

R S P C A Keighley, Craven and Upper Wharfedale Branch

Charity number 232237 – England and Wales

**Statement of Accounts
for the
Year Ended 31 December 2023**

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Independent Examiner's Report

From Stewart Newberry FFA

to the Trustees of R S P C A Keighley, Craven and Upper Wharfedale Branch

In respect of the statement of accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 on pages 10 to 14:

- Responsibilities of the trustees

As trustees, you have responsibilities within the following:

The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 ('the Regulations').

The Charities Act 2022 ('the Act').

The Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Financial Reporting Standard 102) October 2019 ('the SORP').

Any other directives, conditions or restrictions imposed upon the charity by regulation, benefactors or other relevant parties.

- As trustees, your responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Preparation of a statement of accounts which shows a true and fair view.

Preparation of sufficient accounting records and other relevant information.

Preparation of a trustees' annual report which should accompany and accurately reflect the information contained in the statement of accounts.

Ascertaining whether the charity is required to have an audit of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information.

Ascertaining whether the charity is required to have an independent examination of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information.

Ascertaining whether the charity is required to have any other examination or review of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information.

Responsibilities of the independent examiner

As independent examiner, I have responsibilities within the following:

The Regulations.

The Act.

Directions given by the Charity Commission for England and Wales in the guidance document Independent Examination of Charity Accounts: Directions and Guidance for Examiners (CC32) December 2017' ('the Directions').

Any other directives, conditions or restrictions imposed upon the charity by regulation, benefactors or other relevant parties.

Independent Examiner's Report

From Stewart Newberry FFA

to the Trustees of R S P C A Keighley, Craven and Upper Wharfedale Branch

Continued

As independent examiner, my responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Completion of an independent examination of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information.

Stating whether particular matters have come to my attention in completing my independent examination of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information.

- Basis of my independent examiner's report

I completed an independent examination of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information in accordance with the Regulations, the Act and the Directions.

An independent examination includes the following:

A review of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information, and a comparison of those items.

Consideration of any unusual items included in the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information, and seeking explanations from the trustees regarding such items.

An independent examination is a form of external scrutiny that provides a limited check on specific matters. An independent examination does not provide all the evidence that is required in an audit. Therefore, I do not express an audit opinion on the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information, and neither do I express an opinion on whether the statement of accounts shows a true and fair view. My independent examiner's report is limited to those matters contained in the following statement:

- Independent examiner's statement

In completing my independent examination of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information, none of the following came to my attention:

Any matters which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material aspect the trustees' responsibility to prepare sufficient accounting records and other relevant information in accordance with the Regulations and the Act has not been met.

Any matters which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material aspect the trustees' responsibility to prepare a statement of accounts from the accounting records and other relevant information in accordance with the Regulations, the Act and the SORP has not been met.

Any matters to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the statement of accounts to be reached.

Continued

Independent Examiner's Report

From Stewart Newberry FFA

to the Trustees of R S P C A Keighley, Craven and Upper Wharfedale Branch

Continued

To the fullest extent within laws and regulations, I do not accept responsibility to any third parties for my work relating to the statement of accounts or for this report.

This report has been prepared only for your use as trustees and to be sent to the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

S A Newberry, FFA, FTA, MBA

Positive Practice Accountants
Skipton Commercial Centre
Water Street
Skipton
BD23 1PB

Accountants Report

From Positive Practice Accountants

to the Trustees of R S P C A Keighley, Craven and Upper Wharfedale Branch

In respect of the statement of accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 on pages 10 to 14

As trustees, you have responsibilities within the following:

The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 ('the Regulations').

The Charities Act 2022 ('the Act').

The Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Financial Reporting Standard 102) October 2019 ('the SORP').

Any other directives, conditions or restrictions imposed upon the charity by regulation, benefactors or other relevant parties.

As trustees, your responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Preparation of a statement of accounts which shows a true and fair view.

Preparation of sufficient accounting records and other relevant information.

Preparation of a trustees' annual report which should accompany and accurately reflect the information contained in the statement of accounts.

Ascertaining whether the charity is required to have an audit of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information.

Ascertaining whether the charity is required to have an independent examination of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information.

Ascertaining whether the charity is required to have any other examination or review of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information.

To assist you with your responsibilities and in accordance with your instructions, we have prepared the statement of accounts on your behalf in accordance with the Regulations, the Act, the SORP and generally accepted accounting practice.

To assist you with your responsibilities and in accordance with your instructions, we have completed an independent examination of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information that you have made available to us, in accordance with the independent examiner's report on pages 3 to 5.

We have completed our work on your behalf from the accounting records and other relevant information that you have made available to us.

