



Wiltshire Mid Branch Registered Charity 205295

RSPCA WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2018



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(A) REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The RSPCA Wiltshire Mid Branch operates in central Wiltshire, covering the four towns of Devizes, Melksham, Warminster, Westbury and the surrounding villages. It is a registered charity and its charity number is **205295**.

Trustees

The committee comprises nine volunteers with a broad range of life experiences and careers, all sharing a common passion for animal welfare – specifically preventing cruelty, alleviating suffering and promoting kindness.

Committee

Mr. Andrew Sheppard (Chairman)

Mr. Richard Pearce (Treasurer)

Miss. Jane Barton (Secretary)

Mrs. Sheila Colcomb

Mrs Elizabeth Davies

Mrs. Claire Maggs (Auxiliary Secretary Warminster and Westbury)

Mrs. Lesley Pawlak

Mrs. Jo Sheppard (Almoning Secretary)

Mrs. Caroline Davy

Mrs. Deborah Gogarty held the post of Chairman for the first part of the year but stood down from the committee and her post at the conclusion of last years Annual General Meeting. During the year we have been joined by Mrs. Selina Rogers who has acted as an observer / volunteer with a view to possibly joining the committee at a later date Mrs. Rogers has a wide range of animal interests and her input has been appreciated.

Contact information

For communication purposes **the principal address** is (C/o Rangebourne Pet Care, New Park Street, Devizes, the business address of the Chairman Mr. Sheppard).

The web site is <https://www.rspca.org.uk/local/wiltshire-mid-branch/>. Here details of how to get in touch for animal welfare purposes is shown along with current news and campaigns.

The financial accounts are **independently examined** by J S Weeks and Co, 41 St John's Street, Devizes SN10 1BL. **Branch funds** are held by Lloyds Bank, Devizes.

(B) STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Branch is constituted as an unincorporated association. The Branch operates as an autonomous Branch of the National RSPCA subject to its rules for Branches (as updated in 2012). A committee of Trustees, elected at the AGM governs the Branch. All Trustees are briefed on their responsibilities as Trustees prior to their acceptance of the role.

The Branch operates within a national network of organisations that pursue the same objectives, known collectively as the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The network comprises independent Branches operating within a defined geographical area for the purposes of fundraising and the provision of animal care facilities and treatments.

A regional structure, which is overseen on a national basis, brings several Branch colleagues together along with Inspectors, regional and national representatives. The purpose is to discuss regional funding, coordinate policies and objectives as well as provide opportunities for colleagues to share knowledge and experiences. The regional representative for the Wiltshire Mid Branch in 2018 was Mrs. Deborah Gogarty but in August 2018 was replaced by Mrs. Liz Davies.

Representatives of the Branches, regional and national organisations meet at this forum on a regular (at least bi-annual) basis.

The Branch also has links with other branches and organisations committed to the same objectives including, among others, Cats Protection, Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital, RSPCA Bath Cats and Dogs Home, Claverton and RSPCA North Wiltshire.

Branch management

The Trustees meet every eight weeks to discuss progress on the year's activities and to agree any required actions. The Branch finances are reviewed at each meeting to ensure donated funds are used appropriately and to mitigate any risks.

The Trustees also examine other operational and business risks and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate any significant risks, such as:

- 1 Loss of reputation through error or fraud.
- 2 Loss of income through error or fraud.
- 3 Insufficient funds to cover the costs of animal welfare activities.

These meetings are also used to ensure that the Branch operates in accordance with any relevant National Society rules, processes and initiatives – guided by the Branch Support Specialist.

(C) OBJECTS, OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The objects of the Branch are to promote the work and objects of the National Society of the RSPCA – to **prevent animal cruelty, to promote kindness to animals and to alleviate the suffering of animals through all lawful means** – with particular reference to the area of the Branch, in accordance with the policies of the Society.

The Trustees have reviewed the outcomes and achievements of the Branch's objectives and activities for the year to ensure they remain focused on the charity's aims and continue to deliver benefits to the public. The Trustees have complied with the duty under the Charities Act 1993 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission which can be illustrated as follows:

Alleviating suffering

A priority for the Branch is to ensure appropriate veterinary care is available for animals whose owners are on benefits or a low income and may be reluctant or anxious about the costs of seeing a vet.

