R.S.P.C.A. NORTH ESSEX BRANCH

Charity Number 206799

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2018

COMMUNITY 360

Community Accounts Service

R.S.P.C.A. NORTH ESSEX BRANCH

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

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R.S.P.C.A. NORTH ESSEX BRANCH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

I report on the accounts of R.S.P.C.A. North Essex Branch for the year ended 31 December 2018 which are set out on pages 2 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (The Act) but that an independent examination is needed. The charities gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Association of Accounting Technicians.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 considerations of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any meterial 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 contennt of the 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 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.

Shelley-Marie Rudling FMAAT MIP for and on behalf of:
Community360

Winsley's House, High Street, Colchester, Essex Date 30th May 2019

R.S.P.C.A. NORTH ESSEX BRANCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2018 £	Restricted Funds 2018 £	Designaed Funds 2018 £	Total Funds 2018 £	Prior period Total Funds 2017 £
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Donations and legacies	2	63,127	-	-	63,127	50,462
Charitable activities						
Activities for generating funds	3	251,575	-	-	251,575	175,173
Resources from charitable activities	5	59,453	-	-	59,453	53,658
Investment income	4	7,996	-	-	7,996	4,866
Other income		117,470	-	-	117,470	3,010
Total incoming resources		499,621	-	-	499,621	287,169
Resources expended						
Cost of generating funds						
Raising funds	6	200,498	-	-	200,498	131,644
Charitable activities	7	162,092	-	-	162,092	134,451
Total resources expended		362,590	-	-	362,590	266,095
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Gains & losses on investment assets	10	(18,685)	-	-	(18,685)	5,434
Net income/(expenditure)		118,346	-	-	118,346	26,508
Transfer between between funds		5,000	(5,000)	-	-	-
Total funds brought forward	14	489,385	5,000	150,000	644,385	617,877
Total funds carried forward	14	612,731	-	150,000	762,731	644,385

The notes on pages 5 - 12 form part of these financial statements

R.S.P.C.A. NORTH ESSEX BRANCH

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018

	Notes	Total funds 2018 £	Total funds 2017 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	**9**	266,712	261,265
Investments	**10**	136,957	83,203
		403,669	344,468
Current assets			
Stocks	**11**	11,678	6,943
Debtors	**12**	32,981	26,149
Cash at bank and in hand		319,010	280,643
		363,669	313,735
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**13**	4,607	13,818
Net current assets/(liabilities)		359,062	299,917
Total assets less current liabilities		**762,731**	**644,385**
Funds of the charity			
Unrestricted funds	**14**	612,731	489,385
Restricted funds	**14**	-	5,000
Designated funds	**14**	150,000	150,000
Total Funds		**762,731**	**644,385**

These financial statements were approved by Members of the committee on and are signed on their behalf by:

E Clouter
Treasurer

J. Hall
Chair

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement on Recommended Practise applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015). (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Cash Flow

The financial statements do not include a cash flow statement because the charity, as a small reporting entity, is exempt from the requirement to prepare such a statement under Financial Reporting Standard 1 "Cash flow statements".

1.2 Incoming resources

Income from donations and grants, including capital grants, is included in incoming resources when these are receivable.

When donors specify that donations and grants, including capital grants are for a particular restricted purpose, this income is included in incoming resources of restricted funds when receivable.

1.3 Resources expended and recognition of liabilities

All expenditure is incurred on an accruals basis. The majority of costs are directly attributable to the specific Charitable activities.

Liabilities are recognised on the accruals basis in accordance with normal accounting principles.

1.4 Depreciation

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of fixed assets over their expected useful lives, at the following annual rates:

Freehold improvements	Straight line over 5 years
Leasehold improvements:	Straight line between 3 and 15 years depending on lease requirements, length of lease and useful economic life of improvements.
Motor vehicles	Straight line over 4 years
Equipment	Straight line over 5 years

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

2. Voluntary income

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Donations				
Subscriptions and donations	59,274	-	59,274	28,473
Homing & fostering	-	-	-	-
Legacies	-		-	21,989
Grants				
Grants received from HQ	3,853	-	3,853	-
	63,127	**-**	**63,127**	**50,462**

3. Activities for generating funds

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Shop income	251,575	-	251,575	175,173
	251,575	**-**	**251,575**	**175,173**

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Income from UK listed investments	7,996	-	7,996	4,866
	7,996	**-**	**7,996**	**4,866**

5. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Fees and drug receipts at clinic	59,453	-	59,453	53,658
	59,453	**-**	**59,453**	**53,658**

6. Fundraising trading costs

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Shop costs	200,498	-	200,498	131,644
	200,498	**-**	**200,498**	**131,644**

7. Charitable activities

	Activities Undertaken Directly	Support Costs	Total 2018	Total 2017
	£	£	£	£
Branch expenditure	95,889	-	95,889	71,811
Harwich shop and clinic	45,488	20,715	66,203	62,640
	141,377	**20,715**	**162,092**	**134,451**

Staff cost analysis

	Total 2018	Total 2017
	£	£
Wages and direct expenses	154,154	105,022
Social security costs	5,576	3,031
Pension	1,281	318
	161,011	**108,371**

No employee earned more than £60,000 per annum.

Governance costs are included within branch expenditure support costs. The fee was £400 for 2018 (£400: 2017).

9. Tangible fixed assets

This note is on page 8.

10. Investments

	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Market value at 1 January 2017	83,203	77,769
Merger income	44,982	
Net gains on revaluation	(17,062)	5,434
Market value at 31 December 2017	**111,123**	**83,203**
Historical cost at 31 December 2012	24,602	24,602
Analysis of investments		
Listed investments		
Charifunds 7,803 Units	111,123	77,769

Investments	Total 2018 £
Market value at 1 January 2018	-
Additions	27,457
Net gains on revaluation	(1,623)
Market value at 31 December 2018	**25,834**
Analysis of investments	
Listed investments	
Schroders 6,437 units	25,834

11. Stock

	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Stock	**11,678**	**6,943**

12. Debtors

	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Accrued income	-	50
Other debtors	17,107	15,795
Prepayments	15,874	10,304
	32,981	**26,149**

13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Trade creditors	3,663	7,765
Taxation and social security	344	5,203
Accruals	600	850
	4,607	**13,818**

14. Analysis of net assets

	Tangible Fixed Asset £	Investments £	Net Current Assets £	Total £
Unrestricted funds	266,712	136,957	209,062	612,731
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-
Designated	-	-	150,000	150,000
Total Funds	**266,712**	**136,957**	**359,062**	**762,731**

15. Trustee Remuneration

No remuneration was paid to any Trustee or to any person or persons known to be connected with any of them.

16. Designated funds

The trustees have agreed to designate funds for running costs, salaries, potential redundancies. The trustees have calculated this at £150,000.

17. Related Parties

There were related parties and issue was reports to the chairty commission.

18. Going Concern

The charity is operating on a going concern basis

19. Key Management Personnel

During the year total remuneration of £29,307 (2017: £19,105) was paid to key management personnel. The remuneration of key management personnel is decided upon and authorised by the trustees.

20. Merger

The charity completed a merger on the 1st January 2018 incorporating RSPCA Essex North West Branch (Charity Number 207972) into RSPCA Essex North East. All assets where transferred to RSPCA Essex North East.

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Properties	Freehold properties improvements	Equipment	L/hold improve	Totals
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
As at 01/01/18	237,518	9,160	30,581	28,261	305,519
Additions	-	-	10,246	-	10,246
As at 31/12/18	237,518	9,160	40,827	28,261	315,766
Depreciation					
As at 01/01/18	-	8,184	21,133	14,936	44,253
Charge for the year	-	36	2,662	2,103	4,801
As at 31/12/18	-	8,220	23,795	17,039	49,054
As at 31/12/18	**237,518**	**940**	**17,033**	**11,222**	**266,712**
As at 31/12/17	**237,518**	**976**	**9,448**	**13,325**	**261,266**

The following pages do not form part of the statutory financial statements

10. Previous years comparative fund balances

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Designated Funds	Total Funds
		2017 £	2017 £	2017 £	2017 £
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Donations and legacies	2	50,462	-	-	50,462
Charitable activities					
Activities for generating funds	3	175,173			175,173
Resources from charitable activities	5	53,658			53,658
Investment income	4	4,866	-	-	4,866
Other income		3,010	-	-	3,010
Total incoming resources		287,169	-	-	287,169
Resources expended					
Cost of generating funds					
Raising funds	6	131,644	-	-	131,644
Charitable activities	7	134,451	-	-	134,451
Other		-	-	-	-
Total resources expended		266,095	-	-	266,095
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Gains & losses on investment assets	10	5,434	-	-	5,434
Gain on sale of asset		-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)		26,508	-	-	26,508
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward	14	462,877	5,000	150,000	617,877
Total funds carried forward	14	489,385	5,000	150,000	644,385