We have relied on the accounting records and other relevant information that you have made available to us as being true, correct and complete. Other than the procedures explained in the independent examiner's report on pages 3 to 5, we have not completed extensive procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records and other relevant information

Continued

Accountants Report

From Positive Practice Accountants

to the Trustees of R S P C A Keighley, Craven and Upper Wharfedale Branch

that you have made available to us, and our work relating thereto has not been designed to identify significant errors or weaknesses therein. Therefore, other than the independent examiner's report on pages 3 to 5, we do not give any comment on the statement of accounts or the accounting records and other relevant information that you have made available to us.

Our work on your behalf is subject to the professional standards of the Institute of Financial Accountants and has been undertaken within those professional standards.

To the fullest extent within laws and regulations, we do not accept responsibility to any third parties for our work relating to the statement of accounts or for this report.

The statement of accounts and this report have been prepared only for your use as trustees and for information contained therein to be sent to the Charity Commission for England and Wales

Positive Practice Accountants
Skipton Commercial Centre
Water Street
Skipton
BD23 1PB

29th October 2024

**Declaration from the Trustees
of
R S P C A Keighley, Craven and Upper Wharfedale Branch
to
Positive Practice Accountants**

In respect of the statement of accounts for the year ended 31 December 2422 on pages 10 to 14:

We approve the statement of accounts.

We acknowledge that, as trustees, we have responsibilities within the following:

The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 ('the Regulations').

The Charities Act 2022 (the Act').

The Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Financial Reporting Standard 102) October 2019 ('the SORP').

Any other directives, conditions or restrictions imposed upon the charity by regulation, benefactors or other relevant parties.

We acknowledge that, as trustees, our responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Preparation of a statement of accounts which shows a true and fair view.

Preparation of sufficient accounting records and other relevant information.

Preparation of a trustees' annual report which should accompany and accurately reflect the information contained in the statement of accounts.

Ascertaining whether the charity is required to have an audit of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information.

Ascertaining whether the charity is required to have an independent examination of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information.

Ascertaining whether the charity is required to have any other examination or review of the statement of accounts, financial records and other relevant information.

To assist us with our responsibilities, we have instructed you to prepare the statement of accounts on our behalf in accordance with the Regulations, the Act, the SORP and generally accepted accounting practice.

To assist us with our responsibilities, we have instructed you to complete an independent examination of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information that we have made available to you, in accordance with the independent examiner's report on pages 3 to 5.

We confirm that an audit or any other examination or review of the statement of accounts, accounting records and other relevant information is not required.

We have made available to you all accounting records and other relevant information necessary to enable you complete your work on our behalf.

Continued

**Declaration from the Trustees
of
R S P C A Keighley, Craven and Upper Wharfedale Branch
to
Positive Practice Accountants
Continued**

The accounting records and other relevant information that we have made available to you are true, correct and complete. We acknowledge that, other than the procedures explained in the independent examiner's report on pages 1 to 3, you have not completed extensive procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records and other relevant information that we have made available to you, and your work relating thereto has not been designed to identify significant errors or weaknesses therein.

We acknowledge that, therefore, other than the independent examiner's report on pages 3 to 5, you do not give any comment on the statement of accounts or the accounting records and other relevant information that we have made available to you.

We acknowledge that your work on our behalf is subject to the professional standards of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants and has been undertaken within those professional standards.

We acknowledge that, to the fullest extent within laws and regulations, you do not accept responsibility to any third parties for your work relating to the statement of accounts or for the reports on pages 3 to 7.

We acknowledge that the statement of accounts and the reports on pages 3 to 7 have been prepared only for our use as trustees and for information contained therein to be sent to the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Signed on behalf of the trustees.

J Woodward
Trustee Chairperson

29 October 2024

J Brannelly
Trustee Treasurer

29 October 2024

J Stow
Trustee Secretary

29 October 2024

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023	2022
		£	£
Unrestricted funds – income	2 and 3		
Collections, donations and misc.		35285	33454
Legacies		173795	11774
Animal adoptions		13310	13370
RSPCA case animals		0	0
Subscriptions		79	103
Insurance commission		315	208
Bank Interest		1716	425
Donated professional services		250	925
		-----	-----
		224751	60259
		-----	-----
Unrestricted funds expenditure	2 and 3		
Misc. fund raising		4,108	815
Veterinary		37,811	29,345
Kennels and Catteries		37,741	38,612
Fostering		4,386	2,777
Storage		0	659
Repairs and renewals		0	201
Travelling		894	390
Telecommunications		338	512
Website		0	712
Postage and stationery		59	597
Branch regional contribution		1,556	551
Accountancy fee		420	675
Independent examiner fee		250	250
Legacy administration fee		0	120
Insurance		0	577
Bank charges		0	104
Information commissioner registration fee		0	40
Depreciation of equipment		0	0
Net value added tax reclaimed		0	0
		-----	-----
		87,562	76,937
		-----	-----
Unrestricted fund net surplus/deficit		137,189	(16,678)
		-----	-----
			Continued

