



**CANGEN GORLLEWIN GWYNEDD
WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH**

ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL

2016

ANNUAL REPORT



Elusen Gofrestredig Rhif 226126 Registered Charity No

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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March 2017

NOTICE OF BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

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, 24th April 2017, 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:-

President - Robert Eaglestone
Chairman - Ann Rees
Treasurer - Alun Rees
Regional Representative - Alun Rees
Deputy Regional Representative - Ann Rees
Friends of Bryn-y-Maen Representative – Sam Bell

Vice President – Margaret Eaglestone
Secretary - Freda Holme

ELECTED COMMITTEE / TRUSTEES:-

Sam Bell
Philip Caddick
David Hibbert
Freda Holme
Alun Rees
Richard Williams

Kath Caddick
Peter Hawley
Patricia Hibbert
Rhianon Jones
Ann Rees

CO-OPTED COMMITTEE / TRUSTEES

Mark Double (from May 2016)

Delyth Williams-Jones

STAFF:-

Branch Support Specialist Carl Lloyd

ACTION LINE

0300 1234 999

RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch Trustees' Annual Report for the year ending 31 December 2016

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. In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Advancement of Animal Welfare

Under the Charities Act 2011, 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 2016 we issued 345 vouchers for welfare assistance or euthanasia (2015: 342) of which 265 (77%) (2015: 239 (69%)) were redeemed to assist 440 animals (2015: 342) (several vouchers were for multiple animals or multiple treatments). In total we spent £66,424 on veterinary treatment (including neutering & the clinic). The number of vouchers issued and the percentage used for welfare assistance were both higher than in 2015 and the amount spent was £12,006 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. *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 2016 we issued 377 (2015: 329) neutering vouchers for animals and we paid for the full cost of neutering 438 (2015: 411) and micro-chipping of 525 (2015: 115) animals (some vouchers were for more than one animal). These neutering and microchipping figures are the highest of any RSPCA Branch in Wales. Included in the microchipping figures are 412 dogs chipped in just two days at events in Caernarfon and Pwllheli. We also contributed towards the neutering and microchipping costs of 6,235 cats as part of the All-Wales Cats Protection / RSPCA Cymru 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 welfare clinic visits Bangor, Caernarfon and Blaenau Ffestiniog for 1½ hours each every week, offering free advice and examination, discounted microchipping, vaccinations and prescriptions as well as euthanasia.

In 2016 the clinic treated 1,098 animals (2015: 1,030) at subsidised prices in our Branch area. These figures are the third highest of the 14 RSPCA Branch in Wales.

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 2016 we rehomed 368 (2015: 258) 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 Control 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.*

**In 2016 we donated £50,000 to the Friends of Bryn-y-Maen for the construction of a dog exercise barn to provide all-weather multi-purpose facilities.
We conducted 37 home-visits.**

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 2016 we had 68 Branch members (69 in 2015) and approximately 40 occasional and regular volunteers.

13. Following extensive and energetic activities with Pets at Home, Bangor we have now persuaded them to select RSPCA Bryn-y-Maen as their charity partner, but continue to support and participate in the partnership. *The public and the charity benefit from increased opportunity to rehome animals, raise funds and the promotion of responsible pet ownership.*
14. We always strive to spend as little as possible on administrative costs and ensure the maximum amount of donations is spent on animal welfare. *The public benefits from our cost-effective management whereby we have no paid staff; only legitimate expenses are refunded and administrative charges are kept to a minimum.*

In 2016 only 2.8% expenditure was on administration and the shop returned 62.4% profit.

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 schemes. These schemes now cover the whole of Gwynedd. Promotions are being targeted at housing estates. In 2016 we joined an all-Wales neutering collaboration with Cats Protection and all other RSPCA Branches in Wales whereby qualifying means-tested owners can have their cats neutered and micro-chipped for just £5. Sadly only 3 of the 10 vet practices in our Branch area have signed up to date. Working with the new RSPCA Cymru Project Support & Development Manager we are striving to improve on that.

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.

Thanks for Assistance

To all who have helped in any way during 2016.

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 2017 at 7:30pm.

AGENDA

1. Opening address and Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Approval of minutes of AGM 2016
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 – Ruth Stronge from “Snowdonia Donkeys”
12. Closing remarks

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

Dear Fellow Members, Friends and Supporters,

Another year has flown by and I am privileged to have had the support of my committee to serve for a second year as Chairman of RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch. The Branch has continued to work hard to support animal welfare throughout Gwynedd and to support our Inspectorate and RSPCA Animal Centre at Bryn-y-Maen.

