



**CANGEN GORLLEWIN GWYNEDD  
WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH**

**ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL**

**2010**

**ANNUAL REPORT**



Elusen Gofrestredig Rhif 226126 Registered Charity No

# RSPCA West Gwynedd Annual Report 2010

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April 2011

## NOTICE OF BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING 2011

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 18<sup>th</sup> April 2011, 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

Treasurer - Alun Rees

Regional Representative - Alun Rees

Deputy Regional Representative - Mrs Margaret Eaglestone

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

Secretary - Mrs Freda Holme

Homecheck Co-ordinator - Philip Caddick

### ELECTED COMMITTEE / TRUSTEES:-

Mrs Margaret Eaglestone

Robert Eaglestone

Mrs Patricia Hibbert

Mrs Rhianon Jones

Mrs Ann Rees

David Hibbert

Mrs Freda Holme

Alun Rees

### CO-OPTED COMMITTEE / TRUSTEES

Philip Caddick (May 2010)

Claire Davies (May 2010)

Peter Hawley (May 2010)

### AUXILIARY SECRETARIES:-

Bangor

Caernarfon

Waunfawr & Rhosgadfan

D. Hibbert

P. Caddick

Mrs M. Eaglestone

Bethel

Pwllheli

Mrs A. Rees

Mrs F. Holme

### STAFF:-

Branch Support Specialist

Carl Lloyd (October 2010)

**ACTION LINE**

**0300 1234 999**

**RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch  
Trustees' Annual Report  
for the year ending 31 December 2010**

***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 2010 we issued 330 vouchers for welfare assistance of which 294 (89%) were redeemed. In total we spent £33,740 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 2010 we paid for the neutering of 566 and micro-chipping of 191 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 2010 we rehomed 180 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, children's' 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 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.

Our plans for taking over our neighbouring Meirionnydd Branch have progressed slowly but positively. Their Branch 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 now having been received. 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 2010.

### ***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, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at 7.30pm.

### **AGENDA**

1. Opening address and Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Approval of minutes of AGM 2010
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 – Inspector Mike Pugh talking on **“Working with Animals in Africa”**.
12. Closing remarks

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

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

Patron HM The Queen

Vice Patron His Grace The Archbishop of Canterbury



Registered charity no. 226126

April 2011

*Dear fellow members and friends*

*Welcome once again to our Annual General Meeting, we hope you enjoy the evening and hearing how your support has furthered animal welfare in West Gwynedd.*

*We reported last year that we would shortly extend our area to include the Meirionydd Branch, this transfer has taken longer than expected but at the time of writing the arrangements are being finalised by Headquarters and The Charity Commission.*

*During the year we welcomed Chief Inspector Helen Mead to the area to replace Chief Inspector Basil Farrant and we wished Inspector Kevin Paton well on his retirement. Between them they had given an incredible 66 years of service.*

*Your committee have met regularly and I wish to thank them for their support and commitment to animal welfare. The work and success of the Branch depends on their efforts especially our Secretary Freda and Treasurer Alun.*

*One aspect of the Society's work worthy of mention is the Pet Retreat Scheme where animals are taken into temporary care and fostered when there is a family breakdown due to domestic abuse. Once the client is resettled the animal is returned and this is much appreciated both by the animal and the family involved. The scheme will develop further during the coming months and fosterers may be needed in this branch area.*

*Each year is the same, thank you for your help with fund-raising and please may we ask you for your help again during the coming year for you have seen from the financial report that the money is well spent (the animals need YOU) thank you.*

**Robert Eaglestone**  
Hon Branch 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, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2010 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 Dave Hibbert, seconded by Margaret Eaglestone and accepted by the meeting.

4 There were no matters arising

5 Financial Report

Alun Rees gave financial details for 2009 as laid out in the Annual Report

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Freda Holme, seconded by Dave Hibbert 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 2009 as laid out in the Annual Report.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Dave Hibbert, seconded by Margaret Eaglestone 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:-

Claire Davies	Margaret Eaglestone	Robert Eaglestone	
David Hibbert	Patricia Hibbert	Freda Holme	Rhianon Jones
Alun Rees	Ann Rees		

9 Merger with Meirionnydd Branch

Alun gave details of this and said it had been approved by Regional Board and the Branch Committee. The members were asked to vote on this by a show of hands and all agreed.

10 Inspectorate Report

The report was given by Inspector Kevin Paton who commenced by welcoming Insp. Rohan Barker, Insp. Mike Pugh and Alaw Jones from Gwynedd Council. Included in his report were details of a rescue of billy goats from the Great Orme, Llandudno at which Rohan assisted.

