

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 232265

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
FOR
RSPCA SUNDERLAND, HARTLEPOOL & SOUTH
TYNESIDE BRANCH**

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**RSPCA SUNDERLAND, HARTLEPOOL & SOUTH
TYNESIDE BRANCH**

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

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**RSPCA SUNDERLAND, HARTLEPOOL & SOUTH
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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
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Trustees Introduction

2024 has been an extraordinary year for the Branch, marked by the continued growth and success of our Community Hub in the heart of Chester-le-Street. Since its launch in July 2023, the Hub has become a cornerstone of our operations, serving as a vital space for promoting animal welfare, engaging with the local community, and generating essential income through both in-store and online retail.

Over the past 12 months, the Hub has proven to be a highly successful source of income, enabling us to invest further in our mission. By prioritising brand networking, the Branch has tapped into invaluable expertise within the retail sector. These connections have allowed us to implement innovative strategies aimed at boosting sales and raising brand awareness, ensuring the Hub remains a thriving part of our community. Alongside its role as a retail space, the Hub continues to serve as a base for our activities, offering opportunities to expand our reach through educational events, pet wellbeing advice, and workshops. Notably, discussions began in 2024 to host community events with a focus on sustainability, such as craft workshops, which we hope to deliver in the coming year.

Our Pet Food Bank remains a lifeline for many, with over 300 pets fed through the service in 2024. We are especially grateful to the North Tees Branch for their generous donation, which will allow us to sustain the scheme for several months. This collaboration highlights the power of working together to address community needs and support animal welfare.

In addition to cementing the Hub's success and maintaining core welfare provisions, we've made significant strides in other areas. A key focus this year has been strengthening our brand through successful networking and partnerships with local businesses. These efforts have paved the way for new initiatives, such as trialling vet clinics, free microchipping events, and a series of highly successful fundraising activities. Our summer Duck Race, held in collaboration with The Cluny and Newcastle Branch, was a delightful community event, while our Christmas Ball was a phenomenal success, providing much-needed funds to extend our Branch's impact as we head into another challenging year.

Animal welfare remains at the heart of our mission, with a strong focus on preventing pet relinquishment and empowering local pet owners. In 2024, we took significant steps to enhance our educational offerings by hosting the first in a planned series of seminars in the Hub. These seminars, delivered in partnership with animal behaviour and welfare experts, are designed to equip pet owners with valuable techniques and knowledge. We were also proud to welcome ITV This Morning to the Hub for a live appearance, showcasing our pet food bank and building national awareness of our work. Additionally, we entered discussions with the National Society education teams to host workshops in 2025 for foster parents and young people in foster care. These workshops will focus on animal interaction, safety, empathy, and compassion, underscoring our commitment to fostering kindness in the community.

As we reflect on the successes of 2024, we are inspired to build on this momentum. Our dedication to expanding services, strengthening community ties, and improving the welfare of animals across the region remains steadfast. We look forward to continuing this vital work in the year ahead.

Kathryn Scott - Interim Chair

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and Aims

The objectives of the RSPCA are to prevent cruelty and promote kindness to animals, and to do all such lawful acts as the Society may consider being conducive or incidental to the attainment of those objectives. This applies to both the National RSPCA organisation (the 'National Society') and the Branch.

The work of the Branch focuses primarily on preventing pet relinquishment, raising awareness around, and educating our communities on the importance of animal welfare, companionship and kindness, and how human/animal relationships impact positively on mental wellbeing and community commonality.

We provide support toward the welfare of companion animals across Sunderland, Hartlepool & South Tyneside in the form of vouchers for neutering, microchipping and veterinary assistance.

Branch also provides advice and support to members of the public who may have concerns about their own animal or be concerned about an animal in need via phone and social media.

Where possible, the Branch delivers outreach and education activities to increase awareness of animal care and welfare issues and to promote the work of the National Society. With the launch of our pet wellbeing seminar work opening with a desensitisation workshop in 2024, plans are now in place to resume and build on our outreach and education activities in 2025. Our aim is to increase our presence within the local community via a more "hands-on" approach, offering practical events, advice and support that focuses on supporting and empowering our local community of pet owners - particularly those facing financial strain throughout the cost of living crisis.

Our ambition is to help keep families and their beloved pets together and to empower our community of pet owners.

The charity actively supports the National Society and the local Inspectorate to provide additional support and treatment to both domestic and, where requested, wild animals.

Neutering, Microchipping & Welfare Support

Neutering is a key welfare activity that prevents unwanted litters, resulting in neglect and abandonment, and provides many health benefits for the animal. The Branch has continued to offer subsidised neutering to pet owners in our area who are on low incomes and might otherwise be unable to afford this procedure. In June 2024, a new law came into force, wherein all owners must have their cat microchipped as a legal requirement. Owners found not to have microchipped their cat will have 21 days to have one implanted, or may face a fine of up to £500.

With this new legislation in place, our branch held a number of free microchipping days across our branch catchment. Throughout the year, via these clinics, cross-branch or frontline contributions, and our regular voucher scheme, we supported the microchipping of 223 cats in total. An increase on 2023 of approx. 233%

We also introduced our Branch-funded veterinary clinics in partnership with Vets on The Meowve. We held three clinics between July and August 2024, covering Sunderland, Hartlepool and South Shields, and reached over 90 animals in need of veterinary attention.

