



**RSPCA South London Branch**

Registered Charity No. 276861

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS SOUTH  
LONDON BRANCH - CHARITY NUMBER 276861**



**UNAUDITED**

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

# **RSPCA SOUTH LONDON**

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The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

### **POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES**

The object of the charity is to promote kindness and good care, and prevent or suppress cruelty to animals by all lawful means with particular reference to the area of the Branch, in accordance with the policies of the Society.

### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals South London Branch of 267 Lower Addiscombe Road, Croydon, CR0 6RD is registered with the Charity Commission under charity number 276861 and is governed by the rules and regulations laid down by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA).

#### **Trustees:**

The trustees who served during the year were as follows:

The following Trustees were appointed at the Branch AGM:

Lindsey Bartling (re-appointed 26 June 2023, originally co-opted 30 November 2020)  
William Linsdell (re-appointed 26 June 2023, originally co-opted 29 November 2021)  
Rahul Mehra (re-appointed 26 June 2023, originally co-opted 8 June 2022)  
Karen Brodie (re-appointed 26 June 2023, originally co-opted 30 November 2020)  
Lauren McCaughley (re-appointed 26 June 2023, originally appointed 31 January 2022)  
Amanda Scott (re-appointed 26 June 2023, originally appointed 13 January 2020)  
Rachel Lynch (re-appointed 26 June 2023, originally appointed 13 January 2020)  
Charlotte Orsborn-Stevens (re-appointed 26 June 2023, originally appointed 13 January 2020, resigned 18 August 2023)  
Kieran Burn (re-appointed 26 June 2023, originally co-opted 28 February 2022)

Hulita Ofa resigned prior to re-appointment on 26 June 2023 (originally co-opted 28 November 2022)

Kelli Nelson was elected by replacement on 30 October 2023

#### **Charity registered number**

276861

#### **Principal office**

267 Lower Addiscombe Road  
Croydon  
CR0 6RD

#### **Independent examiner**

Timothy Buttifant ACA  
Farnell Clarke  
Evolution House  
Iceni Court  
Delft Way  
Norwich  
NR6 6BB

**Bankers:**

Natwest Bank Plc

Whitgift Centre Branch, 40 Whitgift Centre, Croydon, Surrey, CR9 3BQ

Barclays

Barclays Bank Plc, Chichester 2, Leicester, LE87 2BB

**HR Advice:**

Acton Jennings LLP

The Old Co operative Building, 53 Westfield Road, Horbury, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF4 6HU

**Payroll:**

Three Counties Payroll

Unit 7 Ball Mill Top, Hallow, Worcester, WR2 6LS

**Independent examiner:**

The Branch has an annual turnover of less than £1,000,000 so does not require an audit but an independent examination. This was undertaken by Farnell Clarke, Evolution House, Icen Court, Delft Way, Norwich, NR6 6BB.

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The charity is constituted as an unincorporated association. The charity operates as a



separately registered Branch of the RSPCA subject to its rules for Branches (as updated in 2023). In the normal course of business, Committee members are elected at every Annual General Meeting, from the members of the Branch, to carry on the work for the ensuing year. Candidates must receive 50% of the votes of the members present. The elected Branch Committee can co-opt not more than three members onto the Committee until the next annual general meeting. All Committee members must be Society members for a minimum of three months on appointment. The Committee members are trustees of the Branch and are briefed on their

responsibilities as trustees prior to their acceptance of the role. The trustees hold regular meetings at which decisions are made and conveyed to the staff for action.

The day to day running of the shops (currently four shops, situated in Tooting, Caterham, Croydon & Crystal Palace) is delegated to the Shop Managers, via the Branch Manager. The animal welfare work is also delegated to the Branch Manager.



## RISK MANAGEMENT



As part of our ongoing commitment to reviewing and mitigating against the potential risks that the charity faces, the trustees have created a risk register. The purpose of this is to predict any risks that the charity may face and take preventative steps to mitigate against any adverse impact.

