



**CANGEN GORLLEWIN GWYNEDD  
WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH**

**ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL  
2015  
ANNUAL REPORT**



Elusen Gofrestredig Rhif 226126 Registered Charity No

# **RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT 2015**

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## NOTICE OF BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

Dear Member,

You are invited, along with your friends, to attend the Annual General Meeting of the RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch. This will be held at the Institute Building, Bangor Street, Caernarfon on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016 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 Ffôr, Pwllheli,  
Gwynedd, LL53 6NG

\*\*\*\*\*

### HONORARY OFFICERS:-

Chairman - Ann Rees (from May 2015)

Secretary - Freda Holme

Treasurer - Alun Rees

Regional Representative - Alun Rees

Deputy Regional Representative - Ann Rees

Friends of Bryn y Maen Representative – Sam Bell (from May 2015)

### ELECTED COMMITTEE / TRUSTEES:-

Sam Bell (from April 2015)

Kath Caddick (from April 2015)

Philip Caddick

Peter Hawley

David Hibbert

Patricia Hibbert

Freda Holme

Rhianon Jones

Alun Rees

Ann Rees

Richard Williams

### CO-OPTED COMMITTEE / TRUSTEES

Keymar Wake (from May 2015)

Delyth Williams-Jones (from May 2015)

### AUXILIARY SECRETARIES:-

Bangor

David Hibbert

Caernarfon

Philip Caddick (from May 2015)

Pwllheli

Freda Holme

Waunfawr & Rhosgadfan

Rhianon Jones (from May 2015)

### STAFF:-

Branch Support Specialist

Carl Lloyd

**ACTION LINE**

**0300 1234 999**

# **RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch Trustees' Annual Report for the year ending 31 December 2015**

## **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 2015 we issued 342 vouchers for welfare assistance or euthanasia (2014: 349) of which 239 (69%) (2014: 240 (69%)) were redeemed to assist 342 animals (2014: 399) (several vouchers were for multiple animals or multiple treatments). In total we spent £54,418 on veterinary treatment (including neutering & the clinic). The number of vouchers requested and the percentage used for welfare assistance were both fractionally less than in 2014 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 2015 we issued 329 (2014: 503) neutering vouchers for animals and we paid for the full cost of neutering 411 (2014: 597) and micro-chipping of 115 (2014: 137) animals (some vouchers were for more than one animal). In addition we microchipped 57 dogs and 4 cats over one weekend at Pets at Home, Bangor. We also paid 50% of the neutering costs of 345 cats as part of the North Wales cat neutering scheme.***

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

***In 2015 the clinic treated 1,030 animals (2014: 792) at subsidised prices in our Branch area.***

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

***In 2014 we rehomed 170 (2014: 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 we had 61 Branch members (69 in 2014) 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 an all-Wales neutering collaboration with Cats Protection and all other RSPCA Branches in Wales and holding events at Pets at Home, Bangor to promote animal welfare, including free micro-chipping.

We are continuing to pay our neighbours RSPCA Aberconwy Branch towards the costs of providing their mobile clinic service on a weekly basis to Bangor, Caernarfon and Blaenau Ffestiniog, and have increased the payment to over £22,000 per annum. This should bring the service within reach of most of Gwynedd.

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 2015.

### ***Request for Volunteers***

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

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Institute Building, Bangor Street, Caernarfon.  
Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 7.30pm.

## **AGENDA**

1. Opening address and Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Approval of minutes of AGM 2015
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 - Mark Double, speaking about his experience with wildlife rescue in Australia (WIRES) and his passion for snakes.
12. Closing remarks

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

Dear Fellow Members, Friends and Supporters,

At the first meeting following last year's Annual General Meeting, I was elected as Chairman of RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch. I am honoured and privileged to be appointed by my fellow Committee members, particularly as I find myself taking over from Rob Eaglestone. Rob had held the post since 2004 and always chaired with such charm, skill and diplomacy. A hard act to follow, but I shall endeavour to do my best for the Branch and the Society.