The aim of the clinics is to target the increasing need for accessible and affordable vet care for those who are struggling to meet costs and therefore unable to seek the appropriate treatments for their pets. The clinics offer a stepping stone for pet owners to be professionally advised in a veterinary clinic, and include discounted treatment options from our vet partners to help support the appropriate welfare needs of our local animals.

The clinics were very successful, and outcomes led to treatments being assigned, and (in some cases) follow-up appointments being booked.

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

End of year welfare figures 2024:

In 2024, Branch supported a total of 191 neuters (2023: 155), microchipped 223 animals (2023: 67) and provided other welfare services to 125 (2023: 75) animals in our area, an overall increase in welfare provided from the previous year.

We work in partnership with the inspectorate to provide welfare support to animals from our Branch area that they interact with. Branch contributions to animal welfare via this route are as follows:

Dog neuter	Cat Neuter	Rabbit Neuter	Dog Welfare	Cat Welfare	Other Welfare	Microchips
6	50	4	6	27	0	18

Branch also administers a scheme to support pet owners on low incomes who are unable to meet the costs of care. Branch contributions to those animals is as follows:

Dog Neuter	Cat Neuter	Other Neuter	Dog Welfare	Cat Welfare	Microchips
78	49	4	51	31	209

And an additional 2 small mammals were supported under bench welfare also.

Pet Food Bank Project

In 2023 we embarked on a groundbreaking endeavour to address a pressing need within our Branch area, the establishment of a Pet Food Bank Initiative. This initiative was conceived to provide crucial support to pet owners facing financial hardship, ensuring that they could continue to care for their beloved companions without the burden of food insecurity.

Throughout 2024, the demand for our Pet Food Bank service has steadily continued, reflecting the growing necessity of such services within our local community and Branch area. Throughout 2024, the pet food bank saw 112 returning service users, and 41 new applicants - serving a total of 366 pets.

Our Pet Food Bank service received an incredibly generous cash donation of £5000 from the RSPCA North Tees & District Branch in 2024 (which later merged with the Middlesbrough Branch). This amazing donation, for which we are so grateful, will support our pet food bank service for many months to come.

The significance of our Pet Food Bank Initiative cannot be overstated. Without this vital service, many pet owners within our Branch area would face the heartbreaking decision of relinquishing their pets due to financial constraints. By providing access to free pet food, we aim to alleviate this burden and preserve the bond between pets and their owners.

In summary, our Pet Food Bank Initiative stands as a beacon of compassion and support within our community. Through the collective efforts of donors, volunteers and employees we remain committed to safeguarding the welfare of pets and their owners, ensuring that no family has to face the prospect of separation due to economic hardship.

Animals supported via our pet food bank in 2024 (366 total):

Dogs	Cats	Rabbits	Other
197	167	1	1 (bird)

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Welfare Spend 2024

				Contribution towards animals in the care of separate RSPCA charities
Neuters	Microchipping	Welfare	Food Bank	
£10,174	£795	£5,315	£593	£2,742

Future Welfare Budget Changes for 2025

At the close of the year, having evaluated finances and outcomes of the branch scope of service, a decision was agreed by the board of trustees to reallocate lesser used funds, or areas where funding could reach a higher number of animals elsewhere.

Our strategy for 2025 is to keep the same expenditure for animal welfare targets, but to increase the number of animals supported within that budget. We will therefore be ending our contributions to neighbouring, National Animal Centres, or boarding establishments used by neighbouring branches. This decision was not made lightly. We have been very proud to support our neighbouring RSPCA charities over the last few years, and will always keep communications open for any ad hoc support they may request.

However, due to our Branch's current financial status, we believe that a new, community-targeted approach (through which a greater number of animals can be supported) will better reflect our charitable objectives as a small, independent charity. This approach will help to prevent pet relinquishment within our community, and therefore will still help to relieve strain on neighbouring RSPCA boarding establishments. Our main goal is to better support those in our community who rely on our services - particularly with the rise in cost of veterinary care.

This is why we will be using reassigned funds to increase the number of veterinary clinics across our branch area. We propose one clinic per month, reaching at least 15 to 20 animals per clinic.

As a tangible example of the reasons behind our decision, in 2024, funds contributed by our charity towards neighbouring animal boarding branches or national centres totalled at £2,742.71, from which we supported 34 animals (the majority of which was allocated to neutering, or one-off treatments such as dental work).

The same amount of funding could cover four to five veterinary clinics, reaching approximately 75-80 animals for a range of health concerns - an increase in reach of approx. 120%

Our public neutering scheme, and agreed voucher system with the RSPCA frontlines will remain as is.

We greatly value our collaborations and relationships with neighbouring branches and centres, and will always strive to keep an open dialogue and network of support with them in any way we are able.

Rehoming

The Branch does not currently offer a rehoming service. As we continue an open dialogue with neighbouring RSPCA Branches and local animal charities, our plans to help relieve the strain on frontlines and rehoming centres (i.e. discussions around facilitating a Home to Home service, where possible) are to be investigated and actioned, as appropriate in 2025. While we opened discussion about new ways to rehome in 2024, Branch does not currently have the appropriate resources to carry out any new schemes in this area.

Education

This year, we held our first of a planned series of seminars open to the public. With leadership from our Welfare Officer Trustee, Jackie, we focused on techniques for supporting desensitisation in our pets - with emphasis on strategies to combat fireworks season. The event was a great success, and we hope to host more in 2025. At the end of this year, we opened a dialogue with the National RSPCA Education team. As a result of these discussions, with their support, Branch plans to host a number of animal welfare and pet-interaction workshops targeted at foster parents and young people in foster care.

