



READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH
(Registered Charity No. 251482)

ANNUAL REPORT 2010



**RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2010**

CONTENTS

Chair's Report	Page 2
Reference and Administrative Details	Page 3
Structure, Governance & Management	Page 4
Objects, Objectives and Principal Activities	Page 4
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	Page 5
Public Benefit Statement	Page 6
Cat Rehoming Report	Page 8
Welfare Assistance	Page 8
Rabbit Fostering and Rehoming Report	Page 9
Minutes of 2010 Annual General Meeting	Page 11
Secretary's Report	Page 13
Dog Rehoming Report	Page 14
Chief Inspector's Report	Page 16
Fund-raising Report	Page 20
Website Report	Page 21
Treasurer's Report	Page 22
Accounts	Page 24
Legacies and Flowers In Memoriam	Page 29

The front cover shows Myrtle a Continental giant crossbred rabbit. Signed over by the owner to Inspector Sandy Barlow in mid Sept 2010 when just 5 months old, together with 3 of her sisters, she was eventually rehomed with the assistance of Blackberry Farm, RSPCA Aylesbury Animal Centre.

Thanks to all those who contributed to this Report.

WE ARE A CHARITY REGISTERED IN ENGLAND & WALES.

CHARITY NUMBER 251482.

**RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2010**

CHAIR'S REPORT

Welcome to my first report for the branch. I have been Chairman for about 20 months now and it has been a time of getting to know who people are and understanding what they do, both at branch level and National HQ. I spent a day at Head Office in Horsham finding out a bit more about how things work and thank you to all those staff who showed me around and looked after me - I learnt so much. They also have a great 'bring your dog to work' scheme whereby there were over 100 dogs in the office and you wouldn't even know it - just contented dogs curled up under desks in their baskets after a lunchtime walk!

Back here at Reading we have some very exciting news - a new all-singing and dancing website at <http://www.rspca-reading.org.uk/> Please do give us your feedback and check out the handy tips and great stories and photos of recently rehomed animals. I would like to thank one of our volunteers, Clare, who worked so hard to get this up and running.

Unfortunately, we have lost two committee members over the past year due to increased personal commitments. However, one of the roles has been filled by Mel - a committee member who has extended her duties and is now the Fundraising & Volunteer Co-ordinator.

New volunteers are exactly what we do need to help us out in a variety of areas including as cat fosterers, home-checkers, fundraising support for collections and running stalls, and with PR and marketing of the branch in the local area. We have been extremely lucky to have Nadine Widdows pulling together our fantastic branch newsletter on a regular basis which we send to our members and adopters, as well as give out at collection days.

We continue to work with the Inspectors, vets and the public to help cats, dogs, rabbits & guinea pigs in our area in any way we can - and as we all know, that is not always an easy or thanked job. But it is often rewarding and we all love to hear of animals happily rehomed and flourishing with the care and attention they require.

I would like to personally thank everyone who has supported the branch this year, both with their time and financial support, and to the committee members who work tirelessly on behalf of the branch.

Nicole Gillham, Branch Chair

**RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2010**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity Number: 251482

Trustees: Mrs N Gillham – Chair
Ms A Dunmall – Treasurer
Ms J Rainey – Secretary
Mrs R J Griffiths – Welfare Assistance, Cat Fostering & Rehoming Co-ordinator
Mrs L Mills – Dog Fostering & Rehoming Co-ordinator
Mrs M Ivey-Michie – Fund-raising Co-ordinator, Website Manager
Mrs E Groves – Cat Fostering
Mr S Ayers – Rabbit Rehoming & Fostering Co-ordinator
Mrs M James – Volunteer Co-ordinator (Feb-Oct)

Principal Address: 122 Dee Road,
Tilehurst,
Reading,
RG30 4BL

Auditors: Accounting & Business Management,
6 The Square
Wood Street
Calne
SN11 0BY

Bankers: CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Lloyds TSB
1-2 Market Place
Reading
Berks
RG1 2EQ

<p style="text-align: center;">RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2010</p>
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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 2006).

A Committee, elected at the AGM governs the branches, who are Trustees of the branch. All trustees are briefed on their responsibilities as trustees prior to their acceptance of the role.

The trustees hold monthly meetings at which decisions are made.

The trustees actively review the risks which the charity faces on a regular basis through regular meetings of the trustees that cover operational and financial reviews. The trustees also examine other operational and business risks which the branch faces and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks, which have been identified as:

- Loss of reputation through error, fraud or misbehaviour
- Loss of income through error or fraud
- Insufficient funds to cover the costs of animal welfare activities
- Loss of income through poor investment performance
- Insufficient volunteers for fundraising activities
- Insufficient trustees for the Branch to continue

OBJECTS, OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The objects of the branch are to promote the work and objects of the National Society of the RSPCA, with particular reference to the area of the branch.