In addition to the risks faced by the charity, the trustees have also taken steps to mitigate against any risks that our staff and volunteers may face during the course of their duties.

The trustees have developed a lone worker policy to support our staff and volunteers to feel safe and supported at work. Staff and volunteers were also required to undertake a package of training to ensure that staff and volunteers feel equipped to manage any incidents that may occur during the course of their duties. This included first aid training, health and safety training and fire safety.

The Branch carried out a risk assessment in 2021, which remains under periodic review, and identified the following risks which are ongoing:

- Loss of income through error or fraud
- Loss of reputation
- Loss of income through outside forces
- Insufficient trustees to continue
- Insufficient volunteers to fundraise
- Risk of claims by volunteers or the public
- Adverse publicity
- Risk of inadvertent non-compliance with complex legislation such as GDPR
- Insufficient suitable homes for the animals rescued and rehabilitated, particularly the elderly and abused
- Health and safety of staff and volunteers working with abused and neglected animals and their owners in the most difficult areas of animal welfare
- Insufficient resources to help all the animals that need us. The reality of animal rescue in London is that all our resources and those of other charities are always overwhelmed with many more animals needing our help than can be accommodated.

The trustees have a human resources and health and safety contract with Acton Jennings LLP for advice and support.

We appointed two temporary trustees in early 2024, who have specific risk & compliance experience. A new risk assessment with mitigations will be carried out in 2024.

## STRATEGIC AIMS AND OBJECTIVES, PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The object of the charity is to promote kindness and good care and prevent or suppress cruelty to animals by all lawful means with particular reference to the area of the Branch, in accordance with the policies of the Society. Our activities to achieve the objectives include the following:

- To provide veterinary welfare assistance for those on low incomes. This work benefits pet owners who cannot assist their pets themselves and are distressed to witness their pet suffering. The trustees have developed a policy which will seek to provide support with veterinary bills to those on a low income but not necessarily in receipt of welfare payments. The trustees identified that there were a proportion of people in our branch



area who may not be able to receive support with their bills, but they are still struggling financially and would be considered as being "in work poverty". The trustees have approved and put into place the "Help with Vets Bills" policy which seeks to support this group of people and ensure that the welfare of their pets is paramount.

- To provide neutering and microchipping facilities for those on low incomes. This work benefits those members of the public on low income by giving them financial help and promoting responsible pet ownership. Neutering has both behavioural and health benefits for the animal which in turn benefits the owner.
- To support the Society's Inspectorate in their work providing financial assistance and emergency accommodation for mistreated or abandoned animals, including pets whose owners suffer ill health or financial difficulties or pass away. The Society's inspectorate, as well as providing education, information and advice, rescues animals in distress and enforces laws against the cruel mistreatment of animals in England and Wales by bringing prosecutions. This work is key to 'the prevention or suppression of cruelty' part of the RSPCA objects and promotes humane sentiments towards animals which involves moral benefit to humankind as a whole. The National Call Centre accepts complaints about animals in distress from 7am to 10pm, every day of the year and the public benefits by being able to call in for help when an animal is suffering, which can be very distressing for humans to witness and feel powerless to help.
- To accept stray and owned animals for rehoming. Animals in our care receive veterinary treatment, vaccination, neutering, microchipping and are assessed for rehoming. This work helps to control the incidence and spread of disease and suffering through vaccination and neutering. The work benefits our local community including local authorities as it reduces the incidence of abandonment and cruelty and the public knows that we assist animals in need. Whilst we are primarily an animal charity, the service we offer pet owners who cannot assist their pets themselves in times of crisis can relieve much distress for the owner as well as the pet.
- We provide many volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work, including fostering, fundraising and retail opportunities. This benefits local people and companies by providing the possibility of doing work which is both compassionate and rewarding and offers experience which may assist participants in finding paid work. It is not possible to quantify the financial value of our volunteers but in 2022 we had the benefit of over 12,000 hours of volunteer work. Our charity shops provide a valuable source of low-cost good quality recycled goods to the benefit of the public and the environment.

