



Annual General Meeting 2020

Chair's Report

This year, because of Covid restrictions, we are unable to meet in person so welcome to our rather unusual AGM!

March 2019 to March 2020 proved to be as busy as previous years and, sadly, it is clear that our work is as essential as ever.

During this period, we took 682 animals into our care (this includes 35 babies born to animals that came in already pregnant).

We also neutered 3 dogs that were at risk of breeding.

As well as the usual cats, rabbits, guinea pigs and small furries this was the first year we rescued chickens.

Claire, Gill and I went with cars loaded with baskets and took 30 scruffy, very nervous hens from an awful, neglectful situation at a school.

The girls were living knee deep in filth and rotting eggs, most days they had no food or water. Thankfully one of the teachers contacted us and asked for help.

We had wonderful homes lined up and everyone went straight off to enjoy their new lives.

Three live with my daughter. They are no longer nervous and spend their days scratching round the garden and living the life that every animal deserves. They are naughty, affectionate, very greedy and much more intelligent than most people realise.

Above all they are very loved.

Once again, I must thank our amazing volunteers. To everyone that gives up their time to help, be it fostering, transporting, fundraising or one of the hundreds of other jobs that need doing, we are eternally grateful.

We, as trustees, may not have the time to continually thank everyone but rest assured you are the heart of our rescue and our work would not be possible without your continued support.

So, thank you, and here's to our next successful year!

Donna Yerby
Chair

ARC Financial Report **1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020.**

ARC's finances continued to hold steady in the year 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020. We are pleased to say that we ended the year with a small surplus of £1689. This is certainly better than a loss and very much in line with the previous twelve months.

Whilst almost all our income streams rose (donations, fundraising, animal adoptions, animal acceptances, and Pet Plan Commission), it is no surprise that so did our costs! Most significant was the rise in our vet bills due to a larger number of animals coming into our care but also an increase in the charges made by our main veterinary surgery, Twickenham.

Despite these rises, we are hugely indebted to Christabel and Kevin for continuing to offer us very preferential rates as this enables us to ensure that animals going to new homes have had all the relevant health checks and are neutered and vaccinated where appropriate, before they leave us. It also enables us to take in and treat elderly or sick animals and rehome them with the promise that we will cover the future vet bills for the known condition for such animals, provided they are treated at Twickenham Veterinary Surgery. This obviously makes them much more adoptable. It should be noted that we also have accounts at Richmond Veterinary Surgery, Windlesham Village Vets and All Creatures in Battersea and that sometimes have to pay unsubsidised vet bills for emergency vets if an animal becomes ill out of hours.

Many of our small outgoing costs dropped in the past year such as advertising and venue hire, telephones and website, and pet feeding costs when fosterers are away. There was also a significant drop in the cost of equipment as we did not need to purchase any large high-value items. One aspect of income that dropped a little was membership. However, in the past, it has not always been easy to determine whether a payment into the bank is a payment for membership or a donation. Going forward, we are hoping the membership payments will more truly reflect the correct amount as Karen Scott is managing the membership most ably and each month updates me on which payments I should expect, enabling me to more accurately attribute payments to membership rather than the general donations category.

In conclusion, ARC continues to be in a secure financial position enabling us to continue to run successfully and each year help more and more animals. The trustees are deeply grateful to Sian Grinter for auditing the accounts again this year, and to all our members, supporters and members of the public who continue to support our work.

Karen Hide
Treasurer

Cat report

The period April 2019 to 2020 proved to be a busy one for the ARC cat side with the number of cats coming in and going out increasing again. Being a mother and daughter team, Karen and Emily are able to work closely together. Karen takes the calls from members of the public who need to rehome their cats or reporting strays, and organises taking these cats in, getting them to their vet appointments and liaising with the foster homes who will care for the cats whilst they are with us. Emily's role is to put cats on the website and deal with the people who want to adopt a rescue cat or cats. None of this would be possible without the truly amazing volunteers who fostered the cats whilst they were with us and provided them with a caring and comfortable home during their stay. Also, our wonderful home checkers, Sue and Valda, who home checked applicants wanting a cat, often at very short notice, Lucy who transported numerous cats to the vets for neutering when Karen was at work, and Tamsyn who works so efficiently made sure all the microchips of ARC cats were registered or reregistered to their new owners. We are truly grateful to you all.

