RSPCA.

Cumbria North & East Branch

Registered Charity Number: 232262



EVA



SKIMBLE

TWO OF OUR REHOMED CATS

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year ending 31st December 2025

STATUTORY STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT BY THE TRUSTEES

The RSPCA Cumbria North & East Branch is an unincorporated charitable association and separately registered branch of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, carrying out is direct animal welfare in the area of north and east Cumbria.

The Trustees have reviewed the outcomes and achievements of our objectives and activities for the year to ensure that they are focused on our charitable aims and continue to deliver benefits to the public.

We have complied with the duty under the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission.

The Branch's animal welfare work, though local in nature, helps people in need to care for their animals, and has a moral benefit for society at large by promoting kindness and preventing or suppressing cruelty to animals. We provide subsidised veterinary treatment for animals who belong to local people on low incomes. We do this mainly with a contribution towards private veterinary treatment.

This work benefits those on means tested benefits by giving them financial help to obtain care for companion animals in need of veterinary treatment.

We provide subsidised neutering of companion animals for those in the Branch area on low incomes.

This work helps to control the dog and cat population through neutering and benefits those on means tested benefits by giving them financial help to neuter their companion animals. It benefits the general public, as a whole, by promoting responsible pet ownership.

We support the RSPCA Inspectorate by taking in, free of charge, mistreated or abandoned companion animals, providing any veterinary treatment necessary.

The Society's Inspectorate rescue animals in distress and enforces laws against the mistreatment of animals in England and Wales by bringing prosecutions. This work is key to the 'prevention of cruelty' part of the RSPCA's objectives and promotes humane sentiments towards animals which has a moral benefit for the general public, as a whole.

We rehome animals in need, at low cost, to people willing and able to have a companion animal.

Our policy to charge a reasonable adoption fee aims to highlight the personal and financial commitment of pet ownership. It would not be in the interest of animals, and therefore fall outside our objectives, to rehome to those who could not afford them.

We provide volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work, including trusteeship, volunteering and fundraising.

This benefits local people by providing the possibility of doing work which is compassionate and rewarding. The following Trustees' report gives greater detail on how, and the extent to which, this 'public benefit' has been achieved during 2025.

RSPCA CUMBRIA NORTH & EAST BRANCH

Registered Charity No. 232262

ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ending 31st December 2025

Board of Trustees

Hon. Chairman Miss L. Carruthers

Hon Treasurer Mrs S Smith

Hon. Secretary Mrs A Armstrong

Mrs L. Morrow

Mrs K Richardson

Auditors: Lamont Pridmore

Bank: NatWest Carlisle

Consulting Veterinary Surgeons: Craig Robinson Vets Ltd.

Chairman's report

Welcome to the Cumbria North & East Branch Trustees Annual Report. As a trustee of the branch for a number of years, I accepted the nomination and subsequently the post of Chairperson at the AGM in June, consequently my report will only be brief. I have been learning in more detail the way the branch operates in terms of helping to provide veterinary care and of the subsequent administrative matters. I look forward to supporting the treasurer and secretary in taking the branch forward after what has been a year of major change, with the closure of the branch clinic.

ANNUAL REPORT

As the chairman has mentioned, the difficult decision was made to close the clinic at the end of March. On a personal level there was a lot of 'soul searching' as I had used the clinic as a young girl, over seventy years ago, when my pet mouse had a skin allergy! Then it *seemed* to be run by Inspector Harry Brown -not a vet in sight -as far as I can remember. How things have changed, with veterinary medicine and, in particular, with the rules and regulations in running a veterinary clinic. With declining numbers attending, and expenses increasing exponentially it became apparent that it was no longer a 'cost effective' way to provide subsidised veterinary care.

Once the trustees had agreed to the clinic closure, formal discussions with the directors of our consulting vets resulted in a mutually satisfactory agreement, whereby current clients would be treated at CR vets premises at the same discounted rate, as would emergencies and our neutering scheme would carry on, again at a discounted rate (which the branch subsidises further because, as a branch, we believe in the importance of neutering in terms of animal welfare). Previous clients and members of the public can reach the branch to access treatment, if eligible, by email, the branch mobile and through information on our web site. Posters about our neutering scheme are displayed in our vets and certainly yield results.