The trustees have reviewed the outcomes and achievements of our objectives and activities for the year to ensure they remain focused on our charitable aims and continue to deliver benefits to the public. We have complied with this duty under the Charities Act 2022 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission.

The trustees have devised their branch aims and objectives for 2024 and they can be summarised as follows:

- To merge with the Purley, Caterham & District Branch, effectively absorbing the rest of Croydon Borough postcodes (Purley, Coudson, South Croydon, New Addiscombe, Selsdon etc.) into the South London Branch. This is planned to be finalised by the end of June 2024 and will increase our catchment area to a population of over half a million people.
- To carry out campaigns in the new area to attract members, volunteers, fosterers & donors.

- To firmly establish the new retail shop in Tooting and to relaunch our ebay business with the Tooting shop as its base.
- To close the retail shop in Caterham due to its loss-making.
- To optimise the retail shop network's revenue and ensure that there is an effective stock rotation system in place.
- To increase private boarding & fostering capacity to meet increased demand.
- To establish a relationship with a partner vet in the Balham & Tooting area.
- To appoint a Corporate Fundraising Trustee/Volunteer to derive a revenue stream from local businesses.
- To strengthen our status as the Pets at Home Wimbledon partner charity by meeting our commitments to have a regular presence on their premises.
- To diversify the revenue stream and ensure that our branch is adequately funded through different means. This will involve performing a digital strategy & social media calendar and ensuring that fundraising remains a priority.
- To ensure that the branch is able to offer financial support for those in need to ensure that all animals are protected from cruelty. This involves continuing the successful "Help with Vets Bill" policy which will offer support to those in work poverty who may not be receiving additional support from the state.
- To ensure that the branch remains fiscally viable with the aim of maintaining a reserve of at least 9 months of operational expenses.
- To ensure that the branch has an adequate supply of volunteers (including trustees), who are committed and adequately skilled to carry out their roles.
- To ensure that the branch is able to engage with the community in order to promote the welfare of animals and embed as a community oriented charity.
- To maximise the impact of our Animal Welfare officer with her hands on work caring for animals in need but also in raising awareness in our community of the importance of animal welfare.
- To implement and monitor a number of key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure the Branch's performance against objectives
- The Branch Manager is an integral part of the charity and it is important that she has adequate resources to meet the needs of the branch operations.

As mentioned above, we sadly had to make the decision to exit the lease for our Caterham shop. Despite considerable efforts by the shop managers and volunteers, ably assisted by our Branch manager and retail trustee, we were unable to generate sufficient revenue to avoid a loss.

With the prospects for turning this around to be low, the decision was made to leave. The exit will happen during 2024 and is being carefully managed.

We would like to put on record our gratitude for the dedication and support from our shop managers and volunteers.

The makeup of the trustees is diverse and there is a wealth of experience reflected in the board. The Branch will seek to increase its fostering network to allow the Branch to have greater capacity for rehoming.

The Branch Manager will continue to develop all activities including income generation, rehoming and community engagement.



### Spotlight on our work

This year we have raised funds to help the needs of our local community through a variety of initiatives.

Our fantastic shops have continued to benefit from the generosity of the local community, in terms of quality donations, and volunteers giving up their time.



In July 2023 we attended Croydon Pride to raise awareness of our work and recruit more supporters.

In June we held events at our Crystal Palace and Caterham shops as part of RSPCA's One Fun Day.



We were able to raise funds, while recruiting new supporters and raising awareness about the work we do.

In November we partnered with The Dolphin pub in Sydenham to raise funds, and reach new potential supporters at their pub quiz.

Throughout the year we attended fundraising & awareness events at Pets at Home in Wimbledon.

### HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

A health and safety policy that outlines the Branch's duty of care in respect of the health and safety of all persons visiting the Branch's working premises (e.g. volunteers, contractors, members of the public) is available for reference by all staff and volunteers and is reviewed regularly to take into account any changes.

