham, Heather Morton, Alun Rees, Ann Rees, Griff Thomas, Mandy Thomas, Vicky Stacey.

Staff: Gavin Bevan, Emma Cross, Inspector Phil Lewis, Amanda Rooney, Victoria Williams.

Guests: Jonathan Francis, Sally Hyman, Carl Lloyd, Kate Jones, Mair Eluned Jones

Apologies: Robert and Margaret Eaglestone, Chief Inspector Leanne Hardy, Catherine Head, Rhianon Jones, R McLeod, Jim Mason, Lyn Williams.

1 Chairman's Welcome

Ann Rees welcomed everyone to the meeting. As one of the first RSPCA branches to hold a virtual AGM in 2020, this second foray into the digital is a familiar landscape for our technologically advanced members! That said, Ann expressed special thanks to Alun Rees and Gavin Bevan for their help setting up the meeting.

Ann went on to introduce Sally Hyman, Chair of Llys Nini Branch and Chair of the Wales Board as well as the three Branch Partnership Managers attending the meeting in the form of Gavin Bevan, Emma Cross and Amanda Rooney.

Ann then provided the following branch update.

Another year has gone by, and what a difficult year it has been for everyone, everywhere, with the Covid pandemic.

RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch has strived to continue supporting pet owners in 2020 and supporting our Inspectorate and Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre.

The pandemic has made it a difficult year for fundraising, with no street or store collections or fundraising events. Our Pwllheli shop managed to open for a few months during late summer and autumn but had to shut in line with Welsh Government requirements. This meant that we lost the summer tourist trade and the Christmas boost that we usually see. Freda and Alexandra, together with their small number of shop volunteers, are to be commended for continuing to keep the shop going, when allowed to do so.

It was a very different experience running the shop during a pandemic. Freda, Alexandra and volunteers were provided with masks, visors and gloves when working. We had to limit the numbers of customers into the shop at any one time, request they use face coverings and sanitise

their hands on entering. The vast majority of customers were very co-operative, but our volunteers had some difficult conversations with a minority who just didn't want to conform with our common-sense safety measures.

Inevitably, our income dropped, we still had our shop rent and services charges to pay but were fortunate in qualifying for the Welsh Government Restrictions Business Funds, for which we are extremely grateful. Hopefully, our shop may be able to open soon – our local customers are missing us and the bargains available in-store.

The demands for financial assistance with paying vet bills increased as pet owners lost their jobs or were furloughed. More people became eligible under our criteria of being on means-tested benefits and sought our help. More people decided to get a pet to help with the tedium of lockdown but forgot to think of the financial consequences of owning a pet. Often people pay a lot for a “designer pet” but then resort to charities for assistance with ongoing veterinary costs.

Full credit to Alun and Freda, who deal with the almoning calls, for their patience, time and commitment to this unpaid “job”. In 2020, they increasingly became listening ears to lots of people struggling both with problems with their pets and their own feelings of loneliness and isolation. So, thanks very much to both of you.

We gained two new committee members/trustees last year. Carl and Chele, both ex-Branch Support Specialists for the RSPCA, joined West Gwynedd Branch. We are looking forward to making full use of their expertise and youthful enthusiasm. Together with Alexandra and Osian, they've managed to bring down the average age of our committee considerably and raised our hopes for the future of the Branch.

As always, my thanks go to our Inspectorate team, Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre staff & volunteers and Amanda Rooney, our Branch Partnership Manager for her support. Thanks also to Clwyd and Colwyn Branch Clinic for stepping in when our Mobile Clinic was not able to operate. Thankfully, the Mobile Clinic is now back in operation, run by vet Jim Mason, assisted by two new vets and Lee, the Clinic Manager.

Despite these difficult times, we will continue to do all that we can to support the animals and to promote the RSPCA's message to prevent cruelty, promote kindness and alleviate suffering of all animals.

2 Minutes of AGM 2020

These were proposed by Osian Richards, seconded by Griff Thomas, and accepted by the meeting.

3 There were no matters arising

4 Financial Report

Alun Rees (Treasurer) surmised that the figures looked quite bad compared with the start of 2020, pre-Covid:

TOTAL INCOME DROPPED BY £18,748

TOTAL EXPENDITURE ROSE BY £20,181

INVESTMENT VALUATION DROPPED BY £13,681 - though this figure has largely recovered after Brexit and the roll-out of the Covid vaccines.

