



**CANGEN GORLLEWIN GWYNEDD  
WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH**

**ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL**

**2017**

**ANNUAL REPORT**



Elusen Gofrestredig Rhif 226126 Registered Charity No

# **RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT 2017**

## **INDEX**

	<b>Page</b>
Notice of Meeting and List of Officers	1
Objects and Public Benefits Statement	2
Agenda	5
Letter from the Chairman	6
Minutes of AGM 2017	8
Treasurer's Report	11
Financial Accounts	13
Secretary's Report	17
Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre Annual Report	19
Inspectorate Report	20

## NOTICE OF BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

Dear Member,

You are invited, along with your friends, to attend the Annual General Meeting of the RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch. This will be held at the Institute Building, Bangor Street, Caernarfon on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018, to commence promptly at 7:30pm.

**NB** The only Branch members entitled to propose resolutions, speak, vote and be counted in the quorum at the meeting are those whose names were entered in the list of Branch members more than three months before the date of the meeting.

Mrs Freda Holme  
Hon. Branch Secretary.  
Tel. 01758 750356

Arfaes, Llwyndyrys,  
Y Ffor, Pwllheli,  
Gwynedd, LL53 6NG

\*\*\*\*\*

### HONORARY OFFICERS:-

President - Robert Eaglestone

Vice President – Margaret Eaglestone

Chairman - Ann Rees

Secretary - Freda Holme

Assistant Secretary – Delyth Jones Williams (from May 2017)

Treasurer - Alun Rees

Regional Representative - Alun Rees

Deputy Regional Representative - Ann Rees

Friends of Bryn-y-Maen Representative – Delyth Jones Williams (from May 2017)

### ELECTED COMMITTEE / TRUSTEES:-

Kath Caddick

Philip Caddick

Peter Hawley

David Hibbert

Patricia Hibbert

Freda Holme

Rhianon Jones

Alun Rees

Ann Rees

Keymar Wake (from April 2017)

Richard Williams

### CO-OPTED COMMITTEE / TRUSTEES

Sarah Garrathy (from May 2017)

Alexandra Latham (from May 2017)

Delyth Jones Williams

### STAFF:-

Branch Support Specialist

Carl Lloyd

**ACTION LINE**

**0300 1234 999**

# **RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch Trustees' Annual Report for the year ending 31 December 2017**

## **Objects and Public Benefit Statement**

The RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch is an unincorporated charitable association and a separately registered Branch of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (the Society), carrying out its direct animal welfare work in the area largely corresponding to the Unitary Authority area of Gwynedd Council.

The objects of the Branch are to promote the work and objects of the Society – to promote kindness and to prevent or suppress cruelty to animals by all lawful means – with particular reference to the area of the Branch, in accordance with the policies of the Society.

The trustees have reviewed the outcomes and achievements of our objectives and activities for the year, to ensure they remain focused on our charitable aims, and continue to deliver benefits to the public. We have complied with the duty under the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission.

## **Advancement of Animal Welfare**

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

The Branch's animal welfare work, although local in nature, benefits society at large, and also aims to help people in need with the care of their animals. The next section of this report highlights the Branch's main activities and demonstrates the benefit provided to the public (*in italics*). All our charitable activities, as described in more detail in the following pages of this report, focus on promoting kindness and preventing or suppressing cruelty to animals and are undertaken to further these purposes for the public benefit.

## **Charitable Activities Pursued for the Public Benefit**

1. We provide subsidised veterinary treatment for animals which are sick or injured and belong to local people on low income. *We do this through a voucher scheme redeemable at all the veterinary practices within and outside the Branch area. This work benefits those on means-tested benefits by giving them financial help to obtain care for companion animals in need of veterinary treatment.*

***In 2017 we issued 371 vouchers for welfare assistance or euthanasia (2016: 361) of which 305 (82%) (2016: 266 (74%)) were redeemed to assist 476 animals (2016: 441) (several vouchers were for multiple animals or multiple treatments). In total we spent £62,474 on veterinary treatment (including neutering & the clinic) (2016: £66,424). The number of vouchers requested was fractionally higher than in 2016 but the percentage used for welfare assistance was significantly higher than in 2016. Surprisingly the amount spent was slightly lower.***

2. We provide free or subsidised neutering and micro-chipping of companion animals belonging to owners living in the Branch area and on low income. We do this through a voucher scheme in collaboration with Cats Protection and also Gwynedd Council and Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd. *This work helps to control dog/cat populations through neutering and assists those on means-tested benefits by giving them financial help to neuter and micro-chip companion animals, thereby promoting responsible pet ownership.*

***In 2017 we issued 329 (2016: 503) neutering vouchers for animals and we paid for the full cost of neutering 411 (2016: 597) and micro-chipping of 115 (2016: 137) animals (some vouchers were for more than one animal). In addition we microchipped 20 dogs at Noddfa, Caernarfon. We also contributed towards the neutering and microchipping costs of 7,745 cats (2016: 6,894) across Wales as part of the Cats Protection / RSPCA Cymru project partly funded by RSPCA Cymru Board.***

3. We contribute towards the running costs of the mobile clinic service provided by RSPCA Aberconwy Branch and run by vet Jim Mason, assisted by volunteers from several North Wales RSPCA Branches. The clinic visits Bangor, Caernarfon and Blaenau Ffestiniog for 1½ hours each week, offering free advice and examination, microchipping, vaccinations and prescriptions as well as euthanasia.