The key aim is to find suitable new homes for as many animals as possible, and to provide proper care for those who have been mistreated or abandoned.

The main activities to achieve this are the operation of an animal re-homing programme and support to the public to help provide veterinary care, with the invaluable help of our volunteers.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

For a Financial Review, statement of Investment Policy and comment on our financial position in 2010 please see the report of the Branch Treasurer.

**RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2010**

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial activities during the year, and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the Charity and which will enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable law, regulations and trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Ann P Dunmall
Honorary Treasurer

RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2010

PUBLIC BENEFIT

OBJECTS & PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The RSPCA Reading With Oxon Border 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 areas of Reading and the surrounding area .

The objects of the Branch are to promote the work and objects of the Society - to promote kindness and to 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.

The trustees have reviewed the outcomes and achievements of our objectives and activities for the year, to ensure they remain 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.**

ADVANCEMENT OF ANIMAL WELFARE

Under the Charities Act 2006, the advancement of animal welfare is recognised as a distinct statutory charitable purpose. This legislation and the Animal Welfare Act of the same year indicate an acceptance by society that treating living creatures with compassion has a moral benefit for the public as a whole. Whilst this public benefit is clear, it is sometimes difficult to quantify and must be balanced against any detriment.

The Branch's animal welfare work, although local in nature, benefits society at large, and also aims to help people in need with the care of their animals. The next section of this report highlights the Branch's main activities and demonstrates the benefit provided to the public. All our charitable activities, as described in more detail in the following pages of this report, focus on promoting kindness and preventing or suppressing cruelty to animals and are undertaken to further these purposes for the public benefit.

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES PURSUED FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT

We support our local Inspector[s] by taking in, free of charge, 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.

We provide subsidised veterinary treatment for animals which are sick or injured and belong to local people on low incomes. We do this through a voucher scheme. 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 and microchipping of companion animals for those in the Branch area on low incomes. We do this by a voucher scheme. We also provide a free neutering scheme for bull-breeds via the local Inspectors. This work helps to control dog/cat populations through neutering and benefits those on means tested benefits by giving them financial help to neuter and microchip companion animals, thereby promoting responsible pet ownership.

**RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2010**

Animals in our care receive veterinary treatment, vaccination, neutering, micro-chipping and are assessed for rehoming. This work helps to control the incidence and spread of disease and suffering through vaccination and neutering.

We re-home animals in need at low cost to people willing and able to have a companion animal. Whilst we recognise that companion animals provide measurable benefits to people's physical and mental health, we consider the provision of pets as subsidiary to the main charitable aim of this service, which is to reduce animal suffering. Our policy to charge a reasonable adoption fee for animals aims to highlight the ongoing personal and financial commitment of pet ownership. It would not be in the best interests of animals, and therefore would fall outside our objects, to rehome to those who could not afford them.

We take in, free of charge, lost animals. This work 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 respond to enquiries (both direct and via the Society's national call centre) from the public about animals locally. The public benefits from knowing that we can intervene to assist animals in need.

We offer free animal care advice by giving appropriate information to adopters and responding to enquiries from the public. The public benefits through the promotion of responsible pet ownership.

Within the terms of our governing document, we support the National Society / other RSPCA branches providing funds for Pet Retreat (scheme to temporarily take care of pets for victims of domestic violence), Lockwood Donkey Sanctuary, RSPCA Hillingdon (to help keep their clinic open, which we use for some of our difficult cases) and West Hatch (to care for injured & orphaned wild animals from the local area).

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.

**RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2010**

WELFARE ASSISTANCE & CAT REHOMING

Welfare Assistance

I gave approximately 540 log numbers (about 45 a month) to people who could not afford to take their animals to the vet through ill health, lack of a job or debt. Some had not thought that their animal could become ill or have an accident, some did not take up my log numbers when presumably the animal died, got better or they changed their minds about neutering. It becomes more and more expensive to keep an animal in good health and we have spent £54354.64 at the various vets we use and most of them give discounts on our huge bills.

Cat Rehoming

Nicole has worked hard to upgrade the conditions in which our cats have been kept and has arranged a facility to house the overflow. In Hemjoy Cat & Dog Hotel at Hurst. Thanks to Elaine Groves, Rita Brown and Pete & Denise Rose we rehomed forty seven cats in 2010. Sixteen more kittens and cats went to Millbrook Animal Centre at Chobham and four more went to Willow Farm at Chiltern for which we were truly grateful, making a total of sixty seven. We had eleven cats left on the re-homing scheme at the end of 2010 over but they have all been rehomed now except for Murphy who is recovering from a bad collar injury.