Although new to the Chair, I've been involved with RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch for 23 years. Alun and I originally became involved through a fundraising event for the Branch arranged by the Secretary Kathy Bell, in Caernarfon. Both being animal lovers, we were excited to be involved with a local animal charity and were soon invited onto Committee and the rest as they say, is history. Little did we know at the time that the RSPCA would become such an important part of our lives.

I've witnessed the Branch coming from the brink of financial bankruptcy to the enviable position we find ourselves today, as seen in the financial report. We've been lucky to have been bequeathed two substantial legacies but also to have had the commitment of a dedicated Committee and a small band of loyal volunteers, willing to put in the time and effort fundraising for the Branch. This has allowed us to make a difference to the lives of many animals in need over the years.

As always, I would like to thank Freda for her continued efforts both in the Pwllheli shop and in dealing with the vast majority of the Branch telephone calls from pet owners wanting help with veterinary bills and advice. Last year was difficult for Freda as she underwent spinal surgery which kept her away from the shop, which she found extremely frustrating! Our thanks go to her shop volunteers, Sheila, Alexandra, Alma, Julie and Tania who kept things going in her absence. We couldn't have continued with the shop without them.



I'd also like to thank Philip and Kath who manage our Caernarfon Mobile Clinic every week and to Gwyn who helps out there. The clinic attendance continues to rise here, as it does in Maesgeirchen and Blaenau Ffestiniog. Jim Mason, the Mobile Clinic vet is so well thought of by his clients for his caring attitude towards their pets. Thanks to Jim for his service and ready-advice and also to Terry who accompanies him on the van. Also to everybody involved in managing the Maesgeirchen site.

Keymar has taken to her role as Branch Liaison Officer between the Branch and our charity partner Support Adoption for Pets at Pets at Home, Bangor with charm and gusto. She, Sam and Richard commit many hours to events at the store, raising the Branch profile, fundraising and collecting food for animals in the Branch and Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre care. Thank you all.

Last but not least, I need to mention and thank our Treasurer, my husband Alun. The Branch finds itself in such a good financial position primarily due to sound investments and financial control over the years. I know how much time goes into keeping all the finances in order, checking bills, paying invoices, VAT returns and so on. He also maintains our web site and Facebook accounts, so some evenings I hardly get to see him!

We will endeavour to continue to do all that we can for animals in the Gwynedd area and to continue supporting the all-important work of our Inspectors, the backbone of the Society, and Vicky and her staff at Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre. We are however, as a Committee, all getting older and desperately need younger blood to get involved, both as volunteers and trustees. Please help us to continue supporting animal welfare in Gwynedd by getting involved.

Diolch yn fawr iawn

*Ann Rees*

**RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH**  
**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**  
**Institute Building, Bangor Street, Caernarfon**  
**Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015 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 Coralie Farren, Wales Manager, Paul Baxter, Council Member and Regional Board Chairman, Buddug Lloyd-Jones, Speaker.

**2. Apologies** received are listed on page 11.

**3. Minutes of AGM 2015**

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

**4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising

**5. Financial Report**

Alun Rees presented his report and said the incoming resources for the year amounted to £91,226 which with an expenditure of £80,159 left a surplus of £11,067.

During the year the remains of the Bangor Legacy restricted fund was spent and the North Wales Emergency Boarding restricted fund was returned to the original donor Branches as there had been no movement on this fund since 2009. These two funds have therefore been closed.

We have opened a £30,000 designated fund for the extended mobile clinic service which is now visiting Bangor, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Caernarfon on a weekly basis. Please help us to publicise this. We are fortunate to have representatives from Aberconwy Branch here this evening so it gives me great pleasure to present a cheque for £5,573 for the first quarterly payment of this service.

Alun's report was proposed by Freda Holme, seconded by Margaret Eaglestone 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 Margaret Eaglestone and accepted by the meeting.

**7. Branch Annual Report**

Freda Holme said that during 2014 the Branch collected at Tesco stores in Bangor, Caernarfon and Porthmadog and raised £4,300. With a claim on the Gift Aid Small Donations scheme this was increased by £1,061.83 and was our best collection ever. Caernarfon excelled itself this year due to the collectors there, especially Philip Caddick who spent many hours collecting, some of them dressed as a large black and white cat.