***In 2017 the clinic treated 1,169 animals (2016: 1,019) at subsidised prices in our Branch area.***

4. We support our local Inspectors by assisting in emergency payments for veterinary treatment, contributing to the Regional Board's Emergency Boarding and Voucher schemes, and purchasing additional equipment. *The Society's Inspectorate (as well as providing education, information and advice) rescues animals in distress and enforces laws against the cruel mistreatment of animals in England and Wales by bringing prosecutions. This work is key to 'the prevention or suppression of cruelty' part of the RSPCA objects, and promotes humane sentiments towards animals which involves moral benefit to humankind as a whole.*
5. We rehome a small number of animals in need at low cost to people willing and able to have a companion animal. *Whilst we recognise that companion animals provide measurable benefits to people's physical and mental health, we consider the provision of pets as subsidiary to the main charitable aims of this service which is to reduce animal suffering. Our policy to charge a reasonable adoption fee for animals aims to highlight the ongoing personal and financial commitment of pet ownership. It would not be in the best interests of animals, and would therefore fall outside our objects, to rehome to those who could not afford them.*

***In 2017 we rehomed 273 (2016: 364) animals.***

6. Animals in our care receive veterinary treatment, neutering and micro-chipping and are assessed for rehoming. *This work helps to control the incidence and spread of disease and suffering, through veterinary treatment and neutering.*
7. We do not have the facilities to take in lost animals, but when reported to us we publicise them on our Branch website and facebook pages and take steps to reunite them with their owners by keeping records of lost and found animals and offering advice. *This work benefits our local community (including the Local Authority) by reducing the numbers of animals straying and posing a risk to themselves and to people through road traffic accidents.*
8. We respond to enquiries and requests for assistance received via e-mail, telephone calls, facebook or face-to-face and via the Society's National Call Centre (NCC) from the public about animals locally. *The public benefits through knowing that we endeavour to assist animals in need.*
9. We offer free animal care advice from our own experience and knowledge, or referring them to our own and other websites, RSPCA literature, the NCC, local vets or other bodies. *The public benefits through the promotion of responsible pet ownership.*
10. Within the terms of our governing document, we support the National Society, Regional Board, RSPCA Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre and other RSPCA Branches through collaborating on joint projects such as the Friends of Bryn-y-Maen Dog Show and providing additional funds. We conduct home-visits on behalf of RSPCA Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre, other RSPCA Branches and our own rehoming of animals. *The public benefits through the promotion of responsible pet ownership.*

11. When time permits, we give talks about our work to local groups, children's clubs and so on. *The public benefits through the promotion of responsible pet ownership from an early age.*
12. We provide volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work, including trusteeship, fostering and fund-raising. *This benefits local people and companies by providing the possibility of doing work which is compassionate and rewarding.*

***At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 we had 67 Branch members (68 in 2016) and approximately 40 occasional and regular volunteers.***

## ***Plans for the Future***

We shall aim to continue with our existing activities providing resources, including manpower, allows. The West Gwynedd Branch trustees have set aside designated funding for the continuation of our free and subsidised neutering and micro-chipping schemes. These schemes now cover the whole of Gwynedd. Promotions are being targeted at housing estates. In 2015 we joined an all-Wales neutering collaboration with Cats Protection and all other RSPCA Branches in Wales and holding events at Pets at Home, Bangor to promote animal welfare, including free micro-chipping.

We are continuing to pay our neighbours RSPCA Aberconwy Branch towards the costs of providing their mobile clinic service on a weekly basis to Bangor, Caernarfon and Blaenau Ffestiniog, and have increased the payment to over £22,000 per annum. This should bring the service within reach of most of Gwynedd. In 2018 a replacement mobile clinic will be purchased with much of the capital costs being provided by a legacy “....for use on projects in North Wales”.

We are increasing the number and variety of events that we organize or participate in to raise the Branch profile, increase opportunities of recruiting new members and volunteers and provide more ways for the public to contact the Society.

## ***Thanks for Assistance***

To all who have helped in any way during 2017.

## ***Request for Volunteers***

We need more volunteers to help with home visits, fostering, fund-raising and Committee members. If you can help in any way please speak to any committee member, phone Freda on 01758 750356, or e-mail [Enquiries@RSPCAWestGwynedd.org](mailto:Enquiries@RSPCAWestGwynedd.org).

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Institute Building, Bangor Street, Caernarfon.  
Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 7.30pm.

## **AGENDA**

1. Opening address and Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Approval of minutes of AGM 2017
4. Matters arising
5. Financial Report
6. Adoption of Auditors
7. Branch Annual Report
8. Election of Committee
9. Inspectorate Report
10. Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre Report
11. Guest Speaker – PC Gordon Topps, Dog Legislation Officer, Instructor, Dog Section, North Wales & Cheshire Alliance Policing
12. Closing remarks

\*\*\*\*\* TEA / COFFEE AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED \*\*\*\*\*

Dear Fellow Members, Friends and Supporters,

The Branch has continued to work hard to support animal welfare throughout Gwynedd and to support our Inspectorate and RSPCA Animal Centre at Bryn-y-Maen, again this year. I feel privileged to have been appointed for a second year as Chairman of RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch and am indebted to all my committee and Branch volunteers for their continued support to animal welfare.

Being a charity trustee brings with it more and more red tape and responsibilities every year it seems. The policies and documentation required of, even a small charity like ourselves, constantly increases. This, in turn, scares away people who may really want to be involved in animal welfare. However, as we fly under the banner of the RSPCA we must adhere to their requirements, so we are currently updating and adopting all the required policies. It will take some time and commitment from the committee and I am grateful to them for their perseverance and to Carl Lloyd, our Branch Support Specialist, for his guidance and support.

Hopefully, once everything is formalised, we will be in a better position to make it easier for any new recruits to feel that the necessary safeguards and training are in place. As always, we need to attract and retain new people, as none of us are getting any younger!

None of our volunteers and committee members are paid, everyone freely give their time for the love of animals. Freda and her small team of volunteers manage to keep our Pwllheli shop open at least four days a week, throughout the year, come rain or shine. This has resulted in a magnificent profit margin of 68% in 2017. The shop also acts as a “drop-in centre” for advice on animal-related problems and as a pick-up point for vouchers to help pet owners on means-tested benefits to pay veterinary bills when their pets need treatment. We also find that, as we allow dogs into the shop, their owners bring them back year after year, whilst on holiday in the area, for a doggy treat from our team.

