

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS
Milton Keynes and Norths Bucks - Registered Charity No. 275415

Chair Statement:

A Year of Compassion and Future Growth for RSPCA Milton Keynes & North Buckingham Branch (2024)

As we present the 2024 end-of-year accounts, we reflect on another year of unwavering dedication and significant progress for the RSPCA Milton Keynes and North Buckingham Branch. As a charity committed to rescuing animals, our core mission remains resolute: to provide care, protection, and new beginnings for vulnerable animals throughout our community.

Our Impact in Numbers: Where Your Support Goes

Your generosity directly fuels our vital work. In 2024, our financial commitment to animal welfare was substantial.

A significant 45% of our funds were dedicated to veterinary fees. This critical investment covers essential treatments, surgeries, and emergency care for sick and injured animals; a testament to our proactive approach to animal health and wellbeing.

A considerable portion of our budget also went toward providing nutritious food and comfortable bedding for the animals in our care, ensuring every one of them has the essentials they need to feel safe and secure.

The remaining funds support crucial operational costs including utilities, transportation, and administrative support - all vital for keeping our branch running smoothly and efficiently.

These figures underscore the powerful impact of your donations. In 2024, we proudly carried out nearly 300 neuters and treatments and recorded 435 animal intakes, making us the third highest in the South Central RSPCA region. Despite our limited resources, we remain incredibly proud to uphold our unwavering ethos: **we never put a healthy animal down.**

Dedicated Teams Making a Difference

Our achievements are a direct result of the tireless efforts of our dedicated teams:

Our **Animal Coordinators** have been outstanding, not only managing the care and rehoming of our animals but also actively participating in welfare days. They've been out educating the public and promoting the crucial importance of neutering animals, making a real difference in preventing unwanted litters.

Our incredible **Trapping Team** consistently goes above and beyond, responding at a moment's notice to rescue cats and kittens in challenging situations. Their quick actions save countless lives.

The success of our three charity shops in Stony Stratford, Newport Pagnell, and New Bradwell is largely due to our amazing **Shop Managers**. They work tirelessly with their dedicated volunteers, keeping everything running smoothly and generating vital funds that cover the costs for rescuing,

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caring for, and rehoming animals. These shops are absolutely essential, as just our vet bills alone require us to raise £150,000 annually. We are profoundly grateful to the public for their continued generosity and support of these vital community hubs.

A special thank you goes to **Sally Jessop** for her tireless efforts in running our cattery. Her dedication ensures our feline residents receive exceptional care. Sally simply couldn't do it without the incredible team of cattery volunteers and staff, so a massive thank you to each and every one of them.

Equally, we extend a huge thank you to **Louise Norman**, who so generously houses all of our small animals. Her commitment and compassion are vital to the care and wellbeing of these often-overlooked creatures. Just like Sally, Louise's work is indispensable, and we are truly grateful for the safe haven she provides and the love she shows each animal in her care.

Community Engagement and Fundraising

Our commitment to the community extends beyond direct animal care. We actively engage with local supermarkets to facilitate public donation points, and the national RSPCA continues to support our **Food Bank initiative** providing much-needed direct support to the local community. We have also greatly benefited from donations of animal care supplies from both the community and local businesses.

In 2024, we held two major events: **Paws in the Park** and our **Christmas Fair**. A huge thank you and appreciation go to **Amy Bull** for her hard work and dedication in driving these events; we couldn't do them without her. We also attended several other local community events to raise awareness and attract new followers, supporters, and volunteers. Our aim at every event is to educate, provide support and advice, and raise vital funds.

Our fundraising efforts have also seen incredible support from individuals. Since our last AGM, many people have offered to raise funds on our behalf through sponsored silences, cake sales, sponsored walks, and runs, including marathons in Milton Keynes. A special mention to our supporter, **Sharon**, who raised an astounding **£2,555** by organising a sponsored skydive. MKFM has also created opportunities for us to raise money through their introductions, and we are hopeful of securing a grant this year to fund our kitten food requirements.

Looking ahead, we've secured spots in the **2026 MK Marathon**, through which we hope to expand our presence and raise vital funds.

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Corporate Partnerships and Volunteer Recruitment

We've received numerous requests from companies in and around Milton Keynes for corporate volunteer days. While accommodating these can be challenging without a public facility or dogs for walking, we've successfully collaborated with over five different companies on their one-day activities. Most of these were instrumental in the lead-up to the opening of our New Bradwell shop and in the mammoth task of preparing products and items for events. We're particularly looking forward to working with **BSI Group**, who have offered to spend a day at their offices creating a marketing and online strategy for us.