In 2014 the Branch was nominated Charity Partner with Support Action 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.

At Easter one of the Pwllheli shop staff, Joanna Toth, and I dressed as a cat and a white rabbit and collected for one day at Asda, Pwllheli and raised £155.55.

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 pet owners with their vet bills. As I have explained in previous years, everyone who works there is unpaid, we are all willing volunteers.

The Branch fosterers took in several kittens and cats during the year which were then found new homes. A lady contacted me to say they had moved into a new house and found a feral cat had given birth to 3 kittens in the garage, the cat had disappeared leaving the 1 week old kittens. One of our fosterers, Kath Caddick, took them in and hand-reared them until they were found homes. Another lady called into the charity shop saying a feral cat had left kittens in her shed, Tania, one of the shop staff, fostered these until they were rehomed and has offered to foster for us in the future.

I took in two dogs which were rehomed successfully, one via Bryn-y-Maen and one locally by the Branch. The Branch provides everything needed by the fosterers who take in animals for us and all adopters have home visits.

One evening, as we were leaving our Committee meeting, there was an injured seagull in the road. Insp. Mark Roberts caught it and it was taken home by Philip Caddick who looked after it until it could be released.

I gave talks to the pupils at Ysgol Felinwnda and to a Special Therapy Class in Y Ganolfan, Y Ffôr. The latter was quite a challenge as some of these pupils had difficulty understanding things. I took with me books with pictures of dogs, cats and other animals and we looked at these and spoke about their own animals and how to look after them.

The Branch once again manned a stall at the annual dog show at Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre. The weather was good and a lot of money was raised for the centre. The show is run under the umbrella of The Friends of Bryn-y-Maen and helps to provide any extras requested by the centre. At the moment we are hoping to provide a large multi-purpose building for use by the staff and animals. If you wish to become a Friend please have a word with Ann Rees after the meeting.

As mentioned last year the Branch funds an RSPCA Mobile Clinic which has visited Bangor and Blaenau Ffestiniog for a number of years. After talks between North Wales Branches it was decided to fund an extra one in Caernarfon which commenced business in April. Alun has already given details of the costs in his report.

The total amount the Branch spent on vet bills during the year was £44,000 and on fostering £2,442.

If anyone here, or any of your friends, wish to volunteer to help with Branch events please have a word with any member of the committee.

Freda's report was proposed by Philip Caddick, seconded by Ann Rees and accepted by the meeting.

## **8. Election of Committee**

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

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

## **9. Inspectorate Report**

Insp. Mark Roberts gave the report quoting numbers of cases, prosecutions etc. during the year. He also gave details of staff saying A.W.O. Claire Davies has resigned after 12 years with the RSPCA and A.C.O Will Galvin was seconded to help with the Wilberforce Project.

There have been 25% more case files with June being a very busy month and only 2-3 officers working most days.

He then gave details of some cases including goats and kids on the Great Orme, sheep in Trearddur Bay, a heron found with a crossbow bolt in its chest which died after being taken to Stapeley Grange, 2 rats, 1 male and 1 female that soon became 48 rats, an owl stuck up a chimney, and horses on Anglesey.

He ended the report by thanking all who helped support the North Wales Inspectorate team.

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

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

##### **10a. Presentation**

Coralie Farren made a presentation to Margaret and Robert Eaglestone who were leaving the Committee, but not the Branch, after many years of service between them. They were each presented with long service medals from the Society, and then personal gifts from the Branch Committee members.

##### **10b. Paul Baxter, Regional Representative to Council**

Paul thanked the Committee and supporters and said the National Society couldn't do its work without everyone pulling together. He thanked Alun and Ann for their support at Regional Board. He also said it was nice to be here for the presentation to Margaret and Robert.