Freda has now been involved with the Branch for twenty four years and we are indebted to her commitment. She continues to work in the shop, foster cats, trap feral cats, do home-visits for both Branch rehoming and for Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre, as well as be Branch Secretary. In order to alleviate some of her workload, at the end of 2017, our Treasurer (my husband) and I decided that we would nominate our telephone number as the Branch contact number on the RSPCA website. It is only when you take on a job yourself that you fully realise quite how many calls, day and night, that job involves!



Alun, now starting his third year of retirement from work, is kept very busy with the almoning work and continues to do a lot of feral cat trapping and rehoming. This is in addition to keeping up the accounts, providing statistics for the Society, VAT returns, webmaster and Facebook administrator. Sometimes I think he'd have found it easier not to retire. Thank you Alun for all your efforts.

Thanks also to our mobile clinic administrators - Phil & Kath in Caernarfon, Sue & Lauren in Bangor and Helen in Blaenau Ffestiniog and to Jim Mason our vet. The clinics continue to do a very important job and we are looking forward to a brand new mobile van during the summer. The new vehicle was mainly funded through a legacy left to the RSPCA for use in North Wales, together with contributions from all the North Wales Branches. A truly collaborative project for the improvement of animal welfare across the area.

The Barn at Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre, a project to which we contributed funds in 2016, is finally operational, allowing additional space for rehabilitating and training dogs waiting for forever homes. It also adds a facility for holding fundraising events, rehoming talks and training meetings for staff and volunteers. We are proud to have been able to help our Animal Centre.

Thanks to the Inspectors, for their brilliant work, often in difficult circumstances. Finally, thanks to everyone who supports us, by whatever means, to get the job done for the sake of the animals.

Diolch yn fawr iawn.

*Ann Rees*

**RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH**  
**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**  
**Institute Building, Bangor Street, Caernarfon**  
**Monday, 24th April 2017 at 7:30pm.**

Those present at the meeting are listed on page 10.

1. Chairman's Welcome

Ann Rees welcomed everyone to the meeting and said the RSPCA would be celebrating its 193<sup>rd</sup> birthday on 16<sup>th</sup> June this year. She then went on to give a short history of the RSPCA in this area. Bangor Branch was established in 1877 then it amalgamated with Beaumaris, Menai Bridge and Conwy in the 1880s to jointly finance the appointment of a full-time inspector. The Caernarfonshire West and Anglesey Branch was divided on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1970 and became West Gwynedd Branch in 1973. This branch took over RSPCA Meirionnydd Branch in 2011 but retained the name of West Gwynedd for continuity purposes, so it now covers the whole of the Gwynedd area.

She then went on to say that the RSPCA Branch network is struggling and several branches in Wales alone are in RSPCA Council trusteeship. The number of West Gwynedd Branch members has dropped to 69, some of whom are not actively involved, so we are indebted to those that give their time willingly.

She then mentioned the service given by the mobile clinic in Bangor, Caernarfon and Blaenau Ffestiniog and thanked the volunteers and Vet. Jim Mason for their commitment to this.

She thanked Carl Lloyd, the Branch Support Specialist; Vicky Williams, Animal Centre Manager and her staff and last but not least the Inspectorate.

She finished by thanking the Committee and gave special thanks to her two fellow branch officers, Alun Rees, Treasurer and Freda Holme, Secretary.

2. Apologies received are listed on page 10.

3. Minutes of AGM 2016

These were proposed by Philip Caddick, seconded by Kath Caddick and accepted by the meeting.

4. There were no matters arising

5. Financial Report

Alun Rees presented his report and said the total income for the year was £112,455 with an expenditure of £137,965 showing a deficit of £25,510 after four successive years of surplus. The largest single source was the House-to House collections organised throughout England and Wales by the national RSPCA and the second largest was from our shop in Pwllheli.

The substantial increase in expenditure over 2015 is largely due to the donation of £50,000 to the Friends of Bryn-y-Maen. The cost of vet bills increased significantly, for the second year running, to £66,424, which includes £23,881 towards the running costs of RSPCA Aberconwy's mobile clinic providing an animal welfare service in our area.

He thanked everyone who helped with raising money in such a cost-effective manner, largely due to their willingness to work unpaid and to only submit claims for actual out-of-pocket expenses.

Alun's report was proposed by David Hibbert, seconded by Cassie Clinch and accepted by the meeting.

6. Adoption of Independent Examiners

Alun Rees proposed that the examiners, W.J. Matthews and Son, are retained. This was, seconded by David Hibbert and accepted by the meeting.

7. Branch Annual Report

Freda Holme said that during 2016 the branch collected at Tesco stores in Bangor and Caernarfon but as we are not allowed a full week of collections now, not as much money was collected.

In 2016 the branch was still Charity Partner with Support Adoption for Pets in conjunction with Pets at Home, Bangor and Committee member Keymar Wake is still the liaison between the branch and the

store. For the fourth year running the Christmas appeal brought in lots of food and treats for animals in RSPCA care. From April 2017 we are no longer the Charity Partner. Our charity shop in Pwllheli had another good year with a profit of almost £17,000. The staff is down to 5 volunteers and this is an ongoing commitment from them and I am truly grateful for all their help.

The branch fosterers took in several kittens and cats during the year which were then found new homes.

The RSPCA and Cats Protection started an all-Wales neutering scheme in 2016. Unfortunately as only 2 vets within our area were prepared to take part we have been issuing a lot of our own branch neutering scheme vouchers. As you may be aware we have been giving free cat neutering for quite a number of years and we give an amount towards the neutering of dogs.

