



**CANGEN GORLLEWIN GWYNEDD
WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH**

ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL

2014

ANNUAL REPORT



Elusen Gofrestredig Rhif 226126 Registered Charity No

RSPCA West Gwynedd Annual Report 2014

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NOTICE OF BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

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 20th April 2015, 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 Ann Rees
Friends of Bryn-y-Maen Representative - Mrs Ann Rees

Secretary - Mrs Freda Holme

ELECTED COMMITTEE / TRUSTEES:-

Mrs Margaret Eaglestone
Peter Hawley
Mrs Patricia Hibbert
Miss Linda Joyce-Jones (until 7.11.14)
Alun Rees
Richard Williams

Robert Eaglestone
David Hibbert
Mrs Freda Holme
Mrs Rhianon Jones
Mrs Ann Rees

CO-OPTED COMMITTEE / TRUSTEES

Sam Bell
Delyth Williams-Jones (from 14.7.14)

Philip Caddick

AUXILIARY SECRETARIES:-

Bangor D. Hibbert
Bethel & Caernarfon Mrs Ann Rees
Pwllheli Mrs F. Holme

Dyffryn Nantlle Miss Linda Joyce-Jones
(until 7.11.14)
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 2014

Objects and Public Benefit Statement

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

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

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

Advancement of Animal Welfare

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

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

Charitable Activities Pursued for the Public Benefit

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

In 2014 we issued 349 vouchers for welfare assistance of which 240 (69%) were redeemed to assist 399 animals (several vouchers were for multiple animals or multiple treatments). In total we spent £47,197 on veterinary treatment (including neutering). The number of vouchers requested and the percentage used for welfare assistance were both less than in 2013 but the amount spent was greater.

2. We provide free or subsidised neutering and micro-chipping of companion animals belonging to owners living in the Branch area and on low income. We do this through a voucher scheme in conjunction with Dogs Trust, and collaboration with 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 2014 we issued 503 neutering vouchers for animals and we paid for the full cost of neutering 597 and micro-chipping of 137 animals (some vouchers were for more than one animal). All these figures are lower than in 2013 which was a very busy year.

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

In 2014 the clinic treated 792 animals at subsidised prices in our Branch area.

4. We support our local Inspectors by assisting in emergency payments for veterinary treatment, contributing to the Regional Board's Emergency Boarding and Voucher schemes, and purchasing additional equipment. 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.*
5. We rehome a small number of animals in need at low cost to people willing and able to have a companion animal. *Whilst we recognise that companion animals provide measurable benefits to people's physical and mental health, we consider the provision of pets as subsidiary to the main charitable aims of this service which is to reduce animal suffering. Our policy to charge a reasonable adoption fee for animals aims to highlight the ongoing personal and financial commitment of pet ownership. It would not be in the best interests of animals, and would therefore fall outside our objects, to rehome to those who could not afford them.*

In 2014 we rehomed 256 animals.

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

12. We provide volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work, including trusteeship, fostering and fund-raising. *This benefits local people and companies by providing the possibility of doing work which is compassionate and rewarding.*

At 31st December 2014 we had 69 Branch members (72 in 2013) and approximately 40 occasional and regular volunteers.

13. Following extensive and energetic activities with Pets at Home, Bangor we have now been chosen as their charity partner. *The public and the charity benefit from increased opportunity to rehome animals, raise funds and the promotion of responsible pet ownership.*

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. Promotions are being targeted at housing estates. In 2015 we are joining a neutering collaboration with Cats Protection and all other RSPCA Branches in North Wales for a period of 3 months (February – April) and holding events at Pets at Home, Bangor to promote animal welfare, including free micro-chipping.

We are continuing to pay our neighbours RSPCA Aberconwy Branch towards the costs of providing their mobile clinic service on a weekly basis to Bangor and Blaenau Ffestiniog, and have increased the payment to £8,000 per annum. Following lengthy discussions with Aberconwy Branch and others in North Wales we will be extending the coverage in our Branch area to include Caernarfon. This should bring the service within reach of most of Gwynedd.

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

Thanks for Assistance

To all who have helped in any way during 2014.

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, 20th April 2015 at 7.30pm.

AGENDA

1. Opening address and Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Approval of minutes of AGM 2014
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 - Buddug Williams, speaking about Guide Dogs for the Blind
12. Closing remarks

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

Dear fellow members, friends and supporters.

Once again the time has come to present the annual report of the West Gwynedd Branch of the RSPCA and to review the past year.

The accounts show a sound base whilst having provided considerable financial help for the numerous needs of animal welfare in our area. It has only been possible to maintain all our present help with the hard work of the small band of people who have raised the money to fund these activities.

