



Welcome to
the Kent North West Branch
Equine Rehoming Unit

RSPCA



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the Kent North West Branch
Equine Rehoming Unit

KENT NORTH WEST BRANCH

Registered Charity 210633

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER 2018



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Equine Rehoming Unit



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ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

KENT NORTH WEST BRANCH

(Registered Charity 210633)

Branch Officers and Trustees during 2018

Branch President:	Mrs. E.M.Grover
Branch Vice President:	Mrs. H. Kingston
Branch Chairman:	Mr. E.J.Grover
Branch Vice Chairman:	Mrs. J.R.Allen
Branch Secretary:	Ms. C.A. Campbell
Branch Treasurer:	Mr K.P.Coleman, MA;FCMI.(to 25/7/18)
Branch Animal Welfare Administrator:	Mr. J.A.Bowley
Branch Membership Secretary	Mrs. J.R Allen
Branch Committee Members:	Mr.B.Charman (from(24/1/18)
	Miss L.Cheary (from 24/1/18)
	Mr K.P.Coleman, MA;FCMI. (from25/7/18)
	Mr Abderahmene El hadj(to 25/7/18)
	Miss N.Dunton (from 28/11/18)
	Mr. T.Maddison (from 25/7/18)
	Mr. A.J.McDermott
	Mrs. J. Tomlinson (to 10/2/18)
	Miss. K.Ward (from 24/1/18)

Bankers: Nat West Bank Plc
12, High Street,
DARTFORD DA1 1DD

Branch Clinic & Admin Centre: 37, Gordon Road,
DARTFORD DA1 2LG

Note: Correspondence to Branch Officers and Trustees can be addressed to the Branch Admin Centre

Branch Helpline 01322 286720

Branch Shops:	2/3 Market Place, DARTFORD Kent DA1 1EX	161, Windmill Street, GRAVESEND Kent DA12 1AH
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Shop Managers	Mr Brendan Woodbridge	Mrs Val Oakman
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Branch Website: www.rspca-kentnorthwest.org.uk

RSPCA, KENT NORTH WEST BRANCH
(Registered Charity 210633)

Annual Report of the Branch Committee, presented by Eric Grover, Branch Chairman, for the year ending 31st December 2018.

1. I have much pleasure in presenting the report of the Branch Committee on their work and activities during the past year for a year that proved to be a very active time for the Branch.
2. During the year, the Branch Trustees met on regular bi-monthly basis. In a year that proved to be very busy in the field of Animal Welfare the Branch is proud to present a report on an active year which proved to be most successful both physically and financially.

3. The Branch Committee were saddened in March to learn of the passing of Mrs Dilys Smith, having moved to a Nursing Home in Winchester where she had moved following an illness, to be near her son John. Dilys came home to Dartford for her funeral, the Town where she devoted so much of her life to charitable work including her work for the Kent North West Branch of the RSPCA, which included service as the Almoner to the Dartford Clinic and to the Dartford Shop where she served in the initial days of the Dartford Charity Shop as the Deputy Manager. Dilys will be greatly missed by all who have the privilege of being able last to call her a friend. During the year the Trustees learned of the passing of two other stalwart members of the Branch. Mrs Betty Cassidy passed away early in the year. She was a great helper back in the days that the only Branch shop was at Gordon Road, Dartford. In those days it opened only on Saturdays but provided vital funding for the Branch. Marina Nicholson passed away in April 2018. Marina was one of the first volunteers to work in our shop when it was newly opened in 2000. The condolences of the Trustees are extended to all who have lost loved ones during the year.

4. The Branch Committee continues to grow in strength and experience. The AGM was eventually held in July, as at the first time of calling it failed to achieve a quorum. The Branch were pleased that Miss Correen Campbell was elected to the Branch Committee and was subsequently elected by the Trustees to be the Branch Secretary. The Branch Trustees agree to man a recruitment drive to encourage members of the Society to become Trustees and at the same time to co-opt Trustees to fill the vacancies that had or were likely to occur during 2018. In January the Trustees co-opted Miss Laura Cheary and Mr Ben Charman, and both were confirmed at the election of Trustees at the AGM. Both Miss Cheary and Mr Charman had served the Branch as Volunteers at the Dartford Charity Shop for a couple of years. Also, at the AGM, Mr Tom Maddison was elected as a Trustee. Mr Maddison comes to serve the Committee with a great deal of experience of local charities and experience of Local Government at Local and County level.

At its meeting following the AGM the Branch Trustees did not renew the co-option of Mr Abderahmene El hadj.

5. In June 2018 the Charity Commission issued a Certificate of Incorporation to the Branch which signifies that the Branch is now an Incorporated Charity.
6. At a National level, In the Summer Mr Michael Ward, who had taken up a role as interim Chief Executive following the departure of Mr Jeremy Cooper, left the role and Mr Chris. Sherwood was appointed to the role of CEO with effect from 1st August 2018. One of Mr Sherwood's first visits to the Society's establishments was to the Leybourne Animal Centre where he was able to view the developing project of the Kent North West Branch, the Equine Rehoming Centre. In November members of the Branch were saddened to learn that Mrs Daphne Harris, who had been the South East Regional Representative for many years, had resigned from the National Council. The National Society Mission Statement contains a Vision of a world where all animals are respected and treated with compassion.

The Branch continues to take its part in the activities of the South East Regional area of the Southern Region and regularly attends the Region Board Meetings which is made up of all Branches within the South East of the Region.

7. The Branch continued to receive valuable support from our Branch Support Specialist, and we are grateful that Becky Blackmore is always ready to offer us assistance and guidance on a day to day basis whenever we need it. Indeed, it was with Becky's valuable assistance that the Branch was able to set up several initiatives including the Staffordshire Terrier Neutering Scheme at three Veterinary Clinics, (i.e. The Shrubbery, Meopham Veterinary Hospital and the Pilgrims Veterinary Surgery, Dartford). The subsidised neutering scheme for cats at the Shrubbery Veterinary Clinic continues to flourish as required but the weekly clinic for clients on benefits, at the Shrubbery Clinic, Perry Street Northfleet had to be suspended due to the lack of veterinary cover. Other than the Clinics, all these activities continued to operate on a highly successful basis.

Becky also carried out all the negotiations with Veterinary Surgeons to prepare for the Female Cat Neutering Project which the Branch operated in cooperation with the Cats Protection project, more of which will be reported later in this report. Sadly, the project is coming to the end of its useful service and now is not applied for by the public in the same numbers as was originally the case. We have thanked the Cats Protection for their assistance in operating the project but in the light of the low take up now being experienced, the Branch will fund the project for the next year with assistance from the matched funding provided by South East Region.

8. In July 2018 the Branch was immensely proud that the Branch President, Mrs Edna Grover and Branch Chairman, Mr Eric Grover, were awarded the prestigious National Society's, Queen Victoria Gold Award, one of the highest awards that the Society can award to volunteers.

This is the first time the award had been presented jointly to a couple for their work for the RSPCA and the Trustees congratulated the couple on their award.

The Award was made on behalf of the National Society by Deborah Meaden, of the Dragons Den fame, at the Royal Society, Carlton House Gardens.

9. During the year The Branch Trustees considered once again, the long held Branch objective of providing an Animal Centre within the Branch area and subsequently concluded that in the light of rising costs and the apparent failure of some Branch Centres, the Branch should abandon the objective on the grounds that it would be unsustainable. In its place the Branch Trustees considered the provision of an Equine Rehoming Centre on grounds at the Leybourne Animal Centre and concluded negotiations on this project. The Centre commenced construction in the Spring of 2018 and was originally planned to be a forty-week contract. As is often the case with such projects, issues of planning and the weather and other factors resulted in the work carrying over into 2019. However, the delay in construction has not deterred the staff at Leybourne from taking in and rehoming horses in need and at the end of the year 20 horses had been accepted by the Centre of which 14 had been successfully rehomed. A report of the project from Becca Williams is attached to this report. Becky Blackmore was instrumental in setting up the initial introductions and negotiations,
10. Our two shops continue to produce results that enable the Branch to undertake our key role in Animal Welfare within our large Branch area and it is of little doubt that we could not make that contribution without the revenue that the shops continue to produce on a regular basis. Unfortunately, during 2018 Income from both continued in a downward trend. Details of the Shops activities are reported in a Memorandum Trading account which is included in but not part of the Branch Annual Financial Report. It will be noted that one of the significant items in the report is that of rent at the shops. The Branch had the foresight to purchase the freehold of the property at Gravesend and therefore no rent is paid. At the Dartford shop the Branch has had contend with a higher rent, due to the fact that in 2010 the Branch took the opportunity to expand into a second unit. This move at the time bore fruit but in recent years has seen the surplus of the Dartford Shop decline. When examining the results for the Dartford Shop for 2018 it must be stated that during that year the Branch Trustees addressed the question of Air Conditioning at the shop, after years of trying other methods of heating and cooling without success. The costs involved in the installation had a detrimental effect on the already lowering surplus. In order to address the installation of the Air Conditioning the Trustees were required to undergo a planning process with the local authority and were greatly assisted by a company called Puffin Design without whose assistance the Trustees could not have completed the planning application. On the Branch Shop Staffing front, the Branch Trustees are pleased that Mrs Valerie Oakman is the full-time Manager of the Gravesend Shop, ably supported by Mrs Dawn Broad, the part time assistant manager and a team of hardworking volunteers.

At the Dartford Shop, Mr Brendan Woodbridge continued to be the full time Shop Manager in a permanent capacity from 1st January 2018.

Mr Woodbridge is ably supported by the Deputy Shop Managers, Mrs Joan Burgess and Mrs Hillarie Jones, who continued to work on an ad-hoc basis being available to be called upon as the service required them to attend for duty as occasional Deputy Managers. The Backbone of every Charity must be the voluntary support that it receives. The Branch is truly fortunate to have a wonderful team of volunteers who work hard to ensure that the Branch is successful in all that it achieves. The Trustees very much appreciate the work of all the Volunteers, without which the Branch could not succeed in the field of Animal Welfare in our large Branch area. During the year the Branch adopted a policy document on the employment of volunteers and each volunteer will receive a copy of the document during 2019

11. During the year the Branch continued to support the "Staffie" Neutering Scheme which was commenced in 2011 when the Branch Trustees agreed to allocate a sum of £2,500.00 to the operation of the scheme plus a further sum of £500.00 should it be needed, for advertising. The Branch received a further sum of £2,500.00 in 2013 of matched funding to support the initiative and part of this sum was continued to be rolled over into 2018. During the year the take up of the subsidy was very low and the Branch treated only 2 cases during the year under this Scheme. This does however bring the total of Staffies treated to date to a total to 244 against the original unofficial target that the Branch set of 100.

The service is also extended to Local Authority Stray Animals at a number set at 2 animals per month. The Branch is extremely grateful for the services of the Shrubbery Veterinary Practice, Medivet Dartford and the Meopham Animal Hospital for the co-operation and support that it has given for the operation of the initiative. At the end of the year the balance on the "Staffie" Neutering Matched Funding fund remained at £1575 as due to low take up no matched funding was applied, and this sum will be available as we move into 2019

12. The weekly Branch Clinic, which was established in 2012, sadly had to be suspended in 2018 due to the lack of Veterinary cover for the clinic. Some existing cases were treated at the Clinic, but no new cases could be accepted. The clinic operated at the Shrubbery Veterinary Centre and the Centre regret that they have not been able to reintroduce the weekly clinic. The Branch Trustees have been keen to reintroduce a Clinic service and are seeking a Veterinary Practice to undertake such a Clinic and will continue the search in 2019.
13. The Branch Trustees advocate a policy for the microchipping of all domestic animals and will seek to assist financing in the light of financial hardship. All animals that come into the Branch's care and are rehomed via one of the three catteries that the branch deals with, are micro-chipped before being rehomed. Members of the public will still be advised of the benefits of micro-chipping.

14. During 2015 the Branch pioneered a Female Cat Neutering Project, a new venture, operating with the cooperation of Cats Protection and a number of Veterinary Surgeons in the Branch area. Three County Councillors, Councillor Ann Allen, Councillor Tom Maddison and Councillor Penny Cole each gave a contribution from their Community Grants Budgets to the setting up cost of the project in the sum of £500.00 each. The project was unique in that it did not have any qualification criteria and was open to all owners of female cats. For the project, a mail shot of 30,000 leaflets was arranged with Royal Mail, to postcodes spread over a wide area of the Branch's area.

As we come to the end of 2018, so does the innovative project, although further cases will be accepted at the cost of the Branch and the Regional support which is still held in hand. The partnership with the Cats Protection ceased at 31 December 2018 with an agreement on both sides that we would be prepared to cooperate with similar projects in the future.

At the end of 2018, following another comprehensive advertising exercise in mid-year, 21 Cats had been treated. This brought the total to 220 female cats spayed under the project. The Trustees were pleased that they have been involved in what was a really successful exercise, meeting a much-needed service, unique in the field of animal welfare. Full details of the costings of the project can be found in the notes to the Branch Accounts.

