



**CANGEN GORLLEWIN GWYNEDD
WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH**

ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL

2012

ANNUAL REPORT



Elusen Gofrestredig Rhif 226126 Registered Charity No

RSPCA West Gwynedd Annual Report 2012

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April 2013

NOTICE OF BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

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 29th April 2013, 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

Regional Representative - Alun Rees

Deputy Regional Representative - Mrs Ann Rees

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

ELECTED COMMITTEE / TRUSTEES:-

Mrs Claire Butterfield (Davies)

Mrs Margaret Eaglestone

Robert Eaglestone

Peter Hawley

David Hibbert

Mrs Patricia Hibbert

Mrs Freda Holme

Mrs Rhianon Jones

Alun Rees

Mrs Ann Rees

CO-OPTED COMMITTEE / TRUSTEES

Richard Williams (from May 2012)

AUXILIARY SECRETARIES:-

Bangor

D. Hibbert

Bethesda

Mrs Claire Butterfield (Davies)

Bethel & Caernarfon

Mrs Ann Rees

Pwllheli

Mrs F. Holme

Waunfawr & Rhosgadfan

Mrs M. Eaglestone

STAFF:-

Branch Support Specialist

Carl Lloyd

ACTION LINE

0300 1234 999

**RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ending 31 December 2012**

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 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 2012 we issued 537 vouchers for welfare assistance of which 482 (90%) were redeemed. In total we spent £51,013 on veterinary treatment, an increase of £7,427 compared to 2011.

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 2012 we paid for the neutering of 509 and micro-chipping of 121 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 2012 we rehomed 309 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, 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-checks on behalf of RSPCA 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 31st December 2012 we had 76 Branch members (79 in 2011) 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. These schemes now cover the whole of Gwynedd.

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 and Blaenau Ffestiniog, and have increased the payment to £8,000 *per annum*

Thanks for Assistance

To all who have helped in any way during 2012.

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, 29th April 2013 at 7.30pm.

AGENDA

1. Opening address and Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Approval of minutes of AGM 2012
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 – Vet. Jim Mason – “RSPCA Mobile Clinics”
12. Closing remarks

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

April 2013

Dear fellow members, friends and supporters,

The time has come once more to welcome you to our Annual General Meeting and we thank you for attending.

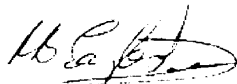
This year our small band of volunteers has worked hard once again to support animal welfare in West Gwynedd. You may have noted in our newsletter the hard work of Ann and Alun dealing with the cat neutering and feeding at various holiday and caravan parks in the area especially during the hard winter months.

The Pwllheli shop has maintained its excellent fund-raising and advice supplied by Freda and her loyal band of helpers.

Commencing today is RSPCA Week . Please note however that for administrative reasons our collections at TESCO run from Friday 3 May - Sunday 5 May at Caernarfon & Porthmadog, and from Friday 3 May - Thursday 9 May at Bangor. I urge anyone who is able to assist even for an hour to come along and help us. Bring your friends and family too.

As in every report we must thank the Inspectorate for their professional expertise in dealing with animal cruelty cases and also for their welfare advice.

May I once again thank my fellow members of the Branch Committee on behalf of animal welfare in West Gwynedd.



Robert Eaglestone
Hon Branch Chairman

West Gwynedd Branch Cangen Gorllewin Gwynedd

Website: <http://www.rspca.westgwynedd.org>

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Institute Building, Bangor Street, Caernarfon
Monday, 23rd April 2012 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 2011

These were proposed by Peter Hawley, seconded by David Hibbert and accepted by the meeting.

4 There were no matters arising

5 Financial Report

Alun Rees commenced his report by saying what a year 2011 had been. The Branch had finally completed the takeover of RSPCA Meirionnydd Branch so we now covered the whole of Gwynedd. The amount of £52,000 transferred from them can only be spent in the Meirionnydd area.

For five years following the merger we will receive double the national Door to Door funds.