The statistics we produce (for the national society) of the animals who received veterinary treatment and were neutered in the first three months of the year via the clinic and of those in the remaining nine months of the year via telephone/email referral show it was the right decision to close the clinic. While the number of dogs and particularly cats neutered increased noticeably, the number receiving veterinary treatment seemed to have increased only marginally. While on the surface this might not seem to validate the decision to close the clinic, delving deeper statistics *(again)* reveal that on some clinic days only one client actually turned up! The rest were either seen at the vet's premises or had a repeat prescription dispensed there on our behalf. To close the clinic therefore, is more cost effective because there is not the overheads of rent, rates, utilities, attending vet fees, ancillary staff wages etc.

Once the 'savings' become more apparent, a budget can be worked out as to how much more we can expand our animal welfare services. We hope to become more proactive by approaching other vets in the branch area, not just in Carlisle, to work with us. We will also be able to help out by offering more financial help towards urgent/essential and emergency treatment, which can be very expensive. But this will need careful budgeting as this could 'run away' with our reserves quite quickly!

In closing I can't thank the Craig Robinsons' directors enough for agreeing to continue their support for the branch, for their logistical help in the transitional stage and for the rest of the staff for patiently working through the 'new' way of doing things.

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CAT REHOMING IN 2025

In 2025, we managed to rehome over 70 cats, including 40 kittens, which I think is the most amount of kittens we have had, within one year. We count ourselves very lucky to be able to rent 6 units in a lovely private cattery, run by Allan and Lesley, who genuinely help to bring round, nurture, and give our cats lots of TLC. A lot of the cats are from terrible living conditions and signed over to our Inspectors, or abandoned and left alone to fend for themselves, so come in to us very frightened and in bad condition - skinny, hair loss due to flea allergy, and a lot of females have not been neutered, so end up becoming pregnant and are just turfed out of their home.

We had 3 fosterers in 2025, Karen and Tony who are just brilliant and look after the kittens handed over or "found", some very young, and some not socialised, so a little bit hissy and scratchy, which they just take in their stride and eventually you got a well adjust kitten ready to be rehomed after their first vaccination at 9 weeks of age. They do this at such short notice from me.

We also had Rosie, a vet nurse at Craig Robinson, who decided she would like to foster any mum and kittens and any older ones that needed more one to one and if we had run out of space at the cattery. However Rosie decided later on in the year that she would change her career a little and got a job at an emergency clinic in London. So it was very sad to lose her, but she does get back up here often.

We also had Zoe, who moved to Carlisle from Whitehaven, where she fostered for Cumbria West. She got in touch and offered to foster for us. She was quite happy looking after the older cats for us, until they found their forever home.

We started 2025 by taking in an older black cat, belonging to an old lady, who had two dogs and decided to keep two cats in a cage, as the dogs were loose in the house. She turned out to be forgetful and sadly when the Inspector went to her house and she signed both cats over, it turned out poor Pablo had been in this cage for some time with his dead companion. We took him in straight away and he was rehomed to a lovely lady and her daughter, who were happy to pamper him and give him lots of TLC.

Oscar is a brown tabby, we were told about 3/5 years old, a couple had taken in, but were now moving and couldnt take him with them, so I went to pick him up and took him to the vets to have a Health Check. The vet and myself were very surprised and not too sure why, to see he hadn't any teeth left, they had all been removed surgically.

But he was a lovely friendly boy and was adopted by an American lady, who came to see him and fell in love with him. (Just recently she has sent over some brilliant photos of him, settled in their house).

We do have a neutering scheme for people on certain benefits and this helps keep down any mistakes or sudden arrivals of many little feet. One such contact from a lady and we helped her get her female cat speyed and microchipped, but also agreed to take in the 3 black kittens from this mum. They went to stop with Rosie, who called them Halloumi, Brie and Ricotta, who were always known as the 3 cheeses! Amazingly, a lady a little way out of Carlisle, came to see them and decided to take all 3. She lived on her own and only wanted two girls, but I think it was Halloumi jumping up and falling asleep on her knee that did it!