R.S.P.C.A. NORTH ESSEX BRANCH

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

	2018 £	2017 £
Income		
Neutering Refund	2,285	1,424
Subscriptions and donations	61,652	28,473
Interest and investment income	7,996	4,866
Bequests and legacies	-	21,989
Pet Insurance Commission	25	-
Miscellaneous income	117,470	3,010
Prettygate shop	90,777	67,772
Harwich Road shop and clinic	58,618	52,234
Braintree Shop	52,533	-
	108,265	107,401
	499,621	287,169
Expenditure		
Animal boarding	32,753	27,744
Veterinary costs	11,910	9,772
Salaries and direct expenses	34,254	21,090
Maintenance, rates,insurance, refuse and cleaning	7,210	5,343
Professional & Accountancy	2,245	1,492
Telephone, postage and stationery	3,037	1,886
Motor expenses	440	610
Miscellaneous expenses	2,131	1,154
Depreciation	1,909	2,720
Harwich Road shop and clinic	66,203	62,640
Prettygate shop	73,804	60,156
Braintree shop	47,161	-
Frinton shop	79,532	71,487
Total expenditure	362,590	266,095
Surplus for the year	137,031	21,074

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PRETTYGATE SHOP ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

	2018 £	2017 £
Income		
Shop sales	90,777	67,772
	90,777	67,772
Expenditure		
Purchase of new goods	1,044	275
Wages and direct expenses	40,786	29,502
Rent, water rates and insurance	23,995	23,236
Electricity	1,618	967
Refuse and cleaning	3,295	2,419
Telephone	381	362
Maintenance	467	334
Repairs and renewals	1,447	2,218
Stationery and computer	12	12
Miscellaneous expenses	95	167
Depreciation	664	664
Total expenditure	73,804	60,156
Surplus for the year	16,973	7,616

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HARWICH ROAD CLINIC ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

	2018 £	2017 £
Income		
Sales at shop	-	-
Fees and drug receipts at clinic	57,168	52,234
Grant from HQ	1,450	-
	58,618	52,234
Expenditure		
Clinic costs		
Drugs (adjusted for stock)	13,446	16,247
Vets and vet time	21,758	18,398
Clinic Costs	8,564	4,549
Miscellaneous expenses	-	-
Cremation costs	1,720	1,600
	45,488	40,794
Overheads		
Purchase of new goods	-	1,639
Wages and direct expenses	16,485	17,654
Maintenance	1,045	382
Telephone, postage and stationery	577	539
Refuse & Cleaning	41	41
Depreciation	2,000	1,000
Miscellaneous expenses	567	591
	20,715	21,846
Total expenditure	66,203	62,640
Deficit for the year	(7,585)	(10,406)

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BRAINTREE SHOP ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

	2018 £	2017 £
Income		
Sales at shop	52,533	-
	52,533	-
Expenditure		
Purchase of new goods	241	-
Wages and direct expenses	27,661	-
Rent, water rates and insurance	13,311	-
Electricity	2,076	-
Refuse and Cleaning	1,110	-
Telephone	455	-
Repairs and renewals	342	-
Stationery and computer	250	-
Miscellaneous expenses	1,477	-
Depreciation	238	-
Total expenditure	47,161	-
Deficit for the year	5,372	-

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FRINTON SHOP ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

	2018 £	2017 £
Income		
Shop sales	108,265	107,401
	108,265	107,401
Expenditure		
Purchase of new goods	14,603	10,396
Wages and direct expenses	43,665	40,635
Rent, water rates and insurance	13,202	13,255
Electricity	1,855	1,487
Refuse and Cleaning	2,089	1,915
Maintenance, repairs and renewals	694	643
Postage, telephone, stationery and computer	836	829
Miscellaneous expenses	1,133	970
Depreciation of leasehold improvements	1,455	1,357
Total expenditure	79,532	71,487
Surplus for the year	28,733	35,914

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

NORTH ESSEX BRANCH

Branch Address:
116 Harwich Road, Colchester, CO4 3BZ

Charity Number – 206799

COMMITTEE REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2018

The Committee comprised:

Joanna Hall (Hon Chair from April 2018 & Hon Sec to April 2018)
Lesley Gadsby (Hon Chair & Hon Treasurer to April 2018)
Elaine Clouter (Hon Treasurer from April 2018)

Fiona Lawes	Dorothy Lee
Kris Lown	Sue Rigby (resigned Oct 2018)
Julia Van Der Mark	Sue Azar (resigned April 2018)

The Committee consists of Trustees elected by members of the branch and any individuals co-opted by the Trustees during the year.