Looking ahead to 2021:

- We have now registered for VAT in our own right following the decision by HMRC that we could no longer submit figures collectively via HQ.
- We will only be receiving one share of the door-to-door money from HQ after having received 10 years of double-shares following merger with RSPCA Meirionnydd Branch.
- The Dogs Trust subsidised neutering scheme for limited breed of dogs stopped in January 2021.

On the positive side:

- In January we received a legacy of £12,842.70
- The Cats Protection / RSPCA £5 neutering scheme is now available at 3 practices and a fourth signed up at the end of 2020.
- We still receive a heavy discount on cat neutering at another vet practice.
- The mobile clinic is back up and running and the shop will be reopening soon.

Alun's report was proposed by Griff Thomas, seconded by Vicki Stacey and accepted by the meeting.

5 Adoption of Independent Examiners

Alun Rees proposed that the examiners, W J Matthews & Son of Caernarfon be retained as our accountants and agents for quarterly digital submission of our VAT figures to HMRC. This was seconded by David Hibbert and accepted by the meeting.

6 Branch Annual Report

Freda Holme (Secretary) shared the following branch annual report with the meeting.

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH SECRETARY'S REPORT 2020

Although 2020 was an exceptional year for us all due to the Coronavirus pandemic the Branch still carried on with a few of its normal functions.

The Branch received some donations of pet food from Morrisons and Asda during the year.

Our fosterers still took in, cared for and rehomed a few cats and kittens and also accepted some semi-feral cats from the inspectors

The Branch charity shop in Pwllheli was open for less than 6 months and of course when it was open it had to have all the safety measures in place to help prevent the spread of the virus and to keep staff and customers well. Unfortunately, not every customer was willing to wear a mask and sanitise their hands and it meant that one member of the shop staff had to be on door duty all day as no-one was allowed in without these measures.

In-between the various lockdowns etc:- collection boxes were emptied, £170.28; there was one flag day at Pets at Home, Bangor, £28.60; various donations were received, £3,146.42; cat adoption fees, £160.00.

Even though income was limited the Branch continued to receive requests for help with vet bills. These increased as more people were out of work and on benefits. Due to the fact that we have a

very conscientious treasurer we have the funds at present to provide the help needed. We still provide free neutering of cats and kittens over 6 months and an amount towards neutering dogs of £100 for female dogs and £70 for male dogs. We also help with an allowance towards the cost of vet treatment of animals. Of course, to qualify for the help owners must be on means-tested benefit or a low income.

The RSPCA mobile clinic which normally visits Bangor, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Caernarfon was unavailable for most of 2020. A telephone service was in operation and was staffed by Clwyd and Colwyn Branch until a new clinic manager was appointed in September. Since then, he and a vet dealt with the calls.

Several cat traps were loaned out to members of the public as needed and brought in some welcome donations.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with the Branch for their help during such a difficult year.

Freda's report was proposed by Ann Rees, seconded by Alexandra Latham, and accepted by the meeting.

7 Election of Committee

A virtual ballot took place and as all proposals received at least 50% of the vote and the following were elected to the Branch Committee:

Kath Caddick
Philip Caddick
Rachele Follini
David Hibbert
Pat Hibbert
Freda Holme
Rhiannon Jones
Alexandra Latham
Alun Rees
Ann Rees
Osian Richards

Sally Hyman congratulated the Branch on keeping going throughout the pandemic and Phil Lewis as being inspirational – well done and thank you!

8 Inspectorate Report

Inspector Phil Lewis gave a very full report of the Inspectorate activities during the year. He quoted details of several cases, prosecutions etc during the year and fielded a number of questions from the attendees. He also passed on the sad news that Denise Farrant (late Chief Inspector Basil Farrant's wife) passed away in February.

9 Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre Report

Victoria Williams, Animal Centre Manager, in her report, gave details of staff changes and animals taken in and rehomed during the year. She thanked the North Wales Branches and The Friends of Bryn-y-Maen for their continued support of the Centre. During the year, the Centre took in 330 animals and rehomed 228. She added, throughput has been quicker due to virtual rehoming (much more time efficient meaning more time spent with animals), and the Centre has been networking into England. Victoria also fielded questions from the attendees and expressed her satisfaction in seeing the new Barn Building being utilised at the Centre to which the Branch donated £50,000 towards its construction.