As microchipping of dogs became a legal requirement in April 2016 we arranged microchipping sessions in Caernarfon and Pwllheli. In both venues Committee member Keymar Wake and Vet Jim Mason did the microchipping and Committee members Sam Bell and Alun Rees acted as dog handlers. Committee members Ann Rees, Kath Caddick and Phil Caddick were in attendance in Caernarfon and dealt with admin. and keeping the queue flowing and the same ones plus myself were doing this in Pwllheli.

The branch attended the annual dog show in Bryn-y-Maen animal centre. Everyone had a good time, the weather was fine and a lot of money was raised on the day.

The branch weekly mobile clinics in Bangor, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Caernarfon are doing well and many animals are dealt with. Kath and Phil Caddick do the admin. work at the Caernarfon clinic.

Ann Rees, our Chairman and Alun Rees, our Treasurer, are still feeding and checking the health of feral cats and kittens at Glan Gwna Holiday Park during winter when the site is closed.

Alun took full time retirement from his “proper” job in May 2016 and has since spent a lot of time trapping and finding homes for colonies of feral cats.

In 2016, as in every year, the inspectors do a marvellous job dealing with all the complaints and animals needing help. Members of the public don’t realise that there isn’t a vast army of inspectors waiting about for their calls to come in. They also forget we are a charity and not a paid government body.

Freda’s report was proposed by Kath Caddick, seconded by Robert Eaglestone and accepted by the meeting.

#### 8. Election of Committee

A paper ballot took place and as all proposals received 50% of the vote the following were elected to the Branch Committee:-

Sam Bell,	Kath Caddick	Philip Caddick	Peter Hawley
David Hibbert	Patricia Hibbert	Freda Holme	Rhianon Jones
Alun Rees	Ann Rees	Richard Williams	

#### 9. Inspectorate Report

Chief Inspector Leanne Hardy gave the report quoting numbers of cases, prosecutions etc during the year.

Ann thanked her for her talk.

#### 10. Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre Report

As there was no one from the centre at the meeting Carl Lloyd read the Centre Report as laid out in the Annual Report.

#### 11. Guest Speaker – Ruth Stronge, Snowdonia Donkeys

Ann introduced her by saying that Ruth is the chairperson for Snowdonia Donkeys and quoted from their website: - "Snowdonia Donkeys was established in 2013 to promote health and wellbeing through working and walking with donkeys in the local environment of North Wales. It is our mission to be a centre of excellence for the promotion of health and wellbeing of people and donkeys". Ruth gave a very interesting illustrated talk about the charity and said it is a small organisation and everyone involved is a volunteer. She explained how it was set up and said it worked with various organisations.

## 12. Closing comments

Robert Eaglestone, Branch President, thanked all for coming and said it was obvious that the work of the branch still continued.

The meeting closed at 9pm

Chairman.....date.....

## ATTENDANCE

### Members (15)

Kath Caddick	Philip Caddick	Cassie Clinch	Margaret Eaglestone
Robert Eaglestone	David Hibbert	Pat Hibbert	Freda Holme
Delyth Jones-Williams	Vicky Potter	Alun Rees	Ann Rees
Osian Richards	Keymar Wake	Lyn Williams	

### Staff

Carl Lloyd, BSS.	Chief Inspector Leanne Hardy
------------------	------------------------------

### Friends and Guests

Kieren Barlow	Robert Freeman	Paula Greenhalgh	Lauren Hughes
Lilly Khan	Ruben Khan	Alexandra Latham	Jim Mason
Dawn Owen	Nick C.Phillips	Ruth Stronge	Gerald Terschovitz
Wendy Terschovitz	Alyesha Wilkinson	Beca Williams	Gwion Williams
Pam Wilson			

## APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Michelle Breeze	Paul Brett	Coralie Farren	Lesley Hardman
Martin Hubbard	Beti Jones	Rhianon Jones	Sylvia Moss
Andrew McNamara	Enid McNamara	O.Parry	Ann Pritchard
Irene Train	Richard Williams	Vicky Williams	

# **TREASURER'S REPORT & PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS 2017**

The total incoming resources for the year amounted to £104,080 (2016: £112,455). Expenditure in the year amounted to £90,471 (2016: £137,965). This resulted in a surplus for the year of £13,609 (2016: deficit of £25,510).

Our investments showed a modest gain to end the year with a valuation of £220,907 (2016: £213,075). We depend on the dividends to increase our income.

The net increase recorded in income is largely due to the substantial rise in sales at our Pwllheli shop. The allocation of the two shares of the "House to House" collections organised by RSPCA HQ rose from £44,094 in 2016 to £49,522 in 2016. The profits gained from the use of professional canvassers are shared 50:50 between HQ and each of the Branches in existence at the time of the collection. As a result of RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch taking over RSPCA Meirionnydd Branch in 2011, the "new" Branch will receive two portions of the profit for the first 10 years. Our shop at Pwllheli had a profit margin of an impressive 68% due to our unpaid volunteer staff. The Gift Aid and Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme brought a welcome return from HMRC of £1,026.

For the first time in several years we received a legacy of £1,000 from the sale of some of the house contents of the late Robert Alan Lewis of Caernarfon.

The recorded decrease in expenditure compared with 2016 is largely due to the donation that year of £50,000 to the Friends of Bryn-y-Maen towards the costs of building the Dog exercise barn. In 2017 we gave £750 to the Wales Mountain Zoo towards the cost of refurbishment of their seal rehabilitation unit.

## **Reserves Policy**

The Branch Reserves Policy remains unchanged from that given in the Annual Report of 1997. This is to maintain a level of financial reserves that will enable the Branch to ensure continuity of activities providing animal welfare support and the ability to adjust, in a measured way, to any significant change in resources. Reserves are those funds which are freely available for general purposes and are uncommitted.