The North Essex Branch of the RSPCA is an unincorporated charitable association and is a separately registered Branch of the Society. The objectives of the Branch are to promote the work and objectives of the Society: to promote kindness and to prevent or suppress cruelty to animals by all lawful means.

We have complied with the duty under the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission.

We support our local inspectorate by taking in mistreated or abandoned animals. 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 by bringing prosecutions.

We provide subsidised veterinary treatment for animals that are sick or injured and belong to local people on certain State benefits. We do this through the provision of a part-time welfare clinic. We also provide micro-chipping of companion animals, and an annual neutering service when funds allow. This helps to promote responsible pet ownership.

Animals in our care receive veterinary treatment, vaccination, neutering and micro-chipping and are assessed for rehoming. This work helps to control the incidence and spread of disease and suffering.

We rehome animals in need to people willing and able to have a companion animal. Our policy of accepting a reasonable donation for animals aims to highlight the ongoing personal and financial commitment of pet ownership. It would not be in the best interests of animals to rehome to those who could not afford to keep them.

We respond to enquiries (both directly and via the Society's national call centre) from the public about animals locally. We offer free animal care advice by telephone and at the clinic. The public benefits from knowing that we can intervene to assist animals in need.

Within the terms of our governing document, we support the National Society.

We provide volunteering opportunities for those who support our work, including trusteeship, fostering, home-checking and fundraising. This benefits local people and companies by providing the possibility of doing work which is compassionate and rewarding.

Joanna Hall

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

I took over the Chairmanship of the Branch in April 2018. I should like to start by acknowledging the contribution made to the Branch by my predecessor, Lesley Gadsby. She had become a Trustee in 2005 and served on the Committee, mainly as Treasurer but also as Chair, until April of this year. We thank her for her loyal and lengthy service, which was invaluable.

We were also sorry to lose Sue Rigby and Sue Azar from the Committee, and thank them for their loyalty and commitment to the Branch.

In October we said goodbye to our very hard-working and popular Branch Manager, Annie Clarke. She left us after eleven years' service to retire with her husband to the South of France. We wish her all the best for the future. She was replaced by Anna Drake, previously Nursing Manager at the Catley Cross practice. She has taken on the very difficult task of replacing Annie with dedication and enthusiasm.

The Branch has benefited from the merger between Essex North East and Essex North West in that we now have wider expertise on which to draw and to plan for the future. Our shops in Frinton and Prettygate (the opening hours of which have recently been extended) continue to do well, and we are considering the future of our Braintree shop, the lease of which expires in June 2019.

Joanna Hall

Branch Manager's Report

This has been a challenging year for animal welfare.The clinic saw a total of 1092 animals: 789 dogs, 276 cats, 8 rabbits, 8 birds, 6 budgies, 3 guinea pigs & 1 hamster. Of these animals we neutered 90 and microchipped 120.

We said goodbye to Annie Clarke, who had been our Branch manager for 11 years. Feeling that I had a big pair of shoes to fill, I started in August last year. I was glad of the three months of working alongside Annie to gain and learn all that I could. This gave me the skills I needed to continue the role solo from November.

My thanks go to our excellent band of homecheckers: Kerry Childs, Dorothy Lee, Gordon & Iris Thorpe, Louise Hall and Ed Van Der Mark, who carried out over 100 homechecks this year for us and many of our neighbouring branches.

In September at my first Regional Board Meeting we applied for two grants. One was to upgrade our computer systems within the three shops and one was for a dental machine for the clinic. We were successful with both. The shops had the computers installed, which has allowed for better communication, has streamlined documenting the shops' intake and has allowed the staff to look up items on the internet. The advent of the dental machine at the clinic in November has been incredible. We started using it immediately and it has been invaluble for our patients with desperate dental problems.

Once again we couldn't do this work without the amazing team of staff and volunteers that we have working for our branch, both at the shops and at the clinic. Thank you all for your time and continued support.