10. Guest Speaker

Ann Rees introduced Amanda Rooney who provided a presentation on her work at the RSPCA Harmsworth and Putney hospitals.

11 Closing comments

Ann Rees, Chairman, added before closing the meeting: I'd like to thank you all for logging on and dialling in this evening. It's always a great relief to me when we get the AGM finished. Thank goodness the technology held out for us. Special thanks to Amanda, our guest speaker; to Gavin for getting us through the complexities of the election of the committee and to Rachele for taking the minutes this evening. At the risk of embarrassing him, I'm going to say a really special thanks to Alun. Without him in the past 12 months, the Branch would really have struggled. My covid work commitments over the last year have meant that I've had less time to devote to the Branch. Alun single-handedly put together the newsletter this year, all I did was proof-read it. He organised for everyone to get their reports in so that we could get the Annual Report together and pulled together all the AGM invitations for posting and emailing. All this as well as the accounts and bill paying. He may have retired from his old job, but he works extremely hard in his new unpaid one. So, thanks Alun. We may be few in number, but I think we deserve to be proud of the difference we make to the welfare of animals in the West Gwynedd Branch area. Diolch yn fawr iawn.

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm

Chairperson.....date.....

TREASURER'S REPORT & PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS 2021

The total incoming resources for the year amounted to £100,350 (2020: £87,892) with Trade debtors of £1,899. Expenditure in the year amounted to £86,704 (2020: £117,516) and a rise of £11,519 (2020: a fall of £13,681) in the value of investments with current liabilities of £11,512 (2020: £8,167). This resulted in an overall gain for the year of £25,165 (2020 loss of £29,624).

The allocation of the two shares of the “House to House” collections organised by RSPCA HQ fell slightly from £50,346 in 2020 to £48,268. The profits gained from the use of professional canvassers are shared 50:50 between HQ and each of the Branches in existence at the time of the collection. As a result of RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch taking over RSPCA Meirionnydd Branch in 2011, the “new” Branch received two portions of the profit for the first 10 years. We are expected to revert to a single share in 2022. Our shop at Pwllheli produced a slight increase in income from £8,115 in 2020 to £10,654 in 2021. Thankfully this was offset by the £10,000 (2020: £13,000) received from the Welsh Government Covid Business Rates Grant. The Gift Aid scheme brought a welcome return from HMRC of £482 (2020: £864), but we were unable to claim anything from the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme as we were unable to empty any collection boxes other than the one in our shop, nor hold store or street collections.

An unexpected legacy of £12,843 was received from the late Ms Marion Una Massey of Bangor.

The recorded decrease in expenditure compared with 2020 is due mainly to the combination of £500 donation to Pen Farthing's NOWZAD animal charity in Afghanistan (2020: £5,000 donated to the Australian Bushfire Disaster), £10,000 donated to RSPCA Clwyd & Colwyn Branch towards their new X-ray machine at the Rhyl clinic (2020: £25,000 donated to the RSPCA Branch Emergency Fund (for Branches in need of financial support)), plus the contribution of £6,000 to Regional Board for RSPCA Cymru project work (compared to £12,000 in 2020). The cost of vet bills rose slightly to £48,486 (2020: £44,779) largely due to the reduced opening hours of commercial veterinary clinics. Our North Wales Mobile Clinic was back in action for most of the year. Veterinary costs charged by commercial vet practices to the public increased significantly

£5,000 was donated to RSPCA Llys Nini Swansea to Cardiff Branch towards the care of Inspectorate dogs seized from a raid on a puppy farm. Many of the pups were infected with *Giardia* – an intestinal parasite that results in severe debilitating diarrhoea. This will appear on the 2021 accounts.

Reserves Policy

The Branch Reserves Policy remains unchanged from that given in the Annual Report of 1997. This is to maintain a level of financial reserves that will enable the Branch to ensure continuity of activities providing animal welfare support and the ability to adjust, in a measured way, to any significant change in resources. Reserves are those funds which are freely available for general purposes and are uncommitted.