Since January, we've had over **100 individuals apply to volunteer** with us. We've onboarded a large number of people across social media and other administrative functions, helping to improve our processes. Our social media presence has also seen significant growth, with an increase of over **1,000 followers since June 2024**.

Acknowledging Transitions and Looking Forward

A significant change for the year was the transition in our leadership following the close of the 2024 year. We are now eagerly looking to the future with the appointment of two new Co-Chairpersons: **Zoe Cookson (effective from 25th May 2025)** and **Jayne Barclay (transitioning from her Treasurer Role)**. We share a strong vision to drive branch growth, aiming to expand our presence and capacity to care for even more animals in need within the local community. There is a substantial opportunity in Milton Keynes to grow our income streams and community reach. To strengthen our outreach and provide more focused support to our business areas, we have also created new trustee positions across Marketing, Personnel and Social Media. These additions will provide much-needed support to our branch.

Strengthening Financial Governance and Transparency

As part of our commitment to transparency and accountability, we feel it is important to acknowledge that the branch faced considerable challenges in aligning the systems and accounting in line with best practice. The state of the accounts inherited by the current Trustees required significant correction and reorganisation. A thorough review and clean-up of our financial records took place toward the end of 2024 and continued through the first half of 2025, with the goal of presenting an accurate and honest picture of the charity's operations and commitments.

To ensure long-term integrity and professionalism in our financial reporting, we are implementing robust new policies and procedures. Recruitment is also underway for experienced financial trustees who will help guide the branch with expertise and oversight. These measures will ensure that from 2025 onward, our financial operations are managed to the highest standards, reflective of the trust our supporters place in us.

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A Heartfelt Thank You

To everyone who supports the RSPCA Milton Keynes and North Buckingham Branch in so many ways – the public who donate directly, buy from our charity shops, support us at our events, and provide loving homes for the many animals rescued by the branch – **thank you.**

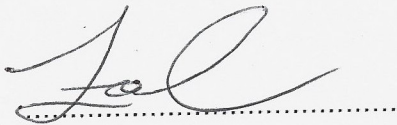
To our many wonderful **volunteers** who generously dedicate their time to support the branch, **thank you.**

To our **shop managers and staff**, who not only raise vital funds but also support their local communities and champion the amazing work of the branch, **thank you.**

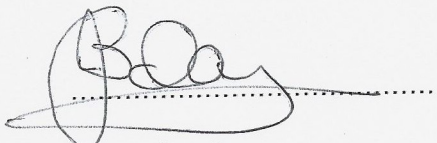
To our **animal coordinators**, who tirelessly look after and manage the care of all the animals the branch has rescued and rehomed, often going above and beyond to help animals in need, **thank you.**

Finally, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to our fellow **trustees** who continue to go above and beyond to ensure the branch moves forward. Your commitment and dedication are truly inspiring.

Together, we are making a tangible difference in the lives of countless animals. We look forward to another year of progress and impact, driven by our shared compassion.



Zoe Cookson
Co-Chair



Jayne Barclay
Co-Chair

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Trustees' Report

Our objectives and activities

Our Core Work and Public Benefit

The charity's primary objective is to support the national body, the RSPCA, in our designated area in Milton Keynes and North Buckinghamshire, in the prevention of cruelty to animals. Our main activities are animal rescue and re-homing, neutering services, welfare services and education.

A Sustainable RSPCA

Currently we have 3 retail shops which are the primary source of our income and ensure our reserves are at a sufficient level. We continue to be proactive with our recruitment of trustees and volunteers to create stability in our charity as well as having a breadth of experience to keep all our goals on track and delivered in an ethical manner.

Trustee's Statement of Responsibilities

The Trustees are legally required to prepare financial statements for each year and an Annual Report on the activities of the charity during the year. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with The Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2015 Financial Reporting Standard (FRS 102) which came into effect from 1 January 2015.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to: prepare accounts which represent a true and fair view; select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed; prepare the statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue to operate and prepare an assessment of the risks and opportunities.

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that proper accounting records are kept which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable Trustees to ensure that financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. The Trustees are also responsible for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities by the establishment of a system of internal controls.

RSPCA National Society

The RSPCA's statutory status, its internal rules and its branch rules regulate the relationship between the Society and the branches. The Milton Keynes and North Bucks branch is established as an unincorporated charitable association, but the RSPCA Council has powers to intervene in a branch's affairs in certain circumstances. Much of the RSPCA's direct animal welfare is carried out through its branches such as subsidised veterinary care and rehoming in their local areas. The national Society works closely with the RSPCA branches in delivering animal welfare aims and strategy and provides some financial and other support to the branches.

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Public Benefit

All charities in England and Wales have charitable aims that are based on providing public benefit and comply with the Charities Act 2011. The trustees pay due regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit. Preventing cruelty and promoting kindness to animals promotes humane sentiment in humans towards animals which gives a moral benefit to the human community as a whole.