The total incoming resources for the year amounted to £86,751 and expenditure amounted to £92,901. These are the highest figures in the history of the Branch, if legacies are excluded. Thanks to all who have helped us achieve this.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Margaret Eaglestone, seconded by David Hibbert 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 agreed with Alun that it had been an eventful year. When we took over the Meirionnydd Branch we retained West Gwynedd as the name for the enlarged Branch.

Due to the larger area an extra Committee member has been allocated to deal with neutering requests so there are now three almoners, Alun, Freda and Peter. Alun and Freda also deal with requests for treatment and general queries.

Due to a lack of volunteers we have cut down on our street collections and these were only held in Bangor. We still did collections in RSPCA Week at TESCO stores in Bangor, Caernarfon and Porthmadog and also collected in Morrisons, Caernarfon.

We helped with costs of neutering 190 dogs, 376 cats, 9 rabbits and 2 other animals and with costs of treatment for 185 dogs, 200 cats, 7 rabbits and 4 other animals.

Aberconwy Branch provide a mobile clinic in Bangor and Blaenau Ffestiniog which is much appreciated by the people in these areas. We pay £5,000 per year for this facility and animals treated there were 544 dogs, 273 cats and 31 other animals.

The Branch Charity shop in Penygroes closed at the end of August after 12 years but the shop in Pwllheli is still going strong.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Cassie Clinch, seconded by Rhianon Jones and accepted by the meeting.

8 Election of Committee

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

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

9 Inspectorate Report

Chief Inspector Helen Mead gave details from the Inspectorate Report as laid out in the Annual Report.

She was then asked by Eric Hughes how many days can animals be kept in markets and she said only one overnight stay. If he knew this was not being adhered to he should ring the NCC. This should then be dealt with by Inspectors and the local Trading Standards Department.

At the end of her report the Chairman, Robert Eaglestone, thanked the inspectors for all their work.

10 Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre Report

As there was no one from the centre in attendance the Centre Report as laid out in the Annual Report was read by Carl Lloyd, BSS.

11 Guest Speaker, Inspector Andy Broadbent – “Training to be an RSPCA Inspector”

Andy gave an interesting and informative illustrated talk about the training given by the Society. Everyone was amazed at the amount of information the trainees had to remember and the amount of work involved. He was thanked at the end of his talk by Chairman, Robert Eaglestone.

12 Closing remarks

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

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

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

ATTENDANCE

Members (12)

Cassie Clinch	Margaret Eaglestone	Robert Eaglestone	Lesley Hardman
Peter Hawley	David Hibbert	Pat Hibbert	Freda Holme
Rhianon Jones	Alun Rees	Ann Rees	Lynn Williams

Staff

Carl Lloyd, B.S.S.	Chief Insp. Helen Mead	Insp. Andy Broadbent
Katie Broadbent, Bryn-y-Maen		

Friends and Guests

Eric Hughes	Linda Jones	Helen Mitchell	Stephen Pape
Keymar Wake			

APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Claire Davies	Ann Hawley	Catherine Head	Mrs B. Jones
Margaret McCabe	R.B. McLeod	Andrew McNamara	Enid McNamara
Olive Parry	Ann Pritchard	Kate Jones, Manager for Wales	
Becky Lloyd, Manager, Bryn-y-Maen			

TREASURER'S REPORT & PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS 2012

The total incoming resources for the year amounted to £82,241 (2011: £86,751). Expenditure in the year amounted to £77,758 (2011: £92,901). This resulted in a surplus for the year of £4,483.

The slight fall in income came despite the receipt of two shares of the "House to House" collections organised by RSPCA HQ. 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, the "new" Branch will receive two portions of the profit for the first 5 years. In this, the second year of the scheme since takeover, we received £37,992 (2011: £27,620). Our one remaining shop at Pwllheli produced a slightly improved income of £25,663 (2011: £25,001) but Penygroes shop was closed.