The trustees have established a policy of holding reserves of unrestricted funds equivalent to two to three years' expenditure. Based on our current expenditure of £86,704 and total unrestricted balance (including income-generating investments) of £358,717 in the investment and general funds, we have just over 4.1 years of reserve capital, though with projected year-on-year increases in spending and the substantial planned costs of supporting the mobile clinic, this figure is closer to 3 years.

This policy therefore conforms to the regulations of expendable endowment in paragraph 16 of the Charity Commission's guide to Charities' Reserves (CC19), namely:

“.....many charities with an expendable endowment depend on the income it produces to fund core or continuing activities. Expending any of the endowment itself would reduce the income from it and might jeopardise some of those activities. The charity would then either have to increase its income from other sources, ... or have to cut back its activities. The endowment cannot be regarded as free funds if a charity has that degree of dependence on income from it.”

This policy is subject to half-yearly review.

Investment Policy

To safeguard our investments from withdrawal while the value had dropped, we used our surplus cash to fund our donations. Following Brexit completion and the start of the Covid vaccine roll-out, the investments have started to recover.

As a result, at 31st December 2021 16% of our invested funds are now held in selected equities, about 45% is held in bonds and gilts, no more than 16% is held in current accounts, and the 23% balance to be held in fixed interest notice account(s).

Future Plans

Our major plan for the year is the continuation of the mobile clinic service in Bangor, Blaenau and Caernarfon with the additional costs of the hub and clinic manager. An additional 2 vets now provide resilience and even the opportunity of extending the current 3-day service to 4 or even 5 days. The costs are expected to be £10,000 per annum, plus about £1,500 room hire, plus an estimated £5,000 for additional referrals to veterinary practices in our area.

There are also plans for a North Wales collaboration to distribute pet food approaching end of shelf-life to animal rescues and pet owners on limited finances via food banks.

We will also be continuing to participate in the all-Wales cat neutering scheme with Cats Protection via Regional Board which is currently available in 5 practices in our Branch area. Our own free cat-neutering scheme is available at all the vet practices in Gwynedd. We hope to include subsidised microchipping of cats at one practice using surplus microchips we have in stock. The Dogs' Trust £50 neutering scheme finished in January 2021 so we have replaced this by our own contributions to subsidised neutering costs of £70 per dog and £100 per bitch. Both schemes are subject to the owner(s) being on means-tested benefits or low income, or for rehomed feral and stray cats, and available while funds last.

It is our intention to continue to provide assistance in the payment of veterinary bills to owners on low income and un-owned animals and on request assistance with boarding / treatment of RSPCA Inspectorate animals where no other funding is available.



Alun T Rees
Hon Branch Treasurer

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 226126

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2021**

**W J MATTHEWS & SON
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

Independent Examiners' Report to the Members of RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch for the year ended 31st December 2021, which are set out on pages 14-16.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity 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 2011 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:

- the 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.


David Chidley
W. J. Matthews & Son
Chartered Accountants
11-15 Bridge Street,
Caernarfon,
Gwynedd.

Dated: 13/04/2022.

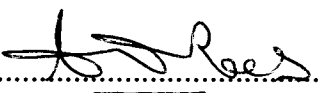
**RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021**