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Continued

	Notes	2023	2022
		£	£
Unrestricted funds – summary	3		
Brought forward		100,383	117,061
Net surplus		137,189	(16,678)
		-----	-----
Carried forward		237,572	100,383
		-----	-----

R S P C A Keighley Craven and Upper Wharfedale Branch

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023	2022
		£	£
Current Assets	2		
Stock		485	750
Debtors		1,899	4,660
Prepayments		0	604
PayPal account		1,113	0
Cash at bank		237,648	98,069
Cash at hand		0	50
		-----	-----
		241,145	104,133
Creditors	2		
Amounts falling within one year:			
Creditors		3,153	3,728
Accruals		420	22
		-----	-----
		(3,574)	(3,750)
		-----	-----
Total Net Assets		237,572	100,383
		-----	-----
Capital and reserves	3		
Unrestricted funds		237,572	100,383
		-----	-----

On behalf of the trustees, we approve the statement of accounts on pages 10 to 14

J Woodward
Trustee Chairperson

29 October 2024

J Brannelly
Trustee Treasurer

29 October 2024

J Stow
Trustee Secretary

29 October 2024

Notes to the Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

1. The charity's main objective

The charity's main objective is to promote the work and objectives of the national Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ('the Society') in accordance with the policies of the Society, with particular reference to the geographical area covered by the charity.

2. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation of statement of accounts

The statement of accounts is prepared in accordance with:

The historical cost convention. The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008.

The Charities Act 2022.

The Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Financial Reporting Standard 102) October 2019.

Income

Accounting policy applied to all income:

All income is included gross in the statement of accounts on the accruals basis and when all the following criteria have been met:

Control over the rights or other access to the economic benefits relating to the income has passed to the charity.

It is probable the economic benefits relating to the income will pass to the charity.

The monetary value of the economic benefits relating to the income and any costs incurred relating to the transactions can be measured reliably.

Accounting policies applied to specific transactions:

Donated goods for sale are included in the statement of accounts at the monetary value realised when sold or disposed of.

Donated facilities, goods or services for use by the charity are included in the statement of accounts at a reliable estimate of their monetary value where information is available to calculate such an estimate.

The monetary value of volunteer help is not included in the statement of accounts. Information relating to volunteer help is included in the trustees' annual report.

Debtors are included in the statement of accounts at the amounts the charity anticipates it will receive in respect of debts owed to it at the balance sheet date.

Prepayments are included in the statement of accounts at the amounts the charity has paid in advance for goods or services not yet received by it at the balance sheet date.

Continued

Notes to the Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Continued

Expenditure

Accounting policy applied to all expenditure:

All expenditure is included gross in the statement of accounts on the accruals basis and when all the following criteria have been met:

A present legal or constructive obligation exists as a result of a past event that commits the charity to the expenditure. It is probable the economic benefits relating to the obligation will pass from the charity.

The monetary value of the economic benefits relating to the obligation can be measured reliably.

Accounting policies applied to specific transactions:

Equipment is included in the statement of accounts at cost less depreciation and impairment.

Depreciation of equipment is included in the statement of accounts at a rate calculated to write off the cost of equipment, less its estimated residual value, on a straight-line basis over the expected useful economic life of the equipment.

Impairment of equipment is considered at each balance sheet date and included in the statement of accounts as necessary.

Stock is included in the statement of accounts at an estimate of the lower of cost or net realisable value, after making allowance for obsolete or slow-moving stock. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of related overhead costs.

Creditors and accruals are included in the statement of accounts at the amounts the charity anticipates it will pay in respect of debts owed for goods or services received by it at the balance sheet date.

3. Unrestricted funds

The charity's unrestricted funds are available for application at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's objectives.

4. Trustees' remuneration, benefits and expenses

There were no trustees' remuneration, benefits or expenses arising from employments with the charity during the two years ended 31 December 2023.

5. 5 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the two years ended 31 December 2022 which require disclosure in the statement of accounts.

6. Going concern

The trustees are of the opinion there are no material uncertainties regarding the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the statement of accounts.



ANNUAL REPORT for the year ended 31 December 2023

This report contains the following documents presented at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Branch held on 29 October 2024.

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023.

A copy of the RSPCA West Yorkshire Group Annual Inspectorate Report 2023 is included in this report.