Financial Risk Management

The charity is managing a portfolio of financial risks. The trustees identify new and monitor existing major risks in their quarterly meetings, consider their potential impact, and take appropriate actions to mitigate or manage such risks. As at 31st December 2024 the charity held £419,546 in cash including bank deposits in NS&I to minimise risk.

Financial Review

The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) on the following page reports a loss for the year of £17,925.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: accounting and reporting by charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Charities Act 2011 and the UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The year's financial performance shows a net movement of funds of £(17,925) compared to last year's 2023 net movement of £(32,439). The difference can be attributed to an increase in grants received from £4,669 (2023) to £22,482 (2024) along with a generous legacy of £9,000.

Costs across the charity have reduced due to the closure of the Bletchley Shop and the reduction in employee costs, whilst veterinary costs have increased due to the volume of animals treated. The charity's cash reserves have adjusted, reflecting the movement of funds.

None of the Branch's important animal welfare work would be possible without the hard work and dedication of volunteers, employees, members and supporters. The Trustees are very grateful to all involved.

Reserves

The Charity only holds unrestricted funds. As at 31 December 2024, the cash reserves were £404,000. There is no pension liabilities as the charity's scheme is defined contribution. The Charity's reserves policy is to maintain a level of free reserves that will enable the charity to ensure a continuity of activity and be able to respond to significant external economic changes and demands on services provided by the charity.



Amanda Perkin
Treasurer

On behalf of the Trustees of the RSPCA Milton Keynes and North Buckinghamshire Branch

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Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

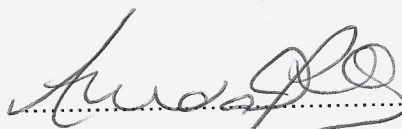
	Note s	2024 £	2023 £
Income			
Donations, Legacies and grants	52,812		53,391
Charitable Activities	227,110		285,526
Other Trading Activities	17,656		
Investments	15,066		13,108
Other Income	1,487		9,233
Total Income		314,131	361,258
Expenditure			
Cost of sales	6	3,492	7,901
Veterinary Treatment		146,036	<u>140,971</u>
Total Expenditure		149,529	148,872
Administration Costs			
Rent		29,596	41,677
Wages and Salaries		91,409	129,504
All other costs	7	61,521	<u>73,643</u>
Total Administration Costs		182,527	244,824
Net Movement in Funds		(17,925)	(32,439)
 Total Funds Brought Forward		 517,165	 549,604
Net Movement in Funds		(17,925)	(32,439)
Total Funds to be carried forward		499,240	517,165

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Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

	Note s	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	2	66,650	45,055
Current Assets			
NSI Investment		404,000	403,000
Debtors	3	23,929	34,030
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>15,546</u>	<u>59,753</u>
		443,475	496,783
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	4	<u>(10,885)</u>	<u>(24,673.0)</u>
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		<u>432,590</u>	<u>472,110</u>
Total Net Assets less Liabilities		499,240	517,165
Funds			
Unrestricted funds brought forward		517,165	549,604
Fund movement for the year		(17,925)	(32,439.0)
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>499,240</u>	<u>517,165</u>

These accounts were approved by the board of trustees in June 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Amanda Perkin
Treasurer

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Notes

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments to market value. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: accounting and reporting by charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on the 16 July 2014 and the Charities Act 2011 and the UK General Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

1.2 Reconciliation with previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP)

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102) a restatement of comparative items was needed. At the date of transition, in applying the requirement to recognise liabilities arising from employee benefits, no material liability was recognised in respect of employee entitlement to paid annual leave. No other restatements were required.

1.3 Income and expenditure

All income and expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

1.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life. All fixed assets have been revalued at 1st Jan 2024 and the depreciation rates reflect the effective life remaining in the fixed assets

Computer Equipment	3 Year	Straight Line
Retail & Office F&F	5 Year	Straight Line
Motor Vehicles	6 Year	Straight Line
Cattery F&F	7 Year	Straight Line

1.5 Stocks

The majority of stock on hand is donated goods of nil value. The remaining stock for resale is of immaterial value and therefore not accounted for.

1.6 Pension Costs

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Pension charges represent the amounts payable by the charity as its contribution to the fund in the respect of the year.

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2. Tangible fixed assets

In accordance with Section 17 of FRS 102 (Property, Plant and Equipment), a revaluation of tangible fixed assets was undertaken as at 1 January 2024. As a result of this review, a write-off of £5,221 was recognised in respect of Retail and Office Fixtures & Fittings and Computer Equipment. These assets were determined to have reached the end of their useful economic lives and no longer held any recoverable value. The closing balance of these asset categories as at 31 December 2023 was £45,055, as reported in the prior year's financial statements.