One long-standing objective has been to bring the mobile clinic to Caernarfon in addition to its present two locations and also to jointly run a cat neutering programme with Cats Protection for pet-owners who qualify for our help.

This year, as previously, the Pwllheli shop has provided a steady income by the efforts of Freda and her dedicated helpers. Many thanks to them all. We have recently renewed the lease of the shop and continue to have a good relationship with our landlords, Paul and Michelle, who themselves have, over the years, arranged fund-raising events on our behalf. Thank you both.

Tesco week again saw a good return for the time spent with collecting cans. David, Ann and Phil organised our collectors as always and I am sure they will be looking you up again to fill their time sheets this year.

We have benefitted financially from our relationship with Pets at Home, Bangor and from contact with pet owners and the public. Thanks to Linda, Richard, Sam, Keymar, Nicola, Delyth, Zoe, Jo and others.

This year particularly, while sitting to write this report it brought to mind many of the names of people that we remember, not from the present, but from the last 30 years. Several passed away in 2014. George Taylor, who with Margaret was one of the first people to be on the Wales Board. It was an initiative that provided the funds for a neutering scheme in West Gwynedd when we had very little funds of our own. It helped raise the profile of the Branch. I feel that this scheme motivated Liz Carter - a long time journalist with the Caernarfon & Denbigh Herald - and her father Major Carter to bequeath substantial legacies to the Branch. These legacies have been the foundation of our finances.

John Elis Roberts MBE and his fellow National Park Wardens have been awarded many times for rescues in the mountains. His sudden death whilst climbing in his beloved Eryri was a great shock.

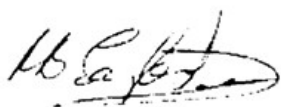
Chief Inspector Basil Farrant who regularly presented his report to our committee with his own sense of humour also passed away this year.

The number of people remembered, all of whom had animal wellbeing as a central part of their life, bring fond and appreciative memories for their efforts.

Finally for Margaret & myself may we thank all our fellow committee members present and past for their friendship and support in the work of animal welfare in West Gwynedd.

May I personally thank Freda and Alun, our secretary and treasurer, who have carried the burden of the administration of the Branch during my time as Chairman.

Diolch yn fawr iawn.



RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Institute Building, Bangor Street, Caernarfon
Monday, 14th April 2014 at 7.30pm.

Those present at the meeting are listed on page 11.

1 Chairman's Welcome

Robert Eaglestone, the Branch Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Steve Carter, RSPCA Cymru/Wales, Kevin Degenhard, RSPCA Chief Inspectorate Officer and Rachele Follini. BSS.

Rob also mentioned the accident that had befallen Carl Lloyd, the Branch Support Specialist and wished him a speedy recovery.

2 Apologies received are listed on page 11.

3 Minutes of AGM 2013

These were proposed by Richard Williams seconded by David Hibbert and accepted by the meeting.

4 There were no matters arising

5 Financial Report

Alun Rees presented his report and said the incoming resources for the year amounted to £104,341 which included over 13% returns on the Branch investment proceeds based on interest and improved valuations. The branch depends on this additional source of income to fund activities and it shows the financial strategies if the Branch are proving effective, even in the last few years' economic climate.

Expenditure in the year amounted to £95,274 which resulted in a surplus of £9,067. Alun said that as he repeated most years, these are the highest figures for income and expenditure in the Branch's history if legacies are excluded.

As you will see and hear later we are putting these funds to good use, not just with financial support for animal owners in the West Gwynedd Branch area but through our support for the RSPCA Inspectors, Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre, other rescue organisations and emergency boarding of animals across Wales. In 2014 the Branch intends to expand this support further.

Thanks to all who have helped to achieve these results.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Margaret Eaglestone seconded by Rhianon Jones 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 Freda Holme and accepted by the meeting.

7 Branch Annual Report

Freda Holme said that during 2013 the Branch held various events which as well as raising funds keeps the existence of the Branch in the public eye and promotes the almoning schemes.

Due to collaboration between the National RSPCA and Pets at Home several events were held in the Bangor Store. Animal Awareness Day was held in September when the RSPCA Mobile Clinic was in attendance giving free animal health checks. Volunteer recruiting, Branch and society advertising and fun events also took place. During the rest of 2103 various collections of money, food and treats were held for animals in Bryn-y-Maen and Branch care.

The Original Factory Shop, Pwllheli, nominated the Branch as its charity for 2013 and raised £715.

The Dog Show was again held at Bryn-y-Maen. The Branch, as usual, manned a stall this time selling drinks and sweets and also ran a "Name the Dog" competition. The proceeds were given to the centre.

The Branch still has a charity shop in Pwllheli which raises much needed funds. The customers, with or without their dogs, are very supportive. People also call into the shop for vouchers and simple advice about their pets. If they have any medical queries we refer them to their vet as the staff are not qualified to answer such questions.