The decrease in expenditure was also due to a small number of factors. The contribution to Regional Emergency Boarding of £2,000 (2011: £12,000) was substantially reduced due to our heavy expenditure in 2011. The Regional contribution for 2012 has not been charged (2011: £9,520). Following the closure of Penygroes shop in 2011, we only had the running costs for Pwllheli shop in 2012. A donation of £5,000 towards the national RSPCA Animal Fighting Fund was made in recognition of the Society's campaigning against hunting with dogs and live transport, and the legal costs involved. Finally, the continuing rise in vet bills to £51,013 (2011: £43,586) which includes £5,000 towards the running costs of RSPCA Aberconwy's mobile clinic made this once again the highest total expended on direct animal welfare in the Branch's history.

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 £77,758 and balance of £238,522 in the investment and general funds, we have 3.0 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 volatile climate, about 20% of our invested funds to be held in selected equities, about 40% to be held in bonds and gilts, no more than 10% to be held in current accounts, and the balance to be held in fixed interest notice account(s). As at 31st December 2012, the actual percentages as shown in the accounts were 24%, 38%, 8% and 30% respectively. The higher amount held in equities was due to the sizeable recovery in the market during 2012. No additional funds were added, but the valuation grew despite £2,150 dividends being withdrawn from Schroders and £1,246 from M&G during the year.

Due to continued poor interest rates, the Committee approved research into better alternative accounts which retained easy access. When the CAF Gold Account interest rate dropped from 0.2% p.a. to 0.1% p.a., the account was closed and the balance transferred to a new Virgin Charity Deposit Account at 2.61% tax-free. Surplus funds in the HSBC Treasurer's Account (currently 0% interest) were also transferred to give a total opening balance of £35,000. A better home for the £18,637 in the CCLA COIF Charities Deposit Fund (currently 0.95%) is currently being sought.

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

R.S.P.C.A. WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER : 226126

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2012**

**W J MATTHEWS & SON
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

Independent Examiners' Report to the Members of RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch

I report on the accounts of the Branch for the year ended 31st December 2012, which are set out on pages 13 to 15.

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

Signed:



Dated:

28 March 2017

**RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2012**

	General	Designated	Restricted		2012		2011
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income:							
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Membership subscriptions	247	-	-	247	247	253	
<i>From Voluntary Sources</i>							
Sundry donations	987	-	-	987	1,917		
Gift aid	943	-	-	943	-		
Flag Days	4,199	-	-	4,199	4,488		
House to house collections	37,992	-	-	37,992	27,620		
Jumble	1,073	-	-	1,073	45,194	406	34,431
Investment Income:							
Bank interest received (Gross)	52	-	-	52	71		
Investment income (Gross)	8,129	-	-	8,129	8,181	7,645	7,716
Charitable Trading activities:							
Dog boxes	1,291	-	-	1,291	1,482		
Charity Shop takings	25,663	-	-	25,663	32,187		
RSPCA sales	24	-	-	24	10		
Adoption fees	40	-	-	40	90		
VAT refund	1,601	-	-	1,601	28,619	763	34,532
Other income							
Transfer from RSPCA Meirionydd Branch	-	-	-	-	-	9,819	
	£82,241	£ -	£ -	£	£82,241		£86,751
Direct Charitable Expenditure:							
Contribution to regional boarding	2,000	-	-	2,000	12,000		
RSPCA Animal Fighting Fund	5,000	-	-	5,000	-		
Regional contribution/Quota		-	-	-	9,520		
Wales Inspectorate Voucher Scheme	1,300	-	-	1,300	1,500		
Regional board legacy scheme	-	-	-	-	4		
Donation to other charities	-	-	-	-	511		
Bryn-y-Maen – Small Animal Block	-	-	-	-	5,000		
Insurance	370	-	-	370	356		
Cost of goods for resale	495	-	-	495	358		
Veterinary costs	18,164	16,672	16,177	51,013	43,586		
Boarding	2,514	-	-	2,514	3,016		
Officers' travel	2,290	-	-	2,290	1,856		
Charity Shop rent	9,620	-	-	9,620	11,555		
Charity Shop heat and light	383	-	-	383	545		
Charity Shop trade refuse	151	-	-	151	139		
Charity Shop telephone	161	-	-	161	75,297	158	90,104
Other expenditure:							
Postage and stationery	317	-	-	317	252		
Advertising	100	-	-	100	-		
Accountancy	480	-	100	580	470		
Repairs and Equipment	46	-	-	46	940		
Consumables	274	-	-	274	61		
VAT not recoverable	992	-	20	1,012	1,014		
Sundries	132	-	-	132	2,461	60	2,797
Total payments	£44,789	£16,672	£16,297		£77,758		£92,901
Net income/ (payments) for the year	37,452	(16,672)	(16,297)		4,483		(6,150)
Transfers between funds	(16,672)	16,672	-		-		-
Cash and bank balances							
At 31 st December 2011	46,222	25,000	27,522		98,744		104,894
At 31 st December 2012	£67,002	£25,000	£11,225		£103,227		£98,744