15. The Branch has again, this year, enjoyed a very close working relationship with the Inspectorate in our area. Inspectors attend our meeting as and when their duties permit. Chief Inspector Steve Dockery & Acting Chief Inspector Nick Wheelhouse and their team of Inspectors are regularly in our Branch area, providing a most effective service in our large Branch area, for which we are truly grateful. Chief Inspector Mark Miles oversaw activities in the S.E London part of our Branch area but was to be seconded to contribute to the new case distribution control centre "Wilberforce" at the latter end of 2018. We have regular reports from Inspector Rosie Russon even when she is unable to come along because of being on call. Details of the Inspectorate activities are contained in the body of the Annual Report, with Annual Reports from both Chief Inspectors.
16. The Branch has continued to seek to improve its fund-raising activities, and although the Branch continued without the services of a Fund-Raising Co-ordinator, the Branch has been very active in this area.

The Branch is the property owner for properties at Miskin Road Dartford, Gordon Road Dartford and Parrock Street Gravesend (Flat & Shop). The leasing of these properties produces a substantial rental income for the Branch on a regular basis.

The Branch continues to strive for improved income generation activity and with the co-operation of Co-operative Food, placements of collecting boxes in several of the Co-operatives largest Stores within the Branch area has

proved to be most successful. The Branch is grateful to all of the Co-operative Managers for their cooperation in the placement of the boxes. The Branch Trustees are also extremely grateful that Joan Burgess continues to collect and bank the proceeds of the collecting boxes on behalf of the Branch.

17. The Branch Committee make every effort to ensure that any cat or dog that comes into our care is found a comfortable temporary home, receives veterinary care and is now micro-chipped before it is considered for rehoming. The Branch has continued with the arrangements for the placement of cats at the Ashford Cattery, Bluebell Ridge, Hastings and the Canterbury & Dover Branch Cattery. At all of these catteries the Branch receives part of any rehoming fee for any cat that has been placed in the cattery for more than one month. The Year proved to be another busy year for the number of cats that came into our care. Arrangements were also made with the Lodge Cattery & Kennels to accept cats and dogs that came into our care and could not be cared for at one of the Catteries.

18. The Branch web site continued during the Year and access can be made at:

www.rspca-kentnorthwest.org.uk

Arrangements have been made for all contacts to be forwarded to Branch Officer to be dealt with. It is estimated that during the year the website dealt with some 450 submissions and responses.

19. John Bowley, the Branch Animal Welfare Administrator, continued to forge strong relationships with the veterinary clinics and other establishments not only in our Branch area, but because of the inflow of Cats during the year, over a wider field. The Number of cats coming into the Branch's care was one that was not unique to the Kent North West Branch, but thanks to John's relationships we were able to deal with all matters promptly and efficiently. John ensured that all animals signed over to the Branch's care always receive the best veterinary care possible, at the caring Veterinary Surgeries within the Branch area and then are placed to ensure that there will be suitable homes for their future care.
20. Several special events were arranged and supported by the Branch during the year and the income from these ventures is recorded in the Branch Annual Accounts. Special events help us to raise valuable funds and at the same time increase public awareness of the Branch's activities in Kent North West so our gratitude goes to everyone who made them all so special. As you read this report and feel the urge to get up and do something for animal welfare then why not submit your ideas via our website. Who knows it might be a real winner of a fund-raising idea.
21. To conclude this report, I would like to place on record the thanks of the Trustees to everyone who has contributed to the success of the Branch during the year. This relies on the Branch Trustees working as a team with each taking responsibility for their own special part in the Branch success.

Also, to a band of volunteers, each making a special contribution which enables us to achieve so much for animal welfare in our large Branch area. To each and every one of them I offer my own personal thanks for making my role as Chairman so much easier and rewarding.

On behalf of the Branch Committee I would like to offer sincere thanks to all those people and organisations who have so kindly given their time in helping us with our work throughout the year. Without this assistance, the Branch would undoubtedly have struggled in meeting its commitment to improving animal welfare. Our thanks are offered also to Chief Inspectors Steve Dockery, Mark Miles and Nick Wheelhouse together with their Teams of Inspectors in our group, and a special thank you to Becky Blackmore, our Branch Support Specialist for passing on to us her knowledge and experience in our work for Animal Welfare. I would also like to thank the Police, Local Authorities and Fire Brigades, together with all the other services who, when called upon, have helped as the need arose.

Eric Grover
Branch Chairman,
for the Branch Trustees

RSPCA KENT NORTH WEST BRANCH

SUMMARY OF ANIMAL WELFARE ACHIEVMENTS 2016-2018

Animals In Branch Care at beginning of year	2018	2017	2016
Dogs	0	1	0
Cats	1	5	2
Rabbits	0	0	0
Others	0	0	2
TOTAL	1	6	4

Animals coming Into Branch Care during year

Dogs	23	10	27
Cats	150	126	177
Rabbits	2	14	9
Others	9	19	27
TOTAL	184	169	240

Animals leaving Branch Care during year

	Rehomed	Transferred	Other			
Dogs	1	14	3	18	11	23
Cats	15	92	8	115	131	145
Rabbits	0	2	0	2	14	9
Others	2	7	0	9	19	29
TOTAL				144	175	206

Animals PTS on Vets Advice during year

Dogs	3	1	3
Cats	31	25	29
Rabbits	0	2	
Others			
TOTAL	34	26	32

Branch Service Activity in Year

	<u>Microchipped</u>	<u>Neutered</u>	<u>Clinic attendances</u>			
Dogs	1	9	1	11	73	157
Cats	60	89	1	150	180	341
Rabbits	0	2	0	2	2	0
Others	0	0	0	0	3	3
TOTALS	61	100	2	163	258	501

Welfare Vouchers issued In year

Dogs	12	4	3
Cats	13	1	5
Rabbits	12	0	0

R.S.P.C.A., KENT, NORTH-WEST BRANCH
(Registered Charity No:210633)

Annual Financial Report of the Branch Trustees for the year ended 31st December 2018.

1. The Branch Trustees have much pleasure in presenting to the Branch Membership, the Annual Financial Report together with the Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet of the Branch, accompanied by the report of the Independent Examiner of the Accounts as required by the Charity Commissioners, on what was undoubtedly, once again, another successful year for the Branch both actively and financially.
2. The Trustees are conscious of The Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 and the regulation requirements of the Fund Raising Regulator. The Branch Shops accept donations of goods and the Branch via donations made through its collecting boxes. Other than a request for donations on its Website, the Branch does not solicit individual donations from members of the public or members of the branch via written correspondence or via Professional Fund Raising Agents.
3. It is probably unusual for an organisation to report a successful year when also reporting a large deficit, but this we are able to do so because the deficit was planned due to the Branch's contribution to the Equine Rehoming Centre that the Branch has funded during the year at the Leybourne Animal Centre. We are able to report with confidence that the Branch continues to have a very strong balance sheet and that the Trustees activities throughout the year continue to strengthen the Balance Sheet to the degree that at the end of the year the Branch Assets increased from the sum of £1,003,189.59p in 2017, to £1,011,123.78p in 2018. The Branch assets continue to exceed the magic £1,000,000 mark, so that members can be confident that the Branch remains in a very strong financial position.
4. 2018 once again proved to be a most challenging year with the number of animals coming into our care increasing slightly, by about 9%. We continued with the unique initiative of the Female Cat Spaying Project in cooperation with Cats Protection. Overall our business income increased by £3,568.90p (1.73%) and our overall income increased by a total of £6008.50p (2.91%) the main variance due to an increase in, In Memorium donations. During 2018, our expenditure remained fairly consistent with that of the previous year falling by just £2270.94p (1.34%) resulting in an overall surplus of £45091.77p compared to a surplus of £36,812.33p in 2017. The Branch can still take pride in the fact that its business surplus amounted to £42317.17p. However taking in to account that the Branch, through the good offices of McConnells, the Branch Property Advisers, revalued the property at 158 Parrock Street Gravesend, and made a significant donation to the construction of the Kent North West Branch Equine Rehoming Centre at Leybourne Animal Centre, can take great pride in the fact that the overall position at the end of the Year was an expected planned deficit of £90,065.81p. The Branch takes great pride that at the same time as achieving this result, we maintained and, in some cases, continued to improve its services to animal welfare in our large Branch area.
5. During the year the Branch Trustees reviewed the objectives that the Branch set itself at the end of the year 2001. The Trustees concluded that in the current financial climate and with the reducing number of animals that are coming into our care, the objective of an animal centre within the Branch area would not be sustainable and concluded that there might be other objectives that they could meet in reality. With this in mind, and following the discussions with the

Regional Officers, the Trustees proceeded to the construction of the aforesaid Equine Rehoming Centre, which would stand in the name of the Branch in perpetuity. This was expected to be completed by the end of the year but because of slippage in the construction programme, the completion of the Centre will not now be completed until early 2019.

6. During 2019 we are convinced that we will seek to undertake new income generation objectives that will give the confidence that we can, and will, meet more challenging objectives as they arise. The Branch Trustees have in mind the possibility on undertaking more possible projects in the name of the Branch but not necessarily within the Branch area. We will seek to make suitable contributions to the field of animal welfare wherever we can make that contribution. The Branch accounts for 2018 reflect the Trustees decision to abandon the Branch Development Fund.
7. This confidence maintained by the Branch Trustees is confirmed by the results that the two Branch Shops have continued to produce, and we would at this early stage of this report, offer sincere thanks to the Shop Managers of our two Shops, Brendan Woodbridge at the Dartford Shop and Valerie Oakman at Gravesend, together with their Deputies and the band of hardworking and loyal volunteers, for all their efforts in the light of the continuing challenges facing Charity Shops. A big thank you seems very little for the tremendous work they have done in achieving such great results over a number of years.
8. The results shown in the Accounts are a true reflection of the tremendous efforts made by the many volunteers who work for the Branch in all aspects of our work. Our core business is Animal Welfare and the Branch remains committed to this ideal. The Branch Trustees have reiterated the policy that any animal that can have a quality of life and be rehomed, will be accepted, and treated by the Branch.
9. The Branch has in the past derived the major part of its income from four major sources, the Branch Shops, Donations and Collecting Boxes and in more recent years rental income from the Branch properties. In recent years we have been fortunate to receive an allocation from the Door to Door Campaign run by the national RSPCA which had an interesting start but has produced a good source of income. We are truly thankful to all those who sign up to the Campaign. Interest from Bank Accounts formerly a healthy source, remains most disappointing and it is for this reason the Branch Trustees agreed to make investments in property which produce much better returns on our investments and permit us to provide additional services as they are required.
10. Over recent years the source of income has changed and from the Accounts it will be noted that our main source of income is now our Branch Shops, producing, in 2018, some 63.59% (compared to 65.36% in 2017) of the Branch income and if we take into account Sale of Rags, this figure increases to 65.41% (compare to 67.11%.in 2017). Income from Rent now produces some 17.6% compared to 16.7% in 2017 whilst the income from the Door to Door Campaign produced, in 2018, some 12.9% of our income, compared to 12.0% in 2017
11. Items of expenditure items vary, and these are highlighted later in the report. As the Trustees reported last year the level of income that the Branch needs to raise normally increases annually. For 2018 we needed a sum approaching £170,000.00p to keep our day to day activities at the level we have achieved in recent years.

The figures for 2017/2018 remained fairly constant but the Trustees realise that they must remain vigilant in order to be alert to the everchanging requirements that they may encounter within the ever challenging world of animal welfare. As stated earlier, during 2018 the Branch Trustees continued, jointly with Cats Protection, on a major project of spaying female cats in the Branch area and the project ended at the end of the joint agreement with both bodies. The Branch has agreed that it will continue the service as it is required and fund the service from its own resources together with the Regional matched funding that was unspent at the end of the year.

12. The following paragraphs highlight the variations that have occurred over the accounts presented to you last year.

INCOME:

13. The year 2018 was indeed another significant year for the two Branch Shops in what proved to be another tough trading year. The Income derived from the sale of donated items from the two shops still proves to be quite impressive. The total income from the shops decreased in the year by £1398.10p (1.04%) £5,261.30p (3.9%) achieving a total of £133,500.61p compared to a total of £134,898.71p in 2017. Income at the Dartford Shop, on the sale of donated items decreased by £1072.78p (-1.7%) whilst at Gravesend the sale of donated items decreased by £325.32p (-0.5%) but these figures do not detract from the truly remarkable results achieved by both shops in what is becoming a truly competitive world, not only from other charity shops but from shops selling goods at low and competitive prices. These results are truly outstanding in a difficult trading year for all charities and the increased challenge made to high street trading.

This performance was achieved due solely to the Shop Managers, their Deputies and their loyal and hard-working volunteer support as we have indicated earlier praise cannot be too high. The Branch is truly grateful for the quality and volume of the donations made to the shops. The level of profit on sales will be noted in the Memorandum Trading Account in respect of the two shops and attached to the Accounts.

The income derived from the sale of rags and recycling increased in the year by £228.48p (6.37%), this increase is attributed to both shops on an equal basis. It is understood that there continues to be a global downturn on the price of textiles and the Shop Managers, and the Trustees remain vigilant on seeking the best prices for its Rags and other recyclable items.

