

THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 281571

Details

Other names ACT, ANIMAL CARE TRUST

Status Registered

Legal form Trust

Registered 1980-12-15

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Royal Veterinary College
Hawkshead House
Hawkshead Lane
North Mymms
Hatfield
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Phone 01707666237

Email act@rvc.ac.uk

Website www.rvc.ac.uk/act

Activities

Objects: FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION AND OF VETERINARY SCIENCE MEDICINE AND SURGERY THE UNDERTAKING OF RESEARCH AND THE DISSEMINATION OF THE RESULTS THEREOF AND SUCH OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES FOR THE RELIEF OF SUFFERING AMONG ANIMALS AS THE TRUSTEE SHALL FROM TIME TO TIME IN ITS ABSOLUTE DISCRETION DETERMINE.

Activities: To raise funds in support of the educational, research, clinical and animal welfare activities of the Royal Veterinary College. Funds are raised using a variety of methods, from members of the public, College Alumni, grant-making trusts, companies and other voluntary sources.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Animals, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£1,341,000	£1,311,000	£6,278,000	6
2024-07-31	£1,072,000	£1,025,000	£6,073,000	6
2023-07-31	£1,482,000	£932,000	£5,734,000	6
2022-07-31	£1,517,000	£1,165,000	£5,108,000	5
2021-07-31	£1,365,248	£903,836	£4,696,546	5

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
THE COUNCIL		

Accounts



THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST

**ANNUAL REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025**

Registered Charity Number: 281571

CONTENTS

OFFICERS AND ADVISORS	3
TRUSTEE'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025	4
STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT AND THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	10
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST	11
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025	15
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 JULY 2025	16
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025	17

OFFICERS AND ADVISORS

Trustee	The Royal Veterinary College
Secretary to the Trust	Nadja Hale – Head of Fundraising
Principal Address	The Royal Veterinary College Hawkshead Lane North Mymms Hatfield Hertfordshire AL9 7TA
Banker	Royal Bank of Scotland 1 Hardman Boulevard Manchester Manchester M3 3AQ
Solicitor	Mills and Reeve LLP Botanic House 100 Hills Road Cambridge CB2 1PH (DX 122891 Cambridge 4)
Auditor	RSM UK Audit LLP 25 Farringdon Street London EC4A 4AB
Website	www.rvc.ac.uk/act

TRUSTEE'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

The Trustee presents the annual report for the year ended 31 July 2025 prepared in compliance with the Charities Act 2011, together with the audited financial statements for the year and confirms that this report complies with the requirements of the Trust Deed and the Charities SORP.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Trust's objectives as stated in the Trust Deed are:

'The advancement of education and of veterinary science medicine and surgery, the undertaking of research and the dissemination of the results thereof and such other charitable purposes for the relief of suffering among animals as the Trustee shall, from time to time, in its absolute discretion determine.'

In pursuit of these objectives, the Trust seeks to promote the welfare of animals through supporting:

- the education and training of veterinary practitioners and the support and assistance of students through the award of prizes, bursaries and scholarships and through improving facilities for students;
- research (including into disease and effective clinical treatments for injured and sick animals);
- the provision of clinical services; and
- the development of a suitable estate, equipment and facilities at the Royal Veterinary College.

In these ways the Trust seeks to advance knowledge and to help develop and strengthen the veterinary professions which deliver care to animals, nationally and internationally. Moreover, the Trust provides funding for clinical excellence by supporting the provision of the best possible clinical facilities with the most advanced equipment.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustee confirms that it has referred to, and complies with, the guidance contained in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, concerning public benefit and incorporates appropriate considerations of public benefit when making decisions concerning the operations and expenditures of the charity.

The Trust's principal activity during the year has been to raise and distribute funds to support the work of the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) and, in so doing, to promote excellence in veterinary education, the welfare of animals, and research into the causes of (and treatments for) disease. The RVC is not only the UK's oldest and largest veterinary educational and research establishment, but its work is widely considered to be delivered to the highest of scientific, clinical and educational standards. It is, therefore, the belief of the Trustee that providing support to the RVC across the range of its endeavours represents the best possible use of the Trust's charitable resources in applying them for the benefit of society in general, for animal-owners and for students pursuing veterinary and scientific careers who require education and training. The Trustee considers all these benefits to arise directly from implementation of activities pursuant to the Trust's objectives.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025 (CONTINUED)**GRANT MAKING POLICY**

As noted above, the Trust's principal activity is to raise and distribute funds to support the work of the RVC. Funds are transferred to the RVC who then distribute the grants to meet the Trust's objectives. The Trust has established its grant making policy to achieve its objects for the public benefit. Income raised through donations and legacies is made available through a grant application process.

Grants are managed through three programmes:

- Major grants scheme - for projects, equipment and activities costing more than £5,000. Applications will be considered by the Management Committee on a quarterly basis
- Small grants scheme - as above but for projects costing less than £5,000. Applications are considered by appropriate individuals within the ACT considering overall ACT objectives, RVC strategy and funds available for the subject matter of the application.
- Student fundraising grants - there are several grants available to students both individually and to groups and societies.

Details of how to apply for these grants, together with the relevant forms, are available on the RVC's staff/student intranet.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Trust's work is funded by the general public, alumni of the RVC, charitable trusts and foundations, companies, clients of the RVC's clinical facilities, participants in fundraising challenge events such as the London Marathon and many others. The Trust's work is entirely dependent on this income.

Each year a substantial income is derived from legacies. The Trust is enormously grateful to those who leave part of their estate to benefit our work and, where legacies are restricted to specific purposes, we honour the wishes of the donor to the full. We often work with supporters to help shape their future legacies ensuring their wishes are carried out and that they have strategic impact for the RVC, the people we educate and the animals we seek to help.

During the year, 99 grants and awards were distributed which totalled £877k covering the following purposes:

- £345k in support of education and research activities; and
- £532k in support of clinical facilities.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing cost-of-living crisis, the RVC Animal Care Trust (ACT) Management Committee has adopted a more cautious approach in its assessment of new grant applications considering the level of investment return, the future call on funds and the potential impact on fundraising income in the short to medium term.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Overall, ACT income increased by 25% to £1,341k (2024: £1,072k). This was due mainly to a 106% increase in legacy income from £183k to £377k. In total, unrestricted income generated by our fundraising activities increased by 9% from £480k to £525k and restricted income generated to support specific projects, for which we were fundraising, increased by 38% from £591k to £816k. Investment income decreased from £178k to £155k and income from other trading activities comprised solely bank interest this year. The investment policy is detailed within the accounting notes.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025 (CONTINUED)
FINANCIAL REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Fixed Assets (investments) have increased in value to £4,561k (2024: £4,315k), and cash and cash equivalent holdings have increased in value to £1,745k (2024: £1,592k), with the overall total asset position increasing by £205k. The reserves position is healthy with readily available unrestricted funds standing at £2,414k at 31 July 2025 compared to staff costs of £198k and directly incurred non-grant costs of £97k. The Trust is, therefore, in a position to manage its expenditure within the combination of unrestricted reserves and funds raised each year.

We are very grateful to all our supporters – individuals, companies and charitable trusts and foundations – who have continued to support us in these turbulent times. In common with other charities, the main risks and uncertainties relate to future income, inflation and other potential increases in costs. In relation to the latter, changes in expenditure are monitored by the provision of regular budget reports to management thereby helping to mitigate this risk. The Trust also benefits from the close relationship with the RVC's clinical services with whom the Trust works to raise funds from hospital clients. In addition, the risk of income reducing is mitigated by increasing engagement with alumni and regular donors.

The Trust holds restricted funds whose purpose is circumscribed by the terms of the original donation. The value of restricted funds at 31 July 2025 was £3,848k (2024: £3,849k). Where possible, the Trust's policy regarding these funds is to invest them to secure sufficient income to satisfy the purpose of the donation and, thereafter, to achieve capital growth. In terms of their expenditure, the Trust operates a grant application process whereby individuals can apply to the Trust for funding for projects relating to animal health and care, education and research. Applications are assessed against the Trust's charitable objects and, if approved, are funded from the most appropriate restricted fund, adhering to the purposes and restrictions of that fund.

The Trust also holds funds which it applies to specific projects. Some of these projects take several years to come to fruition and, from time to time, the Trust may hold significant funds on a short-term basis. Surplus cash is transferred to the RVC for deposit with its bankers and through its investment fund managers. Income is credited to restricted funds based on the returns achieved by the overall RVC portfolio. On 31 July 2025, a net gain of £175k was reported in relation to the Trust's share of the portfolio. This compares to a £292k gain in 2024.

The current level of general reserves is sufficient to meet the Trust's operational costs for 2025-26. There is no minimal reserves level.

FUNDRAISING AT THE ACT

Our supporters are at the heart of everything we achieve, and our fundraised income makes a real difference to animal health and care. We have a diverse range of fundraising activities, from legacies, which usually represent over half of our fundraised income, through to events, individual giving and volunteer fundraising. We are proud to be registered with the Fundraising Regulator and carry out regular checks of our fundraising systems and processes to ensure we are fully compliant with the Fundraising Code of Practice. In 2022, an audit was carried out by the RVC's internal auditors, evaluating RVC's data and financial management systems and procedures, which are consistent with the procedures followed at the ACT. Our processes were found to be robust and effective and the recommendations made have been incorporated into our processes. All processes are reassessed and updated every January. We also have processes in place to ensure we adhere to the Fundraising Preference Service. We did not receive any requests to discontinue communications via the Service this year.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025 (CONTINUED)
FUNDRAISING AT THE ACT (CONTINUED)

Currently we utilise a mixture of consent and legitimate interest as our legal basis for processing supporters' personal data for marketing purposes. When we rely on legitimate interest as a legal basis for contacting our supporters, we only do so having considered and balanced any potential impact on the supporter and their rights under data protection laws.

Fundraising activity is reported to the ACT Management Committee on a quarterly basis. The Management Committee is responsible for oversight of the day to day running of the ACT as delegated by the ACT's sole trustee, the RVC Council. Reports are also submitted to the RVC's Finance and General Purposes Committee to ensure that significant risks are monitored and are being properly addressed. The ACT has policies in place relating to Gift Acceptance, Due Diligence and Data Management with systems to escalate concerns to relevant senior individuals or bodies in certain circumstances.

THIRD PARTY FUNDRAISERS

The ACT continues not to employ third party companies to fundraise on its behalf.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

The ACT aims to fundraise appropriately with all our supporters, and we are particularly conscious of our responsibilities to vulnerable people. Anyone fundraising on behalf of the ACT must ensure they communicate clearly and do not exploit the credulity, lack of knowledge, or vulnerable circumstances of any member of the public at any point in time. Where any member of ACT staff or a volunteer is fundraising for the ACT and is concerned about an individual's capacity to understand their actions and the consequence of those actions, they must cease the fundraising activity immediately and report the situation to the Head of Fundraising. If a vulnerability is confirmed subsequent to a donation being made, and the donor or their representative requires the donation to be returned, this will be reported to the Management Committee and effected as soon as is practicable. The ACT complies in full with the RVC's Safeguarding Policy (updated July 2023).

COMPLAINTS

From the many thousands of communications we have had with supporters this year, we received no complaints about our fundraising practices as in previous years. We take complaints very seriously and would respond according to our complaints policy.

DATA PROTECTION

The ACT has a Privacy Policy which is available to all on our website (<https://www.rvc.ac.uk/act/policy>). We only contact individuals who have either opted into communications with us and/or there is a genuine and legitimate reason for our communication, and we are not harming the rights and interests of those individuals. As part of the 2022 internal audit, our data systems were checked for compliance with the law and regulations and found to be robust.

INVESTMENT POLICY

Unless donors specifically reference the RVC in their gifts, general philanthropy is channelled through the ACT, and these funds are recorded in the ACT accounts. Fund-raising campaigns for specific purposes are generally undertaken under the ACT banner although specific campaigns may be run in support of the RVC, particularly where the link to the direct benefit to animals is less obvious. The ACT and RVC funds are pooled and invested with a fund manager and investment returns are attributed to the individual fund balances on an annual basis in proportion to their share of the total portfolio. The ACT's share for the financial year 2024-25 is 23% (2023-

TRUSTEE'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025 (CONTINUED)
INVESTMENT POLICY (CONTINUED)

24: 23%). Although the account with the fund manager is in the RVC's name, the RVC holds the funds in trust for the ACT, which is the legal owner. The policy of the ACT in line with the RVC's Treasury Policy is ensure an appropriate return on investment at a level of risk agreed by the RVC Council. The objective is to achieve a total return above inflation (CPI) of at least 3.5% p.a. (net of fees) over a rolling three-year period.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The ACT's fundraising activity supports the RVC's ongoing strategic objectives. The RVC has embarked on a significant programme of investment in its estate, facilities and equipment, across both campuses. The ACT will continue to focus on projects which benefit animals through the provision and development of outstanding veterinary medicine largely through supporting the RVC's hospitals, as well as supporting RVC research and supporting students.

We are fortunate to have received donations and legacies from alumni and other supporters specifically to help our students, particularly those who experience financial difficulties. The cost-of-living crisis has caused difficulties for several students, particularly those who seek to support their educational costs through part-time work, often in the hospitality industry, and those whose personal IT equipment is insufficient to support their online learning and examinations. We continue to liaise closely with the RVC Student Support Team to ensure funds are available to help students who find themselves unable to work or who experience financial problems.

The Trust will continue to support projects across the RVC through its main and small grants' schemes and projects to support students and their activities. See Grant Making Policy above.

The Trust is currently in early preparation stages for a major capital appeal assessing the feasibility of an ambitious fundraising target and managing funds for this area of work with the appeal in mind.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust is a trust established on 21 November 1980 and registered as a charity on 15 December 1980. The Charity Commission registration number is 281571. The charity is governed by its Trust Deed which established the objects and powers of the Trust. The charity is also known as the Animal Care Trust and the ACT. It was formerly known as the Royal Veterinary College Animal Welfare Trust and changed its name to the Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust on 12 October 1982. The Trust has a single Trustee, the Council of the RVC, which has devolved responsibility for general management of the Trust to the ACT Management Committee. The Trust has Directors'/Management liability insurance to protect its management against claims arising from the discharge of their duties.

The Head of Fundraising is responsible for operating the Trust's policies and for the preparation of budgets and plans and works closely with the Director of External Relations. At the date of this report the Trust has three full-time staff members and four part-time staff members (three at 80% FTE and one at 60% FTE). All staff members are seconded to the Trust by the RVC. Members of staff manage the following functions: major gifts, appeals and fundraising events, trusts and legacies, fundraising administration and management of the charity's grant application process.

Financial management and investment management services are provided by the RVC through its Finance Department, and the Trust pools its assets with those of the RVC for investment purposes, with the funds

TRUSTEE'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025 (CONTINUED)
STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

managed by Sarasin & Partners. The RVC also provides office accommodation and storage space for the Trust at its Hawkshead campus free of charge, and this is included in donated services.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR RECRUITMENT, INDUCTION AND TRAINING

The Trust has a sole Trustee which is an institution: the RVC. Accordingly, the Trustee has appointed a Management Committee of individuals, who are considered to be key management personnel, to act as its proper officers and so fulfil its obligations. There are eight positions on the Management Committee appointed by the Trustee through the RVC Council, all of which were filled during the year. Each of the members of the ACT Management Committee is either a member of senior RVC staff or of the RVC Council, excluding the Chair who is an independent member. The members of the Management Committee during the year were Professor Christianne Glossop (Chair), Professor Adrian Boswood, Professor David B Church, Mr Ian Darker, Dr Imelda McGonnell, Professor Oliver Pybus, Dr Christine Thuranira-McKeever and Professor Stuart WJ Reid. Mr Ian Darker retired during the year and was replaced with RVC Chief Operating Officer (COO), Mr Tim Bianek. The Head of Fundraising and Secretary to the Animal Care Trust, the Director of External Relations, and the Royal Veterinary College's Chief Financial Officer attend the Management Committee's meetings.

GOING CONCERN

The Trustee has assessed the Trust's finances for a period of 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements and, taking account of reasonably possible downsides such as reduced donations/legacies income and increased costs, has concluded that it has sufficient funds to meet its liabilities as they fall due for that period. The Trust's discretionary spending is completely under the control of the Trustee and is such that the Trust's fixed financial commitments during the going concern period (which are relatively limited) could be met comfortably within the Trust's current net assets.

Consequently, the Trustee is confident that the Trust will have sufficient funds to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements and consequently have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT AND THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Trustee is responsible for preparing the Trustee's report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the Trustee to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under charity law the Trustee must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustee is required to:

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

The Trustee is 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 2011. 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.

The Trustee is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the financial and other information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

STATEMENT OF DISCLOSURE TO THE AUDITOR

- a) so far as the Trustee is aware, there is no relevant information that has not been disclosed to the Trust's auditor; and
- b) the Trustee believes that all steps have been taken that ought to have been taken to make them aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Trust's auditor has been made aware of that information.

Approved by the Trustee on 11 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Ms Samantha Horne
Chief Finance Officer, Royal Veterinary College



Professor Christianne Glossop
Chair, ACT Management Committee

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 July 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 July 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We have been appointed as auditors under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustee with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustee is responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustee's Report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustee

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustee's responsibilities, set out on page 9, the trustee is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustee is responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustee either intends to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The objectives of our audit are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, to perform audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements, and to respond appropriately to identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations identified during the audit.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST

In relation to fraud, the objectives of our audit are to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud through designing and implementing appropriate responses and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

However, it is the primary responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, the audit engagement team:

- obtained an understanding of the nature of the sector, including the legal and regulatory framework, that the charity operates in and how the charity is complying with the legal and regulatory framework;
- inquired of management, and those charged with governance, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including any known actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud;
- discussed matters about non-compliance with laws and regulations and how fraud might occur including assessment of how and where the financial statements may be susceptible to fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we consider the most significant laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements are FRS 102, Charities SORP (FRS 102), Charities Act 2011, the charity's governing document, tax legislation and Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016. We performed audit procedures to detect non-compliances which may have a material impact on the financial statements which included reviewing the financial statements including the Trustee's Report, remaining alert to new or unusual transactions which may not be in accordance with the governing documents.

The most significant laws and regulations that have an indirect impact on the financial statements are those in relation to GDPR, Data Protection 2018 and Fundraising Regulations. We performed audit procedures to inquire of management and those charged with governance whether the group is in compliance with these law and regulations and inspected correspondence with regulatory authorities.