#### **11. Guest Speaker – Buddug Lloyd-Jones, Guide Dogs for the Blind**

Buddug is Chairman of the local guide dog Branch and said she has had 2 guide dogs and it was 10 years since she had her first guide dog, a black labrador called "Ivy". She now has "Freya" who was with her, and she has had her since she was 18 months old. She is a quiet and well-behaved dog and loves being patted, loves children and is OK with cats. Freya was puppy-walked in Norwich and trained in Ellesmere Port. Items are put in front of the dog and she has to lead the person around them. She said she asked all kinds of questions before getting her first guide dog. She always speaks Welsh to her dogs. There is a monthly walk for blind people and helpers run by the National Park who are very supportive.

She goes into schools with her dog and schools can sponsor a litter of puppies.

Caernarfon Branch raised £22,000 last year, £6,000 raised by a sponsored zip wire event.

#### **12. Closing comments**

Robert thanked Buddug for her interesting talk and also everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9pm

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

## ATTENDANCE

### Members (16)

Sam Bell	Kath Caddick	Philip Caddick	Cassie Clinch
Margaret Eaglestone	Robert Eaglestone	Peter Hawley	Catherine Head
David Hibbert	Freda Holme	Rhianon Jones	Alun Rees
Ann Rees	Keymar Wake	Lynn Williams	Richard Williams

### Staff

Coralie Farren, Wales Manager	Carl Lloyd, BSS.	Insp Mark Roberts
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### Friends and Guests

Kieran Barlow	Paul Baxter	Eric Hughes	Buddug Lloyd-Jones
Gerald Terschowetz	Wendy Terschowetz	Beca William	Delyth Williams
Gwion Williams	Pam Wilson	Paula Greenhalgh	

## APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Michelle Breeze	Paul Brett	G.Elis-William	Hannah Hamilton
Ann Hawley	Ch.Insp. Helen Mead	Jim Mason, Vet, Mobile Clinic	
Margaret McCabe	R.B. McLeod	Andrew McNamara	Enid McNamara
Olive Parry	Ann Pritchard	G.C. Thomas	M. Thomas
Irene Train, Clwyd & Colwyn		Vicky Williams, Manager, Bryn-y-Maen	

# **TREASURER'S REPORT & PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS 2015**

The total incoming resources for the year amounted to £89,549 (2015: £91,226). Expenditure in the year amounted to £77,832 and a fall of £8,987 in the value of investments totalling £86,819 (2014: £80,159). This resulted in a surplus for the year of £2,730 (2014: £11,067).

The slight net decrease recorded in income is due to the way movements between the accounts have been recorded. The allocation of the two shares of the "House to House" collections organised by RSPCA HQ rose from £34,204 in 2014 to £40,964 in 2015. 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. Our one remaining shop at Pwllheli produced a slightly decreased income of £29,322 (2014: £30,239) but is still the best profit margin in the area due to our unpaid volunteer staff. The Gift Aid and Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme brought a welcome return from HMRC of £1,449, though flag-day returns were down significantly due to changes by TESCO of booking procedures for RSPCA Week collections.

The recorded decrease in expenditure compared with 2014 is largely due to the return of £10,000 to the original donors (RSPCA Aberconwy and Clwyd & Colwyn Branches) of the Emergency Dog Boarding Fund as no requests had been forthcoming for several years. The cost of vet bills increased significantly to £54,418 (2014: £47,197) which includes £19,200 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.

## **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 £77,832 and total unrestricted balance (including income-generating investments) of £207,890 in the investment and general funds, we have just over 2.6 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 2.5 years.

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

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

This policy is subject to half-yearly review.

## Investment Policy

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

As a result, at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 33% of our invested funds are now held in selected equities, about 28% is held in bonds and gilts, no more than 6% is held in current accounts, and the 33% balance to be held in fixed interest notice account(s).

## Future Plans

Our major plan for the year is the continuation of the mobile clinic in Bangor, Blaenau and Caernarfon. The costs are expected to be £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 an all-Wales cat neutering scheme with Cats Protection via Regional Board plus our own free cat-neutering scheme 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**

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**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2015**

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**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 2015, 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.