The Branch gives financial help to members of the public who are unable to pay veterinary fees and are on means-tested benefit, retirement pension or are full-time students. We do not pay the full amount but give a percentage of the cost. During 2013 we helped 1,303 animals.

We still run free neutering scheme for cats and dogs using the same owner criteria. The dog scheme is in conjunction with The Dog's Trust and includes free microchipping. We also helped to neuter 610 animals during the year. It is important to encourage neutering of animals as it can improve the animal's health as well as preventing unwanted offspring.

We still have an RSPCA Mobile Clinic visiting Bangor and Blaenau Ffestiniog. We pay £8,000 per year for this facility which is supplied by Aberconwy Branch. Pet owners on means-tested benefits should have no qualms about using these clinics as there is a fully-qualified vet in attendance. As the vehicle is now showing signs of wear we will soon be in talks with Aberconwy and other Branches about how we proceed in the future.

We get all kinds of queries from the public, mainly by phone, sometimes by e-mail and also in person in our charity shop. These cover things such as neglect and cruelty (which are referred to the NCC); animals injured in road accidents, found by the roadside (sometimes referred to the NCC but also to local vets); dead animals; missing animals; animals wanted for adoption; animals no longer wanted; a cat thought to be lying dead under a bush but in actual fact she was hiding from tomcats as she was on heat (she's now neutered) and a goat carcass in a local churchyard. In some of these cases Ann, Alun or myself go out and collect animals or go to view the problem, and then discuss with the person involved the best way to deal with it.

Being a member of this committee is not always just attending meeting and fundraising.

Rhianon said she would like to thank the shop volunteers for their constant commitment to the Pwllheli shop. Freda said she would pass the comments on to the staff.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by David Hibbert, seconded by Margaret Eaglestone and accepted by the meeting.

8 Election of Committee

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

Margaret Eaglestone	Robert Eaglestone	Peter Hawley	David Hibbert
Patricia Hibbert	Freda Holme	Rhianon Jones	Linda Joyce-Jones
Alun Rees	Ann Rees	Richard Williams	

9 Presentations

The Branch had been asked to supply equipment for the rescue of animals to local mountain rescue teams. Kevin Degenhard presented this to Brian Robbins, Ogwen Mountain Rescue. Chief Insp. Helen Mead said they were doing a wonderful job and the Branch was thanked by Brian Robbins. Llanberis Mountain Rescue were unable to be present so the donated equipment was accepted on their behalf by Chief Insp. Helen Mead.

10 Inspectorate Report

Chief Inspector Helen Mead gave her report and said it was an overview of North and Mid Wales, which covered a large area in terms of land and it was a small group of people dealing with it. Including Helen this is 12 inspectors and 2 market inspectors.

She gave details of various cases including: - minke whale stranded on a beach in N. Wales; lots of sheep rescues;

She thanked the Branch and said they and the Inspectors worked together for animals.

10 Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre Report

As there was no one from the centre in attendance the Centre Report was as laid out in the Annual Report.

11 Guest Speaker – RSPCA Chief Inspectorate Officer, Kevin Degenhard

“Current Inspectorate Work in England and Wales and the Society's long association with animals in war”

Kevin thanked the Branch for the invitation to the AGM and commenced by showing “A Day in the Life of an Inspector”. This showed all the steps where the inspector has to provide sufficient evidence before taking a case to court. Not all cases are prosecuted as other ways of dealing with the problems are looked at.

He then presented views of animals in World War 1 and said RSPCA Inspectors joined the Army Vet. Corps. The society raised £250,000 for sick and wounded horses. He showed the memorial erected in

London to commemorate the horses and mules used during the war and said it was certainly worth a visit when in London.

He was thanked at the end of his very interesting talk by Chairman, Robert Eaglestone.

12 Closing comments

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

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

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

ATTENDANCE

Members (17)

Sam Bell	Philip Caddick	Cassie Clinch	Margaret Eaglestone
Robert Eaglestone	Peter Hawley	Catherine Head	David Hibbert
Pat Hibbert	Freda Holme	Rhianon Jones	Linda Joyce-Jones
Alun Rees	Ann Rees	Mandy Thomas	Lynn Williams
Richard Williams			

Staff

Steve Carter, RSPCA Cymru	Kevin Degenhard, Chief Inspectorate Officer .
Chief Insp. Helen Mead	Rachele Follini, BSS

Friends and Guests

Kath Caddick	Zoe Constable	Eric Hughes	Lauren Hughes
Brian Robbins	Hazel Robbins	George Talbot	Gerald Terschovitz
Wendy Terschovitz	Keymar Wake	Beca Williams	Delyth Williams
Gwion Williams			

APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Paul Baxter, Reg. Council Member	Miss C.M. Chipperfield	G.Elis-Williams
Coralie Farren, National Welfare Manager, RSPCA Cymru		Miss P.J. Hadley
Ann Hawley	Carl Lloyd	Jim Mason, Vet, Mobile Clinic
Linda Morrison, Anglesey Branch	Margaret McCabe	R.B. McLeod
Andrew McNamara	Enid McNamara	Olive Parry
Irene Train, Clwyd & Colwyn	Vicky Williams, Manager, Bryn-y-Maen	Ann Pritchard

TREASURER'S REPORT & PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS 2014

The total incoming resources for the year amounted to £82,147 plus £9,079 investment income totalling £91,226 (2013: £104,341). Expenditure in the year amounted to £80,159 (2013: £95,274). This resulted in a surplus for the year of £11,067 (2013: £9,067)..

The decrease in income came from the receipt of a reduction in the allocation of the 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 in 2011, the "new" Branch will receive two portions of the profit for the first 5 years. In this, the fourth year of the scheme since takeover, we received £34,204 (2013: £41,466). Our one remaining shop at Pwllheli produced a significantly increased income of £30,239 (2013: £24,158) largely due to our committed volunteers opening the shop extra days during busier periods of the year. The large drop in the investment proceeds from £18,644 in 2013 to £5,000 this year is due to the way movements between the accounts have been recorded.

The recorded decrease in expenditure compared with 2013 is entirely due to the transfer of £25,000 between accounts. The cost of vet bills increased slightly to £47,197 (2013: £43,037) which includes £8,000 towards the running costs of RSPCA Aberconwy's mobile clinic. There was again a noticeable switch of emphasis from assistance for treatment to neutering, especially with multi-cat households. The contribution to Regional Emergency Boarding reverted to £1,334 (2012: £6,000) with one payment outstanding to give a total of £2,000. The Regional contribution for 2014 was £300 (2013: £2,168). We have since received a late invoice of £2,500. These outstanding bills are included in the Current Liabilities shown on page 17.

Reserves Policy

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

The trustees have established a policy of holding reserves of unrestricted funds equivalent to two to three years' expenditure. Based on our current expenditure of £80,159 and total balance (including income-generating investments) of £337,564 in the investment and general funds, we have just over 4.2 years of reserve capital, though with projected year-on-year increases in spending and the substantial planned costs of supporting the mobile clinic, this figure is closer to 3.3 years.

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

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

This policy is subject to half-yearly review.

Investment Policy

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

As a result, at 31st December 2014 35% of our invested funds are now held in selected equities, about 29% is held in bonds and gilts, no more than 9% is held in current accounts, and the 27% balance to be held in fixed interest notice account(s).

Future Plans

Our major plan for the year is the expansion of the mobile clinic to include Caernarfon. Estimated initial costs provided to date is a rise from £8,000 to £22,000, plus about £1,500 room hire, plus an estimated £5,000 for additional referrals to veterinary practices in our area.

We will also be participating in a joint 3-month cat neutering scheme with Cats Protection and other North Wales Branches and the continuation of the free dog neutering and micro-chipping scheme run in conjunction with the Dogs' Trust. Both schemes are subject to the owner(s) being on means-tested benefits or low income, and available while funds last.

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



Alun T Rees
Hon Branch Treasurer

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 226126

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2014**

**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 2014, which are set out on pages 16 to 18.

Respective responsibilities of branch committee and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

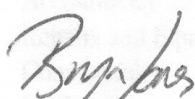
Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements
 - * to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - * to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Bryn Jones