I try not to foster, as I'm sure you understand, it is far too easy to get attached, especially with little cute kittens. But later in the year we were contacted about 8x two week old kittens abandoned on a doorstep inside a cardboard box. For my sins I agreed to take them on, and so it began. They needed bottle fed every 2 hours and it seemed like you just got to the end of the feed, when it was nearly time to start again. Luckily they were good little eaters and with the help of my son Ben, helping me with the day feeds, we managed to bring them up to be lovely little 9 week old kittens ready for their new venture. They soon were adopted, 3 lots of two and two going to separate homes. One of these was Daisy, she was the first one to leave the nest, on the very same day of her vaccination at 9 weeks of age. Her owner had lost his beloved cat a few months ago. If you saw the pair of them now, he is absolutley besotted with her, he even comes home from work on a lunchtime to play with her, and in the evening, she loves to crawl up under his chin and they both fall alseep. I couldnt have asked for a better home and he is always sending photos and videos of her into 2026.



One of the 8 kittens

At the same time a concerned landlord asked me to come along and see if I could help. He had given permission for the little girl to have a cat, but they never got her neutered. She had two litters, and we were asked to take the older 8 month cats, and then 6x 6 week old kittens. The conditions these kittens were living in were appalling - the yard was really wet, muddy, full of faeces and probably urine, and from nowhere these little bundles of fluff appeared and were wobbling about, with sticks for legs and a stick tail. I found out later this was because of all the stuff from the ground caked into their legs and tails.

6 fluffies enjoying their supper



The older ones, and mum of course, were walking around on top of the walls, so were ok. I immediately said I am taking these now, I cannot leave them like this, even their bed was a very tiny box in this yard, only the kittens would fit into it, so where the others slept goodness knows. I took these little ones to the vets and they had a bath, some had blisters on their pads from wandering about in urine. They spent the night in the vets nice, warm and comfortable. I then took them to Karens, where she washed them twice again and said they still had a smell!! They have found lovely homes, one named Gary didnt move far to his new home, in fact he never moved. I think as a foster person, you just bond with a specific cat and you just cannot get away from that. So I do see Gary quite often when I take new inmates round!! But the landlord really helped this family and got the yard cleaned up straight away. He told them to let her live in the house and go out when she wanted.

We could not help anywhere as many cats as we do without the dedication and commitment of these people, Karen and Tony with the many kittens and Allan and Lesley at the cattery, everone goes above and beyond to help the cats we take in, without them we just couldn't manage. We wish Rosie all the luck with her new job and thank Zoe for her help and time with fosterering. Also Craig Robinson's who helps me out so much, when I phone up with short notice about a cat and a neutering needed done ASAP. In fact the receptionists say I should move my bed in there!!

Fundraising

Our fundraiser Linda Morrow, who for a number of years now has placed collecting boxes in various premises large and small in the branch area, knitted blankets for cats, collected donations of pet food et has decided to give up driving and therefore retire from her much valued role. The executive officers recognise the need to recruit more trustees to fill this and other roles for the branch to survive and hope to do so in the coming year.

Treasurer's Introduction to the Financial Accounts for Year ending 2025

I would like to present the Financial Report for 2025.

As Trustees, our aim for this branch has always been to promote animal welfare in this area. We ran a clinic until the end of March this year, and although sad it has now closed, it has so benefited lots of animals over the years it has been open.

We support our Inspectorate by taking in the cats signed over to them, and they are checked over and placed into the private cattery we are lucky to be able to use, and rent several spaces from them. These cats are usually the ones needing the most TLC, being neglected, cruelly treated or abandoned. For the unwanted or stray kittens, we are lucky to have fosterers on hand to help them grow up into lovable confident kittens, ready to move onto their new home.

