



**CANGEN GORLLEWIN GWYNEDD
WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH**

ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL

2009

ANNUAL REPORT



Elusen Gofrestredig Rhif 226126 Registered Charity No

RSPCA West Gwynedd Annual Report 2009

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April 2010

NOTICE OF BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING 2010

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 19th April 2010, 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:-

Chairman - Robert Eaglestone

Secretary - Mrs Freda Holme

Treasurer - Alun Rees

Homecheck Co-ordinator - Philip Caddick

Regional Representative - Alun Rees

Deputy Regional Representative - Mrs Margaret Eaglestone

Friends of Bryn-y-Maen Representative - Mrs Ann Rees

ELECTED COMMITTEE / TRUSTEES:-

Philip Caddick

Mrs Margaret Eaglestone

Robert Eaglestone

David Hibbert

Mrs Patricia Hibbert

Mrs Freda Holme

Mrs Rhianon Jones

Alun Rees

Mrs Ann Rees

CO-OPTED COMMITTEE / TRUSTEES

Mrs Kathy Bell (until July 2009)

AUXILIARY SECRETARIES:-

Bangor

D. Hibbert

Bethel

Mrs A. Rees

Caernarfon

P. Caddick

Pwllheli

Mrs F. Holme

Waunfawr & Rhosgadfan

Mrs M. Eaglestone

STAFF:-

Branch Development Advisor

Mair Eluned (resigned May 2009)

ACTION LINE

0300 1234 999

**RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ending 31 December 2009**

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 former county of Caernarfonshire.

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 incomes. *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 2009 we issued 328 vouchers for welfare assistance and spent over £30,000 on veterinary treatment.

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 voucher schemes in conjunction with *Dogs Trust*, *Cats Protection* and also Gwynedd Council. *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 2009 we paid for the neutering of 494 and micro-chipping of 203 animals.

3. 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. We also support the North Wales Seal Rescue Unit. *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.*
4. 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 2009 we rehomed 143 animals.

5. Animals in our care receive veterinary treatment and neutering and are assessed for rehoming. *This work helps to control the incidence and spread of disease and suffering through veterinary treatment and neutering.*
6. We do not have the facilities to take in lost animals, but when reported to us we publicise them on our Branch website 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 Local Authorities) by reducing the numbers of animals straying and posing a risk to themselves and to people through road traffic accidents.*
7. We respond to enquiries and requests for assistance received via e-mail, telephone calls 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.*
8. 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 or other bodies. *The public benefits through the promotion of responsible pet ownership.*
9. Within the terms of our governing document, we support the National Society, Regional Board, 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-checks on behalf of Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre and our own rehoming of animals. *The public benefits through the promotion of responsible pet ownership.*
10. When time permits, we give talks about our work to local groups, childrens' clubs and so on. *The public benefits through the promotion of responsible pet ownership from an early age.*

11. 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 31st December 2009 we had 59 Branch members 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 neutering and micro-chipping schemes.

The main plan is for taking over our neighbouring Meirionnydd Branch which has been in National Council trusteeship since 2005 when the existing trustees there retired *en masse* due to age and ill-health. This takeover is quite a protracted process with agreement and support from the membership of both Branches, all other neighbouring Branches, the Regional Board, the national Society and the Charity Commission being required. The expansion should provide a better service of welfare and support to the animals of Meirionnydd and give greater inclusion for the current 26 members of the Meirionnydd Branch.

Thanks for Assistance

To all who have helped in any way during 2009.

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.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Institute Building, Bangor Street, Caernarfon.
Monday, 19th April 2010 at 7.30pm.