A health and safety audit is undertaken by independent experts Acton Jennings LLP annually with whom the Branch has a health and safety contract for advice.

### SAFEGUARDING POLICY

A safeguarding policy was reviewed and revised by trustees with specialism in safeguarding, recognising our collective responsibility for safeguarding children and adults at risk of abuse and exploitation. Refresher training in how to use this policy as well as how to recognise and respond to the signs of abuse will be undertaken as required to ensure the policy continues to reflect responsibilities.

### FUNDRAISING POLICY

A fundraising policy was adopted to ensure compliance with the Fundraising Code of Practice and all relevant legislation. This recognises the care required in handling donations and funds raises and ensures governance is in place to prevent risk of fraud.



## **VOLUNTEER AND CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY**

A volunteer policy and accompanying code of conduct has also been adopted which will support volunteers to be clear about their responsibilities and what they can expect from the Branch.

The staff handbook was also reviewed and approved and is available for all staff and volunteers.

## **HELP WITH VETS BILLS POLICY**

A help with vets bill policy was adopted in 2022 and remains in place to help owners who may be struggling with paying for their vets bills. The purpose of the policy was to prioritise those who might not ordinarily be eligible for assistance but who required financial assistance due to a sudden change in financial circumstances, and in particular recognising the difficulties that owners have faced in light of the global pandemic and financial problems that have been resulted.

## **REHOMING POLICY**

A rehoming policy was adopted, in particular taking into account the approach of the Branch where an animal was discovered to have a chronic condition and whether the Branch would agree to cover ongoing medical bills once the animal was adopted.

## **LONE POLICY WORKER**

The lone policy worker policy was updated and revised to provide support and assistance to staff and volunteers and to aid the Branch in its risk management.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

### **Significant activities**

The committee are pleased to report that its objectives for 2023 were met, in particular:

- The rehoming of a record numbers of cats
- Finding and agreeing the lease of a new charity shop in Tooting
- Establishing a good working relationship with a Trussell Trust foodbank to help distribute our donations and help local pet owners keep their animals
- Established new till systems for our shops to enable Gift Aid in the future
- Established links with local group in our new area and conducted a litter pick alongside Friends of Tooting Common
- Arranged for our Animal Welfare Officer to be trained on microchip implantation to prepare and support the local community for compulsory cat microchipping in 2024



In 2023, the Branch continued to accept all animals they were requested to take from the RSPCA Inspectorate, providing boarding and fostering for animals until they could either be networked or rehomed through the Branch.

The Branch continued to take in cats where the Branch themselves identified a welfare issue, ensuring that those animals with the greatest need were cared for and rehomed.

With our AWO fully settled into the role, she was able to work more closely with the local

Inspectorate team, helping them with difficult jobs and in return getting their advice and assistance on branch animals. On one occasion, our AWO assisted the Inspectorate at a one bed flat with over 80 cats.

Towards the end of the year, a member of the public got in touch about local strays they'd been feeding in Thornton Heath, however the numbers were starting to get out of hand. Our AWO attended and upon seeing that the living conditions were suitable, and local residents were happy to continue to feed and look out for the cats, we began a trap, neuter, release (TNR) programme with the cats - around 20!

Through collaboration with the local residents, the use of larger traps, and lots of time and effort, we managed to TNR another 9 cats, with the work continuing into 2024.

We were able to start rabbit fostering during the year. After many months hard work we sourced a rabbit fosterer prepared to have a 3\*2m hutch in their garden. Unfortunately due to personal issues, they later had to stop offering fostering to sets of rabbits. We are therefore on the lookout for people who can help.



In order to increase our income and to secure future sustainability for the branch, we started the search for a new charity shop in our new area of Balham and Tooting. After several viewings and lots of research around the potential areas, we negotiated and secured the lease on a new retail unit on Upper Tooting Road. The renovations and recruitment process were well underway by the end of the year.