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Brand Awareness & Networking

Our strategy for 2024 included a new vision for brand awareness, with an overarching aim to increase visibility, raise awareness of our Branch and to increase opportunities for income and partnerships through relationships with neighbouring businesses.

Our key message: **we are small, local and independent.**

Outcomes: Through our networking in 2024, we met and acquired a new trustee, received £900 worth of digital communications strategy support, in kind, received over £1700 from a business raffle, sold five individual tickets for our Christmas ball, amounting to £400 and received an additional donation of £250. Connections made and relationships built also resulted in a £500 pledge for clinic sponsorship, and venue partnership for a summer Dog Show in 2025.

We have made some invaluable contacts and business connections through our networking efforts in 2024: local, reputable and influential members of our community who now know us and understand our branch and objectives. If we were to put a monetary value on networking for 2024, Branch invested £264 but gained at least £3,750 via either in-kind support, or direct donations.

Branch Roles

Within this section of the trustee's report, we aim to shed light on a vital component of our charity's operations: the indispensable role played by our salaried employees. While our welfare figures often focus on tangible metrics and financial indicators, it's crucial to recognise the invaluable contributions of our dedicated team. Despite not being directly quantified within our financial assessments, the efforts of our salaried employees are foundational to the success and efficacy of our Branch's animal welfare initiatives. In this narrative, we'll delve into why these individuals are essential to our charity's mission and how their commitment ensures the realisation of our welfare goals.

The administrative roles within our Branch are not simply about paperwork and logistics; they form the beating heart of our commitment to animal welfare and community outreach. Anchored by a dedicated team of two full-time administrators, our Branch's administrative efforts extend beyond the confines of traditional (and yet still essential) office tasks.

At the helm of our day-to-day operations, these roles orchestrate the functioning of every facet of our Branch, from managing financial records and staff training to forecasting future endeavours, and reporting on our progress. However, their roles exist through a shared passion to achieve one common goal, a better world for local animals.

With a finger on the pulse of our community, our administrators serve as the first point of contact for enquiries and assistance across multiple communication channels, ensuring that every query is met with compassion and expertise. Through their unwavering dedication, they provide invaluable support to our local community, offering guidance, resources, and connections to those in need.

But their impact goes even further. From orchestrating fundraising campaigns to planning and executing awareness events, our administrators are the driving force behind our financial sustainability and outreach efforts. Alongside our board of trustees, our admin team goes above and beyond towards every successful endeavour, working tirelessly to amplify our message and broaden our reach.

Moreover, their role in animal welfare cannot be overstated. From facilitating access to essential services such as neutering and microchipping to liaising directly with veterinary professionals and frontline responders, our administrative team is an essential part of the work carried out towards supporting local animals and pet-owners within the community. Through initiatives like free pet-care clinics, microchipping events, pet wellbeing seminars, advice drop-in services and operating a pet food bank, they strive for a community where no animal is left behind in our mission to create a safer, more compassionate world.

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In essence, the administrative work undertaken by our Branch is not just essential; it is the very foundation upon which our charitable aspirations and community-centric values stand. It is through dedication, expertise, and unwavering commitment that we are able to realise our vision of a world where every animal is cherished and every community supported.

The Branch has three part-time retail employees who oversee the day-to-day running of our charity shop and online selling platforms. We would like to highlight the immense value that our retail employees bring to our charity. At the heart of our operations lies our retail hub, serving not only as a vital source of income but also as a beacon of community engagement and support. Central to the flourishing of our retail endeavours are the dedicated individuals who form our retail team. Without their unwavering commitment and enthusiasm, our retail initiatives would struggle to thrive.

Our charity shop stands not just as a place of commerce, but as a nexus of social impact. The significance of our retail hub extends far beyond financial transactions; it represents a platform for fostering positive change within our community. Through the tireless efforts of our retail employees, we witness a tangible social return on investment. This is measured not only by the revenue generated but also by the immeasurable improvements in people's wellbeing and mental health.

By creating a space where individuals can contribute through donations and volunteering, our charity shop becomes a conduit for empowerment and fulfilment. Each purchase made and every item donated contributes to a sense of collective good, enriching the lives of both donors and recipients alike. Moreover, our commitment to sustainability is echoed through the promotion of pre-loved items, reducing waste and championing environmental stewardship.

None of these achievements would be possible without the caring and friendly demeanour of our retail team. Their dedication goes beyond mere transactions; it embodies the ethos of our charity, fostering connections, and making a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve. In this report, we delve deeper into the multifaceted impact of our retail employees and celebrate their invaluable contributions to our charity's mission.

Public benefit

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

Under the Charities Act 2011, the advancement of animal welfare is recognised as a distinct statutory charitable purpose. This legislation and the Animal Welfare Act of 2006 indicates an acceptance by society that treating living creatures with compassion has a moral benefit for the public as a whole. Whilst this public benefit is clear, it is sometimes difficult to quantify and must be balanced against any detriment.

Within the terms of our governing document, we support the National Society and the local Inspectorate by providing vouchers for neutering to be issued by the Inspectors to members of the public in greatest need. We respond to enquiries from the public about animals locally. The public benefits from knowing that we can intervene to assist animals in need.

