



Trustees' Annual Report for 2025

Charity name: RSPCA – Kent North West Branch

Charity registration number: 210633



Emma rescues a group of abandoned dogs running loose on the road

Content	Page
Reference and administrative details of the charity, trustees and advisers	1
Financial Review	1
Achievements and performance	2
Objectives and activities	5
Structure governance and management	6
Principle sources of funds	6
Local Inspectorate Reports	8
Branch annual Accounts and Balance Sheet	

Reference and Administrative details

Charity's principal address	20 Carters Wood, Hamstreet KENT TN26 2NN
Contact details	Branch Manager Becky Blackmore Tel; 01233 733584 Mobile; 07737 045522 www.rspca-kentnorthwest.org.uk/

Name of the Charity Trustees who Manage the Charity

Trustee name	Office held if any	Dates acted if not for the whole year
Ben Charman	Chair	
Harriet Taylor	Treasurer	
Rebecca Birs		
John Bowley		
Alison Bruford		Resigned 14th November
Eric Grover		
Androniki Papagora		
Susanna Wooders		

Financial Review

In 2025 our income was £202,999 (down from £219,146 in 2024) and our expenditure was £216,214 (down from £280,062 in 2024). We had our smallest deficit in recent years of £13,215. At the year end we had a balance sheet of £1,353,633 (up from £1,035,468 in 2024). The reason for this increase of £318,164.47 was the revaluation of our investment properties. This represents just over 6 years of reserves and so the Charity remains in a healthy financial position.

IN 2025 WE...



Rescued **205** animals



115
cats



52
rabbits



32
guinea
pigs



6
dogs



It cost us

£21,000

TO CARE FOR THEM

This year was the **first time** we had ever taken in guinea pigs from RSPCA inspectors

JEREMY WAS ONE OF THEM

Found a brilliant home for our **longest stay** animal ever, naughty

MUPPET THE RABBIT



HAD OUR HIGHEST EVER VET BILLS AT NEARLY £40,000

Helped

47 OWNERS

who were struggling to afford essential veterinary care



Had to close the doors of our Gravesend Charity Shop and say goodbye to our **wonderful staff and volunteers** after over

25 YEARS
OF RAISING VITAL FUNDS

Delivered

10,000 MEALS

FOR PETS TO OUR LOCAL FOOD BANKS

thanks to generous donations by Jollyes the Pet People and Amazon



Neutered

180 ANIMALS

but despite this we had to **rescue more** abandoned kittens than ever before

RSPCA.

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
RSPCA - Kent North West Branch is a separately registered Charity. Charity number 210633. We are responsible for raising our own funds from local donations.

Visit our website www.rspca-kentnorthwest.org.uk to find out more about our work and how you can get involved.
Follow us on Facebook (RSPCA - Kent North West)

rspca-kentnorthwest.org.uk

Achievements and Performance

- We took in 205 animals that were in desperate need. This included 115 cats, 52 rabbits, 6 dogs and 32 small furries (mainly guinea pigs). Over 100 of these had been rescued by RSPCA Inspectors from situations of abuse or neglect. Most of the rest were sick or injured stray cats which urgently needed help. We pride ourselves on offering an exemplary service to our local RSPCA Inspectors and will work alongside them when our skills are needed. We rehomed 90 animals ourselves in 2025 and for all of the rest we paid all of the veterinary and boarding costs to enable them to go to RSPCA Rehoming Centres. We are grateful to RSPCA Canterbury, Ashford, Hastings and Thanet branches for allowing us to use their excellent facilities and services.
- We neutered 180 animals (73 cats, 31 dogs, 35 rabbits and 41 others) costing £8,396.93 (down from £9,414.11 in 2024). Neutering is very important to prevent future suffering and we always assist anyone who qualifies from our Branch area with financial help.
- We helped 47 local pet owners who were in receipt of benefits and unable to fund essential vet costs for their pets. Without our help these animals would have suffered and may have had to be rehomed. When we can support responsible owners and help them to keep their pets then we will always do so.
- We microchipped 60 animals.



Youngsters

In 2025 we took in a record number of kittens. Little Dorrit (above) was found abandoned in a garage in Gravesend. With a lot of care and nursing he recovered and was rehomed.

We took in guinea pigs for the first time. What started off as 17 soon increased as many of them gave birth in our care! Lots of squeaky hungry mouths to feed!

Golden Oldies

Theo the rabbit came to us at 11 years of age after his very loving owner sadly died. He was accompanied by other older rabbits and we homed them all!