14. Subscription income increased by £23.00p, (3.82%) suggesting a slight increase in the membership of the Branch. During the year the membership of the Branch remained at about the 165 level. It has always been difficult to reconcile the income from subscription with actual number of members. This is due to the varying amount due to the Branch from varying classification of Membership Fees.
15. The income from Collection Boxes remained reduced during the year by £396.44 (14.4%), but still produced an income of £2,355.00p. The drop in income is due to the fact that the Branch was required to remove a box from one of its sites. The Branch continues to seek new placement of collecting boxes and it was unfortunate that a couple of the sites at which we had boxes placed requested that the boxes be removed. The Branch as reported previously continues to receive the cooperation of a number of Co-op Food

outlets in placing a number of Collecting Boxes in the larger stores and the result has been truly phenomenal. It would be hoped that should the Branch receive the voluntary services of a voluntary Fund Raiser their first priority would be the seeking of additional sites for the placement of our collecting boxes. The Branch Trustees continue to be most grateful to the help given by Mrs. Joan Burgess who regularly collects from the boxes throughout the Branch area and banks the collections on behalf of the Branch.

16. The heading in the income section of the accounts General Donations has again been expanded this year to include the proportion of Grants that the Branch receives to satisfy the Cash Flow requirements introduced in 2015. Actual donations received in the year was £2,344.52p compared with £1,463.31p in 2017, an increase of £881.20p (60.2%). The remaining variation in the heading of Donation/Grant is the variation in the proportion of the grants that were received and used in the year. Donations are a source of income that cannot be predicted. The Branch is grateful for all donations received but is conscious that we now receive donations in many guises, particularly through our shops.
17. There is always a tinge of sadness in the receipt of Legacies and In Memoriam donations as it means that a loved one has passed on and that the deceased or the grieving family wish to mark the passing with either a legacy or donation. In 2018 the Branch received £2,744.60p from Legacies and In Memoriam donations and the Branch has a duty to ensure that such donations are spent in the best manner for the benefit of Animal Welfare. The Branch is truly grateful to be remembered in this manner.
18. Income from Special Events undertaken for, and on behalf of, the Branch remained fairly constant with income of £971.91, compared to £991.66 in 2017. The total raised by special events is recorded in the main notes to the accounts and the Trustees are truly grateful to all those who gave their time and efforts in undertaking Special Events for the Branch
19. As reported earlier in this report Interest on the Branch bank accounts remained low with income at just £167.79p compared with £31.11p, and although this indicates a small increase it remains very low in the light of the Capital it relates to. As we anticipated for 2017 interest rates would continue to be at their lowest rate for a number of years, and unfortunately, we were correct. The Branch Trustees were truly justified in investing in the property to ensure that a reasonable level of income could be achieved to support its objectives.
20. Income from Rent received increased in 2018 by a sum of £2,476.24p an increase of some 7.8%. It is to the advantage of the Branch that in the current financial climate Rents are on the increase and in 2018 produced a sum of £36,950.21p compared with £34,473.97p in 2017. The Branch now receives income from the renting of properties at 158 Parrock Street Gravesend (the ground floor as a catering establishment and the upper floor flat), Gordon Road Dartford and Miskin Road, Dartford. The Branch Trustees are extremely grateful for the help and advice they receive from the staff at McConnells, Estate Agents, Dartford, and for the assistance they receive in the management of the Branch's properties.
21. The Branch Trustees decided in 2006 that the Legacy from the late L.C. Croucher (referred to in the Annual Accounts), having a restriction of only being able to be spent on equipment for the treatment of animals, would be better placed in a separate deposit account within the Branch Funds as a Restricted Account, on the abolition of the Branch Development Fund and should be used

as necessary within the terms of the Branch objectives. In 2018, a small proportion of the fund was allocated to the Branch Equine Rehoming Centre.

EXPENDITURE:

22. Members will recall that since 2013 year the Branch has used a system of payments of Creditors by electronic payments. The system permits a payment directly into a payees Bank Account without the need for the writing of cheques and the posting to the client. Although there is a charge for each transaction, the system eliminates the need for postage on each payment and the need for the payee to transport a cheque to the bank. The system continues to operate in an efficient manner and all of the Branch payees have readily accepted the payment system.
23. Overall it will be noted that the Business expenditure of the Branch did reduce by £2,270.94p (1.34%) and that the contributions to the Branch Equine Unit were funded from the Branch Deposit Accounts. A total of £175,000 was allocated for the original estimates for the Equine unit and that the actual contributions for the year were £135,157.58p although the Branch does have a Capital Commitment to meet the costs of a Training/Exercise Ring in the sum of £15,000.00p, this will probably be constructed in 2019, subject to a successful planning application
24. Traditionally the highest level of expenditure for the Branch was for many years Veterinary Fees, although the Branch did spend 7.8% of expenditure in 2017 this increased to 10% in 2018. This was obviously occasioned by the increase in requests for the Branch to meet Veterinary costs. The highest level of expenditure in the Animal Welfare field for 2018 was once again Care of Animals, although there was a reduction in the costs of this service as the Branch spent just 15.58% on this service compared to 18.96% in 2017. It should be remembered that Animal Welfare is the core business of the Branch and we can be proud of the number of animals that came into our care last year. The expenditure on Care of Animals equated to about £502.20p per week compared to £619.36p per week in 2017. The Branch is not able to control the influx of animals coming into the Branch but would never refuse any animal requiring veterinary assistance, although it is not always possible with all the will in the world to be able to save every animal that we are able to take in. The Branch spent in the region of £1,400.00p per month on Veterinary Fees in 2018 and no animal would be denied treatment on account of costs .and, even more recently, budget costings

It will be noted that the Branch Clinic, suspended at the Shrubbery Clinic in July 2017, could not be reinstated due to the unavailability of Veterinary cover. The Branch Trustees are very grateful to the Shrubbery Veterinary Practice for the provision of this very valuable service and hope that the service can be reinstated at some time in the near future. The Branch Trustees remain keen on the reintroduction of a Clinic Service and will seek to provide the service at a Veterinary practice that is happy to work with the Branch on such a project. The Branch is also fortunate that a number Veterinary Practices offer the Branch generous discounts on the costs of animal treatments

25. The actual expenditure on Veterinary Fees increased from a figure of £13,253.74p in 2017 to a figure of £16,744.85p, an increase of £1395.40p being 10.5%, mainly due to an increase in requests for our services and possibly due to an increase in Veterinary Fees.

26. At the same time the Branch expenditure on Drugs reduced in 2018 to a sum of £6,673.13p compared to £7,085.57p in 2017, a decrease of £412.44p (5.82%) over the previous year.
27. Expenditure on Care of Animals reduced by £6,092.56p (18.92%). The reason for the reduction is probably that animals were kept for a less time in care than in previous year at the three Centres that the Branch has arrangements with. The SAWA Statistics reveal that we took in some 184 animals in 2018 compared with 169 in 2017. During the year it is also evident that less animals were kept in Private Boarding Establishments than in the previous year. Members can be assured that no animal in need would ever be refused a home. During the year the Branch continued the arrangements for both cats and dogs to be cared for in Kennels and other private boarding Catteries in the Branch area before being re-homed.

The Branch continues the arrangements it has with the Ashford RSPCA Branch Cattery, the Canterbury and Dover RSPCA Branch Cattery and also Bluebell Ridge Cattery, Hastings, for the rehoming of Cats and the Branch benefits from a proportion of the rehoming fees that are charged by these Catteries. The demand for places continued to be fairly high in 2018 for certain periods of the year and the Branch had, once again to call on the services a number of Private Catteries including the Lodge Kennels & Cattery with whom the Branch has developed a good working relationship. The Branch Animal Welfare Administrator, John Bowley continues his tremendous role in arranging for the placements and transportation of the animals that come into our care.

28. The Branch expenditure on the Branch Neutering Scheme reduced significantly with a reduction in overall expenditure of £490.72p. As we have reported in previous years the Branch has agreed to continue neutering as undertaken by the previous but now extinct Regional Scheme and now meets expenditure directly although the Branch and is able to recover some of the neutering fees under a scheme administered by H.Q. As reported in the main Branch report the Branch undertook a project jointly with Cats Protection for the Spaying of female cats. Full details of the Branch expenditure under this heading is shown in the notes to the Accounts. The main reasons for the reduction are considered to be a drop in the numbers of female cats treated under the Female Cat Neutering project, a reduction in the Number of "Staffies" treated and the fact that contributions were received from Cats Protection and the matched funding made by the Regional Board. The Branch did continue to operate the Regional wide "Staffie Neutering Scheme" during the year, but because of the low take up no contribution was sought from the Regional Allocation. The Branch also included a service to Local Authority strays under the scheme. The Branch did receive a further grant of £2,000.00p in 2015 to "match fund" the Branch contribution to the Staffie Neutering Scheme which was initially set at £2,500. At the end of 2018 a sum £1,575.00p remained to be carried forward to 2019.

A total of 21 cats were spayed under the joint scheme bringing the total treated to 220 at the end of 2018. A sum of £5,000 was received in 2015 from the Regional Board for matched funding of the Branch's Contribution. Of this sum, £2,005.00 was carried forward to 2018 for the continuance of the project. At the end of the year this sum was reduced to £1900.00p. The Branch have agreed with Cats Protection that the service would end at the end of 2018. The Branch Trustees have however agreed that any costs incurred can still be met whilst there is a balance in the matched funding account.

The Branch Trustees are extremely grateful to the services of a number of Veterinary Practices that have supported the Cat Spaying which lasted some three years.

The Branch is particularly grateful to Becky Blackmore for her negotiations of the introduction of the schemes with the participating Veterinary Practices.

29. The Branch Contribution is required to be paid to the national RSPCA and was set at a rate of £105.00p in 2018, on the implementation of a new formula devised by HQ, and as noted in the Accounts, this is accounted for as Sundry Expenditure.
30. The expenditure on Shop Staff costs remained increased by £1416.42p an increase of 3.32%. This was mainly due to an increase in the National Living Wage of some 4.4% which was operative from April 2018. It is the policy of the Branch Trustees to implement the Nation Living Wage in accordance with the relevant legislation and to pay slightly above the Governments rates whilst at the same time retaining the differences in the rates paid to the Managers and their Deputies.
31. Printing & Stationery costs reduced by £331.38p (27.53%) in the year. In the previous year the Branch reprinted some of its leaflets and this was not repeated in 2018. In addition, the Dartford Shop did not hold a Christmas Draw requiring printed tickets. The new photo copier leased from KCC in 2016 is proving to produce much cheaper copies that may be required in the Branch Shops. It is also be able to produce A3 posters in colour for advertising at the Branch Shops
32. Expenditure on Postage and Telephone increased by £427.08p (17.63%). Included within this heading are the facilities of the Branch helpline and there is a mobile phone service for the Branch Animal Welfare Administrator. During the year the Trustees continued to improve the service and every call now reaches an officer of the Branch with an answerphone alternative on each of the extensions. It would seem that many members of the public, including those outside of the Branch area seem to find the Branch number quicker for contact with the RSPCA than the National helpline. Each call is dealt with and the caller notified of the correct contact and where possible directed to the correct number. The Branch website now operates from a computer at the Dartford Shop. The telephonic information service of the Branch appears to be working satisfactorily.
33. The cost of Shop Equipment increased by £248.73p (16.93%). Many of the Shop equipment purchases are essential for the smooth operation of the Shops. At the Dartford Shop there was a requirement to purchase a new steamer, and at the Gravesend shop a new till was required. These are just two of the items included under this heading.
34. As has been our practice in recent years, Rent & Rates have been identified separately from Heating and Lighting Costs. This will make it easier for members to understand the individual element of the expenditure. Regarding Rent, the only Rent now payable is in respect of the Dartford Shop and this was increased to £27,500 in 2017. The decision to purchase the premises at 161, Windmill Street Gravesend means that no Rent is payable, although Rates are payable and for 2018 this amounted to £995.25p.

Members may wish to be reminded that the expenditure on the conversion of the two units into a single trading unit at the Dartford Shop will be written off over the ten years of the lease, which was finalised in 2012.

Expenditure on the Heating and lighting element of the expenditure increased by £763.61p (16.93%) members will recall that in 2017 the Branch received a substantial refund from Thames Water which reduced the costs for that year.