*10 March 2016*

**Bryn Jones**

**Dated**

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

**RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2015**

	General	Designated	Restricted		2015		2014
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income:</b>							
Legacies	-	-	-		-		-
Membership subscriptions	210	-	-		210		223
<i>From Voluntary Sources</i>							
Sundry donations	1,614	-	-	1,614		3,886	
Gift aid	1,449	-	-	1,449		-	
Flag Days	1,954	-	-	1,954		4,420	
House to house collections	40,964	-	-	40,964		34,204	
Jumble	20	-	-	20	46,001	560	43,070
<b>Investment Income:</b>							
Investment income (Gross)	11,050	-	-	11,050	11,050		9,079
<b>Charitable Trading activities:</b>							
Dog boxes	1,146	-	-	1,146		1,180	
Charity Shop takings	29,322	-	-	29,322		30,239	
RSPCA sales	105	-	-	105		270	
Adoption fees	80	-	-	80		335	
VAT refund	1,635	-	-	1,635	32,288	1,830	33,854
<b>Other income</b>							
Investment proceeds	-	-	-		-		5,000
	<u>£89,549</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£89,549</u>		<u>£91,226</u>
<b>Direct Charitable Expenditure:</b>							
Contribution to regional boarding	2,001	-	-	2,001		1,334	
Emergency Dog Boarding Fund	-	-	-	-		10,000	
Regional contribution/Quota	2,500	-	-	2,500		300	
Insurance	511	-	-	511		511	
Cost of goods for resale	308	-	-	308		597	
Veterinary costs	16,838	34,231	3,349	54,418		47,197	
Boarding	2,154	-	-	2,154		3,308	
Room hire	42	480	-	522		-	
Officers' travel	1,571	-	-	1,571		1,889	
Charity Shop rent	9,620	-	-	9,620		9,620	
Charity Shop heat and light	533	-	-	533		731	
Charity Shop trade refuse	226	-	-	226		191	
Charity Shop telephone	175	-	-	175	74,539	217	75,895
<b>Other expenditure:</b>							
Postage and stationery	233	-	-	233		676	
Advertising	-	540	-	540		-	
Accountancy	500	-	-	500		490	
Repairs and Equipment	921	-	-	921		1,558	
Consumables	239	-	-	239		217	
VAT not recoverable	860	-	-	860		1,284	
Funds invested	-	-	-	-		-	
Sundries	-	-	-	-	3,293	39	4,264
Total payments	<u>£39,232</u>	<u>£35,251</u>	<u>£3,349</u>		<u>£77,832</u>		<u>£80,159</u>
Net income for the year	<u>50,317</u>	<u>(35,251)</u>	<u>(3,349)</u>		<u>11,717</u>		<u>11,067</u>
Transfers between funds	(106,051)	106,051	-		-		-
<b>Cash and bank balances</b>							
At 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2014	58,408	55,000	9,953		123,361		112,294
At 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2015	<u>£2,674</u>	<u>£125,800</u>	<u>£6,604</u>		<u>£135,078</u>		<u>£123,361</u>

**RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH  
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
31st DECEMBER 2015**

	2015	2014
	£	£
<b>Monetary assets:</b>		
<b>Investments:</b>		
Schroders Common Investment Fund:		
The Charity Equity Fund	55,841	61,042
The Charity Fixed Interest Fund	94,563	98,184
M&G Charifund	54,812	54,977
	<u>£205,216</u>	<u>£214,203</u>
 <b>Bank and cash balances:</b>		
Bank Deposit Investment Account	115,000	93,847
Bank Current Accounts	19,862	29,298
Pay-Pal Account	141	141
Cash float	75	75
<b>Total</b>	<u>£135,078</u>	<u>£123,361</u>
 General funds	2,674	58,408
Designated funds	125,800	55,000
Restricted funds	6,604	9,953
	<u>£135,078</u>	<u>£123,361</u>
 <b>Debtors:</b> Trade debtors	<u>£2,277</u>	<u>£2,458</u>
 <b>Current Liabilities:</b>		
Trade creditors and accruals	<u>£1,661</u>	<u>£3,755</u>

Approved by the Branch Committee on..... 10 MARCH 2016 ..... and signed by  
 Dr A. T. Rees  
 Honorary Treasurer



**RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH  
ACCOUNTING POLICIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2015**

**Restricted Funds**

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 2015 an amount of £3,349 was spent from the fund. Cash of £6,604 is held in this fund.