	General	Designated	Restricted		2021		2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income:							
Legacies	12,843	-	-	12,843		-	
Membership subscriptions	394	-	-	394		424	
Covid Business Rates Grant	10,000	-	-	10,000		13,000	
<i>From Voluntary Sources</i>							
Sundry donations	6,752	-	-	6,752		2,092	
Gift aid	482	-	-	482		864	
Flag Days	-	-	-	-		29	
House to house collections	48,268	-	-	48,268		50,346	
Contribution from Aberconwy branch	-	233	-	233	78,972	1,284	68,039
Investment Income:							
Investment income (Gross)	7,479	-	-	7,479	7,479	8,178	8,178
Charitable Trading activities:							
Dog boxes	397	-	-	397		270	
Charity Shop takings	10,654	-	-	10,654		8,115	
Adoption fees	160	-	-	160		210	
VAT refund	2,688	-	-	2,688	13,899	3,080	11,675
	<u>£100,117</u>	<u>£233</u>	<u>£-</u>		<u>£100,350</u>		<u>£87,892</u>
Direct Charitable Expenditure:							
Contribution to Regional Board	6,000	-	-	6,000		12,000	
Contribution to HQ	551	-	-	551		3,308	
Donations	10,500	7,134	-	17,634		41,059	
Insurance	-	-	-	-		539	
Veterinary costs	30,058	18,428	-	48,486		44,779	
Boarding	1,834	-	-	1,834		855	
Charity Shop rent	9,880	-	-	9,880		9,880	
Charity Shop heat and light	554	-	-	554		474	
Charity Shop trade refuse	287	-	-	287		170	
Mobile clinic telephone	-	167	-	167		226	
Mobile clinic professional fees	-	-	-	-		200	
Mobile Clinic Room hire	-	-	-	-		320	
Mobile clinic haulage	-	-	-	-	85,393	1,086	114,896
Other expenditure:							
Postage and stationery	100	-	-	100		341	
Accountancy	560	-	-	560		550	
Repairs and Equipment	138	-	-	138		1,165	
Consumables	55	-	-	55		88	
VAT not recoverable	425	33	-	458	1,311	476	2,620
Total payments	<u>£60,942</u>	<u>£25,762</u>	<u>£-</u>		<u>£86,704</u>		<u>£117,516</u>
Net income/ (expenditure) for the year	39,175	(25,529)	-		13,646		(29,624)
Transfers between funds	(25,529)	25,529	-		-		-
Cash and bank balances							
At 31 st December 2020	71,176	55,000	-		126,176		155,800
At 31 st December 2021	<u>£84,822</u>	<u>£55,000</u>	<u>£-</u>		<u>£139,822</u>		<u>£126,176</u>

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
31st DECEMBER 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
Monetary assets:		
Investments:		
SUTL Cazenove Charity Equity Value Fund A Income	57,770	46,075
SUTL Cazenove Charity Bond Fund A Income	101,637	108,832
M&G Charifund	59,488	52,469
	<u>£218,895</u>	<u>£207,376</u>
 Bank and cash balances:		
Bank Deposit Investment Account	83,016	82,686
Bank Current Accounts	56,080	42,810
PayPal Account	651	604
Cash float	75	75
Total	<u>£139,822</u>	<u>£126,176</u>
 General funds	84,822	71,176
Designated funds	55,000	55,000
Restricted funds	-	-
	<u>£139,822</u>	<u>£126,176</u>
 Debtors: Trade debtors	<u>£1,899</u>	<u>£2,261</u>
 Current Liabilities:		
Trade creditors and accruals	<u>£11,512</u>	<u>£8,167</u>

Approved by the Branch Committee on 13th April 2022 and signed by
Dr. A. T. Rees
Honorary Treasurer



**RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
ACCOUNTING POLICIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021**

Restricted Funds

There is no restricted fund carried forward as at 31 December 2021.

Designated Funds

A balance of £25,000 was brought forward from 2020 in relation to the cat and dog free neutering scheme. A total of £117,094 was spent during the year ending 31 December 2021 leaving a balance of £7,906. The Committee agreed to top up this figure to give a balance of £25,000 at the year end. Of the £25,000, the members of the committee have agreed that £5,000 of this fund is to be used for a farm cat neutering scheme in Dolgellau on a trial basis.

A sum of £30,000 had been designated to subsidise a mobile clinic providing veterinary services and advice to pet owners in the Bangor, Caernarfon and Blaenau Ffestiniog areas. The balance in the fund at 31 December 2020 was £30,000. Additional donations of £233 were allocated to the fund and a total of £7,335 was spent during the year ending 31 December 2021 leaving a balance of £22,898. The Committee agreed to top up this figure to give a balance of £30,000 at the year end.

Investments

The investments are stated at market value.

Trustees

No trustees received any remuneration in the year. (2020 – NIL).

Reimbursements made to trustees were as follows

	No of trustees	2021 Cost	No of trustees	2020 Cost
Travel costs reimbursed	Nil	Nil	Nil	£Nil

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH SECRETARY'S REPORT 2021

2021 saw us still in the grip of the Covid-19 pandemic but despite this the Branch continued to do as much as possible to help local animals and their owners.

We received donations of pet food from Morrisons stores at Bangor & Caernarfon during the year proving that some people were still unselfishly thinking of others.