The Branch provides donations towards veterinary treatment for sick or injured animals owned by local people on low incomes through a voucher scheme.

During 2018 vouchers to the total value of **£15,476.22** were issued in the Branch area this was a further increase on the previous year (£13,017.61). The most common request for financial aid is to cover neutering. The Branch is always supportive of such requests and delighted that the number we responded to in 2018 was again greater than the previous year.

Promoting kindness and preventing cruelty

We use our Community Action Days to encourage owners to take responsibility for routine care such as flea treatment and worming to avoid issues developing into acute or chronic situations, causing the animal greater distress. We provide free treatments, which are administered on

the spot by the Wiltshire Council Dog Warden and local vets, who kindly support us at these events.

The Branch also offers subsidised neutering of companion animals for owners on low incomes. This helps to control dog and cat populations and promotes responsible pet ownership.

Mrs. Claire Maggs our Schools Ambassador has provided interactive talks to schools and clubs by invitation where young people learn about the origins of the RSPCA, the role of the Inspector and the five welfare needs of all animals.

Volunteering support

RSPCA Wiltshire Mid Branch provides volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work including trusteeship, fundraising and event participation.

The Branch continues to make efforts to attract new Trustees.

(D) ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

JOINT REPORT OF CHAIRMAN, SECRETARY AND TREASURER FOR 2018

Once again another year has passed us by since our last report and as usual before we begin a record of our endeavours for 2018, our thanks must in the first instance be directed to the continued support and dedication provided by the members of the Committee and to our helpers and supporters who continue to assist when needed with events which have taken place during the past financial year.

As will be recollected at the end of 2016 we reported on the financial crisis occurring at the Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital at Newton Tony, Salisbury and our wish to provide much needed financial support. As detailed in our report for 2017 we are restricted on the amount of monies we can allocate to outside charities and our Chairman and Branch Support Specialist at the time put a lot of effort into trying to overcome these obstacles, culminating in a proposal being put before the Regional Board.

The proposal took the form of a suggestion which would enable the Branch to provide long term financial assistance, the Hospital would provide an invoice based on the number of wildlife casualties treated which originated from the Mid Wilts Branch area, this would be broken down into a percentage of the running costs of the Hospital, all payments would be open to debate and approval by the committee. The Regional Board placed their seal of approval on the proposal and the Hospital was informed of the decision.

At the close of 2017, as detailed in our annual report at the time, the Branch had yet to receive an invoice from the Hospital therefore no further payments had been made at that date.

In January 2018 an invoice was duly received, and based upon the figures provided it was agreed that the sum of £10,000 should be donated to the Hospital, this figure would represent our total financial support for 2017 up to the 1st January 2018. Initially our concept for this proposal was that the Hospital would provide us with monthly invoices, however it would appear

that this would be difficult for them to achieve having limited administrative support, therefore the next payment will be made at the end of 2018 / beginning 2019 upon receipt of a suitable invoice to cover the 2018 financial year.

The committee are very happy to support the Hospital which provides dedicated care of injured and rehabilitating wildlife originating from our community area, this in turn has the knock on effect of helping to reduce the workload of our Inspectors, who without the Hospital's intervention would be required to attend and deal with many of these casualties.

In January we welcomed a new Branch Support Specialist, Mrs. Karen Macklin, who took over from Mrs. Suzie Stratton following her transfer to another Branch area. Mrs. Macklin who was new to the RSPCA, was warmly welcomed by the committee.

Also in January, we welcomed a new committee member, Mrs. Liz Davies from Melksham. Mrs. Davies was co-opted onto the committee following a unanimous vote by all members and was welcomed by the committee.

Each year the Branch have made a commitment to carry out at least one Community Action Event within the principal towns of our Branch area, alternating them to give as much coverage as possible, Melksham was designated to be in receipt of such an event during 2018.

After careful consideration a suitable venue was found at the Forest Road Community Centre in Melksham, who were happy to allow animals to be brought into the venue. The venue was central to the area we were hoping to approach and was very suitable for our needs. Previously the committee have run these events on a one day basis, however Mrs. Gogarty (Chairman) had noted from feedback at Regional Board meetings that a two day event could be more profitable in terms of numbers of attendees. It was therefore decided to hold the event on Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th March.