We provide subsidised veterinary services through a voucher scheme that provides treatment for sick or injured animals belonging to local people on low incomes. 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 continue to provide subsidised neutering and microchipping of companion animals for those in the Branch area on low incomes. This work helps to control dog, cat, rabbit and ferret populations through neutering, and benefits those on means tested benefits by giving them financial assistance, and also promotes responsible pet ownership.

We provide a range of volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work. This benefits local people and companies through offering work experience and the chance to develop new skills which are rewarding to the volunteers and enables us to inform others of our work and increase compassion towards animals.

We also engage and educate the public by holding events within our Branch area and online through our website and social media accounts.

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Volunteers

Throughout 2023 and into 2024, our organisation was fortunate to retain several outstanding volunteers who made significant contributions to our mission. As we approached the end of 2024, we successfully recruited a dedicated volunteer coordinator who has been instrumental in onboarding new volunteers and developing innovative strategies for ongoing recruitment. Our volunteer coordinator and the passionate individuals who dedicate their time and energy to our branch are invaluable assets.

We have onboarded three new volunteer trustees, who bring diverse expertise and enthusiasm to our branch. We are grateful for their commitment to our cause and look forward to working together to advance our mission.

In December 2024, our esteemed long-standing trustee Jackie Lewis stepped down from the board. Her dedication and extensive knowledge in animal welfare have been integral to our branch's growth and success, and she will be sorely missed. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Jackie for her many years of service and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

Currently, we are actively seeking to expand our volunteer base by recruiting an online sales volunteer to support our income generation efforts and a volunteer driver to assist with delivering pet food from our pet food bank. These roles will help us increase our welfare reach and make an even greater impact in the community.

Looking forward, we are committed to fostering a supportive and engaging environment for our volunteers, empowering them to make a difference in the lives of animals and pet owners in need.

To all our volunteers, past, present, and future, we extend our heartfelt appreciation. Your dedication fuels our passion, and your commitment propels our impact. Together, we are a force for positive change in the lives of animals and the community we serve.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Performance

The Branch ended 2024 with a net deficit of £25,919 (2023: net deficit of £81,231). This is a much lower deficit than in 2023, which is excellent news and reflects the ongoing drive to raise funds. The retail performance realised in 2024 exceeded 2023's performance, and we are confident that this trend will continue into 2025.

Expenditure on animal welfare activity in 2024 totalled £20,271 (2023: £18,639). Included in this figure are microchipping, neutering, welfare treatments (including payments to Vets on the Meowve) and costs for purchasing food for the pet food bank.

Funding Sources

The Branch receives an annual award from the National Society which is a proportion of the funds they raise through the door-to-door collections. In 2024 this amounted to £21,816 (2023: £23,094).

We also receive donations made directly to the Branch and from our membership subscriptions. We are grateful for all donations generously made, including a number of supporters who make regular donations, as well as donations made via Paypal Giving Fund, Justgiving, Payroll giving and from supporters kindly holding fundraisers for our cause. We were also kindly gifted £5,000 from another Branch for the pet food bank. The total of all these donations to Branch and the associated Gift Aid from resale increased from £5,400 in 2023 to £17,375 in 2024.

Legacies

We were fortunate to receive a total of £9,799 of legacies during 2024, which is a fantastic increase on the previous year (£1,388).

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

Retail Operations and Impact

Our charity retail shop on Chester-Le-Street Front Street serves as our organisation's primary source of regular income. The shop, however, is more than just a retail space; it is a vibrant community hub that provides help, advice, and hosts pet-related seminars. Additionally, it houses our pet food bank, further solidifying its importance to the local community.

This year, our charity shop generated an impressive income of £69,012.86, enabling us to reach more animals through various welfare projects. We are immensely grateful for the dedication and hard work of our retail team and volunteers, who continuously strive to maximise the shop's potential.

In our ongoing pursuit of increasing retail income, we recognise the need to bolster our online sales presence. Consequently, we are actively seeking a volunteer online sales assistant to help drive this growth and expand our reach beyond the local community.

As we move forward, we remain committed to enhancing our retail operations, both in-store and online, to ensure that we can continue to support and impact the lives of animals and pet owners in need. With the ongoing support of our community, volunteers, and staff, we are confident in our ability to further increase our retail income and achieve even greater success in the future.

Online Sales

In April 2024, our branch experienced a significant change with the departure of our online sales lead. This transition presented us with challenges, but our dedicated team rose to the occasion to ensure that our online presence remained strong. We are immensely grateful for their collective effort and commitment to maintaining this vital aspect of our operations.

Despite the absence of a dedicated individual overseeing online sales, our collaborative efforts have yielded an impressive income of £9,167.21 in 2024. This accomplishment demonstrates the resilience and adaptability of our team, which continues to work together to drive our organisation's success.

Moving forward, we recognize the importance of filling this critical role to further enhance our online sales performance. We are actively seeking a new volunteer to take on the responsibilities of our online sales lead and help us optimise our digital presence. With the support of this dedicated individual, we are confident that our online sales will continue to thrive and contribute significantly to our overall mission.

Fundraising

The Branch participated in the National RSPCA's annual 'One Fun Day' in June, where we teamed up with the Newcastle Branch and The Cluny, and held a charity duck race. From funds raised (once Newcastle Branch took their share), we raised a whopping £1497.72 for the branch.

