RSPCA CUMBRIA WEST BRANCH

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST 2025

Charity Number 232261

RSPCA
CUMBRIA WEST BRANCH

Trustees	Karen Payne
	Ally Chester
	Dave Eades
	Chris Gurney
	Laura Chester
	Craig O'Neil
	Norah Messenger (Appointed 28th June 2025)
	Anne Dunne (Appointed 22nd October 2025)
	Kayleigh Connor (Appointed 22nd October 2025)
Charity Registration (England and Wales)	232261
Principle address	The Pottery
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	Whitehaven
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Independent examiner	Ian Scott
	Saint and Co. Chartered Accountants
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	Whitehaven
	Cumbria
	CA28 7AY

RSPCA
CUMBRIA WEST BRANCH

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RSPCA CUMBRIA WEST BRANCH

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charities governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their annual accounts in accordance with the Financial Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Objectives and activities



The RSPCA Cumbria West branch is an unincorporated charitable association and a separately registered branch of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (the Society), carrying out its direct animal welfare work in the area covered by the branch.

The objective of the Branch is to promote the work and objectives of the Society – to promote kindness and to prevent or supress cruelty to animals by lawful means – with reference to the area of the Branch, in accordance with the policies of the Society.

The key aims of the Branch are to find suitable new forever homes for the animals in our care and to provide the care that is needed.

The Branches animal welfare work benefits the local residence and aims to help people in need with the care of their animals.

The trustees have reviewed the outcomes and achievements for the year to ensure they remain focused on the charitable aims of the Branch and continue to deliver benefits to the general public. We have complied with the duty under the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commisssion.

Charitable Activities pursued for the public benefit

The branch supports the Local Inspectors by taking in mistreated or abandoned animals, including pets whose owners suffer Ill health, financial difficulties or passed away. Animals in the care of the Branch receive veterinary treatment, vaccinations, neutering and chipping and are all assessed for rehoming. This work helps to control the risk of incidence, spread of disease, unwanted/unplanned litters and suffering.

The branch provides subsidised neutering, microchipping and some veterinary fees for companion animals for those in the Branch area on low incomes. This work helps to control animal population through neutering and benefits those on means testes benefits by giving them financial help to neuter and microchip companion animals, thereby promoting responsible pet ownership.

Our policy to charge a reasonable adoption fee for animals aims to highlight the ongoing personal and financial commitment to pet ownership. We respond to enquiries from the public about animals locally and if we are unable to assist, we will pass details of the associations that can. We also offer free care advice where appropriate.

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



The Branch provides education, information and advice, benefitting the public by promoting compassionate human sentiments towards animals

Achievements and performance

Charitable activities

- We continued our work of re-homing and assisting pet owners on low incomes with assistance for neutering, microchipping and some veterinary fees.
- We participated in a microchipping event for cats in the local community with Animal Concern Cumbria
- We provide a pet microchipping service for those on low income. We have fully trained, qualified and insured practitioners available.
- We participated in several fundraising events. Including Rallies, stalls within retail establishments, Bingos and afternoon tea and Christmas events.



Rehoming

The branch continues to give priority to Inspectorate generated animals but will also take in some from the general public. Often an animal needs time to recover from their traumatic experiences, or veterinary treatment after they've been recused/brought in. This is where are team of animal fosterers step in give the animal all the love and affection it needs and access its future requirements. We fund all the animal's day to day living costs, until the animal is ready for their new forever home. We also use local kennelling services in the short term for animals that need a safe space to stay. Every animal gets the best care possible.

REHOMED	**2025**	**2024**
DOGS	18	15
CATS	35	49
RABBITS	0	11
OTHERS	9	13

RSPCA Cumbria West also provided loving, dignified and veterinary supported end of life care for 2 rescued cats and 1 dog, despite the best efforts of all involved we just could not save them. We do this vital work as part of our obligation to alleviate the suffering of animals.

Spaying and Neutering

As part of our Spaying and Neutering Objectives, RSPCA Cumbria West provided the funding for the following procedures, according to records provided.