The mission of the RSPCA, as a charity, is to, by all lawful means, prevent cruelty, promote kindness and alleviate suffering of all animals. As a Branch, we do all that we can to support that mission. We provide vouchers to help pet owners on means-tested benefits to pay veterinary bills when their pets need treatment. Similarly, we run our weekly mobile animal welfare clinics in Bangor, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Caernarfon where pet owners can seek advice and get their pets examined and treated as well as vaccinated, micro-chipped, de-fleaded and wormed at much reduced prices. We issue vouchers for cat and dog neutering, as well as the occasional rabbit, ferret and pony. We continue to trap and release or, where possible, rehome feral cats to suitable and safe environments. We offer general advice on animal care and where we can, rehome animals from temporary fosterers to "forever homes".

In order to carry out this valuable work, we continually need to raise funds and to have people willing to give their time in support of our mission. None of our volunteers and committee members are paid, everyone freely give their time for the love of animals. I am proud to say that Freda and her team of volunteers manage to keep our Pwllheli shop open four or more days a week, throughout the year – thank you team! In addition to her many hours at the shop, Freda continues to take a great number of calls from the public, give talks on the work of the Branch and Society's work, traps feral cats and fosters cats. We are indebted to her commitment.

Similarly, our clinics are volunteer-run, with Sue and Lauren in Bangor and Phil and Kath in Caernarfon, doing admirable work. Jim Mason, our "Vet in the Van" regularly puts in more hours than he should, ably assisted by Terry. My thanks to you all.

Alun, our Treasurer (and my husband) retired from his paid job at the end of April, 2016. His first few weeks were spent sorting out a colony of over 30 semi-feral cats at a small-holding, following the death of the owner. Amazingly, homes were found for all the cats once they had been neutered and health-checked and at times, I think Alun wished he'd stayed at work! He does a marvellous job as our Treasurer, webmaster and Facebook administrator.

I would also like to thank my committee, many of whom have continued to support the Branch for many years. Everyone plays their part and without them it would be very difficult to arrange any fundraising or welfare event or, in fact, continue to have a viable Branch. Numerous Branches of the Society have gone into RSPCA HQ trusteeship in the past few years and we remain dependent on a few stalwarts willing to carry on. Again this year, I'm making a plea for younger blood to get involved, both as volunteers and trustees.

I am grateful to Carl Lloyd, our Branch Support Specialist, for his guidance and often witty advice, to keep us on the straight and narrow and adhering to RSPCA rules. Also to Vicky and her staff at RSPCA Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre who care for all those animals in need. We were very happy this year to be able to make a contribution of £50,000 from Branch funds in support of building a Barn at the Centre which will allow the staff to exercise animals in poor weather, rehabilitate animals with behavioural problems and to be available as additional space in cases of major emergencies.

Finally, we are, as always, grateful to the backbone of our Society, the Inspectors, for their brilliant work.

Diolch yn fawr iawn.

Ann Rees

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Institute Building, Bangor Street, Caernarfon

Monday, 18th April 2016 at 7.30pm.

Those present at the meeting are listed on page 10.

1 Chairman's Welcome

Ann Rees welcomed everyone for supporting the branch by attending the meeting.

She then went on to say she was honoured to be elected Chair and that she was trying to fill the big shoes left by the retirement of Robert Eaglestone.

She thanked the committee, the shop volunteers, the cat and kitten fosterers and volunteers who help with the mobile clinics.

She gave special thanks to the Inspectors who are the backbone of the Society and the staff and volunteers at the RSPCA Animal Centre, Bryn-y-Maen.

She thanked the Branch Support Specialist, Carl Lloyd and lastly the other Branch Officers, Alun Rees and Freda Holme.

2 Apologies received are listed on page 10.

3 Minutes of AGM 2015

These were proposed by David Hibbert, seconded by Rhianon Jones and accepted by the meeting.

4 There were no matters arising

5 Financial Report

Alun Rees presented his report and said the total income for the year was £77,832 showing a surplus of £11,717. The largest single source was the House-to House collections organised throughout England and Wales by the national RSPCA and the second largest was from our shop in Pwllheli run by a dedicated band of volunteers.

The largest expenditure was the cost of vet bills and the contribution towards the cost of running the mobile clinic kindly managed by RSPCA Aberconwy Branch.

He thanked everyone who helped with raising money in such a cost-effective manner, largely due to their willingness to work unpaid and to only submit claims for actual out-of-pocket expenses.

Alun's report was proposed by Kath Caddick, seconded by Peter Hawley and accepted by the meeting.

6 Adoption of Independent Examiners

Alun Rees proposed that the examiners, W.J. Matthews and Son, are retained. This was, seconded by David Hibbert and accepted by the meeting.

7 Branch Annual Report

Freda Holme said that during 2015 the branch collected at Tesco stores in Bangor and Caernarfon; Marks and Spencer, Bangor and Pets at Home, Bangor.

The branch is still Charity Partner with Support Adoption for Pets in conjunction with Pets at Home, Bangor we received £1,020 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 cat food comes to the branch and the dog food and anything else (treats etc) go to Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre.