Jane Griffiths
Welfare Assistance and
Cat Rehoming & Fostering Co-ordinator

When Murphy was brought to us he had a terrible collar injury under his front leg. Thankfully this is being treated and he is on the mend. He is a friendly and confident cat, but due to the injury, is not keen on being handled a lot - although he does like being stroked!



**RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2010**

RABBIT RE-HOMING & FOSTERING

Another eventful year that seems to have hopped-by quickly at Reading Rabbit Rescue. In this report we thought we'd focus on the people behind the scenes who help us with the various tasks and without whom we would be unable to continue with the rescue work.

A chance meeting in May of a young enterprising person lead to our new web site being launched. Ed Elgeti is an amateur photographer who has his own photography web site. He specialises in sports themed photography but was happy to take snaps of our bunnies for our old web site. This ended with him setting up and maintaining our new web site. This was set up in June 2010 and is now getting approximately 100 different people a day using it.

We wanted a fresh 'brand' for the new site. Steve's nephew, Owen Davey, is a young illustrator and was happy to donate his time and efforts to produce our new logo "Warren Peace" (reproduced below).



Bob & Maggie Campbell have been supplying us with cardboard and newspaper, which is used under the straw bedding, for a number of years now. They also made and donated all of our large outdoor rabbit runs, which are very robust and will last us for many years. These replaced a hotch-potch of donated runs that were previously used - many of which were coming to the end of their life. Whilst we do not have many long holidays and weekend breaks are unusual, we do get away from time to time. Rob & Jessie Platt have been helping us for at least 5 years and care for the rabbits whilst we are away. This involves morning and evening visits and making sure the hutches are kept clean on a regular basis. Depending on how many rabbits we have when we go away, this can take up to two hours each day.

Oliver White has been volunteering every Saturday come rain or shine for over 5 years. He has consumed vast quantities of hot chocolate and cake, but he does anything we ask of him and is a great help to us.

**RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2010**

Over the past 2 years we have been lucky to have weekend help from Nicola Clements. Nicola is very experienced with rabbits, having previously worked at another rescue, and has many links to people within the wider rabbit welfare community. She is very knowledgeable with health and welfare issues and keeps up to date with the latest veterinary treatments that are available. Her help and advice has been invaluable over the years and she also regularly grooms and nail-trims the rabbits. Her talents are diverse, she is chief cake-baker and is particularly good at washing dirty bunny-bums!!



**Lizzie and her family
arrived in September 2010.
All the family were rehomed
but Mum is still with us.**

With the assistance of all the above people we managed to rehome 34 rabbits in 2010. This number was lower than in previous years because we had to close for a month in late Autumn. We had two unexpected deaths of apparently fit and young rabbits. The post mortem results were referred to the veterinary department at Bristol University who surmised that viral haemorrhagic disease (VHD) was the likely cause, even though one of the bunnies had already been vaccinated. VHD is highly infectious & un-vaccinated rabbits who contact the disease die within 24 hours.

A new virulent strain of VHD has recently been identified in northern France. It is important that all pet rabbits are inoculated for VHD and myxomatosis, even if they are living indoors.

**Sandra & Steve Ayers
Reading Rabbit Rescue**

**RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2010**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at the Reading International Solidarity Centre, London Street, Reading on May 26th 2010.

Present:	Mrs Nicole Gillham	Chair
	Mrs R Jane Griffiths	Welfare Assistant/Cat Rehoming Co-ordinator
	Ms Ann Dunmall	Treasurer
	Ms Jean Rainey	Secretary
	Mrs Lindsay Mills	Dog Rehoming Co-ordinator
	Mrs Mel Ivey-Michie	Website Manager/Fund-Raising
	Mr Steve Ayers	Rabbit Rehoming Co-ordinator
	Mrs Margaret James	Volunteer Co-ordinator
	Mrs Roao Langham	Branch Member
	Mr Carl Gillham	Branch Member
	Ms Rita Brown	Cat Fosterer
	Chief Inspector John Harrod	
	Inspector Sandy Barlow	
	Inspector Clare Crowther	
	Mrs Vicky Lednor	Branch Support Specialist

1. Chair's Welcome

1.1 Nicole Gillham welcomed everyone to the AGM and introduced our guest Chief Inspector John Harrod.

2. Apologies for Absence

2.1 Apologies were received from Branch members Mr Jack & Mrs Norma Babbington, Mrs Angela Clarke, Mrs Tracey Joy, Mr Eric Golding, Mr John Cox, Mrs Sandra Ayers (also Rabbit Re-homing), Mrs Elaine Groves (Cat Rehoming) and Mrs Rhoda Hatton (Head of BACS Dept).