**Designated Funds**

A balance of £25,000 was brought forward from 2014 in the cat and dog free neutering scheme. A total of £16,051 was spent during the year ending 31 December 2014 leaving a balance of £8,949. 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. A total of £19,200 was spent during the year ending 31 December 2015 leaving a balance of £10,800.

A sum of £40,000 has been set aside to an Ongoing Welfare designated fund and £50,000 to a General Project designated fund.

**Investments**

The investments are stated at market value.

**Trustees**

No trustees received any remuneration in the year. (2014 – NIL).

Reimbursements made to trustees were as follows

	No of trustees	2015 Cost	No of trustees	2014 Cost
Travel costs reimbursed	Nil	£Nil	One	£210

## **RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH SECRETARY'S REPORT 2015**

During RSPCA week in 2015 we collected at: - Tesco stores in Bangor and Caernarfon and raised £1,212.44. (Most of this in Caernarfon, £1,206.93 due to being unable to collect in Bangor because of a problem with Tesco's collecting policy); Marks and Spencer, Bangor, £353.07; Pets at Home, Bangor, £50.16.

The Branch is still Charity Partner with Support Adoption for Pets in conjunction with Pets at Home, Bangor and we received £1,020.39 from them during the year. Committee member Keymar Wake is now the liaison between the Branch and the store. For the third year running the Christmas appeal brought in lots of food and treats for animals in RSPCA care.

The Branch charity shop in Pwllheli had another good year with an income of £29,361.58 which after overheads left a profit of £18,626.59. This is a profit of 63% which is much higher than most charity shops. The staff work hard for no wage because they are all animal lovers and wish to help as much as they can.

The Branch arranged a Mutt Strut which took place at Llanfairfechan, in September.

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.

Five RSPCA Branches joined with the Cats Protection in North Wales to fund a neutering campaign. This was very successful with 1,380 cats neutered between February and April. There will be an all-Wales campaign in 2016. Please remember that the Branch has its own free neutering campaign for dogs and cats which has been running for a number of years now. Just think how many more and kittens there would have been by now.

A successful "Snip and Chip" weekend was held in Pets at Home, Bangor in May 2015. 57 dogs and 4 cats were chipped. Neutering vouchers for dogs and cats were also issued.

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

The Branch now has 3 mobile clinic sessions running in its area, at Bangor, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Caernarfon. Anyone on means-tested benefits can attend, just turn up and wait to be seen by the vet. We thank all who are involved with the clinics.

The total amount spent on vet bills by the Branch during the year was £54,418 and £2,154 on fostering bills.

Ann Rees, our Chairman, and Alun Rees, our Treasurer, for several winters now have been feeding and checking the health of feral cats and kittens at Glan Gwna Holiday Park, Caeathro during the time this is closed. Perhaps you should ask them about some of their experiences there.



Freda Holme  
Hon. Branch Secretary

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

## **Annual Report 2015**

2015 was both an interesting and challenging year for the Bryn-y-Maen Centre. Our talented team of staff and volunteers continue to work with animals that need intensive medical and behavioural rehabilitation before the immense reward of seeing these animals find their new homes.

During 2015 we found homes for a total of 510 animals. These included 283 Cats, 132 Dogs, 32 Rabbits, 20 Guinea Pigs and a variety of other small animals and birds. The Centre admitted over 600 animals, including temporary accommodation of wildlife before transfer to Stapley Grange Wildlife Hospital.

We raised over £6000 through events, these included our annual Friends Dog Show, Sponsored Mutt Strutt, Cat and Small Animal Day, coffee mornings, Band Night and stalls at local community events. It is through the support and dedication of our volunteers that have made these events possible.

We recruited an average of twelve new volunteers per month, their support is invaluable to the animals. Many of our volunteers visit us multiple time a week, giving their time to help support the rehabilitation of animals in our care.

David Yates Hospital Director at Greater Manchester RSPCA Hospital, visited the Centre and gave a talk on Pre-pubertal Neutering to local vets. Following on from the talk, the Centre has now started neutered kittens from nine weeks old.

