



Annual review 2022



From the Chief Executive

Many of us will not forget 2022, with the sad death of Her Majesty the Queen marking the end of a defining era in our history. Queen Elizabeth II had a lifelong passion for animals and served as our patron during her reign. I was deeply honoured to attend her state funeral on behalf of the RSPCA. We thank Queen Elizabeth for everything she did, and will always remember her many years of support for the RSPCA.

The year saw multiple disruptions and storms at home and abroad – including the outbreak of war in Ukraine, political upheaval in the UK and the start of an ongoing cost-of-living crisis. As is often the case, these human events had significant impacts on animals. There was also the catastrophic avian flu epidemic. Thankfully, we were and are in a very strong position to anticipate and meet such risks to animal welfare head-on.

In this review, you'll read about some of the many thousands of animals we rescued, cared for and rehomed or released back into the wild. You'll see the sheer breadth of our work, the expertise, care and patience we bring to meeting each animal's needs, and how we step up for animals whenever

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*I'm delighted
to share with
you your
annual review
for 2022.*

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a crisis strikes. There's also our work to change attitudes, laws and behaviours. The year's highlights included successfully campaigning for the Westminster Government to agree to an Animal Sentience Committee that will oversee the impacts of policy decisions on animals, and securing the first ever animal resolution at a United Nations (UN) conference, which we hope to build on to achieve recognition of animal protection at the UN.

As we head towards our 200th anniversary in 2024, it's humbling to reflect on everything our volunteers, supporters, partners and staff have achieved over two centuries. Our people today still have that immense resilience and determination to protect animals' lives, come what may.

Everything in this review is thanks to them.

Chris Sherwood

Chris Sherwood
RSPCA Chief Executive

Staying strong for animals

As we approach our 200th anniversary in 2024, the RSPCA is stronger than ever – and with the multiple challenges facing animal welfare today, it certainly needs to be. Thankfully, we've built a firm foundation to give us that strength, so that – together with all our amazing supporters – we can carry on protecting animals and creating a better world for them, whatever challenges life throws at us.

With one thing and another, our muscle power has definitely been put to the test in recent years, and 2022 was no exception. Many of us will remember it as yet another year of disruption. A cost-of-living crisis, governmental upheavals, the war in Ukraine and concerns about the climate emergency all had their impact on our day-to-day lives. But all of these

issues, along with a devastating avian flu outbreak, affected animal welfare too. With less money in their pockets, owners struggled to provide food and veterinary care for their beloved pets. The Westminster Government failed to deliver on many of its animal welfare promises. And the climate crisis of course is having dramatic consequences for the most vulnerable species.

In times of uncertainty, people need hope, and your support for our work means we can give that. So, we were there to help feed animals when money was tight, to push the UK Government to act, to coordinate a response to avian flu and to speak up for animals in discussions about the threats to our fragile ecosystem.



Rescue and protect

On call for animals

We're called out to rescue animals in trouble about 600 times every single day. Every rescue is different, but often our rescuers need to call on their unique blend of specialist training and equipment along with determination, ingenuity, nerves of steel – and of course endless patience and compassion. Here are just some of 2022's standout rescues.

Sheep in dramatic cliff-edge rescue

Strength, skill and teamwork saved the day for a ewe in peril on a Devon cliff face.

When the sheep fell over a cliff edge, possibly after being chased by a dog, she landed on a ledge above the sea and got stuck. The farmer called us and an RSPCA rope rescue team went into action.

Working in extremely windy conditions, rescuers abseiled down to the panicked sheep, where

they tried to calm her. "She was hopelessly stranded and we had to be careful not to scare her in case she fell further," says Chief Inspector Richard Abbott.

After several hours, the team managed to push her a little way up the cliff and waited to see if she could scramble to safety on her own. But she couldn't manage it, so Chief Inspector Suzy Hannaby and Inspector Joanna Pearson edged closer until Suzy eventually caught

the ewe in her arms. From there, Suzy and Joanna walked her back up over the edge and to safety.

Thankfully, the ewe was unhurt and could be returned back to her flock straight away.

"She was hopelessly stranded and we had to be careful not to scare her in case she fell further."



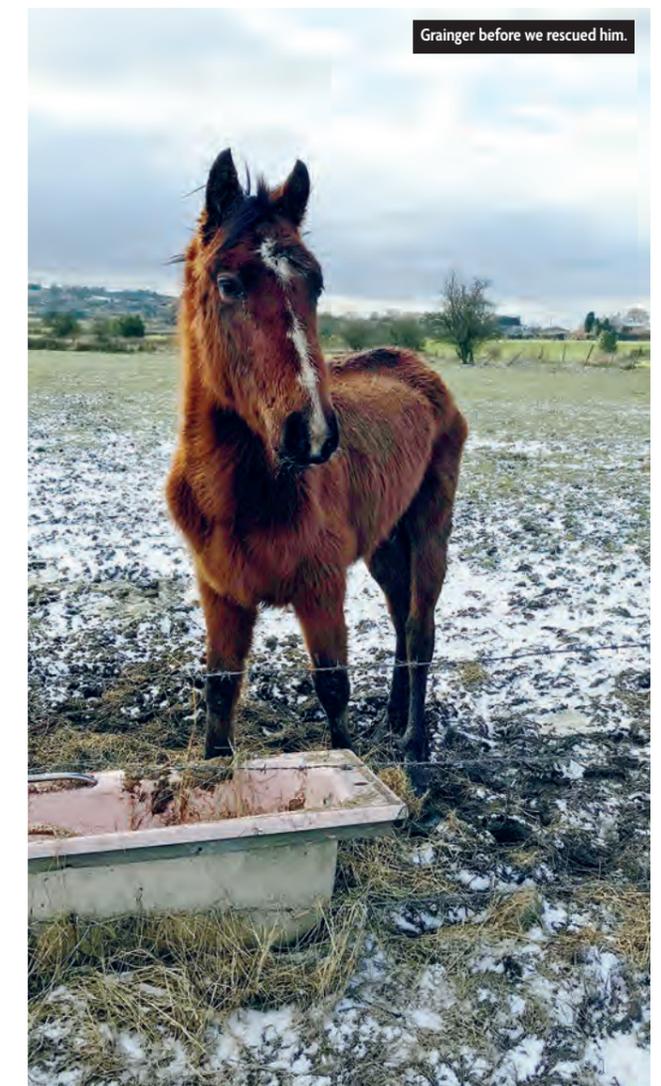
Horses left cold and starving

Thanks to a tip-off from an animal lover, we saved Grainger from a desperate situation.

Kind-hearted members of the public are our eyes and ears and we rely on them to tell us when they see that something is wrong. On an cold day, with snow on the ground, we were called out to check on thoroughbred horses Panama and Grainger in their field.

Our rescuers found a truly terrible scene. Pitifully thin Panama had died and was lying under a snow-covered blanket. His owner said Panama had collapsed the day before and that he'd been planning to call a vet. Grainger was also clearly starving and suffering from an untreated condition. He had no access to water or hay.

Thankfully, after we rescued him and took him into our care, Grainger made a full recovery. His owner was fined and banned from keeping equines for life.





RSPCA partnership working in action. On the busiest day of 2022, animals are moved from an RSPCA centre to a local branch centre for rehoming.

Finding Nemo the cat takes teamwork

It took five days of effort and resourcefulness to get to a cat in a black hole.



Distant miaows heard in a housing and care scheme were eventually tracked to a four-metre-deep void by the fire service.

Nemo the cat had somehow squeezed into the pitch-black storm defence area but couldn't get out. With the help of our rescuers, the fire service, Dyno-Rod and a local builder, he was finally extricated after five days – unhurt – and reunited with his delighted owner.

Life-saving rescue for Honey

Quick action saved an abandoned dog from almost certain death.

Named Honey by her RSPCA rescuer, Inspector Rachel Leafe, the starving dog was spotted locked in an empty house by a housing officer. With the help of police, Rachel climbed through a kitchen window. "I managed to reach down to her and she was so light I could lift her up with one hand," says Rachel. "I could see, despite her thick fur, that she was grossly underweight. The outline of every rib, her spine and hip bones were visible, and her face was sunken in."