The year brought its usual mix of successes and challenges. Some of the successes involved cats with kittens. In the summer of 2019, Karen took a call from a lovely lady in her 80's reporting a cat that had come into her elderly brother's property in Hanworth and giving birth to kittens in his lounge. The lady's brother had special needs so the lady was concerned that he would not cope with this little family. Karen and Emily arranged to meet the lady at her brother's house where we were shown into the lounge. The cat and her kittens (we had no idea at that time how many) were hidden beneath a chest of drawers with a gap of just a few centimetres beneath. We had to remove the bottom drawer to gain any sort of access, then with some trepidation, as we had no idea if the cat was friendly, Karen lay down and slid her arm under the chest of drawers. By feeling about, Karen managed to locate and pull out 2 kittens and their mum. All were in terrible condition being filthy dirty and very 'greasy' feeling but they were clearly going to be fluffy and some sort of grey/ brown colour. As we had no space available at that point, Emily agreed to foster this little family in her spare bedroom. She named the mummy cat, who turned out to be a friendly and gentle soul, Poppy. Poppy and the kittens thrived and, after she was spayed, Poppy was homed with a lovely couple. One of the kittens, went to a wonderful home with a family in Teddington and the other, Barney, was adopted by Emily.

Another such kitten call came from a lady in Feltham who reported that a cat had given birth to kittens in her garage. Karen and Emily went over the next evening to investigate. We were shown the garage and asked the lady to shut us in so the mummy cat could not escape. Fortunately, as soon as we put down food a very friendly tabby and white cat emerged from beneath a shelving unit and was quite happy to be picked up and popped in a carrier. We named her Naya. Once again, Karen found herself lying on her front and putting her arm into the very small gap under a shelf unit to feel around for the kittens. The garage was dark, so Emily had to use the torch on her phone to provide some light. To our amazement, Karen pulled out 7 live kittens, the biggest litter we have ever had. Sadly, there was an eighth kitten that had died after it had crept into a narrow gap between the shelf unit and the garage wall where its mum would not have been able to reach it. Once again, Emily provided a foster home and, despite the size of her litter, Naya successfully raised the whole litter and all the kittens and Naya went to wonderful homes.

A much more challenging and sad case was that of a cat called Millie. Karen took a call from Millie's owner who explained that Millie had ongoing skin problems. It was quite clear that the owner had done absolutely everything she could for Millie, including paying for the vet to remove a large piece of damaged skin from Millie's back and shoulder where the tissue was

so damaged where Millie had worried at it that it would not heal. Although the lady's vet had removed all the damaged skin and brought the wound together with healthy tissue, Millie had again started to self-mutilate. Having tried most options, the owner wanted ARC to try Millie in a cat free home in case she was attacking her skin as a result of the stress of living with another cat. We placed Millie in one of our quietest foster homes with, Helen, a single lady. Months followed where the vets tried to get on top of Millie's skin issues with steroids, an allergy diet and more. Nothing seemed to work. After several months, we had to move Millie as Helen was going travelling. One of the fantastic vet nurses at Twickenham Veterinary Surgery, Carrie, who had got to know Millie during her frequent visits to the surgery, agreed to take Millie on. Carrie and her parents provided Millie with the most wonderful and loving care, but she continued to attack her skin causing herself some very upsetting damage. Eventually, Millie ran out of treatment options, and it was agreed between Carrie and her parents, the vets and ARC that the only thing we could do for Millie was to end her suffering and have her put to sleep.

Another cat who we could not help was a little tabby cat called Penelope. She came into ARC's care with her month-old kittens as the owner could no longer cope with Penelope who we were told was attacking both the children and the adults in her family. Wendy, one of the wonderful vets at Twickenham Veterinary Surgery, kindly offered to foster Penny and she raised her kittens who went on to be homed. Penny remained with Wendy waiting for a suitable home. However, during that time, Penny attacked Wendy when she had a visitor. The attack was completely unprovoked, and Wendy's leg took the brunt of the attack. Wendy gave Penny the benefit of the doubt, hoping that the attack was because there was someone unfamiliar in the house but, a couple of days later, without any warning or provocation at all, Penny attacked Wendy's head as Wendy lay in her bed first thing in the morning, causing Wendy substantial damage. Wendy had to call Karen to come and rescue her and it was decided that we had no choice but to have this little cat put to sleep as she was actually very dangerous. It was probably one of our saddest days in rescue putting Poppy to sleep but she went very peacefully with Wendy and Karen in attendance.