The audit engagement team identified the risk of management override of controls and the cut off, existence and completeness of income recognition as the areas where the financial statements were most susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. Audit procedures performed included but were not limited to testing manual journal entries and other adjustments, evaluating the business rationale in relation to significant, unusual transactions and transactions entered outside the normal course of business, challenging judgments and estimates and tests of detail, tests of control and analytical procedures for income.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is provided on the Financial Reporting Council's website at <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charity's trustee as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustee those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustee as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

RSM UK Audit LLP

RSM UK Audit LLP

Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

25 Farringdon Street

London EC4A 4AB

Date 18 December 2025

RSM UK Audit LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

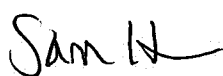
	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Endowment Funds £'000	2025 Total £'000	2024 Total £'000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations	136	559	-	695	602
Legacies	215	162	-	377	183
Donated services and facilities	105	-	-	105	97
Other trading activities	9	-	-	9	12
Investments	60	95	-	155	178
Total Income	525	816	-	1,341	1,072
Expenditure on:					
Raising voluntary income	(296)	(1)	-	(297)	(194)
Charitable activities	(4)	(876)	(2)	(882)	(713)
Investment management costs	(1)	(26)	-	(27)	(21)
Donated services and facilities	(105)	-	-	(105)	(97)
Total Expenditure	(406)	(903)	(2)	(1,311)	(1,025)
Net gains on investments	3	171	1	175	292
Net income for the year	122	84	(1)	205	339
Transfers between funds	85	(85)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year	207	(1)	(1)	205	339
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	2,207	3,849	17	6,073	5,734
Total funds carried forward	2,414	3,848	16	6,278	6,073

The notes on pages 17 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

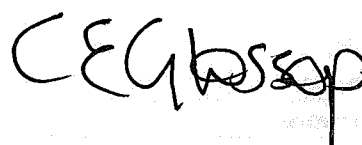
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 JULY 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Endowment Funds £'000	2025 Total £'000	2024 Total £'000
Fixed Assets						
Investments	4	697	3,848	16	4,561	4,315
Current Assets						
Debtors	5	1,745	-	-	1,745	1,592
Cash and cash equivalents		651	-	-	651	316
Current Liabilities						
Creditors: Amounts due in less than one year	6	(679)	-	-	(679)	(150)
Net Current Assets		1,717	-	-	1,717	1,758
Total assets less current liabilities		2,414	3,848	16	6,278	6,073
Provision for pension liabilities	11	-	-	-	-	-
Total Net Assets		2,414	3,848	16	6,278	6,073
The funds of the charity:						
Endowment funds	8	-	-	16	16	17
Restricted income funds	8	-	3,848	-	3,933	3,849
Unrestricted funds	9	2,414	-	-	2,329	2,207
Total Charity Funds		2,414	3,848	16	6,278	6,073

The financial statements on pages 15 to 24 were approved by the Trustee on 11 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Ms Samantha Horne
Chief Finance Officer
Royal Veterinary College



Professor Christianne Glossop
Chair
ACT Management Committee

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025**1. CHARITY INFORMATION**

The Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust (ACT) is a charity established by charitable trust deed and registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (registered charity number 281571). The address of the registered office is The Royal Veterinary College, Hawkshead House, Hawkshead Lane, North Mymms, Hatfield, AL9 7TA.

The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**ACCOUNTING CONVENTION**

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 (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

In preparing these financial statements the Charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemption conferred by FRS102:

- Exemption from the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows and paragraph 3.17(d).

The presentational and functional currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (£) rounded to the nearest thousand (£'000).

No material judgements and estimates were made in preparing the financial statements.

This information is included in the consolidated financial statements of the Royal Veterinary College as at 31 July 2025 and these financial statements can be obtained from Royal Veterinary College, 4 Royal College Street, London NW1 0TU or from <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/financial-information/annual-report-and-financial-statements>

GOING CONCERN

The Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust (ACT) operates a bid-based approach to grants with applications sought from students and staff at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) several times each year. As bids and grants are made in the same financial year, the Trust has no forward commitments at the end of each financial year. The Trust is not dependent on external investment income or donations to continue grant making activities, given the balances held at 31 July 2025.

The UK economy improved during the year with inflation falling markedly to 2.6% and the bank base rate falling slightly to 4.75% contributing to improved overall growth. This, together with ongoing giving by donors having risen, indicates the ability of the Trust to continue as a going concern has strengthened over last year. There are sufficient unrestricted reserves to cover the Trust's direct costs for more than a period of 12 months from the date of the signature of these accounts.

In making this assessment, the Trustee has taken into account all available information regarding the future of the Animal Care Trust.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025 (CONTINUED)**FUND ACCOUNTING (CONTINUED)**

The charity maintains three types of funds:

- i. Unrestricted funds represent income which is expendable at the discretion of the Trustee in the furtherance of the objects of the charity. Such funds may be held in order to finance both working capital and capital investment. The Trustee may designate unrestricted funds for specific charitable purposes.
- ii. Restricted funds represent grants, donations and legacies received which are allocated by the donor for specific purposes.
- iii. Endowment funds are funds which are classified as either:
 - a) permanent endowments where the Trustee can only spend the unapplied income generated by capital; or
 - b) expendable endowments where the Trustee may expend the capital providing that all unapplied income has been spent.

INVESTMENT POLICY

Opening fund balances represent monies donated through the ACT in prior years. Unless donors specifically reference the RVC in their gifts, general philanthropy is channelled through the ACT, and these funds are recorded in the ACT accounts. Fund-raising campaigns for specific purposes are generally undertaken under the ACT banner although specific campaigns may be run in support of the RVC, particularly where the link to the direct benefit to animals is less obvious. The ACT and RVC funds are pooled and invested with a fund manager and investment returns are attributed to the individual fund balances on an annual basis in proportion to their share of the total portfolio. The ACT's share for the financial year 2024-25 is 23% (2023-24: 23%). Although the account with the fund manager is in the RVC's name, the RVC effectively holds the funds in trust for the ACT, which is the legal owner.

INCOME

All income is recognised once the Trust has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

General cash donations, gifts, legacies and collections are recognised when the Trust has entitlement to the funds. Legacies are only recognised when the Trust has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution, and the amount can be measured reliably. Income from investments, including appropriate tax credits, is accounted for on a receivable basis. The Trust receives trading income from the sale of branded greeting cards, clothing, and gifts.

EXPENDITURE

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Trust to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. For expenditure incurring VAT at the standard rate, 60% of the irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred, in line with the partial exemption agreement the RVC VAT group has with HMRC.

Costs of generating voluntary funds mostly relate to expenditure incurred in motivating individual supporters and trusts to donate to the work of the Trust and consist principally of the salary and related costs of the fundraising department.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025 (CONTINUED)**EXPENDITURE (CONTINUED)**

Charitable activities consist of funding the RVC hospitals, scholarships and academic posts and publicising the Trust's objectives by newsletters. Governance costs relate to expenditure incurred in the management of the Trust's assets, organisational administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Direct attribution is used to allocate expenditure to activities. Staff cost and non-attributable costs are apportioned by time.

GRANT MAKING POLICY

The Trust's principal activity is to raise and distribute funds to support the work of the RVC. Funds are transferred to the RVC who then distribute the grants to meet the Trust's objectives. The Trust has established its grant making policy to achieve its objects for the public benefit. Income raised through donations and legacies is made available through a grant application process.

Grants are managed through three programmes:

- Major grants scheme - for projects, equipment and activities costing more than £5,000. Applications will be considered by the Management Committee on a quarterly basis
- Small grants scheme - as above but for projects costing less than £5,000. Applications are considered by appropriate individuals within the ACT considering overall ACT objectives, RVC strategy and funds available for the subject matter of the application.
- Student fundraising grants - there are several grants available to students both individually and to groups and societies.

DONATED SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Donated services are provided by the RVC, and valuations are based on actual costs. The Trust also occupies space owned by the RVC and the notional value of this is based on market rent, along with an allocation of running costs.

TAXATION STATUS

The Trust is a registered charity and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010. It, therefore, meets the definition of a charitable trust for UK income tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Part 10 Income Tax Act 2007 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

PENSION COSTS

Staff are employed by the RVC, and their costs are charged to the Trust. This includes contributions to USS and SAUL's hybrid benefit pension schemes. The charges to the Statement of Financial Activities include the actual contributions paid as well as any costs of maintaining a provision to fund pension deficit recovery plans.

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash at bank, in hand, deposits and short-term investments with an original maturity of three months or less.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025 (CONTINUED)**3. EXPENDITURE**

	Direct costs £'000	Allocated staff costs £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Cost of generating voluntary income	97	116	213	140
Investment management costs	27	-	27	21
Donated services and facilities	105	-	105	97
Support for education and research	345	32	377	459
Support for veterinary clinics	532	13	545	275
Charitable activities – publicity and newsletters	7	37	44	33
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,113	198	1,311	1,025

Staff costs are apportioned by time. Non-staff costs are directly attributed to activities. Shared costs are apportioned based on usage. The audit fee for the year is £8,736 (2024: £6,849).

Donated services and facilities refer to premises-related costs incurred, and professional services provided, by the RVC in support of the ACT.

Support for education and research and for veterinary activities is funded by transfers to the RVC from both restricted and unrestricted income.

Funds are raised through a variety of means including appeals to alumni of the RVC and to the wider database of Trust supporters, sponsored fundraising events and the promotion of legacies.

Charitable activities are supporting the RVC's veterinary clinics, the provision of studentships and scholarships, student support, expanding participation in the veterinary profession through widening participation activities and community engagement, the provision of support for research and teaching, publishing of information and maintaining a dedicated office to facilitate all this work. Expenditure through the grants programme is recorded in this line.

Staff costs	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Salaries	157	163
Social security costs	17	15
Pension costs	24	30
USS pension deficit recovery provision	-	(89)
TOTAL STAFF COSTS	198	119

The average number of staff, all administrative, during the year was 6 (2024: 6).

Staff are employed by the RVC, and their costs are charged to the Trust. The number of staff to whom retirement benefits are accruing under hybrid benefit schemes is 7 (2024: 7).

One employee was paid between £60,001 and £70,000 in the current year (2024: 1).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025 (CONTINUED)**4. INVESTMENTS**

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Investments held with Investment Manager	4,561	4,315
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	4,561	4,315

Investments include cash held within the investment portfolio managed by Sarasin & Partners.

5. DEBTORS

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Amounts due from parent undertaking	1,541	1,368
Other debtors and accrued income	204	224
TOTAL DEBTORS	1,745	1,592

Other debtors include accrued legacy income of £204k (2024: £224k).

Deposit held by the RVC for Trust (amounts due from parent undertaking)

Restricted funds are held in trust by the RVC for the ACT and interest on cash instruments held within the RVC investment portfolio is credited to restricted funds.

6. CREDITORS DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Amounts due to parent undertaking	664	130
Accruals	15	20
TOTAL CREDITORS	679	150

7. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Trust is a wholly owned subsidiary of the RVC, and its principal activity is to raise and distribute funds to support the work of the RVC. During the year the Trust distributed grants and awards totalling £877k (2024: £707k), to the RVC, nil balance outstanding at the year-end (2024: nil balance outstanding at the year-end).

No member of the ACT Management Committee, or person related or connected by business to it, received any remuneration from the Trust during the year (2024: Nil).

No expenses were reimbursed to members of the RVC Council or the ACT Management Committee during the year (2024: Nil)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025 (CONTINUED)**8. MOVEMENTS IN ENDOWMENTS AND RESTRICTED FUNDS**

	Opening Balance £'000	Income during year £'000	Net gain on investment £'000	Expenditure during year £'000	Transf ers £'000	Closing Balance £'000
Hospitals	1,837	452	69	(535)	-	1,823
Scholarship and Hardship Funds	124	3	2	(23)	-	106
Support for Education and Research	1,905	362	100	(347)	(85)	1,935
TOTAL	3,866	817	171	(905)	(85)	3,864

All funds are for the same overall purpose of the promotion of animal care and welfare. They are used for hospital or research equipment, scholarship, student support, academic chairs and other facilities.

There were no legacies notified but not meeting the recognition criteria set out in the Trust's Accounting Policies (and, therefore, not included in the Statement of Financial Activities) (2024: Nil).

9. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Endowment and restricted funds		
Scholarships and Fellowships	2,126	2,029
Equipment and other restricted funds	1,823	1,837
	3,949	3,866
Unrestricted Funds	2,329	2,207
TOTAL FUNDS	6,278	6,073

10. ULTIMATE PARENT ENTITY

The ultimate parent and controlling entity of the Trust is the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), an exempt charity incorporated by Royal Charter. Copies of the financial statements of the RVC are available from the Royal Veterinary College, Royal College Street, London NW1 0TU. The RVC is the smallest and largest set of consolidated financial statements prepared by the group.

11. PENSION SCHEMES

The RVC, which employs the staff seconded to the Trust, participates in the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS), and the Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London (SAUL), and the costs of pension contributions to these schemes, relating to seconded staff, are, therefore, recharged to the company. Full details and disclosures in relation to these pensions are included in RVC's statutory accounts. Contributions to the schemes for the period were USS: £12,978 (2024: £15,180) and SAUL: £10,910 (2024: £14,494). The agreed employer's contribution rate for USS has been 14.5% since 1 January 2024. For SAUL the agreed employer's contribution rate is 21% for the for the Defined benefit scheme and 16% for the Defined contribution scheme.

The prior year pension provision adjustment related to the Trust's liability under the deficit recovery plan for the USS pension scheme. The liability was in respect of the Trust's seconded staff. The deficit recovery plan ended in December 2023 thereby negating the need for any further accounting

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025 (CONTINUED)

provisions. The provision of £89k at the end of December 2023 was therefore written off in last year's financial statements. No provision is held in respect of the SAUL pension scheme.

12. PRIOR YEAR COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024**

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Endowment Funds £'000	2024 Total £'000	2023 Total £'000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations	121	481	-	602	603
Legacies	183	-	-	183	722
Donated services and facilities	97	-	-	97	93
Other trading activities	12	-	-	12	7
Investments	67	110	1	178	150
Total Income	480	591	1	1,072	1,575
Expenditure on:					
Raising voluntary income	(193)	(1)	-	(194)	(276)
Charitable activities	(33)	(679)	(1)	(713)	(547)
Investment management costs	(1)	(20)	-	(21)	(16)
Donated services and facilities	(97)	-	-	(97)	(93)
Total Expenditure	(324)	(700)	(1)	(1,025)	(932)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	7	284	1	292	(17)
Net income for the year	163	175	1	339	626
Transfers between funds	(497)	497	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year	(334)	672	1	339	626
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	2,541	3,177	16	5,734	5,108
Total funds carried forward	2,207	3,849	17	6,073	5,734

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025 (CONTINUED)**12. PRIOR YEAR COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)****BALANCE SHEET AT 31 JULY 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Endowment Funds £'000	2024 Total £'000	2023 Total £'000
Fixed Assets						
Investments	4	305	3,849	17	4,315	3,899
Current Assets						
Debtors	5	1,592	-	-	1,592	1,956
Cash and cash equivalents		460	-	-	316	73
Current Liabilities						
Creditors: Amounts due in less than one year	6	(150)	-	-	(150)	(107)
Net Current Assets		1,902	-	-	1,758	1,922
Total assets less current liabilities		2,207	3,849	17	6,073	5,821
Provision for pension liabilities	11	-	-	-	-	(87)
Total Net Assets		2,207	3,849	17	6,073	5,734
The funds of the charity:						
Endowment funds	8	-	-	17	17	16
Restricted income funds	8	-	3,849	-	3,849	3,177
Unrestricted funds	9	2,207	-	-	2,207	2,541
Total Charity Funds		2,207	3,849	17	6,073	5,734

Accounts



THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST

**ANNUAL REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024**

Registered Charity Number: 281571

CONTENTS

OFFICERS AND ADVISORS	3
TRUSTEE'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024	4
STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT AND THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	9
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST	10
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024	15
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 JULY 2024	16
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024	17

OFFICERS AND ADVISORS

Trustee	The Royal Veterinary College
Secretary to the Trust	Nadja Hale – Head of Fundraising
Principal Address	Royal Veterinary College Hawkshead Lane North Mymms Hatfield Hertfordshire AL9 7TA
Banker	Royal Bank of Scotland 1 Hardman Boulevard Manchester Manchester M3 3AQ
Solicitor	Mills and Reeve LLP Botanic House 100 Hills Road Cambridge CB2 1PH (DX 122891 Cambridge 4)
Auditor	BDO LLP First Floor Bottle Works The Barrs Guildford Surrey GU1 4LP
Website	www.rvc.ac.uk/act

TRUSTEE'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

The Trustee presents the annual report for the year ended 31 July 2024 prepared in compliance with the Charities Act 2011, together with the audited financial statements for the year and confirms that this report complies with the requirements of the Trust Deed and the Charities SORP.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Trust's objectives as stated in the Trust Deed are:

'The advancement of education and of veterinary science medicine and surgery, the undertaking of research and the dissemination of the results thereof and such other charitable purposes for the relief of suffering among animals as the Trustee shall, from time to time, in its absolute discretion determine.'

In pursuit of these objectives, the Trust seeks to promote the welfare of animals through supporting:

- the education and training of veterinary practitioners and the support and assistance of students through the award of prizes, bursaries and scholarships and through improving facilities for students;
- research (including into disease and effective clinical treatments for injured and sick animals);
- the provision of clinical services; and
- the development of a suitable estate, equipment and facilities at the Royal Veterinary College.

In these ways the Trust seeks to advance knowledge and to help develop and strengthen the veterinary professions which deliver care to animals, nationally and internationally. Moreover, the Trust provides funding for clinical excellence by supporting the provision of the best possible clinical facilities with the most advanced equipment.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustee confirms that it has referred to, and complies with, the guidance contained in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, concerning public benefit and incorporates appropriate considerations of public benefit when making decisions concerning the operations and expenditures of the charity.

The Trust's principal activity during the year has been to raise and distribute funds to support the work of the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) and, in so doing, to promote excellence in veterinary education, the welfare of animals, and research into the causes of (and treatments for) disease. The RVC is not only the UK's oldest and largest veterinary educational and research establishment, but its work is widely considered to be delivered to the highest of scientific, clinical and educational standards. It is, therefore, the belief of the Trustee that providing support to the RVC across the range of its endeavours represents the best possible use of the Trust's charitable resources in applying them for the benefit of society in general, for animal-owners and for students pursuing veterinary and scientific careers who require education and training. The Trustee considers all of these benefits to arise directly from implementation of activities pursuant to the Trust's objectives.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Trust's work is funded by the general public, alumni of the RVC, charitable trusts and foundations, companies, clients of the RVC's clinical facilities, participants in fundraising challenge events such as the London Marathon and many others. The Trust's work is entirely dependent on this income.