Honey had no food or water – she'd survived by eating the contents of toothpaste tubes and food remnants from old tin cans strewn around the house. She'd had to drink water from the toilet.

Rachel rushed Honey to a vet, who said she'd probably been hours from death. A court hearing heard how her owner had moved away and left Honey to suffer alone for at least two months. Honey recovered well in our care and is now in a forever home.



As a puppy Daisy suffered multiple fractures at the hands of her former owner. Here she's in her new home getting a tickle from her rescuer, RSPCA Inspector Lisa Lupson.

Rehabilitate

After we've rescued an animal, often the work doesn't stop there. Many will be injured, sick and severely traumatised. They may need months of patient, specialist care before they can be rehomed or released safely back into the wild.



Animal Care Assistant Tara Longworth and Cattery Supervisor Lizzie Redford spent time working with nervous cat Kora who had behavioural issues.

They built up her confidence in people by creating a positive association through stroking and hand feeding. All their hard work paid off as she now shares a home with Staffy Rosco, and they have become firm friends.

Puffin dives for home after rehab

A puffin rescued from a Northumberland beach made a great recovery in our care and is now back on his Farne Island home.

The puffin, rescued by RSPCA Inspector Lucy Green, was covered in oil and clearly needed expert care. He was transported more than 200 miles away to our East Winch Wildlife Centre. The team there washed him carefully to remove the oil, fed him up with his favourite sprats and sand eels, and monitored him closely in the test pool to make sure his feathers were waterproof. They also nicknamed him Clifford.

After three weeks in their care, Clifford was good to go, and wildlife casualty volunteers John and Cora took him back to Northumberland. There, a local boat tour operator kindly took John, Cora, Lucy and Clifford out to the famous Farne Island bird colonies. As soon as his cage was opened, Clifford dived into the sea – clearly happy to be back where he belonged.



Long-term care for orphaned baby otter

Otter cub Apollo got the best possible care to help her survive and thrive back in the wild.

Little Apollo was seen following people in a village street as if she was looking for her mum, who was nowhere to be seen. RSPCA Inspector Shane Lynn managed to safely catch Apollo and took her to a vet, who said she was far too young to be able to survive in the wild alone.

The RSPCA's Stapeley Grange Wildlife Centre is one of the few facilities in the UK that can provide the care Apollo needed to survive. There, she was paired with another orphaned otter to begin a lengthy rehabilitation programme.

"We're seeing more otters, now that they are making a comeback in the wild," explains Centre Manager Lee Stewart. "Their rehabilitation is specialised and needs facilities to care for them for up to 12 months before release. Thankfully, we are able to provide that care."



Personal touch for Freya

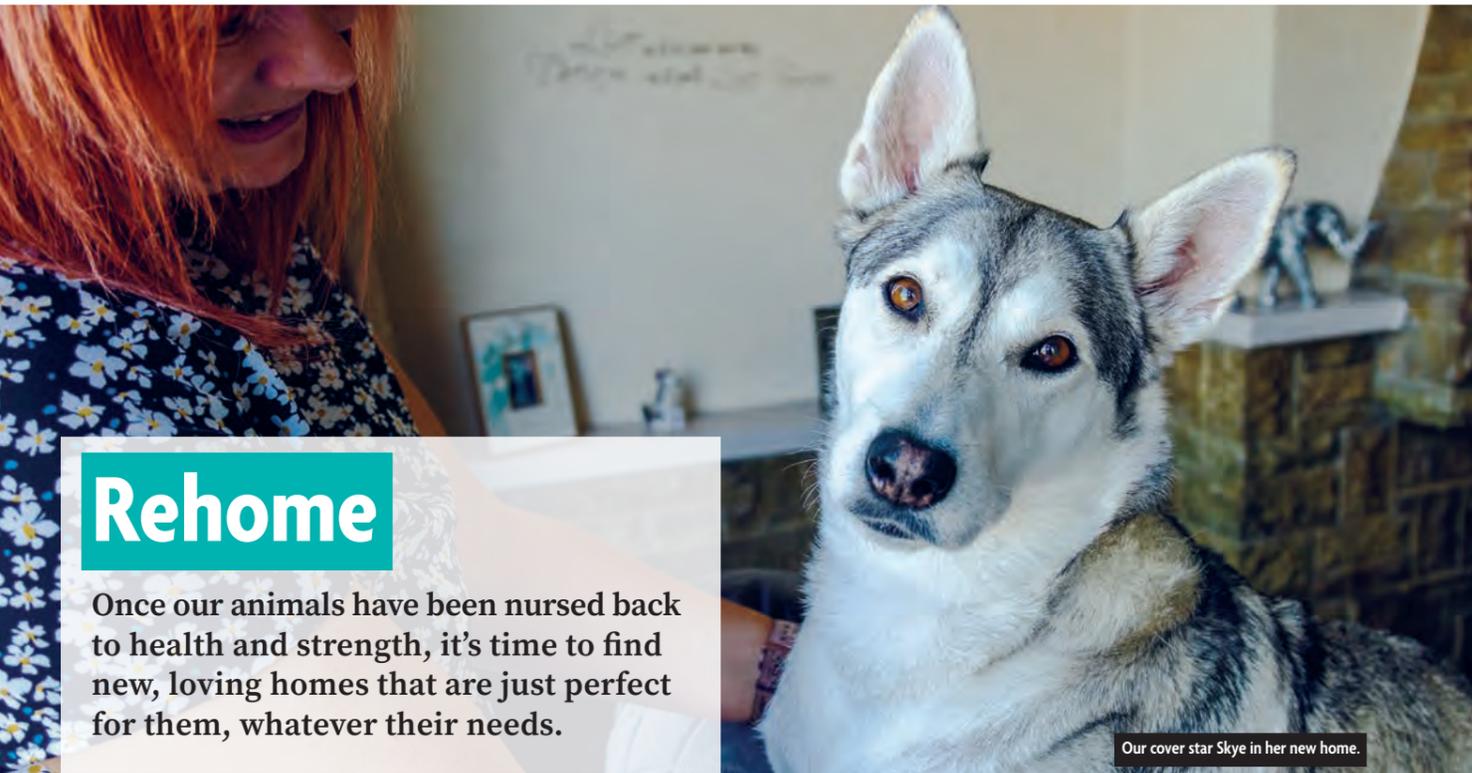
We found a great way to help calm Freya while she recovered from trauma.

Poor Freya was brought to us after being hurled out of a fast-moving vehicle. She was underweight, with a matted, dirty coat and fleas.

Though Freya did well at our Leybourne Animal Centre, she was understandably very anxious after the trauma and found kennel life stressful, so we moved her to her own quiet space, where she could take her time to recover.

Clever staff found a unique way to help her really chill. They noticed she loved nature programmes on TV – especially, it seemed, those narrated by Sir David Attenborough. So they set up a TV in her space, with Sir David's calm tones playing quietly on a loop. It really seemed to help her relax.

It wasn't long before we found Freya a loving forever home.



Rehome

Once our animals have been nursed back to health and strength, it's time to find new, loving homes that are just perfect for them, whatever their needs.

Our cover star Skye in her new home.

A cloudless Skye

Skye suffered terrible neglect and cruelty, but now she's a happy, healthy dog who has made a home complete.

We found Skye close to death, locked in a kitchen with no food or chance of escape.

Thankfully, she pulled through after intensive rehabilitation in our care, and was ready to find the loving home she really deserved.

Carrie and husband Phil had always wanted a dog to complete their home, but they were both out at

work all day. "I was working from home during the pandemic, but I knew it would be wrong to get a dog if I had to return to the office some day," says Carrie. "Some people got 'lockdown pets' without a thought of the future. We couldn't do that to a dog." But then everything changed. Carrie's employer said she could work from home for good. Carrie and her husband began searching for a rescue dog straight away and soon found Skye.