Our team also applied for a few successful grants in 2024, which included:

Catherine Cookson Foundation: £500
Animal Friends Pet Insurance: £1,483
Barbour Foundation: £1,500

We also held our biggest fundraiser of the year, our 2024 Christmas Ball. This was an incredible event, enjoyed immensely by all 100 guests. We successfully raised a grand total (after expenses) of: £4,466.20 - An absolutely incredible result.

Part of the overall total for our Christmas Ball Fundraiser was from a very kind raffle hosted by the Durham Business Club.

Capitalising on our Community Hub, fundraising activities were held within the charity shop throughout 2024, including raffles, tombolas, 'guess the dog name' competitions, first birthday celebrations, and festive dog treat sales. We also partnered with the Chester-le-Street Business Association and held a Santa's Grotto in December, which was a free event for local families. However, donations were accepted on the day.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

Branch Financial Plan

The Branch's financial strategy continues to focus on increasing the amount spent directly on welfare (including the food bank) through undertaking a number of targeted campaigns and projects and bolstering Branch income streams to avoid any over-reliance on any single stream or legacies.

Branch Reserves Policy

The policy of the Trustees is to have at least 12 months running costs in unrestricted reserves to ensure that our work can continue in a managed way should the income reduce significantly for any particular reason.

The Branch ended 2024 with £168,099 in unrestricted reserves (a decrease of £29,642 from £197,741 in 2023), which, based on average expenditure in 2024 equates to 12.5 months reserves.

Going Concern

The Charity is not being wound up and it is considered to be a going concern.

Governance

Our body of trustees has again remained relatively constant throughout the year with one new trustee coming on board. However, the need to recruit new trustees to broaden the skills base of the board of trustees remains a priority in 2025 and the focus will be on seeking candidates with legal, financial, fundraising, and animal welfare skills and knowledge.

Thank You

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped the Branch in any way, however big or small. We are incredibly grateful for your continued support.

We would like to thank our members, neighbours and our local community for their amazing kindness and generosity this year as we embarked on the opening of our Community Hub. Your encouragement, support and feedback has been absolutely incredible, and we simply would not be where we are today without your support.

Thanks to our team of volunteers, including our trustees, who always make a hugely valuable contribution to the Branch and have supported its work during difficult times.

We would like to dedicate a very special and heart-felt thank you to the late David Entwisle who served as a devoted trustee for the Branch for 16 years. His generosity, expertise and friendship to the Branch and its members was second to none, and he is very much missed. His legacy will live on through the work and dedication of the Branch in helping to make a better world for local animals.

We would also like to thank neighbouring Branches for accepting animals from our Branch area. The cooperation between Branches is an invaluable source of resilience and brings a huge benefit to the animals who enter our care.

Thanks must go to our colleagues in the National Society, especially those we work most closely with: the staff at Great Ayton and Felledge Animal Centres and the Northumbria, Durham and Cleveland Inspectorate Groups who, despite significant challenges in resourcing and operations have worked tirelessly and with great passion to rescue and care for animals in need. Thank you to our Branch Partnership Manager, Sarah Mason for providing guidance and encouragement in all that Branch has done throughout the year.

Thanks go to all of the veterinary practitioners who have assisted us in our work throughout 2024, your continued support and generosity are very much appreciated.

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FUTURE PLANS

As we look forward to 2025, our focus will be on developing several key areas of activity with the aim of significantly enhancing our services and income.

We aim to increase our education activity, as well as our community outreach projects (funded vet clinics and pet food bank) - schemes which allow us to help and care for a higher number of animals within the same budget than in previous years, due to a strategic, more focused, reallocation of funds.

We hope to strengthen our volunteer numbers (including our board of trustees, who remain an integral part of our charitable objectives), to bolster our core messaging, sharing real stories from within our community that evidence the true impact our work has on our local animals.

And, as we build on the strong foundation of local community and business partnerships that the branch has created throughout 2024, we will continue to work tirelessly to create a better, kinder community for our animals and pet owners.

Maximising Online Sales

We recognise the potential of online sales as a significant and reliable revenue stream. Our strategy includes expanding our e-commerce platform to reach a broader audience. By leveraging digital marketing techniques and optimising our website for search engines, we aim to increase traffic and sales. Work in this area will not only generate much-needed income but will also increase our visibility and engagement with the community.

Strengthening Income and Engagement through the Community Hub

Our community hub has proven to be an invaluable asset, providing opportunities to foster strong relationships with local residents and providing a venue for various activities and services. We continue to build on this success by enhancing our retail offerings and creating a more dynamic and engaging shopping experience. Furthermore, we have successfully made use of the full space of the hub for engagements and fundraising including collaborative meetings, seminars, events and workshops.

Expanding Animal Welfare Activity

Animal welfare remains at the heart of our mission. As we look ahead to 2025, our charity is committed to enhancing the welfare of pets in our local community through a series of impactful initiatives.

Our assisted neutering and microchipping scheme remains in place, as a consistent offer of support to those in our community who face financial struggle. In line with RSPCA values, we are committed to advocating for pet neutering, to reduce unwanted pregnancies, reduce the strain on animal shelters, educate our pet-owning community members, and promote pet wellbeing.