Each year a substantial income is derived from legacies. The Trust is enormously grateful to those who leave part of their estate to benefit our work and, where legacies are restricted to specific purposes, we honour the

TRUSTEE'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024 (CONTINUED)**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)**

wishes of the donor to the full. We often work with supporters to help shape their future legacies ensuring their wishes are carried out and that they have strategic impact for the RVC, the people we educate and the animals we seek to help.

During the year, the Trust distributed 102 grants, awards and transfers which totalled £707k covering the following purposes:

- £440k in support of education and research activities; and
- £267k in support of clinical facilities.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing cost-of-living crisis, the RVC Animal Care Trust (ACT) Management Committee has adopted a more cautious approach in its assessment of new grant applications considering the level of investment return, the future call on funds and the potential impact on fundraising income in the short to medium term.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Overall, ACT income decreased by 32% to £1,072k (2023: £1,575k). This was due mainly to a 75% decrease in legacy income from £722k to £183k. In total, unrestricted income generated by our fundraising activities decreased by 51% from £970k to £480k and restricted income generated to support specific projects, for which we were fundraising, decreased by 2% from £604k to £591k.

We are very grateful to all our supporters – individuals, companies and charitable trusts and foundations – who have continued to support us in these turbulent times.

Investment income increased from £150k to £178k due largely to a change in investment strategy midway through the year when Sarasin took over from UBS as the Trust's investment manager. Income from other trading activities comprised solely bank interest this year.

In common with other charities, the main risks and uncertainties relate to future income, inflation and other potential increases in costs. Changes in expenditure are monitored by the provision of regular budget reports to management. The reserves position is healthy with readily available unrestricted funds standing at £2,207k at 31 July 2024 compared to staff costs of £119k and directly incurred non-grant costs of £74k. The Trust is, therefore, in a position to manage its expenditure within the combination of unrestricted reserves and funds raised each year.

The Trust benefits from the close relationship with the RVC's clinical services with whom the Trust works to raise funds from hospital clients. In addition, the risk of income reducing is mitigated by increasing engagement with alumni and regular donors.

The Trust holds restricted funds whose purpose is circumscribed by the terms of the original donation. Where possible, the Trust's policy in regard to these funds is to invest them so as to secure sufficient income to satisfy the purpose of the donation and, thereafter, to achieve capital growth. In terms of their expenditure, the Trust operates a grant application process whereby individuals can apply to the Trust for funding for projects relating to animal health and care, education and research. Applications are assessed against the Trust's charitable objects and, if approved, are funded from the most appropriate restricted fund, adhering to the purposes and restrictions of that fund.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024 (CONTINUED)**FINANCIAL REVIEW (CONTINUED)**

The Trust also holds funds which it applies to specific projects. Some of these projects take several years to come to fruition and, from time to time, the Trust may hold significant funds on a short-term basis. Surplus cash is transferred to the RVC for deposit with its bankers and through its investment fund managers. Income is credited to restricted funds based on the returns achieved by the overall RVC portfolio. On 31 July 2024, a net gain of £292k was reported in relation to the Trust's share of the portfolio. This compares to a £17k loss in 2023 and reflects a different approach taken by the new investment fund manager Sarasin and Partners.

The current level of general reserves is sufficient to meet the Trust's operational costs for 2024-25.

FUNDRAISING AT THE ACT

Our supporters are at the heart of everything we achieve, and our fundraised income makes a real difference to animal health and care. We have a diverse range of fundraising activities, from legacies, which usually represent over half of our fundraised income, through to events, individual giving and volunteer fundraising. We are proud to be registered with the Fundraising Regulator and carry out regular checks of our fundraising systems and processes to ensure we are fully compliant with the Fundraising Code of Practice. In 2022, an audit was carried out by the RVC's internal auditors, evaluating RVC's data and financial management systems and procedures, which are consistent with the procedures followed at the ACT. Our processes were found to be robust and effective and the recommendations made have been incorporated into our processes. We also have processes in place to ensure we adhere to the Fundraising Preference Service. We did not receive any requests to discontinue communications via the Service this year.

Currently we utilise a mixture of consent and legitimate interest as our legal basis for processing supporters' personal data for marketing purposes. When we rely on legitimate interest as a legal basis for contacting our supporters, we only do so having considered and balanced any potential impact on the supporter and their rights under data protection laws.

Fundraising activity is reported to the ACT Management Committee on a quarterly basis. The Management Committee is responsible for oversight of the day to day running of the ACT as delegated by the ACT's sole trustee, the RVC Council. Reports are also submitted to the RVC's Finance and General Purposes Committee to ensure that significant risks are monitored and are being properly addressed. The ACT has policies in place relating to Gift Acceptance, Due Diligence and Data Management with systems to escalate concerns to relevant senior individuals or bodies in certain circumstances.

THIRD PARTY FUNDRAISERS

The ACT does not currently employ third party companies to fundraise on its behalf.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

The ACT aims to fundraise appropriately with all of our supporters and we are particularly conscious of our responsibilities to vulnerable people. Anyone fundraising on behalf of the ACT must ensure they communicate clearly and do not exploit the credulity, lack of knowledge, or vulnerable circumstances of any member of the public at any point in time. Where any member of ACT staff or a volunteer is fundraising for the ACT and is concerned about an individual's capacity to understand their actions and the consequence of those actions, they must cease the fundraising activity immediately and report the situation to the Head of Fundraising. If a vulnerability is confirmed subsequent to a donation being made, and the donor or their representative requires

TRUSTEE'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024 (CONTINUED)**VULNERABLE PEOPLE (CONTINUED)**

the donation to be returned, this will be reported to the Management Committee and effected as soon as is practicable.

The ACT complies in full with the RVC's Safeguarding Policy (updated July 2023).

COMPLAINTS

From the many thousands of communications we have had with supporters this year, we received no complaints about our fundraising practices. We take complaints very seriously and would respond according to our complaints policy.

DATA PROTECTION

The ACT has a Privacy Policy which is available to all on our website (<https://www.rvc.ac.uk/act/policy>). We only contact individuals who have either opted into communications with us and/or there is a genuine and legitimate reason for our communication and we are not harming the rights and interests of those individuals. As part of the 2022 internal audit, our data systems were checked for compliance with the law and regulations and found to be robust.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The ACT's fundraising activity supports the RVC's ongoing strategic objectives. The RVC has embarked on a significant programme of investment in its estate, facilities and equipment, across both campuses. The ACT will continue to focus on projects which benefit animals through the provision and development of outstanding veterinary medicine largely through supporting the RVC's hospitals, as well as supporting RVC research and supporting students.

We are fortunate to have received donations and legacies from alumni and other supporters specifically to help our students, particularly those who experience financial difficulties. The cost-of-living crisis has caused difficulties for a number of students, particularly those who seek to support their educational costs through part-time work, often in the hospitality industry, and those whose personal IT equipment is insufficient to support their online learning and examinations. We continue to liaise closely with the RVC Student Support Team to ensure funds are available to help students who find themselves unable to work or who experience financial problems.

The Trust will continue to support projects across the RVC through its main and small grants' schemes and projects to support students and their activities.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust is a trust established on 21 November 1980 and registered as a charity on 15 December 1980. The Charity Commission registration number is 281571. The charity is governed by its Trust Deed which established the objects and powers of the Trust. The charity is also known as the Animal Care Trust and the ACT. It was formerly known as the Royal Veterinary College Animal Welfare Trust and changed its name to the Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust on 12 October 1982. The Trust has a single Trustee, the Council of the RVC, which has devolved responsibility for general management of the Trust to the ACT Management Committee.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024 (CONTINUED)**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)**

The Head of Fundraising is responsible for operating the Trust's policies and for the preparation of budgets and plans and works closely with the Director of External Relations. At the date of this report the Trust has three full time staff members and four part-time staff members (three at 80% FTE and one at 60% FTE). All staff members are seconded to the Trust by the RVC. Members of staff manage the following functions: major gifts, appeals and fundraising events, trusts and legacies, fundraising administration and management of the charity's grant application process.

Financial management and investment management services are provided by the RVC through its Finance Department and the Trust pools its assets with those of the RVC for investment purposes, with the funds managed by Sarasin & Partners. The RVC also provides office accommodation and storage space for the Trust at its Hawkshead campus.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR RECRUITMENT, INDUCTION AND TRAINING

The Trust has a sole Trustee which is an institution: the RVC. Accordingly, the Trustee has appointed a Management Committee of individuals to act as its proper officers and so fulfil its obligations. There are eight positions on the Management Committee appointed by the Trustee through the RVC Council, seven of which were occupied during the year. Each of the members of the ACT Management Committee is either a member of senior RVC staff or of the RVC Council. The members of the Management Committee during the year were Professor Stephen A May (Chair), Professor Adrian Boswood, Professor David B Church, Mr Ian Darker, Dr Imelda McGonnell, Professor Oliver Pybus, and Professor Stuart WJ Reid. The Head of Fundraising and Secretary to the Animal Care Trust, the Director of External Relations, and the Royal Veterinary College's Chief Financial Officer are in attendance at the Management Committee's meetings.

Professor Stephen May, the chair of the ACT Management Committee, retired on 30 April 2024 and was replaced by Professor Christianne Glossop.

GOING CONCERN

The Trustee has assessed the Trust's finances for a period of 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements and, taking account of reasonably possible downsides such as reduced donations/legacies income and increased costs, has concluded that it has sufficient funds to meet its liabilities as they fall due for that period. The Trust's discretionary spend is completely under the control of the Trustee and is such that the Trust's fixed financial commitments during the going concern period (which are relatively limited) could be met comfortably within the Trust's current net assets.

Consequently, the Trustee is confident that the Trust will have sufficient funds to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements and consequently has prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT AND THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Trustee is responsible for preparing the Trustee's report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the Trustee to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under charity law the Trustee must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustee is required to:

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

The Trustee is 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 2011. 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.

The Trustee is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the financial and other information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

STATEMENT OF DISCLOSURE TO THE AUDITOR

- a) so far as the Trustee is aware, there is no relevant information that has not been disclosed to the Trust's auditor; and
- b) the Trustee believes that all steps have been taken that ought to have been taken to make them aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Trust's auditor have been made aware of that information.

Approved by the Trustee on 12 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Professor Stuart W J Reid
Member, Council, Royal Veterinary College



Professor Christianne Glossop
Chair, ACT Management Committee

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST

Opinion on the financial statements

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity's affairs as at 31 July 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

We have audited the financial statements of RVC Animal Care Trust ("the Charity") for the year ended 31 July 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remain independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Conclusions related to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST
(CONTINUED)****Other information**

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report and Financial Statements, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion;

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST
(CONTINUED)**

accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Extent to which the audit was capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Non-compliance with laws and regulations

Based on:

- Our understanding of the Charity and the industry in which it operates;
- Discussion with management and those charged with governance; and
- Obtaining and understanding of the Charity's policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations.

We considered the significant laws and regulations to be the applicable accounting framework, the Charities Act 2011 and UK tax legislation.

The Charity is also subject to laws and regulations where the consequence of non-compliance could have a material effect on the amount or disclosures in the financial statements, for example through the imposition of fines or litigations. We identified such laws and regulations to be Employment Law, Data Protection and Health and Safety Legislation.

Our procedures in respect of the above included:

- Review of minutes of meeting of those charged with governance for any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Review of correspondence with tax authorities for any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Review of financial statement disclosures and agreeing to supporting documentation; and
- Review of legal expenditure accounts to understand the nature of expenditure incurred.

Fraud

We assessed the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- Enquiry with management and those charged with governance regarding any known or suspected instances of fraud;
- Obtaining an understanding of the Charity's policies and procedures relating to:

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST
(CONTINUED)**

- Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud; and
 - Internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud.
- Review of minutes of meeting of those charged with governance for any known or suspected instances of fraud;
- Discussion amongst the engagement team as to how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements;
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud; and

Based on our risk assessment, we considered the areas most susceptible to fraud to be recognition of donation and legacy income, posting inappropriate journal entries to manipulate financial results and management bias in accounting estimates.

Our procedures in respect of the above included:

- Testing a sample of journal entries throughout the year, which met a defined risk criteria, along with a random sample of journals through the year, by agreeing to supporting documentation;
- Testing a sample of grants, donations and legacies received in the year and agreeing that revenue has been recognised appropriately;
- Testing assumptions and provisions made by management in relation to the valuation of legacy income; and
- Challenging assumptions made by management in their significant accounting estimates in particular in relation to the actuarial assumptions used in the Universities Superannuation Scheme.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members who were all deemed to have appropriate competence and capabilities and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Financial Reporting Council's ("FRC's") website at:

<https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST
(CONTINUED)**

than the Charity and the Charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Paul Jagger
BDO LLP, statutory auditor
Guildford, UK

Date:

BDO LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

BDO LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales (with registered number OC305127).

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Endowment Funds £'000	2024 Total £'000	2023 Total £'000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations	121	481	-	602	603
Legacies	183	-	-	183	722
Donated services and facilities	97	-	-	97	93
Other trading activities	12	-	-	12	7
Investments	67	110	1	178	150
Total Income	480	591	1	1,072	1,575
Expenditure on:					
Raising voluntary income	(193)	(1)	-	(194)	(276)
Charitable activities	(33)	(679)	(1)	(713)	(547)
Investment management costs	(1)	(20)	-	(21)	(16)
Donated services and facilities	(97)	-	-	(97)	(93)
Total Expenditure	(324)	(700)	(1)	(1,025)	(932)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	7	284	1	292	(17)
Net income for the year	163	175	1	339	626
Transfers between funds	(497)	497	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year	(334)	672	1	339	626
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	2,541	3,177	16	5,734	5,108
Total funds carried forward	2,207	3,849	17	6,073	5,734

The notes on pages 17 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 JULY 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Endowment Funds £'000	2024 Total £'000	2023 Total £'000
Fixed Assets						
Investments	4	449	3,849	17	4,315	3,899
Current Assets						
Debtors	5	1,592	-	-	1,592	1,956
Cash and cash equivalents		316	-	-	316	73
Current Liabilities						
Creditors: Amounts due in less than one year	6	(150)	-	-	(150)	(107)
Net Current Assets		1,758	-	-	1,758	1,922
Total assets less current liabilities		2,207	3,849	17	6,073	5,821
Provision for pension liabilities	11	-	-	-	-	(87)
Total Net Assets		2,207	3,849	17	6,073	5,734
The funds of the charity:						
Endowment funds	8	-	-	17	17	16
Restricted income funds	8	-	3,849	-	3,849	3,177
Unrestricted funds	9	2,207	-	-	2,207	2,541
Total Charity Funds		2,207	3,849	17	6,073	5,734

The financial statements on pages 15 to 23 were approved by the Trustee on 12 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Professor Stuart W J Reid
Member, Council
Royal Veterinary College



Professor Christianne Glossop
Chair
ACT Management Committee

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024**1. CHARITY INFORMATION**

The Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust (ACT) is a charity established by charitable trust deed and registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (registered charity number 281571). The address of the registered office is The Royal Veterinary College, Hawkshead House, Hawkshead Lane, North Mymms, Hatfield, AL9 7TA.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**ACCOUNTING CONVENTION**

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 (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

In preparing these financial statements the Charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemption conferred by FRS102:

- Exemption from the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows and paragraph 3.17(d).

This information is included in the consolidated financial statements of the Royal Veterinary College as at 31 July 2024 and these financial statements can be obtained from Royal Veterinary College, 4 Royal College Street, London NW1 0TU or from <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/financial-information/annual-report-and-financial-statements>

GOING CONCERN

The Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust (ACT) operates a bid-based approach to grants with applications sought from students and staff at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) several times each year. As bids and grants are made in the same financial year, the Trust has no forward commitments at the end of each financial year. The Trust is not dependent on external investment income or donations to continue grant making activities, given the balances held at 31 July 2024. Although increased inflation and the impact of the war in Ukraine have presented challenges in terms of investment returns and ongoing giving by donors, these have eased and the Trustee does not assess them as being material uncertainties that would threaten the ability of the Trust to continue as a going concern. There are sufficient unrestricted reserves to cover the Trust's direct costs for more than a period of 12 months from the date of the signature of these accounts.

In making this assessment, the Trustee has taken into account all available information regarding the future of the Animal Care Trust.

FUND ACCOUNTING

The charity maintains three types of funds:

- i. Unrestricted funds represent income which is expendable at the discretion of the Trustee in the furtherance of the objects of the charity. Such funds may be held in order to finance both working capital and capital investment. The Trustee may designate unrestricted funds for specific charitable purposes.
- ii. Restricted funds represent grants, donations and legacies received which are allocated by the donor for specific purposes.
- iii. Endowment funds are funds which are classified as either:

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024 (CONTINUED)**FUND ACCOUNTING (Continued)**

- a) permanent endowments where the Trustee can only spend the unapplied income generated by capital; or
- b) expendable endowments where the Trustee may expend the capital providing that all unapplied income has been spent.

INVESTMENT POLICY

Opening fund balances represent monies donated through the ACT in prior years. Unless donors specifically reference the RVC in their gifts, general philanthropy is channelled through the ACT and these funds are recorded in the ACT accounts. Fund-raising campaigns for specific purposes are generally undertaken under the ACT banner although specific campaigns may be run in support of the RVC, particularly where the link to the direct benefit to animals is less obvious. The ACT and RVC funds are pooled and invested with a fund manager and investment returns are attributed to the individual fund balances on an annual basis in proportion to their share of the total portfolio. The ACT's share for the financial year 2023-24 is 23% (2022-23: 23%). Although the account with the fund manager is in the RVC's name, the RVC effectively holds the funds in trust for the ACT, which is the legal owner.

INCOME

All income is recognised once the Trust has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

General cash donations, gifts, legacies and collections are recognised when the Trust has entitlement to the funds. Legacies are only recognised when the Trust has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution and the amount can be measured reliably. Income from investments, including appropriate tax credits, is accounted for on a receivable basis. The Trust receives trading income from the sale of branded greeting cards, clothing, and gifts.

EXPENDITURE

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Trust to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Costs of generating voluntary funds mostly relate to expenditure incurred in motivating individual supporters and trusts to donate to the work of the Trust and consist principally of the salary and related costs of the fundraising department.