We were very grateful to the Inspectorate who provided RSPCA Inspectors to cover both days, a local veterinary practice, from the Bath Vets Group,

Chapel Surgery, Melksham provided staff to man a small animal clinic / cat microchipping facility in a separate room and as ever one of our regular supporters, the Cats Protection charity attended with members providing full cost cat neutering. A local cat charity 'Cats Action Trust' were also in attendance together with members of the Bath Cats and Dogs Home who gave advice and assistance where needed. The Council Dog Wardens were also in attendance and provided 'on site' dog micro-chipping, the chips being provided by the Branch. The event was very well attended on both days and although a big time commitment to the committee members and their supporters it was well worth the endeavour.

During the event a total of 10 dogs, 50 cats and 4 rabbits were microchipped, neutering vouchers were issued for 12 dogs (contribution only), 36 cats and 5 rabbits; flea treatments administered in respect of 40 dogs, 71 cats and 4 rabbits and worming treatments issued to 35 dogs, 74 cats and 4 rabbits, in addition to this owners attended with 19 animals seeking veterinary or behavioural advice.

Our grateful thanks are extended to the committee who run the Community Centre who very kindly agreed to provide the Centre for our use at no charge to the Branch, this was a very generous gesture which was very much appreciated, allowing us to use those funds to the benefit of animals in need.

In May we received notification from Bath Cats & Dogs Home of a proposal to offer low cost neutering for cats and dogs, this was a very generous offer by the Home, however after due enquiries and discussions by the committee it was decided that at the current time their kind offer would not be taken up. Whilst the committee appreciated the financial gains, they felt that this would be outweighed by the difficulty which would be experienced by the people to whom this saving would have benefited in transporting and collecting their animals from the Home in Bath.

On the 28th June 2018 the Annual General Meeting for the Branch was held at the Cheese Hall, in the Town Hall, Devizes. No members of the Inspectorate were able to attend. The Chairman drew the meetings attention to the joint report of the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary and

highlighted various points. Thanks were extended to the committee for all their work and support during the year, particular mention was made of Mrs. Claire Maggs who together with a friend had run a half marathon the proceeds from which they had donated to the Branch.

At the conclusion of the meeting some points of interest were raised (please see minutes of the Annual General Meeting).

At the conclusion of the meeting Mrs. Gogarty stated that this would be her last meeting having decided to stand down from the committee in order to further other interests. Mr. Sheppard thanked Mrs. Gogarty for her work and commitment to the Branch and she was presented with a bouquet of flowers and gift card by way of a thank you.

During 2016 the North Wilts Branch had made an approach to open a charity shop in the Mid Wilts Branch area in support of their aspiration to build an Animal Hospital in their area, the Branch had agreed to accommodate this request, the initial intention having been to locate suitable premises in the market town of Devizes, however nothing suitable became available. During 2017, having looked further afield, a shop site had been located in Warminster.

In appreciation to the Wiltshire Mid Branch, the North Wilts had undertaken, as part of the agreement, to pay a percentage of revenue received at the shop to the Wiltshire Mid Branch.

In June a letter was received from the Bath Cats and Dogs Home asking whether the Branch would sponsor / provide monetary support towards the costs of refurbishing the Dog pens at the Home, the cat section had recently been completed and the dog pens were long overdue for improvement, the cost of a refurbished pen would be in the region of £16,000. The members of the committee discussed the proposal and were in agreement that they would provide monetary assistance; to this end a cheque to the value of £8,000 was forwarded to the Home as a donation towards the costs.

In July, we held a stall at the Seend Fete, Devizes, selling RSPCA goods the sum of £47.55 was raised from the sale of goods and by way of donations, the weather was kind to us and it only rained at the end!

Prior to Mrs. Gogarty standing down from the committee she had carried out the role of almoning for the Melksham auxiliary area of the Branch. In her absence it was felt that the whole aspect of almoning needed to be re-addressed, after due discussion it was felt that it would be a good idea to centralise the role and Mrs. Jo Sheppard very kindly agreed to take on this responsibility.

A dedicated mobile phone was duly acquired (**07395 560639**) and the new number posted on the Branch website, which directed any persons requesting welfare / monetary support or advice to this new number. In turn, Mrs. Sheppard would re-direct any such requests from the Warminster / Westbury area to Mrs. Claire Maggs, Auxiliary Secretary for the Warminster area who also holds the role of almoning secretary for that area. This is quite an onerous role for Mrs. Sheppard, but hopefully it will simplify the process for members of the public requiring assistance.

