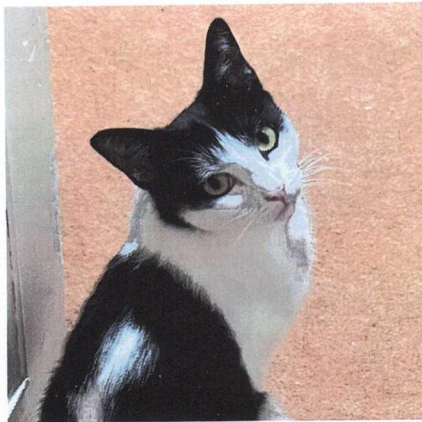




## **CUMBRIA NORTH AND EAST BRANCH**



**ROSIE**



**THEIR 3 KITTENS**



**JIM**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**For the Year ending 31st December 2022**

**Registered Charity No. 232262**

## STATUTORY STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT BY THE TRUSTEES

The RSPCA Cumbria North & East Branch is an unincorporated charitable association and separately registered branch of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, carrying out its direct animal welfare in the area of north and east Cumbria.

The Trustees have reviewed the outcomes and achievements of our objectives and activities for the year to ensure that they are focused on our charitable aims and continue to deliver benefits to the public.

*We have complied with the duty under the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission.*

The Branch's animal welfare work, though local in nature, helps people in need to care for their animals, and has a moral benefit for society at large by promoting kindness and preventing or suppressing cruelty to animals. We provide subsidised veterinary treatment for animals and belong to local people on low incomes. We do this mainly through the Branch Clinic and with vouchers towards private veterinary treatment.

*This work benefits those on means tested benefits by giving them financial help to obtain care for companion animals in need of veterinary treatment.*

We provide subsidised neutering of companion animals for those in the Branch area on low incomes through the Branch Clinic.

*This work helps to control the dog and cat population through neutering and benefits those on means tested benefits by giving them financial help to neuter their companion animals. It benefits the general public as a whole by promoting responsible pet ownership.*

We support the RSPCA Inspectorate by taking in, free of charge, mistreated or abandoned companion animals, providing any veterinary treatment necessary, through the Branch Clinic.

*The Society's Inspectorate rescue animals in distress and enforces laws against the mistreatment of animals in England and Wales by bringing prosecutions. This work is key to the 'prevention of cruelty' part of the RSPCA's objectives and promotes humane sentiments towards animals which has a moral benefit for the general public as a whole.*

We rehome animals in need, at low cost, to people willing and able to have a companion animal.

*Our policy to charge a reasonable adoption fee aims to highlight the personal and financial commitment of pet ownership. It would not be in the interest of animals, and therefore fall outside our objectives, to rehome to those who could not afford them.*

We provide volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work, including trusteeship, volunteering and fundraising.

*This benefits local people by providing the possibility of doing work which is compassionate and rewarding. The following Trustees' report gives greater detail on how, and the extent to which, this 'public benefit' has been achieved during 2022.*

# **RSPCA CUMBRIA NORTH & EAST BRANCH**

Registered Charity No. 232262

Branch Centre and Veterinary Clinic

28 Close Street

Carlisle

Cumbria CA1 2HB

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

For the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

### **Board of Trustees**

Hon. Chairman (vacant)

Hon Treasurer Mrs S Smith

Hon. Secretary Mrs A Armstrong

Miss L. Carruthers

Mrs L. Morrow

Ms G. McHard

Mrs K Richardson

Auditors: Lamont Pridmore

Bank: NatWest Carlisle

Consulting Veterinary Surgeons: Craig Robinson Vets Ltd.



## **The Trustees Annual Report for 2022.**

Welcome to what, thankfully, turned out to be a less traumatic and disruptive year than the last two in global pandemic terms, but still affecting the working of the branch to a certain degree.

### **The work of the branch clinic**

As the map of the branch (which we have included) shows, we cover a large mainly rural area, however most of the work of the clinic, and indeed the branch, does centre on Carlisle and it's surrounds. The clinic remained open all year, but with Covid still having an effect on it's working; appointments were cancelled last minute, shortage of vets, and our (one) staff member succumbing to it. We have retained the appointment system and clients are getting used to it, but it's a bit of a 'Marmite' thing – we love it- logistically and from a Health & Safety point of view, and for our sanity- it could get very noisy and confrontational at times with a full waiting room, sometimes the whole family would arrive! Some clients say they miss that social aspect of sitting waiting their turn while others appreciate the 'new' system. Limiting the numbers in the building at any one time was recommended to achieve a safe level of 'air flow' and it also means that one person (with the vet) could safely manage the Clinic, when necessary, as we have not replaced our receptionist, to cut down on costs. Despite us being able to offer 7 appointments per session (more if clinically indicated), the numbers of patients treated in the clinic has gone down, averaging about 72 per month, the peak months being July and August for some reason, but this number is augmented by the animals we refer for further treatment at Craig Robinson Vets for operation/Xray/ blood tests/ neutering etc.