Karen can count on the fingers on 1 hand the number of cats ARC has had to have put to sleep and these have always been on veterinary advice because a cat was very old and ill, and no more could be done to help them. However, these 2 cats were particularly sad cases as they were younger cats, who, despite our best efforts we were unable to help and rehome. This is the sad side of rescue. Thankfully it is exceptionally rare, and we manage to help almost all the cats who come into our care whatever their age and personality, but it is a sad reality of being in the rescue world.

Karen & Emily Hide
Cat Team Co-Ordinators

Rabbit Report

During the period of April 2019 to March 2020 we took in 171 rabbits (a 25% increase on the previous year), rehomed 177 rabbits (a 19% increase on the previous year) and 24 were born in our care (we never breed rabbits, any babies that are born in ARC are because the female has come to us pregnant). This is the largest number of rabbits born in our care for many years.

It has been another very busy year for the Rabbit Rehoming Team as the numbers show, but we have a great team of fosterers, hutch cleaners and rehomers without whom we couldn't help and rehome so many unwanted rabbits.

The year started with us being asked to help a little bun who we called Doris. She had been found as a stray in East London and was taken to a local vet where she gave birth to five kits (baby rabbits). The kits were only a couple of days old, so it was a dangerous time to move them, but we delicately gathered the little family up in their fur nest and brought them to Twickenham. Doris was a wonderful Mum and her kits thrived. She and her kits were all successfully rehomed to loving homes.

In June we were made aware of a domestic rabbit being seen in Richmond Park. Sadly, this happens all too often. People think domestic rabbits can survive in the wild so if they want rid, they just let them loose in a park. Rabbits released in this way will not survive, more than likely being killed by a predator. Luckily for Parker, he was caught and brought to us. We neutered, vaccinated and rehomed him to a safe, loving home with a neutered female.

In July, we received another call about a pair of domestic rabbits being seen in Crane Park. It's difficult enough catching one rabbit but a pair would be almost impossible. We were very lucky that a lady from the RSPCA had offered to go and attempt to catch them. Amazingly she did and they turned out to be the friendliest pair of boys who we called John & Phil. Again, we had them both neutered, vaccinated and they have been rehomed together.

Later that month, we were asked to help a family where breeding had got out of control due to a wrongly sexed pair of pet shop rabbits. We took in Elsie and her 6 kits and Maya and her 5 kits. A few days after arrival Maya gave birth to a further 7 kits. So suddenly we had 20 Dutch bunnies to find loving homes for. Just goes to show how very important it is to get rabbits neutered, as over breeding very easily and quickly gets out of control.

In September we finally rehomed the last of our Californian rabbits (we took in 44 during February 2018). Two had come back to us as the bond hadn't worked out and Dandy had been a particularly difficult chap! We decided to rehome him as a single house bunny (which we only do as a very last resort). Dandy landed on his paws and even has his own FB page.

During September we were contacted by another rescue (One Bun at a Time) who were involved in a very large rescue from a hoarder situation where rabbits were living in filthy cramped conditions. We took in two girls (Grace & Olive) and four boys (Fred & Norman and Humphrey & Barney). Grace & Olive were put on pregnancy watch as we were not sure if they had been near any males at their previous home. On the 30th Sept, Olive gave birth to six beautiful kits. Everybun has found loving forever homes.

Another highlight was helping a little bun called Bing. His previous owner had signed him over to ARC after he'd broken his leg and she was not able to pay for his treatment. Our vet decided to amputate the broken leg as he was a young bun and would cope well. The

operation was a success and Bing recovered well and learnt to live as an amputee. He has now been bonded with a cute female and lives as a very happy and loved house bunny.