"She's come so far, and we're very lucky to have her," says Carrie.

Wilson finds his soulmate

After being dumped by a roadside, Wilson now lives a life of luxury with his best bunny.

The pandemic, followed by the cost-of-living crisis, led to a huge increase in rabbits coming into RSPCA care. Wilson was one of them, callously abandoned with nine siblings. But he's now an important part of his adopter Beth's family.

Beth wanted a companion for her bereaved rabbit Bailey. Although the two rabbits needed a month or two to bond properly they are now inseparable and loving life in an insulated shed with an attached run and lots of enrichment. With CCTV installed, Beth and family enjoy watching their antics as they play. The two rabbits also spend time in the house with the family, living their best lives.



RSPCA rescue dogs go from zero to heroes

Sometimes finding rescue dogs their perfect forever homes can also give them exciting new lives of service.



Time to relax for award-winning Stella

Born to sniff, former RSPCA rescue dog Stella retired from the police force in 2022.

When Stella was being cared for at our West Hatch Animal Centre, it was clear she had a special 'nose', so the team there recommended her for training with Gloucestershire Constabulary.

She went on to have a stellar career in the police, alongside PC Claire Todd. Stella was also named Public Service Animal of the Year in 2015 at the *Daily Mirror* and RSPCA Animal Hero Awards. When Stella retired in 2022, Claire adopted her favourite workmate.



Bella's having the best time

This little dog went from rescued to rescuer after being chosen to start police sniffer training.

We rescued Bella from the back of a van when she was a tiny pup, but look at her now. Early in 2022, she was rehomed with Kent Police and began training as a sniffer dog specialising in blood detection and recovery.



When cuddles come to call

After being rescued as puppies, Chilli and Bean are now sharing the love.

We rescued the two little dogs from lives of sickness and neglect. Now in a forever home with Julia, they are loving being therapy dogs with the charity Pets as Therapy (PAT). Chilli and Julia make regular visits to a care home and a hospice, where Chilli's calm demeanour soothes residents and patients and brings back happy memories of their own pets. Lively Bean goes to an infants' school and is a real hit with the pupils, whether he's sitting quietly in class or running around with them in the playground.

Inspiring kindness

Reaching out

Whatever our circumstances, every one of us can make a positive difference to animals' lives. We reach out to people of all ages – in families, youth groups, communities and schools – and share the joy of being able to make that difference. Through our educational resources, lessons and activities, we encourage young people to think about animals with compassion, to consider their importance in our lives and to take active steps to be kind.



School children taking part in the Great British Spring Clean litter pick. The event is organised and led by RSPCA West Hatch Animal Centre.

IN 2022, WE ENGAGED WITH:

more than
17,000
disadvantaged young people at our four education hubs

students in
2,800
schools across England and Wales

more than
421,000
young people, teachers, youth workers and other professionals, through our digital education programmes and resources

The power of caring

When things get tough for a young person, they might find it hard to know where to turn or how to break the hold of negative thoughts. But we're showing that caring for animals can be a powerful tool in supporting young people's mental health.

In our *Annual review* for 2021, we reported on the incredible outcomes for those who took a new six-week course at our Newbrook Farm Education Centre in Birmingham. The aim was to rebuild their confidence after the pandemic through activities with and for animals. Since then, many more young people up to the age of 25 have taken advantage of the course, which helps improve their wellbeing, teamwork skills, motivation and decision-making.

But it doesn't stop there. They can go on to monitor others, and even gain accredited qualifications in areas such as animal welfare, pet welfare and creating a garden ecosystem.

"Everyone is on a different journey," says Community Engagement Manager Robert Moffat (pictured above). "Some will have missed out on some of their education or not interacted much with anyone outside their



homes for a while. But they soon band together and start making their own pathways to a future they might never have envisaged. In the process, they become true advocates for animals."

The course is proving such a success that Robert's team, which devised and delivers it in partnership with Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, won an Innovation in Mental Health Award at the Royal College of Nursing's Nursing Awards 2022. The course is part-funded by the National Lottery for three years.

Three steps to prevention

The RSPCA has always been about preventing cruelty from happening – that's what the 'P' in our name stands for. We have a three-pronged approach.

- 1** Inspiring and engaging everyone to take small steps that make a big difference to animals.
- 2** Giving early help and support in communities to prevent cruelty and neglect.
- 3** Where cruelty has happened, intervening to stop it from happening again.

Our #SaveOurBreath campaign speaks out for brachycephalic (flat-faced) animals by asking supporters to: tell brands not to use brachy animals as a sales tool; ask the Kennel Club not to show brachy dogs at Crufts; and call out social media that glamorises suffering.

Campaigning for animals

We've been here for almost two centuries, speaking up for animals and making their lives better by driving forward changes in attitudes, behaviour and laws. Looking back over all that time, we've achieved so much. But there's always more to do. Thankfully, with the backing of our incredible supporters, we are still changing the way people think about and treat animals.

Animal welfare wins in 2022

It was a turbulent year for the Westminster Government, with many promised animal welfare reforms being delayed, but there were still some good wins.

Animal sentience recognised in law

The new Animal Sentience Act acknowledges that animals – including cephalopods (such as octopus and squid) and decapods (such as lobsters and crabs) – have feelings and emotions. This means the UK Government's actions will be assessed to ensure it has taken into account animals' needs when making policy decisions.

Cruel glue traps banned

These deadly boards are used to trap rodents but actually maim and kill non-target animals in 73 percent of cases. They will be banned for use by the public in England and Wales.

Animal welfare rewards for farmers

A new grants scheme was approved for farmers in England who want to improve animal welfare – for example by providing environmental enrichment. Payments under the scheme could incentivise the transition to cage-free accommodation for hens and free-farrowing for pigs. A similar scheme is hoped for in Wales.

New penalties for welfare crimes

Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) are to be introduced for any person responsible for animals who breaks certain animal welfare laws. With fines up to £5,000, FPNs will be a quicker way to enforce laws on the spot.



Hare coursing

The police were given new powers to tackle hare coursing and are already cracking down, particularly in Lincolnshire where hare coursing is prevalent.

How we did it

Our supporters took more than

140,000
campaign actions

Our biggest campaign, against the use of animals in ITV's *I'm a celebrity... get me out of here!*, prompted more than

19,000
actions

The Sentience Bill was supported by

16,000
actions

Of the pieces of legislation we promoted, parliament adopted

five
and began
three

Your local RSPCA

Across England and Wales, our local RSPCA branches are there on the ground, working in communities to protect and care for animals in need.



Feeding pets in hard times

It's been a tough few years for pet owners, with first the pandemic and then a cost-of-living crisis leaving many struggling to afford proper care for their beloved pets.

Our branches who work closely with local communities know their areas intimately and understand how human emergencies can have a dramatic impact on pets. They quickly set up schemes to provide pet food through food banks and access to pet welfare support, to help owners keep their pets safe and well in good homes. In our northern region alone, our branch-led teams sent out the equivalent of around 140,000 daily dog meals and 65,000 daily cat meals in 2022.

Incredible home-from-home

Thanks to the amazing generosity of its supporters, the RSPCA Sussex West Branch unveiled its £4 million refurbishment of its Mount Noddy Animal Centre in 2022. It boasts 27 spacious dog kennels and a separate

isolation wing, 47 cat pens, six specialised maternity pens for mothers and kittens, a hydrotherapy treadmill, a dedicated vet suite, secure exercise areas, new laundry and kitchen facilities and a visitor centre.

Safe and loving home for Duke

Finding a foster family gave Akita Duke his happiest final months. Seventeen-year-old Duke had been found underweight, covered in sores and suffering from such severe muscle loss his hind legs buckled underneath him. He had multiple health issues and our Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home team knew he wouldn't have long to live. They wanted his last months to be his best and offered him for fostering, with financial support provided for his health needs.

Vet student Kate Mowday and her parents saw the plea for an end-of-life foster place and offered Duke a loving home until they had to say goodbye. Incredibly, moving in gave Duke a new lease of life and he was soon enjoying short daily walks and car trips to the woods.