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RSPCA KEIGHLEY CRAVEN & UPPER WHARFEDALE BRANCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Reference and Administrative Details as at 31 December 2023

Charity Number 232237

Trustees

Chair Jayne Woodward

Treasurer Jan Brannelly

Secretary Rob Stow

Mandie Anderson
Jane Taylor
Francis Woodward
Mike Hogg

Principal Address RSPCA Keighley Craven & Upper Wharfedale
PO Box 59
Barnoldswick
Lancs. BB18 9AN

Independent Examiner* Stewart Newbury
Positive Practice
Commercial Centre, Water Street
Skipton
North Yorkshire
BD23 1PB

Bankers CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue West
Mailing
Kent
ME19 4JQ

*J S Andrews & Co of 22 Dalesview Close, LA2 8RP was the registered independent examiner as at 31 December 2023, however retired before the annual accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023 were examined. Stewart Newbury has been included here as the accountant who audited the annual accounts that accompany this 2023 annual report.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is constituted as an unincorporated association. It operates as an autonomous branch of the National RSPCA subject to its rules for branches.

A committee elected at the AGM governs the branch. Members of the committee are Trustees of the branch and are briefed on their responsibilities prior to their acceptance of the role. The trustees hold regular meetings at which decisions are made.

The trustees actively review the risks that the charity faces through regular operational and financial reviews. The trustees also examine other operational and business risks facing the branch, and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks, which have been identified as:

- 1 Insufficient branch-generated income
- 2 Unpredictable income from legacies

OBJECTS, OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The objects of the branch are to promote the work and objects of the National Society of the RSPCA, with particular reference to the area of the branch.

The key aim is to find suitable new homes for as many animals as possible, within the constraints of the Branch's resources and with regard to the National Society's policies.

The main activity to achieve this is the operation of an animal adoption/ re-homing programme through PBE cattery / cat fostering and boarding at RSPCA East Lancs. This activity is supported by a variety of volunteer roles.

The trustees have reviewed the outcomes and achievements of our objectives and activities for the year, to ensure they remain focused on our charitable aims, and continue to deliver benefits to the public. We have complied with this duty under the Charities Act 2011, s.17 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The branch re-homed 114 animals (11 dogs, 103 cats), which is a decrease of 11 on last year's figures. 6 cats were returned for re-homing after failed adoption. We are pleased that the branch has been able to maintain a similar level of activity to previous years.

The majority of animals (72%) coming into branch care were classed as 'RSPCA generated' animals. The rest were branch welfare concerns (27%) and those returned for re-homing after a failed adoption (1%). This approach is consistent with the aims of the national organization, as it shifts its focus to those animals that have been identified by RSPCA officers as needing immediate assistance, rather than accepting animals from non-RSPCA sources. A high percentage of cats stay in foster care until adopted which helps greatly in keeping costs down as do the food donations we collect, what we do not use for our animals in our care we pass to the inspectorate.

Compulsory micro-chipping of dogs came into effect in April 2016 and the branch continues to help by micro-chipping 10 branch dogs and 9 public owned dogs, either directly or through welfare vouchers. This will hopefully help to reunite them with their owners should they go missing. Sadly this is a drop in the ocean compared to the c.66,000 dogs that are picked up from our nation's streets having strayed or been stolen every year. The branch also micro-chipped 86 branch cats and 80 public owned cats. The branch helped neuter 10 branch dogs and 86 branch cats, and 9 public owned dogs and 80 public owned cats. We help wherever we can with neutering to help reduce unwanted litters and in certain cases with initial help at a vets for the sake of the animal's welfare. Overall we provided welfare assistance to 1 dog, 1 rabbit and 5 cats.

The branch continues to have a close relationship with the neighboring Altham branch and continued to rent kennels throughout 2023 allowing the branch to take in more RSPCA generated dogs.

Volunteers continued to hold fundraising events and find ways to raise funds in alternate ways, but the total funds raised continue to be down on previous years pre 2020. 10 events were held in 2023, down 2 on the previous year.

The branch continued to successfully hold several virtual trustee meetings throughout the year.

Trustees recognise the importance of volunteers' contributions and strive to create an environment where volunteers feel valued and involved. Volunteers contribute in many different ways, from cat fostering, which has been invaluable during the pandemic, to organising or supporting fundraising events. The trustees wish to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all volunteers, whatever their role, whose commitment was seen more than ever throughout a difficult year.

The Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2022 were also the last accounts that were independently examined by JS Andrews & Co. The Trustees are grateful for all for all of his work over the years and wish him the best for his retirement. The Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023 have been audited by Stuart Newbury from Positive Practice Accountants (agreed at the branch AGM on 18 June 2024) and the Branch would like to thank Positive Practice for taking on this role.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The total incoming resources for the year amounted to £224,500 at 31 December 2023
(2022: £60,259)

Expenditure for the year amounted to £87,311 at 31 December 2023
(2022: £76,937)

The surplus for the year was £137,188 at 31 December 2023
(2022: -£16,678)

Reserves Policy

The Branch held reserves of £237,571 at 31 December 2023
(2022: £100,383)

We hold reserves in order that the service level provided for animal welfare is maintained if there is a reduction in incoming resources. Reserves are those funds which are freely available for general purpose and are not committed. The trustees aim has been to hold reserves of unrestricted funds equivalent to two year's expenditure.