The need for assistance with veterinary costs / emergency veterinary treatment continues and 2018 saw no let up in this important part of our work. Our sincere thanks go to Andy Sheppard our Treasurer and his wife Jo who now shoulders much of this responsibility.

Following the success of the Melksham Community Action Event, Mr. Pearce asked that the committee consider holding a second event in Devizes. After due discussion it was agreed and a decision made to book the Wyvern Club being centrally located and a venue we have used before. The event was held on Sunday 4th November 2018, Mr. Pearce taking on the organising role, Cats Protection again kindly attended providing free neutering vouchers for cats, local dog wardens provided on site micro-chipping of dogs and a veterinary surgeon and nurse from Macqueen Veterinary practice in Devizes, held a small animal clinic in a separate room and also carried out cat micro-chipping. The clinic was extremely busy and our grateful thanks are extended to Mr. & Mrs. Macqueen for arranging this facility and to Naimh and Sally for their dedication and hard work.

Mrs. Pawlak (committee member) held a tombola stall which was very successful and raised the princely sum of £52.

The day was very successful and resulted in 40 cat neutering vouchers being issued (courtesy of Cats Protection) and 5 (contribution only) in respect of dogs, 41 cats and 2 dogs microchipped on site or vouchers issued for presentation at owners veterinary practice, 35 flea treatments and 38 worm treatments, in addition to these 1 rabbit and 1 duck! were microchipped. In addition to the above, several owners took the opportunity to have their dog micro-chips scanned and the logged details checked by the Dog Wardens and a number of dog owners were assisted with specific behavioral advice from Bath Cats and Dogs Home staff.

As a little prior notification, the committee has agreed to hold a Dog Show / Animal Welfare Event on the Big Green in Devizes on Sunday 7th July 2019 - a date for your diaries, we will hope for sunshine!!

As an aside if there are any members or supporters who could assist with any of our events in the future it would be greatly appreciated, the committee are small in number, many with a number of additional responsibilities and limited free time and any offers of assistance would be greatly appreciated.

During the first part of the year, Mrs. Gogarty provided excellent feedback from the Regional Board meetings she attended as the Branch representative, this role has now been undertaken by Mrs. Liz Davies which we hope she will find interesting and rewarding.

Following our donations to the Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital and Bath Cats and Dogs Home, we have received grateful thanks for the monetary support provided.

Well, that just about brings us to the end of another year; hopefully we have improved the lives and well-being of many of the animals in our community and trust that the monetary support we have provided to the owners has made a difference.

In conclusion, as always our grateful thanks are extended to everyone who has supported us in whatever way during the past year either financially or by the generous gift of their time. Our thanks also go to our Branch Advisor Mrs. Macklin, local authorities and Veterinary Surgeons and our dedicated Inspectors and their colleagues.

Detailed below are bullet points in support of the following topics:-

Collaboration with the National Society

It is a given that we support the National Society objectives at all times – where appropriate and within our capability. Guided by our Branch Support Specialist, Mrs. Karen Macklin, we use the regular Branch Communications to identify opportunities to get involved.

As part of our commitment to running a properly regulated charity we established a number of Branch policies, including a revised data protection policy aligned to the requirements of GDPR. We adopted the principle of a Branch Annual Review, which provides a simple mechanism with which we may reflect on past work and to plan strategic activities.

Collaboration with the community

This is a core objective and as will be noted from our Joint Report we successfully completed two Community Action Events one in Melksham in the first half of the year and another in the latter half in Devizes



Mrs. Claire Maggs our Education Ambassador, part of a network of RSPCA trained school speakers visits schools / clubs by invitation, the aim is to cover the work of the RSPCA, the welfare needs of animals and the actions young people can take to help animals at home, at school and in the local community.

Collaboration with other Branches and charities

Following a request by the North Wilts Branch to site a shop within the Mid Wilts Branch area in furtherance of their endeavours to build an Animal Home / Hospital, a suitable premise was located in Warminster which has successfully completed a years trading.

Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital continue to receive monetary support from the Branch resulting in a payment of £10,000 being awarded to them in January 2018 which covers the period up until the close of 2017.