The Branch charity shop in Pwllheli was again closed in early 2021 due to the lockdown and also during the summer of 2021 due to continuous verbal abuse from some members of the public. The latter was reported in the Daily Post, The Times and also on TV. When it was open it still had all the safety measures in place to help prevent the spread of the virus and to keep staff and customers well. As well as bringing in income we also receive pet food, cages etc which are brought into the shop.

In-between the various lockdowns and difficulties of day-to-day living:- collection boxes were emptied, £397; legacies received, £12,843; donations received, £6,752. We were unable to undertake any other form of fundraising.

Even though income was limited the Branch continued to receive requests for help with vet bills. We still provide free neutering of cats and kittens over 6 months old and an amount towards neutering dogs of £100 for female dogs and £70 for male dogs. We also help with an allowance towards the cost of vet treatment of animals. Of course, to qualify for the help owners must be on means-tested benefit or a low income. £48,486 was spent on vet costs and £1,834 on boarding. In 2021 a total of 665 animals were treated and 316 animals neutered in total at the 18 vet practices we work with. We also provided emergency short-term boarding for dogs at 3 private boarding establishments (PBEs) where the owners were hospitalised.

The RSPCA mobile clinic, which visits Bangor, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Caernarfon each week, reopened in 2021 but is now by appointment only. A new manager and extra vets were appointed during the year and the service is now running very well. Just to remind you, all the clinic costs are paid by the Branches using this facility. In 2021 a total of 1,042 animals were seen by the clinic at the 3 locations in Gwynedd.

Several cat traps were loaned out to members of the public as needed. Alun and I have 12 traps between us, but most are out on loan at any one time.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with the Branch for their help during another difficult year and also the Inspectorate and the Animal Centre for their work during such a trying time.



Freda Holme

RSPCA BRYN-Y-MAEN ANIMAL CENTRE

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

We welcomed 2021 with the hope of returning to normality; but the pandemic continued to have an impact on our work, from delays to court cases, reduced staffing levels and an ever-increasing number of animals needing our specialist support.

Our dedicated team remained committed and positive throughout the year and focused on achieving the very best for the animals entering our care. We broadened our knowledge and increased our skills through learning opportunities within the organisation, ensuring we all have the most up to date approaches and information for the rehabilitation and care of our animals.

The centre volunteers committed an incredible 4,453 hours, directly supporting and enriching the lives of the animals in our care. Our dedicated foster families provided space for numerous animals, many of whom without this opportunity would have spent over a year in centre accommodation. Hopefully 2022 will see the conclusion of the dog prosecution cases and provide a positive outcome for both the dogs and foster families.

The centre admitted a total of 315 animals through our Inspectorate teams which included 62 dogs, 155 cats, 38 rabbits and 60 other animals. We continued to temporarily hold wildlife until it was transferred to Stapeley Grange. A team of Bryn-y-Maen and Stapeley volunteers started twice weekly Wildlife transfers during the summer months, this considerably reduced the number of inspectorate journeys with wildlife during their busiest season. Our volunteers thoroughly enjoyed the experience and at the end of the summer, assisted with releasing rehabilitated wildlife back to the wild.

We continued to rehome our animals through the virtual rehoming process with a total of 220 animals starting a new chapter. This included 29 Dogs, 116 Cats, 19 Rabbits and 56 Small Animals. We continue to receive positive feedback and updates on our adopted animals, which is always rewarding to see.

Another year without our Friends Dog Show and community fundraising opportunities, Cally created her own fundraising mission for the centre and Friends Group. Raising over £1,500 which is an incredible amount that will make a big difference. Cally you are a star, and we are truly grateful for your hard work and dedication to secure additional funding.

Thank you to the North Wales Branches and Friends of Bryn-y-Maen for continuing to support the animals that need us most in these challenging times. We look forward to the year ahead and continue to work closely with our Inspectorate and Branch networks to broaden our activities to best support the animals who need us most.

Kind Regards

Vicky Williams
Centre Manager Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre



North Wales RSPCA Inspectorate

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Year in summary

2021 I will name as the year of the mask! It started still under pandemic restrictions that continued throughout the rest of the year. We were also hit with the avian influenza outbreak. Both of these events have had a significant impact on our day-to-day work. Credit has to be given to the inspectorate for their resilience and ability to respond, adapt and overcome quickly in these situations. Whilst the use of face coverings became routine under COVID 19 regulations, the discovery of the zoonotic strain of avian influenza required the use of specific mandatory respiratory PPE that had to be safety checked by trained staff before officers were able to work with birds again.