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
31st DECEMBER 2012

	2012	2011
	£	£
Monetary assets:		
Investments:		
Schroders Common Investment Fund:		
The Charity Equity Fund	48,201	42,717
The Charity Fixed Interest Fund	94,818	94,661
COIF Charity Deposit Fund	18,637	18,637
M&G Charifund	24,224	22,009
	<u>£185,880</u>	<u>£178,024</u>
 Bank and cash balances:		
Bank Deposit Investment Account	89,849	87,108
Bank Current Accounts	13,162	11,420
Pay-Pal Account	141	141
Cash float	75	75
Total	<u>£103,227</u>	<u>£98,744</u>
 General funds	67,002	46,222
Designated funds	25,000	25,000
Restricted funds	11,225	27,522
	<u>£103,227</u>	<u>£98,744</u>
 Debtors: Trade debtors	<u>£1,500</u>	<u>£1,969</u>
 Current Liabilities:		
Trade creditors and accruals	<u>£504</u>	<u>£492</u>

Approved by the Branch Committee on 28 March 2013 and signed by

Dr. A. T. Rees
Honorary Treasurer



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**RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
ACCOUNTING POLICIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2012**

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 2011 Charities Act.

Restricted Funds

A sum of £36,960 was received in 2007 specifically to be spent in the Bangor area. At 1 January 2012 there was a balance of £22,046 in the fund. During 2012 a total of £8,269 was spent leaving a balance of £13,777.

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 2012 there was an opening balance of £13,519. No expenditure was incurred during the year to 31 December 2012.

The RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch took over the administration and geographic area of the RSPCA 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 2012 an amount of £8,028 was spent from the fund. At the year end the investments had a market value of £42,861.

Designated Funds

A balance of £25,000 was brought forward from 2011 in the cat and dog free neutering scheme. A total of £16,672 was spent during the year ending 31 December 2011 leaving a balance of £9,575. The Committee agreed to top up this figure to give a balance of £25,000 at the year end.

Investments

The investments are stated at market value.

Trustees

No trustees received any remuneration in the year. (2011 – NIL).

Reimbursements made to trustees were as follows

		2012		2011
	No of trustees	Cost	No of trustees	Cost
Travel costs reimbursed	No	NIL	One	10

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH SECRETARY'S REPORT 2012

During 2012 we collected at Tesco stores in Bangor, Caernarfon and Porthmadog and raised more than £4,000, our best for a number of years.

We also had various fundraising events including an evening meal and entertainment at the Glyn y Weddw Arms. Llanbedrog, a flower arranging demonstration, Caernarfon and several raffles at various functions again held at the Glyn y Weddw Arms.

The Branch shop in Pwllheli is thriving and now has more members of staff, all unpaid, who work efficiently. and mostly get on well with each other. We still have our regular furry friends who visit us and, with their owners' permission, are given treats to eat.

We are very lucky with our landlords who are animal lovers and give immense support to the Branch. We are also fortunate that we have no need to advertise for donated goods as every day we get many donations of items to sell in the shop. We have holiday makers who come to the shop and buy goods every time they are on holiday in the area. They tell us how much they enjoy shopping with us as we have nice things to buy and always make them welcome, we chat with them unlike some of the other charity shops in the area.