'Billy the Biter' had been in rescue for over a year as he was very unpredictable, lunged and bit. We are always very honest about the rabbit's personality and he was not popular. He was finally adopted in January and lives with his partner Lily. He still bites and can be unpredictable but, is loved and enjoys the garden.

These are just a few of the highlights from the year, we could write about many many more. Every rabbit that comes to us has a back story, some from dreadful conditions, some from changes in family circumstances or children have got bored of them, and others from wrongly sexed pairs and babies are born. But every rabbit is vet checked, vaccinated and neutered and found loving forever homes.

A big thank you to the Rabbit Rehoming Team!

Gill Manning
Rabbit Team Co-ordinator

Small Furies Report

During the period April 2019 to March 2020 we rehomed the following:

Rats: 39
Hamsters: 21
Mice: 2
Gerbils: 11
Chinchillas: 11
Degus: 4

Total: 88

We have also helped with 8 tropical fish and 3 snails in the same tank.

The numbers varied quite a lot in comparison to the last financial year as we usually have a constant stream of hamsters coming in but for the 2nd half of the financial year, we had none which is highly unusual, however overall numbers have again increased for each of the 6 types of animal. We also had no gerbils for the 2nd half of the financial year but a sudden increase in mice after having none for the rest of the period. The figures for degus remained quite low as lots of people haven't heard of them before plus Pets at Home have apparently stopped selling them which is good news for how many are likely to arrive in our care.

To help with adoptions, we've posted across social media a few times to create awareness of degus which has resulted in some great new homes for those in our care as generally they'd be waiting for months with zero interest.

Regarding the mice we took in, we've found it harder in terms of fostering the males as they'll often have disagreements with each other over territory resulting in a trip to the vet, plus they can be quite smelly in comparison to females! We decided to get the males neutered ASAP in order to prevent further fallings out however as they're so small, many vets won't agree to carry out the procedure or charge a fortune for it. After multiple calls to various vets, Windlesham agreed to it so any male mice are taken there for the op now and once healed up, are able to be bonded in a group.

Thanks again to all the fosterers and Nicole for caring for so many animals and ensuring they go to great homes.

Cat Davies
Small Furies Team Co-Ordinator

Guinea Pig report

It was another busy year for the guinea pig team, with 67 guinea pigs coming in and 78 going out.

Sadly, there are still many people giving up on their pets for many different reasons. These include allergies, children 'losing interest', landlord issues and boars (males guinea pigs) fighting. We have definitely seen a trend towards more males coming in and are aware that females are more likely to be kept and fewer arrive in rescue.

Guinea pigs are social animals and should not be kept alone. So, on that basis, ARC will not rehome single guinea pigs to live by themselves. They should have a partner guinea pig the adopter already owns. Due to the shortage of female guinea pigs, we are carrying out a lot of boar bonding. Where possible, we try to do this without neutering the rescue boar. But this is not always possible, so we would then consider castrate, although this is a more complex procedure for guinea pigs than for other animals and does have risks.

Luckily, although we have a lot of guinea pigs coming in, we rarely have a waiting list and there are always keen new owners waiting to adopt a rescue guinea pig. Filtering out the calls that come from all over the country is quite a big job for the guinea pig volunteers. We also filter out all the sub-standard accommodation. If potential owners are not prepared to upgrade their guinea pig housing, then we will not rehome to them. It is not acceptable for a guinea pig to be kept in a small cage. They are curious, social animals who need a good space to exercise, and lots of enrichment, with places to hide, tunnels to run down and a friend to play with!

ARC believes that every guinea pig life counts, so we always give them the vet treatment and care that they need. This may include surgery for bladder stones, ovarian cysts and dental work. One little guinea pig who ran up big vet bills and needed a lot of attention was Biscuit, a tri-coloured piggy (black, brown and white) who came in with two cysts. They were so serious that it resulted in her needing a big operation which included a spay. She also had serious problems with her teeth which needed specialist attention with an expert rodent dental vet in Northampton. It was a lot of treatment for her to go through, but it was worth it as she's now fit and well with a wonderful owner, leading the best piggy life!