NEUTER/SPAY	**2025**	**2024**
DOG	59 (19 rescued, 40 companion)	41 (17 rescued, 24 companion)
CAT	83 (39 rescued, 44 companion, 38 TNR*)	64 (39 rescued, 21 companion, 4 TNR)
RABBIT	2 (2 companion)	12 (11 rescued, 11 companion)

*TNR – trapped, neutered then released

Providing Funding for Vet care

The branch provides financial assistance towards vet treatment for sick an injured animals owned by local people on low oncomes where possible. This year we have subsidised £9,617 towards treatment.

Partnerships

We work closely with several local animal organisations including west Cumbria Cats Rehab, Animal Concern Cumbria. Local vets, dog warden and social services.

We have close links with RSPCA branches in the Northwest Region.

We have partnerships with local foodbanks.

Cumbria West provides free and fully funded pet food to local foodbanks, including the North Lakes Food Bank Network, Fare Share Whitehaven, and our offices. We are also part of the RSPCA Pet Food Bank Partnership. Any person that has been referred to a food bank is entitled to support if they have pets.

2,253kg of wet and dry food was supplied to local animals in need this year.



Branch shops

Our charity shop is open Tuesday – Saturday 10am – 4pm and Sunday 12pm – 4pm.

It is spread across the ground floor of our premises which is located in the middle of our catchment area located in the towns marketplace. It includes a clothing and accessories range, Bric-a-brac shop and courtyard area for books, electrical items and special offers. (doubling as fundraising area for in house events) The Branch shop raises vital funds for the Branch and helps to raise awareness of the work we do by displaying rehoming and events posters. Additionally, our shops help the environment by recycling and upcycling donations. Donations are also sold through online platforms so we can get the best possible value for more specialised or collectors' items or clothing. We have qualified PAT testers for our electrical goods so very little goes to waste. Shop income is an essential source of funds. though we work hard to source alternative incomes.

The three floors above the shop serve as an office and processing areas for our donations. We also have a van that can be used to pick up donations and house clearance items. At present we cannot except furniture.

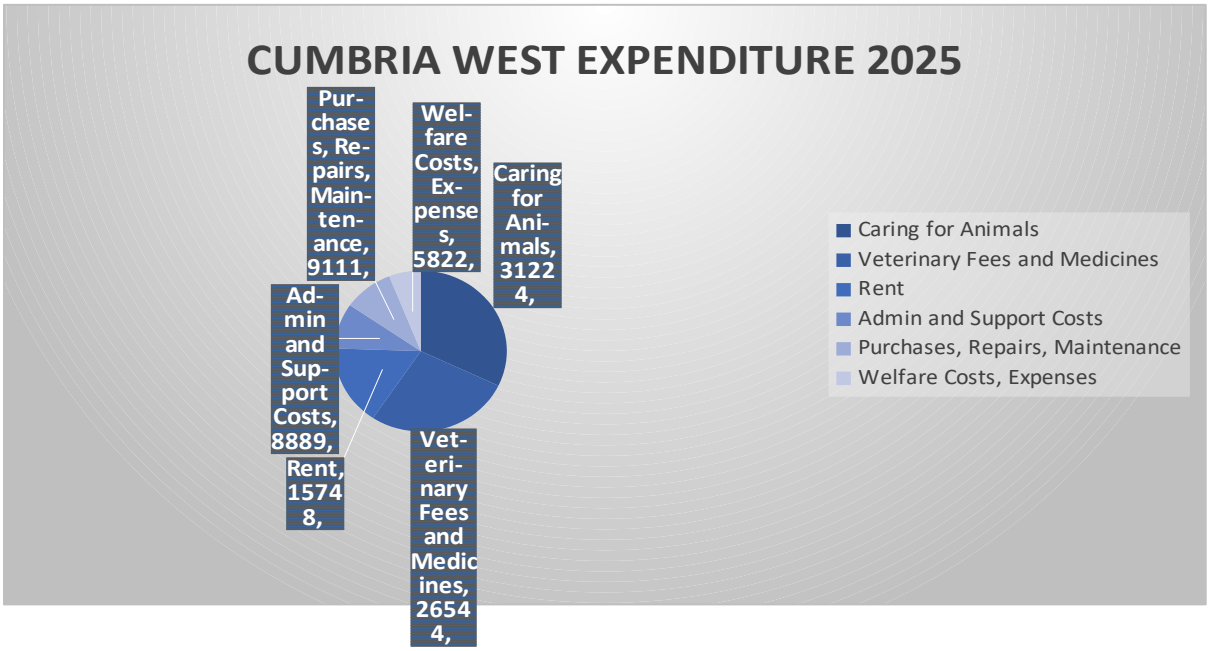
Fundraising events

We had a full calendar of events this year both externally and on the premises. Many of these were very successful and will be repeated. Our events usually involve a raffle and tombola. New additions this year included, hook a duck, mystery bags, (human and animal), dog and cat treat cones and pet accessories. Alongside a regional event organised and held by the Manchester/Salford branch, and Whitehaven Pride weekend We also brought back our bake sale and Christmas fayre/Christmas in hose event.