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

Dated: 16 March 2015

**RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2014**

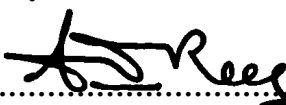
	General	Designated	Restricted		2014		2013
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income:							
Legacies	-	-	-		-	-	-
Membership subscriptions	223	-	-		223		222
<i>From Voluntary Sources</i>							
Sundry donations	3,886	-	-	3,886		1,645	
Gift aid	-	-	-	-		1	
Flag Days	4,420	-	-	4,420		4,147	
House to house collections	34,204	-	-	34,204		41,466	
Jumble	560	-	-	560	43,070	663	47,922
Investment Income:							
Investment income (Gross)	9,079	-	-	9,079	9,079	9,231	9,231
Charitable Trading activities:							
Dog boxes	1,180	-	-	1,180		1,675	
Charity Shop takings	30,239	-	-	30,239		24,158	
RSPCA sales	270	-	-	270		279	
Adoption fees	335	-	-	335		90	
VAT refund	1,830	-	-	1,830	33,854	2,120	28,322
Other income							
Investment proceeds	5,000	-	-		5,000		18,644
	£91,226	£ -	£ -	£	£91,226		£104,341
Direct Charitable Expenditure:							
Contribution to regional boarding	1,334	-	-	1,334		6,000	
Emergency Dog Boarding Fund	-	-	10,000	10,000		-	
Regional contribution/Quota	300	-	-	300		2,168	
Insurance	511	-	-	511		511	
Cost of goods for resale	597	-	-	597		194	
Veterinary costs	13,313	17,877	16,007	47,197		43,037	
Boarding	3,308	-	-	3,308		2,443	
Officers' travel	1,889	-	-	1,889		2,030	
Charity Shop rent	9,620	-	-	9,620		9,620	
Charity Shop heat and light	731	-	-	731		632	
Charity Shop trade refuse	191	-	-	191		166	
Charity Shop telephone	217	-	-	217	75,895	137	66,938
Other expenditure:							
Postage and stationery	676	-	-	676		538	
Advertising	-	-	-	-		104	
Accountancy	490	-	-	490		492	
Repairs and Equipment	1,558	-	-	1,558		880	
Consumables	217	-	-	217		113	
VAT not recoverable	1,284	-	-	1,284		1,199	
Funds invested	-	-	-	-		25,000	
Sundries	39	-	-	39	4,264	10	28,336
Total payments	£36,275	£17,877	£26,007		£80,159		£95,274
Net income/ (payments) for the year	54,951	(17,877)	(26,007)		11,067		9,067
Transfers between funds	(68,015)	47,877	20,138		-		-
Cash and bank balances							
At 31 st December 2013	71,472	25,000	15,822		112,294		103,227
At 31 st December 2014	£58,408	£55,000	£9,953		£123,361		£112,294

**RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
31st DECEMBER 2014**

	2014	2013
	£	£
Monetary assets:		
Investments:		
Schroders Common Investment Fund:		
The Charity Equity Fund	61,042	65,866
The Charity Fixed Interest Fund	98,184	89,102
M&G Charifund	54,977	55,014
	<u>£214,203</u>	<u>£209,982</u>
Bank and cash balances:		
Bank Deposit Investment Account		93,847
92,145		
Bank Current Accounts	29,298	19,933
Pay-Pal Account	141	141
Cash float	75	75
Total	<u>£123,361</u>	<u>£112,294</u>
General funds	58,408	71,472
Designated funds	55,000	25,000
Restricted funds	9,953	15,822
	<u>£123,361</u>	<u>£112,294</u>
Debtors: Trade debtors	<u>£2,458</u>	<u>£1,053</u>
Current Liabilities:		
Trade creditors and accruals	<u>£3,755</u>	<u>£504</u>

Approved by the Branch Committee on 16 March 2015 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 2014**

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 2014 there was a balance of £7,497 in the fund. During 2014 the remaining funds were utilised in full and the fund was closed during the year.

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 2014 there was an opening balance of £13,519. No expenditure has been incurred and as a result £10,000 of funds have been repaid to original funders and the balance of £3,519 being funds initially allocated from the RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch general funds have been transferred back to the general fund.

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 2014 an amount of £8,508 was spent from the fund. Cash of £9,953 is held in this fund.

Designated Funds

A balance of £25,000 was brought forward from 2013 in the cat and dog free neutering scheme. A total of £17,877 was spent during the year ending 31 December 2014 leaving a balance of £7,123. The Committee agreed to top up this figure to give a balance of £25,000 at the year end.

A sum of £30,000 has been designated to subsidise a mobile clinic providing veterinary services and advice to pet owners in the Bangor, Caernarfon and Blaenau Ffestiniog areas.

Investments

The investments are stated at market value.

Trustees

No trustees received any remuneration in the year. (2013 – NIL).

Reimbursements made to trustees were as follows

	No of trustees	2014 Cost	No of trustees	2013 Cost
Travel costs reimbursed	One	£210	One	£63

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH SECRETARY'S REPORT 2014

During 2014 we collected at Tesco stores in Bangor, Caernarfon and Porthmadog and raised £4,300. This has since been enhanced by a Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme claim of £1,061.83.

In 2014 the Branch was nominated Charity Partner with Support Adoption for Pets in conjunction with Pets at Home, Bangor. With their twice yearly raffles, £3,700 was raised for the Branch. The Branch also had a stall selling RSPCA goods and supplying leaflets and information most months of the year. For the second year running the Christmas appeal brought in lots of food and treats for animals in RSPCA care.

The Branch charity shop in Pwllheli had its best year ever with an income of more than £30,000 which after overheads left a profit of more than £19,000. This is an increase in profit of almost £6,000. This money certainly helps towards funding our neutering campaigns and the financial help we give to owners with their vet bills.