Our science teams

All our work for animals is based on the best, most up-to-date scientific research, knowledge, expertise and experience. That means we're recognised and respected as a worldwide authority on animal welfare, and can lead the way on reforms to laws and behaviour that make millions of animals' lives better. Each year, our science experts bring individuals, communities, legislators and organisations together to find ways to do just that.

Working together for animals in science

Our two major ambitions for laboratory animals by 2030 are:

- a worldwide commitment to replace animal experiments with humane alternatives
- an end to 'severe' suffering experienced by animals in research.

Where animals are used in laboratories, we also want to improve their welfare.

Our top 2022 achievements for animals in science

- We released a new animated RSPCA video explaining how a **phase-out of the use of animals** in experiments could be achieved
- We conducted a **public opinion poll**, which confirmed that 77 percent of UK adults agree the phase-out should happen
- We held conferences in the UK and Sweden on **reducing and**

- avoiding severe suffering** in research – also an online event with a European umbrella organisation for pharmaceutical companies, exploring what they can do
- We trained local animal ethics committee members to help them challenge whether and how animals are used and to help

- ensure **humane alternatives** are used
- We provided training and talks on **creating a culture of care** for scientists, vets and care staff in the UK, Finland, Sweden, Germany and France
- We ran events on **better welfare** for animals used in research, such as fish and rodents

A world without animal experiments – it can be done

Phasing out animal experiments is not an impossible dream. With commitment, leadership and global collaboration, these experiments really could become a thing of the past. As our video explains, there is increasing awareness of the scientific limitations of many animal experiments, quite apart from the harm caused to the animals.

Despite progress on humane alternatives that don't use animals at all, it's taking too long to develop more and for scientists to accept those that do exist.

We're working with everyone who can play a part and we're calling for the UK Government to take the lead with a clear plan to phase out animal experiments.

Watch our video at: rspca.org.uk/phasingout



Working together for companion animals

Millions of animals give so much joy as pets in England and Wales, and every owner has a legal responsibility to ensure their welfare needs are met. We use animal welfare science to help owners and legislators provide animals with a good quality of life.

Our top 2022 achievements for companion animals

- We identified the many issues associated with greyhound racing – including the danger and inherent risk as well as the welfare challenges they face throughout their lives – and launched a campaign with Blue Cross and Dogs Trust calling for a phased **end to greyhound racing**
- In response to an alarming **rabbit crisis**, we supported the Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund (RAWF) in its calls for a pause in breeding and selling rabbits and better legislation to protect them
- With a 48 percent increase in rabbits coming into our care, including into centres without rabbit care experience, we launched training sessions and a **rabbit elearning course** for staff and volunteers
- To help reduce the numbers of accidental rabbit and guinea pig litters being born (and needing new homes), we provided **online education** showing owners how to sex these animals
- With new laws meaning police can seize dogs used for **illegal hare coursing**, we provided training to safeguard the dogs' welfare while in police kennels
- With more horses, ponies and donkeys once again being bred than there are good homes for, **we commissioned in-depth research** into the ongoing cycle of suffering, which will identify drivers and practical interventions to tackle them



We rescued emaciated foal Gerald from a field in Surrey where he'd been abandoned. He was taken to RSPCA Leybourne Animal Centre for rehabilitation.



Ukraine pet refugees

When people fled to the UK from war-torn Ukraine, many pet owners brought their animals too. With rabies still an issue in Ukraine, the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) assessed, vaccinated and tested animals so they could safely enter the UK.

We worked closely with the APHA to write safe operating procedures for its animal isolation centre and to train staff to look after the animals until they could be reunited with their grateful owners.

Working together for wild animals

Our wildlife teams use science and best practice to improve the welfare of all captive and free-living wild animals. Harnessing people's compassion for and interest in wildlife helps us change attitudes and behaviours, and protect our precious wild animals.

Our top 2022 achievements for wild animals

- In our continuing campaign to end the cruel use of animals by reality TV show *I'm a celebrity... get me out of here!*, **19,000 RSPCA supporters** helped by writing to ITV to complain
- With the **ban on cruel glue traps** in England, we worked with Defra on the new licensing process and also submitted evidence for a potential ban on glue traps and snares in Wales
- During the **cost-of-living crisis**, we provided advice to owners of exotic pets on meeting their pets' specific needs
- We worked with Defra on its five-yearly **review of species and habitats** protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- We contributed to **zoo animal welfare** consultations by the Westminster Government and the Zoos Expert Committee, and took part in a *BBC Ideas* film about whether animals should be kept in zoos
- We developed **social media infographics** to encourage people to help wildlife
- We worked with the governments and other organisations in England and Wales to manage the impact of **avian flu** on wild birds and their rehabilitation



Working together for farm animals

We want the best possible welfare for all farmed animals, everywhere. We use our expertise to influence governments, retailers, food businesses, the farming industry and the public. This year saw significant developments on several fronts.

Our top 2022 achievements for farm animals

- With the news that the UK Government will subsidise farmers to **improve animal welfare**, Defra published its species-specific welfare priorities, which included the majority of our recommendations
- We updated our evidence-based **farm animal welfare standards** (see below) for salmon, turkeys, sheep, laying hens and beef cattle
- Two major supermarkets committed to meet the Better Chicken Commitment for **higher welfare meat chicken production** by 2026, with M&S beginning to deliver on its pledge by stocking only RSPCA Assured fresh chicken
- Our report, *Eat, sit, suffer, repeat*, which examined the welfare of meat chickens, formed the basis of the Humane League UK's landmark judicial review to challenge the cruel **use of fast-growing breeds of meat chickens in the UK**
- We **worked with and influenced the UK Government** on issues such as transport, slaughter, welfare payments for farmers, avian flu and fixed penalty notices for farm animal welfare offences
- We also worked with the British Veterinary Association on its position on **sustainable aquaculture** – breeding, rearing and harvesting fish, shellfish and other organisms in all types of water environments

It's all about the standards

In striving to make every farmed animal's life as good as it can be, we have developed higher welfare standards for all the major farm animal species. These standards cover the whole of the animal's life – from birth to slaughter – focusing on their welfare all the way. All members of our RSPCA Assured scheme must follow them. However, they are also used in a wide variety of ways to help drive better farm animal welfare – both nationally and internationally – by a large number of stakeholders, including other farm assurance schemes, retailers, food businesses and other animal protection organisations.