The Branch was selected as the official charity partner of Pets At Home Wimbledon store for the second time, and as such held several fundraising events at the store. We were also able to benefit from their in-store donation station which helped us provide our fosterers with food and equipment for the animals.

The Branch has remained in local control since its return to local control in January 2020, and the committee remains enthusiastic and is keen to ensure the Branch is given a new lease of life.

We have remained active across various social media channels, have maintained our 13,000 strong following on Facebook and have increased our Instagram followers to over 2,000. We have established good relationships with local media to help us share and promote our work.

We are also active on Twitter and have launched our own YouTube channel.

#### **ANIMAL WELFARE RESULTS -**

During 2023, the Branch made full use of the AWO first full year with the branch, and took in a record 125 animals, all either for welfare reasons or via the Inspectorate. The Branch carried out 81 home visits and neutered 113 animals. The Branch microchipped 97 animals and provided welfare assistance for a further 22 animals.

The Branch made a £10,000 donation to C4, the London based cat neutering charity, helping owners struggling to pay for cat neutering, receive the service at a subsidised rate.

The Branch worked with local vets and the National Society to help XL Bully owners book their



dogs in for neutering to meet the new legislation.

The Branch aims to continue to provide a service to the Inspectorate and to continue to offer welfare assistance to those animals in greatest need within the Branch area.

The Branch Manager and Animal Welfare Officer continued to work with the Croydon dog warden, and together they organised and ran local events to meet the local community, check dogs for microchips, and offer help and advice.

The Animal Welfare Officer completed a Cat Friendly Homing course in partnership with International Cat Care. As a result of this we have implemented Quality of Life assessments to help us ensure the right care for all our cats. We have also worked more closely with alternative lifestyle cat experts at the Canterbury Branch; and with the behavioural team at the National Society to gain better insight on particular cases.



## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

### **Financial results and review**

The charity's funds are collected from membership subscriptions, shop sales, rehoming, donations, legacies, recycling schemes, collection boxes, auctions, grants and fundraising events.



Total income for the year was £364,278 (2022: £353,571). Total expenditure for the year was £409,474 (2022: £324,639). The Branch ended the year with a loss of £45,196 (2022: £28,932 surplus).

The three shops continue to provide the main source of operational income for the Branch. Net income from the retail operation was £53,870, including grants (2022: £60,721).

Taking into account the income generated by the Branch, the trustees have been pleased to have been able to increase staff salaries in 2023.

We would also like to thank all those people and local businesses who contribute to the success of the Branch and support us with volunteer time, fundraising activities, financial discounts or advertising. There are too many to name individually but they include veterinary surgeries, Branch members, staff and volunteers and local press. Lastly we would like to thank the public for their ongoing support of the Branch, we could not succeed without them.

### Reserves policy

The reserves policy of the charity requires that the reserves should provide the charity with adequate financial stability and the means for it to meet its charitable objectives for the foreseeable future. Specifically:

- Reserves are maintained at a level which ensures that the branch's core activity can continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty
- A proportion of reserves is maintained in a readily realisable form

Free reserves are calculated as total reserves, less restricted and designated reserves, less tangible fixed assets.

At 31 December 2023, unrestricted reserves were £305,764 (2022 restated: £333,119), of this amount £273,520 were classed as free reserves (2022: £300,802). Based on the approved operational budget for 2024 on a monthly average basis, free reserves equate to 7 months' expenditure (2022: 11 months expenditure).

The trustees have looked at the current level of free reserves and feel they should be at a level of 9 months' operational expenditure.

In order to restore the reserves to a level of 9 months operational expenditure, the Branch will be focusing on generating revenue from its new shop in Tooting, closing the unprofitable Caterham shop and controlling expenditure by leveraging more cost effective veterinary options.

The merger with Purley and Caterham Branch will have an overall positive impact on the reserve balance of the combined Branch and the Trustees will be investing these reserves.

### Definitions of reserves.

Restricted reserves: These are funds that are actively managed and utilised in accordance with the restrictions placed on these funds as advised to the branch.