Anna Drake

Regional Report for Essex 2018

Introduction

In July 2018 the Essex group were lucky enough to have four new Inspectors join the team: Inspectors, Dayes, Giddens, Bennett and Beynon. I attended their passing out ceremony at HQ in November where it was a privilege and proud moment to see them graduate from trainees to fully fledged RSPCA Inspectors.

Inspector Sian Ridley left us for maternity leave in December 2018 and has now given birth to a little boy named Kasper. Lucy Fackeral will return to work in March 2019 after finishing her maternity leave.

Inspector Adam Jones and Inspector Lucy Brennan have been seconded to the wilberforce project. This is the new tasking system for the RSPCA. Lucy and Adam are helping with the rollout and training aspect of this project.

Branch areas and statistics 1st Jan 2018-1st Jan 2019

Branch name	Collections	Complaint Total	Convictions	Cautions
Essex north	1,274	1,137	7	13
Mid essex	667	640	8	0
Essex southend	738	636	3	2
Stort valley	449	506	0	2
Havering	1,069	1,267	4	

A thank you to all branches for their support over the last year from all of the Essex Team. Inspectors and ACOs have been taking turns to attend branch meetings where we can. The last year has been extremely busy for us all but hopefully the branches have felt supported when needed by the Inspectorate. The networking team have been a great support to the group and enabled us to still bring in the animals in need where a branch has been unable to help. With the support of Danaher animal home we have been able to get the animals in and then network them out where needed.

Danaher have had a very good success rate of rehoming the animals before they are even networked out to other centres. This means that they can begin their rehoming journey whilst they are waiting to be moved which is better for the animals' welfare and prevents them sitting in private boarding establishments that do not offer a re-homing service.

The Essex group relocated in November 2018 to the Danaher animal centre where there now is a new group office. The group office also offers two kennels which the Essex team has access to 365 days a year 24 hours a day. These kennels can host any animals for up to 16 hours. Already since November we have used this facility out-of-hours on eight occasions. These animals would normally have had to go into out-of-hours boarding or vets which would have cost a lot of money. We are grateful for this facility and it ensures that any officer at any time has somewhere safe to take any animal.

Successful prosecutions

The North Essex area have had a successful year with both prosecutions / AWC (adult written cautions)
Some examples of these are:-

Monshur Alom (DOB 28/11/1981) of Jodrell, London, appeared before Chelmsford Magistrates' Court on Thursday 31 January, where he pleaded guilty to three counts of failing to meet the welfare needs of two Asian leopard cats and eight white ducks.

The offences were during the period of June 13 to June 21 at an address in Golf Green Road, Jaywick, Clacton-on-Sea, where he failed to meet the needs of the animals by failing to provide reasonable daily care and supervision in respect of their protection from harm; failed to meet their needs of a suitable diet; and failed to meet their need for a suitable living environment.

The defendant was given a 12-month community order of 180 hours unpaid work and was disqualified from keeping all animals for a period of 10 years, which he cannot appeal to be lifted for five years. He was also ordered to pay £600 costs and an £85 victim surcharge.

The court also imposed a deprivation order for the two cats. The ducks had already been signed over into RSPCA care prior to the court hearing.

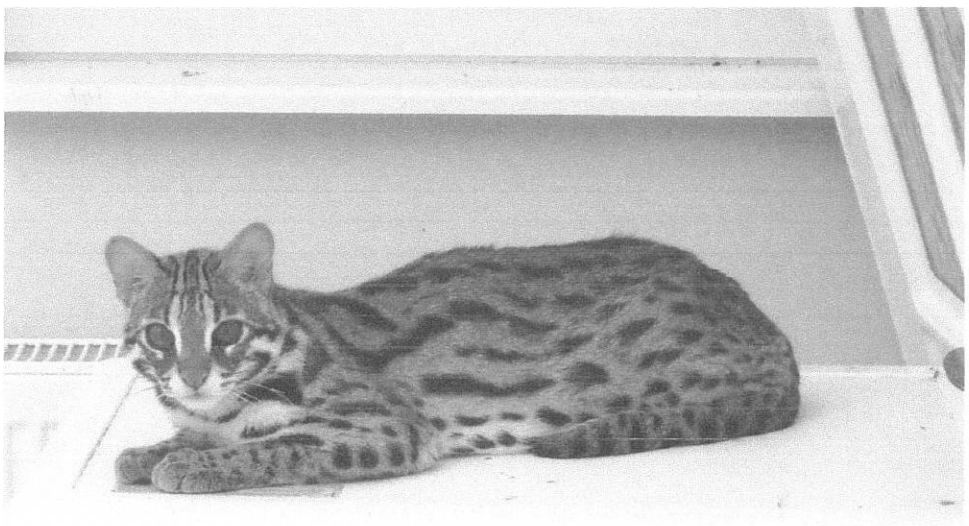
The Asian leopard cats have been identified as listed under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 and were seized by the local authority. The cats have now been found a suitable home at a specialist centre.