The shop is also known as somewhere people can come to get advice regarding the help the Branch can offer for their animals.

The Dog Show was again held at the RSPCA Animal Centre, Bryn-y-Maen and for the first time was organised by the staff from the centre,. The Branch, as usual, manned a stall and gave the proceeds to the centre.

Homevisits were undertaken for 7 dogs and 13 cats rehomed from Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre. I also do the homevisits for any animal I rehomed for the Branch.

Members of the public were given financial help by the Branch to neuter 123 dogs, 380 cats, 3 rabbits and 3 other animals and to take for vet. treatment 187 dogs, 285 cats, 6 rabbits and 4 other animals.

One of our neighbouring Branches, Aberconwy, still provides a mobile clinic at 2 places within our Branch area, Bangor and Blaenau Ffestiniog. West Gwynedd Branch now pays £8,000 per year for this facility and animals taken there for treatment were 601 dogs, 280 cats, 17 rabbits and 13 other animals.

The Branch is still running neutering schemes for dogs and cats belonging to members of the public who are 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. Please encourage people to have their pets neutered if they come within our criteria. If you read our newsletter you will see the problems caused by unneutered cats and this is happening every year.

I wonder how much worse the situation would be if we hadn't been running neutering schemes for several years.

The total amount spent on vet bills by the Branch during the year was £51,013 and on fostering, £4,181.

At the end of 2012 we were asked to apply to The Original Factory Shop, Pwllheli to be their nominated charity for 2013. Our application was accepted and we look forward to joint fundraising during the year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F Holme'.

Freda Holme
Hon. Branch Secretary

Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre

Annual Report 2012

2012 was another demanding year for Bryn-y-Maen, with large numbers of animals requiring specialist care and management. We continue to work closely with both our local and countrywide inspectors that in 2012 showed a noticeable focus on large number of dogs and cats removed from multi-animal homes. Our Small Animal Unit continues to meet the demand we have from our more unusual residents which this year included Chinchillas, Guinea Pigs, Budgies and Chickens all from multi-animal homes throughout the country.

During 2012 we found homes for a record number of 671 animals. This included 299 Cats, 146 Dogs, 61 Rabbits, 45 Guinea Pigs, various small animals and chickens. We regularly transferred our long stay residents between other centres to ensure all animals have the best opportunity of finding the right home for them. Bryn-y-Maen has also developed a unique system of managing a dog's welfare needs while in our care. Our expertise in this area has helped many dogs that would have otherwise had very limited options available to them had they not been transferred to us.

We have had many new faces join our team of dedicated volunteers. Our volunteers are a massive asset to the centre giving their time to help with everything from training and rehabilitation to fundraising and taking the all-important photographs so pivotal to the animals efforts to connect them with their future new homes.

Throughout the year we have had many promotional and fundraising events to raise the centre's profile and generate funds. These have including our annual Mutt Strutt around the Orme, regular stalls in the Bay View Shopping Centre, coffee mornings, April Showers Dog wash day, Christmas raffle and attending local community events.

Our dog show was a great success with over 120 entries, with lots of previous residents making an appearance in the classes. In the days leading up to the Dog Show we saw some extremely heavy rain, which resulted in us changing the field layout at the last minute to avoid water-logged areas. When the day finally arrived the weather was on our side and we had many happy hours in glorious sunshine! It was also the first year that Bryn-y-Maen had provided the catering at the show that proved to be as popular and as hard work as we had expected!

We welcomed Mindy Kerr and Helen Jones to the team at Bryn-y-Maen this year. Mindy joins us as a casual employee but has been a regular face at our annual dogs shows with her now world famous dancing with dogs routine! Congratulations also to Katy Broadbent, who gave birth to her baby daughter Jennifer Helen this year. Katy's maternity leave was admirably covered by Helen Jones, who with her background in retail and administration added even more expertise and professionalism to the centre shop and reception area.