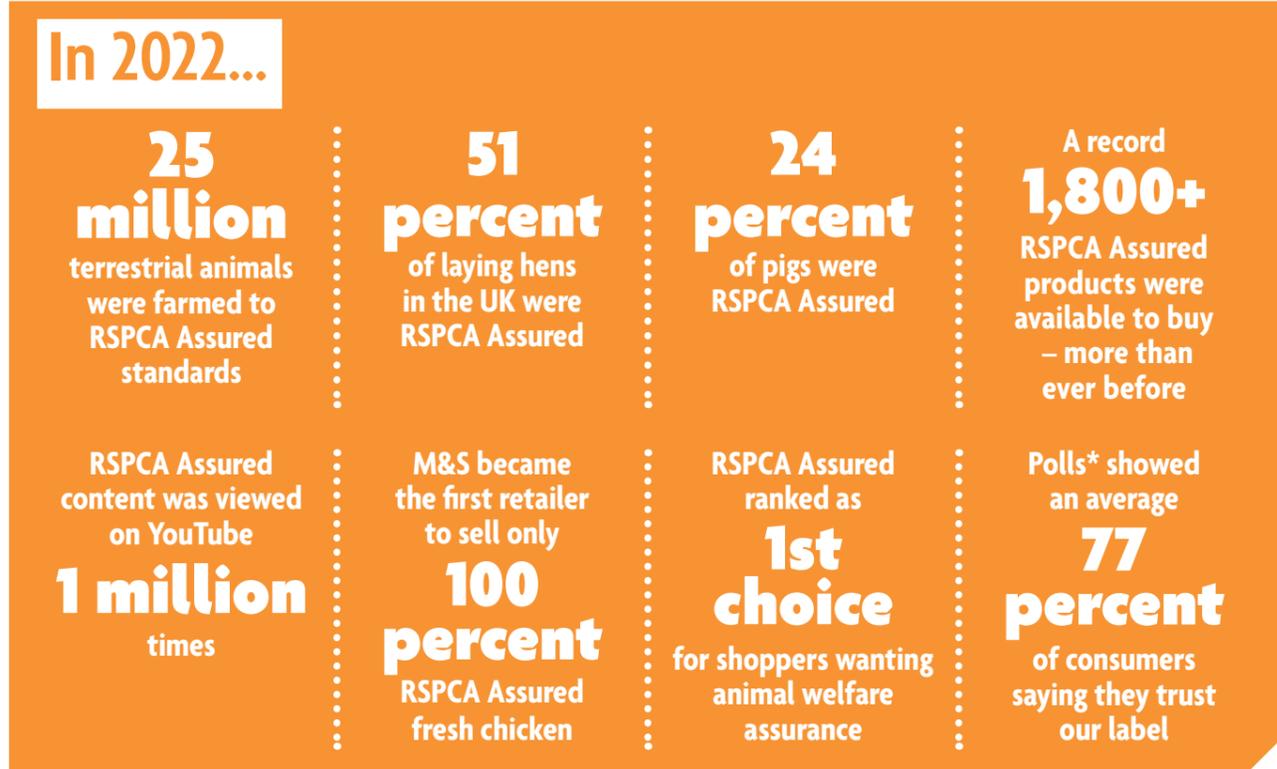
This means they have a significant impact on improving the lives of many millions of farm animals globally.

Because the standards are informed by robust scientific evidence and practical experience, they are well respected internationally and are instrumental in changing the way farm animals are treated.



Assuring better lives for farm animals

RSPCA Assured is our groundbreaking higher welfare farm assurance scheme and ethical food label. Farms approved by RSPCA Assured rear their animals to the RSPCA's higher welfare standards, covering the whole of the animals' lives. So shoppers who choose RSPCA Assured products from beef cattle, meat chickens, dairy cattle, egg-laying hens, pigs, salmon, trout and turkeys are helping to ensure better lives for millions of farm animals.



*2,000 UK adults polled each quarter in 2022. Percentage is the average calculated across the year.



Other news



International update

Our international work continues to improve animals' lives across the globe.

Our international achievements in 2022

- We were there when the United Nations passed a historic resolution to produce a **global report** on the links between animal welfare, the environment and sustainable development. We'll work with member states, the World Federation of Animals and other NGOs on the report over the next year.
- We directly contributed to **animal welfare improvements** – particularly for farm animals and pets – in more than 50 European countries by supporting them to meet World Organisation for Animal Health standards.
- We helped improve **humane management of dog populations** across the Balkans and southeast Europe, by working with the Regional Animal Welfare Centre (RAWC) in Croatia.
- We also supported RAWC to prepare for emergencies and disasters and to expand its animal welfare work to **working equines**.
- Working with the **Japan Animal Welfare Society**, we delivered our annual inspectorate training course – sharing experience on assessing animal welfare and dealing with challenging cruelty cases – to around 100 animal protection inspectors from across Japan.

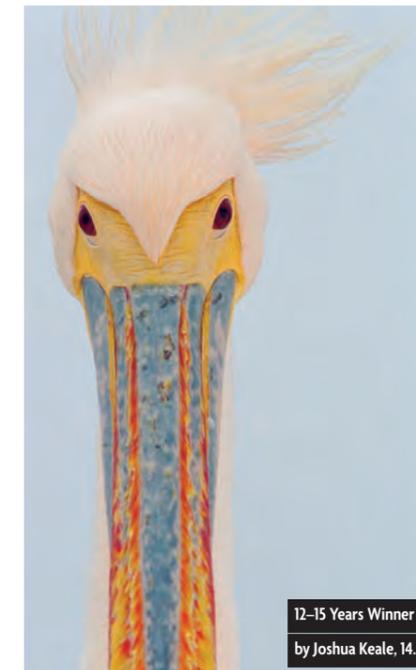
Talent on show at RSPCA Young Photographer Awards

Once again, our young photographers came up with breathtaking shots of animals.

More than 4,000 young people entered our annual competition, and the standard of entries was exceptional. This outstanding shot by Ben Harrott of a mountain hare was the worthy overall winner.



Overall Winner by Ben Harrott, 18.



12–15 Years Winner by Joshua Keale, 14.



Chris Packham with Ben Harrott.



12–15 Mobile Phone and Devices Winner by Hope Skidmore, 13.

Animal welfare for 200 years and beyond

As we prepare to celebrate our 200th anniversary in 2024, we're ambitious about the future for animals.

We're proud of all we've achieved over nearly two centuries, working alongside partner organisations, politicians and the public. In that time, we've changed minds, laws, industries and millions of animals' lives. But at this critical time for animals, people and the planet,

we're needed more than ever. Because we can't do it alone, we want to inspire at least a million more people to join us, so that, together, we can achieve even more for animals through our third century and for as long as we are needed.



Kept Animals Bill

After dragging its feet for 18 months, the Westminster Government has scrapped this Bill, while countless animals continue to suffer.

When the Westminster Government proposed its Animal Welfare (Kept Animals Bill) back in 2021, we thought cruel practices – such as exporting live animals for further fattening or slaughter, keeping primates as pets and the puppy import trade – were to be banned. But, in May 2023, it decided to use the less secure mechanism of Private Members’ Bills, where individual MPs take Bills forward. Now we’re concerned Westminster may drop its pledge on live animal transport altogether. We made sure our supporters knew about this threat in 2022 and encouraged them to contact their MPs. At the time of writing, the government is only delivering on its promise to ban the keeping of primates as pets, but we will continue campaigning in 2023 to get all the issues agreed as soon as possible.

“Animals continue to suffer”



Leading the animal welfare debate

As part of our commitment to establish the RSPCA as a thought leader, 2022 saw us putting animal welfare firmly centre stage.

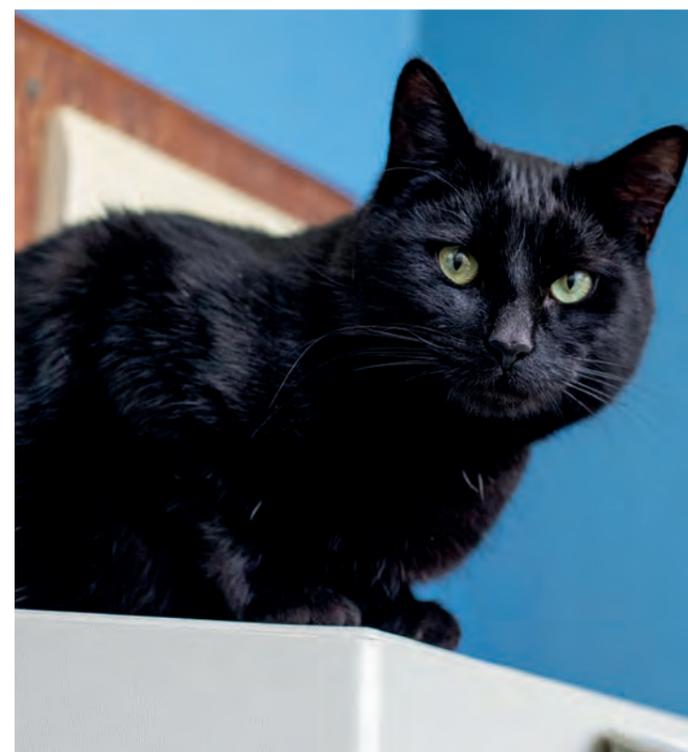
Our first annual RSPCA and Scottish SPCA *Animal Kindness Index* gauged the public’s kindness towards animals and revealed most of us are animal lovers who see animal welfare as the responsibility of everyone, including governments. Overwhelmingly, people support the RSPCA’s ambition to have animal welfare taught in schools.