Guinea pigs who need ongoing veterinary treatment are placed in 'sanctuary' care rather than being rehomed. At the moment we have two guinea pigs in sanctuary, Fuzzy, who has a large growth on his neck, and his partner Felix. ARC would welcome any potential long-term fosterers who would be interested in taking on a sanctuary guinea pig or two, with all vet fees covered.

A lot of work goes into rescuing and rehoming guinea pigs and we are grateful to all our volunteers, including those who handle inquiries, do home checks, our network of fosterers and our bonders who introduce guinea pigs to each other!

Every member of the team plays an important role and shares their love of these adorable animals.

Nicole Jenkins
Guinea Pig Team Co-ordinator

Animal Rescue and Care

ARC

Registered Charity No. 1095004

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD

1st APRIL 2019

TO

31st MARCH 2020

Animal Rescue and Care

ARC

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Trustees' Report on the Accounts for the period 1st April 2019 to Year End 31st March 2020

The trustees present their annual report for the twelve-month period ended 31st March 2020, together with the associated financial statements.

ARC Objectives: To relieve the suffering of unwanted, abandoned and neglected animals that are in need of care and protection, by the provision of a rescue and rehoming service and the temporary accommodation of such animals, and to advance public education in matters concerning animal welfare.

Results: The finances of the trust are detailed on pages 2 and 3.

Board of Trustees: As at 31st March 2020, the following were the Trustees of the Charity.

Chairperson: Donna Yerby

Secretary: Claire Briggs

Treasurer: Karen Hide

Trustee: Rose Brewster

Trustee: Kate Rodde

Charity Status: The trust is a registered charity under the Charities Act and its registration number is 1095004.

Independent Examiner's Report: Ms Siân Grinter, FCCA, has carried out an independent examination of the Accounts, in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission, and has provided the attached Report. By order of the Board of Trustees we approve these accounts and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

Trustee.....(Chairperson)

Date.....

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RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Year Ended 31/3/2020	Year Ended 31/3/2019
	£	£
<u>Receipts</u>		
Donations	17,245	12,959
Fundraising Activities	9,556	7,203
Animal Adoptions	31,774	27,485
Animal Acceptances	2,401	1,360
Membership Subscriptions	378	527
Pet Plan Commission	1,908	1,667
Lottery	-	63
Other Income	3,148	1,136
Bank Interest	371	374
Total Receipts	66,781	52,774
<u>Payments</u>		
Veterinary Fees	51,414	38,961
Food and Supplies	7,207	5,845
Equipment	955	2,575
Printing, Postage & Stationery	1,647	1,328
Advertising & Venue Hire	35	105
Telephones & Website	619	1,079
Subscription to Just Giving	216	216
Pet Feeding	133	194
Behaviourist	-	100
Insurance	1,262	-
Other Expenses	1,604	431
Total Payments	65,092	50,834
Net Income for the Year	1,689	1,940

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STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	31/3/2020	31/3/2019
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>Assets</u>		
Cash at Bank & in hand *	97,013	95,324
<u>Equipment</u> **	2,000	4,000
<u>Liabilities</u> ***	-	-

** As at 31/3/20 this cash position includes £95,324 brought forward from 31/3/19.*

*** In addition to equipment purchased by ARC, some items have been donated by members of the public*

**** ARC has no current liabilities*

Animal Rescue and Care

ARC

APPENDIX 1 – LIST OF ASSETS

Cat house x 1

Double storey rabbit hutches x 14

Triple storey rabbit hutch x 1

Cat traps x 4

Cat crusher x 1

Cage for small furries x 1

Heat pads x 6

Tablecloths x 3

Tables x 4

Gazebo x 1

Tabards x 4

Carriers x 3

All other equipment is either the personal property of the trustees and volunteers, or has been donated by members of the public. This includes:

litter trays, scratch posts, bowls, pet beds, automatic feeders, carriers, hutches, cages and runs.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Animal Rescue and Care (ARC)

On accounts for the year
ended

31st March 2020

Charity no
(if any)

1095004

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2020.

Responsibilities and basis
of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's
statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date: 01/12/2020

Name:

Siân Grinter

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Chartered Accountant
FCCA - 1060310

Address:

8 Pennington Lodge, Cranes Drive, Surbiton, KT5 8AU

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.