We would like to thank all the Branches and the Friends of Bryn-y-Maen for their continued support of the centre and we look forward to working together in 2013 to help improve the lives of animals in our care and the local communities.

Kind Regards

Vicky Williams
Deputy Manager
Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre



ANNUAL REPORT 2012

WALES & WEST, GROUP 6

Group Statistics

	2012	2011
Total Complaints Completed	2,543	2,546
Case prosecution files submitted	42	37
Convictions & Cautions	42	36
Verbal Warnings	76	66
Inspector/AWO door knocks	8,361	7,705
Collections & Rescues	1,462	2,059
Market Visits	362	382
Market Animals seen	729,475	869,406

Group Overview

2012 was a steady year, with, for the first time in a while, no-one leaving or joining, only Claire Davies going on maternity leave and having a lovely baby girl. Claire is due to return mid 2013. Mark Roberts became a fully fledged Inspector, then picking up a large multi horse case as his first one – what an introduction to prosecutions! Inspector Kia Thomas was chosen to climb Mount Killimanjaro with several other RSPCA officers and not only was the climb a challenge, but they had to raise £80,000 between them all, that was £4,000 each. Kia showed her amazing fund raising skills by organising shows, collecting in supermarkets with a bucket and lots in between. It was no mean feat to raise her donations by December as well as doing her day job. The climb was in February and she was one of the majority of the party that completed it.

The work of the officers in WW6, as always, changed a little. Collections appear to have reduced again, we know this is due to the NCC asking callers to help us out more, this allows more time for the Inspectors to do the complaints rather than being diverted onto the collections and rescues, which the 2 collection officers have been dealing with as efficiently as ever. The volume of complaints completed stayed the same, with another significant increase in ‘door knocks’, increasing by 656 over the year. Our prosecution files submitted have gone from 37 to 42, with convictions and cautions going up to 42.

The group continue to cope with the roster vacancies, gaps in the roster which will not be filled, but they all continue to show a huge level of commitment that they consistently show is obvious and very much appreciated, often changing shifts to help out and working beyond their finish time, in order to get the job done.

The Market Inspectors went to 362 markets between them, seeing a total of 729,475 animals. This huge volume of animals seen by just 2 Market Inspectors. Our presence is key at these markets as they regularly get people asking for advise and help, this means we can sort any issues out at a very early stage.

One week of interest was spending 7 days at Holyhead port, looking at all the ferries coming in and going out, to and from Ireland, even the 02:30 hrs ferry coming in. With SOU, our officers spent the week looking at vans, lorries etc that come over with horses, dogs and other animals that are being transported across to Ireland, for whatever reason. We gained a lot of knowledge about the puppy breeding industry and off the back of information gained that week, a large raid took place in the north region. We also acknowledged the problems with equine passports.

Our work in the Inspectorate could not be done without the help and support of the animal centres and the Branches. At the end of 2011 Bryn-y-Maen took in 36 dogs from a prosecution case. This quickly escalated when a lot of the bitches had litters of puppies, so there was up to over 70 dogs in the end. Their help with this case, with the caring of the dogs and puppies, the rehoming of them and the continued support with the owner of the dogs, meant that we could concentrate on getting the case to court and not have to worry about the dogs themselves.

We have had a lot of problems with equines over the year and it is proving to be an issue that is getting worse in terms of volumes and neglect, but a big headache for the society as they are not the cheapest of animals to board! It is a challenge that we continue to face going through 2013 and I fear it will get worse before it gets better. However, we have taken on board some brilliant private boarders within North Wales and we could not do this without them.

Prosecution Case Work

12-0771

This case by Inspector Andy Broadbent was to do with the docking of a dog's tail. As we know, this is now illegal for non working dogs and this family in Colwyn Bay had tried to dock their Rottweiler puppy's tail themselves – twice! We all know how appalling the pain of this must have been for the dog, who thankfully made a full recovery after being treated by our vet but not before having to have an operation to remove the remaining few inches of the tail that had been affected.