3. Minutes of Previous AGM

3.1 Acceptance of the minutes of the AGM of 20th May 2009 was proposed by Ann Dunmall, seconded by Mel Ivey-Michie and agreed unanimously. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2010**

4. Presentation/Adoption of Annual Report

4.1 Nicole proposed that the Report be adopted, this was seconded by Steve Ayers and agreed unanimously.

5. Election of Branch Auditor

5.1 The current auditor, Mr Brooks, was proposed by Ann Dunmall, seconded by Nicole and accepted unanimously as the Branch Auditor.

6. Election of Branch Committee

6.1 A vote was taken for the election of the Branch Committee. All those nominated were elected.

7. Talk by Chief Inspector John Harrod on Regional Inspectorate

7.1 CI Harrod gave a presentation describing the roles, area of coverage, variety of duties and some of the problems of the Regional Inspectorate, which included Chief Inspectors, Inspectors, Animal Welfare Officers and Animal Collection Officers. He mentioned the impact of the new legislation and the recent change from ACOs to AWOs and also the effect of Regional boundary changes on the workload of the Inspectorate.

7.2 Nicole thanked CI Harrod very much, on behalf of the meeting, for coming to our AGM and for his interesting talk.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 CI Harrod had great pleasure in presenting the Society's Queen Victoria Bronze Medal for long and meritorious service to Jane Griffiths for over 40 years of outstanding service to the Branch. The meeting warmly congratulated Jane on this much deserved recognition of her contribution to animal welfare.

8.2 Nicole thanked the Inspectors, Committee members and volunteers for all their work over the past year.

8.3 Inspector Barlow thanked the Branch on behalf of the Inspectorate for its support, which was very much appreciated.

**RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2010**

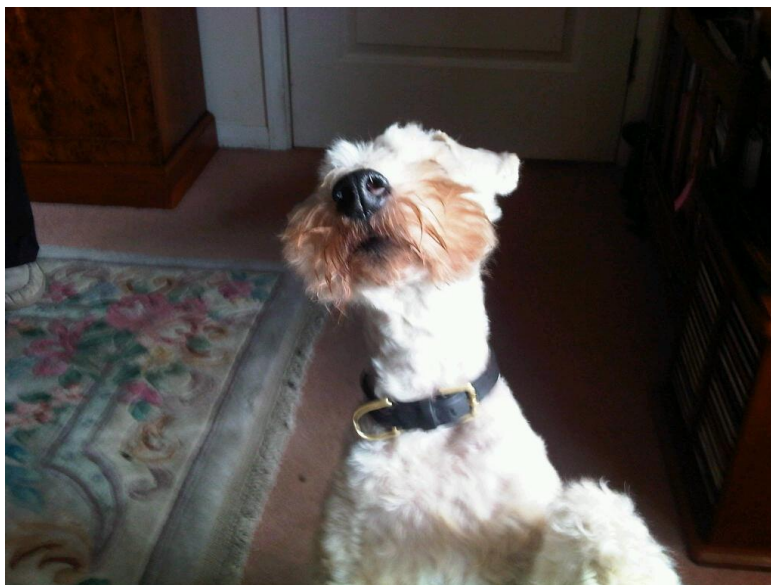
SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hello everybody,

Another year has whizzed by and it is Annual Report time again. Although it is a fair bit of work I always enjoy compiling the Annual Report; I like being reminded when reading the reports of the other Committee members of what has happened during the year and I am always struck by how hard they all work compared to my own small contribution. The numbers of animals fostered and re-homed is the most obvious and rewarding result of all their time and effort and also the numbers of vouchers issued to help people with veterinary care and to try to stop so many dogs & cats being bred by people who don't think of the consequences of not neutering their pets. There is a lot of 'behind the scenes' work that goes on to facilitate these tangible results - committee meetings, paperwork, fund-raising etc. We are lucky to have a network of stalwart volunteers, some members of the Branch and the Society, some not, who help with this 'backstage' work.

The economic situation has again decreased our membership and income and increased the demands on the ones who remain and on our expenditure but I am proud to see the results of our year's work and look forward to doing our best to help as many animals as possible in the coming year... and any help any of you can give with this aim is, as always, very much appreciated.

Jean Rainey - Branch Secretary



Bonzo an 11 year old Lakeland Terrier whose owner moved abroad.

**RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2010**

RE-HOMING DOGS

Another year passes and the problem of re-homing continues unabated. In the present economic climate we have seen an increase in the number of dogs we are asked to re-home as the owners can no longer afford to keep them and a large number of these are bull breeds.

The increase in unwanted 'bull breeds' is a national problem and our area is not immune to this. The branch has tried to tackle the problem locally by offering free neutering for all bull breeds. Unfortunately many owners do not wish to take up this offer as they can see a litter of puppies being an easy way to make money and so the problem continues.