Collaboration with the local inspectors

The knowledge and experience that RSPCA Inspectors provide to the Branch is invaluable. The reports produced by the Chief Inspector provide useful insight into the issues and problems they face and areas where collaborative working will bring better results.

We are fortunate on occasions to have an Inspector attend (usually in their own time) our committee meetings, giving an opportunity to discuss local issues and resolution ideas face to face. This is often where we hear stories about animals in our Branch area.

Fundraising

Our Branch is fortunate in that a legacy bequeathed to us a few years ago has provided us with the means to fund our current range of activities for over five years.

(E) FINANCIAL REVIEW

The total incoming resources for the year amounted to **£29,570.66** (2017: £27,306.88). Expenditure in the year amounted to **£56,068.93** (2017: £44,986.65) a marked increase on the previous year. A proportion of this is attributed to the increase in our Branch contribution to the National Society which amounted to £21,000 compared to £5,500 in the previous year being a direct result of the National Society removing Branches' ability to ring fence monies for planned events, together with a substantial donation given to the Bath Cats and Dogs Home in support of the refurbishment of the dog kennels at the Home.

The surplus at the end of the year 2018 is **£158,254.67** (2017: £184,752.94).

It is the policy of the Branch to maintain the free reserves of the Branch at a level equal to approximately five years' unrestricted expenditure to allow for the fluctuations in donations and legacies on which the Branch relies. The current state of accounts is improved as a consequence of a significant legacy received more than five years ago. Our Trustees are very keen not to hold onto money unnecessarily, simply to ensure sustainability – which is paramount to the needs of our beneficiaries.

Free reserves at the end of the year were approximately 7.4 years. Trustees are of the opinion that the existing level of reserves is sufficient to meet any reduction in incoming resources in the next twelve months. Free reserves are defined as unrestricted funds not held as tangible assets. The Branch does not hold any restricted reserves (funds donated for a specific purpose, which cannot be used for anything other than the purpose for which they were donated).

In line with Branch Rules, we make an annual donation to the National Society – the amount is calculated as a percentage of our free reserves. This donation is deducted from the share of the House to House collection that we receive annually from the National Society and as detailed above increased by £15,500 following the removal of our ability to ring fence monies for planned events.

The investment policy, taken on advice following receipt of the large legacy, takes into account our cautious attitude to risk, with investment funds stored in National Savings Income Bonds.

The Trustees have no designated funds for expenditure in the next twelve months. Approximately £9,000 will be donated to the Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital during 2019, representing a second donation under the 'gentleman's agreement'. The costs of the Dog Show / Animal Event in Devizes during July 2019 and any subsequent Community Action Days will be met through existing operating funds.

(F) FUTURE PLANS

In tandem with our regular work supporting those in need of financial help, our plans for 2019 include a neutering campaign in support of World Spay Day 2019 and a Dog Show / Animal, Event in Devizes on The Green, Mrs. Pawlak one of our committee members is kindly organising this event. We will continue to promote and support National Society campaigns as when they are communicated to us.

We are continuing to look to increase our volunteer base with a view to bringing fresh ideas into the group.

We will also work closely with our local inspectors, supporting them on specific animal welfare projects as identified by them.

(G) STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs and the net incoming or outgoing resources of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, Trustees are required to:

- 1 select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- 2 make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
and
- 3 prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Branch will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware. Additionally the Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

(H) BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS – MID-WILTSHIRE BRANCH

Report of the Independent Examiner To The Officers and Committee of Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals – Mid-Wiltshire Branch

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2018, which are set out on pages 3 to 5.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:-

- 1 examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- 2 to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- 3 to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

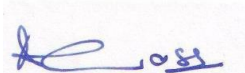
Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - 1 to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, and
 - 2 to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act,have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



.....
Mrs A M Cross FCCA
41 St John's Street
Devizes
Wiltshire

20 March 2019

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS -
MID-WILTSHIRE BRANCH**

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018**

2017		2018
£		£
	Accumulated Fund	
202,432.71	Balance Brought Forward	184,752.94
	Add Surplus of Income	-
	Over Expenditure	
	Deduct Excess of Expenditure	
(17,679.77)	Over Income	(26,498.27)
-----		-----
184,752.94		158,254.67
=====		=====
	Represented By:	
Nil	Fixed Assets	Nil
	Investments	
185,000.00	National Savings Income Bonds	155,000.00
38.36	Bank Deposit Account	0.00
	Current Assets	
11,167.90	Bank Current Account	13,011.02
-----		-----
196,206.26		168,011.02
(11,453.32)	Less:- Creditors	(9,756.35)
-----		-----
184,752.94		158,254.67
=====		=====