The Branch fosterers took in several kittens and cats during the year which were then found new homes. Some of the kittens needed hand-rearing as they were too young to feed themselves. The Branch provides everything needed by the fosterers who look after the animals taken in by the Branch. I also took in 2 dogs which were rehomed successfully, one via Bryn-y-Maen and one locally by the Branch.

I gave talks during 2014 to the pupils at Ysgol Felinwnda and to a special Therapy Class in Y Ganolfan, Y Ffôr.

The Branch once again manned a stall at the annual dog show in Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre. The weather was good and a lot of money was raised on the day for the centre.

As mentioned last year, the Branch funds an RSPCA Mobile Clinic which visits Bangor and Blaenau Ffestiniog and after talks between the North Wales Branches it has now been decided to fund an extra one in Caernarfon which will commence during 2015.

The total amount spent on vet bills by the Branch during the year was £47,197 and on fostering, £3,308.



Freda Holme
Hon. Branch Secretary

Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre

Annual Report 2014

2014 was another exciting and interesting year for Bryn-y-Maen Centre, with many developments taking place locally and nationally. Our strong team of experienced staff members and volunteers share a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm that has allowed the centre to continue to grow and consistently meet the needs of animals requiring intensive rehabilitation.

During 2014 we found homes for a total of 573 animals. These included 343 Cats, 122 Dogs, 47 Rabbits, 13 Guinea Pigs and a variety of other small animals and birds. We increased our network of fosterers so as to help us maximize our capacity within the Centre and to ensure that case animals benefited from time spent in home environments, thereby developing their social skills and hopefully their ability to be rehomed successfully.

Our volunteers remain the key to our ongoing success at the Centre, dedicating their time and energy to help improve the lives of animals in our care. Volunteer support with our fundraising events has helped to raise over £4,000 during the year. Events included, a sponsored Mutt Strutt, Catless Cat show, coffee mornings and stalls at local community events. Our annual Friends Dog Show proved to be another great success with over 140 entries on the day.

Becky Lloyd left the society after 7 years as Centre Manager, her skills and ambition proved invaluable in the development of the Centre in recent years. Becky has started in her new role with the Animal Care department at our local college.

After 4 years at the centre Natalie James - Animal Care Supervisor - left the Society to pursue a career as a lecturer at Reaseheath College, Nantwich.

We wish Becky and Natalie every success with their future endeavours and are looking forward to hosting many of their future students for work placements at the Animal Centre soon!

I was successfully appointed to Centre Manager from September. After serving as the Acting Manager for 10 months, I am now looking forward to taking on my role and the Centre forward.

Mel Kermode joined the centre team as Deputy Manager in November. Mel has worked at a variety of animal charities and most recently in vet practices. We look forward to Mel sharing her experience and knowledge with the team.

Congratulations to Katy Broadbent, who gave birth to her second child Logan James. Helen Jones once again stepped into cover Katy's maternity leave.

The centre would like say a huge thank you to all the Branches and the Friends of Bryn-y-Maen for their continued support of the Centre. We look forward to working with you all in 2015 to help improve the lives of animals in our care and our local communities.

Kind Regards
Vicky Williams
Centre Manager
Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

North Wales Inspectorate Group

Group Statistics

	2014	2013
Total Complaints Completed	2,747	2,421
Case prosecution files submitted	37	27
Convictions & Cautions	9 & 10	20
Verbal Warnings	66	59
Inspector/AWO door knocks	6,883	6,791
Collections & Rescues	2,386	2,022
Market Visits	429	355
Market Animals seen	846,442	712,585

Group Overview

During 2014 we have had a wide range of things happening with the group's officers. There was the happy arrival of 2 babies for both Inspector Rachael Davies and Inspector Andy Broadbent. We had some long term sickness and also the resignation of AWO Claire Davies who was with the RSPCA for 12 years, going from the old RCC to ACO to AWO.

We did not get a replacement for any vacancies from the new batch of Inspectors so all of this means that we have worked with 3 unfilled permanent vacancies for the majority of the year. Also, ACO Galvin has been heavily involved in the new system that will replace TAILS and as a result, has been away from the group for various times to be a part of this project.

Despite this, the case files submitted by the Inspectors went up by 25% and individually, each officer dealt with more than the previous year. We had a particularly busy month in June and it was the one month where things didn't go to plan with literally only 2 or 3 officers working on many days. My thanks to the officers who were there throughout and continued to deal with all the calls and never wanted anything in return. North Wales is full of dedicated, resilient officers and they deserve credit for that.

Stories of Interest

In May, the rope team rescued 10 nanny goats and their kids from a rocky area at the bottom of the cliffs on the Great Orme. The water team members were present also to ensure they could safely get any of the goats out of the sea. Despite the goats being wild and having a few precarious moments where the goats seem to consider the sea as a good alternative, all goats were taken up to safety.