There were some staff changes to the North Wales inspectorate team during the past year. ARO Lauren Bradshaw left us whilst Inspector Dave MacCartney came across from West Mercia to help us out. Dave has been an inspector for over 41 years, and I am delighted to tell you that he is going to stay working in North Wales. A brand new ARO Melanie Froude joined us and started her training in October. She is due to pass out and join the team in March/April 2022. We are quite an eclectic bunch!

Inspector Jenny Anderton went on maternity leave in August and a little while later gave birth to her son Gruff Joaquin Pastor. They are both doing really well, and we hope to see her back sometime later on in 2022.

We also recruited some new Wildlife Casualty Volunteers who assist the frontline in the transfer of wildlife in need. This is a developing role that will contribute to the Organisation's strategic goal of a million strong by 2030.

Cases and Complaints of note

After the RSPCA and World Horse Welfare had received complaints about the defendant keeping animals in a suffering state, an equine case that started in 2020 was finally concluded in 2021. Following the execution of a warrant by North Wales police in relation to welfare offences and a breach of ban, we removed 93 ponies and over 150 poultry from a farm in North Wales.

After months of waiting, the defendant entered guilty pleas to charges laid against him and a result of this hearing the district judge sentenced the defendant to 20 weeks custodial suspended for 2 years, £1000 in costs, £128 victim surcharge and a 20-year ban on keeping, owning and/or being responsible for equines and poultry. This was a fantastic result for a huge amount of hard work put in by so many officers.

Another horse case was finally put to bed in 2021. A man was handed a suspended jail term and banned from keeping horses after a mare suffered such severe injuries from a halter rope around her face that she had to be put to sleep.

RSPCA inspector Jenny Anderton attended a farm in 2019 to respond to welfare concerns about a grey Arab mare horse. The horse was seen in a field with a roller around her body and a rope headcollar to her head, with the lead rope dangling to the floor. The horse repeatedly stood on the rope, causing the head collar to tighten more and more each time. The defendant was urged by the RSPCA to seek urgent medical attention for the horse - and to find a veterinary surgeon who could dart the animal if she could not be caught. However,

the RSPCA soon witnessed him trying to catch the animal by driving after the horse in a vehicle and beeping the horn repeatedly - something which caused the animal "great distress". He told the animal welfare charity he had "absolutely no intention of incurring any vet bills". The RSPCA later contacted a vet, who was able to sedate the horse with a dart. Sadly, the injuries to the horse caused by the rope were so severe that she had to be put to sleep to prevent further suffering. Vets found that bone on the horse's head had been left exposed, and there were deep wounds on the underside of the jaw area. Wounds to the equine were found to be filled with maggots and eggs. Veterinary opinion concluded that the horse "had been caused unnecessary pain and suffering by having had a rope halter tied to (her) face and being placed into a field". The man was sentenced to 18 weeks imprisonment, suspended for 18 months. He was also disqualified from keeping all equines for 18 months; and ordered to undertake 25 rehabilitation days over the next year and a half. In addition, he was ordered to pay £600 in costs and a £122 victim surcharge.

Rope rescue

2021 was an exceptionally busy year for the rope team. Our specialist officers are called up regularly and have taken part in a number of highly skilled rescues that have made the press over the years. A couple to note in 2022...

Officers were contacted after the stranded goats were spotted on the unstable rocks near the sea, in an area known locally as Austin's Rock. The animals became stranded after two female goats came into 'season' - and were pursued by 19 Billy goats off of safe land and towards the rocks near the sea. RSPCA Cymru feared they were at severe risk from high tides at the next full moon, or from starvation due to a lack of grazing and food supply. RSPCA Cymru teamed-up with Conwy County Borough Council to come to the aid of the goats, with an "innovative rescue plan" put together which involved creating a path of hay bales for the goats to climb back to safety - with funding provided jointly by the RSPCA and the local authority. Thankfully, all 21 stranded goats have now walked back to safety using the hay bales. RSPCA inspectors Mike Pugh and Mark Roberts laid the path of bales for the goats. An RSPCA officer has said the charity's work with the local authority rangers is a great example of "what can be achieved together for animal welfare", in what is the latest adventure of the local population of wild goats.