35. The expenditure on Maintenance and Repairs and Waste disposal at the Shops is also been shown separately again this year to give a clearer understanding of the elements of the expenditure. The expenditure on Maintenance and Repairs increased by just £167.65p (1.33%). At the Dartford Shop a major expense was the installation of an Air conditioning system which will overcome extreme cold and heat conditions in the future. At the Gravesend Shop a major piece of work was the updating of the CCTV system. There was an increase in the charges for Waste Disposal of £575.88p (10.89%) and this reflects the increases in charges levied by the service providers.
36. Irrecoverable VAT increased by £470.49p (12.29%) the increase being due to increases in the expenditure heads where irrecoverable VAT applies. It should be noted that expenditure of activity in the neutering of "Staffies" attracts VAT which is not recoverable as is any work on the Branch properties. The Branch Clinic, the Female Cat Spaying Project and the Subsidised Cat Neutering Scheme also attract VAT which is not recoverable. It has been clarified that the Branch can only recover VAT on Animal Welfare matters where the animal is to be rehomed and for which a fee is likely to be received. The Branch carefully monitors and tries to be aware of the relevant log numbers of all the animals that are dealt with by the Branch and the discharge details for all the animals that we care for.
37. It will be seen from the foregoing and reference to the Branch Accounts, that the Branch has once again recorded, after taking into account legacies and in Memorium payments a surplus in our business income of £45,091.77p compared to a surplus of £36,812.33p in 2017. However because of the Branch initiative of the grant in respect of the Equine Rehoming Centre we recorded an expected deficit £90,065.81p. Members can therefore be re-assured that the Branch remains in strong financial position and can confidently continue to plan its main objectives although that will not now be the provision of an Animal Centre within the Branch's area. We can be confidently proactive in the field of animal welfare and continue to be the progressive Branch that we have developed over recent years and that will meet any challenges that we may encounter in the near future.
38. Finally, the Branch Trustees would like to place on record their thanks and appreciation for all the assistance and support that we have received during the year. The past year is one of which we feel the Branch can once again be justly proud of its achievements with new innovations and improving services. 2019 will undoubtedly be another year that will set us new challenges, and the possibility of a new initiatives once the Equine Rehoming Centre at Leybourne has been completed, and with the will and determination we have in the past we will meet those challenges confidently and with resolve.
39. The Trustees remain confident that they are on course to meet the main objective of our Branch and can have the confidence to assure ourselves that the targets it sets itself will be achievable and the Branch will continue to be progressive in the field of animal welfare as the demands on its services require

Eric Grover,
Branch Chairman,
on behalf of the Branch Trustees.

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE
PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS**

KENT NORTH - WEST BRANCH
(Registered Charity No. 210633)

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

and

BALANCE SHEET

- for the year ended -

31st DECEMBER 2018

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.
KENT, NORTH-WEST BRANCH
(Registered Charity No: 210633)**

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2018

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is incorporated under an Act of Parliament and each Branch is governed by the rules of the Society. The Kent, North-West Branch is a registered Charity No. 210633. The address of the Branch Secretary of the Kent, North-West Branch is: 201, Burnham Road, Dartford Kent, DA1 5AU. The Administrative Office of the Branch is at 37, Gordon Road Dartford Kent DA1 2LG.

The day to day affairs of the Branch are managed by a Branch Committee. During 2018 the members of the Branch Committee were:

Mrs. E.M. Grover.	Branch President. (ex officio wef 25 th July 2018)
Mr. E.J. Grover.	Branch Chairman.
Mrs J. Allen	Branch Vice Chairman.
Miss C. Campbell.	Branch Secretary
Mr. J. A. Bowley.	Branch Animal Welfare Administrator.
Mr B. Charman	(wef 24 th January 2018)
Miss L. Cheary	(wef 24 th January 2018)
Mr K. Coleman	Branch Treasurer (to 25 th July 2018)
Mr K. Coleman	Branch Trustee (wef 25 th July 2018)
Mr. Abderahmene El hadj	(to 25 th July 2018)
Miss N. Dunton	(wef 28 th November 2018)
Mrs. H. Kingston.	
Mr T. Maddison	(wef 25 th July 2018)
Mr A. McDermott	
Mrs J. Tomlinson	(to 10 th February 2018)
Miss K. Ward	(wef 24 th January 2018)

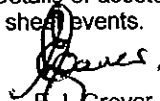
The role of Branch Treasurer remained vacant from 25th July 2018 until the end of the year. Miss N. Dunton was appointed to take up the role on 1st January 2019

During the year the Branch employed a Full Time Manager and 2 Part Time Deputy Managers supported by a Casual Assistant Deputy Managers at the Branch Charity Shop at 2-3, Market Place, Dartford Kent and a Full Time Manager and Part Time Deputy Manager at the Branch Charity Shop at 161, Windmill Street, Gravesend.

The object of the Charity is to promote kindness and prevent or suppress cruelty to animals, and to do all such lawful acts as the Society may consider to be conducive or incidental to the attainment of those objectives.

The Charity is dependent on donations and fund raising to pay for its activities. The Branch also receives part of the subscriptions paid by members. The Branch constitution is approved by the National RSPCA umbrella body, Charity No.219099, which is considered a related party for accounting purposes. During the financial year, the Branch received a total of £28,015.94p (Door to Door Campaign £27,034.00; Neutering Refund Subsidy £ 981.94p) in grant funding from the National RSPCA for the Branch's purposes. Also during the financial the Branch paid a grant to the National RSPCA in the sum of £135,157.58p (including Sundry Creditors) to fund the Kent North West Branch Equine Rehoming Centre which is located at the Leybourne Animal Centre. The Branch also receives a number of umbrella body services, including legacy administration under the Branch Legacy Scheme, membership administration and practical guidance and assistance from a Branch Support Specialist employed by the National Society.

Details of the Charity's activities are disclosed in the accounts. There have been no significant activities during the year requiring a report to the Charity Commissioners. Legacies and In Memoriam donations to the value of £2774.60p were received during the year. Details of assets held by the Branch are disclosed in the accounts. There have been no material post balance sheet events.


E.J. Grover,
Branch Chairman.
20th February 2019.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

KENT NORTH-WEST BRANCH

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2018

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Balance brought forward	1,003,189.59	966,377.26
Property Revaluations in Year	98,000.00	-
Surplus for the Year	(90,065.81)	36,812.33
	-----	-----
	1,011,123.78	1,003,189.59
	=====	=====

BRANCH RESTRICTED FUNDS:

L.C.Croucher Legacy for Equipt.	33,068.33	45,579.79	
	33,068.33	45,579.79	

BRANCH GENERAL FUNDS:

Fixed Assets(Note1)

Property 158,Parrock Street Gravesend.	263,000.00	165,000.00	
Property 37,Gordon Road,Dartford	205,000.00	205,000.00	
Property 10 Miskin Road,Dartford	196,870.33	196,870.33	
Property 161,Windmill Street,Gravesend	168,749.50	168,749.50	
Branch Shops Fix.& Fittings	5,824.12	8,736.17	
Plant and Equipment	Nil	Nil	
	-----	-----	
	839,443.95	744,356.00	

Current Assets

Nat West Capital Reserve Account	144,224.04	176,624.79	
Debtors & Prepayments	14,226.46	11,704.19	
Branch Pay Pal Account	384.45	341.97	
Cash at Bank & In Hand	53,109.32	39,116.81	
	-----	-----	
	211,944.27	227,787.76	
less Creditors	(67,857.77)	(8,953.96)	
Balance Rabbit Awareness Projects	(2,000.00)	(2,000.00)	
Balance Staffie Matched Funding	(1,575.00)	(1,575.00)	
Balance Female Cat Spaying Project	(1,900.00)	(2,005.00)	
Net Current Assets	138,611.50	213,253.80	

TOTAL BRANCH GENERAL FUNDS


978,055.45

957,609.80

TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS

1,011,123.78

1,003,189.59



E.J.Grover.

CHAIRMAN

C.Campbell

SECRETARY

VACANT

TREASURER

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

KENT NORTH-WEST BRANCH

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2018

	BRANCH GENERAL AND AUXILIARIES.	
INCOME:	2018	2017
Microchipping & Rehoming	1,881.38	2,005.00
Subscriptions	625.00	602.00
Rent Received	36,950.21	34,473.97
General Donations/Grants	2,449.51	1,933.31
Donations via Inspectors	-	-
Collecting Boxes	2,355.00	2,751.44
Door to Door Campaign	27,034.00	24,761.00
Special Events****	973.91	991.66
Goods Sold	65.35	181.14
Dividends and Interest	167.79	31.11
Shops Gravesend & Dartford	133,500.61	134,898.71
Rags and Recycling	3,816.21	3,587.73
Sundry Income	120.00	153.00
	209,938.97	206,370.07
EXPENDITURE:		
Motor Vehicle & Travelling	124.60	132.50
Printing and Stationery	461.45	792.83
Postage and Telephone	2,849.61	2,422.53
Rent & Rates	28,377.09	28,730.38
Heat, Light & Water	3,906.10	3,142.49
Insurance/Security	2,612.94	2,503.12
Maintenance and Repairs.	12,759.31	12,591.66
Waste Disposal	5,861.96	5,286.08
Shop Staff Costs	44,086.74	42,670.32
Shop Equipment	1,718.01	1,469.28
Goods for Resale	81.78	236.38
Depreciation & Write Offs	2,912.05	2,912.05
Professional Fees	5,059.21	6,391.31
Branch Neut.Scheme	1,703.68	1,577.96
Transfer to Neutering Funds	105.00	470.00
Veterinary Fees	16,744.85	13,253.74
Drugs and Medicines	6,673.13	7,085.57
Care of Animals	26,114.38	32,206.94
Microchipping & Rehoming	242.73	321.71
Annual & General Meetings.	56.20	86.35
Sundry Expenses	871.68	1,780.73
Irrecoverable VAT	4,299.30	3,828.81
	167,621.80	169,892.74
Surplus/(Deficit) before Legacies	42,317.17	36,477.33
Legacies and In Memoriam donations	2,774.60	335.00
Grant to Leybourne Equine Project	(135,157.58)	
Surplus/(Deficit) after Legacies	(90,065.81)	36,812.33

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS
KENT NORTH-WEST BRANCH
(Registered Charity No: 210633)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES.

The principal accounting policies of the Branch are set out below. The policies have remained unchanged from the previous year.

(a) Basis of Accounting.

The financial statements have been prepared under historical cost conventions and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

(b) Income.

Income is accounted for when received.

(c) Depreciation of Tangible assets.

During 2005 the Branch Trustees carried out a review of the methods used to depreciate Capital Expenditure. It was concluded that the use of a 10% reducing balance gave an unrealistic value of the items over a long term. In future all tangible capital assets would be written off over a determined period with each case of expenditure to be determined at the time of purchase. Details of the period of write off would be recorded in the Branch Asset Register.

As a result of the trustees revised policies the following items were written off at the following rates:

Freehold Buildings.	Nil. During 2013 the Trustees arranged for the revaluation of some of the Branch Property. During 2018 a further revaluation of the property at 158, Parrock Street, Gravesend, was carried out. The results of that revaluations are shown in the Balance Sheet. The valuations were prepared on an open market basis by McConnells, Chartered Surveyors.
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Shop Fixtures and Fittings.	The majority of the original assets held at the Branch Shops have now been written off. The conversion costs for the development of the Dartford Shop Premises are to be written off
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over the ten year period of the lease. (2011 – 2020)

Furniture, Plant and Equipment. The use of a 10% reducing balance to all previous items under this heading have now been either depreciated or written off.

(d) Irrecoverable VAT

It is the Branch's policy to write off irrecoverable VAT through the Income & Expenditure account when incurred.

2. FIXED ASSETS.

	Freehold Property.	Branch Shops Fix & Fitt.	Furniture Plant and Equipment.	TOTAL
Balance at 1st Jan. 2018.	735,619.83	8736.17	Nil	744,356.00
Add Revaluation in year.	98,000.00	Nil	Nil	98,000.00
Less Depreciation and Write offs for year.	Nil	(2,912.05)	Nil	(2,912.05)
Balance at 31st Dec 2018	833,619.83	5,824.12	00.00	839,443.95
Made up of:				
Original cost.	836,242.71	51,045.13	4,515.46	891,803.30
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(2,622.88)	(45,221.01)	(4,515.46)	(53,359.35)
	833,619.83	5,824.12	00.00	839,443.95

3. BRANCH (formerly the REGIONAL) NEUTERING SCHEME.

The former South East Regional Board (now part of the Southern Region) terminated the former Regional Neutering Scheme arrangements on 31st December 2003. The Branch Trustees have agreed to maintain the neutering policy on the same basis as the former Regional Scheme operated.

During the year the Branch were notified that they would be able to continue to recover some of the expenditure made in respect of certain types of neutering.

In 2011, the Branch Trustees agreed to join the Regional Initiative for the neutering of Staffordshire Terriers and like cross breeds. Arrangements were made with the Shrubbery Veterinary Centre for the administration of the initiative

and during 2012 these arrangements were extended to the Pilgrims Veterinary Clinic, Dartford during 2013 and to the Meopham Veterinary Hospital during 2014. At the 31st December 2017 a total of 10 animals had received the treatment during the year. (This brings a total of 228 animals having been treated since the initiative commenced.) The Branch also received a further grant in 2015 from Regional Funds to assist the Initiative on a "matched funding" basis. The Balance of the matched funding grant that will be available for 2018 is shown in the accounts.

In addition to these services during 2017 the Branch continued the project inaugurated in 2015 to spay female cats from the age of four months and received support from Cat Protection, who agreed to meet half of the costs of the Spaying. The Branch received the continuing support from a number of Veterinary Surgeons in the area together with support in the form of a Grant from Three County Councillors at the commencement of the Project.