Also in May, there was a lone sheep off the cliffs at Trearddur Bay. The animal could get about and proved quite tricky for the rope team. The ropes were tied to the farmer's tractor as there were no solid points to use due to the rocky ground and lack of trees, and we had officers going down the cliff and another waiting at the sea below, ready to jump in and stop the sheep going out to sea. This the sheep tried to do, but the water team members pulled her back securely and she was hauled up to safety.

A heron was caught eventually after 3 days. The heron had a crossbow bolt through its chest and although taken to Stapeley Grange for treatment, he died a few days later.

One call which proved tricky was where someone had bought 2 rats and did not realise they had a male and a female. We all know what happens here - they bred and bred and ended up with 48 rats. As they had the rats running freely in the house, they ended up under the floorboards, in cupboards and the situation was totally out of control. A couple of officers helped catch the rats and sort out the situation, leaving the owners with a better understanding of potential problems.

In December, one household thought Santa Claus was visiting earlier than he should when they heard some noises coming from their chimney. As it was discovered, an owl had fallen down the chimney and paid a visit, but not unfortunately, Santa who did not give a hoot.

Prosecution Case Work

Stone

Case officer Inspector Armstrong. The 2 dogs involved with this prosecution were 2 of the worse skin conditions we have seen. The breed of the dogs was difficult to establish when they were picked up as they were so bald and the skin was so inflamed. There was one dog that remained in the house and there was no reason to remove it at that time.

The court gave a disqualification order to the lady involved for 5 years, which she did appeal on the basis she had this third dog. The appeal was denied. She was also fined £460 for costs and fines. Both dogs made a full recovery and were successfully rehomed, being lovely Staffordshire Bull Terrier type dogs.

Williams

This high profile complaint was in essence, a simple case of things going wrong for the owner of horses. Due to the volume of equines involved, the situation became out of control for the owner and animals died and others were suffering. Others were not in an acceptable condition.

This was dealt with professionally by Inspector Broadbent but his dealings were made more complicated due to some public misperceptions. Inspector Broadbent continued to work closely with this situation and we were able to work proactively to help reduce the numbers of equines at the property.

The owner of the horses pleaded guilty and was sentenced to a 5 year disqualification order, which was suspended for 6 months to allow the re-distribution of all equines still in his charge. He also received a 2 year suspended sentence and ordered to pay £2,000 towards costs.

Inspector Broadbent is continuing to work with this situation to ensure the owner has the support to move all the equines on to other people.

Harper

Inspector Jones got to this complaint and found a Shih-Tzu that was completely matted and could barely be recognised. The owner was not present and when the dog was removed, there was no contact from her. Inspector Jones traced the owner and she was interviewed and taken to court where she was given a 10 year disqualification on dogs, a 3 month curfew order and ordered to pay £310 towards costs.

Price

Both Inspector Thomas and Inspector Lewis were involved with this sad case of a cat appearing to have starved to death and a very thin dog. The owner did plead guilty in court and eventually signed the dog over to the RSPCA. The court sentenced her to a 12 weeks custody, suspended for 12 months, 160 hours unpaid community work, 10 year disqualification for all animals and ordered to pay £600 towards costs.

And Finally....

All teams and organisations have their challenges and it is always credit to everyone when our work within the Inspectorate is supported by the teams around them, in the wider RSPCA, so again I can only thank everyone who has been a part of helping and supporting the North Wales Inspectorate team.

RSPCA WALES & NORTH REGION 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S OVERVIEW

It is my pleasure as the assistant Director for Field Operations for the Wales & North to report on the performance of your region during 2014. The new region came into existence with the merger of the Midlands & North and Wales in late 2014 and I will include both of the old regions' results in this report.

The focus for the region is to support the Inspectorate in their mission to prevent cruelty and promote kindness through our network of branches, animal centres, wildlife centres, clinics and hospitals.

We are facing tough times with increasing demands on our resources and dwindling income but I am extremely impressed by the level of professionalism and enthusiasm I have seen during my visits to facilities across the region. We rely heavily on the combined output of all our facilities and volunteers within the region: to improve the welfare of those animals most in need we must work cooperatively and in unison.

2014 was once again a busy year for branches throughout the region. During the year the 80 RSPCA branches and 1 RSPCA trust (Radcliffe-on-Trent) across the new expanded region accepted 25,470 animals into their care, of these 48.2% (12,291 animals) were the most vulnerable animals in our community as identified by our Inspectorate.

At the start of the year branches in the Midlands & North were set the challenge of increasing the acceptance of animals from the RSPCA inspectorate from an average of 41.8% per branch in 2013 to an average of 50.0% per branch by end of 2014 and achieved a fantastic 49.1% (11,901 animals). This was a challenging target and branches are to be thanked and congratulated on the fantastic strides forward that have been made towards achieving this target.