We were however able to help a total of 34 dogs find new homes this year with an additional 3 being transferred to other branches when we were not having any success re-homing them locally. Although the numbers are small compared to the thousands of dogs awaiting new homes around the country we are very pleased that these dogs have at least been given the opportunity of a new (and often better) life.

We were fortunate to have a dog behaviourist join our team of volunteers and this has enabled us to provide professional assistance to our fosterers and adopters alike for which I am extremely grateful.



Kayleigh, a 2 year old Lakeland Terrier/Jack Russell Cross. Her owners were unable to cope but with rehabilitation by our behaviourist we have successfully re-homed her.

**RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2010**

As always a huge thank you must be given to each of the fosterers who do such an excellent job of caring for the dogs and should anyone wish to join our group of volunteers we would love to hear from you.

Lindsay Mills
Dog Re-homing Co-ordinator



**Logan, a 3 year old Springer Spaniel.
His owner became ill and could no longer look after him but we were able
find a new home for him.**

**RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2010**

ANNUAL REPORT 2010
SOUTH & SOUTHWEST 6 GROUP

It is with pleasure that I present the annual report for duties carried out within the much changed SSW6 group during 2010.

Although the changes to the roster and group area happened late in August 2009, it has taken us all of 2010 to adjust and recruit staff where they are needed. Our new group covers from Petersfield, across to Salisbury, up to Farringdon, through South Oxfordshire to Maidenhead, then back down to Petersfield via small areas of the Surrey border! An area of approximately 2,000 square miles. As the old group was based along the M.4 corridor, we still have too many staff living in the North of the area which makes coverage of the South difficult. Sadly the changes prompted some to re-think their future with the Society. Two Inspectors resigned in April, Sue Crutchley left the Bracknell area and Kerry Swinfield left Basingstoke. Both keep in touch and are enjoying their new careers. Sue Brooks also opted for an internal transfer to SSW7. To replace the lost staff, Derek Wilkins returned to the group from SSW8 and we recruited two new trainee Animal Welfare Officers, Rachel Gowers for Basingstoke and Maxine Keable for the Alton, Haslemere and Petersfield area. Rachel and Maxine are currently spending half of their time in group, the other half at H.Q training. By the end of the year we hope both will be fully qualified Inspectors.

The year has proved to be another busy one. We have no figures to compare to last year because all the staff and boundary changes necessitated a regional annual report.

The group investigated 2,740 complaints of cruelty, many of which were done by our newly qualified Animal Welfare Officers, Justine Hermon, Sian Bowden and Laura Wheeler. Most were resolved with common sense advice but others were more serious and required further action. Where circumstances allow, we give an owner the chance to improve the way they are keeping an animal, whether that be diet, environment, veterinary treatment, quality of life etc. To ensure the advice is understood and remembered, we issue an improvement notice which specifies what needs to be done and how long we feel it reasonable to achieve the tasks. The owner keeps the original notice and we keep a copy for reference at our next visit. Nearly all these notices result in significant improvement, but if our advice isn't heeded, then we are left with no option but to take the matter further.

**RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2010**

We reported 32 cases to H.Q with a view to prosecution, 3 were dealt with by the issue of adult written cautions, some were dropped due to lack of evidence or mitigating circumstances, whilst the rest were taken to court where 25 convictions were secured.

I don't want to depress everyone by listing all the case details, but highlight a few which give an insight into the kind of difficult situations and people we have to deal with. Not to mention the variety of animals, from horses to hamsters! A Basingstoke man pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to a dog which he strangled to death and dumped in a wooded area. This very sad case was investigated by Kerry Swinfield and taken on by Jan Edwards who took the matter to court. This case is even more tragic as the micro-chip implant led us to discover the dog had been homed from Millbrook several years ago. The new owner moved abroad and instead of returning the dog to Millbrook, he gave him away. Alfie was passed onto several other owners before ending up in Basingstoke where the defendant's sister decided she no longer wanted him and asked her brother to re-home it for her. After being told by a local vet to phone the RSPCA for help, the defendant decided to take the dog to the woods and strangle it. The magistrate did consider a custodial sentence, but decided on a penalty of 50 hours unpaid work, £400 costs to the society and a life ban from owning any animal.

During the heavy snow of January 2010, we were called to a field in Soberton where we found 11 various horses and ponies, one of which was dead, the others left with no shelter, water or supplementary feed. A vet was called and although the remaining horses weren't suffering at the time, their needs weren't being met. We therefore took possession of the 10 ponies with Police assistance and arranged suitable livery in the New Forest. Despite extensive enquiries, we weren't able to trace the owners of these horses. After spending months in private boarding at considerable expense, I'm glad to report that some have been re-homed and Lockwood have taken the others ready for adoption.