Because we closed the Clinic at the end of March this year, the figures do reflect this, and a big difference can be seen in the accounts figures mainly under the items connected with the clinic.

The van is still fulfilling it's job, although another year older, it just has needed the usual service and Mot, which thankfully it passed!

We had the three amounts left to us under Legacies, which is always very welcomed and does go towards helping us to achieve our aim in this branch.

If anyone would like to ensure their bequest is used solely for animal welfare work in the Branch area, the wording is as follows:

*'I bequeath to the **Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Cumbria North and East Branch (Reg charity no. 232262)** for the general purposes of the Branch, the sum of £ ..... free of all duties and taxes payable at my death and I declare that the receipt of the Honorary Treasurer or other proper Officer for the time being of the said Branch shall be sufficient discharge to my Trustee'.*

I would to extend my thanks to everyone supporting this Branch and all the people who get in touch with their concerns about certain animals, without your support and concerns, we could not achieve the extent of animal welfare work that we do.

Susan Smith (Hon Treasurer)

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

CUMBRIA NORTH AND EAST BRANCH

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RSPCA CUMBRIA NORTH AND EAST BRANCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

	Note	£ Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	£ Total Funds 2025	£ Total Funds 2024
INCOMING RESOURCES					
FROM GENERATED FUNDS					
Voluntary Income	1	31,148		31,148	37,765
Investment Income	2	2,120		2,120	3,338
FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITES	3	5,537		5,537	18,776
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		**38,805**	**0**	**38,805**	**59,879**
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	4	70,524		70,524	115,532
ALLOCATION OF SUPPORT COSTS	5	1,028	0	1,028	1,735
GOVERNANCE COSTS	6	980		980	936
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		**72,532**	**0**	**72,532**	**118,203**
Net incoming resources		(33,727)	0	(33,727)	(58,324)
Gain (Losses) on investments	8	890		890	53
Transfers between funds					
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(32,837)	0	(32,837)	(58,271)
TOTAL FUNDS AT 1st January 2025		175,347	0	175,347	233,618
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31st December 2025		142,510	0	**142,510**	**175,347**

RSPCA CUMBRIA NORTH AND EAST BRANCH

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

	Note	£ Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	£ Total Funds 2025	£ Total Funds 2024
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Fixed Assets	10	2,603		2,603	3,298
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock				0	20
Debtors				0	0
Investments	8	6,622		6,622	5,732
Cash at Bank & in Hand	9	143,842		143,842	188,961
		150,464	0	150,464	194,713
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Sundry Creditors		10,557		10,557	22,664
NET CURRENT ASSETS		139,907	0	139,907	172,049
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		142,510	0	142,510	175,347
NET ASSETS		142,510	0	142,510	175,347
FUNDS					
Undesignated Funds		142,510		142,510	175,347
Designated Funds					
Restricted Funds		-		-	-
		142,510		142,510	175,347

RSPCA CUMBRIA NORTH AND EAST BRANCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

1 VOLUNTARY INCOME	2025 £ Unrestricted	2024 £
General Donations/Fundraising	1,625	354
Legacies	9,001	15,590
National scheme entitlement (door to door)	19,141	20,438
Donations and subscriptions	1,381	1,383
	31,148	**37,764**

2 INVESTMENT INCOME		
Standard Chartered	394	394
Nat West Bank	1,726	2,944
	2,120	**3,338**

3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES		
Contribution to Animal treatments	5,537	18,776
TOTAL	**38,805**	**59,878**

4 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES EXPENDITURE		
Boarding and Rehoming Fees	34,248	32,936
Rent & Utilities	1,906	4,379
Clinic Insurance	47	34
Stationery and postage	2,235	2,488
Telephone	2,055	2,903
Van expenses	1,661	1,249
Clinic Repairs	0	567
Clinic costs - security,cleaning,sundries	442	448
Clinic admin & support	0	9,649
Vet consultations & fees	24,673	42,273
Drugs and medicine	1,653	10,408
Head Office backdated claims	1,604	8,198
	70,524	**115,532**