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS -
MID-WILTSHIRE BRANCH**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018**

2017	INCOME	2018
£		£
889.06	Subscriptions and Donations	444.26
	Devizes and District	
63.74	Collecting Boxes	249.93
-	Seend Fete	49.55
-	Action Day Raffle	52.40
24,761.00	Door to Door Collection	27,019.00
-----		-----
25,713.80		27,815.14
	Investment Income	
1,593.08	National Savings Bond Interest	1,755.52
-----		-----
27,306.88		29,570.66
=====		=====

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS -
MID-WILTSHIRE BRANCH**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018**

2017		EXPENDITURE	2018	
£	£		£	£
5,500.00		Branch Contribution to RSPCA	21,000.00	
13,017.61		Veterinary Fees – General	15,476.22	
3,532.81		Neutering Campaigns	-	
6,408.53		Spay Costs	-	
302.30		Goods Purchased	-	
15.00		Bank Charges	15.00	
360.00		Audit	360.00	
5,000.00		Rochdale Animal Home Donation	-	
10,000.00		Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital	9,021.36	
		Bath Cats and Dogs Home	8,000.00	
680.88		Action Day Warminster	-	
-		Action Day Devizes	1,216.02	
-		Action Day Melksham	456.22	
169.52		Insurance	524.11	
-----	44,986.65		-----	56,068.93
		Surplus of Income over Expenditure Carried to Accumulated Fund		
		Excess of Expenditure over Income Carried to Accumulated Fund		
(17,679.77)				(26,498.27)
-----			-----	
27,306.88			29,570.66	
=====			=====	

(I) CHIEF INSPECTOR'S REPORT

SSW4 Annual Report 2018

Wiltshire, Avon and Somerset and a bit of
Gloucestershire

SSW4 Officers 2018:

John Atkinson, Chief Inspector (379)
Stephanie Daly, Inspector (460) DCI
Daniel Hatfield, Inspector (11339)
Simon Coombs, Inspector (8356)
Alan Barnes, Inspector (727)
Ian Burns, Inspector (44)
Lewis Taylor, Inspector (12752)
Sarah Kenward (13199)
Miranda Albinson, Inspector (957)
Becky Jeffery, Inspector (714)
Kim Walters, Inspector (963)
Sian Fry, Animal Welfare Officer (11468)
Dean Wilkins, Animal Welfare Officer (15458)
Christopher James, Animal Collection Officer (158)

SSW4 Workload Outcomes 2018:

Complaints investigated: 4078

Case files submitted where offences detected: 23

Convictions secured so far: 12

Adult Written Cautions issued: 15

Collections completed: 3635

Animal Welfare Assessment notices issued: 659

2018 has been another really productive year by the SSW4 Team. Animals of all shapes and sizes have been collected, rescued and come into our care. We have also been involved in some proactive events which aim to educate and help owners of their animals. Here are a few stories from SSW4.

Collections and Rescues

In 2018 the SSW4 team received a total of 3635 collections and rescues, here are some rescues and collections from 2018;

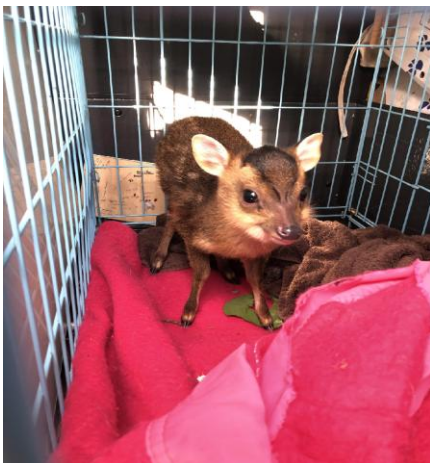
ACO Dean Wilkins received a call about two fox cubs stuck in bitumen, a tar like substance used in road repairs. The inexperienced fox cubs found what they thought was a cool safe area to lie down.



Unfortunately as the temperature increased through the sun light and their own body temperature they became stuck to the substance, unable to move.