The trustees have established a policy of holding reserves of unrestricted funds equivalent to two to three years' expenditure. Based on our current expenditure of £90,471 and total unrestricted balance (including income-generating investments) of £344,084 in the investment and general funds, we have just over 3.8 years of reserve capital, though with projected year-on-year increases in spending and the substantial planned costs of supporting the mobile clinic, this figure is closer to 3.5 years.

This policy therefore conforms to the regulations of expendable endowment in paragraph 16 of the Charity Commission's guide to Charities' Reserves (CC19), namely:

".....many charities with an expendable endowment depend on the income it produces to fund core or continuing activities. Expending any of the endowment itself would reduce the income from it and might jeopardise some of those activities. The charity would then either have to increase its income from other sources, .... or have to cut back its activities. The endowment cannot be regarded as free funds if a charity has that degree of dependence on income from it."

This policy is subject to half-yearly review.

## Investment Policy

In anticipation of funding the extended mobile clinic service, the poor returns even on lengthy fixed interest notice accounts, and the rapid changes in valuations of equities and gilts, a higher level of funds are held in our current accounts than previously. This is to balance easy access and low-medium inflation against low interest levels and the risk of rapid changes in equities and bonds with an impending Brexit and uncertainty over import tariffs.

As a result, at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 34% of our funds are now held in selected equities, about 29% is held in bonds and gilts, 14% is held in current accounts, and the 23% balance to be held in fixed interest notice account(s).


In response to HSBC's insistence that all their Business accounts must provide personal data including full name, address, date of birth etc of all trustees, not just the account signatories as part of their *Safeguard Review*, threatening to restrict or freeze access to our funds, it was decided to transfer all the funds to our Lloyds Bank account as soon as possible. This was done in December 2017 and on-line Business Banking has been established with Lloyds Bank enabling direct payment of bills whilst retaining dual signatures saving delay and postage costs as well as immediate access to statements.

## Future Plans

Our major plan for the year is the continuation of the mobile clinic in Bangor, Blaenau and Caernarfon using our new mobile clinic. The 5 participating Branches are also seeking a secure parking facility with its own pharmacy and storage area plus a data server network for communication with the clinic whilst on the road. The total costs are expected to be in the region of £22,000, plus about £1,500 room hire, plus an estimated £5,000 for additional referrals to veterinary practices in our area.

We will continue to participate in the all-Wales cat neutering scheme with Cats Protection via Regional Board plus our own free cat-neutering scheme. Dogs Trust have decided to withdraw from their collaboration with the RSPCA, so we will now be offering subsidised dog neutering via our own vouchers. Both schemes are subject to the owner(s) being on means-tested benefits or low income, and available while funds last.

It is our intention to continue to provide assistance in the payment of veterinary bills to owners on low income and un-owned animals.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alun T Rees', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alun T Rees  
Hon Branch Treasurer

## **Independent Examiners' Report to the Members of R.S.P.C.A. West Gwynedd Branch**

I report on the accounts of the branch for the year ended 31st December 2017, which are set out on pages 14 to 16.

### **Respective responsibilities of branch committee and examiner**

The branch committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The branch committee considers that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed:

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioner under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

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

### **Independent examiner's statement**

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements

\* to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and

\* to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

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

***Bryn Jones***

**W. J. Matthews & Son  
Chartered Accountants  
11-15 Bridge Street,  
Caernarfon,  
Gwynedd.**

**Dated:**

**R.S.P.C.A. WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2017**

	General	Designated	Restricted		2017		2016
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income:</b>							
Legacies	1,000	-	-		1,000		160
Membership subscriptions	670	-	-		670		212
<i>From Voluntary Sources</i>							
Sundry donations	1,687	-	-	1,687		8,307	
Gift aid	879	-	-	879		857	
Flag Days	1,576	-	-	1,576		2,082	
House to house collections	49,522	-	-	49,522		44,094	
Jumble	209	-	-	209	53,873	6	55,346
<b>Investment Income:</b>							
Investment income (Gross)	8,960	-	-	8,960	8,960		9,992
<b>Charitable Trading activities:</b>							
Dog boxes	1,614	-	-	1,614		1,176	
Charity Shop takings	35,166	-	-	35,166		27,563	
RSPCA sales	-	-	-	-		36	
Adoption fees	370	-	-	370		295	
VAT refund	2,427	-	-	2,427	39,577	2,675	31,745
<b>Other income</b>							
Investment sale proceeds	-	-	-	-	-		15,000
	£104,080	£ -	£ -	£	£104,080		£112,455
<b>Direct Charitable Expenditure:</b>							
Contribution to regional boarding	8,167	-	-	8,167		2,001	
Regional contribution/Quota	-	-	-	-		300	
Donation – The Friends of Bryn y Maen							
Animal Centre	-	-	-	-		50,000	
Donation – Wales Mountain Zoo	750	-	-	750		-	
Insurance	752	-	-	752		511	
Cost of goods for resale	129	-	-	129		44	
Veterinary costs	19,565	40,834	2,075	62,474		66,424	
Boarding	2,671	-	-	2,671		2,552	
Room hire	160	875	-	1,035		1,040	
Officers' travel	1,070	-	-	1,070		1,041	
Charity Shop rent	9,620	-	-	9,620		9,620	
Charity Shop heat and light	624	-	-	624		495	
Charity Shop trade refuse	249	-	-	249		238	
Charity Shop telephone	194	-	-	194	87,735	241	134,507
<b>Other expenditure:</b>							
Postage and stationery	266	-	-	266		514	
Advertising	-	-	-	-		184	
Accountancy	520	-	-	520		510	
Repairs and Equipment	672	-	-	672		1,222	
Consumables	354	-	-	354		138	
VAT not recoverable	924	-	-	924		890	
Sundries	-	-	-	-	2,736	-	3,458
Total payments	£46,687	£41,709	£2,075		£90,471		£137,965
Net income/ (expenditure) for the year	57,393	(41,709)	(2,075)		13,609		(25,510)
Transfers between funds	(1,709)	1,709	-		-		-
<b>Cash and bank balances</b>							
At 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2016	11,439	95,000	3,129		109,568		135,078
At 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2017	£67,123	£55,000	£1,054		£123,177		£109,568