During the year, capital expenditure of £11,700 was incurred on refurbishment and major repairs at the retail premises in Stony Stratford, and £23,800 was invested in expansion and improvement works at the cattery facility. These investments were made to generate additional income and ensure all facilities remained in good working order for both operational efficiency and customer experience

	Retail & Office F & F	Motor Vehicles	Computer Equipmen t	Cattery F&F	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost or Valuation					
At 1st Jan 2024	2,401.52	10,091.53	788.50	36,649.76	49,931.31
Additions	11,691.17		178.89	23,838.10	35,708.16
Disposals					
At 31 December 2024	14,092.69	10,091.53	967.39	60,487.86	85,639.47
Depreciation					
At 1st Jan 2024	2,125.84	6,867.85	374.90	729.10	10,097.69
Eliminated on Disposal					
Charge of the Year	971.58	1,611.84	215.01	6,093.83	8,892.26
At 31 December 2024	3,097.42	8,479.69	589.91	6,822.93	18,989.95
Net Book Value					
At 1st Jan 2024	275.68	3,223.68	413.60	35,920.66	39,833.62
At 31 December 2024	10,995.27	1,611.84	377.48	53,664.93	66,649.52

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3. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade Debtors	12,357	19,372
Other Debtors	9,092	9,759
Prepayments and Accrued Income	2,481	4898
	<u>23,929</u>	<u>34,029</u>

4. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade Creditors	10,882	16,439
Other creditors	3	3,350
Accruals and Deferred Income	0	4884
	<u>10885</u>	<u>24673</u>

5. Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted Funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use in accordance with the charitable objects.

6. Costs of Sales

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cost of Fund Generation (New Goods)	1,397.20	3,291.37
Cost of Fund generation other sales	737.90	2,478.31
Direct Expenses	1,357.35	1,378.00
Veterinary Supplies	0.00	753.79
Total	<u>3,492.45</u>	<u>7,901.47</u>

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7. Other Expenditure

	2024	2023
	£	£
Advertising & Marketing	616.27	143.86
Audit & Accountancy fees	500.00	2,494.00
Bank Fees	2,024.25	4,407.25
Card Processing Fees	1,597.17	0.00
Cleaning & Waste Disposal	7,130.94	9,234.30
Clothing & Workwear	0.00	340.20
Consulting	0.00	1,666.67
Depreciation - Animal Equipment	0.00	1,448.82
Depreciation - Cattery	6,093.83	984.52
Depreciation - IT Equipment	215.01	226.76
Depreciation - Office/Retail	971.58	395.46
Depreciation - Van	1,611.84	765.00
Depreciation Expense	5,220.96	2,121.86
Employers National Insurance	1,557.51	972.34
Entertainment-100% business	0.00	100.67
Equipment (Small)	1,557.55	1,688.55
Equipment Maintenance	186.34	294.64
Event Expense	1,896.39	0.00
Fuel	1,767.17	2,353.79
General Animal expenses	3,105.98	5,772.42
General Expenses	(3,504.18)	859.54
Health & Safety	0.00	279.38
Insurance	0.00	941.64
Insurance (Premises)	2,299.12	1,368.69
IT Professional Services	4,219.71	0.00
IT Software and Consumables	3,016.78	90.85
Legal Expenses	932.40	1,870.60
Light, Power, Heating	3,524.69	5,956.27
Loss On Disposal of Assets	0.00	512.55
Merchandising Supplies (Consumables)	0.00	926.12
Motor Vehicle Expenses	1,317.86	1,539.83
Pensions Costs	1,510.61	2,653.02
Postage, Freight & Courier	178.01	690.93
Printing & Stationery	187.51	273.17
Professional Fees	276.94	582.00
Rates	0.00	2,098.70
Rent & Rates	1,837.52	1,863.60
Repairs & Maintenance	3,817.42	13,155.81
Shop - Office Costs	1,739.98	360.20
Staff Training	1,116.75	380.65
staff welfare	0.00	304.77
Subscriptions	613.47	1,088.26
Telephone & Internet	1,326.83	1,490.73
Venue Hire & Meeting Rooms	564.04	100.60
Water Rates	493.82	707.77
Total	61,522.07	75,506.79

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Independent Examiners' Report to the Trustees

We report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 set out on the following pages.

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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the account records kept by the charity and a comparison of the account presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the 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.

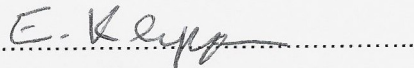
Independent examiner's statement

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:
 - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

1. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Eilis Kleppen FCA
Independent Examiner
55 High Street North, Stewkley