Charitable activities consist of funding the RVC hospitals, scholarships and academic posts and publicising the Trust's objectives by newsletters. Governance costs relate to expenditure incurred in the management of the Trust's assets, organisational administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Direct attribution is used to allocate expenditure to activities. Staff cost and non-attributable costs are apportioned by time.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024 (CONTINUED)**DONATED SERVICES AND FACILITIES**

Donated services are provided by the RVC and valuations are based on actual costs. The Trust also occupies space owned by the RVC and the notional value of this is based on market rent, along with an allocation of running costs.

TAXATION STATUS

The Trust is a registered charity and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010. It, therefore, meets the definition of a charitable trust for UK income tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Part 10 Income Tax Act 2007 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

PENSION COSTS

Staff are employed by the RVC and their costs are charged to the Trust. This includes contributions to USS and SAUL's hybrid benefit pension schemes. The charges to the Statement of Financial Activities include the actual contributions paid as well as any costs of maintaining a provision to fund pension deficit recovery plans. The deficit recovery plan was put in place as part of the 2020 valuation, which required payment of 6.2% of salaries over the period 1 April 2022 until 31 March 2024, at which point the rate would increase to 6.3%. As set out in above no deficit recovery plan was required under the 2023 valuation because the scheme was in surplus on a technical provisions basis. The entity was no longer required to make deficit recovery contributions from 1 January 2024 and accordingly released the outstanding provision to the Statement of Financial Activities.

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash at bank, in hand, deposits and short term investments with an original maturity of three months or less.

3. EXPENDITURE

	Direct costs £'000	Allocated staff costs £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Cost of generating voluntary income	74	66	140	195
Investment management costs	21	-	21	16
Donated services and facilities	97	-	97	93
Support for education and research	440	19	459	292
Support for veterinary clinics	267	8	275	285
Charitable activities – publicity and newsletters	7	26	33	51
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	906	119	1,025	932

Staff costs are apportioned by time. Non-staff costs are directly attributed to activities. Shared costs are apportioned based on usage. The audit fee for the year is £6,849 (2023: £6,788).

Donated services and facilities refer to premises-related costs incurred, and professional services provided, by the RVC in support of the ACT.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024 (CONTINUED)

Support for education and research and for veterinary activities is funded by transfers to the RVC from both restricted and unrestricted income.

Funds are raised through a variety of means including appeals to alumni of the RVC and to the wider database of Trust supporters, sponsored fundraising events and the promotion of legacies.

Charitable activities are supporting the RVC's veterinary clinics, the provision of studentships and scholarships, student support, expanding participation in the veterinary profession through widening participation activities and community engagement, the provision of support for research and

3. EXPENDITURE (CONTINUED)

teaching, publishing of information and maintaining a dedicated office to facilitate all of this work. Expenditure through the grants programme is recorded in this line.

Staff costs	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Salaries	163	168
Social security costs	15	15
Pension costs	30	34
USS pension deficit recovery provision	(89)	(10)
TOTAL STAFF COSTS	119	207

The average number of staff, all administrative, during the year was 6 (2023: 6).

Staff are employed by the RVC and their costs are charged to the Trust. The number of staff to whom retirement benefits are accruing under hybrid benefit schemes is 7 (2023: 7).

One employee was paid between £60,000 and £70,000 in the current year (2023: 1).

No member of the ACT Management Committee, or person related or connected by business to it has received any remuneration from the Trust during the year. No expenses were reimbursed to members of the RVC Council or the ACT Management Committee during the year (2023: £Nil).

4. INVESTMENTS

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Investments held with Investment Manager	4,315	3,899
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	4,315	3,899

Investments includes cash held within the investment portfolio managed by Sarasin & Partners.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024 (CONTINUED)**5. DEBTORS**

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Current account with the RVC	1,368	1,329
Other debtors and accrued income	224	627
TOTAL DEBTORS	1,592	1,956

Other debtors include accrued legacy income of £139k (2023: £627k).

Deposit held by the RVC for Trust

Restricted funds are held in trust by the RVC for the ACT and interest on cash instruments held within the RVC investment portfolio is credited to restricted funds.

6. CREDITORS DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Current account with the RVC	130	99
Accruals	20	8
TOTAL CREDITORS	150	107

7. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Trust has taken advantage of the exemption conferred under FRS 102 to not disclose transactions with the parent, The Royal Veterinary College.

8. MOVEMENTS IN ENDOWMENTS AND RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Opening Balance £'000	Income during year £'000	Net gain on investment £'000	Expenditure during year £'000	Transf ers £'000	Closing Balance £'000
Hospitals	1,641	303	152	(259)	-	1,837
Scholarship and Hardship Funds	152	5	(3)	(30)	-	124
Support for Education and Research	1,400	284	136	(412)	497	1,905
TOTAL	3,193	592	285	(701)	497	3,866

All funds are for the same overall purpose of the promotion of animal care and welfare. They are used for hospital or research equipment, scholarship, student support, academic chairs and other facilities.

There were no legacies notified but not meeting the recognition criteria set out in the Trust's Accounting Policies (and, therefore, not included in the Statement of Financial Activities) (2023: Nil).

During the year a transfer from unrestricted to restricted funds was made to recognise previously unknown restrictions on two accrued legacies.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024 (CONTINUED)**9. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Endowment and restricted funds		
Scholarships and Fellowships	2,029	1,552
Equipment and other restricted funds	1,837	1,641
	3,866	3,193
Unrestricted Funds	2,207	2,541
TOTAL FUNDS	6,073	5,734

10. ULTIMATE PARENT ENTITY

The ultimate parent and controlling entity of the Trust is the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), an exempt charity incorporated by Royal Charter. Copies of the financial statements of the RVC are available from the Royal Veterinary College, Royal College Street, London NW1 0TU.

11. PENSION SCHEMES

The RVC, which employs the staff seconded to the Trust, participates in the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS), and the Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London (SAUL), and the costs of pension contributions to these schemes, relating to seconded staff, are, therefore, recharged to the company. Contributions to the schemes for the period were USS: £15,180 (2023: £15,913) and SAUL: £14,494 (2023: £17,728). The agreed employer's contribution rate for USS was 21.6% until 31 December 2023 and 14.5% from 1 January 2024. For SAUL the agreed employer's contribution rate is 21% for the Defined benefit scheme and 16% for the Defined contribution scheme.

The prior year pension provision related to the Trust's liability under the deficit recovery plan for the USS pension scheme. The liability was in respect of the Trust's seconded staff. The deficit recovery plan ended in December 2023 thereby negating the need for any further accounting provisions. The provision of £89k at the end of December 2023 has therefore been written off in these financial statements. No provision is held in respect of the SAUL pension scheme.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024 (CONTINUED)**12. PRIOR YEAR COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Endowment Funds £'000	2023 Total £'000
Income and endowments from:				
Donations	224	379	-	603
Legacies	614	108	-	722
Donated services and facilities	93	-	-	93
Other trading activities	7	-	-	7
Investments	32	117	1	150
Total income	970	604	1	1,575
Expenditure on:				
Raising voluntary income	(275)	(1)	-	(276)
Charitable activities	(40)	(504)	(3)	(547)
Investment management costs	(1)	(15)	-	(16)
Donated services and facilities	(93)	-	-	(93)
Total expenditure	(409)	(520)	(3)	(932)
Net losses on investments	(1)	(16)	-	(17)
Net income for the year	560	68	(2)	626
Net movement in funds for the year	560	68	(2)	626
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	1,981	3,109	18	5,108
Total funds carried forward	2,541	3,177	16	5,734

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024 (CONTINUED)**12. PRIOR YEAR COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)****BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JULY 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Endowment Funds £'000	2023 Total £'000
Fixed assets					
Investments	4	706	3,177	16	3,899
Current assets					
Debtors	5	1,956	-	-	1,956
Cash and cash equivalents		73	-	-	73
Current liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts due in less than one year	6	(107)	-	-	(107)
Net current assets		1,922	-	-	1,922
Total assets less current liabilities		2,628	3,177	16	5,821
Provisions for pensions liabilities	11	(87)	-	-	(87)
Total net assets		2,541	3,177	16	5,734
The funds of the charity:					
Endowment funds	8	-	-	16	16
Restricted income funds	8	-	3,177	-	3,177
Unrestricted funds	9	2,541	-	-	2,541
Total charity funds		2,541	3,177	16	5,734

Accounts



THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST

**ANNUAL REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

Registered Charity Number: 281571

CONTENTS

OFFICERS AND ADVISORS	3
TRUSTEE'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023	4
STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT AND THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	9
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST	10
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023	14
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 JULY 2023	15
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023	16

OFFICERS AND ADVISORS

Trustee	The Royal Veterinary College
Secretary to the Trust	Nadja Hale – Head of Fundraising
Principal Address	Royal Veterinary College Hawkshead Lane North Mymms Hatfield Hertfordshire AL9 7TA
Accountant	Royal Veterinary College Finance Department Royal College Street London NW1 0TU
Banker	Royal Bank of Scotland 1 Hardman Boulevard Manchester Manchester M3 3AQ
Solicitor	Mills and Reeve LLP Botanic House 100 Hills Road Cambridge CB2 1PH (DX 122891 Cambridge 4)
Auditor	BDO LLP 2 City Place Beehive Ring Road Gatwick West Sussex RH6 0PA
Website	www.rvc.ac.uk/act

TRUSTEE'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

The Trustee presents the annual report for the year ended 31 July 2023 prepared in compliance with the Charities Act 2011, together with the audited financial statements for the year and confirms that this report complies with the requirements of the Trust Deed and the Charities SORP.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Trust's objectives as stated in the Trust Deed are:

'the advancement of education and of veterinary science medicine and surgery, the undertaking of research and the dissemination of the results thereof and such other charitable purposes for the relief of suffering among animals as the Trustee shall, from time to time, in its absolute discretion determine...'

In pursuit of these objectives, the Trust seeks to promote the welfare of animals through supporting:

- the education and training of veterinary practitioners and the support and assistance of students through the award of prizes, bursaries and scholarships and through improving facilities for students;
- research (including into disease and effective clinical treatments for injured and sick animals);
- the provision of clinical services; and
- the development of a suitable estate, equipment and facilities at the Royal Veterinary College.

In these ways the Trust seeks to advance knowledge and to help develop and strengthen the veterinary professions which deliver care to animals, nationally and internationally. Moreover, the Trust provides funding for clinical excellence by supporting the provision of the best possible clinical facilities with the most advanced equipment.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustee confirms that it has referred to, and complies with, the guidance contained in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, concerning public benefit and incorporates appropriate considerations of public benefit when making decisions concerning the operations and expenditures of the charity.

The Trust's principal activity during the year has been to raise and distribute funds to support the work of the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) and, in so doing, to promote excellence in veterinary education, the welfare of animals, and research into the causes of (and treatments for) disease. The RVC is not only the UK's oldest and largest veterinary educational and research establishment, but its work is widely considered to be delivered to the highest of scientific, clinical and educational standards. It is, therefore, the belief of the Trustee that providing support to the RVC across the range of its endeavours represents the best possible use of the Trust's charitable resources in applying them for the benefit of society in general, for animal-owners and for students pursuing veterinary and scientific careers who require education and training. The Trustee considers all of these benefits to arise directly from implementation of activities pursuant to the Trust's objectives.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Trust's work is funded by the general public, alumni of the RVC, charitable trusts and foundations, companies, clients of the RVC's clinical facilities, participants in fundraising challenge events such as the London Marathon and many others. The Trust's work is entirely dependent on this income.

Each year a substantial income is derived from legacies. The Trust is enormously grateful to those who leave part of their estate to benefit our work and, where legacies are restricted to specific purposes, we honour the

TRUSTEE'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023 (CONTINUED)**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)**

wishes of the donor to the full. We often work with supporters to help shape their future legacies ensuring their wishes are carried out and that they have strategic impact for the RVC, the people we educate and the animals we seek to help.

During the year, the Trust distributed 78 grants, awards and transfers which totalled £535k covering the following purposes:

- £262k in support of education and research activities; and
- £273k in support of clinical facilities.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing cost-of-living crisis, the RVC Animal Care Trust (ACT) Management Committee has adopted a more cautious approach in its assessment of new grant applications considering the level of investment return, the future call on funds and the potential impact on fundraising income in the short to medium term.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Overall, ACT income increased by 4% to £1,575k (2022: £1,517k). This was due mainly to a 10% increase in legacy income from £656k to £722k. However, this was offset by a 10% decrease in donation income from £667k to £603k. In total, unrestricted income generated by our fundraising activities decreased by 10% from £1,073k to £970k whilst restricted income generated to support specific projects, for which we were fundraising, increased by 36% from £443k to £604k.

We are very grateful to all our supporters – individuals, companies and charitable trusts and foundations – who have continued to support us in these turbulent times.

Investment income increased from £94k to £150k due largely to increased interest rates. Income from other trading activities comprised mainly bank interest and a small amount of income from Christmas card sales.

In common with other charities, the main risks and uncertainties relate to future income, inflation and other potential increases in costs. Changes in expenditure are monitored by the provision of regular budget reports to management. The reserves position is healthy with unrestricted funds standing at £2,541k at 31 July 2023 compared to staff costs of £207k and directly incurred non-grant costs of £69k. The Trust is, therefore, in a position to manage its expenditure within the combination of unrestricted reserves and funds raised each year.

The Trust benefits from the close relationship with the RVC's clinical services with whom the Trust works to raise funds from hospital clients. In addition, the risk of income reducing is mitigated by increasing engagement with alumni and regular donors.

The Trust holds restricted funds whose purpose is circumscribed by the terms of the original donation. Where possible, the Trust's policy in regard to these funds is to invest them so as to secure sufficient income to satisfy the purpose of the donation and, thereafter, to achieve capital growth. In terms of their expenditure, the Trust operates a grant application process whereby individuals can apply to the Trust for funding for projects relating to animal health and care, education and research. Applications are assessed against the Trust's charitable objects and, if approved, are funded from the most appropriate restricted fund, adhering to the purposes and restrictions of that fund.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023 (CONTINUED)**FINANCIAL REVIEW (CONTINUED)**

The Trust also holds funds which it applies to specific projects. Some of these projects take several years to come to fruition and, from time to time, the Trust may hold significant funds on a short-term basis. Surplus cash is transferred to the RVC for deposit with its bankers and through its investment fund managers, UBS AG. Income is credited to restricted funds based on the returns achieved by the overall RVC portfolio. On 31 July 2023, a net loss of £17k was reported in relation to the Trust's share of the portfolio. This compares to a £58k gain in 2022 and reflects the continued downturn in the economic markets due to high global interest rates and the continuing Ukraine conflict.

With the exceptions noted above, the Trust has no specific policy in respect of general reserves other than that, on a year-on-year basis, the Trust's resources should be sufficient to meet its operational costs. The current level of general reserve balances satisfies this requirement.

FUNDRAISING AT THE ACT

Our supporters are at the heart of everything we achieve, and our fundraised income makes a real difference to animal health and care. We have a diverse range of fundraising activities, from legacies, which usually represent over half of our fundraised income, through to events, individual giving and volunteer fundraising. We are proud to be registered with the Fundraising Regulator and carry out regular checks of our fundraising systems and processes to ensure we are fully compliant with the Fundraising Code of Practice. In April 2022, an audit was carried out by the RVC's internal auditors, evaluating RVC's data and financial management systems and procedures, which are consistent with the procedures followed at the ACT. Our processes were found to be robust and effective and the recommendations made have been incorporated into our processes. We also have processes in place to ensure we adhere to the Fundraising Preference Service. We did not receive any requests to discontinue communications via the Service this year.

Currently we utilise a mixture of consent and legitimate interest as our legal basis for processing supporters' personal data for marketing purposes. When we rely on legitimate interest as a legal basis for contacting our supporters, we only do so having considered and balanced any potential impact on the supporter and their rights under data protection laws.

Fundraising activity is reported to the ACT Management Committee on a quarterly basis. The Management Committee is responsible for oversight of the day to day running of the ACT as delegated by the ACT's sole trustee, the RVC Council. Reports are also submitted to the RVC's Finance and General Purposes Committee to ensure that significant risks are monitored and are being properly addressed. The ACT has policies in place relating to Gift Acceptance, Due Diligence and Data Management with systems to escalate concerns to relevant senior individuals or bodies in certain circumstances.

THIRD PARTY FUNDRAISERS

The ACT does not currently employ third party companies to fundraise on its behalf.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

The ACT aims to fundraise appropriately with all of our supporters and we are particularly conscious of our responsibilities to vulnerable people. Anyone fundraising on behalf of the ACT must ensure they communicate clearly and do not exploit the credulity, lack of knowledge, or vulnerable circumstances of any member of the public at any point in time. Where any member of ACT staff or a volunteer is fundraising for the ACT and is concerned about an individual's capacity to understand their actions and the consequence of those actions, they must cease the fundraising activity immediately and report the situation to the Head of Fundraising. If a vulnerability is confirmed subsequent to a donation being made, and the donor or their representative requires

TRUSTEE'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023 (CONTINUED)**VULNERABLE PEOPLE (CONTINUED)**

the donation to be returned, this will be reported to the Management Committee and effected as soon as is practicable.

The ACT complies in full with the RVC's Safeguarding Policy (updated July 2023).

COMPLAINTS

From the many thousands of communications we have had with supporters this year, we received no complaints about our fundraising practices. We take complaints very seriously and would respond according to our complaints policy.

DATA PROTECTION

The ACT has a Privacy Policy which is available to all on our website (<https://www.rvc.ac.uk/act/policy>). We only contact individuals who have either opted into communications with us and/or there is a genuine and legitimate reason for our communication and we are not harming the rights and interests of those individuals. As part of the April 2022 internal audit, our data systems were checked for compliance with the law and regulations and found to be robust.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The ACT's fundraising activity supports the RVC's ongoing strategic objectives. The RVC has embarked on a significant programme of investment in its estate, facilities and equipment, across both campuses. The ACT will continue to focus on projects which benefit animals through the provision and development of outstanding veterinary medicine largely through supporting the RVC's hospitals, as well as supporting RVC research and supporting students.

We are fortunate to have received donations and legacies from alumni and other supporters specifically to help our students, particularly those who experience financial difficulties. The cost-of-living crisis has caused difficulties for a number of students, particularly those who seek to support their educational costs through part-time work, often in the hospitality industry, and those whose personal IT equipment is insufficient to support their online learning and examinations. We continue to liaise closely with the RVC Student Support Team to ensure funds are available to help students who find themselves unable to work or who experience financial problems.