AGENDA

1. Opening address and Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Approval of minutes of AGM 2009
4. Matters arising
5. Financial Report
6. Adoption of Auditors
7. Branch Annual Report
8. Election of Committee
9. Motion:
"This meeting of the RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch ratifies the Committee's decision that it would be in the interests of the Branch to merge with the RSPCA Meirionnydd Branch and Council be requested to consider (a) extending the West Gwynedd Branch's boundaries to encompass the Meirionnydd Branch area as soon as possible and (b) retaining the name "RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch".
10. Inspectorate Report
11. Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre Report
12. Guest Speaker – Gary Dickinson of [North Wales Reptile and Raptor Sanctuary](#), talking on "Snakes and Reptiles".
13. Closing remarks

***** TEA / COFFEE AND BISCUITS SUPPLIED *****

Cymdeithas Frenhinol Atal Creulondeb i Anifeiliaid
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals



Patrons HM The Queen.

Vice Patron His Grace The Archbishop of Canterbury

Registered charity no. 226126

April 2010

Dear Friends,

Once again we welcome you to the Annual General Meeting to review our efforts over the past year and look forward to the future.

Even during the difficult financial times we have been able to support animal welfare in West Gwynedd due to the hard work of a few members and helpers in continuing to raise funds working hard in our shops and with flag days etc.

The Branch area is to be extended shortly to include the whole of Meirionnydd, which has been without an active branch committee for some years. After many discussions by the committee we have concluded that we should proceed with this major re-organisation. Hopefully members and supporters in Meirionnydd will come forward to assist so that our successful work in West Gwynedd will be available in the extended area.

Chief Inspector Basil Farrant retired recently after many years service and we wish him well for the future. The Inspectorate continues to be at the forefront and sadly we read in the press and hear of the cruelty cases that they prosecute in our Branch area. We thank them all in a difficult and stressful job and also on the bigger scale as we saw in the floods in Cumbria and the earthquake in Haiti. When animals suffer with welfare problems the RSPCA is there to help.

To fellow members of the committee especially Freda and all who have helped during the past year, your efforts are appreciated.

May I make the usual appeal to anyone willing to assist with our flag day fund-raising to please make yourselves known to any member of the committee; and finally from the animals you have assisted, thank you.

Robert Eaglestone.
Honorary Chairman.

West Gwynedd Branch Cangen Gorllewin Gwynedd

Website: <http://www.rspca.west.gwynedd.care4free.net>

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Institute Building, Bangor Street, Caernarfon
Monday, 20th April 2009 at 7.30pm.

Those present at the meeting are listed on page 8.

1 Chairman's Welcome

Robert Eaglestone, the Branch Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies received are listed on page 8.

3 Minutes of AGM 2008

These were proposed by Alun Rees, seconded by Dave Hibbert and accepted by the meeting.

4 There were no matters arising

5 Financial Report

Alun Rees gave financial details for 2008 as laid out in the Annual Report

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Cassie Clinch, seconded by Margaret Eaglestone and accepted by the meeting.

6 Adoption of Auditors

Alun Rees proposed that the current auditors, W.J. Matthews and Son are retained. This was seconded by Margaret Eaglestone and accepted by the meeting.

7 Branch Annual Report

Freda gave details of the Branch activities for 2008 as laid out in the Annual Report.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Griff Thomas, seconded by Pat Hibbert and accepted by the meeting.

8 Election of Committee

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

Kathy Bell	Philip Caddick	Margaret Eaglestone	Robert Eaglestone
David Hibbert	Patricia Hibbert	Freda Holme	Rhianon Jones
Alun Rees	Ann Rees		

9 Inspectorate Report

Details were given by Inspector Kevin Paton and was as written by Chief Insp. B. Farrant in the Annual Report.

10 Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre Report

As there was no representative from the centre the report was taken as read from the Branch Annual Report.

11 Guest Speaker, John Burson, Animal Care Assistant, Bryn-y-Maen

John started by saying he had worked with dogs for more than 30 years. He has trained dogs for Search and Rescue, the Police and other animal charities. John gave a very informative talk about behavioural problems and training of dogs. He said he was amazed at the number of dogs going into centres because the owners could not cope with them. A lot were being fed diets that were too rich in protein and often reducing this cured the problems, but be aware that puppies need more protein than adults. He said dogs must be taught good manners before any other sort of training. Dogs are pack animals and problems arise when there is no pack leader, this should be the owner.