EVENT	**RAISED**
Bingos	£687,00
Dunmail Park Shopping Centre	£1034,00
Afternoon Tea	£324,00
Rallies	£444,00
Pride	£442,00
Christmas event	£441,00
Christmas raffle	£1163,00

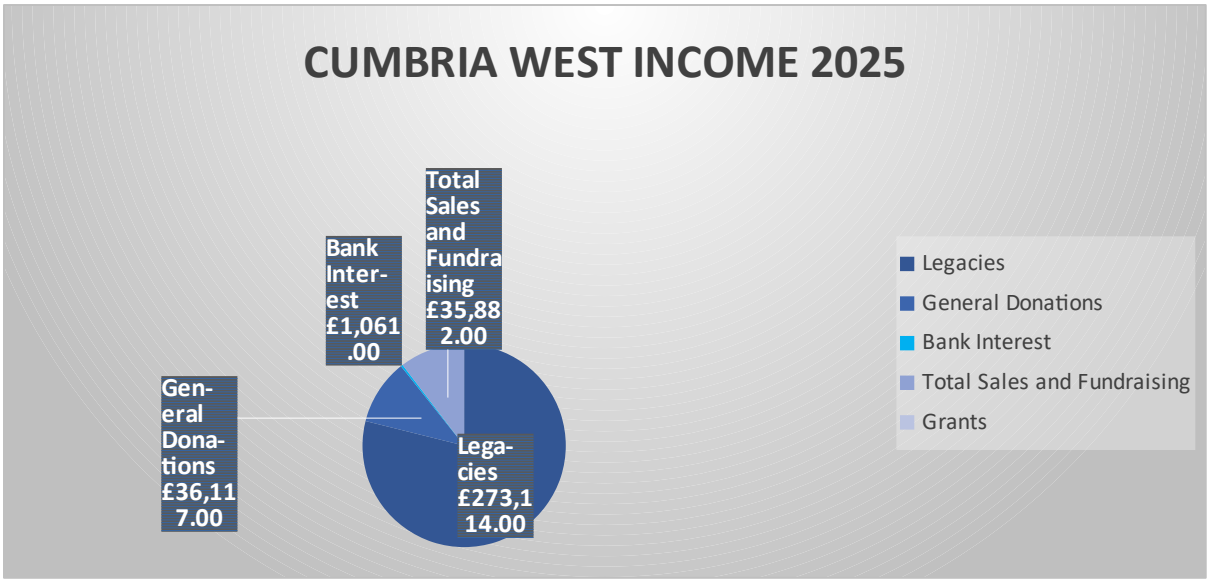
Financial matters

This has been another challenging year where we, in common with many other charities, have faced many significant increases in costs. We are predominantly funded by local supporters, who donate goods for us to sell in our shop, or towards fundraising events and by making monetary donations. We were fortunate to have received income from several legacies during the year and are grateful to those generous supporters who were kind enough to remember us in their wills.



EXPENDITURE	2025	2024
Caring for Animals	£31,224,00	£31,115.00
Veterinary Fees and Medicines	£26,544,00	£31,501.00
Rent	£15,748,00	£15,240.00
Admin and Support Costs	£8,889,00	£6,747.00
Purchases, Repairs, Maintenance	£9,111,00	£10,741.00
Welfare Costs, Expenses	£5,822,00	£4,501.00
Governance Costs	£3,736,00	£1,439.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£101,074,00	£101,284.00

Sales from our shop is the most significant source of funding, which has been steady throughout the year, added to our increase in fundraising events. This combined with careful control of our expenditure whilst maintaining our high levels of care, have meant that we have been able to end 2025 in a relatively healthy position.