Unrestricted Reserves. These are split between:

- Designated reserves. Reserves set aside by the Trustees for a defined purpose. This includes funds tied up in fixed assets
- Free Reserves: Net income which becomes available to spend at trustees' discretion but which is not yet spent, committed or designated (earmarked for a defined purpose).

The Trustees review the level of reserves that are required to ensure that they are adequate to fulfil the charity's continuing obligations on a yearly basis at Trustee meetings. Trustees have the ability to re-designate reserves as they wish to meet the business needs of the organisation.

### Investments policy

The trustees have wide powers of investment governed and restricted by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Investment Act 1958. The trustees have decided to maintain the Branch surplus funds in higher interest notice accounts with Natwest.



### Spotlight on our work



Persephone, who came into us in the early winter of 2023, was a real rollercoaster of a case, and a great example of our collaborative work with the Inspectors, and eventually the Branch network. Persephone was rescued from a balcony by local Inspectors and the Fire Brigade after the owner refused to let her back in after deciding she no longer wanted her. After the successful rescue, she was signed over to us and taken to our vets. The vets diagnosed pyometra which if left untreated can prove to be fatal. Persephone was spayed and saved.

After this, she was moved to a foster home so we could learn more about her personality to find her the perfect forever home. However within a few weeks Persephone started drinking and urinating a lot more frequently, and upon further vet checks, our fears of diabetes were confirmed. The next few weeks were filled with vet appointments and injections to try and get Persephone's insulin levels right. Our foster carers did a fantastic job of caring for her during this time. We were very lucky that Persephone loves her food, and so injecting her at meal times was quick and easy as she was distracted!



Once Perspehone was stable again, we then faced the difficult task of finding the right home for her. It took several months of searching and advertising, but we were lucky enough to find a lady who had experience of diabetic cats and wanted another cat to care for. We then liaised with her local branch to look for suitable charity vets who would be able to help keep the treatment costs down. We managed to get an agreement with a vet not too far away and were able to go ahead with the adoption.

Persephone has been in her new home since November 2023 and is happy and healthy. Thank you to all the RSPCA employees and volunteers who helped to make this happen!

### STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2022, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on and signed on their behalf by:



.....  
Catherine Young  
(Trustee/Treasurer)

27/06/2024

## RSPCA SOUTH LONDON

### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF RSPCA SOUTH LONDON

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of RSPCA South London (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

#### Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

  
**Timothy Buttifant ACA**

Farnell Clarke Limited  
Evolution House, Icen Court  
Delft Way  
Norwich  
Norfolk  
NR6 6BB

Dated: 28/06/2024

## RSPCA SOUTH LONDON

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds as restated	Restricted funds as restated	Total
	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £	2022 £
<b>Income from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	4	-	-	-	1,857	-	1,857
Charitable activities	5	362,106	-	362,106	351,697	-	351,697
Investments	6	2,172	-	2,172	17	-	17
<b>Total income</b>		<u>364,278</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>364,278</u>	<u>353,571</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>353,571</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Raising funds	7	239,352	-	239,352	229,535	-	229,535
Charitable activities	8	150,478	17,632	168,110	64,634	17,744	82,378
Other expenditure	10	1,803	209	2,012	12,726	-	12,726
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>391,633</u>	<u>17,841</u>	<u>409,474</u>	<u>306,895</u>	<u>17,744</u>	<u>324,639</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<u>(27,355)</u>	<u>(17,841)</u>	<u>(45,196)</u>	<u>46,676</u>	<u>(17,744)</u>	<u>28,932</u>
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	14,148	(14,148)	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	11	<u>(27,355)</u>	<u>(17,841)</u>	<u>(45,196)</u>	<u>60,824</u>	<u>(31,892)</u>	<u>28,932</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		333,119	44,027	377,146	272,295	75,919	348,214
<b>Fund balances at 31 December 2023</b>		<u>305,764</u>	<u>26,186</u>	<u>331,950</u>	<u>333,119</u>	<u>44,027</u>	<u>377,146</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.