Legacy income was initially affected by the pandemic because of a backlog in the probate system and a temporary halt to house sales; however, these issues started to improve by the beginning of 2021 and legacy income has increased since as a result. Whilst the complications caused by the pandemic itself appear to have largely gone away, the cost-of-living crisis is a concern and we will continue to monitor the effects of this carefully into Winter 2023 particularly the level of general donations and regular givers.

The Trust will continue to support projects across the RVC through its main and small grants' schemes and projects to support students and their activities.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023 (CONTINUED)**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust is a trust established on 21 November 1980 and registered as a charity on 15 December 1980. The Charity Commission registration number is 281571. The charity is governed by its Trust Deed which established the objects and powers of the Trust. The charity is also known as the Animal Care Trust and the ACT. It was formerly known as the Royal Veterinary College Animal Welfare Trust and changed its name to the Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust on 12 October 1982. The Trust has a single Trustee, the Council of the RVC, which has devolved responsibility for general management of the Trust to the ACT Management Committee.

The Head of Fundraising is responsible for operating the Trust's policies and for the preparation of budgets and plans and works closely with the Director of External Relations. At the date of this report the Trust has three full time staff members and four part-time staff members (three at 80% FTE and one at 60% FTE). All staff members are seconded to the Trust by the RVC. Members of staff manage the following functions: major gifts, appeals and fundraising events, trusts and legacies, fundraising administration and management of the charity's grant application process.

Financial management and investment management services are provided by the RVC through its Finance Department and the Trust pools its assets with those of the RVC for investment purposes, with the funds managed by UBS AG. The RVC also provides office accommodation and storage space for the Trust at its Hawkshead campus.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR RECRUITMENT, INDUCTION AND TRAINING

The Trust has a sole Trustee which is an institution: the RVC. Accordingly, the Trustee has appointed a Management Committee of individuals to act as its proper officers and so fulfil its obligations. There are eight positions on the Management Committee appointed by the Trustee through the RVC Council, seven of which were occupied during the year. Each of the members of the ACT Management Committee is either a member of senior RVC staff or of the RVC Council. The members of the Management Committee during the year were Professor Stephen A May (Chair), Professor Adrian Boswood, Professor David B Church, Mr Ian Darker, Dr Imelda McGonnell, Professor Oliver Pybus, and Professor Stuart WJ Reid. The Head of Fundraising and Secretary to the Animal Care Trust, the Director of External Relations, and the Royal Veterinary College's Finance Director are in attendance at the Management Committee's meetings.

GOING CONCERN

The Trustee has assessed the Trust's finances for a period of 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements and, taking account of reasonably possible downsides such as reduced donations/legacies income and increased costs, has concluded that it has sufficient funds to meet its liabilities as they fall due for that period. The Trust's discretionary spend is completely under the control of the Trustee and is such that the Trust's fixed financial commitments during the going concern period (which are relatively limited) could be met comfortably within the Trust's current net assets.

Consequently, the Trustee is confident that the Trust will have sufficient funds to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements and consequently has prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT AND THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Trustee is responsible for preparing the Trustee's report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the Trustee to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under charity law the Trustee must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustee is required to:

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

The Trustee is 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 2011. 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.

The Trustee is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the financial and other information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

STATEMENT OF DISCLOSURE TO THE AUDITOR

- a) so far as the Trustee is aware, there is no relevant information that has not been disclosed to the Trust's auditor; and
- b) the Trustee believes that all steps have been taken that ought to have been taken to make them aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Trust's auditor have been made aware of that information.

Approved by the Trustee on 29 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Professor Stuart W J Reid
Member, Council, Royal Veterinary College



Professor Stephen May
Chair, ACT Management Committee

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST

Opinion on the financial statements

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity's affairs as at 31 July 2023 and of the Charity's incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

We have audited the financial statements of RVC Animal Care Trust ("the Charity") for the year ended 31 July 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustee with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The Trustee is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report and financial statements, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST
(CONTINUED)**

appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information in the Trustee's Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustee

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustee's responsibilities, the Trustee is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustee is responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustee either intends to liquidate the Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Extent to which the audit was capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST
(CONTINUED)***Non-compliance with laws and regulations*

Based on:

- our understanding of the Charity and the industry in which it operates;
- discussion with management and those charged with governance; and
- obtaining and understanding of the Charity's policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations.

we considered the significant laws and regulations to be the applicable accounting framework, the Charities Act 2011 and UK tax legislation.

The Charity is also subject to laws and regulations where the consequence of non-compliance could have a material effect on the amount or disclosures in the financial statements, for example through the imposition of fines or litigations. We identified such laws and regulations to be Employment Law, Data Protection and Health and Safety Legislation.

Our procedures in respect of the above included:

- review of minutes of meeting of those charged with governance for any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- review of correspondence with tax authorities for any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- review of financial statement disclosures and agreeing to supporting documentation; and
- review of legal expenditure accounts to understand the nature of expenditure incurred.

Fraud

We assessed the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- enquiry with management and those charged with governance regarding any known or suspected instances of fraud;
- obtaining an understanding of the Charity's policies and procedures relating to:
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud; and
 - internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud.
- review of minutes of meeting of those charged with governance for any known or suspected instances of fraud;
- discussion amongst the engagement team as to how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements; and
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.

Based on our risk assessment, we considered the areas most susceptible to fraud to be posting inappropriate journal entries to manipulate financial results and management bias in accounting estimates.

Our procedures in respect of the above included:

- identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted from staff members with privilege access rights, journals posted by related parties and key management, journals posted by individuals outside of their expected job roles, unusual journal combinations and other journals deemed unusual based on our expectations; and
- challenging assumptions made by management in their significant accounting estimates in particular in relation to the actuarial assumptions used in the Universities Superannuation Scheme.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST
(CONTINUED)***Fraud (continued)*

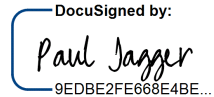
We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members who were all deemed to have appropriate competence and capabilities and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustee, as a body, in accordance with paragraph 154 of the Charities Act 2011. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charity's Trustee those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustee as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DocuSigned by:

9EDBE2FE668E4BE...

Paul Jagger (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of BDO LLP, Statutory Auditor
Gatwick, UK

Date: 18 December 2023

BDO LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales (with registered number OC305127).

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Endowment Funds £'000	2023 Total £'000	2022 Total £'000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations	224	379	-	603	667
Legacies	614	108	-	722	656
Donated services and facilities	93	-	-	93	98
Other trading activities	7	-	-	7	2
Investments	32	117	1	150	94
Total Income	970	604	1	1,575	1,517
Expenditure on:					
Raising voluntary income	(275)	(1)	-	(276)	(305)
Charitable activities	(40)	(504)	(3)	(547)	(746)
Investment management costs	(1)	(15)	-	(16)	(16)
Donated services and facilities	(93)	-	-	(93)	(98)
Total Expenditure	(409)	(520)	(3)	(932)	(1,165)
Net (losses)/gains on investments	(1)	(16)	-	(17)	58
Net income for the year	560	68	(2)	626	410
Net movement in funds for the year	560	68	(2)	626	410
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	1,981	3,109	18	5,108	4,698
Total funds carried forward	2,541	3,177	16	5,734	5,108

The notes on pages 16 to 23 form part of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 JULY 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Endowment Funds £'000	2023 Total £'000	2022 Total £'000
Fixed Assets						
Investments	4	706	3,177	16	3,899	3,782
Current Assets						
Debtors	5	1,956	-	-	1,956	492
Cash and cash equivalents		73	-	-	73	992
Current Liabilities						
Creditors: Amounts due in less than one year	6	(107)	-	-	(107)	(64)
Net Current Assets		1,922	-	-	1,922	1,420
Total assets less current liabilities		2,628	3,177	16	5,821	5,202
Provision for pension liabilities	11	(87)	-	-	(87)	(94)
Total net assets		2,541	3,177	16	5,734	5,108
The funds of the charity:						
Endowment funds	8	-	-	16	16	18
Restricted income funds	8	-	3,177	-	3,177	3,109
Unrestricted funds	9	2,541	-	-	2,541	1,981
Total charity funds		2,541	3,177	16	5,734	5,108

The financial statements on pages 14 to 23 were approved by the Trustee on 29 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Professor Stuart W J Reid
Member, Council
Royal Veterinary College



Professor Stephen May
Chair
ACT Management Committee

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**1. CHARITY INFORMATION**

The Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust (ACT) is a charity established by charitable trust deed and registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (registered charity number 281571). The address of the registered office is The Royal Veterinary College, Hawkshead House, Hawkshead Lane, North Mymms, Hatfield, AL9 7TA.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**ACCOUNTING CONVENTION**

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 (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

In preparing these financial statements the Charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemption conferred by FRS102:

- Exemption from the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows and paragraph 3.17(d).

This information is included in the consolidated financial statements of the Royal Veterinary College as at 31 July 2023 and these financial statements can be obtained from Royal Veterinary College, 4 Royal College Street, London NW1 0TU or from <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/financial-information/annual-report-and-financial-statements>

GOING CONCERN

The Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust (ACT) operates a bid-based approach to grants with applications sought from students and staff at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) several times each year. As bids and grants are made in the same financial year, the Trust has no forward commitments at the end of each financial year. The Trust is not dependent on external investment income or donations to continue grant making activities, given the balances held at 31 July 2023. Although increased inflation and the impact of the war in Ukraine have presented challenges in terms of investment returns and ongoing giving by donors, these have eased and the Trustee does not assess them as being material uncertainties that would threaten the ability of the Trust to continue as a going concern. There are sufficient unrestricted reserves to cover the Trust's direct costs for more than a period of 12 months from the date of the signature of these accounts.

In making this assessment, the Trustee has taken into account all available information regarding the future of the Animal Care Trust.

FUND ACCOUNTING

The charity maintains three types of funds:

- i. Unrestricted funds represent income which is expendable at the discretion of the Trustee in the furtherance of the objects of the charity. Such funds may be held in order to finance both working capital and capital investment. The Trustee may designate unrestricted funds for specific charitable purposes.
- ii. Restricted funds represent grants, donations and legacies received which are allocated by the donor for specific purposes.
- iii. Endowment funds are funds which are classified as either:

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

- a) permanent endowments where the Trustee can only spend the unapplied income generated by capital; or
- b) expendable endowments where the Trustee may expend the capital providing that all unapplied income has been spent.

INVESTMENT POLICY

Opening fund balances represent monies donated through the ACT in prior years. Unless donors specifically reference the RVC in their gifts, general philanthropy is channelled through the ACT and these funds are recorded in the ACT accounts. Fund-raising campaigns for specific purposes are generally undertaken under the ACT banner although specific campaigns may be run in support of the RVC, particularly where the link to the direct benefit to animals is less obvious. The ACT and RVC funds are pooled and invested with a fund manager and investment returns are attributed to the individual fund balances on an annual basis in proportion to their share of the total portfolio. The ACT's share for the financial year 2022-23 is 23% (2021-22: 23%). Although the account with the fund manager is in the RVC's name, the RVC effectively holds the funds in trust for the ACT, which is the legal owner.

INCOME

All income is recognised once the Trust has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

General cash donations, gifts, legacies and collections are recognised when the Trust has entitlement to the funds. Legacies are only recognised when the Trust has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution and the amount can be measured reliably. Income from investments, including appropriate tax credits, is accounted for on a receivable basis. The Trust receives trading income from the sale of branded greeting cards, clothing, and gifts.

EXPENDITURE

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Trust to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Costs of generating voluntary funds mostly relate to expenditure incurred in motivating individual supporters and trusts to donate to the work of the Trust and consist principally of the salary and related costs of the fundraising department.

Charitable activities consist of funding the RVC hospitals, scholarships and academic posts and publicising the Trust's objectives by newsletters. Governance costs relate to expenditure incurred in the management of the Trust's assets, organisational administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Direct attribution is used to allocate expenditure to activities. Staff cost and non-attributable costs are apportioned by time.

DONATED SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Donated services are provided by the RVC and valuations are based on actual costs. The Trust also occupies space owned by the RVC and the notional value of this is based on market rent, along with an allocation of running costs.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023 (CONTINUED)**TAXATION STATUS**

The Trust is a registered charity and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010. It, therefore, meets the definition of a charitable trust for UK income tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Part 10 Income Tax Act 2007 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

PENSION COSTS

Staff are employed by the RVC and their costs are charged to the Trust. This includes contributions to USS and SAUL's hybrid benefit pension schemes. The charges to the Statement of Financial Activities include the actual contributions paid as well as any costs of maintaining a provision to fund pension deficit recovery plans.

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash at bank, in hand, deposits and short term investments with an original maturity of three months or less.

3. EXPENDITURE

	Direct costs	Allocated staff costs	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost of generating voluntary income	69	126	195	253
Investment management costs	16	-	16	16
Donated services and facilities	93	-	93	98
Support for education and research	262	30	292	577
Support for veterinary clinics	273	12	285	186
Charitable activities – publicity and newsletters	12	39	51	35
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	725	207	932	1,165

Staff costs are apportioned by time. Non-staff costs are directly attributed to activities. Shared costs are apportioned based on usage. The audit fee for the year is £6,788 (2022: £4,816).

Donated services and facilities refer to premises-related costs incurred, and professional services provided, by the RVC in support of the ACT.

Support for education and research and for veterinary activities is funded by transfers to the RVC from both restricted and unrestricted income.

Funds are raised through a variety of means including appeals to alumni of the RVC and to the wider database of Trust supporters, sponsored fundraising events and the promotion of legacies.

Charitable activities are supporting the RVC's veterinary clinics, the provision of studentships and scholarships, student support, expanding participation in the veterinary profession through widening participation activities and community engagement, the provision of support for research and

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023 (CONTINUED)**3. EXPENDITURE (CONTINUED)**

teaching, publishing of information and maintaining a dedicated office to facilitate all of this work. Expenditure through the grants programme is recorded in this line.

Staff costs	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Salaries	168	141
Social security costs	15	13
Pension costs	34	27
USS pension deficit recovery provision	(10)	49
TOTAL STAFF COSTS	207	230

The average number of staff, all administrative, during the year was 6 (2022: 5).

Staff are employed by the RVC and their costs are charged to the Trust. The number of staff to whom retirement benefits are accruing under hybrid benefit schemes is 7 (2022: 5).

One employee was paid between £60,000 and £70,000 in the current year (2022: 1).

No member of the ACT Management Committee, or person related or connected by business to it has received any remuneration from the Trust during the year. No expenses were reimbursed to members of the RVC Council or the ACT Management Committee during the year (2022: £Nil).

4. INVESTMENTS

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Investments held with Investment Manager	3,899	3,782
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	3,899	3,782

Investments includes cash held within the investment portfolio managed by UBS AG.

5. DEBTORS

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Current account with the RVC	1,329	-
Other debtors and accrued income	627	492
TOTAL DEBTORS	1,956	492

Other debtors include accrued legacy income of £627k (2022: £492k).

Deposit held by the RVC for Trust

Restricted funds are held in trust by the RVC for the ACT and interest on cash instruments held within the RVC investment portfolio is credited to restricted funds.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023 (CONTINUED)**6. CREDITORS DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Current account with the RVC	99	60
Accruals	8	4
TOTAL CREDITORS	107	64

7. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Trust has taken advantage of the exemption conferred under FRS 102 to not disclose transactions with the parent, The Royal Veterinary College.

8. MOVEMENTS IN ENDOWMENTS AND RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Opening Balance	Income during year	Net loss on investment	Expenditure during year	Closing Balance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Hospitals	1,644	276	(8)	(271)	1,641
Scholarship and Hardship Funds	194	7	(1)	(48)	152
Support for Education and Research	1,289	322	(7)	(204)	1,400
TOTAL	3,127	605	(16)	(523)	3,193

All funds are for the same overall purpose of the promotion of animal care and welfare. They are used for hospital or research equipment, scholarship, student support, academic chairs and other facilities.

There were no legacies notified but not meeting the recognition criteria set out in the Trust's Accounting Policies (and, therefore, not included in the Statement of Financial Activities) (2022: £670k).

9. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Endowment and restricted funds		
Scholarships and Fellowships	1,552	1,483
Equipment and other restricted funds	1,641	1,644
	3,193	3,127
Unrestricted Funds	2,541	1,981
TOTAL FUNDS	5,734	5,108

10. ULTIMATE PARENT ENTITY

The ultimate parent and controlling entity of the Trust is the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), an exempt charity incorporated by Royal Charter. Copies of the financial statements of the RVC are available from the Royal Veterinary College, Royal College Street, London NW1 0TU.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023 (CONTINUED)**11. PENSION SCHEMES**

The RVC, which employs the staff seconded to the Trust, participates in the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS), and the Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London (SAUL), and the costs of pension contributions to these schemes, relating to seconded staff, are, therefore, recharged to the company. Contributions to the schemes for the period were USS: £15,913 (2022: £15,597) and SAUL: £17,728 (2022: £11,516). The employer's contribution rate for USS was 21.6%. The employer's contribution rate for SAUL was 19% up until 31 December 2022 and 21% thereafter.

The pension provision relates to the Trust's liability under the deficit recovery plan for the USS pension scheme. The liability is in respect of the Trust's seconded staff. The provision is based on the latest 2020 valuation and has decreased by £7k compared to the prior year (2022: £49k increase). No provision is held in respect of the SAUL pension scheme.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023 (CONTINUED)**12. PRIOR YEAR COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022**

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Endowment Funds £'000	2022 Total £'000
Income and endowments from:				
Donations	376	291	-	667
Legacies	592	64	-	656
Donated services and facilities	98	-	-	98
Other trading activities	2	-	-	2
Investments	5	88	1	94
Total income	1,073	443	1	1,517
Expenditure on:				
Raising voluntary income	(302)	(3)	-	(305)
Charitable activities	(293)	(452)	(1)	(746)
Investment management costs	(1)	(15)	-	(16)
Donated services and facilities	(98)	-	-	(98)
Total expenditure	(694)	(470)	(1)	(1,165)
Net gains on investments	3	55	-	58
Net income for the year	382	28	-	410
Net movement in funds for the year	382	28	-	410
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	1,599	3,081	18	4,698
Total funds carried forward	1,981	3,109	18	5,108

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

12. PRIOR YEAR COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JULY 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Endowment Funds £'000	2022 Total £'000
Fixed assets					
Investments	4	655	3,109	18	3,782
Current assets					
Debtors	5	492	-	-	492
Cash and cash equivalents		992	-	-	992
Current liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts due in less than one year	6	(64)	-	-	(64)
Net current assets		1,420	-	-	1,420
Total assets less current liabilities		2,075	3,109	18	5,202
Provisions for pensions liabilities	11	(94)	-	-	(94)
Total net assets		1,981	3,109	18	5,108
The funds of the charity:					
Endowment funds	8	-	-	18	18
Restricted income funds	8	-	3,109	-	3,109
Unrestricted funds	9	1,981	-	-	1,981
Total charity funds		1,981	3,109	18	5,108

Accounts



THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE

ANIMAL CARE TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022

Registered Charity Number: 281571

The Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022**

CONTENTS

Officers and Advisors	3
Trustee's Report	4
Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustee of the Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust	11
Statement of Financial Activities	15
Balance Sheet	16
Statement of Accounting Policies	17
Notes to the Accounts	20

OFFICERS AND ADVISORS

Trustee:	Royal Veterinary College
Secretary to the Trust:	Nadja Hale Head of Fundraising
Auditor:	BDO LLP Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors 2 City Place Beehive Ring Road Gatwick West Sussex RH6 0PA
Accountant:	Royal Veterinary College Finance Department Royal College Street London NW1 0TU
Solicitor:	Mills and Reeve Botanic House 100 Hills Road Cambridge CB2 1PH (DX 122891 Cambridge 4)
Banker:	Royal Bank of Scotland PO Box 66892 London E1W 9FR
Principal address:	The Royal Veterinary College Hawkshead Lane, North Mymms Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL9 7TA
Web site:	www.rvc.ac.uk/act

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

for the year ended 31 July 2022

The Trustee presents the annual report for the year ended 31 July 2022 prepared in compliance with the Charities Act 2011, together with the audited financial statements for the year and confirms that this report complies with the requirements of the Trust Deed and the Charities SORP.