We also published a book of fascinating essays by high-profile thinkers, *What have animals ever done for us?*, and held the first of the new, annual Wilberforce Lecture series.

The Wilberforce Lecture – named after our founder William Wilberforce – provides a platform for leading figures to deliver lectures about the relationship between humans and animals to thought leaders and change makers.

The first lecture saw Henry Dimbleby speak about meat consumption and animal welfare legislation, and how now is a critical moment to address these issues to secure our future and that of the animals we share the planet with.



Helping animals from war-torn Ukraine

Many people who fled Ukraine brought their beloved pets too – we stepped in to keep them together.

We didn’t want traumatised pet owners to have the added heartbreak of losing their pets, so we worked with other animal welfare charities and the UK Government to help refugees enter the UK with their pets. One of our animal centres became an isolation unit for cats and dogs, to eliminate the risk of diseases such as rabies.

“We couldn’t have left home without our cats – they’re part of our family,” said Maryna Gruzdieva when she collected Princess and Barsik from the centre.

Protecting animals and their owners through hard times

Prices and inflation were on the rise in 2022, leaving seven in 10 pet owners worried about caring for their animals.

Our centres began filling up with animals and fewer people came forward to adopt them.

We expanded our pet food bank scheme – started during the pandemic – more widely across England and Wales, with generous donations from the Pets at Home Foundation and Purina. With an additional RSPCA fund of £1.5 million, we helped feed hundreds of thousands of needy pets and provided owners with vet vouchers. We also set up an online cost-of-living hub, full of cost-saving tips to help owners keep their pets safe and well.

Improving welfare for working dogs in Africa

Dogs working to disrupt illegal wildlife trade and poaching activities in Africa have needs too.

At a canine-detection units conference in Zambia last year, RSPCA Head of Companion Animals Sam Gaines helped handlers hear their animals’ ‘voices’, ensuring they can do the best possible job to protect other animals by thriving – not just surviving.

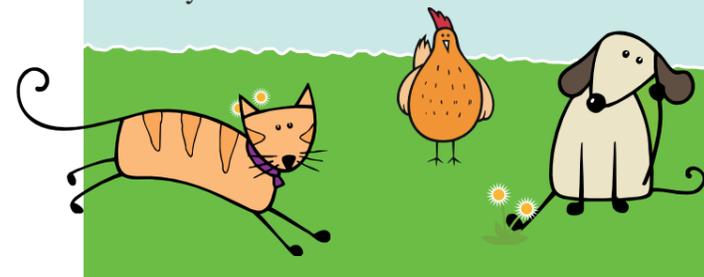
“It was a privilege to be invited,” says Sam. “I explained how handlers could get to know their dogs well and assess their true quality of life. It’s important for their welfare, of course, but also helps ensure the dogs are working optimally.”

ONE FUN DAY



After holding online events during the pandemic, it was great to see **One Fun Day** back in communities in 2022.

One Fun Day is our annual, animal-themed event-a-thon with fun family things happening across our network of branches and animal centres. 2022 was a fabulous return to form, with activities ranging from dog shows to family fun days, climbing challenges to 'pony' cycling races on nearly life-sized mechanical horses.



Tackling avian flu

2022 was tough for our wildlife centres, with the highly contagious avian flu outbreak raging through bird populations.

To safely rescue birds while containing the virus, our teams got specialist personal protective equipment and followed strict biosecurity rules.

Our Mallydams Wood Wildlife Centre, which takes in around 3,000 animals a year, had to close after an outbreak there, but reopened by the end of the year.

There was a good news story too. A cohort of 29 wild birds at our Stapeley Grange Wildlife Centre had a 48-hour window for release after testing negative. Volunteers rushed their swabs 180 miles to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) for testing. Once they were confirmed disease-free, we released the 27 swans, one partridge and a duck into their natural habitats in seven different locations.



Goodbye to our Queen

As we said goodbye to Queen Elizabeth II, we remembered her deep love of animals.

At the Queen's funeral, it was moving to see her Fell pony Emma wearing a black saddle cloth and one of the Queen's headscarves across her saddle. Her corgis Muick and Sandy were also seen – a reminder to everyone watching that the UK is a nation of animal lovers.

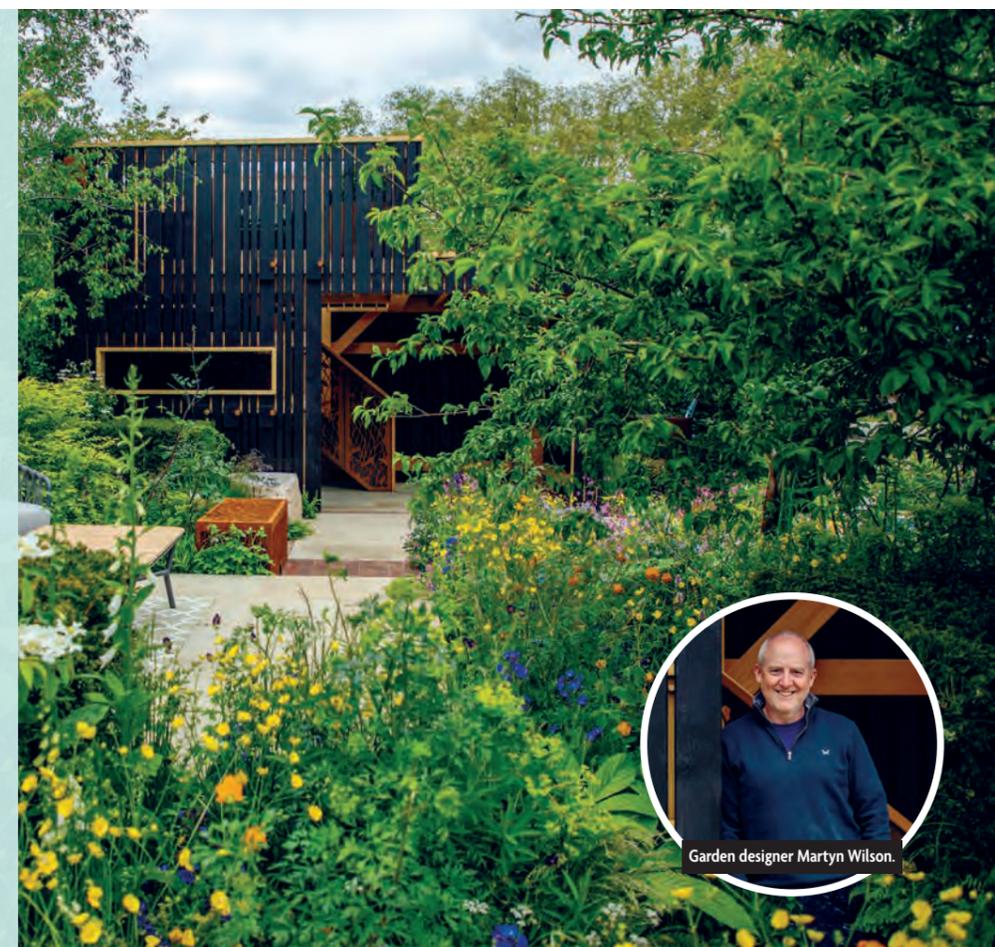
Queen Elizabeth II's patronage of the RSPCA made a powerful statement: that animals have a vital role in our society and that their welfare matters. In her memory, we will become an even stronger voice for animals.

A garden for a good cause

Putting wildlife on show at Chelsea.

We were delighted to win funding from Project Giving Back to exhibit a 'sanctuary garden' at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2023. A decision was made to make it a wildlife-friendly garden, inspiring visitors to create habitats in their own outdoor spaces.

Garden designer Martyn Wilson spent 2022 working with RSPCA experts to plan a stylish, modern garden where birds, mammals, and insects could thrive. Plans were also made for the garden to be relocated to RSPCA Stapeley Grange Wildlife Centre after the show, for local communities to enjoy and learn from it.