We have kept the consultation fee the same and do not put a mark-up on medication but vet costs for operations etc have increased, dramatically it seems, and despite the discounted price the vet practice gives us, and the further subsidy we offer, people are finding



it difficult to afford operations. A case in point is that of Belle a rescue(d) greyhound. I quote what Belle's owner told us when she rang the clinic next day: Belle had been playing in the garden on Sunday afternoon when she suddenly let out a scream of pain and had clearly broken her leg. Belle's owner told us that she had phoned round several vets but, because she hadn't the money to pay up front, none would treat the dog, so she was left with only paracetamol to give Belle overnight. She was seen at the clinic next day and referred immediately to have the leg amputated. Recovery was quite slow for Belle, as the wound took a long time to heal but she did make a full recovery.

Her owner took to 'Crowd Funding' and the story was taken up by the local paper and the money soon raised to pay for the operation and after care. Belle's owner also raised one of the FAQs at the clinic "Can I have/make a payment plan" when saying she had asked the vets, she had phoned to agree to such a plan. The answer to this is "No" for us too – it is not legal for us to do so as well as it being doubtful that any 'plan' would be adhered to! Despite this the level of non-recoverable client debt has not escalated as you might expect and has stayed at the level it has for several years -at about £3,000 per annum. This is mainly accrued by animals presenting needing an emergency operation; two days later, at the post op check the animal (usually a dog) has recovered so well that we never see it or the owner again!

Our neutering policy which we back up by offering even further subsidised costs, has not, as we say each year, not been taken up as widely as we would like by dog owners. Cat owners are more compliant but despite this there are even more seemingly unowned, unneutered cats in the area, as we learn from concerned members of the public who ring the clinic, or our rehoming coordinator.

While Covid restrictions eased, Bird Flu restrictions came into force again this year. Sadly, there wasn't anything we could do but advise

the member of the public to contact the Defra help line as wild-life sanctuaries couldn't take in injured birds nor could vets or ourselves take them into the premises even to euthanise.

We can however end this section on a self- congratulatory note; in March we had the 4 yearly Veterinary Medicines Directory inspection and passed with flying colours getting the top rating of five for compliance! It's quite a vigorous inspection but by keeping up to date with rules and regulations, regular stock checks and good record keeping we can hopefully be well prepared for the next one!

## **CAT REHOMING IN 2022**

In 2022 we were fairly consistent with our rehoming of the cats in our care. Just about every month, we managed to rehome 1 or 2, so we were kept going with visits to the vets for their pre-adoption check over, vaccinations, neutering and microchipping. Kittens are able to be rehomed from the age of 9 weeks when they receive their first vaccination.

We had one or two young kittens found in different areas, in the middle of nowhere which was very strange. I received a call by a workman, who was working on a side road just off the A6. They had found 2 kittens just sitting there with no houses, farms or signs of anyone living nearby. We can only assume they had been 'dumped'.

I rushed over to meet up with them on a cold blustery day, and they both were in a warm lorry cab, each one being cuddled by two large workmen! They were very lucky to be adopted together and now are living a life of luxury which is brilliant.

We took in a mum and her two kittens and were so grateful when a lady offered all three a home together. It is not often three can get adopted together. However, mum Minnie, was the most outgoing and her two offspring very frightened and nervous. Sadly, it was



found that Minnie was bullying just her son, but not her daughter. So, I agreed I would go back and pick her up. Her two kittens just came on so much after that and now enjoy going out into the garden on little adventures! Minnie received a loving forever home of her own and enjoyed waking her new owners up early in the morning for her breakfast but has now settled down to a more reasonable wake-up time.