The branch charity shop, Pwllheli, had another good year with an income of £29,361 which after overheads left a profit of £18,626. This profit of 63% is much higher than most charity shops and it is normally only open 4 days per week. The staff work hard for no wages 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 (myself, Kath Caddick and Tania Roberts) 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. It is always a wrench to let them go to new homes but this is what fostering is all about.

Several RSPCA branches joined with Cats Protection to fund a neutering campaign in North Wales. This was quite successful and there is hope that another campaign will happen again in 2016. Remember the branch has its own neutering campaigns for dogs and cats which has been running for a number of years.

A successful “Snip and Chip” weekend was held in Pets at Home, Bangor in May 2015. 57 dogs and 4 cats were chipped and several neutering vouchers were issued for dogs and cats.

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

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

For several winters Ann Rees our Chairman and Alun Rees, our Treasurer have been feeding and checking the health of feral cats and kittens at Glan Gwna Holiday Park during the time this is closed. Freda’s report was proposed by Kath Caddick, seconded by Robert Eaglestone and accepted by the meeting.

8 Election of Committee

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

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

Inspector Mark Roberts gave the report quoting numbers of cases, prosecutions etc during the year.

He then told about the rescues of animals and people during the floods and said that river rescues were much more dangerous than sea rescues.

He then showed some new equipment in use by the inspectors called a Reach and Rescue Pole which he said was very useful to them.

Ann thanked him for his talk and the equipment demonstration.

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 Microchipping Events

The branch held 2 microchipping events as it is now illegal not to have your dog microchipped. The numbers microchipped were 186 in Caernarfon and 226 in Pwllheli. Aberconwy loaned the mobile clinic for both venues and Jim Mason, the vet, gave up 2 Saturdays to help. Jim was presented with a small gift for helping the branch. Jim thanked the branch and said he had enjoyed it.

11 Guest Speaker – Mark Double

Ann introduced him by saying that “he would be talking about his experiences volunteering with WIRES in Australia. WIRES stands for the Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service.

Mark moved to Australia in 1999 and immediately became a volunteer with WIRES and also worked for them as a wildlife ambulance driver. As part of his job he rescued native wildlife around the Sydney area including birds like lorikeets, cockatoos, honeyeaters; mammals such as bandicoots; marsupials such as kangaroos and possums; reptiles, snakes and turtles.

Whilst in Australia, Mark studied for his B.Sc. in Wildlife Conservation and then an M.Sc. in Wildlife Behaviour, in particular Rainbow Lorikeets. He was Chairman of his local WIRES group for a few years as well as the parrot, reptile and bird co-ordinator.

He was part of the reptile team that taught members of the public and other WIRES volunteers how to handle venomous snakes and monitor lizards correctly. He also taught the Police, Fire and Armed Services how to handle and re-locate wildlife safely.

Mark has brought a couple of his own snakes with him tonight and I’m sure he will be happy to talk about the appropriate care of these increasingly popular pets. Please welcome Mark Double.”

Mark then gave an interesting illustrated talk about his time with WIRES showing a variety of animals that he had dealt with.

Ann thanked him at the end of his talk and he then produced his own 2 female snakes which people were encouraged to handle, under his supervision.

12 Closing comments

Robert Eaglestone, Branch President, thanked all for coming and said how pleased he and Margaret were to have been elected, by the Committee, as President and Vice-President.

Rhianon Jones, Committee member, thanked Ann for all her work in her first year as Chairman.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

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

ATTENDANCE

Members (15)

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

Staff

Carl Lloyd, BSS.	Inspector Mark Roberts
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Friends and Guests

Mark Double	June Ellis	Lesley Hardman	Eric Hughes
Delyth Jones-Williams	Gwion Jones-Williams	Alexandra Latham	Jim Mason
Gerald Terschovitz	Wendy Terschovitz	Pam Wilson	

APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Michelle Breeze	Paul Brett	G. Elis-Williams	Mrs V.P. Francis
Beti Jones	R.B. McLeod	Andrew McNamara	Enid McNamara
Patricia Parrish	Paul Baxter, Regional Representative to Council		
Coralie Farren, Wales Manager	Vicky Williams, Animal Centre Manager		
Paula Greenhalgh, Chairman Aberconwy Branch			

TREASURER'S REPORT & PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS 2016

The total incoming resources for the year amounted to £112,455 (2015: £89,549). Expenditure in the year amounted to £137,965 (2015: £77,832). The valuation of our investments rose from £205,216 to £213,075 despite the withdrawal of £15,000 from the donation to Friends of Bryn-y-Maen. This resulted in a deficit for the year of £25,510 following four successive years of surplus.

The sizeable increase 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 £40,964 in 2015 to £44,094 in 2016. 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. Our one remaining shop at Pwllheli produced a slightly decreased income of £27,563 (2015: £29,332) 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 £857, though flag-day returns were down significantly due to changes by TESCO of booking procedures for RSPCA Week collections.