Objectives and Activities

The Trust's objectives as stated in the Trust Deed are:

'the advancement of education and of veterinary science medicine and surgery, the undertaking of research and the dissemination of the results thereof and such other charitable purposes for the relief of suffering among animals as the Trustee shall, from time to time, in its absolute discretion determine...'

In pursuit of these objectives, the Trust seeks to promote the welfare of animals through supporting:

- the education and training of veterinary practitioners and the support and assistance of students through the award of prizes, bursaries and scholarships and through improving facilities for students;
- research (including into disease and effective clinical treatments for injured and sick animals);
- the provision of clinical services; and
- the development of a suitable estate, equipment and facilities at the Royal Veterinary College.

In these ways the Trust seeks to advance knowledge and to help develop and strengthen the veterinary professions which deliver care to animals, nationally and internationally. Moreover, the Trust provides funding for clinical excellence by supporting the provision of the best possible clinical facilities with the most advanced equipment.

Public Benefit

The Trustee confirms that it has referred to, and complies with, the guidance contained in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, concerning public benefit and incorporates appropriate considerations of public benefit when making decisions concerning the operations and expenditures of the charity.

The Trust's principal activity during the year has been to raise and distribute funds to support the work of the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) and, in so doing, to promote excellence in veterinary education, the welfare of animals, and research into the causes of (and treatments for) disease. The RVC is not only the UK's oldest and largest veterinary educational and research establishment but its work is widely considered to be delivered to the highest of scientific, clinical and educational standards. It is, therefore, the belief of the Trustee that providing support to the RVC across the range of its endeavours represents the best possible use of the Trust's charitable resources in applying them for the benefit of society in general, for animal-owners and for students pursuing veterinary and scientific careers who require education and training. The Trustee considers all of these benefits to arise directly from implementation of activities pursuant to the Trust's objectives.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Achievements and Performance

The Trust's work is funded by the general public, alumni of the RVC, charitable trusts and foundations, companies, clients of the RVC's clinical facilities, participants in fundraising challenge events such as the London Marathon and many others. The Trust's work is entirely dependent on this income.

Each year a substantial income is derived from legacies. The Trust is enormously grateful to those who leave part of their estate to benefit our work and, where legacies are restricted to specific purposes, we honour the wishes of the donor to the full. We often work with supporters to help shape their future legacies ensuring their wishes are carried out and that they have strategic impact for the RVC, the people we educate and the animals we seek to help.

During the year, the Trust distributed 88 grants, awards and transfers which totalled £744k covering the following purposes:

- £558k in support of education and research activities; and
- £186k in support of clinical facilities.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak in early 2020, the ACT Management Committee has adopted a more cautious approach in its assessment of new grant applications considering the level of investment return, the future call on funds due to the pandemic and the potential impact on fundraising income in the short to medium term.

Financial Review

Overall ACT income increased by 11% to £1,517k (2021: £1,365k). As with last year, there was an increase of 14% in donation income to £667k (2021: £584k) and legacy income remained strong at £656k (2021: £594k), a 10% increase. In total, unrestricted income generated by our fundraising activities increased by 37% from £782k to £1,073k whilst restricted income generated to support specific projects, for which we were fundraising, decreased by 24% from £582k to £443k.

We are very grateful to all our supporters – individuals, companies and charitable trusts and foundations – who have continued to support us in these turbulent times.

Investment income decreased from £101k to £94k. Income from other trading activities comprised mainly income from Christmas card sales and a small amount of bank deposit interest.

In common with other charities, the main risks and uncertainties relate to future income and potential increases in costs. Changes in expenditure are monitored by the provision of regular budget reports to management. The reserves position is healthy with unrestricted funds standing at £1,981k at 31 July 2022 compared to staff costs of £230k and directly incurred non-grant costs of £74k. The Trust is, therefore, in a position to manage its expenditure within the combination of unrestricted reserves and funds raised each year.

The Trust benefits from the close relationship with the RVC's clinical facilities with whom the Trust works to raise funds from hospital clients. In addition, the risk of income reducing is mitigated by increasing engagement with alumni and regular donors.

The Trust holds restricted funds whose purpose is circumscribed by the terms of the original donation. The Trust's policy in regard to these funds is to invest them so as to secure sufficient income to satisfy the purpose of the donation and, thereafter, to achieve capital growth. In terms of their expenditure, the Trust operates a grant application process whereby individuals can apply to the Trust for funding

TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Financial Review (Continued)

for projects relating to animal health and care, education and research. Applications are assessed against the Trust's charitable objects and, if approved, are funded from the most appropriate restricted fund, adhering to the purposes and restrictions of that fund.

The Trust also holds funds which it applies to specific projects. Some of these projects take several years to come to fruition and, from time to time, the Trust may hold significant funds on a short term basis. Surplus cash is transferred to the RVC for deposit with its bankers and through its investment fund managers, UBS AG. Income is credited to restricted funds based on the returns achieved by the overall RVC portfolio. On 31 July 2022, a net gain of £58k was reported in relation to the Trust's share of the portfolio. This compares to a £561k gain in 2021 and reflects the downturn in the economic markets due to the Ukraine conflict.

With the exceptions noted above, the Trust has no specific policy in respect of general reserves other than that, on a year-on-year basis, the Trust's resources should be sufficient to meet its operational costs. The current level of general reserve balances satisfies this requirement.

Fundraising at the ACT

Our supporters are at the heart of everything we achieve, and our fundraised income makes a real difference to animal health and care. We have a diverse range of fundraising activities, from legacies, which usually represent over half of our fundraised income, through to events, individual giving and volunteer fundraising. We are proud to be registered with the Fundraising Regulator and carry out regular checks of our fundraising systems and processes in order to ensure we are fully compliant with the Fundraising Code of Practice. In April 2022, an audit was carried out by the RVC's internal auditors, evaluating RVC's data and financial management systems and procedures which are consistent with the procedures followed at ACT. RVC's processes were found to be robust and effective and the recommendations made have been incorporated into our processes. We also have processes in place to ensure we adhere to the Fundraising Preference Service. We did not receive any requests to discontinue communications via the Service this year.

Following the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations, we have moved to an opt-in model to capture consent for future marketing. Currently we utilise a mixture of consent and legitimate interest as our legal basis for processing supporters' personal data for marketing purposes. When we rely on legitimate interest as a legal basis for contacting our supporters, we only do so having considered and balanced any potential impact on the supporter and their rights under data protection laws.

Fundraising activity is reported to the ACT Management Committee on a quarterly basis. The Management Committee is responsible for oversight of the day to day running of the ACT as delegated by the ACT's sole trustee, the RVC Council. Reports are also submitted to the RVC's Finance and General Purposes Committee in order to ensure significant risks are monitored and are being properly addressed.

Third party fundraisers

The ACT does not currently employ third party companies to fundraise on its behalf.

Vulnerable people

The ACT aims to fundraise appropriately with all of our supporters and we are particularly conscious of our responsibilities to vulnerable people. Anyone fundraising on behalf of the ACT must ensure they communicate clearly and do not exploit the credulity, lack of knowledge, or vulnerable

TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Vulnerable people (Continued)

circumstances of any member of the public at any point in time. Where any member of ACT staff or a volunteer is fundraising for the ACT and is concerned about an individual's capacity to understand their actions and the consequence of those actions, they must cease the fundraising activity immediately and report the situation to the Head of Fundraising. If a vulnerability is confirmed subsequent to a donation being made, and the donor or their representative requires the donation to be returned, this will be reported to the Management Committee and effected as soon as is practicable.

Complaints

From the many thousands of communications we have had with supporters this year, we received no complaints about our fundraising practices. We take complaints very seriously and would respond according to our complaints policy.

Data Protection

The ACT has a Privacy Policy which is available to all on our website (<https://www.rvc.ac.uk/act/policy>). We only contact individuals who have either opted into communications with us and/or there is a genuine and legitimate reason for our communication and we are not harming the rights and interests of those individuals.

Plans for Future Periods

The ACT's fundraising activity supports the RVC's ongoing strategic objectives. The RVC has embarked on a significant programme of investment in its estate, facilities and equipment, across both campuses. The ACT will continue to focus on projects which benefit animals through the provision and development of outstanding veterinary medicine largely through supporting the RVC's hospitals as well as supporting RVC research and supporting students.

We are fortunate to have received donations and legacies from alumni and other supporters specifically to help our students, particularly those who experience financial difficulties. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused additional difficulties for a number of students, particularly those who seek to support their educational costs through part-time work often in the hospitality industry and those whose personal IT equipment has been insufficient to support their online learning and examinations. We continue to liaise closely with the RVC Student Support Team to ensure funds are available to help students who find themselves unable to work or who experience financial problems due to other issues like the pandemic and the cost of living crisis.

We continue to be touched and encouraged by the support of our donors. Our day-to-day fundraising activities were largely unaffected by the pandemic although there was an increased focus on online communications and fundraising whilst restrictions were in place. Whilst events like the London Marathon and other third party events have either not taken place or have been postponed or reimagined, this has not had a significant impact on the ACT. This is partly because our wonderful fundraisers have continued in their efforts to fundraise for us but also because the ACT uses a variety of fundraising methods and is not overly reliant on events' income. We have also focused on regular giving, reviewing our existing schemes and launching a new scheme called Tailwaggers to encourage supporters to donate on a regular and sustained basis.

Legacy income was initially affected by the pandemic because of a backlog in the probate system and a temporary halt to house sales; however, these issues started to improve by the beginning of 2021 and legacy income has increased since as a result. Whilst the complications caused by the pandemic

TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Plans for Future Periods (Continued)

itself appear to have largely gone away, the cost of living crisis is a concern and we will monitor the effects of this carefully into Winter 2022 particularly the level of general donations and regular givers.

The Trust will continue to support projects across the RVC through its main and small grants' schemes and projects to support students and their activities.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust is a trust established on 21 November 1980 and registered as a charity on 15 December 1980. The Charity Commission registration number is 281571. The charity is governed by its Trust Deed which established the objects and powers of the Trust. The charity is also known as the Animal Care Trust and the ACT. It was formerly known as the Royal Veterinary College Animal Welfare Trust and changed its name to the Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust on 12 October 1982. The Trust has a single Trustee, the Council of the RVC which has devolved responsibility for general management of the Trust to the ACT Management Committee.

The Head of Fundraising is responsible for operating the Trust's policies and for the preparation of budgets and plans and works closely with the Director of External Relations. At the date of this report the Trust has three full time equivalent staff members and three part-time staff members (two at 80%FTE and one at 60%FTE). All staff members are seconded to the Trust by the RVC. Members of staff manage the following functions: major gifts, appeals and fundraising events, trusts and legacies, fundraising administration and management of the charity's grant application process.

Financial management and investment management services are provided by the RVC through its Finance Department and the Trust pools its assets with those of the RVC for investment purposes, with the funds managed by UBS AG. The RVC also provides office accommodation and storage space for the Trust at its Hawkshead campus.

Policy and Procedure for Recruitment, Induction and Training

The Trust has a sole Trustee which is an institution: the RVC. Accordingly, the Trustee has appointed a Management Committee of individuals to act as its proper officers and so fulfil its obligations. There are eight positions on the Management Committee appointed by the Trustee through the RVC Council, all of which were occupied during the year. Each of the members of the ACT Management Committee is either a member of senior RVC staff or of RVC Council. The members of the Management Committee during the year were Professor Stephen A May (Chair), Professor David B Church, Mr Adrian Laycock, Mr Ian Darker, Professor Jonathan Elliott, Dr Imelda McGonnell, Professor Adrian Boswood and Professor Stuart WJ Reid. Professor Richard Bompfrey attended Committee members in his capacity as Acting VP for Research and Innovation and was succeeded by Professor Oliver Pybus when he was confirmed in this role on a permanent basis. The Head of Fundraising and Secretary to the Animal Care Trust, the Director of External Relations, and the Royal Veterinary College's Finance Director are in attendance at the Management Committee's meetings.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which the Trustee considers to be appropriate for the following reasons.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Going concern (Continued)

The Trustee has assessed the Trust's finances for a period of 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements and, taking account of reasonably possible downsides such as reduced donations/legacies income and increased costs, has concluded that it has sufficient funds to meet its liabilities as they fall due for that period. The Trust's discretionary spend is completely under the control of the Trustee and is such that the Trust's fixed financial commitments during the going concern period (which are relatively limited) could be met comfortably within the Trust's current net assets.

Consequently, the Trustee is confident that the Trust will have sufficient funds to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements and consequently has prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis.

Statement of Trustee's responsibilities in respect of the Trustee's annual report and the financial statements

The Trustee is responsible for preparing the Trustee's report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the Trustee to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under charity law the Trustee must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustee is required to:

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

The Trustee is 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 2011. 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.

The Trustee is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the financial and other information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Statement of Disclosure to the Auditor

- a) so far as the Trustee is aware, there is no relevant information that has not been disclosed to the Trust's auditor; and
- b) the Trustee believes that all steps have been taken that ought to have been taken to make them aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Trust's auditor have been made aware of that information.

Approved by the Trustee on 30 November 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Professor Stuart W J Reid
Member, Council, Royal Veterinary College



Professor Stephen May
Chair, ACT Management Committee

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST

Opinion on the financial statements

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity's affairs as at 31 July 2022 and of the Charity's incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

We have audited the financial statements of RVC Animal Care Trust ("the Charity") for the year ended 31 July 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the statement of financial position and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustee with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The Trustee is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report and financial statements, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST (CONTINUED)

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information in the Trustee's Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustee

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustee's responsibilities, the Trustee is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustee is responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustee either intends to liquidate the Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST (CONTINUED)

Extent to which the audit was capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the Charity and the industry in which it operates, we identified that the principal laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements to be the Charities Act 2011 and relevant tax legislation. In addition, the Charity is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance through the imposition of fines or litigation. We identified the following areas as those most likely to have such an effect: Employments Law, Data Protection and Health and Safety Legislation. In order to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements, we made enquiries of management and Those Charged With Governance about whether the entity is in compliance with such laws and regulations and inspected any relevant regulatory and legal correspondence.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries to manipulate financial results and management bias in accounting estimates.

The audit procedures to address the risks identified included:

- Performing analytical procedures to identify unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud. Areas of identified risk are then tested substantively;
- Challenging assumptions made by management in their significant accounting estimates in particular in relation to the actuarial assumptions used in the defined benefit pension scheme and the Universities Superannuation Scheme, the apportionment of investments and investment returns as well as the useful economic lives of pension schemes;
- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted from staff members with privilege access rights, journals posted by related parties and key management, journals posted by individuals outside of their expected job roles, unusual journal combinations and other journals deemed unusual based on our expectations;
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance, reviewing internal audit reports and reviewing correspondence with HMRC and relevant regulators to identify any actual or potential frauds or any potential weaknesses in internal control which could result in fraud susceptibility.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST (CONTINUED)

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustee, as a body, in accordance with paragraph 154 of the Charities Act 2011. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charity's Trustee those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustee as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DocuSigned by:

BDO LLP

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Paul Jagger (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of BDO LLP, Statutory Auditor

Gatwick, UK

Date: 14 December 2022

BDO LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales (with registered number OC305127).

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 July 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Endowment Funds £'000	2022 Total £'000	2021 Total £'000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations	376	291	-	667	584
Legacies	592	64	-	656	594
Donated services and facilities	98	-	-	98	84
Other trading activities	2	-	-	2	2
Investments	5	88	1	94	101
Total income	1,073	443	1	1,517	1,365
Expenditure on:					
Raising voluntary income	(302)	(3)	-	(305)	(253)
Charitable activities	(293)	(452)	(1)	(746)	(552)
Investment management costs	(1)	(15)	-	(16)	(14)
Donated services and facilities	(98)	-	-	(98)	(84)
Total expenditure	(694)	(470)	(1)	(1,165)	(903)
Net gains on investments	3	55	0	58	561
Net income for the year	382	28	0	410	1,023
Net movement in funds for the year	382	28	0	410	1,023
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	1,599	3,081	18	4,698	3,675
Total funds carried forward	1,981	3,109	18	5,108	4,698

The accompanying policies and notes on pages 17 to 23 form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET

at 31 July 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Endowment Funds £'000	2022 Total £'000	2021 Total £'000
Fixed assets						
Investments	3	655	3,109	18	3,782	3,610
Current assets						
Debtors	4	492	-	-	492	361
Cash and cash equivalents		992	-	-	992	950
Current liabilities						
Creditors: Amounts due in less than one year	5	(64)	-	-	(64)	(178)
Net current assets		1,420	-	-	1,420	1,133
Total assets less current liabilities		2,075	3,109	18	5,202	4,743
Provisions for pensions liabilities	10	(94)	-	-	(94)	(45)
Total net assets		1,981	3,109	18	5,108	4,698
The funds of the charity:						
Endowment funds	7	-	-	18	18	18
Restricted income funds	7	-	3,109	-	3,109	3,081
Unrestricted funds	8	1,981	-	-	1,981	1,599
Total charity funds		1,981	3,109	18	5,108	4,698

The financial statements on pages 15 to 23 were approved by the Trustee on 30 November 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Professor Stuart W J Reid
Member, Council, Royal Veterinary College



Professor Stephen May
Chair, ACT Management Committee

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

for the year ended 31 July 2022

1. ACCOUNTING CONVENTION

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 (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 UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

In preparing these financial statements the Charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemption conferred by FRS102:

- Exemption from the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows and paragraph 3.17(d)

This information is included in the consolidated financial statements of the Royal Veterinary College as at 31 July 2022 and these financial statements can be obtained from Royal Veterinary College, 4 Royal College Street, London NW1 0TU or from <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/financial-information/annual-report-and-financial-statements>

2. GOING CONCERN

The Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust (ACT) operates a bid-based approach to grants with applications sought from students and staff at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) several times each year. As bids and grants are made in the same financial year, the Trust has no forward commitments at the end of each financial year. The Trust is not dependent on external investment income or donations to continue grant making activities, given the balances held at 31 July 2022. Although increased inflation and the impact of the war in Ukraine have presented challenges in terms of investment returns and ongoing giving by donors, these have eased and the Trustee does not assess them as being material uncertainties that would threaten the ability of the Trust to continue as a going concern. There are sufficient unrestricted reserves to cover the Trust's direct costs for more than a period of 12 months from the date of the signature of these accounts.