Investment Policy

Our relevantly modest resources demand that a cautious and secure investment policy is pursued. Consequently, our unrestricted funds are held in an interest earning account with a Bank specializing exclusively in accounts for charitable organisations.

FUTURE PLANS

The branch will continue to promote fostering as an alternative to kennels, as we believe this provides a better environment for the animal. Fostering also allows us to learn more about them prior to offering them for adoption.

We will continue to work in partnership with the Inspectorate and other agencies, prompting preventive care through microchipping and flea and worm treatments. We will actively promote neutering by offering financial help with the cost.

Volunteers remain the backbone of all branch activities. We will continue our efforts to recruit and maintain a team of volunteers to carry out fundraising and animal welfare activities across the Keighley, Craven and Upper Wharfedale area.

The branch are very grateful to have received a significant legacy payment within the financial year which will provide a huge benefit to the support and work we can provide.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial activities during the year, and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view the Trustees should follow best practice and:

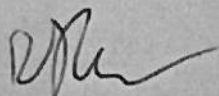
- 1 select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- 2 make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 3 state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- 4 prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which accurately disclose the financial position of the Charity and which will enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable law, regulations and trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

DECLARATION

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature



Robert Stow

Secretary

22 October 2024

West Yorkshire Inspectorate Group
NEWSLETTER

Annual Report 2023



GROUP UPDATES



This year has seen a significant amount of change in group staffing. Most notably Chief Inspectorate Beth Clements was seconded to HQ working on strategies for change within the RSPCA. Deputy Chief Inspector Emma Brook has stepped up, and is now Acting Chief Inspector. The role of Deputy Chief Inspector has been taken on by Demi Hodby.

At the beginning of the year we also lost Inspector Joanne Hartley, who gained promotion to Chief Inspector, and is working in the NCC managing the phonecall work order team. And, at the end of the year we lost ARO Kris Walker, who has gone onto work for Bransby Horse Charity.

It was not all losses though, Inspector Adam Dickinson returned to the group after a secondment to a case officer role, and ARO Hannah Williams who had previously worked in West Yorkshire was transferred from Northeast Group.

In 2023 we also gained two new AROs through the training programme, ARO Aleesha Haddersley and Emmeline Myall are now both fully qualified members of the team. We have also been lucky enough to gain a further three AROs on the current training course; Trainees Jenny Anderson, James Metcalf and Jade Barber will all have completed their training in Spring 2024 - and are now in group full time for field training.

The team is now as follows:

ACI Emma Brook	Trainee ARO Jade Barber
DCI Demi Hodby	Trainee ARO Jenny Anderson
Inspector Natalie Taylor	Trainee ARO James Metcalfe
Inspector Adam Dickinson	
Inspector Joanne Taylor	
Inspector John Gibson	
ARO Dave Holgate	
ARO Becky Goulding	
ARO Ollie Wilkes	
ARO Hannah Williams	
ARO Aleesha Haddersley	
ARO Emmeline Myall	

Inspector John Gibson maintains all his specialisms; CAST Team, flood team and boat team. AROs Ollie Wilkes, Becky Goulding and Dave Holgate are also on the boat team.

Inspectors Adam Dickinson and Natalie Taylor are Tutor Inspectors, providing invaluable training to all new Officers to the group and helping them complete their qualifications.

ARO Dave Holgate continue his role as Wildlife Officer, and DCI Demi Hodby is an Exotics Officer.

ARO Becky Goulding has taken on the role as ARV Co-ordinator, and has recruited a further 5 volunteers to our team this year.

Inspector Natalie Taylor has worked closely with HQ to develop a document for the Police; advising them on Animal Welfare Act cases and best practice.

Animal Rescue Volunteers (ARVs)

We currently have a team of 6 ARVs in group; with varying levels of activity. Some have been able to donate a regular day every week to volunteering, and have been an invaluable resource. It's hoped that over the spring and summer that this will increase, and they are able to assist more with small transportable wildlife. Our ARV Team are;

Ryan Lawley
Amanda Mohr
Alison Owen-Morley

Matt Burke
Kate Collinson
Jane Harrison

Great British Spring Clean

Half the team were able to take a day off the road to take part in the Great British Spring Clean. Insp Natalie Taylor had organised litter picking kits from Wakefield Council, and locations received by ARO Holgate. First we went to the bank of the River Calder in Wakefield, where one team cleared the bank whilst a second team used the boat to remove litter from inaccessible areas of the bank as well as in the water. A total of 25 bags were collected, before moving onto Pugneys Park, when another 9 bags were collected.