Rescue, neutering and microchipping are the bread and butter work of local RSPCA Branches. At RSPCA - Kent North West Branch we always try to push ourselves further in order to tackle specific problems in our Branch area. We have therefore developed these additional services to address specific local needs;

- One of our biggest challenges is Multi Animal Households referred to us by the local Inspector. Emma dealt with six of these in 2025 comprising over 100 animals. They are expensive, time consuming and complex. Many visits are required to gain the cooperation of the owner and get the animals the care they desperately need. Often we remove some animals and then ensure the remainder have proper vet care and parasite control etc. In some cases we have had to arrange for grooming to address severe matting.
- Branch Helpline - We operate a very busy Helpline and often receive in excess of 100 calls per month. Trustee and Branch volunteer John Bowey gives up a huge amount of his time running the helpline. He is a valued source of support and advice to the public, often calling in from much further afield than just our Branch area. Fortunately, with over 30 years of experience at our Branch there isn't much that John can't handle.
- We developed and improved our provision of pet food to local food banks in 2025. Emma worked in partnership with the national RSPCA Pet Food Bank Partnership Scheme. As a result we gained free storage space at Leybourne RSPCA Centre and access to additional volunteer drivers. We were able to deliver 10,500 pet meals to owners who are struggling in the financial crisis. We attended Slade Green Foodbank in person and this resulted in referrals to three families who were in need of our assistance with vet care for their pets.

Our small team of volunteer drivers have become really key to our work. In 2025 they moved 40 cats and rabbits to places of safety such as rehoming centres. This is obviously good news for the individual animals. It also saves us money as it can cost up to £50 per night for an animal to wait at a veterinary surgery for us to collect it. With Emma our Animal Welfare Officer only working Mondays to Wednesday the volunteer drivers are crucial. We threw a little get together to say thank you to them in October.



If you are interested in finding out about volunteering for us, as a driver, fosterer or Trustee please contact becky@rspca-kentnorthwest.org.uk for more information.

In September our small team of staff welcomed Caitlin Butler, our part time Bookkeeper on board. Her skills will help us ensure the smooth running of the finances of the charity.

Objectives and Activities

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to the general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance “Public benefit; running a charity (PB2)”. The object of the charity is to promote kindness and good care and prevent or suppress cruelty to animals by all lawful means with particular reference to the area of the Branch, in accordance with the policies of the Society. Our area of benefit is all DA postcodes plus BR8 postcodes. Any animal that can have a quality of life and can be found a home will not be abandoned by our Branch.

Our activities to achieve the objectives include the following activities which are always available:

- To provide veterinary welfare assistance for those on low incomes. This work benefits pet owners who cannot assist their pets themselves and are distressed to witness their pet suffering.
- To provide neutering and microchipping facilities for those on low incomes. This work benefits those members of the public on low income by giving them financial help and promoting responsible pet ownership. Neutering has both behavioural and health benefits for the animal which in turn benefits the owner.
- To support the Society's inspectorate in their work providing financial assistance and emergency accommodation for mistreated or abandoned animals, including pets whose owners suffer ill health or financial difficulties or pass away. The Society's Inspectorate, as well as providing education, information, and advice, rescues animals in distress and enforces laws against the cruel mistreatment of animals in England and Wales by bringing prosecutions. This work is key to 'the prevention or suppression of cruelty' part of the RSPCA objects and promotes humane sentiments towards animals which involves moral benefit to humankind as a whole.
- To accept stray and owned animals for rehoming or facilitate this by working in partnership with other RSPCA Branches. Animals in our care receive veterinary treatment, vaccination, neutering, microchipping and are assessed for rehoming. This work helps to control the incidence and spread of disease and suffering through vaccination and neutering. The work benefits our local community including local authorities as it reduces the incidence of abandonment and cruelty, and the public knows that we assist animals in need. Whilst we are primarily an animal charity, the service we offer pet owners who cannot assist their pets themselves in times of crisis can relieve much distress for the owner as well as the pet. We take steps to reunite stray animals with their owners which benefits our local community (including local authorities) by preventing animals straying and posing a risk to themselves and to people through road traffic accidents.
- We provide many volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work. This benefits local people and companies by providing the possibility of doing work which is both compassionate and rewarding and offers experience which may assist participants in finding paid work. It is not possible to quantify the financial value of our volunteers but in 2025 we had the benefit of over 2,000 hours of volunteer work.