Modern technology and the sickening "happy slapping" trend proved to be the downfall of one Reading youth. A friend used a mobile phone to film the youth repeatedly punching a boxer dog which belonged to a relative. Once the dog had cowered away, the youth tempted it back to him by offering treats before punching the dog again! The film came into our possession and Sandy Barlow investigated. The youth pleaded guilty at Reading Youth Court and received a nine month referral order.

**RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2010**

Following an article in the Newbury Weekly News, Sharon Chrisp investigated the case of a neglected horse which had been rescued by a local racehorse charity. The emaciated thoroughbred was found in a field in Beedon, near Newbury. The owner, who lives in Thatcham, pleaded guilty to three charges of causing unnecessary suffering. The case was adjourned for sentence and in January 2011 the defendant was given a 16 week custodial sentence suspended for one year, ordered to do 100 hours community work, disqualified from owning all animals for 15 years plus ordered to pay the society £1,245.70p costs. We were also concerned about two other horses this lady owned, happily she signed them over to us and we hope to home them soon.

An 18 year old Bournemouth man was banned from keeping hamsters for one year and ordered to do 150 hours community work after being found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to a friend's hamster. The youth threw the animal in the air in front of fellow students at Sparsholt Agricultural College, the hamster was then dropped on the floor which injured it. The youth then picked it up and threw it against a wall, eventually killing the helpless creature.

Finally, every supporter and animal home staff in the region will be delighted to learn that we won an appeal against a Bracknell woman convicted of numerous charges of cruelty. This case started in 2008 and spent 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ years being put through various trials and appeals. I pass on the group's appreciation to all the fosterers and animal home staff who have devoted so much time and effort into making the lives of the many cats and dogs involved bearable whilst being held in our care

Thankfully not all our work is prosecution related, the animal rescue side is as exciting and rewarding as ever! The group collected 3,467 various animals during the year, a number swelled by Clare Crowther who removed nearly 600 pet mice from one house in Reading! Will Hendry spent a whole day with Wiltshire Fire & Rescue as they dug out a pair of swans and their 5 cygnets from viscous river mud in Salisbury. Sara Jordan, Darren Woodroof and Derek Wilkins spent hours trying to catch an escaped albino wallaby near Hook. They did request the assistance of Chief Inspector Dave Fox with his tranquiliser rifle, but thankfully this wasn't needed and the animal was caught and returned to the owner unharmed.

Our collection and rescue work has been severely hampered this year by the withdrawal of the drugs we use to put sick and injured animals to sleep with. Most of these animals are wildlife which become highly stressed when transported. We all hope that by spring, we will have the authority to use these drugs again.

**RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2010**

Once again may I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has assisted us in our duties, our admin team at RHQ, the emergency services, veterinary profession and animal centre staff are top of the list of those who get paid for their efforts.

As always, we reserve our deepest gratitude to the hundreds of branch volunteers who dedicate countless hours of their own time to help animals in need. We have managed to survive the financial difficulties last year, but with no obvious light at the end of the tunnel for 2011, the efforts of our branches will be never more appreciated.

John Harrod
Chief Inspector SSW6

Jonathan Silk
Regional Manager

John Tresidder
Regional Superintendent

**RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2010**

FUNDRAISING CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

2010 proved to be another successful year for fundraising for the branch.

As always we had a great time collecting during RSPCA week, 26th April - 2nd May at Tesco in Reading and Henley. We raised a fantastic total of over £2000 at both stores. We held collection days at Caversham, Reading and Henley in 2010 and we collected over £1000. For the first time last November we had a stall at the Farmers Market in Reading which was a great success and a great opportunity to raise the branch profile and raise much needed funds, we hope to do this again soon.



Darren Russell and Willow the dog collecting outside Tesco in Henley during RSPCA week 2010.

We were very lucky to be chosen by Waitrose in Caversham, Henley and Woodley for their green token scheme, a scheme designed to give money to local charities based on their popularity by customers. Again this proved to be very successful for the branch and we thank all the customers who chose us.

We have lots of fundraising events coming up over the next few months including RSPCA week 2nd - 8th May, collection days in Caversham, Reading, Henley and Woodley, a two day charity football match and the Woodley Carnival. We are always looking for new volunteers to help us with fundraising for the branch. We would love to hear from you if you think you could help us or if you have any new ideas for fundraising. Please contact Mel via email at volunteers@rspca-reading.org.uk.

**RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2010**

The branch would like to say a huge thank you to all our volunteers who give up their time to help us, without your support we would not be able to continue to do the valuable work we do.