He then said that the Society was not at present training inspectors from outside. Animal Welfare Officers were being trained up to inspectors where there are vacancies. Inspectors would specialise in certain aspects of their work, e.g. rope work, heights, investigation etc.

He then read from the Inspectorate report written by Chief Insp. Basil Farrant and sadly this was Basil's final report as he retired in April 2010.

#### 11 Bryn y Maen Animal Centre Report

Becky Lloyd, Animal Centre Manager, spoke of the centre activities as laid out in the Annual Report. She then went on to say how invaluable the work of volunteers was to the centre.

The animals now being accepted by the centre were now to be RSPCA-generated animals only, viz. neglected, abused and disadvantaged, via inspectors etc.

#### 12 Guest Speaker, Gary Dickinson, North Wales Reptile and Raptor Sanctuary.

Gary started by saying he was a co-founder of the sanctuary which had been running for 14 years. They took animals in from the police, the RSPCA and local councils. He brought several animals with him to the meeting, one of which was a tortoise which was allowed to wander around. He gave a very interesting talk about various types of animal taken in by them but warned that 95% of reptiles sold in the UK died of neglect as purchasers were given little information about how to look after them when they bought them.

#### 13 Closing remarks

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

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

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

#### ATTENDANCE

##### Members (12)

Cassie Clinch	Claire Davies	Margaret Eaglestone	Robert Eaglestone
David Hibbert	Pat Hibbert	Freda Holme	Rhianon Jones
Margaret McCabe	Ann Pritchard	Alun Rees	Ann Rees

##### Staff

Lorna Barker, BDA	Insp. Rohan Barker	Insp. Kevin Paton	Insp. Mike Pugh
Becky Lloyd, Manager, Bryn y Maen			

##### Friends and Guests

Kathy Bell	Philip Caddick	Gary Dickinson	Peter Hawley
A.Hughes-Roberts	Alaw Jones, Gwynedd Council		Helen Mitchell
Steve Pape	Carole Thompson		

#### APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Michelle Breeze	Michael Burton	Lesley Hardman	Catherine Head
Sally Hyman, Regional Representative		Kate Jones, Manager for Wales	
Paul Legetter	Andrew McNamara	Enid McNamara	Chief Insp. H. Mead
Daphne Percival			

# **TREASURER'S REPORT & PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS 2010**

The total incoming resources for the year amounted to £59,682 (2009: £66,822). Expenditure in the year amounted to £64,350 (2009: £68,539). This resulted in a deficit for the year of £4,668.

## **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 £64,350 and balance of £176,776 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010, the actual percentages as shown in the accounts were 20%, 36%, 2% and 40% respectively. The slightly higher amount held in the current account was in preparation for payment of the £6,480 creditors and accruals noted in the accounts on page 12.

## **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 2010, 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: 16 March 2011


**R.S.P.C.A. WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2010**

	General	Designated	Restricted		2010		2009
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income:</b>							
Legacies	71	-	-		71		1,365
Membership subscriptions	156	-	-		156		154
<i>From Voluntary Sources</i>							
Sundry donations	1,130	-	-	1,130		2,967	
Flag Days	4,020	-	-	4,020		4,008	
House to house collections	12,626	-	-	12,626		12,981	
Jumble	508	-	-	508	18,284	391	20,347
<b>Investment Income:</b>							
Bank interest received (Gross)	90	-	-	90		145	
Investment income (Gross)	6,940	-	-	6,940	7,030	8,558	8,703
<b>Charitable Trading activities:</b>							
Dog boxes	904	-	-	904		1,851	
Charity Shop takings	30,587	-	-	30,587		31,631	
RSPCA sales	778	-	-	778		1,409	
Adoption fees	295	-	-	295		100	
VAT refund	1,577	-	-	1,577	34,141	1,262	36,253
	<u>£59,682</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>		<u>£59,682</u>		<u>£66,822</u>
<b>Direct Charitable Expenditure:</b>							
Contribution to regional boarding	6,000	-	-	6,000		12,000	
Regional contribution/Quota	258	-	-	258		250	
Wales Inspectorate Voucher Scheme	1,000	-	-	1,000		-	
Regional board legacy scheme	-	-	-	-		68	
Donation to fellow branch	-	-	-	-		1,000	
Donation to other charities	831	-	-	831		250	
Donation to othr charity not cashed	-	-	-	-		(500)	
Insurance	636	-	-	636		339	
Cost of goods for resale	1,101	-	-	1,101		1,324	
Veterinary costs	21,681	9,645	2,414	33,740		30,330	
Boarding	2,846	-	-	2,846		3,718	
Officers' travel	2,228	-	-	2,228		1,512	
Charity Shop rent	12,200	-	-	12,200		12,200	
Charity Shop heat and light	745	-	-	745		740	
Charity Shop trade refuse	132	-	-	132		117	
Charity Shop telephone	200	-	-	200	61,917	254	63,602
<b>Other expenditure:</b>							
Postage and stationery	250	-	-	250		173	
Accountancy	460	-	-	460		450	
Equipment	255	-	-	255		2,015	
Advertising	-	-	-	-		136	
Consumables	250	-	-	250		341	
VAT not recoverable	1,182	-	-	1,182		1,812	
Sundries	36	-	-	36	2,433	10	4,937
Total payments	<u>£52,291</u>	<u>£9,645</u>	<u>£2,414</u>		<u>£64,350</u>		<u>£68,539</u>
Net receipts for the year	7,391	(9,645)	(2,414)		(4,668)		(1,717)
Transfers between funds	(9,645)	9,645	-		-		-
<b>Cash and bank balances</b>							
At 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2009	45,195	20,000	44,367		109,562		111,279
At 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2010	<u>£42,941</u>	<u>£20,000</u>	<u>£41,953</u>		<u>£104,894</u>		<u>£109,562</u>