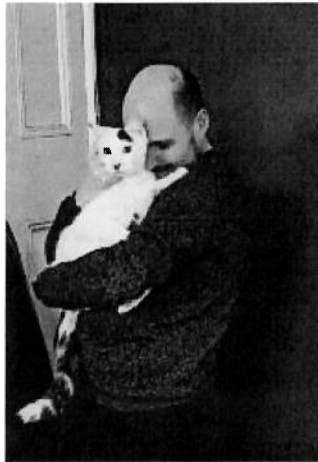
COLLECTIONS AND RESCUES

Unfortunately, the year started with bad news. After managing to avoid it for the majority of the outbreak the group was finally hit by an outbreak of Avian Influenza, not a nice job but necessary to end the suffering of particularly large water birds such as ducks, geese and swans. Bodies were sent for testing, and the disease was confirmed at 6 parks in our area. AROs Walker and Goulding spent several days on or in the water, and several other officers assisted with individual bird collections. The good news is that the outbreak was contained and shortlived.



ARO Goulding was also able to successfully release a goose, affectionately known as "Rambo". The goose had been attacked by a dog, but eye witness accounts suggest he gave as good as he got. The picture is very dramatic, but examination by a local vet showed that actually he only had one small puncture wound which it was able to treat with antiseptic spray, and the goose was released back with his flock the same day. This [VIDEO](#) shows him announcing his return!!





There was a very happy ending for "Lupin" the cat, who went missing over 18 months ago. She was picked up by Inspector Natalie Taylor over 5 miles from her home. Her owners had pretty much given up on seeing her again, and were completely shocked to see Natalie stood on the doorstep with her.

West Yorkshires' very own 'Steve Irwin' ARO Dave Holgate has been kept busy with several reptile jobs; mainly accidental imports. The snake below was found in student accommodation in the University of Bradford - originally thought to be a Nigerian import, the slithery visitor turned out to be a less exotic corn snake. He also collected this tiny gecko, which had stowed away in a suitcase all the way from Zanzibar!

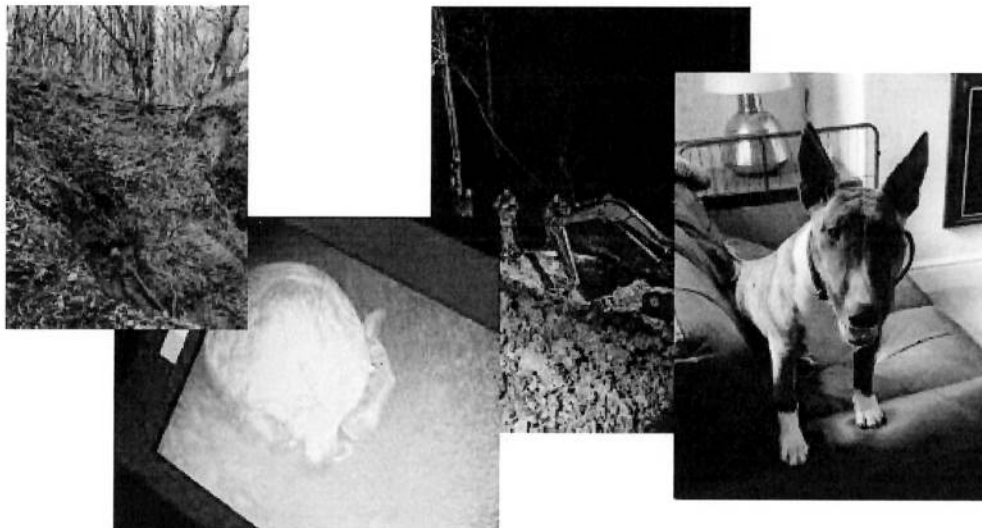




ARO Becky Goulding collected this tiny fox cub, probably only a few days old. The callers dog had fetched the cub back on a walk, and with no idea where the dog had found the cub it was collected and transferred to RSPCA Stapeley Grange. The baby was their first fox cub admission of the season. He was quickly followed by the older fox cub collected by then Insp Emma Brook in Huddersfield.



By far the longest, and likely most dramatic rescue of 2024 took place in March. English Bull Terrier 'Martha' had been out for a walk with her dad in Black Carr Wood, Bradford. A walk that she has done since she was a puppy without incident. But this time Martha decided to explore a drainage pipe which disappeared into the bank of the beck. It's thought that Martha went approximately 20m in the pipe before trying to turn round, getting stuck with those big English Bull shoulders. Initially Fire and Rescue attended but didn't have the equipment to assist, so the following morning ARO Goulding attended, and was joined by ARO Walker and Insp Taylor. With the expertise of Yorkshire Water, and laterly a drainage company they were able to dig down approximately 4m and cut holes in the cast iron pipe. The following morning, at approximately 8am - after being underground for a total of 40 hours Martha was rescued.