Garden designer Martyn Wilson.

We thank you

In 2022, **more than 508,000** generous people supported our fundraising campaigns by making cash donations to our appeals, buying our raffle tickets, playing our lottery, sponsoring our cat pods and dog kennels, giving a monthly gift, being a member, giving through their payroll, subscribing to our magazines or donating via their mobile phone bill.

We'd like to thank our corporate partners, foundations, individuals, licensees, retailers and trusts for their generous support in 2022.

Omaze UK Ltd

We'd like to say a special thank you to Omaze for supporting our work by selecting us as the beneficiary for their Cotswolds House Draw, which ran from March to June. The draw raised an amazing £1 million to help our vital work rescuing, protecting and rehoming animals.

PayPal Giving Fund

The PayPal Giving Fund helps people donate funds through PayPal and other partner platforms including GoFundMe, Humble Bundle, Thrift and Twitch. We'd like to thank PayPal for choosing the RSPCA to be a featured charity and supporting our Cancel out Cruelty campaign by raising significant funds for animal welfare.

Pets At Home Ltd

We'd like to thank Pets at Home for its continued efforts to

promote better pet care and responsible pet ownership. Pets at Home has provided support through its local community partner programme and VIP lifelines for both our centres and branches.

We'd also like to thank the Pets at Home Foundation for its generous donation towards our pet food bank partnership in the north of England. This donation has helped us support struggling pet owners and ensure they can keep their much-loved pets at home during times of financial crisis. The Pets at Home Foundation has also pledged to continue to support this vital project throughout 2023.

McAdams Pet Foods

McAdams Pet Foods offers the only ultra-premium dog food and cat food (dry food range) made using ethically sourced, free-range meat and fish from

RSPCA Assured certified farms. McAdams has pledged to raise a minimum of £80,000 in our first year of working together to help support the work of the RSPCA.

MBNA

We are very grateful for MBNA's generous and continued support. MBNA has helped raise a significant amount of money for the RSPCA and has provided our loyal supporters with a way to donate to help animal welfare.

Purina Petcare (UK) Limited

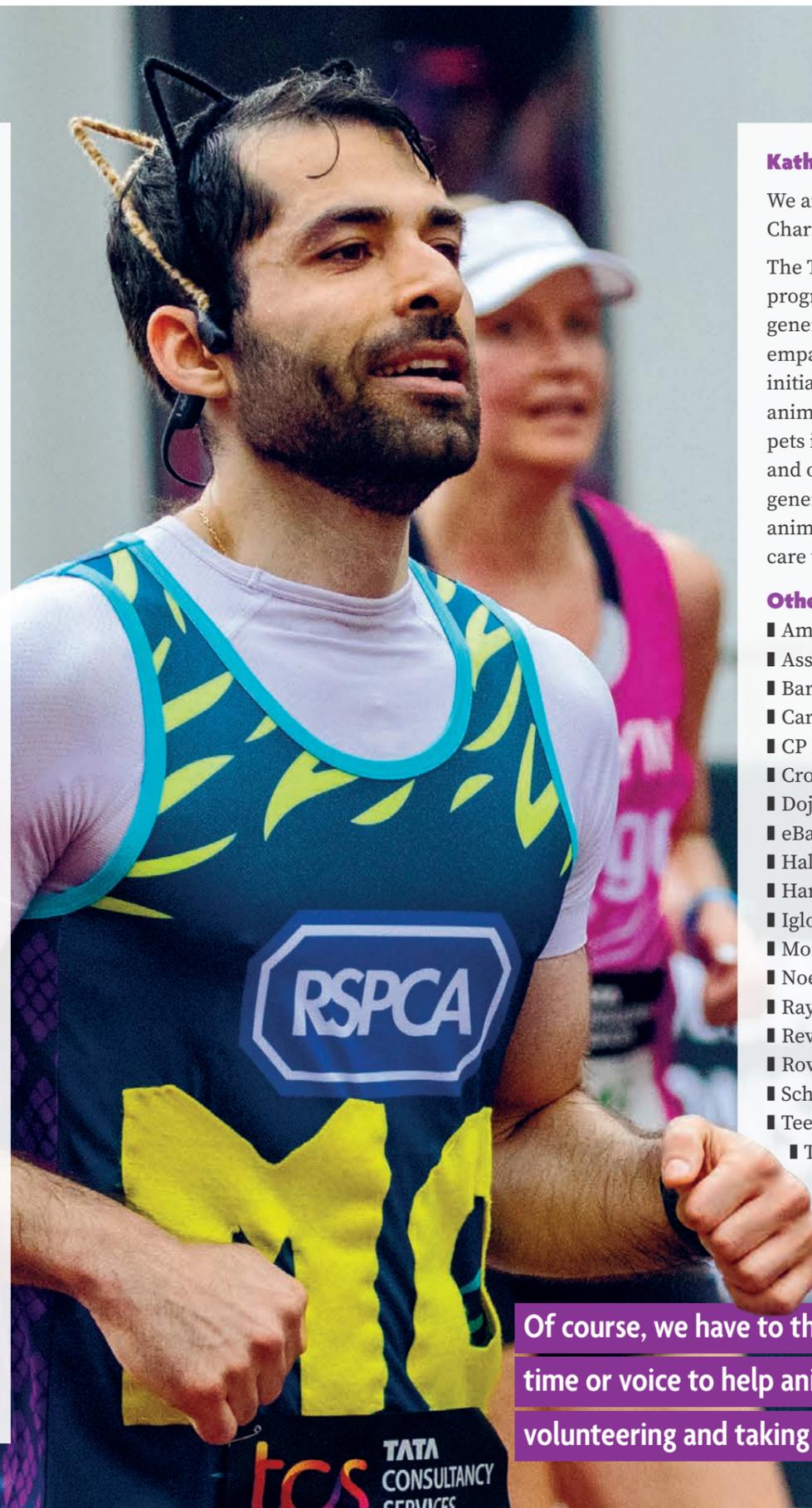
Purina Petcare has provided funding for our Inspectorate voucher scheme, helping ensure responsible pet ownership and keeping pets with their owners by funding essential veterinary care treatments.

Nestlé Purina has also donated pet food to our food bank, and has continued to raise awareness for animal welfare.

People's Postcode Lottery

We would like to say a huge thank you to players of the People's Postcode Lottery in 2022.

They have helped us improve welfare for farm animals, supported our project to reduce the use of animals in science, and helped us rescue, rehabilitate and release hundreds of seals.



Katherine Martin Charitable Trust

We are very grateful for the Katherine Martin Charitable Trust's continued, kind support.

The Trust has supported: our education programmes in Birmingham teaching the next generation about the importance of showing empathy towards all animals; our pet food bank initiative helping us to reduce the number of animals being abandoned and keeping loved pets in their homes in times of financial crisis; and our transformation programmes. The Trust's generous donation ensures we can improve every animal's journey, from when they come into our care to when they are rehomed or released.

Other supporters in 2022 include:

- Amazon Smile
- Assured Products Ltd
- Barclays
- Carousel Calendars
- CP Designs Ltd
- Crowdfunder
- Dojo Tech
- eBay UK Ltd
- Hallmark Cards PLC
- HarperCollins Publishers Ltd
- Igloo Books Ltd
- Monzo Bank
- Noel Tatt
- Rayware Ltd (Mason Cash)
- Revolut
- Rover
- Scholastic Publications Ltd
- Teemill
- The Art File Ltd
- Thortful Limited
- UK Greetings (Special Editions)

Of course, we have to thank all the people who gave their time or voice to help animals, by supporting our campaigns, volunteering and taking part in our events.