**R.S.P.C.A. WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**31st DECEMBER 2010**

	2010 £	2009 £
<b>Monetary assets:</b>		
<b>Investments:</b>		
Schroders Common Investment Fund:		
The Charity Equity Fund	47,082	44,368
The Charity Fixed Interest Fund	86,753	87,536
	<u>£133,835</u>	<u>£131,904</u>
 <b>Bank and cash balances:</b>		
Bank Deposit Investment Account	94,915	106,712
Bank Current Accounts	9,763	2,634
Pay-Pal Account	141	141
Cash float	75	75
<b>Total</b>	<u>£104,894</u>	<u>£109,562</u>
 General funds	42,941	45,195
Designated funds	20,000	20,000
Restricted funds	41,953	44,367
	<u>£104,894</u>	<u>£109,562</u>
 <b>Debtors: Trade debtors</b>	<u>£737</u>	<u>£1,40</u>
 <b>Current Liabilities:</b>		
Trade creditors and accruals	<u>£6,480</u>	<u>£460</u>

Approved by the Branch Committee on 10/03/2011 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 2010**

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 2010 there was a balance of £30,848 in the fund. During 2010 a total of £2,414 was spent leaving a balance of £28,434.

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 transferr from RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch general funds. At 1 January 2010 there was an opening balance of £13,519. No expenditure was incurred during the year to 31 December 2010.

**Designated Funds**

A balance of £20,000 was brought forward from 2009 in the cat and dog free neutering scheme. A total of £9,645 was spent during the year ending 31 December 2010 leaving a balance of £10,355. 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. (2009 – NIL).

Reimbursements made to trustees were as follows

	No of trustees	2010 Cost	No of trustees	2009 Cost
Travel costs reimbursed	None	NIL	1	63

# **RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH**

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT 2010**

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

During RSPCA / Tesco Week we collected in Bangor and Caernarfon stores and raised £3,541.35.

A new fundraising event during the year was a "Jazz and Curry Night" at the Polash Restaurant, Pwllheli in June. 50 people bought tickets and the evening raised £275. The evening was suggested by the landlord of our Pwllheli shop, Paul Legetter, as he knows the owners of the restaurant and he also arranged for the jazz group and singer.

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, for a change was quite good and 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. West Gwynedd for the past few years has run a Tombola stall. We offer good prizes and have found that this stall combined with selling soft toys seems to raise a good sum of money which is donated to the Friends of Bryn y Maen for use at the animal centre.

Homechecks were undertaken for 9 dogs, 55 cats and 5 guinea pigs. These figures cover both Bryn y Maen and Branch rehomed animals.

I am still the main cat fosterer for the branch but during the past year a young couple in Caernarfon, Colin and Ceri, have fostered and rehomed several kittens.

Members of the public were given financial help by the branch to neuter 140 dogs, 414 cats, 7 rabbits and 5 other animals and to take for vet treatment 120 dogs, 168 cats and 6 other animals. The total amount spent on vet bills was £33,740 and on fostering, £14,846.

The branch is still running neutering schemes for dogs and cats belonging to members of the public on means-tested benefits or retirement pension. 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.

I gave a talk to children at Ysgol Sarn Bach just before Christmas and the children donated £50 to the branch. Apparently it was the children's own idea to ask someone from the branch to speak to them and to donate money to us.

Both branch shops were providing much needed funds during the year. All staff are voluntary and should be thanked for the work they do and the time they give.