In making this assessment, the Trustee has taken into account all available information regarding the future of the Animal Care Trust.

3. FUND ACCOUNTING

The charity maintains three types of funds:

- i. Unrestricted funds represent income which is expendable at the discretion of the Trustee in the furtherance of the objects of the charity. Such funds may be held in order to finance both working capital and capital investment. The Trustee may designate unrestricted funds for specific charitable purposes.
- ii. Restricted funds represent grants, donations and legacies received which are allocated by the donor for specific purposes.
- iii. Endowment funds are funds which are classified as either:
 - a. permanent endowments where the Trustee can only spend the unapplied income generated by capital; or
 - b. expendable endowments where the Trustee may expend the capital providing that all unapplied income has been spent.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

for the year ended 31 July 2022 – Continued

4. INVESTMENT POLICY

Opening fund balances represent monies donated through the ACT in prior years. Unless donors specifically reference the RVC in their gifts, general philanthropy is channelled through the ACT and these funds are recorded in the ACT accounts. Fund-raising campaigns for specific purposes are generally undertaken under the ACT banner although specific campaigns may be run in support of the RVC, particularly where the link to the direct benefit to animals is less obvious. ACT and RVC funds are pooled and invested with a fund manager and investment returns are attributed to the individual fund balances on an annual basis in proportion to their share of the total portfolio.

5. INCOME

General cash donations, gifts, legacies and collections are recognised when the Trust has entitlement to the funds. Legacies are only recognised when the Trust has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution and the amount can be measured reliably. Income from investments, including appropriate tax credits, is accounted for on a receivable basis. The Trust receives trading income from the sale of branded greeting cards, clothing, and gifts.

6. EXPENDITURE

All revenue expenditure is accounted for when incurred. Charitable donations made by the Trust are accounted for when payment is made.

Costs of generating voluntary funds mostly relate to expenditure incurred in motivating individual supporters and trusts to donate to the work of the Trust and consist principally of the salary and related costs of the fundraising department.

Charitable activities consist of funding RVC hospitals, scholarships and academic posts and publicising the Trust's objectives by newsletters. Governance costs relate to expenditure incurred in the management of the Trust's assets, organisational administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Direct attribution is used to allocate expenditure to activities. Staff cost and non-attributable costs are apportioned by time.

7. DONATED SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Donated services are provided by the RVC and valuations are based on actual costs. The Trust also occupies space owned by the RVC and the notional value of this is based on market rent, along with an allocation of running costs.

8. TAXATION STATUS

The Trust is a registered charity and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010. It, therefore, meets the definition of a charitable trust for UK income tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Part 10 Income Tax Act 2007 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

for the year ended 31 July 2022 – Continued

9. PENSION COSTS

Staff are employed by the RVC and their costs are charged to the Trust. This includes contributions to USS and SAUL's hybrid benefit pension schemes. The charges to the Statement of Financial Activities include the actual contributions paid as well as any costs of maintaining a provision to fund pension deficit recovery plans.

10. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents consists of cash at bank, in hand, deposits and short term investments with an original maturity of three months or less.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 31 July 2022

1. CHARITY INFORMATION

The Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust (ACT) is a charity established by charitable trust deed and registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (registered charity number 281571). The address of the registered office is The Royal Veterinary College, Hawkshead House, Hawkshead Lane, North Mymms, Hatfield, AL9 7TA.

2. EXPENDITURE

	Direct costs £'000	Allocated Staff Costs £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Cost of generating voluntary income	74	179	253	206
Investment management costs	16	-	16	14
Donated services and facilities	98	-	98	84
Support for education and research	558	19	577	240
Support for veterinary clinics	186	-	186	325
Charitable activities – publicity and newsletters	3	32	35	32
Unrestricted fund to RVC	-	-	-	2
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	935	230	1,165	903

Staff costs are apportioned by time. Non-staff costs are directly attributed to activities. Shared costs are apportioned based on usage. The audit fee for the year is £4,816 (2021: £4,963).

Donated services and facilities refer to premises-related costs incurred, and professional services provided, by the RVC in support of the ACT.

Support for education and research and for veterinary activities is funded by transfers to the RVC from both restricted and unrestricted income.

Funds are raised through a variety of means including appeals to alumni of the RVC and to the wider database of Trust supporters, sponsored fundraising events and the promotion of legacies.

Charitable activities are supporting the RVC's veterinary clinics, the provision of studentships and scholarships, student support, expanding participation in the veterinary profession through widening participation activities and community engagement, the provision of support for research and teaching, publishing of information and maintaining a dedicated office to facilitate all of this work. Expenditure through the grants programme is recorded in this line.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

for the year ended 31 July 2022

2. EXPENDITURE *continued*

Staff Costs

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
Salaries	141	153
Social security costs	13	15
Pension costs	27	26
USS pension deficit recovery provision	49	2
TOTAL STAFF COSTS	230	196

The average number of staff, all administrative, during the year was 5 (2021: 5).

Staff are employed by the RVC and their costs are charged to the Trust. The number of staff to whom retirement benefits are accruing under hybrid benefit schemes is 5 (2021: 5).

1 employee was paid between £60,000 and £70,000 in the current year (2021: 1).

No member of the ACT Management Committee, or person related or connected by business to it has received any remuneration from the Trust during the year. No expenses were reimbursed to members of the RVC Council or the ACT Management Committee during the year (2021: £Nil).

3. INVESTMENTS

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
Investments held with Investment Manager	3,782	3,610
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	3,782	3,610

Investments includes cash held within the investment portfolio managed by UBS AG.

4. DEBTORS

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
Other debtors and accrued income - less than one year	492	361
TOTAL DEBTORS	492	361

Other debtors includes accrued legacy income of £491k (2021: £360k).

Deposit held by the RVC for Trust

Restricted funds are held in trust by the RVC for the ACT and interest on cash instruments held within the RVC investment portfolio is credited to restricted funds.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

for the year ended 31 July 2022

5. CREDITORS

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
Current account with the RVC	60	170
Accruals – due within one year	4	8
TOTAL CREDITORS	64	178

6. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Trust has taken advantage of the exemption conferred under FRS 102 to not disclose transactions with the parent, The Royal Veterinary College.

7. MOVEMENTS IN ENDOWMENT AND RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Opening Balance £'000	Income during year £'000	Net gain on investment £'000	Expenditure during year £'000	Closing Balance £'000
Hospitals	1,578	235	28	(197)	1,644
Scholarship and Hardship Funds	245	6	4	(61)	194
Support for Education and Research	1,276	203	23	(213)	1,289
	3,099	444	55	(471)	3,127

All funds are for the same overall purpose of the promotion of animal care and welfare. They are used for hospital or research equipment, scholarship, student support, academic chairs and other facilities.

Legacies notified but not meeting the recognition criteria set out in the Trust's Accounting Policies (and therefore not included in the Statement of Financial Activities), are estimated at £670k (2021: nil).

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

for the year ended 31 July 2022

8. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
Endowment and restricted funds		
Scholarships and Fellowships	1,483	1,521
Equipment and other restricted funds	1,644	1,578
	3,127	3,099
Unrestricted funds	1,981	1,599
TOTAL FUNDS	5,108	4,698

9. ULTIMATE PARENT ENTITY

The ultimate parent and controlling entity of the Trust is the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), an exempt charity incorporated by Royal Charter. Copies of the financial statements of the RVC are available from the Royal Veterinary College, Royal College Street, London NW1 0TU.

10. PENSION SCHEMES

The RVC, which employs the staff seconded to the Trust, participates in the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS), and the Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London (SAUL), and the costs of pension contributions to these schemes, relating to seconded staff, are, therefore, recharged to the company. Contributions to the schemes for the period were USS: £15,597 (2021: £15,980) and SAUL: £11,516 (2021: £9,236). The employer's contribution rate for USS was 21.1%. The employer's contribution rate for SAUL was 16% until 31 March 2022 and 19% thereafter.

The pension provision relates to the Trust's liability under the deficit recovery plan for the USS pension scheme. The liability is in respect of the Trust's seconded staff. The provision is based on the latest 2020 valuation and has increased by £49k (2021: £2k) compared to the prior year. The huge increase is in common with other organisations in the USS pension scheme. No provision is held in respect of the SAUL pension scheme.

Accounts



**THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE
ANIMAL CARE TRUST**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2020-21**

Registered Charity Number: 281571

The Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021

CONTENTS

Officers and Advisors	3
Trustee's Report	4
Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustee of the Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust	10
Statement of Financial Activities	14
Balance Sheet	15
Statement of Accounting Policies	16
Notes to the Accounts	19

OFFICERS AND ADVISORS

Trustee:	Royal Veterinary College
Secretary to the Trust:	Nadja Hale Head of Fundraising
Auditor:	BDO LLP Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors 2 City Place Beehive Ring Road Gatwick West Sussex RH6 0PA
Accountant:	Royal Veterinary College Finance Department Royal College Street London NW1 0TU
Solicitor:	Mills and Reeve Botanic House 100 Hills Road Cambridge CB2 1PH (DX 122891 Cambridge 4)
Banker:	Royal Bank of Scotland PO Box 66892 London E1W 9FR
Principal address:	The Royal Veterinary College Hawkshead Lane, North Mymms, Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL9 7TA
Web site:	www.rvc.ac.uk/act

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

for the year ended 31 July 2021

The Trustee presents the annual report for the year ended 31 July 2021 prepared in compliance with the Charities Act 2011, together with the audited financial statements for the year and confirms that this report complies with the requirements of the Trust Deed and the Charities SORP.

Objectives and Activities

The Trust's objectives as stated in the Trust Deed are:

'the advancement of education and of veterinary science medicine and surgery, the undertaking of research and the dissemination of the results thereof and such other charitable purposes for the relief of suffering among animals as the Trustee shall, from time to time, in its absolute discretion determine...'

In pursuit of these objectives, the Trust seeks to promote the welfare of animals through supporting:

- the education and training of veterinary practitioners and the support and assistance of students through the award of prizes, bursaries and scholarships and through improving facilities for students;
- research (including into disease and effective clinical treatments for injured and sick animals);
- the provision of clinical services; and
- the development of a suitable estate, equipment and facilities at the Royal Veterinary College.

In these ways the Trust seeks to advance knowledge and to help develop and strengthen the veterinary professions which deliver care to animals, nationally and internationally. Moreover, the Trust provides funding for clinical excellence by supporting the provision of the best possible clinical facilities with the most advanced equipment.

Public Benefit

The Trustee confirms that it has referred to, and complies with, the guidance contained in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, concerning public benefit and incorporates appropriate considerations of public benefit when making decisions concerning the operations and expenditures of the charity.

The Trust's principal activity during the year has been to raise and distribute funds to support the work of the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) and, in so doing, to promote excellence in veterinary education, the welfare of animals, and research into the causes of (and treatments for) disease. The RVC is not only the UK's oldest and largest veterinary educational and research establishment but its work is widely considered to be delivered to the highest of scientific, clinical and educational standards. It is, therefore, the belief of the Trustee that providing support to the College across the range of its endeavours represents the best possible use of the Trust's charitable resources in applying them for the benefit of society in general, for animal-owners and for students pursuing veterinary and scientific careers who require education and training. The Trustee considers all of these benefits to arise directly from implementation of activities pursuant to the Trust's objectives.

Achievements and Performance

The Trust's work is funded by the general public, alumni of the RVC, charitable trusts and foundations, companies, clients of the College's clinical facilities, participants in fundraising challenge events such as the London Marathon and many others. The Trust's work is entirely dependent on this income.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Achievements and Performance *continued*

Each year a substantial income is derived from legacies. The Trust is enormously grateful to those who leave part of their estate to benefit our work and, where legacies are restricted to specific purposes, we honour the wishes of the donor to the full. We often work with supporters to help shape their future legacies ensuring their wishes are carried out and that they have strategic impact for the College, the people we educate and the animals we seek to help.

During the year, the Trust distributed 57 grants, awards and transfers which totalled £551k covering the following purposes:

- £226k in support of education and research activities; and
- £325k in support of clinical facilities.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak in early 2020, the ACT Management Committee has adopted a more cautious approach in its assessment of new grant applications considering the level of investment return, the future call on funds due to the pandemic and the potential impact on fundraising income in the short to medium term.

Financial Review

Overall ACT income increased by 39% to £1,365k (2020: £979k) largely due to a significant increase in legacy income to £594k (2020: £299k). There was also an encouraging increase of 14% in donation income to £584k (2020: £512k). In total, unrestricted income generated by our fundraising activities increased by 51% from £519k to £782k whilst restricted income generated to support specific projects, for which we were fundraising, increased by 27% from 460k to £582k.

We are very grateful to all our supporters – individuals, companies and charitable trusts and foundations – who have continued to support us in these turbulent times.

Investment income increased from £90k to £101k. Income from other trading activities comprised mainly shop income and a small amount of bank deposit interest.

In common with other charities, the main risks and uncertainties relate to future income and potential increases in costs. Changes in expenditure are monitored by the provision of regular budget reports to management. The reserves position is healthy with unrestricted funds standing at £1,599k at 31 July 2021 compared to staff costs of £196k and directly incurred non-grant costs of £56k. The Trust is, therefore, in a position to manage its expenditure within the combination of unrestricted reserves and funds raised each year.

The Trust benefits from the close relationship with the RVC's clinical facilities with whom the Trust works to raise funds from hospital clients. In addition, the risk of income reducing is mitigated by increasing engagement with alumni and regular donors.

The Trust holds restricted funds whose purpose is circumscribed by the terms of the original donation. The Trust's policy in regard to these funds is to invest them so as to secure sufficient income to satisfy the purpose of the donation and, thereafter, to achieve capital growth. In terms of their expenditure, the Trust operates a grant application process whereby individuals can apply to the Trust for funding for projects relating to animal health and care, education and research. Applications are assessed against the Trust's charitable objects and, if approved, are funded from the most appropriate restricted fund, adhering to the purposes and restrictions of that fund. During the pandemic, the Trust has adopted a more cautious approach to its assessments of all applications.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Financial Review *continued*

The Trust also holds funds which it applies to specific projects. Some of these projects take several years to come to fruition and, from time to time, the Trust may hold significant funds on a short term basis. Surplus cash is transferred to the RVC for deposit with its bankers and through its investment fund managers, UBS AG. Income is credited to restricted funds based on the returns achieved by the overall RVC portfolio. At the 31 July 2021, a net (unrealised) gain of £561k (2020: £236k loss) was reported in relation to the Trust's share of the portfolio, reflecting a recovery in the economic markets following the previous year's downturn.

With the exceptions noted above, the Trust has no specific policy in respect of general reserves other than that, on a year-on-year basis, the Trust's resources should be sufficient to meet its operational costs. The current level of general reserve balances satisfies this requirement.

Fundraising at the ACT

Our supporters are at the heart of everything we achieve, and our fundraised income makes a real difference to animal health and care. We have a diverse range of fundraising activities, from legacies, which usually represent over half of our fundraised income, through to events, individual giving and volunteer fundraising. We are proud to be registered with the Fundraising Regulator and carry out regular checks of our fundraising systems and processes in order to ensure we are fully compliant with the Fundraising Code of Practice. We also have processes in place to ensure we adhere to the Fundraising Preference Service. We did not receive any requests to discontinue communications via the Service this year.

Following the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations, we have moved to an opt-in model to capture consent for future marketing. Currently we utilise a mixture of consent and legitimate interest as our legal basis for processing supporters' personal data for marketing purposes. When we rely on legitimate interest as a legal basis for contacting our supporters, we only do so having considered and balanced any potential impact on the supporter and their rights under data protection laws.

Fundraising activity is reported to the ACT Management Committee on a quarterly basis. The Management Committee is responsible for oversight of the day to day running of the ACT as delegated by the ACT's sole trustee, RVC Council. Reports are also submitted to the RVC's Finance and General Purposes Committee in order to ensure significant risks are monitored and are being properly addressed.

Third party fundraisers

The ACT does not currently employ third party companies to fundraise on its behalf.

Vulnerable people

The ACT aims to fundraise appropriately with all of our supporters and we are particularly conscious of our responsibilities to vulnerable people. Anyone fundraising on behalf of the ACT must ensure they communicate clearly and do not exploit the credulity, lack of knowledge, or vulnerable circumstances of any member of the public at any point in time. Where any member of ACT staff or a volunteer is fundraising for the ACT and is concerned about an individual's capacity to understand their actions and the consequence of those actions, they must cease the fundraising activity immediately and report the situation to the Head of Fundraising. If a vulnerability is confirmed subsequent to a donation being made, and the donor or their representative requires the donation to be returned, this will be reported to the Management Committee and effected as soon as is practicable.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Complaints

From the many thousands of communications we have had with supporters this year, we received no complaints about our fundraising practices. We take complaints very seriously and would respond according to our complaints policy.

Data Protection

The ACT has a Privacy Policy which is available to all on our website (<https://www.rvc.ac.uk/act/policy>). We only contact individuals who have either opted into communications with us and/or there is a genuine and legitimate reason for our communication and we are not harming the rights and interests of those individuals.

Plans for Future Periods and the COVID-19 pandemic

The ACT's fundraising activity supports the RVC's ongoing strategic objectives. The College has embarked on a significant programme of investment in its estate, facilities and equipment, across both campuses. The ACT will continue to focus on projects which benefit animals through the provision and development of outstanding veterinary medicine largely through supporting the RVC's hospitals.