12 Closing remarks

The Chairman, Robert Eaglestone thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

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

ATTENDANCE

Members (14)

Kath Caddick	Cassie Clinch	Margaret Eaglestone	Robert Eaglestone
David Hibbert	Pat Hibbert	Freda Holme	Rhianon Jones
Trefor Owen	Ann Pritchard	Alun Rees	Ann Rees
Griff Thomas	Mandy Thomas		

Staff

Insp. Sabina Dunkling	Mair Eluned	Insp. Kevin Paton	John Burson, ByM
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Friends and Guests

Michelle Breeze	Paul Brett	Ann Hawley	Peter Hawley
Eric Hughes	Carole Thompson		

APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Miss DF. Bates	Kathy Bell	Michael Burton	Mrs J. Cerins
Clair Davies	Miss G. Elis-Williams	Chief Insp. B. Farrant	Lesley Hardman
Margaret McCabe	R.B.McLeod	Andrew McNamara	Enid McNamara
Vicky Williams, Dep. Manager, Bryn-y-Maen.			

TREASURER'S REPORT & PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS 2009

The total incoming resources for the year amounted to £66,822 (2008: £83,322). Expenditure in the year amounted to £68,539 (2008: £67,302). This resulted in a deficit for the year of £1,717.

Reserves Policy

The Branch reserves policy remains unchanged from that given in the Annual Report of 1997. This is to maintain a level of reserves that will enable the Branch to ensure continuity of activities providing animal welfare 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 £68,539 and balance of £183,466 in the investment and general funds, we have 2.7 years of reserve capital, though with projected year-on-year increases in spending, this figure is closer to 2.5 years.

This policy therefore conforms to the regulations on 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

Our policy has been changed slightly to reduce exposure to equities in the current climate, less than 20% of our invested funds to be held in selected equities, about 40% to be held in bonds and gilts, no more than 5% to be held in current accounts, and the balance to be held in fixed interest notice account(s). As at December 31 2009, the actual percentages as shown in the accounts were 18%, 36%, 2% and 44% respectively.

Future Plans

Our major plan for the year is the continuation of the free dog neutering and micro-chipping scheme run in conjunction with the Dogs' Trust, and free cat neutering, both subject to the owner(s) being on means-tested benefits, and available while funds last.

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

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 2009, which are set out on pages 2 to 4.

Respective responsibilities of branch committee and examiner

As the branch committee you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. You consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed:

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiners' report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 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 we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiners' 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 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - * to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Acthave 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: *24 March 2010*

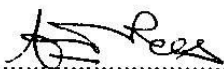
**R.S.P.C.A. WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2009**