The substantial recorded increase in expenditure compared with 2015 is largely due to the donation of £50,000 to the Friends of Bryn-y-Maen. The cost of vet bills increased significantly for the second year running to £66,424 (2015: £54,118) which includes £23,881 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 £137,965 and total unrestricted balance (including income-generating investments) of £224,514 in the investment and general funds, we have 1.63 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 1.5 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

The financial market continues to be volatile and uncertain, especially since the result of the referendum on EU membership. Despite most forecasts the UK equities markets measured by the FTSE 100 has seen a significant and so far sustained improvement, though much as a result of decreased exchange rates with the Euro and US dollar. £15,000 profits were taken from our Schroders equity funds and our Virgin Money account holding £35,000 was closed following the drop in interest rates from an initial rate of 2.61% in 2011 to 0.25% in December 2016. The £50,000 was donated to Friends of Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre for constructing a dog exercise barn at RSPCA Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre.

As a result, at 31st December 2016 35% of our invested funds are now held in selected equities, about 31% is held in bonds and gilts, no more than 9% is held in current accounts, and the 25% 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 running 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 RSPCA Cymru Regional Board plus our own free cat-neutering scheme and the continuation of the free dog neutering scheme run in conjunction with 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 2016**

**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 2016, which are set out on pages 2 to 4.

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: 5th April 2017

**RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2016**

	General	Designated	Restricted		2016		2015
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income:							
Legacies	160	-	-			160	-
Membership subscriptions	212	-	-		212		210
<i>From Voluntary Sources</i>							
Sundry donations	8,307	-	-	8,307		1,614	
Gift aid	857	-	-	857		1,449	
Flag Days	2,082	-	-	2,082		1,954	
House to house collections	44,094	-	-	44,094		40,964	
Jumble	6	-	-	6	55,346	20	46,001
Investment Income:							
Investment income (Gross)	9,992	-	-	9,992	9,992		11,050
Charitable Trading activities:							
Dog boxes	1,176	-	-	1,176		1,146	
Charity Shop takings	27,563	-	-	27,563		29,322	
RSPCA sales	36	-	-	36		105	
Adoption fees	295	-	-	295		80	
VAT refund	2,675	-	-	2,675	31,745	1,635	32,288
Other income							
Investment sale proceeds	15,000	-	-		15,000		-
	£112,455	£ -	£ -	£	£112,455		£89,549
Direct Charitable Expenditure:							
Contribution to regional boarding	2,001	-	-	2,001		2,001	
Regional contribution/Quota	300	-	-	300		2,500	
Donation – The Friends of Bryn-y-Maen							
Animal Centre	-	50,000	-	50,000		-	
Insurance	511	-	-	511		511	
Cost of goods for resale	44	-	-	44		308	
Veterinary costs	20,547	42,402	3,475	66,424		54,418	
Boarding	2,552	-	-	2,552		2,154	
Room hire	-	1,040	-	1,040		522	
Officers' travel	1,012	29	-	1,041		1,571	
Charity Shop rent	9,620	-	-	9,620		9,620	
Charity Shop heat and light	495	-	-	495		533	
Charity Shop trade refuse	238	-	-	238		226	
Charity Shop telephone	241	-	-	241		175	74,539
Other expenditure:							
Postage and stationery	514	-	-	514		233	
Advertising	184	-	-	184		540	
Accountancy	510	-	-	510		500	
Repairs and Equipment	1,104	118	-	1,222		921	
Consumables	138	-	-	138		239	
VAT not recoverable	884	6	-	890		860	
Sundries	-	-	-	-		-	3,293
Total payments	£40,895	£93,595	£3,475		£137,965		£77,832
Net (expenditure)/income for the year	71,560	(93,595)	(3,475)		(25,510)		11,717
Transfers between funds	(62,795)	62,795	-		-		-
Cash and bank balances							
At 31 st December 2015	2,674	125,800	6,604		135,078		123,361
At 31 st December 2016	£11,439	£95,000	£3,129		£109,568		£135,078

**RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
31st DECEMBER 2016**

	2016	2015
	£	£
Monetary assets:		
Investments:		
Schroders Common Investment Fund:		
The Charity Equity Fund	52,956	55,841
The Charity Fixed Interest Fund	101,425	94,563
M&G Charifund	58,694	54,812
	<u>£213,075</u>	<u>£205,216</u>
 Bank and cash balances:		
Bank Deposit Investment Account	81,808	115,000
Bank Current Accounts	27,521	19,862
Pay-Pal Account	164	141
Cash float	75	75
Total	<u>£109,568</u>	<u>£135,078</u>
 General funds	11,439	2,674
Designated funds	95,000	125,800
Restricted funds	3,129	6,604
	<u>£109,568</u>	<u>£135,078</u>
 Debtors: Trade debtors	<u>£2,116</u>	<u>£2,277</u>
 Current Liabilities:		
Trade creditors and accruals	<u>£1,467</u>	<u>£1,661</u>

Approved by the Branch Committee on20th March 2017 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 2016**

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 2016 an amount of £3475 was spent from the fund. Cash of £3,129 is held in this fund.