# RSPCA SOUTH LONDON

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	15		32,244		32,317
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	16	76,816		37,530	
Cash at bank and in hand		250,365		328,611	
		327,181		366,141	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	17	(27,475)		(21,312)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			299,706		344,829
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			331,950		377,146
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>			331,950		377,146
<b>The funds of the charity</b>					
Restricted income funds	19		26,186		44,027
Unrestricted funds			305,764		333,119
			331,950		377,146

The notes on pages 16 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 27/06/2024



C Young  
Trustee/Treasurer

## **RSPCA SOUTH LONDON**

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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#### **1 Accounting policies**

##### **1.1 Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

##### **1.2 Going concern**

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

##### **1.3 Charitable funds**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

##### **1.4 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.

## RSPCA SOUTH LONDON

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### 1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, 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 classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

##### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Leasehold improvements	20% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	33% straight line
Computers	33% straight line
Motor vehicles	33% reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

##### 1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

##### 1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

##### 1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic 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.

## RSPCA SOUTH LONDON

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### **Basic financial assets**

Basic 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.

##### **Basic financial liabilities**

Basic 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.

#### 1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

#### 1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

#### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.



## RSPCA SOUTH LONDON

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

#### 3 Prior period adjustments

In preparing the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023, it was identified that the Charity incorrectly classified funds relating to the Balham and Tooting branch. Consequently, the prior year's designated and restricted funds have been restated in order to reflect restrictions placed on the Charity by donors to the branch.

The impact of this on the balance sheet at 31st December 2022 is to increase restricted funds by £44,027 and decrease designated funds by £44,027. The impact on the statement of financial activities for the year ended 31st December 2022 is to increase restricted funds/decrease designated funds brought forward by £61,771 and increase restricted/decrease designated expenditure on charitable activities by £17,744.

#### 4 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Government grants	-	1,857

#### 5 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Income from donations	75,293	61,571
Sales of donated and purchased goods	286,813	290,126
	<u>362,106</u>	<u>351,697</u>

#### 6 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Bank deposit interest	<u>2,172</u>	<u>17</u>

## RSPCA SOUTH LONDON

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

#### 7 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
<b>Fundraising trading expenses</b>		
Profit share due to RSPCA Purley, Caterham & District Branch	-	4,682
Branch insurance	5,820	3,130
Light, heat and power	5,083	7,353
Rent	79,992	70,500
Staff expenses	1,643	3,927
Rates	13,930	13,522
Staff costs	98,119	99,782
Depreciation and impairment	11,608	3,389
Subscriptions	127	344
Sundry expenses	3,975	-
Other shop costs	5,939	8,846
Telephone and fax	1,638	1,288
Legal and professional	3,693	2,183
Bank charges	2,473	4,174
Repairs and maintenance	5,312	6,415
Total costs	<u>239,352</u>	<u>229,535</u>

Expenditure on raising funds are classified as costs which relate to the day-to-day running of each charity shop.

## RSPCA SOUTH LONDON

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

#### 8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Animal welfare 2023 £	Animal welfare 2022 as restated £
<b>Direct costs</b>		
Staff costs	43,164	13,920
Fostering costs and private boarding	36,178	10,626
Vet fees - general welfare	52,704	35,132
Branch contribution	551	110
Other charitable donations	10,000	1,000
	<u>142,597</u>	<u>60,788</u>
<b>Share of support and governance costs (see note 9)</b>		
Governance	25,513	21,590
	<u>168,110</u>	<u>82,378</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>		
Unrestricted funds	150,478	64,634
Restricted funds	17,632	17,744
	<u>168,110</u>	<u>82,378</u>

#### 9 Support costs allocated to activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Governance costs	<u>25,513</u>	<u>21,590</u>
<b>Analysed between:</b>		
Animal welfare	<u>25,513</u>	<u>21,590</u>
<b>Governance costs comprise:</b>		
Staff costs	14,072	6,960
Accountancy	11,441	14,630
	<u>25,513</u>	<u>21,590</u>