Unfortunately one of the staff at Pwllheli, who had been there from the opening day, died at the end of June. Carole Thompson was always a reliable and hardworking member of staff who, as well as helping run the shop, gave her time to the Bryn y Maen Dog Show and also helped at the AGM. When she died she had 2 cats and 6 guinea pigs which were taken in by me. 1 cat and 5 guinea pigs were found new homes. 1 guinea pig was PTS on veterinary advice and 1 cat is still with me.

The branch is in the process of merging with Meirionnydd Branch which has been without a committee for several years. Everything is going through but has not yet been finalised. We are, however, already giving financial help to that area and dealing with the local vets. We are also making valuable contacts within the area which bodes well for the future.

Freda Holme  
Hon. Branch Secretary



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

## **Annual Report 2010**

This year saw a lot of positive change at the centre and improved conditions for the animals we care for, specifically the new Small Animal Unit that was made possible by a very significant contribution from the Clwyd & Colwyn Branch. The new building replaced a building which was no longer fit for purpose and now we have increased capacity for small animals in North Wales and can comfortably accommodate 36 rabbits and 16 ferrets. There are also additional rooms for small caged animals and wildlife, plus the increase in space has meant we have been able to accommodate more volunteers to help with these animals which means they are handled and well socialised.

We also had extensive refurbishment of our kennel block, replacing all the metalwork, tiling of inside kennel area for easier cleaning and painting of the outruns. This did mean that our capacity for dogs was greatly reduced whilst the works were taking place so our adoption figures were lower than the previous year at 123, down 80 from 2009. From January, our intake of all animals moved exclusively to Inspectorate animals and focused on our core business of rehabilitation and refuge of the neediest animals. This typically meant that we took in animals which needed longer term care until they were available for adoption but reconfirms that we truly are an animal *rescue* centre.

Our cattery was extremely busy with an increase in the number of kittens in our care. Adoptions were pretty consistent with previous years with 283 cats going home. Despite not having a small animal building for the majority of last year, we still found homes for 35 rabbits.

Welfare microchipping reached an impressive 308 animals and other community projects included a Bunny Bonanza with free vet health checks for rabbits. Fundraising efforts increased this year with a very successful (but very wet) Mutt Strut, Halloween event and I pounded the streets and ran the London marathon!

This year we received the Marina Arnsby award for innovative methods in rehoming dogs. The award was based on the work our volunteers do here at the centre and how much they have contributed to the improved 'rehome-ability' of our dogs. This is also credit to the Bryn-y-Maen team who fully recognise the value of our wonderful volunteers and actively support and encourage them in their roles at the centre. Two dogs who benefited directly from our volunteers were Tanzi and Mia. Both were transferred here from Coventry centre and had special care and socialisation needs. Mia spent her days on reception as kennel life was so stressful for her and staff contributed towards swimming lessons for Tanzi as part of her behavioural rehabilitation which also resulted in great media interest. As I write, I can happily say that both dogs have been successfully rehomed within the last month.

We welcome Abbi Griffiths, Katy Seward, Mags Richardson, Steve Owen and Becca Loyley to the team. Cally Harris is now officially our Reception Supervisor and Natalie James moved into the role of Supervisor.

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 2011.

With kind regards

Becky Lloyd  
Animal Centre Manager



# **INSPECTORATE REPORT - 2010**

## **WALES AND WEST GROUP 6**

### **Group Statistics**

Total Complaints Completed	2,420
Case prosecution files submitted	41
Convictions & Cautions	22
Verbal Warnings	31
Inspector/AWO door knocks	6,987
Collections & Rescues	2,525
Market Visits	453
Market Animals seen	876,231

### **Group Overview**

Over 2010 there were a great many changes within the group.

Basil Farrant retired after being part of the RSPCA for 30 years, most of which were spent as Chief Inspector of the North Wales group.

Kevin Paton also retired in July after 36 years with the RSPCA and Market Inspector Richard Clarke also retired, leaving us with 2 remaining MIs.

Claire Davies went onto maternity leave and had a beautiful baby girl. We are hoping to have Claire back working within the group in the middle of the year.

New Inspector Anthony Joynes left the region and went to the North region where he now works closer to his home.

But, we gained people. I, Helen Mead, became the new Chief Inspector and have thoroughly enjoyed my first year here. Every one has made me very welcome and I feel very lucky to be part of this group.

2 new AWO(T)s (Animal Welfare Officers in training) Andy Broadbent and Kia Thomas joined the group in August and September. They went through an initial 8 weeks of training and are continuing with their training until September when they will become Inspectors.