A summary of the total expenditure in respect of the three services is as follows:

Branch Neutering Scheme:

Expenditure in respect of Neutering	2139.71	
Less reimbursements from HQ.	(981.94)	
Total:		1157.77

Staffies Neutering Initiative:

Staffies Neutering Initiative Expenditure	83.34	
Total:		83.34

Female Cat Spaying Project:

Expenditure in respect of Cat Spaying	350.07	
Comprehensive Advertising Campaign.	450.00	
Less contribution from Cat Protection	(250.00)	
Less contribution from Matched Funding	(87.50)	
Total:		462.57

Total as per accounts: **1703.68**

In the light of the low take up of the Staffie Neutering Scheme, no application of matched funding was made. The contribution from Cat Protection included a contribution in respect of some cats treated in 2017

4. DONATIONS/GRANTS.

Included in the heading Donation/Grants this year is the contribution made to the Branch in the form of Regional Matched Funding Grants. The figure in the Accounts is summarised as follows:

General Donations.	2449.51
Regional Matched Funding Grants	105.00
Less Allocation to Female Cast Spaying Project	(105.00)*
(* Note: These figures include a VAT element) TOTAL.	<u>2449.51</u>

5. SPECIAL EVENTS.

During the year the Special Event were undertaken in the name of the Branch and the income from these events is summarised as follows:

	£. p
Meopham Vet. Hospital Christmas Raffle	80.00
Meopham Vet. Summer Open Day	398.75
Dartford Shop Festival Raffle	148.00
Dartford Shop- Festival Shop	347.16

TOTAL	973 91.

6. HEAT, LIGHT, WATER & RATES.

Payments made in respect of the items included within this heading are summarised as follows:

	<u>Electricity.</u>	<u>Gas.</u>	<u>Water.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dartford Shop	£1,896.17		£207.40	£2,103.57
Gravesend Shop	£ 877.70	£432.30	£163.97	£1,473.97
Branch.	£ 118.56	£196.51	£ 13.49	£ 328.56
		TOTAL		£3,906.10

7. CARE OF ANIMALS – RABBIT AWARENESS WEEK.

The Branch agree to participate in Rabbit Awareness Week for the first time in 2018, with the provision of free health check for Rabbits without any conditional requirement. Arrangements were made with seven Veterinary practices to undertake the health checks following a comprehensive adverting campaign. The costs of the exercise are contained within the costs for the Care of Animals and the costs are analysed as follows:

Rabbit Awareness Week Advertising:	£ 450.00
Rabbit Free Health Checks:	£ 83.34
Care of Animals:	<u>£25,581.04</u>
TOTAL CARE OF ANIMALS:	<u>£26,114.38</u>

In the light of the extremely low take up of the project, no Regional Matched Funding Has been applied

8. PROFESSIONAL FEES.

Professional fees includes the following amounts for the Independent Examination of the Branch's Accounts:

<u>2018.</u>	<u>2017.</u>
£650.	£650.

9. CREDITORS.

	<u>2018.</u>	<u>2017.</u>
Trade.	£67097.77p	£ 8203.96p
Accruals	£ 750.00p	£ 750.00p
	-----	-----
	£ 67857.77p	£ 8.953.96p
	-----	-----

The increase in Creditors reflects the Branch Commitment to the funding of the Kent North West Equine Rehoming Centre and the Leybourne Animal Centre. Final Payments are expected in early 2019

10. TRUSTEES REMUNERATION & EXPENSES.

No Trustee or connected person received any remuneration during the year. Reimbursement of expenditure made on behalf of the Branch, was repaid to the Branch Chairman (E.J. Grover) in the sum of £139.38p in respect of the purchase of sundry items. Receipts in respect of all purchases made are retained in the Branch files.

11. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS.

The Branch is committed to the funding of an Equine Rehoming Centre and was approved by the Trustees in 2017. The costs of Stages One and Two plus other sundry items (including the Planning costs) of the project are included in these accounts. The Branch is also committed to the funding of an exercise ring for which a planning application had not been made at the end of 2018 and for which the cost has been estimated to be £15,000.

R.S.P.C.A. KENT NORTH WEST BRANCH.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2018

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (PAGE 1 of 2)

INCOMING RESOURCES:

Incoming resources from generated funds			
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	
(I) Donations, legacies and other Incoming resources:			
General Donations	2,344.51	1,463.31	
Donations via Inspectors	-	-	
Donations from Regional Grants	105.00	470.00	
Collecting Boxes	2,355.00	2,751.44	
Door to Door Campaign	27,034.00	24,761.00	
Refund RSPCA	-	48.00	
Income Received from Recycling	20.00	21.97	
Unidentified Receipt	-	25.00	
Income from Legacies & In Memoriam donatio	2,774.80	335.00	
	34,633.31	29,875.72	
(II) Activities for generating funds.			
Commission Received iro Pet Insurance	120.00	80.00	
Sale of donated items Dartford Shop	62,558.92	63,631.70	-
Sale of donated items Gravesend Shop	70,941.69	71,287.01	-
Sale of Rags Dartford Shop	2,270.32	2,124.51	-
Sale of Rags Gravesend Shop	1,525.89	1,441.25	
Sale of RSPCA Items	65.35	181.14	
Donations from Microchipping	-	5.00	
Income from Rehoming Fees	1,881.38	2,000.00	
Special Events	973.91	991.66	
	140,337.46	141,722.27	
(III) Investment Income			
Income from renting of Gravesend Property	14,340.00	13,848.97	
Income from renting of Dartford Properties	22,610.21	20,625.00	-
Interest Nat Savings A/c	-	-	
Interest Bank A/cs	167.79	31.11	34,505.08
(iv) Incoming resources from charitable activities			
Subscription Income	625.00	602.00	
	-	-	602.00
	625.00		
Total Incoming Resources:	212,713.77	206,705.07	

R.S.P.C.A. KENT NORTH WEST BRANCH.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2018

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (PAGE 2 of 2)

RESOURCES EXPENDED:

	<u>2018</u>		<u>2017</u>	
(i) Costs of generating Funds				
Staff Costs at Shops	44,088.74		42,670.32	
Goods for Resale	81.78		236.38	
Purchase of Collecting Boxes	-		-	
Shop Equipment	1,718.01		1,469.28	
Rent and Rates Dartford Shop	27,270.84		27,505.92	
Rent and Rates Gravesend Shop	1,106.25		1,224.46	
Shop Overheads	21,581.40	95,845.02	19,713.93	92,820.29
(ii) Charitable activities				
(a) resources granted in furtherance of the Branch's objectives				
Care of Animals	28,114.38		32,206.94	
Regional Quota	105.00		100.00	
Microchipping	242.73		321.71	
Grant to Leybourne Equine Rehoming Centre	135,157.58			
Branch Neutering Scheme	1,658.68		1,577.96	
Transfer to Neutering Funds	150.00	163,428.37	470.00	34,676.61
(b) costs of activities in furtherance of the Branch's objectives				
Veterinary Fees Dartford Clinic	Nil		Nil	
Veterinary Fees Gravesend Clinic	25.00		535.00	
Veterinary Fees Emergency and other cases	16,719.85		12,718.74	
Drugs and Medicines	6,873.13	23,417.98	7,085.57	20,339.31
(c) support costs for (a) and (b).				
Travelling Expenses	100.25		122.50	
Printing and Stationery	283.16		533.39	
Postage and Telephone	1,853.36		1,332.28	
Electricity Gas and water	328.58		270.19	
Insurance & Security Costs	2,122.94		2,013.12	
Maintenance & Repairs	2,846.86		4,253.53	
Waste Disposal Costs	-	Shop O/heads		Shop O/heads
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	2,912.05		2,912.05	
Professional fees (Properties)	4,464.21		5,811.31	
Sundry Expenditure	226.12		313.00	
Irrecoverable VAT	4,299.30	19,436.81	3,828.81	21,390.18
(d) Governance costs.				
Meetings	56.20		88.35	
Professional fees (Audit)	595.00	651.20	580.00	666.35
Total Resources Expended:		302,779.38		169,892.74

RSPCA, KENT,NORTH WEST BRANCH

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2018

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS DURING THE YEAR

	2018	2017
<u>TABLE ONE: STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS</u>		
<i>Net Cash provided by (used in) operating activities</i>	(30,877)	44,116
<i>Cash Flows from investing activities</i>		
Purchase of property,plant and equipment		
<i>Net Cash Provided by (used in) investing activities</i>	(30,877)	44,116
<i>Cash Flows from financing activities:</i>		
Repayments of borrowing		
<i>Net Cash Provided by (used in) financing activities</i>		
<i>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</i>	(30,877)	44,116
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</i>	261,663	217,547
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</i>	230,786	261,663
<u>TABLE TWO: RECONCILIATION ON NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</u>		
<i>Net Income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)</i>	(90,066)	36,812
<i>Adjustments for :</i>		
Depreciation charges	2912	2,912
Transfer of Funds	(105)	(470)
Increase/(decrease) in debtors	(2,522)	(562)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	58903.81	5,424
<i>Net cash provided by operating activities</i>	(30,877)	44,116
<u>TABLE THREE : ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</u>		
Cash in Hand	230,786	261,663

(Registered Charity 210833)

INCOME

Page 33

STATEMENT OF THE BRANCH COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES.

Rule 3.3 of the R.S.P.C.A. Branch Rules (January 2003 edition) empowers the Branch, subject to certain conditions, to raise funds in the name of the Branch for the General or any special purposes of the Branch or for any purpose of the Society or another Branch but all fundraising must be authorised by and reported promptly to the Branch Committee.

Rule 7.1 provides that the Branch Committee as charity trustees have responsibility for the Branch and its property and funds.

Rule 11.1 requires that the Branch Committee must comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 as to the keeping of financial records, the audit or independent examination of accounts and the preparation and transmission to the Charities Commission of :

annual reports;
annual returns; and
annual statements of account.

STATEMENT OF BRANCH RISKS MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Branch has identified the major risks to which it is exposed and has put into place systems and procedures to minimise the risks, as follows:

- (i) **Misappropriation of funds.** In an effort to prevent peculation of the Branch's assets, it has set up an internal control system which requires authorisation of all transactions by a person independent of the Branch Treasurer. Income at the Branch's Shops is monitored by the recording of receipts by an electronic till and a check of receipts is made at the end of each working day. The Branch also maintains an asset register for all Capital assets.
- (ii) **Monitoring of income to ensure that there are sufficient resources to meet commitments.** The Branch Officers regularly monitor resources to ensure that there are funds available to meet its commitments.
- (iii) **Reliance on Sources of income.** The Branch has in recent years, opened two Charity Shops in an effort to improve the income that is required to meet the demands on its services. In 2012 The Branch purchased a property with the purpose of renting to a tenant and producing additional income. During 2013 the Branch Trustees agreed to lease the ground floor of 158, Parrock Street Gravesend on a commercial basis. The lease was completed in 2014. A new lease in respect of the property was granted in 2017 for a period of 10 years. Also, during the year 2013 the Branch purchased the property 161 Windmill Street, Gravesend and this will in the longer term eliminate the liability to pay rent on the property. The Branch now rents a total of four properties which continue to produce additional income for the Branch.
- (iv) **A Commitment to fund Capital Projects.** The Branch has adopted a number of objectives to meet its service provision in the medium and long term. It has agreed that no progress can be made on these projects until sufficient resources are in place to fund any project to arise from those objectives.

- (v) **Loss of Key Volunteers.** The Branch has adopted a policy of recruiting and training, where possible, additional volunteers to undertake various duties that are involved in running a Branch of the size and character of the Kent, North West Branch of the RSPCA.

STATEMENT OF BRANCH RESERVES POLICY.

The Branch Committee has reviewed the Branch Reserves Policy during the year and has considered that the steps taken to ensure a source of regular income are now adequate to be confident that the resources within the Branch are sufficient to meet its current commitments throughout the coming year and beyond, if commitments are continued at the current rate of expenditure. It further considers that a Current Account balance in the range of £10,000.00 to £20,000.00 would be sufficient to meet all arising commitments. It resolved that the Branch reconsider the need for a Branch Development Fund, to accrue a reserve to meet the policy objectives set by the Branch in December 2001. The Branch Committee agreed to review its long-term objectives in the light of estimated requirements of the Branch in respect of the Branch Clinics and animal home facilities. During 2016 the Trustees agreed that the target for the Development Fund should remain at the figure of £1,000,000.00p. and this would be reviewed in the light of any changing circumstances. During 2017 the Branch Trustees re-considered the retention of a Development Fund in the light of current financial conditions. The Trustees concluded that the aspirations of the Branch developing an Animal Centre in the light of the numbers of animals that come into its care and considering the continuing escalating costs of such a venture, the objective would be unsustainable and therefore concluded that the Development Fund should be dissolved, and the Funds recorded in the General Funds of the Branch.