**R.S.P.C.A. WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**31st DECEMBER 2017**

	<b>2017</b> £	<b>2016</b> £
<b>Monetary assets:</b>		
<b>Investments:</b>		
Schroders Common Investment Fund:		
The Charity Equity Fund	55,795	52,956
The Charity Fixed Interest Fund	102,318	101,425
M&G Charifund	62,794	58,694
	<u>£220,907</u>	<u>£213,075</u>
 <b>Bank and cash balances:</b>		
Bank Deposit Investment Account	81,038	81,808
Bank Current Accounts	41,942	27,521
Pay-Pal Account	122	164
Cash float	75	75
<b>Total</b>	<u>£123,177</u>	<u>£109,568</u>
 General funds	67,123	11,439
Designated funds	55,000	95,000
Restricted funds	1,054	3,129
	<u>£123,177</u>	<u>£109,568</u>
 <b>Debtors: Trade debtors</b>	<u>£3,303</u>	<u>£2,116</u>
 <b>Current Liabilities:</b>		
Trade creditors and accruals	<u>£500</u>	<u>£1,467</u>

Approved by the Branch Committee on ..... and signed by

*Dr. A. T. Rees*  
Honorary Treasurer

.....

**R.S.P.C.A. WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH  
ACCOUNTING POLICIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2017**

**Restricted Funds**

The R.S.P.C.A. West Gwynedd Branch took over the administration and geographic area of the R.S.P.C.A. Meirionnydd Branch during 2011. Funds amounting to £52,119 were transferred over of which £9,819 was in the form of cash and £42,300 by way of investments. During 2017 an amount of £2,075 was spent from the fund. Cash of £1,054 is held in this fund.

**Designated Funds**

A balance of £25,000 was brought forward from 2016 in the cat and dog free neutering scheme. A total of £17,636 was spent during the year ending 31 December 2017 leaving a balance of £7,364. The Committee agreed to top up this figure to give a balance of £25,000 at the year end.

A sum of £30,000 had been designated to subsidise a mobile clinic providing veterinary services and advice to pet owners in the Bangor, Caernarfon and Blaenau Ffestiniog areas. The balance in the fund at 31 December 2016 was £30,000. The Committee agreed to top up the figure after expenditure at the year end to £30,000. A total of £24,073 was spent during the year ending 31 December 2017.

**Investments**

The investments are stated at market value.

**Trustees**

No trustees received any remuneration in the year. (2016 – NIL).

Reimbursements made to trustees were as follows

	No of trustees	2017 Cost	No of trustees	2016 Cost
Travel costs reimbursed	Nil	£Nil	Nil	£Nil

## **RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH SECRETARY'S REPORT 2017**

The Branch is no longer Charity Partner with Support Adoption for Pets in conjunction with Pets at Home, Bangor. The Committee suggested to the store that the RSPCA Animal Centre at Bryn-y-Maen be considered for this and it was agreed. The Branch is however allowed a number of days per year to hold collections and £366 was raised.

Collections were made during the year at Tesco stores in Bangor, Caernarfon and Porthmadog.

Lauren Hughes, a committee member, made a sponsored climb and raised £180.

A young boy, Alfie Reece from Market Drayton, came into the Pwllheli Shop with his Grandmother and gave us an amount of £11.45 which he had raised from making and selling cakes.

A dog microchipping session was held in Caernarfon, 20 dogs were chipped and £120 taken.

The Branch charity shop in Pwllheli had its best ever year since it opened in 2008, with an income of £35,166, which after overheads left a profit of £24,489. The shop is still run most of the time by 5 volunteers, with an occasional extra one who is a lady who spends holidays in the area and comes to help when she is here.

The Branch has collection boxes in various locations within the Branch area. Alun Rees, our treasurer, goes around and empties them and £1,614 was received from them in 2017.

The Branch fosterers took in several kittens and cats during the year which were then found new homes. During the year the Branch had 6 or so fosterers and they were kept busy. If you feel you may be able to do this please speak to a member of the committee, bearing in mind that not all stories have happy endings and some cases can be very upsetting. When we rehome cats and kittens we do ask for a donation of £30 or so and for this the new owner gets an animal that has been checked by a vet, vaccinated, wormed, de-fleaded, microchipped and litter trained. One of the committee, Keymar Wake, fostered a young dog which she trained and rehomed.

The Branch has been offering free neutering of dogs for a number of years and again bought a number of neutering vouchers from the Dogs Trust to allow us to do this. We also issued Branch vouchers which gave an allowance of £75 for bitches and £50 for dogs towards the cost of neutering. We are still giving free neutering vouchers for cats which we have done for many years now. The applicants for vouchers must be on means tested benefits or pension to qualify for help.

Financial help is also given towards the cost of veterinary treatment up to a maximum amount allowed of £250 during any 12 month period and the same criteria apply.

The Branch again had a stall at the annual dog show in Bryn-y-Maen animal centre in May. We did "Hook a Duck", for the second year running, and "Hoop-La. All proceeds are given to the animal centre via the Friends of Bryn-y-Maen. The weather was kind and lots of people and dogs were there and it was a most enjoyable day.

The Branch weekly mobile clinics in Bangor, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Caernarfon are still doing very well and many animals are being dealt with. Committee members, Kath and Phil Caddick do the administrative work at the Caernarfon clinic and Lauren Hughes helps at Bangor and Llangefni. Due to a legacy, a new mobile clinic is in the process of being bought and fitted out and should be in operation later in 2018.

As usual our largest expenditure is on vet bills and the amount spent during 2017 was £62,474.

During the winter months, Ann Rees, our Chairman, and Alun Rees, our Treasurer feed and check the health of feral cats and kittens at Glan Gwna Holiday Park and also Snowdon View caravan park during the time they are closed in winter.