The work of the officers in WW6 has increased in 2010; collections have gone from 2,359 in 2009 to 2,525 in 2010, complaints completed from 2,069 to 2,484 and case files submitted have gone from 30 to 41. The increases may not look huge, but the group has had to cope with the vacancies and the subsequent gaps in the roster. We still are not fully staffed but they have coped brilliantly and I thank them for that.

The Market Inspectors went to 453 markets between them, seeing a total of approx 876,231 animals, mainly sheep, but also a large volume of cattle with a few pigs and horses. This is a huge volume of animals seen by 2 Market Inspectors, (3 for 3 months). Thankfully there were few incidents needing intervention but their presence there ensured all was done correctly and advice was given on most visits for a variety of reasons.

2010 also brought RSPCA-generated animals which has helped the officers and we continue to work very well with Bryn y Maen and Gonsal animal shelters who take in the animals we

have collected. The case animals we take in have received the best care and been re-homed thanks to them and their hard work.

### **Prosecution Case Work**

#### **ORR – 10-0819**

The law allows the ability to ask a court to get an animal into our care without taking the owners through a prosecution. This is not the usual way of doing things as, if things are that bad, we would normally want to secure a disqualification to prevent it happening again. However, we had one of those odd ones back in April when Inspector Rachael Davies visited the home of a disabled lady and her son in Llandudno and discovered they had a very ill dog. The dog, Rex, had a large tumour and the owner was claiming there was nothing wrong with him. There was the potential of years of treatment for Rex so we could not risk him going back, but there were a lot of reasons not to take the owner to court, mainly due to disabilities and problems within the family. The decision was made to apply under Section 20 of the Animal Welfare Act to permanently get Rex into our care. The court agreed and Rex has had all his treatment and been successfully re-homed with people who can keep an eye on him, monitoring any further tumours.

#### **WILLIAMS – 10-0584**

This case was investigated by Inspector Tim Jones. A Jack Russell was present in a small cage with an enormous testicular tumour. The dog belonged to a Mrs Williams who permanently lived in a caravan and owned 6 other dogs and a pony. We worked with the local authority and they not only assisted us but dealt with other serious issues with regards to the other animals.

The dog Billy, unfortunately had to be euthanized due to the poor prognosis and when Mrs Williams went to court she was disqualified from owning and keeping animals for 10 years, had a conditional discharge and was ordered to pay £500 towards RSPCA costs.

All other animals were signed over to the RSPCA or Mrs Williams re-homed them herself, within 21 days of the court case.

#### **EVANS – 10-0335**

Inspector Rachael Davies went to a house in Rhyl where a Jack Russell Terrier had a large ulcerated mass on his stomach. This turned out to be a benign tumour and the dog was euthanized due to the extent of the ulceration.

Miss Evans was prosecuted and received a Community order in the form of a curfew, a disqualification order for life and was ordered to make a contribution towards costs.

#### **HAMNER – 10-0217**

Inspector Phil Lewis called at a farm several times to see a yearling horse and hazardous conditions and although it did not appear anything life-threatening, when Inspector Lewis arrived the third time, he found the yearling had died. This foal had lost a lot of weight and after a post mortem, it was found he was emaciated and he had a large parasite burden – worms.

The owner Mr Hamner had paid no attention to the advice given to him by Inspector Lewis and subsequently found himself in court with 2 offences under Section 4 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006. He was found guilty and given a Community Service order of 80 hours, a 5 year disqualification and he had to pay over £1,800 in costs.

In 2010 we have taken to court, some very serious issues and as a result we have obtained some lengthy disqualification orders. Unfortunately most of our results in 2010 meant an animal had died or was put to sleep, but we were then able to re-home others and ensure that the situation could not reoccur – and that is all part of the Prevention in our name.

As usual, the North Wales group were called to many rescues some of which involved most of the full team. Early on in the year, there was a sheep found on a ledge near Nantlle. The problem was that the cliff and ledge were in a disused quarry and there was a lake directly under the ledge. Therefore the full force of the group was needed and the initial thought was that the rescue would require both our rope-rescue team and the boat team. If the sheep jumped off the ledge, it would go straight into the water so we needed to be there to get it should that happen. The result was that the sheep was low enough to get to it from the lake rather than the top and was taken to safety.

This rescue was captured by a television crew and it went out on *Sky* earlier this year.

2010 was a year of huge change within the group and they have coped with the changes and lack of staff, extremely well, whilst also saving on costs. We continue to take these changes into 2011 but look forward to what we hope will be a more stable year.

Finally, I would like to say that the way WW6 work with other sections of the RSPCA and outside agencies is outstanding and I have no doubt this will continue and that all areas will benefit.