The famous Great Orme goat population has roamed wild in the local area for more than a century, and were originally a gift from Queen Victoria, who also as Monarch granted the RSPCA its 'Royal' patronage in 1840. It is understood Lord Mostyn acquired a pair of goats from the Royal Herd and brought them to the Llandudno area; and the population grew steadily since. Inspector Pugh said: "These goats were in real trouble - and had a rescue plan not been hatched, they would either have starved or drowned; as there was no grazing or palatable water and they were at risk from the tide at the next spring tide later this week. "They got into trouble after two female goats came into season and they were pursued by 19 Billy goats; and they ended up on an outcrop of rock and in real danger. "We're so grateful to the local authority for their help with this operation and delighted we have been able to help in what was an innovative rescue mission and a really good example of what can be achieved together for animal welfare. "The plan was hatched to create a walk-way off the rocks for the goats and back to safety - so we made a tiered path of 50 hay bales, and gradually, the goats made their way back. "Fortunately, 18 goats had got to safety before the weekend - and the remaining three walked to safety over the weekend. It's a huge relief as the alternative for these animals was unthinkable."

A 12-strong team of RSPCA officers - including rope rescue specialists - saved three sheep trapped precariously on a steep cliff edge at Dinas Island in West Wales. The sheep had become trapped on the cliff above the sea with very limited grazing available and were in "serious jeopardy". RSPCA officers abseiled down to reach the sheep, and carefully put the

animals into secure bags. They were then lowered to another team of officers in a boat below. Nine officers - Mark Roberts, Richard Abbott, Vicki Taylor, Nayman Dunderdale, Gemma Cooper, Alan Barnes, Dean Wilkins, Megan Higgins and Jo Pearson - were part of the rope rescue team; while officers Rohan Barker and Justin Stubbs were in the boat below. Fortunately, all three sheep were saved successfully and immediately returned to the farmer.

RSPCA inspector Neill Manley said: "These three sheep were in serious jeopardy - and urgently needed our help. "An operation like this takes a lot of planning, but fortunately everything went according to plan. "The weather was relatively calm, and our system worked well - with officers accessing the sheep by abseiling down the cliff, before lowering the sheep in bags to a boat below. "We're delighted to have been able to help these sheep in their hour of need. "Thankfully, the sheep were all fine despite their ordeal and a happy ending means all the planning and efforts of our officers was certainly worth it."

Collections and rescues of note

A report was received by the NCC, after a Rhyl resident was tricked into believing a baby alligator had been found in a bush in the North Wales town, before being placed in the bath of their home in June). However, it was actually a toy alligator - with the whole incident a prank by the caller's family! Suspensions were immediately raised by RSPCA inspector Andrew Broadbent, who asked the panicked caller to double-check the validity of her family member's claims. RSPCA inspector Andrew Broadbent said: "As soon as this call came in, it seemed highly unlikely to be true! "It's important to never rule anything out in the animal welfare world - but there aren't too many alligators lurking in the bushes in Rhyl!

"The poor caller had been tricked by family members, who had put a toy alligator in the bath and pretended they had collected it from nearby bushes. She was only trying to help - and was very apologetic. "Our chat certainly offered a bit of light relief at a difficult time for everybody at the moment, amid the coronavirus pandemic. "We do sometimes get calls where people mistake toys or other objects for animals - and my colleagues have previously rushed to the aid of a rubber scorpion, a cuddly toy dog stuck on a roof, or a squirrel mistaken for a cat up a tree! But this was certainly a new one for me!" The caller, who sounded the alarm to the RSPCA, said: "My brother went out and told me he'd found this baby alligator in a bush in Rhyl. My mother was in on the prank too. "They were so convincing, that I genuinely thought it was real and was planning on how to look after him. "I was ready to help the alligator - and we'd even discussed getting some meat from the butchers to feed him, and how I'd keep my hamster who lives with us safe. "They didn't realise I was going to phone the RSPCA! It wasn't until I told my family I'd called that they burst out laughing - and I had to then tell the RSPCA this alligator was actually made of plastic!"

As always, I would like to thank the animal centres, branches, members, and volunteers for all their support and help throughout 2021 and look forward to more opportunities to work together for animal welfare in 2022.

Chief Inspector Leanne Hardy 783
North Wales Inspectorate
RSPCA Cymru