	General	Designated	Restricted		2009		2008
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income:							
Legacies	1,365	-	-		1,365		1,136
Membership subscriptions	154	-	-		154		159
<i>From Voluntary Sources</i>							
Sundry donations	2,967	-	-	2,967		16,908	
Flag Days	4,008	-	-	4,008		4,619	
House to house collections	12,981	-	-	12,981		11,945	
Jumble	391	-	-	391	20,347	54	33,526
Investment Income:							
Bank interest received (Gross)	145	-	-	145		1,212	
Investment income (Gross)	8,558	-	-	8,558	8,703	8,895	10,107
Charitable Trading activities:							
Dog boxes	1,851	-	-	1,851		591	
Charity Shop takings	31,631	-	-	31,631		34,101	
RSPCA sales	1,409	-	-	1,409		1,460	
Adoption fees	100	-	-	100		95	
VAT refund	1,262	-	-	1,262	36,253	2,147	38,394
	<u>£66,822</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>		<u>£66,822</u>		<u>£83,322</u>
Direct Charitable Expenditure:							
Contribution to regional boarding	12,000	-	-	12,000		12,000	
Regional contribution/Quota	250	-	-	250		525	
Regional board legacy scheme	68	-	-	68		-	
Donation to fellow branch	1,000	-	-	1,000		1,600	
Donation to other charities	250	-	-	250		500	
Donation to othr charity not cashed	(500)	-	-	(500)			
Insurance	339	-	-	339		225	
Cost of goods for resale	1,324	-	-	1,324		1,636	
Veterinary costs	19,212	8,378	2,740	30,330		24,529	
Boarding	2,674	-	1,044	3,718		3,043	
Officers' travel	1,512	-	-	1,512		1,802	
Charity Shop rent	12,200	-	-	12,200		11,960	
Charity Shop fittings	-	-	-	-		1,478	
Charity Shop heat and light	740	-	-	740		470	
Charity Shop trade refuse	117	-	-	117		133	
Charity Shop telephone	254	-	-	254	63,602	-	59,901
Other expenditure:							
Postage and stationery	173	-	-	173		287	
Accountancy	450	-	-	450		435	
Car	-	-	-	-		4,500	
Equipment	2,015	-	-	2,015		363	
Advertising	-	136	-	136		133	
Consumables	341	-	-	341		234	
VAT not recoverable	1,790	20	2	1,812		1,449	
Sundries	10	-	-	10	4,937	-	7,401
Total payments	<u>£56,219</u>	<u>£8,534</u>	<u>£3,786</u>		<u>£68,539</u>		<u>£67,302</u>
Net receipts for the year	10,603	(8,534)	(3,786)		(1,717)		16,020
Transfers between funds	(8,534)	8,534	-		-		-
Cash and bank balances							
At 31 st December 2008	43,126	20,000	48,153		111,279		95,259
At 31 st December 2009	<u>£45,195</u>	<u>£20,000</u>	<u>£44,367</u>		<u>£109,562</u>		<u>£111,279</u>

R.S.P.C.A. WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
31st DECEMBER 2009

	2009 £	2008 £
Monetary assets:		
Investments:		
Schroders Common Investment Fund:		
The Charity Equity Fund	44,368	36,169
The Charity Fixed Interest Fund	87,536	89,650
	<u>£131,904</u>	<u>£125,819</u>
 Bank and cash balances:		
Bank Deposit Investment Account	106,712	103,113
Bank Current Accounts	2,634	8,049
Pay-Pal Account	141	42
Cash float	75	75
Total	<u>£109,562</u>	<u>£111,279</u>
 General funds	45,195	43,126
Designated funds	20,000	20,000
Restricted funds	44,367	48,153
	<u>£109,562</u>	<u>£111,279</u>
 Debtors: Trade debtors	<u>£140</u>	<u>£1,210</u>
 Current Liabilities:		
Trade creditors and accruals	<u>£460</u>	<u>£790</u>

Approved by the Branch Committee on 24 MARCH 2010 and signed by
Dr. A. T. Rees
Honorary Treasurer

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**R.S.P.C.A. WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
ACCOUNTING POLICIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2009**

The accounts have been prepared under the receipts and payments basis and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities and comply with the 1993 Charities Act.

Restricted Funds

A sum of £36,960 was received in 2007 specifically to be spent in the Bangor area. At 1 January 2009 there was a balance of £33,588 in the fund. During 2009 a total of £2,740 was spent leaving a balance of £30,848.

The North Wales Emergency Boarding Restricted Fund was resurrected during 2008 with donations from the RSPCA Aberconwy Branch, RSPCA Wrexham and Deeside Branch, the RSPCA Llys Nini Branch, and a transfer from RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch general funds. At 1 January 2009 there was an opening balance of £14,565. During the year to 31 December 2009 a total of £1,046 was spent leaving a balance of £13,519.