During 2006, the Branch received a legacy from the estate of the late L.C. Croucher. The legacy has a stipulation that the money should only be expended on equipment to be used in the treatment of animals. The Branch Trustees have therefore agreed that the legacy should be maintained in a separately identifiable account within the Branch Funds and recorded as a Restricted Fund and should be available, only for the purchase of equipment required in connection with the meeting of the Branch's revised objectives. During 2018 the Branch Trustees agreed that some of the equipment costs of the Kent North West Branch, Equine Rehoming Centre could properly be appropriated to this account. Consequently, a sum of £12,545.00 of this fund has been expended on the said Branch Equine Rehoming Centre

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' UNQUALIFIED REPORT.

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of **The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Kent, North - West Branch.**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2018 as set out on pages 23 to 33.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.

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

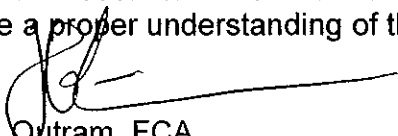
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the Act.

Independent examiners' statement.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.



Jason Outram, FCA.,
Hedley Dunk Limited,
Trinity House,
3, Bullace Lane,
DARTFORD,
Kent DA1 1BB.

27 March 2019

Equine arrivals at Leybourne

A report from Becca Williams, Manager Leybourne Animal Centre



Last year, an incredibly kind donation from our friends and neighbours at Kent North West Branch meant that we were able to open our doors to equines for the first time. The very first horses arrived at the end of July 2018.



We are thrilled to say that, since then, twenty horses and ponies have gone to their new homes and we currently have three more reserved and waiting to go. This exceeds our expectations and we are hugely grateful to Kent North West branch for enabling this development.

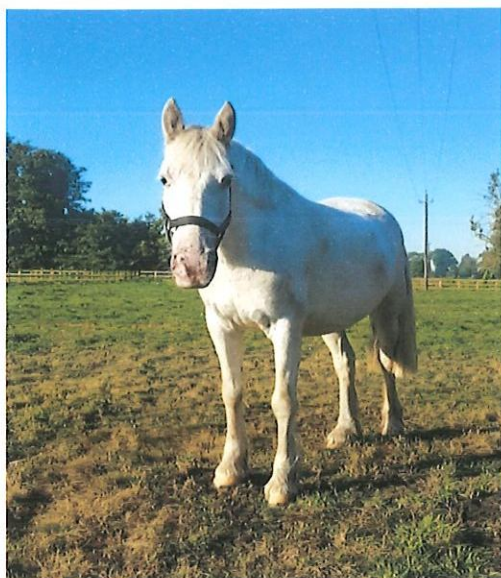
The adorable duo on the left are Peter and Wayne, two of our recent residents. These young ponies were in a desperate state and were rescued by the RSPCA as foals. Once recovered, they were well enough to be moved to Leybourne for rehoming last autumn. We are delighted to say that they have just left for pastures new together, to become driving

ponies when they are a bit older we cannot wait for them to start the next chapter in their lives.

The Equine Rehoming Unit consists of four fenced paddocks, with field shelters, automatic water troughs and hard standing around the gates (where there's horses there's mud!). We are also very excited that our brand new barn style stable block has just been completed, providing much needed facilities to help the grooms provide first class care for horses and ponies. It also means that visits from vets, farriers and prospective adopters are easy to

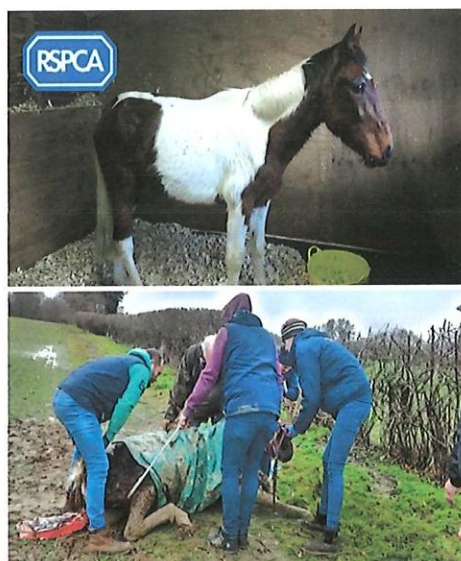
manage and are not affected by inclement weather. The equines in our care are ones ready for adoption and our grooms, Juliette and Michelle, take time to speak with prospective adopters so that both horse and human are suitably matched. This, together with the peaceful environment at Leybourne, means that the horses and ponies are happy and relaxed, and prospective adopters can see their potential. To complete the equine unit, a round pen, in which we can train the horses, will be added this year, and once again, we are indebted to the Kent North West branch for making this a possibility.

Every single equine that has arrived here has touched our hearts and we often talk about adopting them ourselves. Some particularly stand out, like Maple (pictured), a cob who endured terrible suffering before she was rescued and even then her prognosis was not



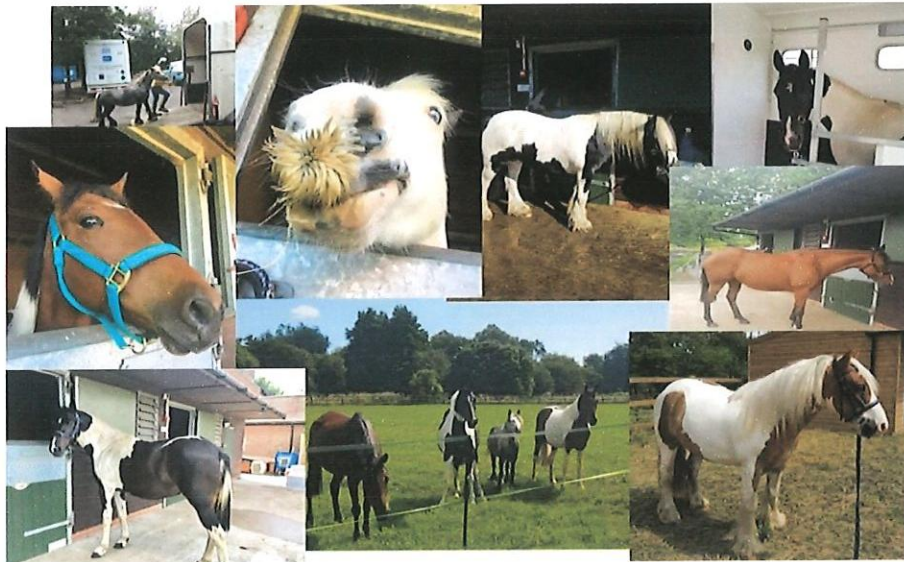
certain for some time. When Maple arrived at Leybourne we were heartbroken; although she was physically well on the way to recovery, mentally, she seemed totally switched off from her surroundings and did not have any interest in life at all. Slowly, in her new quiet and calm home at Leybourne, Maple began to relax and come out of her shell. She realised that we were her friends and began to seek out human contact rather than running away from us, and her personality blossomed. Her adopters could see what we had discovered, an amazing, loving young pony with the most forgiving heart after everything she had been through. Maple is now loving life in her new home and she continues to progress all the time, and it is stories like Maple's that remind us all of why we do what we do.

Adie, a young trotter, is another of Leybourne's former residents. He was rescued by the RSPCA and members of the public together after he was discovered collapsed in mud on New Year's Eve 2017. Starving, exhausted, dehydrated and gravely unwell, Adie would not have survived much longer. He spent a long time undergoing veterinary treatment and regaining his trust in humans before he was ready for adoption. Adie was the very first horse to step off the horsebox and be turned out in our paddocks, and, despite still being wary of us, we realised that he was a special young horse. He was incredibly loving and eager to please and really tried to be a brave boy even when he was feeling unsure.



The stunning young horse we met last July was a transformation from the rescued youngster from several months earlier and the transformation continued after he found his perfect match and was adopted. Adie is now an equine model, and he can be found on equestrian websites along with his adopter!

The equines highlighted here are just some of the horse and ponies who have temporarily resided at Leybourne so far, each with their own story and very special to us. The position and profile of Leybourne Animal Centre has really helped to spread the word that the RSPCA also cares for equines, and we have had adopters from all over the south east, and even one in Northumberland! The Equine Unit is firmly integrated within the Centre and the team, and we are very proud of it. On behalf of everyone at Leybourne, thank you so much to Kent North West Branch for enabling the Equine Rehoming Unit to happen



CHIEF INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018

SOUTH EAST 6 , KENT GROUP

Chief Inspector Steve Dockery 353

Personnel : Chief Inspector Steve Dockery

Inspector Dave Grant
Inspector Ed Halligan
Inspector Ellie Burt
Inspector Grace Harris-Bridge
Inspector Deborah Smith
Inspector Georgina Bowles
Insp Rosie Russon
AWO Tina Nash
AWO Lynn White
ACO Emma Byrne
ACO Roy Jezard
ACO Brian Milligan

Branches covered :

Ashford Tenterden and District branch
Canterbury and District Branch
Folkestone and District Branch
Isle of Sheppey Branch
Isle of Thanet Branch
Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone Branch
Medway West Branch
Kent Northwest Branch

It gives me great pleasure to present to you the annual report for the Kent Inspectorate for 2018.

2018 again saw a number of staff changes in the Kent group .

In July Insp's Grace Harris-Bridge , Deborah Smith and Georgina Bowles joined the group from the last training course .

In August Insp Ellie Burt transferred to the Devon group .

The ongoing problem with equines unfortunately continues in the county with many being fly grazed , tethered in inappropriate areas , straying and just dumped when sick , injured or dead for someone else to deal with . This is an ongoing and longstanding problem for RSPCA , Police , landowners and councils .

Live animal export of sheep and calves unfortunately continues through the port of Ramsgate although the trade has been sporadic this year and we are still invited by the port authority to monitor these live exports from the port . There have been incidents where we have only been given 12 hours notice of a sailing over a weekend period and arranging attendance under these circumstances has not been possible , going forward with current staffing coverage will be problematic .

My sincere thanks go to all of the group for their resilience and commitment during the busy times and the extra pressures of larger areas and increased workloads they have coped with due to rostering and staff shortages and who , as always , came up trumps and took it all in their stride with commitment and good humour .

I would like to put on record the Kent Group's thanks and appreciation to all the RSPCA and non RSPCA establishments and personnel who have helped us throughout the past year with their expertise and assistance.

Kent Police for their invaluable assistance in exercising their powers of entry, search, seizure and occasionally arrest of people who mistreat their animals .

To Kent Fire and Rescue Service for the many occasions they have helped with rescues of animals that have got themselves trapped or in difficulty and we have needed their equipment and manpower to resolve the situation.

To Chancellors and Brachers Solicitor teams for their excellent presentation of evidence in our cases at court.

To the RSPCA animal centres that take in our animals, care for them and eventually rehome them.

To the Branch catteries and kennels that board, care for and rehome our animals, usually at very short notice and at the most inconvenient times .

To the experts who care for our sick and injured wildlife until they have been rehabilitated and are able to be re-released back into the wild.

To the press office who published our court cases and appeals for information .

Our Intelligence Officer team , who with the use of state of the art technology and their technology skills assist us in tracking down individuals .

Finally thank you from the Kent group and myself to all the Kent Branches, members and volunteers for making us so welcome at your meetings and for all the hard and invaluable work you have all done in 2018 . Without you and your time and efforts we would not be able to achieve all that we do.

I apologise for the sparse attendance from the Inspectorate at your meetings at times , however I am sure you will understand that , with staff shortages and the current roster we are short on the ground and on many occasions we have been en route to a meeting when we have had to be diverted to an urgent or emergency complaint or collection , which , I am sure you will all agree , would take priority.

In 2018 the Inspectors and AWO's of the Kent Group investigated **3993** cruelty complaints .

Submitted **19** cases to HQ with a view to prosecution.

This resulted in **11** convictions for cruelty and **6** adult written cautions being issued .

8 cases were also brought forward from 2017 and **9** cases are ongoing into 2019 .

ACO's, AWO's and Inspectors Collected and Rescued **4212** animals .

Here are just a few of the things that we dealt with in the past year that you may find of interest and it may give you an insight to some of the problems we have had to deal with and what we do .

Ashford , Tenterden and District Branch

We were called to Homewood School In Tenterden for a badger that was caught up in football netting on the sports field. When ACO Brian Milligan arrived , the school grounds man had cut the netting from the posts leaving the netting still attached very tightly around the badgers neck and body. He managed to cut him free and he ran off unharmed back into the wild where he belongs. Brian had a good chat with the school management about the risks and dangers posed to wildlife by not removing football netting when not in use , which resulted in a change of practices at the school and when the goals were not in use the netting was removed , he also returned to do a school talk about his job as an ACO and the day to day dealings we have with wildlife highlighting the great work the RSPCA does on a daily basis .