RSPCA Inspector Emma Beynon said: "The two Asian leopard cats were being kept in a conservatory at the back of a property which was being renovated, and the ducks were at the rear of the garden, where the only water they had was dirty and the area was littered with faeces.

"All the animals were left unattended for a period of eight days and their needs had not been met, including failing to provide a suitable diet, suitable environment and reasonable supervision."

The two cats have been identified as listed under Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 and the defendant did not have a licence.

She added: "The location where the cats were being kept was completely inappropriate and they had little environmental stimulation. This case highlights the RSPCA's concerns about the trade and keeping of exotic pets.



Both cats who have since given birth to 5 kittens each are now in a zoo in Belgium being cared for

Rescues and Collections.

Rescues and collections are always coming in thick and fast and here are just some examples of what the Essex team have been up to over the past year.

A deer in netting is something we see far too often here in Essex. Unfortunately the deer could not be saved as the damage done by the netting to the deer's antlers was too severe to release it to the wild again.

This pheasant clearly wanted to come in from the cold and after smashing its way through the window. It had to be rescued by Inspector Jess Dayes who was able to release it as, luckily enough, it had no injuries, maybe just a sore head in the morning.

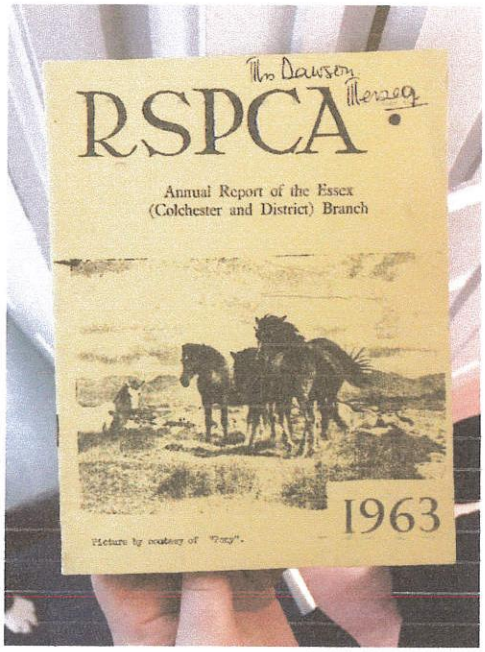
As the branches are aware one of the big issues we face here in Essex is the multiple cat households. We are extremely lucky to work closely with Cats Protection and the branches are often a great support when dealing with these issues. Last year alone we dealt with so many of these, each house often containing over 30 cats.

We also faced a horse crisis last year and the RSPCA worked hard to publish this fact to highlight the ever-increasing numbers of equines we are seeing coming into our care as a result of being mistreated, abused and neglected.

The RSPCA is in a midst of a horse crisis, convictions have risen by 25% in two years and the charity has 45% more horses in its care than two years ago.

Here in Essex we are working hard with other agencies and charities to try and crack down on the known problem areas. There is now a NEWC (National Equine Welfare Council) meeting that is hosted by the BHS and Redwings in the Essex area. This meeting is of great value as we are all working alongside each other to tackle the same issues.

To finish: I was shown this RSPCA report from 1963 whilst visiting the Colchester clinic the other day. It makes a very interesting read and it was lovely to see some RSPCA history. A very different report is given from the one I am giving today.



INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1963.

During the year ninety six complaints of alleged cruelty were received and investigated, resulting in advice and cautions being given.

Three cases were reported to Headquarters resulting in four convictions and two monitions. Two monitions were also sent in a case reported in 1962.

Forty cautions were also given by me in lesser cases of cruelty.

I humanely destroyed eighty two dogs, two hundred and eighty four cats, seventeen swans, one seal and ten birds.