Designated Funds

A balance of £20,000 was brought forward from 2008 in the cat and dog free neutering scheme. A total of £8,534 was spent during the year ending 31 December 2009 leaving a balance of £11,416. The Committee agreed to top up this figure to give a balance of £20,000 at the year end.

Investments

The investments are stated at market value.

Trustees

No trustees received any remuneration in the year. (2008 – NIL).

Reimbursements made to trustees were as follows

	No of trustees	2009 Cost	No of trustees	2008 Cost
Travel costs reimbursed	1	63	1	353

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH SECRETARY'S REPORT 2009

We had flag days in Bangor, Caernarfon and Porthmadog and collections in Morrisons, Bangor and the Deiniol Centre, Bangor.

During RSPCA / Tesco Week we again collected in Bangor, Caernarfon and Porthmadog stores and raised £2,889.

Christmas goods from the Webb Ivory catalogue were again ordered and delivered by Ann Rees.

We have pet food collection boxes in Morrisons, Bangor & Caernarfon and Co-op, Menai Bridge, where people kindly donate dog and cat food. The cat food is used by the branch to feed the cats and kittens that are fostered until they can be rehomed. The dog food is taken to Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre usually by our committee member David Hibbert.

Penygroes and Pwllheli shops again raised some of the branch income during 2009. Both shops are doing well even during the present economic climate. The shops also act as places where the public can come and ask advice about their animals and obtain financial help with vet bills.

The Dog of the Year Show was organised by the Friends of Bryn-y-Maen at the RSPCA Animal Centre, Bryn-y-Maen, Colwyn Bay. The weather was not good with extremely high winds and on arrival at the site on the morning of the show it was found that most of the tents had come down during the night. The local ATC erected and took down the tents with the help of branch and animal centre people. Once again stalls were manned by some branches and animal centre staff.

Homechecks were requested by Bryn-y-Maen for 24 dogs (22 passed), 27 cats (25 passed) and 2 goats. Homechecks were also done for 4 dogs from other RSPCA Animal Centres. 133 cats and kittens and 9 dogs were rehomed directly by the branch. The main cat fosterer for the branch is Freda and 2009 was not a good year for rehoming as most of the cats and kittens Freda takes in are not quiet, domesticated animals. The ones she takes are those that no one wants so it is very difficult to find homes for most of them.

Members of the public were given financial help by the branch to neuter 159 dogs, 325 cats, 5 rabbits and 5 other animals and to take for vet treatment 115 dogs, 210 cats and 3 other animals. The total amount spent on vet bills was £30,330 and on fostering, £15,718.

The branch is still running neutering schemes for dogs and cats. The dogs and cats are neutered free of charge and the dogs are also microchipped free of charge. The branch is running the dog neutering scheme in conjunction with the Dogs Trust.

The branch has co-operated with Gwynedd Council to run microchipping sessions and also to promote the branch neutering schemes. Further sessions are due to take place during 2010.

An RSPCA mobile clinic, still visits the branch area and is sited on the Maesgeirchen Estate, Bangor and is open for 1½ hours each week on Thursday afternoon between 3:00 and 4:30. Pet owners using the clinic must be on means tested benefit.

Freda gave talks during the year to children at Ysgol Llanbedrog and a Smallholders Association at Fron near Caernarfon.

Freda Holme
Hon. Branch Secretary

Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre

Annual Report 2009

2009 saw new challenges as a result of the financial climate and resources were stretched to ensure budget reductions and that focus was on maintaining adoption levels and new fundraising initiatives.

Animal adoption increased in some areas from the previous year with 203 dogs finding new homes, 293 cats and 195 small animals. We had a great year for welfare chipping, totalling 262; this was aided by excellent support from Pets at Home, Llandudno who worked with us to host these events and generate interest.

Other fundraising initiatives involved a sponsored Mutt Strutt, Halloween event, car boot sale, Christmas memorial baubles and Christmas card donation from our adopters. We were supported by local businesses and of course, our wonderful volunteers who made it such a success. The Mayor of Colwyn Bay attended our Christmas raffle draw which raised over £1600.