Designated Funds

A balance of £25,000 was brought forward from 2015 in the cat and dog free neutering scheme. A total of £19,714 was spent during the year ending 31 December 2016 leaving a balance of £5,286. The Committee agreed to top up this figure to give a balance of £25,000 at the year end.

A sum of £30,000 had been designated to subsidise a mobile clinic providing veterinary services and advice to pet owners in the Bangor, Caernarfon and Blaenau Ffestiniog areas. The balance in the fund at 31 December 2015 was £10,800. The Committee agreed to top up the figure after expenditure at the year end to £30,000. A total of £23,881 was spent during the year ending 31 December 2016.

A sum of £40,000 has been set aside to an Ongoing Welfare designated fund. A £50,000 had been allocated to a General Project designated fund. The General Project designated fund was utilised during the year to fund a donation to provide the costs of building a dog exercise barn.

Investments

The investments are stated at market value.

Trustees

No trustees received any remuneration in the year. (2015 – NIL).

Reimbursements made to trustees were as follows

	No of trustees	2016 Cost	No of trustees	2015 Cost
Travel costs reimbursed	Nil	£Nil	Nil	£Nil

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH SECRETARY'S REPORT 2016

Due to problems arranging collection dates at the Tesco stores in our area we did not collect as much as we normally do. We do not now have a full week of collecting as we used to do, still some money is better than none at all and collections were made at Bangor, Caernarfon and Porthmadog stores.

The branch is still Charity Partner with Support Adoption for Pets in conjunction with Pets at Home, Bangor. Committee member Keymar Wake is the liaison between the branch and the store. For the fourth 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 £27,563 which after overheads left a profit of almost £17,000.. The staff is down to 5 volunteers and this is a great effort from them all.

The branch fosterers took in several kittens and cats during the year which were then found new homes. As well as the regular fosterers, we now have a new fosterer, Angie Williamson.

Kittens were found in a shoe box in Caernarfon and taken to Kath for help. As she already had a mother cat and kittens Angie offered to become a branch fosterer. The kittens were very young and needed hand feeding but thrived and were all rehomed.

RSPCA Cymru and Cats Protection commenced an all-Wales neutering scheme in 2016. Unfortunately only 3 vets within our area were prepared to take part so we have been issuing a lot of our own branch neutering scheme vouchers.

As microchipping of dogs became a legal requirement in April 2016 we arranged microchipping sessions in Caernarfon and Pwllheli. In both venues Committee member Keymar Wake and vet Jim Mason did the microchipping and Committee members Sam Bell and Alun Rees acted as dog handlers. Committee members Ann Rees, Delyth Jones-Williams, Kath and Phil Caddick plus volunteer Sara MacKay Williams were in attendance at Caernarfon and dealt with admin. and keeping the queue flowing. Most of the same people plus Freda Holme were also in Pwllheli doing the same jobs.

On the Saturday of the Pwllheli session, although the weather was atrocious with sleet and rain, people and dogs were queuing from about 10am until 5pm. We had such a response that we had to turn some people away at the end of the day as we had to clear and clean the hall by a certain time.

The branch had a stall at the annual dog show in Bryn-y-Maen animal centre in May. We decided to do a game for children, "Hook a Duck" and sell books. All proceeds are given to the animal centre via the Friends of Bryn-y-Maen. It was a very successful day.

The Friends of Bryn-y-Maen are providing the funds for the erection of an all-purpose barn at the animal centre. After receiving quotations from architects regarding this it was found that there may be a shortfall in funding. West Gwynedd stepped in and with the agreement of the Committee gave £50,000 towards the cost, building is due to start in April 2017. The animal centre at Bryn-y-Maen is our "local" centre and we try to help it as much as possible in any way we can.

The branch weekly mobile clinics in Bangor, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Caernarfon are doing very well and many animals are being dealt with. Committee members, Kath and Phil Caddick do the admin. work at the Caernarfon clinic and volunteer Lauren Hughes helps at Bangor and Llangefni.

As usual our largest expenditure is on vet bills and the total spent during 2016 was £66,424.

Ann Rees, our Chairman, and Alun Rees, our Treasurer are still feeding and checking the health of feral cats and kittens at Glan Gwna Holiday Park and also Snowdon View caravan park during the time they are closed in winter.

Alun took full time retirement from his “proper” job in May 2016 and has since spent a lot of time trapping and finding homes for colonies of feral cats. He was also involved with helping Gwynedd Social Services in collecting and transporting a Cockatoo to temporary foster accommodation. This was quite a feat as the cockatoo is a large bird, especially when it is inside an extremely large cage which would not fit into Alun’s car. Some fancy footwork produced a large van which did the job. The bird has been returned to its original owner in her new home.