## RSPCA SOUTH LONDON

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

#### 10 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Vehicle costs	1,803	209	2,012	4,819	-	4,819
Storage costs	-	-	-	947	-	947
Wages and salaries and social security costs	-	-	-	6,960	-	6,960
	<u>1,803</u>	<u>209</u>	<u>2,012</u>	<u>12,726</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,726</u>

#### 11 Net movement in funds

	2023 £	2022 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	3,480	3,600
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	<u>11,608</u>	<u>3,389</u>

#### 12 Trustees

During the year, a trustee was reimbursed £62.70 for meeting costs. No other remuneration or benefits were received by trustees (or any persons connected with them) during the year (2022 - none).

#### 13 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>
<b>Employment costs</b>	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
Wages and salaries	148,698	122,887
Social security costs	4,001	2,794
Other pension costs	2,656	1,941
	<u>155,355</u>	<u>127,622</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

## RSPCA SOUTH LONDON

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

#### 14 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

#### 15 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold improvements	Fixtures and fittings	Computers	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 January 2023	-	47,054	-	32,293	79,347
Additions	7,499	-	4,036	-	11,535
At 31 December 2023	7,499	47,054	4,036	32,293	90,882
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>					
At 1 January 2023	-	43,973	-	3,057	47,030
Depreciation charged in the year	125	1,143	692	9,648	11,608
At 31 December 2023	125	45,116	692	12,705	58,638
<b>Carrying amount</b>					
At 31 December 2023	7,374	1,938	3,344	19,588	32,244
At 31 December 2022	-	3,081	-	29,236	32,317

#### 16 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	2,455	317
Other debtors	59,867	25,264
Prepayments and accrued income	14,494	11,949
	76,816	37,530

#### 17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other taxation and social security	2,147	2,350
Trade creditors	16,280	12,013
Other creditors	754	5,296
Accruals and deferred income	8,294	1,653
	27,475	21,312



## RSPCA SOUTH LONDON

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

#### 18 Retirement benefit schemes

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Defined contribution schemes</b>		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	2,656	1,941

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

#### 19 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 January 2023 £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 December 2023 £
Balham and Tooting	44,027	(17,841)	-	26,186
<b>Previous year:</b>	<b>At 1 January 2022 as restated £</b>	<b>Resources expended as restated £</b>	<b>Transfers £</b>	<b>At 31 December 2022 as restated £</b>
Restricted fund - van	14,148	-	(14,148)	-
Balham and Tooting	61,771	(17,744)	-	44,027
	75,919	(17,744)	(14,148)	44,027

Balham and Tooting funds are restricted for use in the Balham and Tooting area.

#### 20 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 December 2023 £
General funds	333,119	364,278	(391,633)	-	305,764

## RSPCA SOUTH LONDON

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

#### 20 Unrestricted funds (Continued)

Previous year:	At 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2022
	as restated £	£	as restated £	£	as restated £
General funds	272,295	353,571	(306,895)	14,148	333,119

#### 21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
<b>At 31 December 2023:</b>			
Tangible assets	32,244	-	32,244
Current assets/(liabilities)	273,520	26,186	299,706
	<u>305,764</u>	<u>26,186</u>	<u>331,950</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2022 as restated £	Restricted funds 2022 as restated £	Total 2022 as restated £
<b>At 31 December 2022:</b>			
Tangible assets	32,317	-	32,317
Current assets/(liabilities)	300,802	44,027	344,829
	<u>333,119</u>	<u>44,027</u>	<u>377,146</u>

#### 22 Operating lease commitments

##### Lessee

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Within one year	84,500	65,000
Between two and five years	247,038	163,813
	<u>331,538</u>	<u>228,813</u>

## **RSPCA SOUTH LONDON**

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)** ***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023***

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#### **23 Related party transactions**

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).