We are looking forward to introducing a comprehensive education plan, which will focus on three, key areas:

- Animal health & wellbeing
- Responsible pet ownership
- Preventing incidents of animal cruelty for children in care

To further support the health and well-being of pets in our local area, we are aiming to offer free health check clinics in collaboration with a local vet and/or vet nurse, each month throughout 2025. These clinics will provide health assessments, access routes to the correct treatment, education and general health advice. By offering these services free of charge, we aim to ensure that all pets receive the necessary care to stay healthy and happy.

RSPCA SUNDERLAND, HARTLEPOOL & SOUTH TYNESIDE BRANCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

We are also pleased to announce the continuation of our pet food bank initiative throughout 2025, and have plans to expand the project by delivering pet food supplies to operational food banks across Sunderland, Hartlepool & South Tyneside, with the support of volunteer drivers. This vital program ensures that no pet goes hungry by providing free pet food to anyone in our Branch area who are unable to meet the cost of pet food in the uncertain financial climate. Our pet food bank has been a lifeline for many pet owners facing financial difficulties, ensuring their beloved pets remain well-nourished and healthy. In the coming year, we will be expanding our pet food bank services to reach even more of our Branch area. Our goal is to alleviate the burden on pet owners who may be struggling to afford pet food, thereby supporting the overall well-being of their pets and preventing pet relinquishment.

Our commitment to these initiatives reflects our ongoing dedication to improving animal welfare in our community. We believe that by providing these services and educational opportunities, we can make a significant difference in the lives of both pets and their owners. We look forward to a successful year ahead, working together with our local community to achieve these goals.

Boosting Income through Fundraising Events, Grants, and Donors

To support our ongoing efforts, we will intensify our fundraising activities. This includes hosting a variety of events designed to engage and inspire our supporters, from charity runs and gala dinners to community fairs and online crowdfunding campaigns. Fundraising through events and sponsorships will continue to be explored as potential income streams in 2025. Our 2024 Christmas ball was so well received (and successful), we will be hosting another Winter ball in 2025. We will also be hosting a Dog Show with our corporate partner, Lumley Castle, and will be hosting our second Rubber Duck race with the Cluny, in collaboration with the Newcastle branch in the summer. These events will bring in much needed funds to support the ongoing welfare activities.

Additionally, we will seek out grants and build relationships with donors who share our commitment to animal welfare. Our goal is to diversify our income streams and ensure a stable financial foundation for our operations.

Ensuring Continued Growth and Community Support

The growth of our Branch is essential to our ability to support animal welfare and pet ownership in the local area. We will focus on expanding our volunteer base, increasing our membership, and fostering partnerships with local businesses and organisations. By doing so, we will enhance our capacity to serve the community, provide more services, and make a lasting impact on animal welfare.

In conclusion, our future plans are designed to maximise our financial stability, enhance our services including welfare provision, and deepen our engagement with the community. Through these efforts, we are confident that we can continue to grow and make a meaningful difference in the lives of animals and pet owners in our area.

Supporting the Inspectorate

We will continue to work closely with the National Society and the regional Inspectorate teams to identify the best ways that Branch can continue to support animals identified as a priority. Branch plans to do this through providing financial assistance to animals from our Branch area who are being supported or boarded via our frontline teams.

Branch will explore opportunities which may alleviate some of the frontline pressures, and pressures on rehoming facilities by offering a new initiative and approach to rehoming activities which may be practical without the use of an animal centre.

Education and outreach

We will continue to focus on delivering a range of educational events for all ages in 2025. This will include activities such as educational pet care seminars and the delivery of advice on welfare matters to community members to ensure people have the skills and knowledge to care for and help pets and other animals.

**RSPCA SUNDERLAND, HARTLEPOOL & SOUTH
TYNESIDE BRANCH**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

Longer-term goals

Our long-term goals include implementing fundraising strategies that may allow us, in the future, to obtain our own veterinary clinic vehicle and/or animal boarding facility. This is a long journey. In the meantime, we will continue to do everything we can to find new ways to expand our positive impact on animal welfare.

GOVERNANCE

Our body of trustees has again remained relatively constant throughout the year with one new trustee coming on board. However, the need to recruit new trustees to broaden the skills base of the board of trustees remains a priority in 2025 and the focus will be on seeking candidates with legal, financial, fundraising, and animal welfare skills and knowledge.

THANK YOU

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped the Branch in any way, however big or small. We are incredibly grateful for your continued support.

We would like to thank our members, neighbours and our local community for their amazing kindness and generosity this year as we embarked on the opening of our Community Hub. Your encouragement, support and feedback has been absolutely incredible, and we simply would not be where we are today without your support.

Thanks to our team of volunteers, including our trustees, who always make a hugely valuable contribution to the Branch and have supported its work during difficult times.

We would like to thank neighbouring Branches for accepting animals from our Branch area. The cooperation between Branches is an invaluable source of resilience and brings a huge benefit to the animals who enter our care.

A special thank you goes out to the North Tees Branch, who made an incredibly kind donation to help support our pet food bank initiative.

Thanks must go to our colleagues in the National Society, especially those we work most closely with: the staff at Great Ayton and Felledge Animal Centres and the Northumbria, Durham and Cleveland Inspectorate Groups who, despite significant challenges in resourcing and operations have worked tirelessly and with great passion to rescue and care for animals in need. Thank you to our Branch Partnership Manager, Sarah Mason for providing guidance and encouragement in all that Branch has done throughout the year.