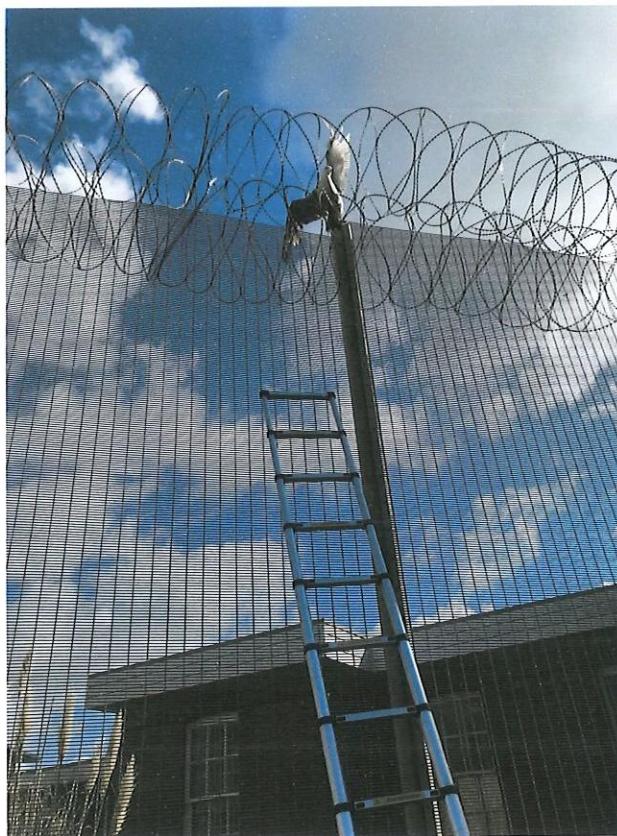
ACO Roy Jezard went to a rescue of a trapped magpie at a supermarket in Hythe , when he arrived he could see the bird trapped up against a glass structure over the main entrance of the shop about 12ft high , the bird then started to fly within the structure . With his ladder in place he could see there was no way the bird could get out as there was only a one inch gap between the glass structure and an iron girder . He could not get his net through the small gap , so then decided to go to a local shop that sold childrens rock-pool nets and the shaft was bamboo and narrow enough to go through the gap . He needed two nets to go either side of the girder . When he arrived back at the supermarket about twenty minutes later and after several attempts , he managed to contain the bird in one of the nets pinning the bird against the wall with just enough space to get his hand behind the girder and take hold of it and pull it out with no injuries . The magpie was released unharmed .



Canterbury and District Branch

We had a call to a gull trapped in netting above the roof of Morrisons Supermarket in Dover, when ACO Roy Jezard arrived he made contact with the manager who said there was access to the roof from within the building, so to get a better idea on how to rescue the bird he went onto the roof. It was a concrete structure which was safe to walk on but as he got nearer the trapped gull he could see there was another dome like structure about 12ft above the main roof, with metal struts which secured some netting. Roy could not reach the gull and so he contacted Kent Fire and Rescue for assistance. After about ten minutes two fire engines arrived but decided it was too high and sent for the turntable ladder. Roy went up to free the bird and after about fifteen minutes found the bird who had its head trapped in the netting. Roy untangled the herring gull and could not see any injuries, so released the bird which then flew off.

Unfortunately not all our jobs result in a happy ending, AWO Tina Nash dealt with the rescue of a gull at the old prison in Dover. It had its wing caught up in the razor wire and could not get free. She tried to reach the bird with her extendable ladders but was unable to reach it, so she called Kent Fire and Rescue who were very helpful and came out straight away. The poor gull was rescued but its feet were shredded where it had been trying to get away from the barbed wire. Sadly the gull had to be euthanized due to its injuries.



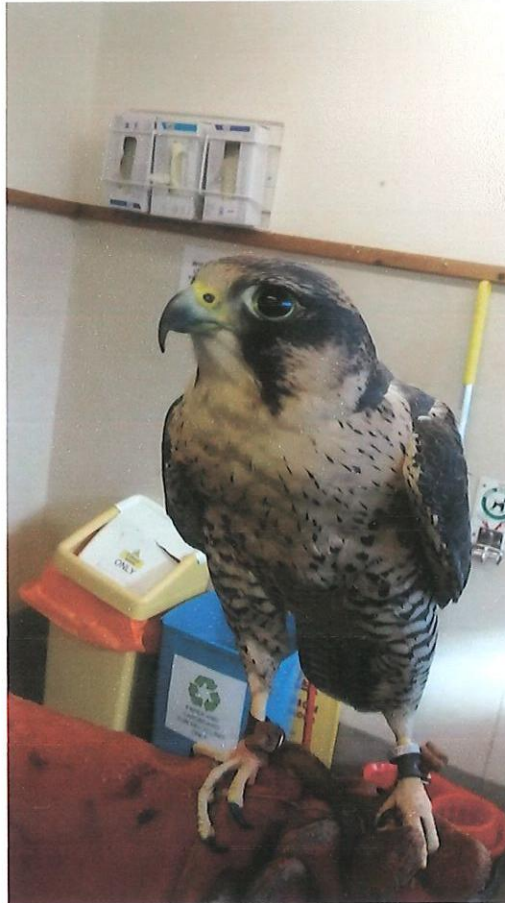
Kent North West Branch

ACO Brian Milligan was called out to a trapped cat on a roof in Gravesend, the cat had only been up on the roof for a few hours but it was getting very distressed as the weather was very hot and the cat was panting quite heavily. He tried to reach the cat using his rescue poles and net, however his net

kept getting snagged on the roof tiles and subsequently making the cat more stressed. He called Kent fire and Rescue to assist with rescuing the cat . Within a few minutes of arriving the Fire and Rescue team retrieved the cat and returned him to his waiting owner who was very pleased with the response of the RSPCA and Kent Fire and Rescue.



Insp Rosie Russon attended a call involving a Peregrine falcon hybrid caught up by its jessie's and hanging upside down about 60ft up in a tree , hanging over a train track in Greenhithe. A tree surgeon was called out as ladders could not be used due to the location and he climbed up the tree in the dark and rain and retrieved the bird. The following day following some additional enquiries it was reunited with its owner who was very grateful as the bird had been stolen from its aviary and released along with some other birds .



Folkestone and District Branch .

ACO Roy Jezard attended an emergency gull rescue where a herring gull chick had got itself tangled in netting on a flat roof in Folkestone . When he arrived he could not see anything from the road so Roy telephoned the caller who invited him up to her flat that was overlooking the roof where the bird was . Roy then went to the gym on the corner of the building where he could get access through a window on the second floor , then up onto the roof by a ladder attached to the side of the building . When he climbed onto the roof he saw netting was erected making about a three foot high gap between it and the roof . He crawled across the roof to where the herring gull chick was and cut the chick free . Luckily the chick had no injuries and the parent birds were in attendance and attacking him , so he was satisfied the parent birds would look after the chick and placed the chick on the other side of the roof where no netting had been erected .

Roy also dealt with a call regarding a trapped kitten in the callers garden shed , when he arrived he asked the caller if she had contacted neighbours to see if anyone was missing a kitten . She said that she had but to no avail . After moving some garden tools in the shed Roy found the kitten which he then scanned , the cat which had a microchip and recorded details of Jasmin , a one year old , female and luckily the address was in the same street . He then returned the kitten to her owner who was very pleased as she had been missing for two days.

Isle of Sheppy Branch

ACO Brian Milligan was called to Sheerness where a Hedgehog had got itself caught up in garden football netting . The Hedgehog was carefully cut free and taken to Leybourne animal centre to be checked by vet and monitored for 24 hrs. Thankfully all was well and the hedgehog was released back to area where it was found . The caller was warned of the danger to wildlife by not removing netting when not in use , the caller has removed the offending netting and was happy to have hedgehog back unharmed .

AWO Lynn White was tasked with a rescue of a Cormorant with fishing line around its legs on the beach at Leysdown . When she arrived she could see the Cormorant near the water's edge and when she approached , the bird managed to fly along the beach then decided to go into the sea and take refuge . With the weather deteriorating she sat in her van and after about ten minutes the Cormorant swam back to the beach and hopped along close to where she was , so with net in hand she got between the sea and the gull and contained it in her net . There was fishing line tangled around its wing and legs , but luckily it had no injuries so she cut it free and it flew off unharmed by the experience.

Isle of Thanet Branch

ACO Emma Byrne was called to a gull that was completely tangled in the netting and hanging down in the front of a shop on Margate seafront .Upon arrival she noticed that the gull instead of hanging by a wing as would normally be expected , it appeared to be completely trussed up , with his wings pinned to the side as though in a cocoon . Emma called the fire and rescue service as he was about 30 ft up and they arrived within about 10 minutes. They swiftly cut him free and made attempts to make the netting safe and not pose a risk to any other animals . She took the gull to Thanet animal centre where luckily he had only suffered a few cuts and bruises and was exhausted . He was left in the care of the Thanet animal centre receiving first aid and was successfully released two days later.

ACO Roy Jezard was tasked with a rescue of a juvenile herring gull in Sandwich that was trapped in a fence with fishing line and a float which it had wrapped around its body . When he contained the gull in a pet carrier he could see it had a hook in its throat which was attached to fishing line. He carefully opened the gulls beak and with a long pair of tweezers he managed to free the hook . As Roy could see no further injuries and the gull was very active he released it and watched as it flew off.

Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone Branch

ACO Brian Milligan assisted by 2 members of the Regional flood team , Insp Dave Grant and AWO Tina Nash were called to Mousehole fisheries in Maidstone for a swan with a fishing hook which was down and lodged in its throat . The swan was rescued using a boat and taken to Mallydams where the hook was successfully removed . After a short period of rehabilitation to ensure the swan had suffered no ill effects from its ordeal he was reunited with mate on the ponds the following week .





ACO Brian Milligan was called to a fox in a back garden in the village of Leybourne . The fox was walking round in circles and tilting it's head to one side . The fox , a female , had 3 fox cubs in tow which were following mum around the garden . Upon Brians arrival mum had curled up in the middle of the lawn with 2 of her cubs snuggled up beside her . Brian called The Fox Project for assistance and who were local and arrived fairly quickly to assist with catching mum and help him find the lost cub. They managed between them to catch mum and 2 cubs but unfortunately after a long search for the third cub they didn't manage to locate it . The caller agreed they would keep searching the garden but in the meantime the Fox Project has taken mum and 2 babies back to the wildlife hospital to be cared for.



Medway West Branch

ACO Brian Milligan was called to a Gull rescue in Gillingham where a juvenile gull had managed to get itself stuck in a metal garden gate. He managed to free the bird by gently easing its wings and feet out of the metal gate without injury . The Gull taken to Medway Branch Clinic and subsequently made a full recovery and was released back into the wild .

ACO Emma Byrne was called to a report of a swan on the banks of the river Medway at Rochester that was covered in blood and had been seen by a member of the public from a block of nearby flats . She found the swan straight away and he was indeed covered in blood which looked very dramatic against his white feathers . Her first thought was that he may have been shot. He was frantically trying to clean himself but seemed just to be making more of a mess. He was on a grassy area but as Emma tried to catch him , despite his bedraggled appearance , he managed to take off . He didn't get very far , crashing into a man made inlet area next to the bank. The tide was out and this made the perfect paddock from which to safely rescue him. He really did put up quite a fight, which encouraged Emma that maybe he wasn't as injured as he appeared. As she was taking him back to the van she met the caller who thanked her , having watched it all from her flat and they had a giggle about the fact she was coincidentally, wearing a top with swans on it . Emma went straight to Mallydams Wildlife centre with the swan and the vet was waiting when she arrived . They both searched thoroughly all over the swans body and could not find the source of the blood and happily no shot wound , so they hosed him down to clean him up and left him in one of the isolation pens . On returning to the enclosure 10 minutes later he was again covered in blood and it was also all up the walls. Really concerned by now he was taken back to the surgery for further examination. Finally it was discovered he had a tiny nick on the side of his bill that would not stop bleeding due to its location . Where he was constantly preening, he was spreading blood around and making it look 10 times worse ! The vet cauterised the wound and the problem was solved. One slightly flummoxed but much cleaner swan was then returned home.

And finally

Whilst I was out for the day with Insp Dave Grant we visited the harbour area in Folkestone where we both witnessed the worst case of animal psychological suffering and torment inflicted by a glass window at the harbour side fishmongers .



In closing I would wish you all a happy and healthy 2019 and look forward to your continued help and assistance in the fight against animal cruelty in Kent over the next year .

C/Insp Steve Dockery

CHIEF INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018

SOUTH EAST GROUP 3 South East London

Acting Chief Inspector Nick Wheelhouse 12709

Personnel:

ACI Nick Wheelhouse
Inspector Lucy Chillery
Inspector James Whipps
Inspector Liz Wheeler
Inspector Lynn Serrano
Inspector Becky Phillips
Inspector Rosie Wren
Inspector Natasha Wallis
ACO Kirstie Gillard
ACO Monica Faloona
ACO Joe Tambini
ACO Tom Goldsmith
ACO Jade Guthrie
ACO Mat Hawkins

Branches covered:

South East London Branch
Bromley & District Branch
Kent North West Branch
Kent West Branch
Croydon, Crystal Palace & District Branch
Purley & Caterham Branch
Surrey, Sutton & District Branch
Wimbledon, Wandsworth & Sutton District Branch

It gives me great pleasure to present to you the annual report for the South East London Inspectorate for 2018.