The volunteer programme gained even more momentum with a number of volunteers attending our in house Dog Handling & Behaviour course. This enabled volunteers to interact at the correct standard with our dogs which need special training plans with the aim of reducing the time it takes to train out any unwanted behaviours. Praise is also due to our dedicated cattery volunteer assistants and fosterers who helped out significantly with any cage rest cats, pregnant mums and litters of kittens.

Easter bunny adoptions were tremendous leaving us with only 2 rabbits onsite looking for homes, 14 having found homes as a result of our Easter press campaign. With plans moving forward for our new build Small Animal Unit planned in 2010, we will have even greater capacity and a more suitable environment for us to show them off to visitors to the centre.

Our centre administration is now all computerised with animals looking for homes being updated live to the national website which has resulted in some of our animals going to live as far away as South Wales, Surrey and Cumbria. This has raised their profile during a year when perhaps we may have seen adoptions fall but the website has certainly held them in the limelight with good results.

Cruelty case animals continued to be cared for at the centre with one of our long stay dogs being 'Big Ben', a yellow Labrador who weighed in at 70kg on arrival. Over a period of months, his weight dropped to an amazing 40kg and after having a bit of a tummy tuck, he has now been happily rehomed where he can be properly cared for.

We welcomed Tracey Jones and Bev Hall-Jones to the team, both who had been volunteers prior to their new posts; and a thank you to Jackie Lines, Manager of Birmingham Animal Centre who supervised the management of Bryn-y-Maen in my absence.

We would like to thank all of the Branches and the Friends of Bryn-y-Maen for their continued support and look forward to working together on new initiatives in 2010.

With kind regards

Becky Lloyd
Animal Centre Manager

INSPECTORATE REPORT - 2009

WALES AND WEST GROUP 6

This will be my last annual report, as I will be retiring on 1st April, after 30 years service in the RSPCA, 25 of which were as a Chief Inspector. It is hard to believe how quickly the time has passed as it seems like yesterday that I arrived with my very young family from South West London. There have been an extraordinary number of changes within the Society over the past 20 years. We have gone from a Group Communication Centre (Llandudno) to a Regional Call Centre (Brecon) to a National Call Centre in South Yorkshire.

GROUP STATISTICS

Allocated Incidents	4249
Complaints	2293
Advice only Complaints	459
Verbal Warnings	29
Adult Written Cautions	12
Cases submitted	30
Convictions	17
Rescues	83
Total number of collections	1862
Total Number of Markets visited during 2009	610

SAMPLE OF INTERESTING CASES

Margaret and Mark O'Leary 08-0348 Reporting Officer: Chris Dunbar

Although this large multiple animal case was first dealt with in 2008, it was not finally concluded until 2009 as the defendants appealed. A total of 48 horses were removed from a premises near Wrexham in a joint operation with Trading Standards; World Horse Welfare, the Police and the RSPCA over a long weekend. The operation was lead by Inspector Chris Dunbar who devoted over 140 hours to this case and 440 hours by the whole Group both during the operation and ensuing months. O'Leary (Margaret) was not fined and no costs were awarded but she was disqualified from having control over all equines for 2 years and sent to prison for 8 weeks, mainly for obstruction. Her appeal in the High Court was dismissed. I doubt if we have heard the last of her!

Dawn Elizabeth Rose 08-1829 Reporting Officer: Chris Dunbar

This investigation dragged on between 9th September 2008 and 3rd December 2009. Dawn Rose arrived from Norfolk at the end of March 2008, bringing with her a large number of horses. Her plan was to set up a stud for Welsh ponies and cobs in the Wrexham area. She took over a run down sheep farm. She almost immediately came to the attention of the Trading Standards Department, who had to tell her right from the start that she need to put feed down in front of her animals.