A joint effort was made by worried Western Power technicians and ourselves to prise the trapped fox cubs out from the extremely sticky substance. The cubs were then driven straight to West Hatch Wildlife Centre where specialist solvents donated by M & B products of Devon were used to attempt the clean up, they both were successfully rehabilitated.

Orphaned Deer



During the heavy snow a Muntjac fawn was found running down a main road in Market Lavington in Devizes. The fawn narrowly avoided being hit by two cars. Inspector Albinson was in the vehicle behind and was able to stop and assist. With nowhere safe to leave the young deer for it's mother to return for it, the fawn was taken to Wiltshire Wildlife.

Inspector Daly was called to Frome to rescue a trapped hedgehog from a child's football net.

The owner of the house had been doing some gardening as it was a lovely sunny day & noticed the poor creature entangled in the net. Steph quickly freed the hedgehog by cutting the net away, once freed, she checked it over & offered it a drink before taking it to a wildlife rescue for some R & R, the owner was advised not to leave the netting up when not in use in future.

Monitor Lizard takes a holiday

Inspector Kim Walters retrieved a large Monitor Lizard which was found walking down a suburban Bristol street. When no owner came forward Collection Officer Chris James took it to our RSPCA Exotic Animal Centre just outside the seaside town of Brighton. Eventually an owner did come forward and was reunited with their unusual pet.



Community Events

Mid Wiltshire Branch held a very successful animal action event on Friday 23 and Saturday 24 March at the community centre off Forest Road. Members of SSW4 supported the Branch as well as the dog warden and other welfare charities.

The totals were:

People through the door - 82, Dogs-51, Cats-81, Rabbits-9, Guinea Pigs-2.

Microchipped - dogs 10, cats 50, rabbits 4

Flea treatment - dogs 40, cats 71, rabbits 4

Worming treatments - dogs 35, cats 74, rabbits 4

Neuter vouchers - dogs 12, cats 36, rabbits 5

Requested vet/behaviour advice 19 animals

As always it was great to meet up with the public but also the Branch trustees and volunteers who give up so much of their time.

Cases

The owner of this cat received a 5 yr disqualification on all animals, 12 month community order with a total of 120 hours of unpaid work, The poor cat had been left with burnt paws for a month and no vet treatment had been sought.



Inspector Miranda Albinson rescued 22 dogs from living in horrendous conditions, many were found to be suffering and covered in faeces. The owner received an Adult Written Caution and has signed the dogs over to the care of the RSPCA.



This Kitten was left with an untreated ruptured eye for 6 weeks, the owners received an Adult Written Caution, and have signed the Kitten over to the RSPCA where the poor Kitty has had its eye removed (picture on right) and has found a new loving home.



SSW4 Team

2018 said a fond farewell to Inspector Sarah Kenward, who has left to take on a new management role with The Donkey Sanctuary.

It also saw a well-deserved promotion of Inspector Lewis Taylor to Chief Inspector for the adjoining group area SSW6.

SSW4 welcomed ACO Dean Wilkins this year. Dean Joined April 2018 and has quickly settled into his role as Animal Collection Officer, he a very positive and driven individual with a great passion for Animal Welfare which reflects in the work he has done this year. Dean is also working towards a Level 2 Diploma in Customer Services.

I am sure many of you, will, I' m sure, be saddened at the news that Chief Inspector John Atkinson has moved to pastures new. No longer Chief Inspector of SSW4 group, he is now working hard as part of the Wilberforce team, helping to roll out our new, fit for purpose, system, we will miss him.



Lewis Taylor

Sarah Kenward

Sneak Peek into 2019

(January 2019)

Congratulations to Inspector Daniel Hatfield upon his promotion to SSW4 Chief Inspector. Daniel has held multiple roles with our group during his career, as a Collection Officer, a Welfare Officer, and latterly as an Inspector.

SSW4 also welcomes ACO Gary Lucas who is based in Wales and Inspector Hayley Lawrence who is based in Weston Super Mare.

Our daily duties for Animal Welfare would be significantly harder, if not

impossible, without the branches. Therefore SSW4 would very much like to thank all of the branches within our team area for their help and support throughout 2018. We wish you every success in 2019 and look forward to working with you.