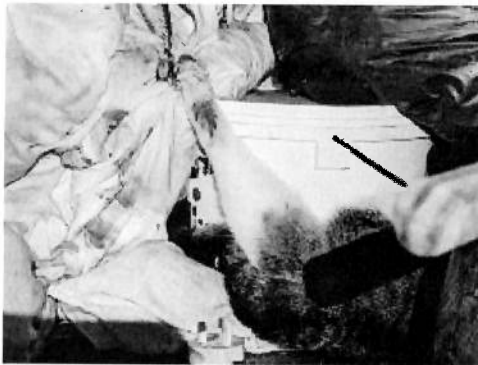


ARO Emmeline Myall was called to a horse in Halifax that had got himself into a bit of a predicament. He had fallen down a collapsed bit of river bank and although uninjured, wasn't able to work out how to get himself back up again. As you can see from the video [\(CLICK HERE\)](#) she was able to take him for a walk along the river bank until she found somewhere that he could be walked up. By

the time they got back to the field the panicked owners were already there looking for the horse. Who it turned out was named "Buttons" - and had some very very grateful owners.

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue also assisted Inspector Jo Taylor with her rescue of 'Rosie' an indoor cat that not only had escaped from her home, but had also managed to get stuck inside a disused building. After four days of trying to tempt her out the RSPCA were called. Eventually F&R cut a hole in the door to the building and Rosie was tempted out. We'd like to thank West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue for all their help with all the cats this year!!





ARO Aleesha Haddersley was called to a Wendy House that was been used to store old fishing tackle. The owners came in one morning to find a cat caught with a barb, hooked by its rear foot. Aleesha was able to free the cat and it was transferred to Greater Manchester Animal Hospital for treatment to the

wound. Unfortunately the cat was not microchipped, Aleesha was confident someone must be missing her, giving how friendly and tolerant she was. But, despite a press release we were unable to locate an owner, and the cat - now named Barbara(!) has gone for rehoming.



The boss was allowed out of the office for a day, and Chief Inspector Emma Brook assisted ARO Ollie Wilkes with the rescue of a Black Headed Gull at Pontefract Racecourse. The two launched the small boat, and were able to take the gull to a vets to have the line removed.



Finally, pictured below is Inspector John Gibson, and one of the impressive fallow stags that he was involved in the rescue of in November. The two stags had become entangled together by football netting - [VIDEO](#). A combined operation with the RSPCA and a local vet meant that both stags could be sedated and the netting removed, both stags were then safely released to the wild. [VIDEO](#).



Prosecution Outcomes

There have been some very successful prosecution outcomes for the Inspectorate in the twelve months.....some cases which have been ongoing since during the pandemic.

Inspector Hodby achieved a 7 year and 10 year ban for a daughter and mother pair respectively. The two were prosecuted regarding causing suffering and unsuitable conditions for 2 dogs in Brighouse. The dogs were cared for by Halifax Branch, but unfortunately both had to be euthanized due to unrelated medical conditions.

Inspector Emma Brook achieved a lifetime ban from keeping all animals, for a young man from Leeds who plead guilty to causing suffering to a guinea pig in Leeds. The male admitted to inflicting blunt force trauma to the animal, which resulted in its death.

ARO Walker also achieved a lifetime ban for a male from Halifax who admitted to him that he had strangled one of his cats. After attending the address to discuss the allegation, he found a further 20 cats who were all living in unsuitable conditions and were removed - the majority of these cats have since been rehomed through various branches.

ARO Walker finally received a conclusion to a horse case which has been ongoing for three years. A female from Pool-in-Wharfedale was found guilty of neglect of three equines, in January 2022, but appealed her conviction. This was upheld in court appearance in January 2023, and the woman received a 24 month ban from keeping equines. The two horses and a Shetland pony were found to have overgrown hooves, poor dentition and lice infestations - all were subject to a deprivation order, and after the conclusion of the case can now be rehomed. See their before and after photos below.



A case that started in the midst has finally come to a conclusion, with the dog been awarded into the care of the RSPCA. After

several assessments to determine the competency of the owner, it was decided that it was not appropriate to pursue her through the courts. But the collie dog, who was initially removed for a severe skin condition, was finally signed over. She has been cared a fabulous fosterer for by RSPCA Halifax, Huddersfield and Bradford Branch, where she will now be staying. The case was handled by Insp Emma Brook.

A mother and daughter pair from Brighouse were found guilty of Section 4 and Section 9 offences in relation to two staffordshire bull terrier dogs - one of which had an untreated kidney disease. Both offenders were disqualified from keeping animals, one for 10 years and one for 7 years. Unfortunately despite recovering from the conditions for which they were removed the two dogs had to be put to sleep for unrelated medical conditions.