Statutory warnings notices were issued by the Local Authority and as a result a combined return visit was made by the RSPCA, lead by Inspector Chris Dunbar, local Trading Standards Officers, Police, Norman Brown of World Horse Welfare. Over the next few days a total of 63 horses were seized under the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 2006. At the time Rose claimed she had run out of money. As you will imagine this was a highly co ordinated operation and the animals had to be moved to a variety of establishments for case boarding. After a great deal of pressure Rose agreed to sign all the animals over to the Society. She was not fined in Court but was required to pay £250.00 costs. More importantly she was disqualified from having control of any equine for 10 years. A total of 749 hours were devoted to this case by all officers involved.

Inspector Chris Dunbar was awarded 2 bars to his Special Service Medal in recognition for his outstanding investigative work, above that normally expected by the Society in the two cases listed above.

Roberts X 2 Elderly Couple from Shropshire Reporting Officer Phil Lewis

We have been concerned over the past 12 months at the number of people hoarding animals. For example an elderly couple in Shropshire were reported for neglect of 109 guinea pigs. They started with 2 which rapidly multiplied to over 100. These were found being kept in deplorable conditions. These were signed over at the time, many with serious skin conditions which required expensive treatment. This matter resulted in an adult written caution to Mr.Roberts as his wife was taken into a care home.

In the summer of last year we reverted to the Welsh/English border and it was necessary to change the general working areas for some of the Group's Inspectors. Nayman Dunderdale returned to Group I (Staffordshire) to work the Shrewsbury area. Sabina Dunkling resigned in late summer and now works for Denbighshire County as an Animal Welfare Officer. Mike Pugh arrived from the North Region to replace Sabina. Rachael Davies and Anthony Joynes completed some of their final training in this Group and returned from the Training School on 22nd.March. Rachael will remain with us and take on a new working area. Anthony moved from WW6 to North Group 2 on 4th.April. At the time of writing we are advertising for two Inspectorate vacancies as Kevin Paton will also be retiring on 16th.July after nearly 37 year's service.

In addition we will be losing AWO (Animal Welfare Officer) Claire Davies for approximately a year on maternity leave. Both she and Mark Roberts qualified during the year as AWO's. They will both undergo further extensive training before they can become Inspectors.

The number of rope and boat rescues was slightly down on previous years. However a large team of RSPCA staff, both from this Group and South Wales, rescued craigfast Great Orme goats, off the North Shore, on a Sunday in the late Spring. This was filmed by a 24/7 film crew. In November our rope team managed to rescue a dog that had fallen down an old mine shaft in Denbighshire, in the dark. The subsequent publicity went as far as America.

Claire Davies and I continued to be involved in Induction Days for new staff at Gonsal. Chris Dunbar and Tim Jones continue to be responsible for rope rescue refresher training and Phil Lewis (Flood Regional Co Ordinator) for flood rescue refresher training days and Fred Armstrong for Working at Heights Training (ladders).

We continue to work ever closer with the Local Authorities/Trading Standards/Animal Health in North Wales and have attended a number of "partnership working" meetings. We believe that this is the way forward for the future.

Helen Mead took over this Group on Monday 22nd.March. I am confident that you will all provide her with loyal support over the coming years. It will take a few weeks/months for her to find her way around this unique Group and to settle in.

In conclusion may I thank you all personally for your help and assistance over the past quarter of a century – it has been second to none and it has been a pleasure to have met and worked with you. There are many challenges and changes on the way. Do not hesitate to ask your new Chief Inspector and Group Inspectors to tell you more about;

Specialisms

Inspectorate Generated Animals

Command and control at the NCC

Now it is really time to change down a couple of gears and for a "new broom". I leave with many mixed feelings-and I am sure there will be much which I shall miss. I wish you every success as you continue your work for animal welfare in North and Mid Wales.

B.Farrant 212

Chief Inspector/North and Mid Wales