Alun and I supply traps and vouchers to members of the public to enable them to trap cats appearing at their premises. We encourage the public to take advantage of this and to have the cats returned to them. I remember a previous Chief Inspector, Basil Farrant, saying that if a feral cat is removed it seems to create a vacancy and another one soon appears. Alun also finds time to trap feral cats where there is no one else to do this and manages to rehome many of them. If you know anyone with a feral cat please persuade them to have it neutered before they end up with a colony of cats.

I would like to thank all members of the committee and volunteers for their efforts during the year which help to make us a very successful Branch. Special thanks, as usual, go to the Inspectors for their tireless work all year round.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Freda Holme'. The signature is stylized with a large 'F' and a cursive 'H'.

Freda Holme

# **Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre**

## **Annual Report 2017**

Another busy year ensured that everyone at Bryn-y-Maen was kept fully occupied! A total of 634 animals arrived at the animal centre during 2017 reflecting that the need for the care and dedication of the team of staff and volunteers is as high as ever. Despite some times of staff shortage we have remained operating at capacity and welcomed 141 dogs; 290 cats; 72 rabbits, and 86 other small mammals plus a variety of birds and poultry. After the usual careful rehabilitation and matching processes, a total of 496 animals left us for their new homes, including 130 dogs and 237 cats, and the quite significant number of 52 rabbits.

As ever, the input of volunteers to our work has been crucial and our existing group of regular volunteers was boosted by new additions, contributing to everything from cleaning and socialising to fundraising. An amazing 7,297 volunteer hours were clocked up throughout the year.

Our fundraising activities during 2017 included the annual Friends Dog Show. Popular as ever, this was a very well-attended event raising just short of £3,500. The sponsored 'Mutt Strutt' dog walks took place once again in the Spring and Autumn with supporters enjoying the challenging route around the Great Orme and raising £435 and £490 respectively. This is also a wonderful opportunity to catch up with some of our ex centre residents and promote rehoming. Chris Butler, our Kennel and Cattery Supervisor, took to two wheels again, this year riding in the Gran Fondo Conwy event, a 100 mile cycle ride around Conwy County. Chris' hard work brought in £470. Thanks again to our volunteers, the centre was able to attend the 'Santa Paws' Support Adoption for Pets events at two Pets at Home stores. Volunteers also held a number of coffee mornings and had stalls at local events, adding welcome pounds to the fundraising total.

Staffing at the centre saw a couple of changes, and a possible new addition to the future team, as Vicky Williams (Centre Manager) left in the summer for maternity leave. She is now a proud mum to a baby boy. Mel Kermode (Deputy Manager) took up the role of Acting Centre Manager for the interim. Helen Dawkes joined the team as a part time Animal Care Assistant and Nicole Rowson as full time. Both are further examples of our valued volunteers making the move to permanent staff.

It is wonderful to be able to report that the Friends of Bryn-y-Maen Barn was completed in the autumn and will soon be in full use. It has already been utilised to the benefit of dogs and their adopters and will be an invaluable, and much appreciated, addition to the centre. We at the centre have many plans for the barn and are very excited indeed to have this resource.

All the team at Bryn-y-Maen would like to take this opportunity to express their sincere thanks to the branches and to the Friends of Bryn-y-Maen for their ongoing support of the centre and its work. We are sure our activities throughout 2018 will continue to benefit from your collaboration so that we can maximise what we can achieve for the animals and their welfare.

Kind Regards  
Mel Kermode  
Acting Centre Manager  
Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre



# **ANNUAL REPORT 2017**

## **North Wales Inspectorate Group**

### **Group Statistics**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Complaints Resolved	2,733	2,762
Advice only	982	1,596
Warning Notices	28	32
Cases Submitted	26	39
Adult Written Cautions	6	16
Court Convictions	16	7
Collections & Rescues Resolved	2,676	2,545
Total Number of Markets Visited	414	418
Total Number of Market Animals Seen	688,121	746,957

There were no significant staff changes to WW6 during 2017. The group remained at the same staff level throughout the year, with one officer, Inspector Rachael Davies, on maternity, due to return in Spring of 2018 and no replacements for the staff leaving last year.

The team have had a very successful year, with much to be very proud of. They have frequently gone above and beyond the call of duty and travelled far and wide, at times assisting in other groups and areas, when large and complicated investigations have needed to pull resources from outside of their own. The North Wales group of officers collectively drove 254,884 miles in 2017 to rescue, collect, transfer, investigate, relocate and release animals in need of our help.

### **Cases and Complaints of note**

Inspector Kia Thomas had an excellent court result in January. A lovely staffy called Penny was being kept by a couple for prolonged periods, sometimes chained, in an under-stairs cupboard. The poor dog was stained yellow with her own urine, drastically underweight and covered in sores. The owners had also been keeping a buster collar on her to prevent her licking and chewing her sore legs. A witness had overheard the owners saying that they “wished she would just die”. Penny was signed over to the RSPCA at the earliest opportunity. Both defendants pleaded guilty at the Magistrates courts and received a 12 month conditional discharge and made to pay £105 costs and victim surcharge. They both were given a 10 year ban from keeping all animals. Thanks to the wonderful care from the staff at Bryn-y-Maen, Penny made a fantastic recovery and was found a new forever home.

A woman was banned from keeping animals for life, in June, after admitting offences against four dogs, two cats and four kittens. The neglect resulted in four of the animals suffering unnecessarily - two German Shepherds and two terriers. She also admitted failing to meet the needs of the dogs, and six felines and four kittens. Inspector Tim Jones attended the property where he discovered the bodies of two dogs and other animals kept in filthy conditions. German Shepherds Bonny and Lennon, along with cats Tom and Mini were signed over into RSPCA care, while four kittens were later also rescued from the property. The defendant was sentenced to a lifetime ban, a 16-week community order, a curfew between the hours of 8pm and 8am, and told to pay £300 in costs and an £85 victim surcharge. The lifetime disqualification cannot be contested for a period of 10 years. This was a really good result in regard to the disqualification order. It is the best possible outcome an officer can hope for - a lifetime ban.