Mel Ivey-Michie
Fund-raising Co-ordinator



**Fundraising at the Farmers Market in November 2010,
Nicole Gillham & Mel Ivey-Michie.**

WEBSITE REPORT

We hope you have noticed our new look website, what do you think? www.rspca-reading.org.uk We are very pleased with our responses so far and hope you will take a look and let us know your thoughts. Our new site is jammed packed with lots of information about our branch and what we do along with up to date listings for animals available for rehoming. Thanks as always to everyone who takes the time to write to us via our website.

We are now up and running on both Facebook and Twitter and these are updated regularly.

The branch would like to thank Aaron Sweeney for all his hard work in maintaining our original website and many thanks to Clare Perkins for her time and effort for creating our new one.

Mel Ivey-Michie
Website Manager

**RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2010**

TREASURER'S REPORT

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The total incoming resources for the year amounted to £44286 (2009: £139518.). Expenditure in the year amounted to £73444 (2009: £54370). Unrestricted reserves reduced to £226545 from £248940 (2009)

RESERVES POLICY

The Branch holds reserves in order that levels of service provided for animal welfare may be maintained should there be a reduction in incoming resources.

Reserves in this context mean funds that are freely available for the Branch's general purposes after all commitments have been met.

The Branch had unrestricted reserves of £226545 represented by net current assets of £226545 at the year ending 31st December 2010. . £100000 of the reserves has been designated for improvements to fostering facilities and services for cats, dogs and rabbits together with the improvement of the branch infrastructure. Such reserves, after deduction of the designated funds, represent just over 1.7 years expenditure based on gross expenditure levels in 2010.

It is the opinion of the Trustees that the existing reserves are sufficient to meet any reduction in incoming resources.

INVESTMENT POLICY

At the 31st December 2010 the Branch investment policy was:

That the current account balance should not fall below £2000

That the monies in the deposit account would be used to 'top up' the current account where necessary

That the remainder of investments should continue to be held in the M & G ChariBond and ChariFund.

The Trustees recognise that this policy should be reviewed on an annual basis following the publication of the audited annual accounts for the previous year.

Ann P Dunmall
Honorary Treasurer

**RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2010**

Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets & Liabilities
Under Section 42(3) of the Charities Act 1993

Charity Reference

Charity Name Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals –
Reading with Oxon Border Branch.

Charity Commission No. 251482 **for the financial year ended**
31st. December 2010

Declaration

The account set out on the attached pages for the financial year (being the period of 12 months) ended on the above date, and the statement of assets and liabilities at that date are approved by the trustees.

Signature **Date** / /

Full Name ANN DUNMALL

Forwarded by **Accounting & Business Management**
Certified Practicing Accountants

Address 33a Prince Of Wales Avenue
Reading RG30 0UH

Daytime telephone 0118 956 0100
Number

**RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2010**

Independent examiner's Report to the Trustees of R.S.P.C.A Reading with Oxon Border Branch

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2010, which are set out on the attached documents.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 43 of the Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:

- proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act); and
- accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or

(2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

(3) We also confirm that £100000 of the reserves has been designated for improvements to fostering facilities and services for cats, dogs and rabbits, together with the improvement of the branch infrastructure

**Michael Brooks CPA
Certified Practising Accountant
Accounting and Business Management
33a Prince of Wales Avenue
Reading
RG30 0UH
0118 956 0100**

<p>RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2010</p>
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Notes to the accounts

1 Accounting policies

In preparing the accounts the following accounting policies have been complied with:

- a) The accounts have been prepared on the historic cost convention with the exception that investments are valued at market value. The accounts are in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Charities SORP 2005 (Accounting and Reporting by Charities) and comply with the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2005 issued under the Charities Act 1993
- b) Investment income is recorded when received.
- c) Gift aid reclaimable on donations to the charity is recorded in the receipts and payments account attached
- d) Expenditure on grants is recorded once the trust has made an unconditional commitment to pay the grant and this is communicated to the beneficiary or the grant has been paid, whichever is the earlier. The Trust has not made any grant commitments of more than one year.
- e) Other expenditure is included in the accounts on an accruals basis. VAT has been reclaimed and is recorded on the attached Receipts & Expenditure account
- f) The cost of managing investments is charged against investment capital, reflecting the total return approach to investment management. Any costs associated with the sale or purchases of investments are accounted for as part of the sale or purchase price of the investments.
- g) Quoted investments have been valued at market value at the balance sheet date.
- h) Unrealised and realised investment gains and losses are shown net in the statement of financial activities.
- i) Programme related investments are reviewed at least annually for impairment and reviewed where the trustees are aware of circumstances which either reduce the value of the investment, or imply that loans made may not be repaid in part or in full.
- j) The endowment of the charity is expendable endowment which is regularly increased by donations from the trustees. The trust deed allows this fund to be spent as income or retained as capital at the trustee's discretion. The income arising from the expendable endowment is unrestricted.
- k) All assets costing more than £1500 are capitalised. Depreciation on office equipment is charged at a rate of 25% on a reducing basis.