Once again it has been a busy year with yet more change. The main change this year was the way the group was tasked. Senior management allowed the group to task ourselves locally. Complaints were still received by the NCC and then we would task the incidents out to field officers. We would put incidents in one computer file then an officer would be in the office going through them and allocating them out to the appropriate officer. Also, the field officer would not have a backlog of complaints to manage. This was done at the office allowing us to make phone calls and try to deal with some calls over the phone giving advice and guidance. The main purpose was to take the spring and summer pressure off and assist in managing workload stress. This reduced stress amongst field staff and managed their workloads better. We were also quicker and more efficient at getting collections and rescues tasked out giving us a faster response to injured animals. We are now back on normal tasking, however we are due to start work on Wilberforce, a new system to replace the ageing Tails and Mice systems currently in place for the Inspectorate. There are a number of groups across the North of England that are using this App and we hope to have this rolled out across the South East by November 2019.

You will notice the list of Officers in the group has changed since the last annual report. We have sadly said goodbye to Inspector's Ellen Thomas and Anthony Pulfer who have left the Society, and ACO's Abbie Fright and Paul Taylor have moved to neighbouring groups as part of the changes to facilitate the new Wilberforce tasking model. As part of the changes to groups, we have welcomed a few new faces to the group, ACO's Tom Goldsmith and Joe Tambini have moved over from the SE1 group, ACO Jade Guthrie has moved to us from the SSW8 group and Inspector Liz Wheeler has joined us from the SE5 group. We have also

welcomed ACO Mat Hawkins to the group as a new starter and Mat will be working towards completing the new ACO Apprenticeship course over the next 16 months. And finally, Inspector James Whipps has now completed the Inspector course and is fully qualified and has been getting stuck in, in his patch. Chief Inspector Mark Miles has been working on the Wilberforce project over the last few months, so Inspector Nick Wheelhouse has been deputising in his absence. We also say goodbye to Inspector Lucy Chillery who moves to Wales in April this year.

We wish to offer our thanks to the Metropolitan Police, Kent Police and Surrey Police for their invaluable assistance in exercising their powers of entry, search, seizure and occasionally arrest of people who mistreat their animals. Our thanks also go to London Fire Brigade and Kent Fire and Rescue Service for the many occasions that they have helped with rescues of animals that have got themselves trapped or in difficulty and we have needed their equipment and manpower to resolve the situation.

Of course, we have not forgotten the RSPCA animal centres that take in our animals, care for them and eventually re-home them. Our sincere thanks to the Branch catteries and kennels that board, care for and rehome our animals, usually at very short notice and at the most inconvenient times, and to the experts who care for our sick and injured wildlife until they have been rehabilitated and are able to be released back into the wild.

We are not the only charity that goes to great effort for the benefit of animal welfare and I wish to acknowledge other organisations that provide us with invaluable assistance. Thank you to Folly Wildlife for their excellent work for the welfare of wildlife, Martin and his wife Sue who have taken a never ending list of birds from our team, supported by Bromley and District Branch, who helped fund Martin's new aviaries. We also work very closely with Sara Smith and Claire Gordon of World Horse Welfare to improve the welfare of equines in the area.

Our highly-skilled intelligence teams also need a mention, who use state of the art technology to trace some of the miscreants who mistakenly think that by running off to other parts of the country they can escape the consequences of their cruel or neglectful actions.

Finally, on behalf of everyone in the South East London Group, a big thank you to all of the London and Kent Branches, members and volunteers for making us feel so welcome at your meetings and for all the difficult and invaluable work you have done throughout 2018. Without you dedicating your time and efforts we would not be able to achieve all that we do.

In 2018 the Inspectors and ACO's in the South East London Group dealt with 11,819 calls, of which 7,605 were complaints and 4,214 were collections.

The group submitted **25** cases to HQ with a view to prosecution.

This resulted in **11** convictions for cruelty and **7** Adult Written Cautions being issued.

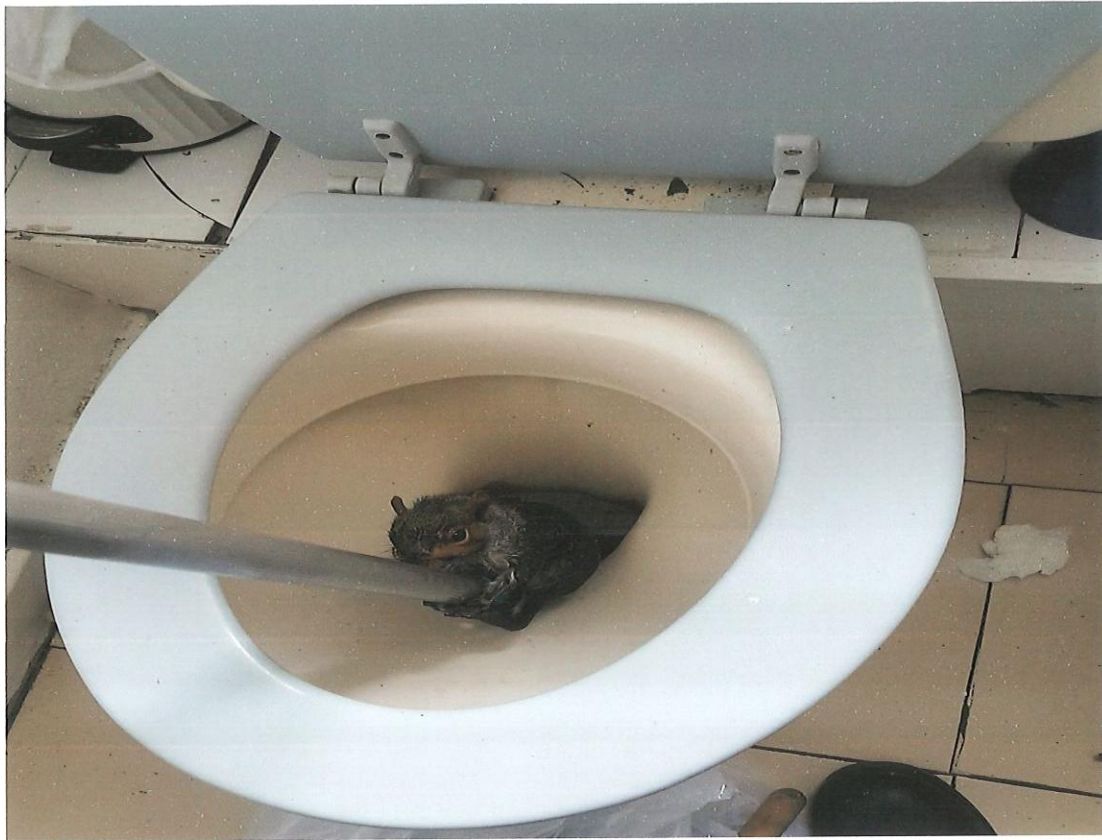
2 cases are ongoing into 2019.

To give you a taste of what we do, here are just a few of the things that we dealt with in the past year that you may find of interest...

Yo-urine trouble:

ACO Kirstie Gillard attended an address in Southwark in which students reported a squirrel stuck down their toilet. Kirstie made her way to the address believing the squirrel was in the toilet room, but was shocked to find the poor animal inside the toilet itself!

Using a grasper as a makeshift lifeline, Kirstie was able to pull the squirrel out of the toilet and release him, after a quick towel dry.



A bit of a tangle:

ACO Gillard attended Biggin Hill School to deal with deer caught in the football netting. Assisted by Folly Wildlife Rescue, Kirstie was able to free the deer and released him back to the wild.



Successful prosecution of a prolific breeder:

Assisting SOU Inspectors, Inspectors James Whipps, Nick Wheelhouse & Ellen Thomas attended an address in Bexleyheath to assist Met Police in

executing an RSPCA lead warrant. A total of 47 animals were removed from squalid conditions. A successful prosecution was brought and the two defendants were banned from keeping animals for life. All animals were subsequently rehomed.



Co-operation is always key:

There are many organisations that work for the benefit of animal

Branch Area Statistics:

	Complaints Closed	Collections
South East London Branch	1228	1718
Bromley & District Branch	391	645
Kent North West Branch	640	625
Kent West Branch	16	21
Croydon, Crystal Palace & District Branch	360	574
Purley & Caterham Branch	232	382
Surrey, Sutton & District Branch	13	16
Wimbledon, Wandsworth & Sutton District Branch	6	4
Total:	2886	3985

Finally:

Once again, a massive thank you to you, the Branch volunteers, for your continued support for the Inspectorate group. Without you, we would not be able to do our jobs and help all the animals in need that we have dealt with.

Thank you.



RSPCA

KENT NORTH WEST BRANCH

Registered Charity 210633

AN ADDENDUM TO THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2018



ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY

KENT NORTH WEST BRANCH

Registered Charity 210633

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFITS

1. The RSPCA, Kent, North West Branch is an incorporated 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 areas of all DA postcodes and the postcode area BR8.
2. The objects of the Branch are to promote the work and objects of the Society which is 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.
3. The Trustees have reviewed the outcomes and achievements of our objectives and activities for the year to ensure they remain focused on our charitable aims and continue to deliver benefits to the public. We have complied with the duty under the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.
4. Under the Charities Act 2006, the advancement of animal welfare is recognised as a distinct statutory charitable purpose. This legislation and the Animal Welfare Act of the same year indicate an acceptance by society that treating living creatures with compassion has a moral benefit for the public as a whole. Whilst the public benefit is clear, it is sometimes difficult to quantify and must be balanced against any detriment.
5. 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. All our charitable activities as described in more detail in the following paragraphs, and the content of the Branch Annual Report, focus on promoting kindness and preventing or suppressing cruelty to animals and are undertaken to further these purposes for the public benefit.
6. The Branch supports our local Inspectors by taking in, free of charge, mistreated or abandoned animals, including pets whose owners suffer ill health or financial difficulties or pass away. The Society's Inspectorate (in addition to providing education, information and advice) rescues animals in distress and enforces laws against 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 objectives and promotes humane sentiments towards animals which involves moral benefit to humankind as a whole.

7. The Branch provides subsidised veterinary treatment for animals which are sick or injured and belong to local people on benefit. We do this through the services of a volunteer Branch Animal Welfare Administrator who arranges for the service to be carried out at a local veterinary clinic and agrees the level of grant that can be paid for each episode of treatment. This work benefits those on means tested benefit by giving them financial help to obtain care for companion animals in need of veterinary treatment.
8. The Branch provides subsidised neutering and microchipping of companion animals for those in the Branch area for those on low incomes. This is done by a number of methods; arrangements with local veterinary clinics; as part of specific schemes such as the Neutering of Staffordshire Terriers and the like; arrangements with a Specific scheme for the spaying of female cats (a project run jointly with Cats Protection); at catteries with whom the Branch has made specific arrangements and also through the services of the Branch Animal Welfare Administrator. This work helps control cat/dog populations through neutering and benefits those on means tested benefits by giving them financial help to neuter and microchip companion animals, thereby promoting responsible pet ownership.
9. Animals coming into the care of the Branch receive veterinary treatment and where necessary vaccinations; neutering and microchipping. This work helps to control the incidence and spread of disease and suffering through with their owners should they become lost or involved in a Road Traffic Accident.
10. Animals coming into our care that are suitable for rehoming are transferred to one of the three rehoming catteries that the Branch has made special arrangements with. These are at the Canterbury and Dover Branch, the Ashford Branch or the Hastings Branch at Bluebell Ridge. These centres rehome Branch animals after making the necessary arrangement and enquiries. Whilst the Branch does rely on other agencies to rehome Branch animals we do recognise that companion animal provide measurable benefits to people’s physical and mental health, we consider the provision of pets as subsidiary to the main charitable aim of this service, which is to reduce animal suffering. The 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 therefore would fall outside of our objectives to rehome animals to those who could not afford the upkeep of them.

11. We take in, free of charge, lost animals and take steps to reunite them with their owners. This work benefits our local community (including local authorities) by preventing animals straying and posing a risk to themselves and to people through road traffic accidents.
12. The Branch responds to enquires and requests for assistance both directly through the Branch telephone helpline and the Society's Nation Call Centre. The public benefit from knowing that they can contact any part of the Branch service and the knowledge that we can intervene to assist animals in need. The Branch helpline is accessed by members of the public in Essex and other Branches throughout Kent.
13. The Branch operates two charity shops, one in Dartford and one in Gravesend. This permits the public to donate unwanted but serviceable items to the Branch in order to raise funds to support our services and also allows members of the public to purchase the donated items at reasonable and competitive prices, whilst adding to the funds that we seek to raise to meet the costs of the services we provide.
14. The shops also provide volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work and provides valuable insights into the world of retailing and fundraising. We also offer opportunities including, Trusteeship, fostering and fundraising, all of which benefits local people and companies by providing the possibility of doing work which is compassionate and rewarding.
15. Within the terms the terms of our governing document we support the National Society; other RSPCA Branches collaborating on matters such as care of animals, rehoming of animal and during 2018 made a grant to the National Society to meet the costs of an equine rehoming centre at the Leybourne Animal Centre. Members of the public benefit by the services that these services can provide