In 2016, as in every year, the inspectors in our area do a marvellous job dealing with all the complaints and animals needing help. Members of the public do not realise that there is not a vast army of inspectors waiting about for their calls to come in. They also forget that we are a charity and not a paid government body.

Freda Holme
Hon. Branch Secretary

Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre

Annual Report 2016

2016 was another busy and challenging year for the Bryn-y-Maen Centre, with various changes taking place throughout the centre. Our amazing team of staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly throughout and made a huge difference to over 550 animals lives this year.

We've had a noticeable increase in the number of long term cruelty case dogs in our care this year, so the team have had to be really creative in developing additional enrichment during their stays. As a result, and after so many months in our care, we were all rewarded with positive outcomes for the each case dog we took in.

In total, during 2016 we found homes for a total of 453 animals. These included 245 Cats, 90 Dogs, 35 Rabbits, 83 small animals and birds.

We raised over £3,000 through centre fundraising events, these included Sponsored Mutt Struts, coffee mornings, raffles and stalls at local community events. Chris our Animal Care Supervisor completed a gruelling sponsored cycle in June, covering 108 miles in seven and a half hours. Our annual Friends Dog Show raised in excess of £3,000 and we received over 100 competitors across our various categories with many former canine residents coming along to say hello. Thankfully the weather was lovely and we received lots of positive feedback about the day which has helped us to improve our plans for the 2017 show.

Volunteers remain a critical component of our team. Over 2016, our dedicated volunteers completed a total of 9,400 hours at the centre, with an average of 52 individuals dedicating their time at the centre each month.

We also trialled late night opening at the centre this year, remaining open to the public until 7pm every Thursday from June through to August. Our volunteers were a big part (105 volunteer hours) of this effort and through this we were able to welcome an additional 66 visitors to the centre and find new homes for a further 17 animals.

Sadly, Rose Thomas (Animal Care Assistant) retired after 17 years of service at the centre, working predominantly in our Small Animal Unit. Rose had an almost encyclopaedic knowledge in this area and she will be sorely missed. Val Bailey (part time Animal Care Assistant) has left the centre to adopt a new lifestyle split between Wales and somewhere exotic. That said we do to see Val back in the spring as a volunteer when she returns to Colwyn Bay's sunny shores! We also welcome Callum Bartley who has moved on from his casual role with us to join the full time team as an Animal Care Assistant. We're looking forward to working with Callum as he settles into the role.

2017 is set to be an exciting year for the centre with new projects taking place including the creation of the long-awaited Friends of Bryn-y-Maen Barn.

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 2017 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



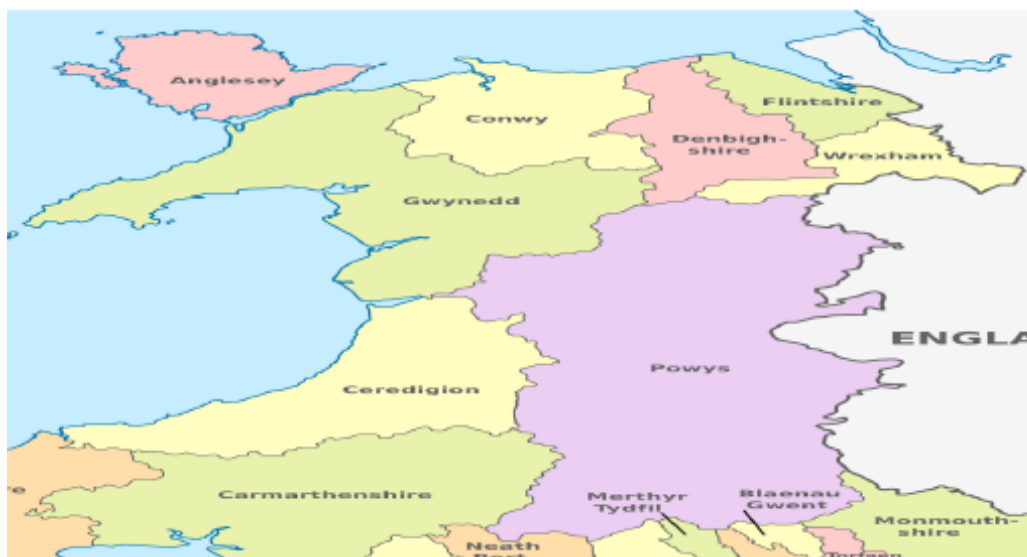
ANNUAL REPORT 2016

North Wales Inspectorate Group

Group Statistics

	2016	2015
Total Complaints Completed	2,762	2,434
Advice only	1,596	
Warning notices	32	57
Case prosecution files submitted	39	34
Adult Written Cautions	16	
Court Convictions	7	
Collections & Rescues	2,545	2,321
Market Visits	418	681
Total number of market animals seen	746,957	

The area covered by the WW6 Group is viewed by the region as North Wales. The locales within our group include Flintshire, Denbighshire, Wrexham, Conwy, Anglesey, Gwynedd and Powys. The branches we cover are Aberconwy, Clwyd and Colwyn, Montgomeryshire and Radnor, West Gwynedd, Wrexham and Ynys Môn.