Three hundred and ninety new homes were found for animals, the animals concerned being, two hundred and twenty eight dogs, one hundred and thirty five cats, three geese, ten rabbits, two ducks, eleven guinea pigs and one tortoise.

I have regularly attended the Animal Welfare Centre at Clacton on Sea where one hundred and ten animals were humanely destroyed and two hundred and twenty two were given first aid etc.

One hundred and seven animals were treated and thirteen destroyed by Veterinary Surgeons under the free veterinary voucher scheme.

One hundred and sixty one cats, twenty one dogs and twenty seven birds were humanely destroyed by Branch Auxiliary Secretaries and Chemists.

There were three animal rescues during the year.

The Cattle Markets have been regularly attended and observation kept on the handling of all animals brought there.

Slaughter houses and Knackers yards have been visited as often as possible and observation kept on the killing of animals.

During the severe winter special watch was kept on animals in fields and on swans and ducks on frozen lakes and rivers.

Numerous reports were received stating that swans

were frozen into the ice and were unable to get out. All these reports were investigated.

All Circuses that visited the district during the year were visited, the animals examined and the performances attended.

I attended the Donkey Derby at the Castle Park in Colchester where a number of donkey races took place; all the donkeys were in good condition and were not overworked.

Frequent visits were made to Parkeston Quay regarding the import and export of horses, weekly reports have been submitted to Headquarters on the number of horses imported and exported.

During the summer months observation was kept on donkeys ponies and landau horses in the Clacton, Jaywick, Holland and St. Osyth areas.

All Pet Shops in the area have been regularly visited.

Numerous people have called on me for advice about their pets and I have done my best to advise them.

I have patrolled all areas of the Branch as often as possible on foot and by motor van.

I have visited Riding Schools as often as possible and am pleased to report that, in general, the schools are well run and the animals well cared for.

In conclusion I should like to thank all Branch Officials, Police of all ranks, Veterinary Surgeons, the Manager and Manageress of the Clinic, Manager of the Dogs Home and the Press for all the help and assistance they have given me.

E. A. PAUL.

Chief Inspector. 189.

* * *

Thank you all again for the continued support throughout 2018 CI

Sam Garvey and the Essex team

TREASURER'S REPORT

The beginning of 2018 saw a major change for us in the merger of our Essex North East branch with the North West Essex Area of the RSPCA, forming the 'new' aptly named North Essex Branch. Both the 'old' branches finished the previous year (2017) in an excellent financial position, carrying forward a very healthy bank balance into 2018 for North Essex.

With the ever increasing use of internet banking and card payments instead of cash, we've seen the closure of many local High Street bank branches. This has impacted on our shops forcing us to find alternative ways to bank our takings, eg. by using local Post Office deposit facilities. Also, as a charity, having always dealt mainly with cash, it is important that we keep up to date and move towards accepting card payments 'as the norm'.

The reduction in the public's use of cash for payment has also impacted on our collection boxes. Sadly, this is an area which will continue to decline, so finding alternative ways to raise funds is key.

In the latter part of 2018, with monies received via grants from RSPCA HQ and from our own resources, we made some much needed improvements to our shops and clinic. We updated computer/IT equipment at our shops to bring them into the 21st century and to help improve their efficiency and security. We also installed a much needed dental machine at the clinic which has already made a big impact on the service we provide there.

At the end of 2018, our book-keeper, Richard Scrivener, retired having provided many years of accounting support. A very big thank you goes out to Richard for his hard work and dedication to the branch. He will be very much missed and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

Finally, despite a challenging year with many big changes, the North Essex Branch finished 2018 in a very strong financial position.

Elaine Clouter

Re-homing

Danaher Animal Home is an independent charity which is affilliated to and works closely with the RSPCA.

The Home takes in unwanted animals (principally dogs, cats, and small domestic animals) from the dog warden and the RSPCA branches. In addition it takes in animals from the RSPCA inspectors – these animals are normally the subject of cruelty cases, and are often in poor condition. A temporary refuge is provided for the animals where they are assessed, treated by a vet, cared for and nursed and then, hopefully, rehomed. Danaher now absorbs all veterinary charges but retains the adoption fee.

In 2018 Danaher on behalf of the North Essex Branch admitted a total of 120 animals, made up of 46 dogs and 74 cats and successfully rehomed a total of 138 animals, made up of 53 dogs and 85 cats.

pp. Dorothy Lee

Dorothy Lee