The most memorable request to take in a family in 2022, came from Craig Robinson's Vets. A lady walking her dog in a local park found a zipped-up holdall with 5 cats in it. This turned out to be a mum, dad and 3 gorgeous kittens. They were very lucky as they could not have escaped from this holdall. We named them Rosie and Jim and their 3 kittens, Zoe, Chris and Callum. (Pictures on the front page) They played together well, but the two black and white ones were always together, so we counted ourselves very lucky and happy when they were adopted together and Callum, now called Frank, also to his own lovely family. Mum and Dad were devoted parents each sharing the tasks of washing and keeping eye on their offspring not to get into trouble.

We count ourselves very lucky to be able to have some units in a lovely cattery and very cat-oriented owners, and have a devoted fosterer to look after the many cats and kittens we take in. We do, however, wish we could find more cat spaces or more fosterers, as now the Cats Protection do not have any facilities to take in cats in our area, we find that they give out our phone number to numerous people, so we are getting a lot more requests to take in cats and kittens. We also find some households have 4 or more in one go to hand over.

While it has been a busy year, it has been a very rewarding year in finding suitable and genuine forever homes for all our cats and kittens.

## **Income generation**

It seems we are to continue to be a 'cash-less/cash-free' society with little or no income from collecting boxes placed around the area, and as a branch we are unable to field enough people to undertake fundraising efforts ourselves.

We had two donations from the funerals of local people and a potential legacy from someone who had died in the North-East. However, the legator had no connection to our area, it seemed that our 'title' had led the solicitor to conflate us with the 'North-East' ie; Northumberland, so we could not (morally) accept.

We received a donation from a lady who had sought to sell some family items at auction. Some of the items were made of ivory and post-dated the 1947 convention on the sale of ivory and couldn't be sold. The lady kindly instructed the auctioneers to donate £100 of the proceeds of the goods she *could* sell to the branch.

### ***And finally, "Thank-you"***

To Craig Robinson Vets who have provided veterinary services for the clinic and branch for longer than we can remember, thanks to *all* the staff there, on both sites, for their support again this year.

To the cattery owners who care so well for those abandoned, unwanted, injured cats and kittens until we can find them a new loving home. And, also, to Karen, our new cat fosterer, who looks after our younger felines, who often need that extra bit of care and socialisation.

To AWO Graham Carter, who while we don't see much of him, we know he is always there, when needed, for advice.

To Denise McCabe our BDS who, while she has many branches to support, is always available for help and advice.

And to you -the branch members who, by staying members, support the cause of animal welfare.



## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

I would like to present the Financial Report of 2022.

Our aim as trustees is to promote animal welfare in this area, by offering subsidised veterinary treatment for pet owners on benefits through our Clinic in Close Street, Carlisle.

We also support the inspectorate by taking in cats they have, abandoned or signed over. We use a private cattery and a fosterer for these neglected and unwanted cats. We would also have liked to support the inspectorate by taking in dogs, but we don't have either the personnel or can we find suitable affordable kennels.

Of our expenditure, the van had to have a service, MOT and four new tyres, as the original ones were cracking along the tyre walls. Under 'Clinic Repairs' in the Charitable Activities Expenditure list, we had a large window broken by vandals and included in the £2006 is the invoice for £1669, but we did receive back from the insurance - £1569, the difference being the excess.

We are still fortunate to have the stability of the large legacy left to us in 2017, to help throughout the year. Although reducing over the years, it is still comforting to know we are still in a healthy position. Especially as the total of our legacies in 2022 was just over four and half thousand, compared with 2021 where the total was just over twenty-one thousand. And of course, no Furlough grant this year, we received nearly three and half thousand in 2021. We also had a refund from HQ of seven and half thousand in 2021, this was part of the money we paid into a fund set up to help those Branches with just 6 months or less running costs.

In 2021 we had two admin and support paid staff, however at the end of 2021, when the receptionist had decided to change jobs, we decided not to replace her. This makes a saving of nearly eight thousand a year.

In all, we received nearly twenty-one thousand less in 2022 compared to 2021, illustrating the need to remain prudent with Branch finances.

If anyone would like to ensure that their bequest is used solely for animal welfare work in the Branch area, the wording is as follows:

***'I bequeath to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Cumbria North and East Branch (Reg charity no. 232262) for the general purposes of the Branch, the sum of £.....free of all duties and taxes payable at my death and I declare that the receipt of the Honorary Treasurer or other proper Officer for the time being of the said Branch shall be sufficient discharge to my Trustee'.***

I would like to thank everyone who supports our local Branch, without your involvement we would not achieve the standards of welfare which we do.