In November our van broke down while Emma had a big group of guinea pigs on board. Branch volunteer and carer for our small furries Judith came to the rescue. She drove to collect the furry passengers and get them to safety. Emma's role in the community is far too important to have her off the road for long so we purchased a new van for £10,245 and hope to have many years trouble free motoring

The trustees have reviewed the outcomes and achievements for the year to ensure they remain focused on our charitable aims and continue to deliver benefits to the public. We have complied with this duty under the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is constituted as an unincorporated association. The charity operates as an autonomous Branch of the National RSPCA subject to its rules for Branches (as updated in 2012). In the normal course of business, Committee members are elected at every Annual General Meeting from the members of the Branch, to carry on the work for the ensuing year. Candidates must receive 50% of the votes of the members present. The elected Branch Committee can co-opt not more than three members onto the committee until the next annual general meeting. The Committee members are trustees of the Branch and are briefed on their responsibilities as trustees prior to their acceptance of the role. The trustees hold regular meetings at which decisions are made and conveyed to the Branch Manager and other staff for action. This will be our last year as RSPCA - Kent North West Branch as in 2026 we are changing into a CIO (charitable incorporated organisation). This change is a result of the wishes of the national RSPCA and the Charity Commission and will make us more up to date. As a part of the change we will have a new name and charity number; RSPCA - North Kent Branch CIO 1214693. Branch members will automatically be transferred across to the new charity so no action is necessary. We can assure you we will be keeping up with all of our important work in the local community.

Principle Sources of Funds

Two of our main sources of funding have always been charity shops and rental income from our investment properties. In 2025 the branch employed the Ethical Property Foundation to conduct a full review of our properties. This was necessary to ensure that trustees were fully utilising these important assets and maximising income. Improvements were made to our rental properties and they were revalued and rents increased accordingly.

An unexpected consequence of the property review was that we discovered that our charity shop premises at 161 Windmill Street needed in excess of £150,000 expenditure on improvements. With the property valued at around £200,000, the Trustees reluctantly concluded that a freehold sale was the most prudent way to protect the charity's assets. Profits at the shop had been slowly declining in line with many other highstreet shops. Trustees concluded that continuing to operate the shop was no longer financially sustainable. This decision was not taken lightly. The Branch purchased the freehold of 161 Windmill Street in 2012 for £160,000, but we had operated a shop there for over 20 years before that. Over the decades, the shop had raised hundreds of thousands of pounds and made an enormous difference to local animals and owners.



Thank you to Val Oakman and her team of staff and volunteers for all of their kindness, commitment, and hard work. This was epitomised by the huge efforts everyone put into the closing down sale which raised over £10,000 to help local animals.



Muppet the longstay rabbit homed at last!



Shellducklings which we took to Mallydams.



Edna was abandoned with a terrible head injury.



Newborn kittens found in a carrier bag in a park. Handreared and rehomed.



Chestnut and his family were rescued from appalling conditions and all found homes.

Our Local Inspectorate Groups

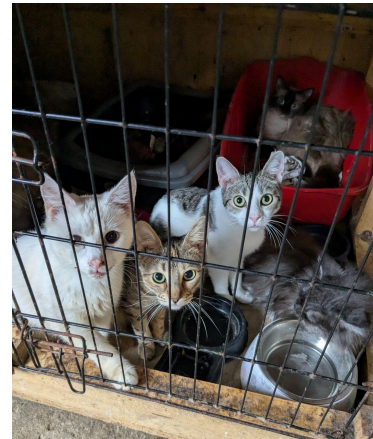
We want to extend our thanks to all the RSPCA Inspectors and Animal Rescue Officers who work in our area from the London South Group and the Kent Group. Here are some of the cases they dealt with in our Branch area in 2025



A young fox cub got caught in football netting at a pub garden in Welling. He was unharmed, released in situ and went straight back down the den to tell his family about the ordeal. The pub landlord was educated about netting and they agreed they will take it down to prevent future accidents



A cat called Orio was stuck for 2 days in a gap between houses just near Dartford. The gap was only 4 inches and he was about 10 feet inwards. Fire and rescue came to help and they had to drill through the garage wall! After about 45 mins of gentle wriggling I managed to pull him out unscathed to the delight of the owner



We are assisting a 50 cat and 11 dog household. The owner was in very difficult circumstances and needed support from the food bank, social services and mental health charities. Special mention to John Bowley and Emma Byrne from Kent North West Branch for their help with neutering and transport.



2025 is a WRAP!

Thank you to all of our members, supporters, volunteers and adopters from the Trustees and staff. A special thanks to the local vets who care for our animals and the other amazing animal charities we work in partnership with.

To keep up with what we are up to visit <https://www.rspca-kentnorthwest.org.uk/>
Follow us on [Facebook](#) or [linkedin](#)

Donate to support our work
<https://www.justgiving.com/rspcaknwb>

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

Signed; *Ben Charman*
Branch Chair

Dated; 8th May 2026