The parents in the family claimed it was done by one of their children, but the court was convinced that they were all responsible for the actions and they each got a 10 year disqualification for owning all animals and a community service penalty. This was a good result and should be a real preventative measure.

12-1202

Inspector Rachael Davies went to a house in Abergele one evening where the female occupant showed Inspector Davies a Staffordshire bull terrier type dog. The dog was only a year old and was emaciated and completely bald, with his skin bleeding, scabby and with pus oozing. The female did not want to sign the dog over and refused to speak to Inspector Davies as she was just going out drinking and the taxi had just turned up. It was obvious this poor dog was not anywhere near the top of her priority.

Inspector Davies removed the dog and he got the care he needed and has now made a full recovery and has been re-homed. Look out for him, he is one of the cases that the RSPCA is using for promotional work this year!

As for Ms Fahey, she got disqualified for 5 years, a fine and also a curfew order for between the hours of 9pm and 7am. A curfew is unusual in animal welfare cases, however, considering the lifestyle that she was leading, it should prove to be a useful deterrent in the future.

12-0154

There were a few more complaints throughout the year about neglect of chickens being kept in gardens etc. One call for Inspector Fred Armstrong was to a house with 10 dead chickens and 36 that were alive but in poor condition. They were found to be emaciated and the case went to court. Mr Milani got a 5 year disqualification, a community service order and was told to pay costs.

11-1135

This appeared to be a 'normal' neglect case of 10 horses in Bethesda and the usual procedures went ahead. However, throughout Inspector Mike Pugh's investigation, there became other issues about one of the defendant's family, showing that there are definite links between the neglect of animals and children.

The other interesting thing about this case was the presence of 2 unusual neurological diseases that was a direct consequence of the neglect. 6 of the horses had EMND – Equine Motor Neurone Disease – a condition that affects the nervous and muscular systems in horses and there are very few reported cases of this and has prompted a highly qualified vet that was involved to investigate the disease further and is currently looking to write a paper on it.

Unfortunately in this case, the outcome of the horses was not all good. A few had to be put to sleep due to the neurological diseases and one died shortly after being given normal food as it was unable to digest it. The 2 defendants got a 10 year disqualification order and unpaid community work as well as paying towards costs.

2012 appeared to be the year of the horse in Wales. There is a great many issues being dealt with at the moment, numbers being removed outweigh small animals quite significantly, and unfortunately this does not appear to be letting up at all. We appear to have different issues than in South Wales, but here it is all about the over breeding of animals and then not being able to pay for the feed and upkeep. There is little acceptance from the owners that there is a problem and this compounds the problem.

Whereas we have been focusing on dogs in an initiative throughout Wales over the last few years, equine issues are fast overtaking. It just goes to show we need to ensure we keep getting the message out that indiscriminate breeding of both dogs and horses is unacceptable.

The rope rescue team has also been kept busy again this year, with many sheep finding themselves in precarious positions off the side of a mountain or quarry somewhere. The figures above never really reflect the actual amount of work that the officers do and with just 1 of the collection & rescue figure above taking out between 3 and 6 officers a day to go and get an animal down safely. One rescue that was of note, was a dog that had managed to fall down some rocks into the river below Swallow Falls. He was trapped on a ledge but our 3 officers managed to get him up onto dry land where his owners (who were here on holiday) were extremely grateful.

The weather has been extremely wet over the year and this has had an effect on the work of the officers, including more swift water rescues – being part of the emergency response teams in Wales means we attend major incidents like the flooding at St Asaph. We are seeing water logged fields all over the place, with little dry land for any farm animals or horses to be grazed on, it is proving difficult all round. That is where we are as adaptable as ever, responding where we are needed and advising people on the best way forward, where they may not see a way out.

We all know the work we do does not get any easier, we just get presented with different scenarios all the time – this makes it an extremely interesting organisation to work in. We do an amazing job and we must not forget it. Thank you to everyone for your support of the Inspectorate, we really do appreciate it.