Daniel Hatfield SSW4 Chief Inspector 11339

(J) MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR YEAR ENDING 2018

RSPCA WILTSHIRE MID BRANCH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27TH JUNE 2018
AT THE CHEESE HALL, DEVIZES

The Chairman, Mrs. Gogarty opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing the Officers seated at the top table.

Apologies for Absence

Mrs. Claire Maggs
Mrs. Caroline Davy

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were approved and signed.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Inspectorate Report

Unfortunately due to work commitments, no members of the Inspectorate were able to attend.

Joint Report of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer

Mrs. Gogarty drew the meetings attention to the Annual Report for 2017 and in particular the joint report of the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. In respect of this report Mrs. Gogarty highlighted the following points:-

- Finances / Reserves
- Number of vouchers issued
- Warminster Community Action Event
- Cat neutering campaign
- School Education - Mrs. Maggs
- National Society
- Branch Web Pages
- Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital
- Fundraising - Mrs. Claire Maggs / Mrs. Selina Kirkbride
- Collaboration - Other Charities
- North Wilts Shop - Warminster
- Policies / Data Protection
- National Call Centre

Mrs. Gogarty concluded by thanking all members of the committee for their continued hard work and dedication to the Branch during the past year.

Mrs. Gogarty asked whether there were any comments / questions in relation to the report - none were forthcoming. At the conclusion of her address, Mrs. Gogarty informed the attendees that this would be her last meeting as she had decided to stand down from the committee to further other interests.

Adoption of the Accounts / Election of the Auditors

Mrs. Gogarty drew the meetings attention to the financial accounts as detailed in the Annual Report, requesting any comments to be directed to Hon. Treasurer Mr. Andy Sheppard, none were made.

Mrs. Gogarty requested a proposer and seconder for adoption of the accounts and election of the auditors, Mr. David Myers proposed and Mr. Richard Pearce seconded in respect of the accounts, and Mrs. Jo Sheppard proposed and Mrs. Lesley Pawlak seconded with regard to the election of the auditors J.S. Weeks of Devizes. There were no objections.

Election of the Committee

Mrs. Karen Macklin (BSS) drew the meeting's attention to the ballot papers which had been circulated with nine nominees standing for re-election. Having counted the papers Mrs. Macklin announced that all nominees had received 100% of the votes and were duly elected as Committee members for 2018 / 2019. She concluded by thanking the Committee for all their hard work over the past year and looked forward to working with them during the coming year.

Any Other Business

A Mrs. Cadby addressed the meeting, who had been under the impression that she could stand for election at the AGM; Mrs. Cadby had previously attended a committee meeting as an observer with a view to joining the committee.

Mrs. Gogarty asked the secretary (Miss Jane Barton) to explain to Mrs. Cadby the procedures with regard to election. Miss Barton duly explained the process and did reiterate that prior to the election the necessary forms had been sent to her however these had never been returned, and in view of the fact that Mrs. Cadby was not a member of the RSPCA she was ineligible. Mrs. Cadby made the suggestion that the Branch adopt a formal induction process for new prospective volunteers setting out the steps required to become a Trustee, which would perhaps alleviate any future confusion on this issue. Mrs. Cadby was thanked and her comments duly noted.

Mr. David Myers raised a question with regard to the current auditors who had carried out the Branch's audit for some years with a suggestion that tendering to other companies might be beneficial - Mr. Myers comments were duly noted.

Mr. Andy Sheppard thanked Mrs. Gogarty for all her hard work and enthusiasm during her tenure with the Branch, she was duly presented with a bouquet of flowers and a Gift Card in thanks with warm wishes for her future endeavours.

There being no other business, the meeting was concluded and was followed by light refreshments.



Help us to continue our work by becoming a member, details on how to join the different options provided are shown on the main RSPCA website:-

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/getinvolved/becomeamember>

You can also donate direct to your local Branch RSPCA Wiltshire Mid on our web pages :-

<https://mydonate.bt.com/events/rspcawiltsmid/243825>

If you live in our Branch area and need support with you companion pets please e mail us on :-

Rspcawiltsmid@gmail.com

To report incidents of cruelty or an animal in distress call the Nation Society 24 hour cruelty line :-

[0300 1234 999](tel:03001234999)

You can also use the secure online reporting facility on the National Society's webpage :-

<https://rspca.org.uk/utilities/contactus/reportcruelty>