Thanks go to all of the veterinary practitioners who have assisted us in our work throughout 2024, your continued support and generosity are very much appreciated.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The Charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes an unincorporated charity. The Incorporation of the Board of Trustees was made on the 20th of July 2016.

**RSPCA SUNDERLAND, HARTLEPOOL & SOUTH
TYNESIDE BRANCH**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees

The Branch is governed by a committee of trustees. The number of Trustees should be not less than five, but subject to a maximum of fourteen. Trustees are recruited from amongst our membership and elected at the AGM. Up to three trustees may be co-opted to the committee at any time.

Potential new trustees may be identified through enquiries made directly to the Branch where trusteeship is given as a potential interest and Branch also advertises vacancies via our website and social media channels and, as well as job websites and through volunteer centres to attract applicants from a variety of backgrounds. If not already members of the Branch, volunteers are asked to join and wait the required 3 month qualification period.

Applicants are assessed for suitability by the existing trustees: an informal meeting is arranged with one or more trustees and, if suitable, the applicant is invited to attend a number of committee meetings as a visitor. If they feel they are able to fulfil the duties of a trustee and that the role is a good fit for them, they may either be elected at the AGM or co-opted if a position is available.

New Trustees attend an induction course and are given a Trustee induction pack, The Charity Commission's Essential Trustee document, RSPCA "Guidance for Branch Trustees" and the "Branch and RSPCA Rules" to assist them in fulfilling their duties.

Organisational Structure

The RSPCA Sunderland, Hartlepool & South Tyneside Branch is a separately registered charity. It does, however, comply with the Rules and Guidelines issued by the National Society of the RSPCA and works tirelessly to achieve the Society's objectives throughout the Branch area.

At the end of 2024, the Branch had one premises in Chester le Street which houses the Branch office, ebay store, events space and charity shop, and from where all employees are based.

Risk Management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Charity is exposed. The trustees continually review the risks and systems which are in place to minimise them. Both external and internal risks are reviewed to ensure that they meet the needs of the charity.

Going Concern

The Charity is not being wound up and it is considered to be a going concern.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

232265

Principal address

19 Front Street
Chester le Street
Durham
DH3 3BQ

Trustees

J Lewis (resigned 1/12/2024)
J Dobbie
C Gilpin
R Furness (resigned 20/3/2025)
V Darroch (resigned 14/6/2024)
K Scott (appointed 27/11/2024)
J Eland (appointed 27/11/2024)
P Collins (appointed 27/11/2024)

RSPCA SUNDERLAND, HARTLEPOOL & SOUTH
TYNESIDE BRANCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent Examiner

Lesley Stabler BA(Hons) FCCA
RMT Ribchesters
Accountants and Business Advisors
Finchale House
Belmont Business Park
Durham
DH1 1TW

Bankers

(From September 2018)
Handlesbanken PLC
43 Old Elvet
Durham
DH1 3HN

09 July 2025

Approved by order of the board of trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:

.....0BD030A7BA17423.....
K Scott - Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
RSPCA SUNDERLAND, HARTLEPOOL & SOUTH
TYNESIDE BRANCH**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of RSPCA Sunderland, Hartlepool & South Tyneside Branch

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of RSPCA Sunderland, Hartlepool & South Tyneside Branch (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed by:

Lesley Stabler

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Lesley Stabler BA(Hons) FCCA

RMT Ribchesters
Accountants and Business Advisors
Finchale House
Belmont Business Park
Durham
DH1 1TW

16 July 2025

Date:

**RSPCA SUNDERLAND, HARTLEPOOL & SOUTH
TYNESIDE BRANCH**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	43,381	5,000	48,381	30,770
Other trading activities	3	87,386	-	87,386	28,102
Investment income	4	9,585	-	9,585	7,338
Total		<u>140,352</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>145,352</u>	<u>66,210</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		5,865	-	5,865	-
Charitable activities					
Animal welfare		164,149	1,277	165,426	147,248
Education project		-	-	-	233
Total		<u>170,014</u>	<u>1,277</u>	<u>171,291</u>	<u>147,481</u>
Net gains on investments		<u>20</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>40</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(29,642)	3,723	(25,919)	(81,231)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>197,741</u>	<u>683</u>	<u>198,424</u>	<u>279,655</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>168,099</u></u>	<u><u>4,406</u></u>	<u><u>172,505</u></u>	<u><u>198,424</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**RSPCA SUNDERLAND, HARTLEPOOL & SOUTH
TYNESIDE BRANCH**

**BALANCE SHEET
31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	8	2,910	-	2,910	3,313
Investments	9	185	-	185	165
		<u>3,095</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,095</u>	<u>3,478</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	7,632	-	7,632	9,208
Cash at bank and in hand		160,841	4,406	165,247	192,441
		<u>168,473</u>	<u>4,406</u>	<u>172,879</u>	<u>201,649</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(3,469)	-	(3,469)	(6,703)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>165,004</u>	<u>4,406</u>	<u>169,410</u>	<u>194,946</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>168,099</u>	<u>4,406</u>	<u>172,505</u>	<u>198,424</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>168,099</u>	<u>4,406</u>	<u>172,505</u>	<u>198,424</u>
FUNDS	13				
Unrestricted funds				168,099	197,741
Restricted funds				4,406	683
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>172,505</u>	<u>198,424</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 09 July 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:

 0BD000A7BA47423.....
 K Scott - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

RSPCA SUNDERLAND, HARTLEPOOL & SOUTH TYNESIDE BRANCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings	- 20% on cost
Motor vehicles	- 25% on cost
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