A man who made a homemade snare trap, which resulted in a cat sustaining injuries after getting caught in it, was fined in October by magistrates. The male pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to the cat left injured. The man was fined £406, ordered to pay £300 costs and was disqualified from keeping animals for 10 years.

The court heard that he made the trap from wire because he didn't like neighbours' cats coming into his garden. On this occasion, he had set the trap and then gone away for the weekend. One of his neighbours' cats, came across the trap in the garden and as a result, was caught in it for 12 hours. He

was rescued after his owners, concerned that they hadn't seen him since the evening before, came across him meowing in pain in the neighbour's garden. Inspector Phil Lewis, who investigated the case, said: "Poor Jeremy had got caught around his torso and the more he tried to free himself, the tighter the snare got around him. He simply wasn't able to get free. For over 12 hours Jeremy struggled and by the time he was found by his worried owners, he was clearly in a lot of distress. His owners managed to free him and took him to a vet, where thankfully he was not too seriously injured. He made a full recovery, but he could have very easily not have been that lucky. The snare could have caught him around his neck, strangling him to death.

A great result and press release during November. A man was banned from keeping dogs for 10 years after his Jack Russell Terrier was found with a "horrendous" leg injury. The male pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering by failing to provide adequate veterinary attention to his dog - named Spongebob - for a problem with his foot. Inspector Fred Armstrong was "completely shocked" when he visited the house and saw Spongebob with his leg missing. "It was not known what had happened to him," he said. "The injury was infected and must have been so painful for him. I was so shocked - it is not every day you see a dog with their leg missing in this way. He would have been in agony. We don't know what had happened - but it was suggested that he may have had an issue with his foot and then chewed it off. That would have been horrendous." Spongebob was signed over to the RSPCA and following extensive treatment has improved significantly. Inspector Armstrong added: "Spongebob has received a lot of treatment over the past few months and his leg was also amputated higher up on the leg due to the infection but we are delighted to say that he is doing really well and has now found a forever home." Magistrates banned the owner from keeping dogs for 10 years. He was given a 12 week community order, electronically tagged between 7pm-7am and was ordered to pay £300 costs and a £85 surcharge.

### **Rope rescue**

Our rope rescue team did a fantastic job on the Great Orme, Llandudno, in August. A male goat had got stuck on a ledge above Marine Drive and was there for over 8 days. It was monitored by our officers and when it was clear it would not get off unaided, the team made the decision to rescue it. This required brave officers abseiling from a flat area around 30 meters above the goat, to the ledge, where Inspector Jenny Anderton caught the goat by the horns and held it while Inspector Andrew Broadbent made his way over to her to help place it in the rescue bag. Andy then abseiled a further 20 meters to the bottom where the goat was released.

### **Collections of note**

Animal Collection Officer Ann Lloyd Williams was lucky enough to have the opportunity of rescuing an otter cub from Penmaenpool, Dolgellau. The poor little creature had been found on a member of the public's driveway and had remained there for several hours without sign of parents or moving. The little mite was fortunately well and uninjured. It was collected by Ann and transferred to Stapeley Grange, where there were already three other otter cubs being cared for by the staff.

A 4 foot corn snake was found by a family in their garden in Bangor on Christmas Day. They had been decorating, so managed to confine it in an empty paint bucket. The paint bucket was still wet, so by the time Inspector Pugh got there the snake had turned magnolia in colour and nicely matched the interior walls of their house! Luckily the paint was water soluble so it easily came off. The snake was initially a little upset by its ordeal so rightly took a few swipes at our officer. However, it soon settled and ate readily while he kept it in over the Christmas period. No owner came forward so it went to Stapeley Wildlife Centre to be put up for adoption.

### **Markets and Agricultural Shows**

In June, Inspector Thomas attended Appleby horse fair as part of her specialist role of equine officer. She was part of a team of over 30 RSPCA staff working alongside other organisations such as World horse welfare, Redwings, Blue Cross, British Horse Society and Bransby's. This is one of the Society's biggest deployments of the year and is a real team effort. We made a big difference to animal welfare by being at the fair to discourage and deal with unacceptable treatment of animals. We removed 9 equines and 2 dogs from the fair and provided vet treatment to many others. The main issues we were dealing with were overworking of horses, horses being ridden/driven when they were too young, injuries from harnesses and dogs in cars/loose dogs. The vets from Redwings were also giving out

“best in show” rosettes to category winners to encourage best practice including young handlers. Well done Kia and all the Appleby team!

Another Royal Welsh Show came and went. It was held on its permanent site at Llanelwedd, Builth Wells, and has been there since 1963. This year’s attendance over the four days was in the region of 250,000. There is something of interest for everyone, but the livestock is one of the main attractions. This year's entries included: Horses - 3,088, Sheep - 3,009, Cattle – 1,498, Pigs - 153, Goats - 142 as well as some Rabbits, Poultry and reptiles. Inspector Lewis, Market Inspector Burgess and Market Inspector Rowbottom, attended on all four days in relation to animal welfare issues. Inspector Lewis has built up a great relationship with section stewards and vets over many years. It is also a location where Public Relations can be promoted with people who don't normally have any contact with the RSPCA.

I would like to thank the animal centres, branches, members and volunteers for their invaluable support and help throughout the year. It would not be possible to provide the first class Animal Welfare Service that we do, without your assistance and contribution. We look ahead now to 2018 with continued enthusiasm, cooperation and professionalism.

**Chief Inspector Leanne Hardy 783**  
**Wales and West Group 6**  
**RSPCA Cymru**