2 Taxation

The Trust is a registered charity and accordingly is exempt from taxation on its income and gains where they are applied for charitable purposes.

3 Endowment

The voluntary income in the current and the previous year represent a donation from the trustees to the capital of the expendable endowment only.

4 Investment income has arisen as follows:

Source of Investment Income	2010	2009
Dividends & Interest	7314	7329

5 Analysis of employee costs:

There were no employees during the year.

6 Related party transactions

Payments were made during the year to two trustees for cat fostering. J. Griffiths £2052 and E. Groves £1600

7 Analysis of charitable expenditure

A full analysis of the charitable expenditure is included in the receipts and payments accounts attached hereto.

RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2010

8 Analysis of grants made to institutions

There were no grants made to any institutions during this financial year.

9 The resources expended by the charity include:

	2010	2009
Independent examiner's fee	1250	1250
Depreciation	3829	0

10 Tangible fixed assets

Balance B/Forward 1/1/2010	7815	
Additions in year	<u>7500</u>	15815
Deprecation at 25%	<u>3829</u>	
Total tangible assets		14486

11 Investment asset investments

All investments were held in the UK and were as follows:

	2010	2009
Investments Held		
Listed investments		
M & G Charibond 1	133823	124688
M & G Charibond 2	<u>10668</u>	<u>10607</u>
Total Charibonds	144501	135295
Deposit Account	<u>55696</u>	<u>7529</u>
	200197	142824

12 Analysis of debtors

There were no debtors as at 31/12/10

13 Analysis of creditors

	2010	2009
Trade creditors	1250	2484

14 Analysis of fund assets and liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Endowment funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed Assets	14486	0	14486
Investments	<u>0</u>	<u>200197</u>	<u>200197</u>
Sub total investments	14486	200197	214683
Current Assets	13612	0	13612
Current liabilities	<u>(1250)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(1250)</u>
Total	<u>26348</u>	<u>200197</u>	<u>226545</u>

RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2010

R.S.P.C.A.
Reading and Oxon Border Branch
Receipts & payments account

INCOME	dividends & interest	7314	
	donations & legacies	15131	
	collection boxes	398	
	house to house collections	12685	
	flag days	3322	
	subscriptions	517	
	calendars	787	
	Reading farmers	135	
	mission fish	19	
	gift aid	17	
	pet insurance	123	
	vat refunds	<u>3838</u>	44286
EXPENDITURE	Vet expenses	54354	
	print post & stationery	303	
	accountants fees	1250	
	sundries	2833	
	travel phone	2134	
	boarding & fostering	8900	
	branch contributions	<u>3670</u>	<u>73444</u>
Deficit for year			-29158

RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2010

R.S.P.C.A.

Reading and Oxon Border Branch

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2010

FIXED ASSETS	notes	2010	2009	
Tangible Assets	10	14486	7815	
Investments	11	<u>200197</u>	214683	<u>142824</u> 150639
 CURRENT ASSETS				
bank current account		13612	99551	
			<u>0</u>	
			99551	
 CURRENT LIABILITIES				
trade creditors due within 12 months	13	<u>1500</u>	<u>1250</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>12112</u>	<u>98301</u>
NET ASSETS			226795	248940
 REPRESENTED BY:				
Unrestricted funds	14	26598	106116	
Endowment Funds	14	<u>200197</u>	226795	<u>142824</u> 248940

**RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2010**

LEGACIES AND FLOWERS IN MEMORIAM

This Branch is always very grateful to those people who think of the RSPCA when they make their Wills and to those who, although suffering great distress through bereavement, remember the Society when asking for money to be sent to a charity rather than have flowers sent to mark the passing of those they love.

To anyone wishing to make a legacy to the local Branch, the following wording is respectfully suggested:

"I give the sum of £...(or the item specified) to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Reading with Oxon Border Branch (Registered Charity number 251482) for its general purposes, and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer for the time being of the said Branch shall be a full and sufficient discharge for the said legacy."

It is recommended that the preparation of a Will is entrusted to a solicitor.



Humbug, handed in to local vets at the end of February and rehomed within 3 weeks (the quickest ever!).

**RSPCA READING WITH OXON BORDER BRANCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2010**

These cats are all looking for new homes. If you think you can help, please call the Cat Rehoming line on 0118 9010701



**Two year old tabby female
TIGGER is affectionate,
inquisitive and playful.**



**Five year old black female
SOOTICA is friendly and
looking for a good home.**



**Black and white male kitten
HENRY is 6-8 months old,
very sweet, friendly and
playful.**



**Two year old male
SNUGGLES is a calm and
friendly long-haired brown
tabby.**