A lady from Bradford was found guilty of allowing a Newfoundland type dog to suffer with a horrendous facial swelling that had developed after the dog had suffered some kind of blunt force trauma. The cause of which the defendant never disclosed. Because of this, a second dog, a shepherd type puppy was also removed. The defendants only excuse was that they 'didn't believe in veterinary medicine'. Although unfortunately, the Newfoundland had to be put to sleep to end its suffering, the defendant was not only given a 12 week custodial sentence, but also a ten year ban from keeping all animals, and a deprivation order for the puppy and cats that she also owned. An excellent result for Inspector Hodby and all involved, from a very upsetting case.

The puppy 'Jesse' had spent 16 months in RSPCA care, but was lucky enough to be adopted by her fosterers from RSPCA Warrington.

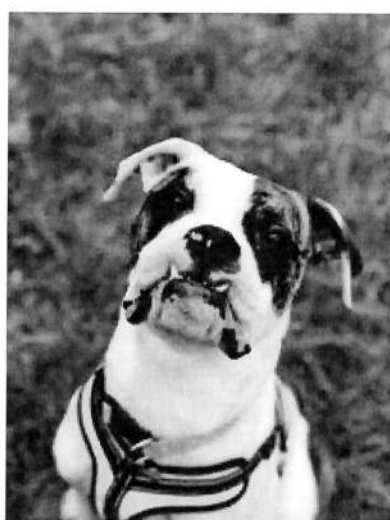
Demi also achieved an excellent outcome for a very difficult and very prolonged cockerel case. Where amongst other non-Animal Welfare Act Offences a man was pled guilty to various Section 4 and Section 9 Offences, as well the notoriously hard to achieve Section 8 - Causing Animals to fight. Demi worked very hard in gathering evidence for this complicated case.



Animal Rescue Officer Kris Walker achieved a guilty verdict in relation to a woman from Halifax who had caused a Lhaso Apso type dog to suffer by failing to seek veterinary treatment for a flea infestation and the resultant skin disease, but also for untreated eye infections. This resulted in the defendant receiving a lifetime ban and costs of £600.

In a second court case that month, which the magistrate described as 'the worse case of animal neglect he had heard in 17 years at the bench', a whole family of four adults were given a lifetime ban each for causing suffering to seven cats by failure to provide them with food, so much so that the cats had eaten a young kitten at the address. The horrific case took several years to get through the court system, but the result was truly worth the wait. The seven adult cats were all successfully nursed back to health and rehomed via Leeds and Wakefield Branch.

Inspector Natalie Taylor has had an ongoing case regarding a rottweiler named Tyson, that began in 2021. A year later a Section 20 application was made so that the dog could be rehomed ahead of the prosecution case, and Tyson was rehomed by Leeds and Wakefield in RSPCA in 2022. Finally the case was heard in court in 2023, both were charged with Section 4 and Section 9 offences in relation to Tysons body condition. The female defendant was found guilty and sentenced to a lifetime ban on all animals, the male defendant did not attend court so was found guilty in his absence, and a warrant has been issued for his arrest. Here are Tysons before and after pictures.



A series of harrowing CCTV sequences were presented by Inspector Adam Dickinson in the case of 'Ace' a boxer cross dog. In footage captured by neighbours the male owner is seen kicking and punching Ace, and in a particularly cruel video is seen throwing the dogs water away after he'd had the dog out for a walk on a hot day. The owner was found guilty of both a Section 4 offence in relation to the beatings, and Section 9 offences relating to an unsuitable environment. The man was

sentenced to a 10 year ban from keeping all animals, as well as

Community Order and Costs. Ace has since been rehomed by Preston Branch.

In January 2023, ARO Kris Walker removed a cob type pony called 'Cricket' from land in Castleford. An owner was traced and prosecuted for Section 4 offences for failing to provide veterinary treatment and allowing the pony to be in poor body condition, alongside Section 9 offences relating to an unsuitable environment. She was given a 10 year ban from keeping all animals. Unfortunately Cricket never recovered from his poor condition, and had to be put to sleep.

Inspector Demi Hodby had a very harrowing case of a dog named 'Scooby' whos eyes had become so infected that the dog could no longer see. The elderly German Shepherd dog was put to sleep on welfare grounds. In one of the worst cases Demi has seen, the owner was found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering; and recieved a 26 week custodial sentence - suspended for 12 months, as well as a lifetime ban from keeping all animals.

Finally, another of Inspector Hodbys cases came to a conclusion after almost 2 years. A woman from Bradford was found guilty of Section 4 conditions in relation the staffies body condition, and Section 9 offences in relation to unsuitable conditions. The woman was found guilty and sentenced to a 12 month community order and costs - but most importantly 'Babs' who won the hearts of the whole group could be rehomed.