Summary financial statement

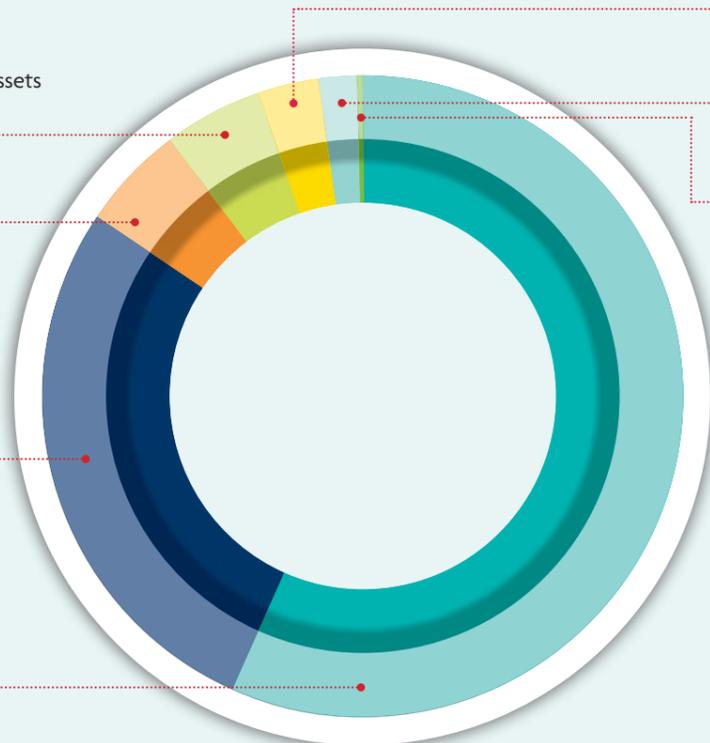
2022 Income

Gain on disposal of fixed assets
£7.6m (2021: £2.7m)

Charitable activities
£8.0m (2021: £7.6m)

Contributions and donations
£42.6m (2021: £43.2m)

Legacy income
£86.2m (2021: £90.9m)



Other income
£4.6m (2021: £4.7m)

Investment income
£2.8m (2021: £2.0m)

Furlough income and fees
£0.3m (2021: £0.7m)

Total income
£152.1m

2022 Expenditure

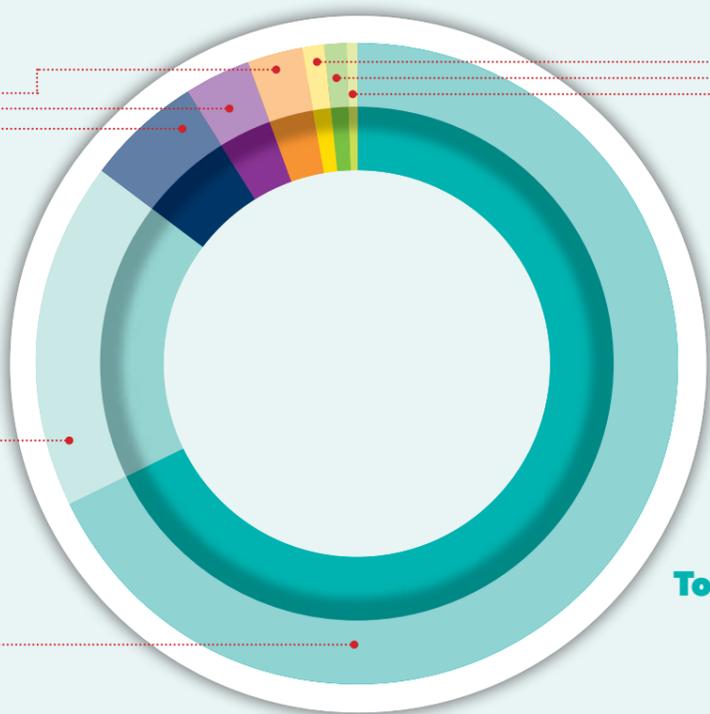
Prosecutions/legal
£3.4m (2021: £2.6m)

Campaigns, communications and publications
£4.5m (2021: £3.5m)

Support to branches
£7.3m (2021: £7.0m)

Cost of raising funds
£22.3m (2021: £22.2m)

Field animal welfare
£85.9m (2021: £76.1m)



Science
£1.5m (2021: £1.4m)

Education
£1.2m (2021: £2.0m)

International
£0.6m (2021: £0.7m)

Total expenditure
£126.7m

The consolidated net income of £15.8m generated in 2022 (2021: £44.4m) reflects the positive journey towards the long-term financial sustainability of the organisation. Sustained high levels of income from legacies and donations, together with one-off gains from the sale of property assets, were able to offset the growth in our spend on charitable activities following a return to expected levels of activity post-pandemic, and losses on investments in uncertain financial markets.

Board report on the summary financial information

This summary financial information is not the statutory financial statements, but a summary relating to the income and expenditure, prepared to give an overview of the Society's financial affairs. The full financial statements, from which the summary is derived, have been audited. The audit report was unqualified. The full financial statements, *RSPCA Trustees' report and accounts* and auditors' report may be obtained by visiting: rspca.org.uk/trusteesreport

The *Trustees' report and accounts 2022*, which was approved on 27 June 2023, has not yet been filed with the Charity Commission.

Signed on behalf of the RSPCA Board on 27 July 2023.

René Olivieri
CHAIRPERSON RSPCA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Karen Harley
TREASURER RSPCA

Independent auditor's statement to the trustees of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

We have examined the summarised financial statements of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the year ended 31 December 2022 set out on the opposite page.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and the auditor

The trustees are responsible for preparing the summarised financial statements.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full annual financial statements and the *Trustees' report and accounts*.

We also read the other information contained in the summarised *Annual review* and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

We conducted our work in accordance with our engagement letter dated 10 November 2022.

Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full annual financial statements and the *Trustees' report and accounts* of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the year ended 31 December 2022.

We have not considered the effects of any events between the date on which we signed our report on the full annual financial statements (27 June 2023) and the date of this statement.

RSM UK AUDIT LLP
Statutory Auditor
25 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4AB
4 August 2023

To find out more download or view a copy of the *RSPCA Trustees' report and accounts 2022* at:
rspca.org.uk/trusteesreport

How you can help

In 2024 we will have been helping animals who have suffered neglect, cruelty and abuse for 200 years, but with your support we can do so much more. Here are a few of the ways you can support us – every single action you take makes a difference to animals' lives.

Shane Graham, Chair of the RSPCA Chiltern Branch.

VOLUNTEER:

Volunteers make a huge contribution to the work we do and with such a wide range of volunteering roles available there will be an amazing opportunity near you.
volunteer.rspca.org.uk

DONATE:

Your financial support helps us to carry out our lifesaving work rescuing animals from suffering and neglect, rehabilitating and caring for them and finding them loving new homes or releasing them back to the wild.
rspca.org.uk/donate

CAMPAIGN:

Our campaigning work prompts political and behavioural change, but we can't do it without your help. Add your voice for better animal welfare.
rspca.org.uk/getinvolved/campaign

SHOP:

Our online shop offers unique animal charity gifts and it's a great place to buy presents and stock up with pet products.
shop.rspca.org.uk

PLAY THE RSPCA RAFFLE AND LOTTERY:

rspca.org.uk/getinvolved/win

SPONSOR AN RSPCA DOG KENNEL OR CAT POD:

rspca.org.uk/getinvolved/donate/sponsorship

FUNDRAISE FOR ANIMALS:

Enter one of our events, choose your own challenge or get creative and host your own event.
rspca.org.uk/fundraise

BECOME A MEMBER:

Join today and together we can work for improved animal welfare.
rspca.org.uk/membership

SIGN CHILDREN UP FOR AN RSPCA ANIMAL ACTION MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION:

Our magazine for children aged 6–12 is full of great rescue stories, behind-the-scenes peeks at our centres and staff in action, puzzles, posters, competitions and loads more for your young animal lovers.
rspca.org.uk/getinvolved/young/subscription

RSPCA PET INSURANCE:

Our pet insurance offers a range of products designed to suit you and your pets, and different budgets too. And your support will help less fortunate animals.
rspca.org.uk/shoponline/petinsurance



Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

rspca.org.uk

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Information about how we use your personal data is set out in our privacy notice, published at: rspca.org.uk/privacy

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