5 ALLOCATION OF SUPPORT COSTS	2025 £	2024 £
Bank charges	333	910
Depreciation	695	825
	1,028	**1,735**

6 GOVERNANCE COSTS		
Independent Examiner Fees	980	936
TOTAL	**72532**	**118203**
Total of Receipts over payments (payments over receipts)	(33,727)	(58,325)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024 (cont)

7 Clinic Income & Expenditure

	2025 £	2024 £
Income for year	29,804	44,288
Expenditure for year	34,615	81,347
Excess of Income (Expenditure) for year	(4,811)	(37,059)

8 Investments

	2025 Value £	Cost £	2024 Value
£5,340 £1 Standard Chartered Plc 7 .375% Pref Stock Non-Cum Irred Preference Shares	6,622	5,868	5,732
	6,622	5,868	5,732

9 Cash at Bank

	2025 £	2024 £
Balance on Deposit Account with the Nat. West	141,010	187,284
Current Account	2,832	1,677
	143,842	188,961

10 Tangible Fixed Assets

	IT Equip £	Fixtures etc £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
Costs to 1st January 2025	7,910	3,853	15,893	27,656
Additions during year	0		0	0
Less Original cost of disposals during year			0	0
Costs to 31st December 2025	7,910	3,853	15,893	27656
Depreciation to 1st January 2025	7,323	3,808	13,227	24,358
Less Depreciation on assets disposed of during year			0	0
Charge for year	117	45	533	695
Depreciation to 31st December 2025	7,440	3,853	13,760	25,053
NET BOOK VALUE 31st December 2025	470	0	2,133	2,603
NET BOOK VALUE 31st December 2024	587	45	2,666	3,298

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS CUMBRIA NORTH AND EAST BRANCH TRUST

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2025, which are set out on pages 1 to 4.

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 Act) and Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts (under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011);

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

to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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 the seeking of 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, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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

to keep accounting records in accordance with s130 of the 2011 Act; and

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and the regulations made thereunder 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.

M UPPARD F.C.A.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
LAMONT PRIDMORE
31 LONSDALE STREET

CARLISLE

25th June 2026

Structure, Governance & Management

Cumbria North and East branch has as its governing document the National Society's Branch Rules (amended in 2006.) In this branch the trustees are in effect committee members. They are appointed at the Annual General Meeting by polling over 50% of the vote in a secret ballot, which takes at the AGM, by those eligible to vote under RSPCA rules.
All eligible branch members are sent a nomination form with the notice calling the annual general meeting, enabling them to put themselves forward for election, if proposed and seconded by a member of the branch. Non branch members can also be co opted to the committee and subsequently act as trustees. The maximum number of elected committee members is 14 and 3 co options are allowed in any one year.
All trustees are asked to sign a 'Declaration of Willingness to Serve as a Trustee' and appraised of the duties and responsibilities of Trusteeship. Induction to policies & procedures for, and training of, trustees is undertaken by the Branches Development Advisor.

The organisational structure of the branch is that of three executive officers, the honorary chairman, treasurer and secretary, appointed by ballot, at a meeting held directly after the AGM, to make day to day decisions in the running of the Branch. Any major policy decisions are put to the committee for ratification. The committee meets two monthly.

The branch has specific risk management procedures in place which are always being re evaluated, and we are continuously working towards new policies and procedures.

The secretary is in charge of animal welfare contributions by the branch.

The branch has a Re-homing Coordinator for cats, who liaises directly with the private boarding cattery where the cats are kept, awaiting re-homing, visiting regularly to check on their general health and wellbeing, obtaining veterinary treatment, if necessary. The Re-homing coordinator, place these animals in suitable new homes, after carrying out a home visit to assess the home's suitability for the animal chosen and also carry out post-homing checks.

Cumbria North and East branch is connected to the wider RSPCA network by a Trustee attending North Regional Board meetings and of course the National Society, under whose guidelines the branch operates. Contact with the RSPCA Inspectorate is maintained through the RSPCA National Control Centre and on a 'face to face' basis when an animal signed over to the RSPCA is taken into Branch care.