2016 saw several significant staff changes to the North Wales Group. Inspector Chris Dunbar 338 retired after 24 years service. He will be sorely missed and WW6 would like to wish him a long and happy retirement. ACO Malwina Gasiorek 14661 moved up and is currently training to be an inspector at Headquarters in Horsham. Unfortunately Malwina will not be returning to us after she graduates. We wish her all the best in her new role in the Cumbria group, N5. ACO Will Galvin 8368 re-joined us following his Wilberforce secondment. Inspector Rachael Davies returned to work part time from maternity leave following the birth of her son, Thomas, for a short period before announcing the imminent arrival of her second child due April 2017. WW6 send her our best wishes. Chief Inspector Helen Mead 788 transferred out of the group and was replaced by the new WW6 Chief Inspector Leanne Hardy 783. Changes in staff levels, always has a huge impact on the group. It is a credit to everyone how resilient WW6 is and how they are able to continue to deliver a first class service for animal welfare, despite the challenges they face.

Cases of note

In April 2016, a woman was banned from keeping animals for life after RSPCA officers found her horses to be so underweight and riddled with lice that their bones were showing. The female pleaded guilty to the offences under the Animal Welfare Act at the Magistrates' Court.

As well as being disqualified from keeping any animals for life, she was ordered to pay £500 in costs. Inspector Mike Pugh was first alerted following concerns over the welfare of two bay mares, Lottie and Silkie, and another Cremello mare, named Polo. Upon arrival at the incident, Mike found the



horses had not been fed properly for a long time, were infested with lice, had no grazing, and were not attended to for weeks. All these factors meant that their body condition had deteriorated and they were in a poor state. The court heard their spines, ribs and pelvic bones were clearly visible and they appeared lethargic and dispirited.

Fortunately, we were able to give them the care they deserved. They all made a good recovery and were rehomed in due course.



In April 2016, Inspector Jenny Anderton 14222 attended a semi-detached property which contained a large number of dogs living downstairs and cats living upstairs. Due to the number of animals, the living conditions had become very poor. The owner had let things get out of hand and agreed to sign over nearly all of the animals. Deputy Chief Inspector Lewis arranged for Inspector Anderton to be assisted by ACO Gasiorek, ACO Lloyd Williams and also the manager of Bryn-y-Maen animal centre, Vicky Williams. It took over two weeks, but eventually 79 animals were signed over, removed, vet checked and boarded. Coralie Farren also liaised with Vicky Williams to organise many of the dogs to be networked to animal centres across the country. The owner of the animals was left with a manageable number of dogs which she then had neutered.

In September 2015, Inspector Kia Thomas 12589 dealt with a very disturbing case in which a staffy type dog called Victor had both of his ears cut off close to the head. Both ears were completely cut off leaving open bleeding wounds to his head. Subsequent tests showed that the dog also had cocaine in his system. The owner of the dogs had called police and alleged that he was attacked and this person also cut his dog's ears off. Upon examination, the vet was of the opinion that it would not have been a quick procedure and the dog would have had to be drugged or physically restrained. This kind of mutilation is commonly seen in preparation for dog fighting as it makes it more difficult for the dog to be gripped in a fight.



Two witnesses were found who saw the owner of the dog cutting the ears off himself. After a prolonged investigation the owner of the dogs was charged with three offences under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 - section 4 - causing unnecessary suffering to the dog, section 9 - failing to meet the needs of the dog and also section 5 - mutilation (interference with the sensitive tissues other than for veterinary treatment). The initial hearing was on 26th May 2016. Only one witness appeared however the court believed his account. The owner of the dog was found guilty of all 3 charges. There followed an appeal against the conviction by the accused which eventually took place on 29th July and finally he was sentenced on 28th September last year. The court imposed a ban on keeping dogs for 10 years and 24 weeks in prison. This now meant that poor Victor who had now been waiting for a whole year could be rehomed. It is extremely pleasing to report that he is happy and settled with a lovely couple and is being spoiled rotten!



Operation Delphin took place early Nov 2016. It was the third operation run by the RSPCA at Holyhead port over the last few years. Members of WW6 were key to the smooth running of the operation. We worked with border force teams to provide 24hr coverage for a number of days to stop and examine vehicles likely to be carrying animals. The purpose was to intercept puppy dealers and gather intelligence on their operations. Our External Relations department in Wales will now lead on a multi-agency report, surrounding the issues of non-compliant movement of dogs from R.O.I to Wales, which will be submitted to Welsh Government later in the year. The report will look at the current state of affairs, as well as detailing any recommendations to help tackle the issue.