Some 21,051 animals were rehomed by the branch network last year (a decrease of 1,072 animals or 5% on the previous year). However, as the number of animals accepted from the Inspectorate increases there will, inevitably, be a decrease in the number rehomed as the focus rightly turns towards the successful rehabilitation and rehoming of the most vulnerable animals in our care.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the hundreds of branch trustees, volunteers and staff without whom these animals would not have been given a second chance.

In addition to the animals rehomed, branches and regional boards continued to undertake a huge amount of proactive welfare work in the community and last year helped neuter 15,342 animals, microchip 11,408 animals and provided assisted veterinary treatment to a further 27,269 animals.

Despite these notable successes, the year was not without its difficulties as branches continue to struggle to raise the funds necessary to finance this important animal welfare work.

However, by working closely with the Society and the RSPCA inspectorate, branches across the region continue to provide the vital support necessary so that together we can do what we do best - rescue, rehabilitate and rehome the most vulnerable animals in our community.

The regional centres in the region - Newbrook Animal Centre (Birmingham), Felledge Animal and Equine Centre (Durham), Gonsal Farm Animal and Equine Centre (Shrewsbury), Great Ayton Animal Centre (Middlesbrough) and Stapeley Wildlife Centre and Cattery (Cheshire), Newport Animal Centre (Gwent) and Bryn-y-Maen Animal centre (Colwyn Bay) - continued to make a huge contribution to the animal welfare work undertaken by the Society during 2014.

All the regional centres continued to focus on supporting the Inspectorate and accepting their animals, which by definition are those animals in highest welfare need. The seven regional animal centres accepted 1,135 dogs, 2,787 cats, 431 rabbits, 651 other miscellaneous animals and 185 equines.

The boarding of equines during 2014 continued to be a huge drain on expenditure, however the total number of equines being boarded has been on a downward trend which is positive. The equine rehoming officers have ensured that we were able to monitor and manage the boarding of all equine private boarding establishments much more closely. During 2014 a total of 526 equines were accepted from the inspectorate into private boarding establishments within the region.

2014 has been a record year in respect of admissions at Stapeley Grange, with 6,236 admissions into the wildlife hospital (5,825 wild, 365 domestic and 46 exotic). The top 5 admissions were wood pigeons (824), mallard ducks (784), hedgehogs (620), blackbirds (347) and mute swans (345).

This figure was up on 2013's total of 4,943, which was partly because of the long winter in 2013 which effected breeding populations and two local wildlife centres not being fully operational during 2014. The centre achieved an overall release rate of 43%, with 72% of those making it past the 48hrs being released.

Our hospitals and clinic have had a very busy year: treating animals from both the Inspectorate and public clients on means tested benefits, as well as taking referrals of case animals for continuing veterinary procedures and care after initial welfare prosecution case support from private vets.

The hospitals continue to provide a service to clients on means tested benefits but their main focus is now on space management work; accepting stray and signed over animals from the Inspectorate, triaging them, providing remedial veterinary work and preventative treatments including neutering before the animals are moved either into branch or national centres.

A priority has been building relationships between the hospitals, clinic and branches to explore ways of working together, to assist where we can, and network cats ready to rehome: this has been essential in ensuring throughput of cats and reducing reliance on private boarding. The space management model provides large cost benefits for branches and many have assisted with taking animals from us during 2014.

The Greater Manchester Animal Hospital enjoyed great success in 2014. The hospital remains the busiest clinical establishment within the RSPCA. In 2014, the

hospital treated over 21,000 public outpatients. Given a target of 20% support for the inspectorate, the hospital surpassed this with an impressive 24% or 6,628 vulnerable animals.

2014 also saw an increase in the work performed by the Birmingham Animal Hospital in its two main workstreams; treatment of Inspectorate animals and publically owned animals. In addition, hospital staff manned the stand at the British Small Animal Veterinary Association conference highlighting the cat crisis and engaging and educating vets and vet nurses in prepubertal neutering.

In July hospital staff joined Cats Protection working together on a trap, neuter & release project targeting two postcodes in Birmingham where there are known problems with large groups of community/street cats. During the two weeks of the project we neutered nearly 100 cats which were then returned to the community.

Together the hospitals and Merthyr Clinic treated 43,930 outpatient appointments and 61,346 days of inpatient care.

Our region is a great example of working together with a common purpose and I am humbled by much of the work I see being undertaken on a daily basis. However, we are in challenging times with the demand on our services continuing to increase and our resources becoming thinner on the ground. We must all remain flexible and work closely together if we are to provide the best outcomes to those animals most in need of our help.

Thank you for all your support and assistance throughout the year.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steve Carter', is shown on a light yellow background.

Steve Carter
Assistant Director Field Operations Wales & North