We are fortunate to have received donations and legacies from alumni and other supporters specifically to help our students, particularly those who experience financial difficulties. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused additional difficulties for a number of students, particularly those who seek to support their educational costs through part-time work often in the hospitality industry and those whose personal IT equipment has been insufficient to support their online learning and examinations. We continue to liaise closely with the RVC Student Support Team to ensure funds are available to help students who find themselves unable to work or who experience financial problems due to other issues related to the pandemic.

The ACT Team adapted well to working from home during the pandemic and we continue to be touched and encouraged by the support of our donors. Our day-to-day fundraising activities have been largely unaffected although there has been an increased focus on online communications and fundraising. Whilst events like the London Marathon and other third party events have either not taken place or have been postponed or reimaged, this has not had a significant impact on the ACT thus far partly because our wonderful fundraisers have continued in their efforts to fundraise for us but also because the ACT uses a variety of fundraising methods and is not overly reliant on events' income. We have also focused on regular giving, reviewing our existing schemes and launching a new scheme called Tailwaggers to encourage supporters to donate on a regular and sustained basis.

Legacy income has been affected by the pandemic because of a backlog in the probate system and a temporary halt to house sales; however, these issues started to improve by the beginning of 2021 and legacy income increased as a result. The pandemic has caused uncertainty in many ways and this has affected how charitable trusts are dealing with grants (in terms of what subjects they are supporting and what funds they have available to donate) and how companies are organising their philanthropy. The situation is being closely monitored and our plans altered accordingly.

The Trust will continue to support projects across the RVC through its main and small grants' schemes and projects to support students and their activities.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Structure, Governance and Management

The Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust is a trust established on 21 November 1980 and registered as a charity on 15 December 1980. The Charity Commission registration number is 281571. The charity is governed by its Trust Deed which established the objects and powers of the Trust. The charity is also known as the Animal Care Trust and the ACT. It was formerly known as the Royal Veterinary College Animal Welfare Trust and changed its name to the Royal Veterinary College

Structure, Governance and Management *continued*

Animal Care Trust on 12 October 1982. The Trust has a single Trustee, the Council of the RVC which has devolved responsibility for general management of the Trust to the ACT Management Committee.

The Head of Fundraising is responsible for operating the Trust's policies and for the preparation of budgets and plans and works closely with the Director of External Relations. At the date of this report the Trust has three full time equivalent staff members and three part-time staff members (two at 80%FTE and one at 60%FTE). All staff members are seconded to the Trust by the RVC. Members of staff manage the following functions: major gifts, appeals and fundraising events, trusts and legacies, fundraising administration and management of the charity's grant application process.

Financial management and investment management services are provided by the RVC through its Finance Department and the Trust pools its assets with those of the College for investment purposes, with the funds managed by UBS AG. The RVC also provides office accommodation and storage space for the Trust at its Hawkshead campus.

Policy and Procedure for Recruitment, Induction and Training

The Trust has a sole Trustee which is an institution: the RVC. Accordingly, the Trustee has appointed a Management Committee of individuals to act as its proper officers and so fulfil its obligations. There are eight positions on the Management Committee appointed by the Trustee through the RVC Council, all of which were occupied during the year. Each of the members of the ACT Management Committee is either a member of senior RVC staff or of RVC Council. The members of the Management Committee during the year were Professor Stephen A May (Chair), Professor David B Church, Mr Adrian Laycock, Mr Ian Darker, Professor Jonathan Elliott, Dr Imelda McGonnell, Professor Adrian Boswood and Professor Stuart WJ Reid. The Head of Fundraising and Secretary to the Animal Care Trust, the Director of External Relations, and the Royal Veterinary College's Finance Director are in attendance at the Management Committee's meetings.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which the Trustee considers to be appropriate for the following reasons.

The Trustee has assessed the Trust's finances for a period of 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements and, taking account of reasonably possible downsides, has concluded that it has sufficient funds to meet its liabilities as they fall due for that period. The Trust's discretionary spend is completely under the control of the Trustee and is such that the Trust's fixed financial commitments (which are relatively limited) could be met comfortably within the Trust's current net assets.

Consequently, the Trustee is confident that the Trust will have sufficient funds to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements and consequently has prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Statement of Trustee's responsibilities in respect of the Trustee's annual report and the financial statements

Under charity law, the Trustee is responsible for preparing a Trustee Annual Report and financial statements for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the excess of income over expenditure for that period. The Trustee has elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*.

Statement of Trustee's responsibilities in respect of the Trustee's annual report and the financial statements *continued*

In preparing these financial statements, generally accepted accounting practice entails that the Trustee:

- selects suitable accounting policies and then applies them consistently;
- makes judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- states whether the recommendations of the Statement of Recommended Practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- states whether the financial statements comply with the trust deed subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- assesses the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and
- uses the going concern basis of accounting unless it either intends to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Trustee is required to act in accordance with the trust deed of the charity, within the framework of trust law. It is responsible for keeping proper accounting records, sufficient to disclose at any time, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the charity at that time, and to enable the Trustee to ensure that, where any statements of accounts are prepared by it under section 132(1) of the Charities Act 2011, those statements of accounts comply with the requirements of regulations under that provision. It is responsible for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and has general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to it to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustee is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the financial and other information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Statement of Disclosure to the Auditors

- a) so far as the Trustee is aware, there is no relevant information that has not been disclosed to the Trust's auditors; and
- b) the Trustee believes that all steps have been taken that ought to have been taken to make them aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Trust's auditors have been made aware of that information.

Approved by the Trustee on 24 November 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Professor Stuart W J Reid
Member, Council, Royal Veterinary College
Acting Chair, ACT Management Committee



Professor David B Church
Members, ACT Management Committee

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST

Opinion on the financial statements

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity's affairs as at 31 July 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

We have audited the financial statements of The Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust ("the Charity") for the year ended 31 July 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remain independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Conclusions related to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustee with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST (CONTINUED)

Other information

The Trustee is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The other information comprises the Trustee's Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion;

- the information contained in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustee's Annual Report; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustee

As explained more fully in the Trustee's responsibilities statement, the Trustee is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustee is responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustee either intends to liquidate the Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST (CONTINUED)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Extent to which the audit was capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the Charity and the industry in which it operates, we identified that the principal laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements to be the Charities Act 2011 and relevant tax legislation. In addition the Charity is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance through the imposition of fines or litigation. We identified the following areas as those most likely to have such an effect: Employments Law, Data Protection and Health and Safety Legislation. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Board and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence if any. We assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries to manipulate financial results and management bias in accounting estimates.

The audit procedures to address the risks identified included:

- Performing analytical procedures to identify unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud. Areas of identified risk are then tested substantively;
- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted from staff members with privilege access rights, journals posted by key management, journals posted and journals posted after the year end.
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance, reviewing internal audit reports and reviewing correspondence with HMRC and relevant regulators to identify any actual or potential frauds or any potential weaknesses in internal control which could result in fraud susceptibility.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE ANIMAL CARE TRUST (CONTINUED)

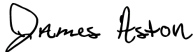
Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Financial Reporting Council's ("FRC's") website at:

<https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustee, as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charity's Trustee those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustee as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DocuSigned by:

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James Aston MBE (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of BDO LLP, statutory auditor
Gatwick, UK

Date: 17 December 2021

BDO LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales (with registered number OC305127).

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 July 2021

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Endowment Funds £'000	2021 Total £'000	2020 Total £'000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations	138	446	-	584	512
Legacies	552	42	-	594	299
Donated services and facilities	84	-	-	84	73
Other trading activities	2	-	-	2	5
Investments	6	94	1	101	90
Total income	782	582	1	1,365	979
Expenditure on:					
Raising voluntary income	(252)	(1)	-	(253)	(258)
Charitable activities	(20)	(532)	-	(552)	(397)
Investment management costs	(1)	(13)	-	(14)	(13)
Donated services and facilities	(84)	-	-	(84)	(73)
Total expenditure	(357)	(546)	-	(903)	(741)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	34	524	3	561	(236)
Net income	459	560	4	1,023	2
Net movement in funds for the year	459	560	4	1,023	2
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	1,140	2,521	14	3,675	3,673
Total funds carried forward	1,599	3,081	18	4,698	3,675

All activities derive from continuing operations.

BALANCE SHEET

at 31 July 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Endowment Funds £'000	2021 Total £'000	2020 Total £'000
Fixed assets						
Investments	3	511	3,081	18	3,610	2,972
Current assets						
Debtors and accrued income - less than one year	4	361	-	-	361	570
Cash at bank and in hand		950	-	-	950	182
Current liabilities						
Creditors: Amounts due in less than one year	5	(178)	-	-	(178)	(6)
Net current assets		1,133	-	-	1,133	746
Total assets less current liabilities		1,644	3,081	18	4,743	3,718
Provisions for pensions liabilities	10	(45)	-	-	(45)	(43)
Total net assets		1,599	3,081	18	4,698	3,675
The funds of the charity:						
Endowment funds	7	-	-	18	18	14
Restricted income funds	7	-	3,081	-	3,081	2,521
Unrestricted funds	8	1,599	-	-	1,599	1,140
Total charity funds		1,599	3,081	18	4,698	3,675

These financial statements were approved by the Trustee on 24 November 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Professor Stuart W J Reid
Member, Council, Royal Veterinary College
Acting Chair, ACT Management Committee



Professor David B Church
Member, ACT Management Committee

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

for the year ended 31 July 2021

1. ACCOUNTING CONVENTION

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 (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 UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

In preparing these financial statements the Charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemption conferred by FRS102:

- Exemption from the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows and paragraph 3.17(d)

This information is included in the consolidated financial statements of the Royal Veterinary College as at 31 July 2021 and these financial statements can be obtained from Royal Veterinary College, 4 Royal College Street, London NW1 0TU or from <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/financial-information/annual-report-and-financial-statements>

2. GOING CONCERN

The Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust (ACT) operates a bid-based approach to grants with applications sought from students and staff at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) several times each year. As bids and grants are made in the same financial year, the Trust has no forward commitments at the end of each financial year. The Trust is not dependent on external investment income or donations to continue grant making activities, given the balances held at 31 July 2021. Although COVID-19 has presented challenges in terms of investment returns and ongoing giving by donors, these have eased and the Trustee does not assess them as being material uncertainties that would threaten the ability of the Trust to continue as a going concern. There are sufficient unrestricted reserves to cover the Trust's direct costs for more than a period of 12 months from the date of the signature of these accounts.

In making this assessment, the Trustee has taken into account all available information regarding the future of the Animal Care Trust.

3. FUND ACCOUNTING

The charity maintains three types of funds:

- i. Unrestricted funds represent income which is expendable at the discretion of the Trustee in the furtherance of the objects of the charity. Such funds may be held in order to finance both working capital and capital investment. The Trustee may designate unrestricted funds for specific charitable purposes.
- ii. Restricted funds represent grants, donations and legacies received which are allocated by the donor for specific purposes.
- iii. Endowment funds are funds which are classified as either:
 - a. permanent endowments where the Trustee can only spend the unapplied income generated by capital; or
 - b. expendable endowments where the Trustee may expend the capital providing that all unapplied income has been spent.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

for the year ended 31 July 2021 – Continued

4. INVESTMENT POLICY

Opening fund balances represent monies donated through the ACT in prior years. Unless donors specifically reference the RVC in their gifts, general philanthropy is channelled through the ACT and these funds are recorded in the ACT accounts. Fund-raising campaigns for specific purposes are generally undertaken under the ACT banner although specific campaigns may be run in support of the RVC, particularly where the link to the direct benefit to animals is less obvious. ACT and RVC funds are pooled and invested with a fund manager and investment returns are attributed to the individual fund balances on an annual basis in proportion to their share of the total portfolio.

5. INCOME

General cash donations, gifts, legacies and collections are recognised when the Trust has entitlement to the funds. Legacies are only recognised when the Trust has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution and the amount can be measured reliably. Income from investments, including appropriate tax credits, is accounted for on a receivable basis. The Trust receives trading income from the sale of branded greeting cards, clothing, and gifts.

6. EXPENDITURE

All revenue expenditure is accounted for when incurred. Charitable donations made by the Trust are accounted for when payment is made.

Costs of generating voluntary funds mostly relate to expenditure incurred in motivating individual supporters and trusts to donate to the work of the Trust and consist principally of the salary and related costs of the fundraising department.

Charitable activities consist of funding College hospitals, scholarships and academic posts and publicising the Trust's objectives by newsletters. Governance costs relate to expenditure incurred in the management of the Trust's assets, organisational administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Direct attribution is used to allocate expenditure to activities. Staff cost and non-attributable costs are apportioned by time.

7. DONATED SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Donated services are provided by the RVC and valuations are based on actual costs. The Trust also occupies space owned by the RVC and the notional value of this is based on market rent, along with an allocation of running costs.

8. TAXATION STATUS

The Trust is a registered charity and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010. It, therefore, meets the definition of a charitable trust for UK income tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Part 10 Income Tax Act 2007 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

for the year ended 31 July 2021 – Continued

9. PENSION COSTS

Staff are employed by the College and their costs are charged to the Trust. This includes contributions to USS and SAUL's hybrid benefit pension schemes. The charges to the Statement of Financial Activities include the actual contributions paid as well as any costs of maintaining a provision to fund pension deficit recovery plans.

10. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

This includes cash held in the Trust's current account and in currency accounts with UBS AG, which can be withdrawn with no penalties or notice.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 31 July 2021

1. CHARITY INFORMATION

The Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust (ACT) is a charity established by charitable trust deed and registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (registered charity number 281571). The address of the registered office is The Royal Veterinary College, Hawkshead House, Hawkshead Lane, North Mymms, Hatfield, AL9 7TA.

2. EXPENDITURE

	Direct costs £'000	Allocated Staff Costs £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Cost of generating voluntary income	56	150	206	204
Fundraising trading	-	-	-	-
Investment management costs	14	-	14	13
Donated services and facilities	84	-	84	73
Support for education and research	226	14	240	210
Support for veterinary clinics	325	-	325	198
Charitable activities - publicity and newsletters	-	32	32	41
Unrestricted fund to RVC	2	-	2	2
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	707	196	903	741

Staff costs are apportioned by time. Non-staff costs are directly attributed to activities. Shared costs are apportioned based on usage. The audit fee for the year is £4,963 (2020: £4,104).

Donated services and facilities refer to premises-related costs incurred, and professional services provided, by the RVC in support of the ACT.

Support for education and research and for veterinary activities is funded by transfers to the RVC from both restricted and unrestricted income.

Funds are raised through a variety of means including appeals to alumni of the College and to the wider database of Trust supporters, sponsored fundraising events and the promotion of legacies.

Charitable activities are supporting the College's veterinary clinics, the provision of studentships and scholarships, student support, expanding participation in the veterinary profession through widening participation activities and community engagement, the provision of support for research and teaching, publishing of information and maintaining a dedicated office to facilitate all of this work. Expenditure through the grants programme is recorded in this line.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

for the year ended 31 July 2021

2. EXPENDITURE *continued*

Staff Costs

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Salaries	153	190
Social security costs	15	17
Pension costs	28	(6)
TOTAL STAFF COSTS	196	201

The movement on the pension provision included in the pension costs is £2k during the year (2020: (£39k)). The average number of staff, all administrative, during the year was 5 (2020: 5).

Staff are employed by the RVC and their costs are charged to the Trust. The number of staff to whom retirement benefits are accruing under hybrid benefit schemes is 5 (2020: 6).

1 employee was paid between £60,000 and £70,000 in the current year (2020: 1).

No member of the ACT Management Committee, or person related or connected by business to it has received any remuneration from the Trust during the year. No expenses were reimbursed to members of the RVC Council or the ACT Management Committee during the year (2020: £Nil).

3. INVESTMENTS

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Investments held with Investment Manager	3,610	2,972
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	3,610	2,972

Investments includes cash held within the investment portfolio managed by UBS AG.

4. DEBTORS

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Current account with the College	-	390
Other debtors and accrued income - less than one year	361	180
TOTAL DEBTORS	361	570

Other debtors includes accrued legacy income.

Deposit held by the College for Trust

Restricted funds are held in trust by the College for the ACT and interest on cash instruments held within the RVC investment portfolio is credited to restricted funds.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

for the year ended 31 July 2021

5. CREDITORS

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Current account with the College	170	-
Accruals – due within one year	8	6
TOTAL CREDITORS	178	6

6. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Trust has taken advantage of the exemption conferred under FRS 102 to not disclose transactions with the parent, The Royal Veterinary College.

7. MOVEMENTS IN ENDOWMENT AND RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Opening Balance	Income during year	Net gain on investment	Expenditure during year	Closing Balance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Hospitals	1,279	380	264	(345)	1,578
Scholarship and Hardship Funds	257	10	54	(76)	245
Support for Education and Research	999	193	209	(125)	1,276
	2,535	583	527	(546)	3,099

All funds are for the same overall purpose of the promotion of animal care and welfare. They are used for hospital or research equipment, scholarship, student support, academic chairs and other facilities.

Legacies notified but not meeting the recognition criteria set out in the Trust's Accounting Policies (and therefore not included in the Statement of Financial Activities), are estimated at £nil (2020: £70,000).

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

for the year ended 31 July 2021

8. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Endowment and restricted funds		
Scholarships and Fellowships	1,521	1,256
Equipment and other restricted funds	1,578	1,279
	3,099	2,535
Unrestricted funds	1,599	1,140
TOTAL FUNDS	4,698	3,675

9. ULTIMATE PARENT ENTITY

The ultimate parent and controlling entity of the Trust is the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), an exempt charity incorporated by Royal Charter. Copies of the financial statements of the RVC are available from the Royal Veterinary College, Royal College Street, London NW1 0TU.

10. PENSION SCHEMES

The RVC, which employs the staff seconded to the Trust, participates in the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS), and the Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London (SAUL), and the costs of pension contributions to these schemes, relating to seconded staff, are, therefore, recharged to the company. Contributions to the schemes for the period were USS: £15,980 (2020: £19,582) and SAUL: £9,236 (2020: £12,782). The agreed employer's contribution rates for USS and SAUL were 21.1% and 16% respectively.

The pension provision relates to the Trust's liability under the deficit recovery plan for the USS pension scheme. The liability is in respect of the Trust's seconded staff. The provision is based on the 2018 valuation and has increased by £2k compared to the prior year. A valuation as at 31 March 2020 is underway but not yet complete. No provision is held in respect of the SAUL pension scheme.