RSPCA SUNDERLAND, HARTLEPOOL & SOUTH
TYNESIDE BRANCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basis Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basis financial assets

Basis financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basis financial liabilities

Basis financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations	8,283	5,294
Legacies	9,799	1,388
Grants	8,483	994
Door to Door income	21,816	23,094
	<u>48,381</u>	<u>30,770</u>

**RSPCA SUNDERLAND, HARTLEPOOL & SOUTH
TYNESIDE BRANCH**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES - continued

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Headquarters	5,000	994
Catherine Cookson Foundation	500	-
Animal Friends Pet Insurance	1,483	-
Barbour Foundation	1,500	-
	<u>8,483</u>	<u>994</u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fundraising events	6,879	-
Shop income	80,507	28,102
	<u>87,386</u>	<u>28,102</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2024	2023
	£	£
Deposit account interest	6,553	6,942
Gift Aid	3,032	396
	<u>9,585</u>	<u>7,338</u>

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2024 nor for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2024 nor for the year ended 31 December 2023.

6. STAFF COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	102,776	72,694
Social security costs	(1,425)	2,526
Other pension costs	1,592	1,257
	<u>102,943</u>	<u>76,477</u>

Key management personnel received remuneration of £12,408 (2022: £32,015) in the year.

**RSPCA SUNDERLAND, HARTLEPOOL & SOUTH
TYNESIDE BRANCH**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

6. STAFF COSTS - continued

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
Branch manager	-	1
Administration	2	2
Retail	4	3
	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

7. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	30,770	-	30,770
Other trading activities	28,102	-	28,102
Investment income	7,338	-	7,338
Total	<u>66,210</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>66,210</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Animal welfare	147,248	-	147,248
Education project	-	233	233
Total	<u>147,248</u>	<u>233</u>	<u>147,481</u>
Net gains on investments	40	-	40
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(80,998)	(233)	(81,231)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	278,739	916	279,655
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>197,741</u>	<u>683</u>	<u>198,424</u>

**RSPCA SUNDERLAND, HARTLEPOOL & SOUTH
TYNESIDE BRANCH**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 January 2024	33,651	1,900	3,124	38,675
Disposals	-	(1,900)	-	(1,900)
At 31 December 2024	<u>33,651</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,124</u>	<u>36,775</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 January 2024	30,338	1,900	3,124	35,362
Charge for year	403	-	-	403
Eliminated on disposal	-	(1,900)	-	(1,900)
At 31 December 2024	<u>30,741</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,124</u>	<u>33,865</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 December 2024	<u>2,910</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,910</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>3,313</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,313</u>

9. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Listed investments £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 January 2024	165
Revaluations	20
At 31 December 2024	<u>185</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2024	<u>185</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>165</u>

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

Cost or valuation at 31 December 2024 is represented by:

	Listed investments £
Valuation in 2024	<u>185</u>

**RSPCA SUNDERLAND, HARTLEPOOL & SOUTH
TYNESIDE BRANCH**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other debtors	2,500	2,500
PAYE & NI debtor	-	670
VAT	182	-
Prepayments	4,950	6,038
	<u>7,632</u>	<u>9,208</u>

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	272	2,964
Taxation and social security	-	497
Other creditors	3,197	3,242
	<u>3,469</u>	<u>6,703</u>

12. LEASING AGREEMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Within one year	16,500	16,500
Between one and five years	5,500	22,000
	<u>22,000</u>	<u>38,500</u>

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.24	Net movement in funds	At 31.12.24
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	197,741	(29,642)	168,099
Restricted funds			
Educational material	683	(683)	-
Pet food bank	-	4,406	4,406
	<u>683</u>	<u>3,723</u>	<u>4,406</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>198,424</u>	<u>(25,919)</u>	<u>172,505</u>

**RSPCA SUNDERLAND, HARTLEPOOL & SOUTH
TYNESIDE BRANCH**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	140,352	(170,014)	20	(29,642)
Restricted funds				
Educational material	-	(683)	-	(683)
Pet food bank	5,000	(594)	-	4,406
	<u>5,000</u>	<u>(1,277)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,723</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>145,352</u>	<u>(171,291)</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>(25,919)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	278,739	(80,998)	197,741
Restricted funds			
Educational material	916	(233)	683
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>279,655</u>	<u>(81,231)</u>	<u>198,424</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	66,210	(147,248)	40	(80,998)
Restricted funds				
Educational material	-	(233)	-	(233)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>66,210</u>	<u>(147,481)</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>(81,231)</u>

**RSPCA SUNDERLAND, HARTLEPOOL & SOUTH
TYNESIDE BRANCH**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	278,739	(110,640)	168,099
Restricted funds			
Educational material	916	(916)	-
Pet food bank	-	4,406	4,406
	<u>916</u>	<u>3,490</u>	<u>4,406</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>279,655</u>	<u>(107,150)</u>	<u>172,505</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	206,562	(317,262)	60	(110,640)
Restricted funds				
Educational material	-	(916)	-	(916)
Pet food bank	5,000	(594)	-	4,406
	<u>5,000</u>	<u>(1,510)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,490</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>211,562</u>	<u>(318,772)</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>(107,150)</u>

14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

During the year a motor vehicle was sold to J Dobbie, a trustee of the charity, for £500 (2023: £nil).