Katy Broadbent left her weekend position after 5 years at the Centre, to concentrate on her family life following the birth of her second child. Emma Wakefield left the Centre after four years, to start at Dogs Trust Glasgow in a behavioural role. We wish both Katy and Emma well with their futures.

Three of our dedicated volunteers joined as staff members, Emma Nesfield as a Weekend Animal Care Assistant, Aaron Williams Part Time Animal Care Assistant and Callum Bartley Casual Animal Care Assistant, Chris Butler joined the Centre team in January as Animal Care Supervisor. Chris relocated from Essex having worked for the RSPCA in a Branch Centre and most recently as the Rehoming Co-ordinator at the RSPCA Adoption Centre within the Pets at Home. In May Helen Jones moved from a part time to full time role at Bryn-y-Maen

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 2016 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 2015**

## **North Wales Inspectorate Group**

### **Group Statistics**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Total Complaints Completed	2,434	2,747
Case prosecution files submitted	34	37
Verbal Warnings	57	66
Collections & Rescues	2,321	2,386
Market Visits	681	429

### **Group Overview**

During 2015 we had a new Inspector from the training course at Horsham, Inspector Jenny Anderton who has settled in very well in the group, covering Rhyl, Denbigh Abergele and more.

Due to ACO Galvin being seconded, we gained a new ACO, Malwina Gasiorek, who initially joined us for 6 months but this has been extended further to cover until at least end of May 2016.

It was great to see Inspector Rachael Davies return to the group in May after her maternity leave, sharing a patch of work with Inspector Fred Armstrong.

### **Stories of Interest**

We have been provided with a GoPro, funded by the Welsh board, to film rescues and unusual things and releasing of animals. We are still getting used to it but it is focusing us to get some great shots of rescues, so a great many thanks to the board for this very useful piece of equipment. One of the rescues was of a mountain goat on Llanberis Pass. We had both the GoPro and a camcorder that both recorded the goat leaping away from the inspectors and the footage shows how he just got up and walked merrily away.

All footage is uploaded and sent to Gillian Hilan who edits it and speedily gets it into the press's hands, reaching a huge amount of people, mainly on social media.

The floods in the Conwy Valley became a problem one night when flood barriers were breached and we, along with the local authority were called to help some sheep. We remained there, with the farmer and a vet, along with Mountain Rescue, well into the evening and got the sheep out of their predicament.

### **Prosecution Case Work**

#### **Anderson**

Case officer Inspector Jones. This complaint came into about a dog that had apparently been starved to death and the body was left in the street and the local council had picked it up. We then got the body and it was examined and found the offences. The owner of the dog had left the area and ended up in Manchester, however we were able to trace him, a colleague from Manchester interviewed him and he ended up in court. He pleaded guilty and received an 8 year disqualification order and 8 weeks custodial sentence, suspended for 12 months and ordered to pay costs.

#### **Gilbert**

Inspector Thomas dealt with a cat owner that went away on holiday and left her cat in house alone with no-one attending. The cat was dehydrated, underweight and had fur loss. The owner admitted this straight away but the case was taken to court and she was given a 3 year disqualification order and fined.

#### **Kidd**

Inspector Armstrong had been dealing with this particular dog previously and tried to give advice and keep the dog from losing weight. However, once the dog had become a normal weight, there was nothing more to do, but a year down the line, the dog was seen again, but in an emaciated state.

The owner was taken to court and was disqualified on all animals for 4 years and ordered to pay costs.

**And Finally....**

2015 was a relatively quiet and consistent year, with a nearly full complement of officers who have yet again worked beyond their contract in terms of hours and commitment to the job. We saw, at the end of 2015, problems with flooding and members of the team went away at very short notice, over the bank holidays at Christmas to help out in Cumbria, whilst the group coped with our own issues and the flooded areas. This along with the persistent rain has made many farms and fields very muddy and the officers continue to be compassionate and work with other agencies to bring the best conclusion to these situations.

My thanks to everyone for their support and help with the work we do in North Wales.