INCOME	2025	2024
General Donations	£36,117.00	£57,179.00
Legacies	£273,114,00	£1,430.00
Grants	£0	£600.00
Total Sales and Fundraising	£35,882,00	£30,785.00
Bank Interest	£1,061,00	£1,263.00
TOTAL INCOME	£346,057,00	£91,257.00

Financial review and reserves policy

The Branch committee are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Branch. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets and making reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other regularities. This year we have introduced accounting software to aid in this process.

It is the policy of the charity that funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level of 12 months Charitable expenditure. The purpose of such reserves is to ensure the work continues in a managed way should the income reduce significantly for any reason, while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised.

Risk management

During 2025 the major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, will continue to be reviewed. Branch expenditure continues to be monitored. Financial controls are in place in all Branch operations. Health and safety assessments and Fire risk assessments have been conducted and any corrective measures needed have been undertaken. Equal opportunities and Discrimination and Harassment policies have been updated.

Future Plans

Despite the ongoing cost-of-living challenges affecting our community, we remain committed to making a meaningful difference to local people and the animals who depend on us. Our Branch is determined to grow, adapt, and work even more effectively in the years ahead.

Our Key Priorities

- *Strengthening Welfare Support* We will continue to support the Inspectorate and expand our welfare assistance for the local public, ensuring animals in need receive timely help and guidance.
- *Improving Public Accessibility* We plan to utilise the full building, creating a downstairs office that is easily accessible to the public and suitable for meetings, consultations, and community engagement.
- *Enhancing Operational Efficiency* Our processing rooms will be reorganised and our working practices updated to create a more streamlined, effective system that keeps our shops fully stocked and running smoothly.
- *Expanding Fundraising Activities,* we aim to introduce new fundraising events throughout the year — including coffee mornings, themed activities linked to town events, and a community art show — to increase engagement and support.
- *Growing Our Online Presence,* we will continue to develop our online selling platforms and strengthen our social media reach to connect with a wider audience and boost income.
- *Building Stronger Partnerships,* we will create deeper links with local animal organisations, inviting them to use our courtyard space for public introductions and awareness events.
- *Hosting a Major Joint Event,* we will explore holding a large collaborative event for local animal organisations, celebrating shared goals and promoting community involvement.
- *Encouraging New Volunteers and Trustees* We will actively seek new volunteers and expand our trustee team to ensure the Branch has the skills, energy, and leadership needed for long-term success

Our People

The Trustees are assisted in their work by the team of volunteers and foster carers that give their time so generously in all areas of the branches work and without whom the branch could not achieve what it does. During the year the Board has seen several additions to strengthen the effectiveness, skills and experience within the board.

Our volunteers are incredible. They've helped in our retail shops, supported events, and opened their homes to foster animals in need.

Our volunteers are the backbone of our charity; without them we simply could not function.

We have the best Animal Foster Carers; the Chester Cats remain central to the way we work and how we care for our animals. Who else would we get for the 2 hourly kitten feeds that last most of the night during the kitten season. Are fosterers being so special, the love, attention, rehabilitation and patience they give to the charges in their care is exceptional.

We would like to thank the Special Friends of RSPCA Cumbria West who donated directly into our bank or Paypal accounts, for their continued support.

To all the Veterinary practices we use, and to all their dedicated and professional staff.

To the wonderful team at Bank End Kennels and Cattery who welcome the inspectors at silly o'clock.

To our area inspectors do invaluable and often distressing work. Thank you for advice and teamwork.

To our Regional Branch Manager for all the help and assistance.

To Whitehaven Community Trust who owns the premises we rent.

To out accountants Ian and Rachel, especially while trying to teach us our new electronic system.

We offer our gratitude to every single person who has helped us this year. For all the times you have thought to donate to us, every time you shared on Facebook, every visit to our shop, for every purchase you made, every event you supported. Thankyou.

Structure, governance and management

The branch operates within a national network comprising of independent branches. A regional structure brings several branches together along with inspectors, regional and national representatives. Regional meetings are held bimonthly to discuss regional funding, coordinate policies and objectives as well as provide opportunities for colleagues to share knowledge and experience. The Branch is managed by a board of Trustees elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. All strategic, tactical and operational decisions are made by the trustees in committee.

The trustee's report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Karen Payne — Ally Chester

Chair — Secretary

Date: …….