During this operation, two vans were stopped carrying 96 puppies of various breeds including Beagles, Basset Hounds, Labradoodles and Pomeranians in poor welfare conditions. Following an intelligence-led move, the two consignments of puppies were intercepted by Border Force as part of the partnership-driven operation. They were on two separate ferries arriving at Holyhead from Dublin on 15 November. On the second vehicle, an attempt had been made to conceal the transported puppies behind bales of wood shavings.

The puppies were travelling in hugely inappropriate conditions, with modes of transport not ventilated, food and water not provided and the animals often kept in filthy conditions. Most were believed to be six or seven weeks old. After an initial veterinary inspection, the puppies were deemed fit to travel back, and were returned to the Republic of Ireland, where they were handed into the care of the Dublin SPCA. Sadly, two were later identified to have developed canine parvovirus and placed under veterinary care, but the other dogs were made available for re-homing as soon as they were able.

It was arranged with the Dublin SPCA that we would escort the dogs back to Ireland and the DSPCA would rehome the dogs without them having to land in the UK unlicensed. The RSPCA Special Operations Department dealt with the follow up of the people involved.

Throughout the operation, the North Wales Group WW6, SOU, Alpha vets, trading standards officers, customs and excise, border force and Cheshire police dog handlers were present on each shift to ensure all eventualities were covered.



Rope rescues

WW6 was called to carry out a number of rope rescues in 2016. We have a high number of qualified officers in the group on the specialist rope rescue team.

In January 2016, a sheep trapped on a ledge on the side of Tryfan Mountain in the Ogwen Valley of Snowdonia was rescued by the RSPCA rope team. The sheep – which had been there for some days – was spotted around 100 metres down and was unable to move out of danger. Inspector Mark Roberts and ACO Ann Lloyd Williams set up on the cliff above the sheep and Inspector Mike Pugh descended over 100 metres to reach the sheep on a ledge.

WW6 officers had assistance from officers from other groups who are on the specialist rope team. The sheep was then lowered down the cliff to Inspector Fred Armstrong who was waiting below. The sheep was uninjured but was very hungry. Once released from the bag the sheep was so hungry she stayed nearby feeding, while the team sorted out all the ropes and equipment. The rescue was made even more difficult and dangerous when a blizzard swept down the valley. Temperatures dropped to below freezing, but the fact that they were caught up in a blizzard with the wind and rain meant that the successful outcome of the rescue was all the more rewarding.



Water Rescues

Members of the swift water rescue team took part in an All Wales Emergency Flooding Exercise held in Cardiff and Newport. Operation Polygon, as it was named, called upon our specialist swift water technicians to be involved in various scenarios on the banks of the River Usk. One such exercise involved the mock-up of a rider trapped beneath their horse that was in turn, stuck in mud. The event gave the team valuable experience and an opportunity to work closely with other agencies. A great experience for all concerned.

Thankfully 2016 saw no major flooding incidents in Wales that required a national emergency response. Let's hope 2017 brings more of the same.



Markets and Agricultural Shows

We continued to visit all the Livestock markets throughout North Wales to observe and advise on any animal welfare issues arising from these weekly events. WW6 has the most markets in its group area out of both Wales and England, requiring us to have the largest number of Market Inspectors, a unique and specialised role. Some 746,957 animals, mostly sheep, were seen by our officers across 418 markets during the past year.

The Royal Welsh Show held over 4 days in July is the largest agricultural show held in Northern Europe. The RSPCA are invited to attend every year to patrol inside the showground to ensure the welfare of all livestock. The reputation of the show coupled with the high quality and value of the animals on site means that conditions and animal health is paramount to the organisers. On the whole

the event is very well marshalled and there are an adequate number of vets located to deal with any concerns. We have been an active presence at the show for more than 20 years. The members of WW6 that give their valuable time and efforts every year are the Regional Farm Animal Welfare Officer for Cymru Wales Deputy Chief Inspector Phil Lewis 319 and Market Inspectors Bill Rowbottom 10769 and Warwick Burgess 10790. In addition to their duties in respect of animal welfare, their continued presence over the four day period is an extremely positive exercise in public relations for the RSPCA and I am very grateful for their contribution.



2016 was a year of change and challenge. May I take this opportunity to thank all the officers in WW6 for their hard work and commitment in sometimes very challenging circumstances. I would also like to thank the branches for their invaluable support throughout the year.

Without your assistance and contribution, we would not be able to provide the first class Animal Welfare Service that we do. Here's to 2017 and all that comes our way. May we approach what lies ahead with continued enthusiasm, cooperation and professionalism.

Thank you.

Chief Inspector Leanne Hardy 783
Wales and West Group 6
RSPCA Cymru