Susan Smith (Hon Treasurer)



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

**CUMBRIA NORTH AND EAST BRANCH**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022**

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

**CUMBRIA NORTH AND EAST BRANCH**

Contents

1	Statement of Financial Activities
2	Balance Sheet
3	Notes to the Accounts
5	Independent Examiners' Report to the Trustees



# RSPCA CUMBRIA NORTH AND EAST BRANCH

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	Note	£ Unrestricted Funds	£ Restricted Funds	£ Total Funds 2022	£ Total Funds 2021
<b><u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u></b>					
<b>FROM GENERATED FUNDS</b>					
Voluntary Income	1	30,131		30,131	59,073
Investment Income	2	898		898	420
<b>FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>	3	14,612		14,612	10,815
		0			
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>45,641</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45,641</b>	<b>70,308</b>
<b><u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u></b>					
<b>CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>	4	79,679		79,679	81,897
<b>ALLOCATION OF SUPPORT COSTS</b>	5	2,687	0	2,687	2,767
<b>GOVERNANCE COSTS</b>	6	812		812	2,390
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>83,178</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>83,178</b>	<b>87,054</b>
Net incoming resources		(37,537)	0	(37,537)	(16,747)
Gain (Losses) on investments	7	(978)		(978)	462
Transfers between funds					
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>(38,515)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(38,515)</b>	<b>(16,285)</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT 1st January 2022</b>		<b>269,033</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>269,033</b>	<b>285,318</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT 31st December 2022</b>		<b>230,518</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>230,518</b>	<b>269,033</b>

# RSPCA CUMBRIA NORTH AND EAST BRANCH

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	Note	£ Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	£ Total Funds 2022	£ Total Funds 2021
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible Fixed Assets	10	5,153		5,153	6,441
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Stock		20		20	20
Debtors		544		544	679
Investments	7	6,044		6,044	7,022
Cash at Bank & in Hand	9	225,804		225,804	268,431
		232,412	0	232,412	276,152
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
Sundry Creditors		7,047		7,047	13,560
NET CURRENT ASSETS		225,365	0	225,365	262,592
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		230,518	0	230,518	269,033
NET ASSETS		230,518	0	230,518	269,033
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Undesignated Funds		230,518		230,518	269,033
Designated Funds		0		0	0
Restricted Funds		230,518		230,518	269,033



# RSPCA CUMBRIA NORTH AND EAST BRANCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>1 VOLUNTARY INCOME</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	
General Donations/Fundraising	545	1,213
Insurance Claim re window	1,569	-
Legacies	4,721	21,304
Donations repay RSPCA HQ	-	7,530
National scheme entitlement (door to door)	21,840	24,024
Donations and subscriptions	1,457	1,570
Furlough Grant		3,432
	<b>30,131</b>	<b>59,073</b>
<b>2 INVESTMENT INCOME</b>		
Standard Chartered	394	394
Nat West Bank	504	26
	<b>898</b>	<b>420</b>
<b>3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>		
Contribution to Animal treatments	14,612	10,815
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45,641</b>	<b>70,308</b>
<b>4 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES EXPENDITURE</b>		
Boarding and Rehoming Fees	19,650	20,972
Rent & Utilities	3,049	4,434
Clinic Insurance	34	34
Stationery and postage	1,671	1,515
Telephone	2,370	2,115
Van expenses	2,777	1,559
Clinic Repairs	2,006	614
Clinic costs - security, cleaning, sundries	851	348
Clinic admin & support	5,365	13,085
Vet consultations & fees	32,900	28,121
Drugs and medicine	9,006	9,100
	<b>79,679</b>	<b>81,897</b>
<b>5 ALLOCATION OF SUPPORT COSTS</b>	<b>2022 £</b>	<b>2021 £</b>
Bank charges	1,399	1,157
Depreciation	1,288	1,610
	<b>2,687</b>	<b>2,767</b>
<b>6 GOVERNANCE COSTS</b>		
Independent Examiner Fees	812	2390
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83178.01</b>	<b>87054.45</b>
<b>Total of Receipts over payments (payments over receipts)</b>	<b>(37,537)</b>	<b>(16,747)</b>

# RSPCA CUMBRIA NORTH AND EAST BRANCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022 (cont)

### 7 INVESTMENTS

	2022 Value £	Cost £	2021 Value
£5,340 £1 Standard Chartered Plc 7 .375% Pref Stock Non-Cum Irred Preference Shares	6,044	5,868	7,022
	<u>6,044</u>	<u>5,868</u>	<u>7,022</u>

### 8 Clinic Income & Expenditure

	2022 £	2021 £
Income for year	40,920	49,004
Expenditure for year	<u>57,252</u>	<u>59,367</u>
Excess of Income (Expenditure) for year	<u>(16,332)</u>	<u>(10,363)</u>

### 9 Cash at Bank

	2022 £	2021 £
Balance on Deposit Account with the Nat. West	221,728	260,224
Current Account	4,076	8,207
	<u>225,804</u>	<u>268,431</u>

### 10 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	IT Equip £	Fixtures etc £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
Costs to 1st January 2022	7,910	3,853	15,893	27,656
Additions during year	0		0	0
Less Original cost of disposals during year			0	0
Costs to 31st December 2022	<u>7,910</u>	<u>3,853</u>	<u>15,893</u>	<u>27,656</u>
Depreciation to 1st January 2022	6,764	3,765	10,686	21,215
Less Depreciation on assets disposed of during year			0	0
Charge for year	229	18	1,041	1,288
Depreciation to 31st December 2022	<u>6,993</u>	<u>3,783</u>	<u>11,727</u>	<u>22,503</u>
NET BOOK VALUE 31st December 2022	<u>917</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>4,166</u>	<u>5,153</u>
NET BOOK VALUE 31st December 2021	<u>1,146</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>5,207</u>	<u>6,441</u>



**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF**  
**THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS**  
**CUMBRIA NORTH AND EAST BRANCH TRUST**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on pages 1 to 4.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Act) and Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts (under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011);

to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and

to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

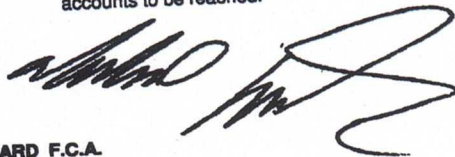
**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with s130 of the 2011 Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and the regulations made thereunder have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



**M UPWARD F.C.A.**  
**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT**  
**LAMONT PRIDMORE**  
**31 LONSDALE STREET**  
**CARLISLE**

24th June 2023

## **Structure, Governance & Management**

Cumbria North and East branch has as its governing document the National Society's Branch Rules (amended in 2006.) In this branch the trustees are in effect committee members. They are appointed at the Annual General Meeting by polling over 50% of the vote in a secret ballot, which takes at the AGM, by those eligible to vote under RSPCA rules.

All eligible branch members are sent a nomination form with the notice calling the annual general meeting, enabling them to put themselves forward for election, if proposed and seconded by a member of the branch. Non branch members can also be co opted to the committee and subsequently act as trustees. The maximum number of elected committee members is 14 and 3 co options are allowed in any one year.

All trustees are asked to sign a 'Declaration of Willingness to Serve as a Trustee' and appraised of the duties and responsibilities of Trusteeship. Induction to policies & procedures for, and training of, trustees is undertaken by the Branches Development Advisor.

The organisational structure of the branch is that of three executive officers, the honorary chairman, treasurer and secretary, appointed by ballot, at a meeting held directly after the AGM, to make day to day decisions in the running of the Branch. Any major policy decisions are put to the committee for ratification. The committee meets two monthly.

The branch has specific risk management procedures in place which are always being re evaluated, and we are continuously working towards new policies and procedures.

The secretary is also responsible for the administration of the Branch Clinic.

The branch has a Re-homing Coordinator for cats, who liaises directly with the private boarding cattery where the cats are kept, awaiting re-homing, visiting regularly to check on their general health and wellbeing, obtaining veterinary treatment, if necessary. The Re-homing coordinator, place these animals in suitable new homes, after carrying out a home visit to assess the home's suitability for the animal chosen and also carry out post-homing checks.

The Fund Raising coordinator arranges fund raising ventures the branch undertakes itself.

Cumbria North and East branch is connected to the wider RSPCA network by a Trustee attending North Regional Board meetings and of course the National Society, under whose guidelines the branch operates. The RSPCA's Chief Vet, as well as licensing the Branch Veterinary Clinic, updates the branch on new veterinary medicine guidelines and provides recommendations as to 'best practice'. Contact with the RSPCA Inspectorate is maintained through the RSPCA National Control Centre and on a 'face to face' basis when an animal signed over to the RSPCA is taken into Branch care.



